

- In March this year, I was funded by the NZ National Commission for UNESCO to go to Canada to write a paper called the International Youth White Paper on Global Citizenship with a bunch of young people from around the world, and present it at the Third UNESCO Forum for Global Citizenship Education!
- I care so much about this because I believe it is the best way to make the world a better place
- So please take this talk as not a request for what you do going forward, but a plea
 - The world is changing fast - Technology makes the world more interconnected
 - Because of this, most issues become global issues because they have a flow on effect from one country to many others
 - I think global citizenship is the only way we are ever going to learn to live with our world, and be able to change the things that need changing.

GC

- thinking more widely than just in the context of your immediate community (city, country)
- E.g. rather than picking up a piece of rubbish on the ground because it makes the street look ugly, you pick up the rubbish because you know the impact that it will have when it ends up in the ocean.
- basic understanding which you can guess from the words 'global' and 'citizenship' - you have the rights and responsibilities of a citizen of the world.
- We forget:!
- the world is interconnected and complex because of the different power structures and relationships between countries that exist. – social, economic, historic, political, etc - not just tech that connects us
- also world is diverse, (as you know because you bring that diversity into the classroom with international students) and therefore people have different wants and needs
- this basic approach to GC is too simple to take into account everything that makes the world complicated.
- There's a reason it takes constant UN negotiations to get an international agreement on climate change, right? Because we can't just tell everyone to stop eating meat, and ride bikes everywhere. Things are more complicated than that.
- And that makes us uncomfortable, right? To remember that the world is messy and there isn't a quick fix to all our problems - Overwhelming
- For students, domestic and international, being young people without a lot of control over what goes on in the world, it's devastating - it makes us feel disempowered and unmotivated, and therefore we become disengaged

And this is where you guys come in!

- Bridge between us and global citizenship
- Teach us the skills we need to understand the world enough that we can see what needs changing, and that we can change it
- Teach us to understand diversity and appreciate similarities and differences by integrating different cultures into schools and curriculums.
- Teach us to think critically, not in the check-the-box-on-the-curriculum way but in the deepest possible sense where we understand that all knowledge is incomplete, that no one is the expert in other people's situations
- teach us that learning lasts forever, that no one is 'uneducated' because there are many different types of knowledges and skills that are important in different situations.
- And teach us to question, everything, including and most especially you and other people in power in our lives

Which leads me to some things I want to remind you of:

1. education is not as accessible as it should be
 - While it is a right, is also a privilege in that it is generally attached to class, race, gender and ability privileges.
 - So please try to broaden your reach and fully engage the people who are currently slipping through the cracks
 - It is your job as the person in power, the person with resources and the person within the system, to adapt to fit the students, not the other way around

And the way to figure out what needs changing is to talk to young people.

Especially, talk to the ones who aren't engaged by the education system, who the education system is not working for, and find out what they think needs improvement to engage them fully.

Finally, let's take a step outside the education system and back to global citizenship

As someone that's been involved in a lot of political action in and outside of school, I've had a lot of times where people will say to a group of us "if this is your generation, I'm not worried about the future of the world"

And it's meant as a complement so it took me a while to figure out why it made me so uncomfortable. But it's because it's a shift in the responsibility for the state of the world, it's a handing over of the burden from the people in power who can change things NOW to those who will be in power later.

You can't let yourselves go so easily, you have to take responsibility because your actions have much more power to change the future than ours do at the moment. Your global citizenship can't just live through young people, you need to put it into action in your own lives.

Not only do you need to actively engage young people from a variety of backgrounds, including international as well as domestic students, and empower and upskill us so that we are prepared for the complexity and diversity of the world, but you also need to hold yourself accountable and take action on global citizenship now, because you are shaping all of our futures.

This is a big ask, I know, but you are all here together, right now, and I think if you work together over the next two days you can start to figure out how you can become global citizens, and how you can support international and domestic students to do the same.