

YoungRAPAR Speech:

Ladies and gentlemen welcome to the launch of young Rapar. We are pleased that you are here to share this new and exciting time with us!

Young Rapar came about through a research project which began late last year about young displaced people and education. RAPAR were commissioned to do this research by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in partnership with research company DUBIT.

During this time me and my fellow researchers became extremely close to the young people who took part in the research, and were moved by the life stories they shared with us. The young people who shared their experiences with us explained that they felt RAPAR was a place where they could freely air their problems to people who would understand. We wished to create this atmosphere for any young displaced person. Thus the idea for young Rapar was born.

Rapar leadership decided to offer its support to the creation of Young RAPAR, a group run by young people for young people, with support from Rapar. With the go-ahead from the elders we got together and identified the following as our aims.

1. Bring young people together
2. Provide a space for people to feel physically and emotionally safe.
3. Allow people to express their feelings and talk about their problems.
4. Give a voice to these feelings and problems through awareness raising, advocacy and research.
5. Provide support with learning to young displaced people

We hope to start running various programs and activities through out the year – including social activities, advocacy and support. We currently have no funding and the group is made up entirely of volunteers. We would truly appreciate any form of help people have to offer whether expertise, time or donations. If you would like to get involved have a chat with someone wearing a young rapar sticker.

Now we have some live music from the band Kershaw (kat and jess)! Please help yourself to some food and we really hope you have a fun afternoon!