

I CAN

VIRTUAL YOUTH EXCHANGE

Empowering South African educators/mentors to nurture learner wellbeing, agency, social action and global citizenship through an intercultural exchange with peers from Sudan and Serbia.



The I CAN Virtual Youth Exchange programme empowers South African youth (13 - 18 years) to collaboratively take action on issues affecting them while sharing their journeys with peers from Sudan and Serbia. We enable and support educators/mentors to nurture learner wellbeing, agency and social action and global citizenship with tools to join intercultural exchange online calls and to self-schedule and facilitate lessons. It culminates with the publication of youth-led stories of change on the global I CAN platform alongside a hybrid, celebratory showcase event.

There are funded spaces for 6 groups comprising 1 educator/mentor coordinator, 1 assistant and 5- 7 youth (13 - 18 years). The online sessions take place on weekdays (Mon-Thurs) from February - June. Educators/mentors will need to choose an online call schedule, supervise attendance to the 8 x 90min biweekly online calls and self-schedule 8 meetings (during or after school) on alternate weeks for groups to work on their projects.

Registration open until January 30th or until spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis.



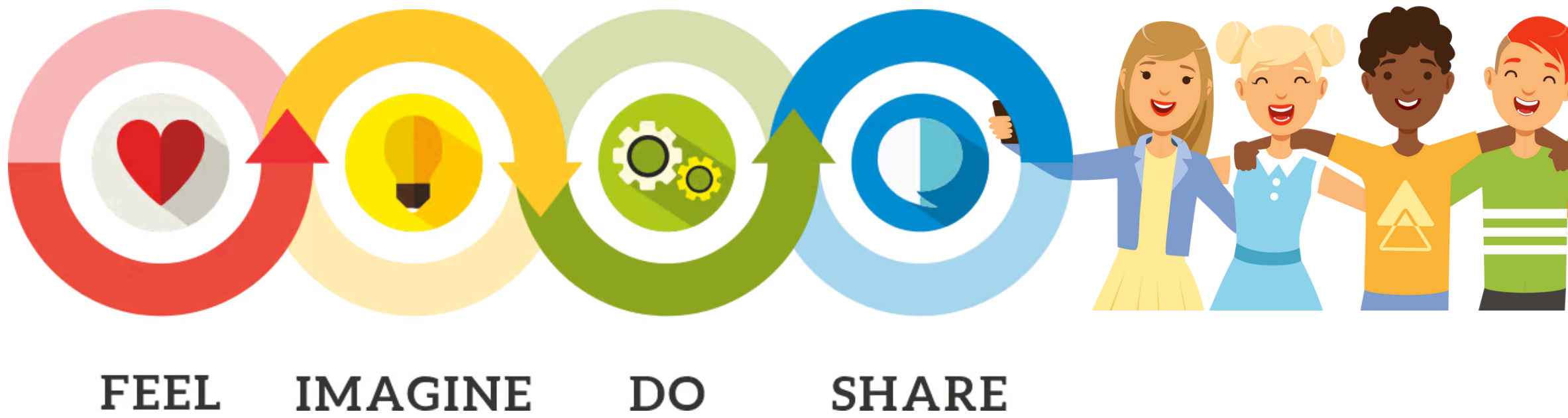
Funded by
the European Union



Design For Change Global Movement

I CAN Virtual Youth Exchange is part of the globally awarded Design For Change (DFC) movement. Since 2010, DFC has empowered 2 million youth in 70 countries to be changemakers using our globally acclaimed FIDS framework (Feel, Imagine, Do, Share) to take action on issues they are affected by.

Youth-led projects are aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and nurture Social and Emotional competency, leadership skills, intercultural connections and global citizenship.



A. DFC Global Movement



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrSUWt5HnCg>

B. Some Stories of Change from SA

https://stories.dfcworld.org/STORY/previewstory?entry_code=SAF-ENG-1088776145-2018

https://stories.dfcworld.org/STORY/previewstory?entry_code=SAF-ENG-578399379-2018

C. Stories of change from around the world



stories.dfcworld.org

Be The Change: Japan, November 2025

Youth who participate in **I CAN Virtual Youth Exchange** and submit a story of change will be considered as DFC SA representatives at the 2025 Be The Change Global Celebration in Japan this November*

Organized annually, the **‘Be The Change’ (BTC)** celebration provides our young superheroes from across the world a platform to showcase their stories of change.

Participation does not guarantee selection, neither does it guarantee funding for the trip. It does open doors to the opportunity and eduSOIL will work with selected representatives to support their fundraising efforts.



In 2019 with a separate fundraising initiative, we enabled 10 youth from Diepsloot, Johannesburg to represent SA at the global celebration that took place at the Vatican City, Rome.



DFC Global Student Council

Youth who participate and submit a story of change are also considered as DFC SA Student Council members. Watch this video of Karma Vyas DFC Northern Ireland Student Council Member 2024 to learn how our DFC programmes open up to fantastic global interactions and leadership opportunities for youth.

<https://www.dfcworld.org/SITE/StudentCouncil>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7erQt4PQ78w>

Virtual Youth Exchange Overview

All in Central African Time

A. Online Training

Part 1: Thurs, Feb 6th, 15:15 - 16:15

Part 2 & 3: Feb 8th, 10:00 - 15:00

B. Online Meeting Options

Mon Groups: Feb 17 Mar 3, 17 April 14, 28 May 12, 26 June 9 (14:30 - 16:00)

Tues Group: Feb 18 Mar 4, 18, April 14, 27 May 13, 27, June 10 (15:00 - 16:30)

Wed Groups: Feb 12, 26 Mar 12, 26 April 23 May 7, 21, June 4 (14:30 - 16:00)

Thurs Group: Feb 13, 27 Mar 13, 27 April 24 May 8, 22, June 5 (14:30 - 16:00)

NB: There are 2 group slots Mon /Wed and 1 group slot Tues/Thurs.

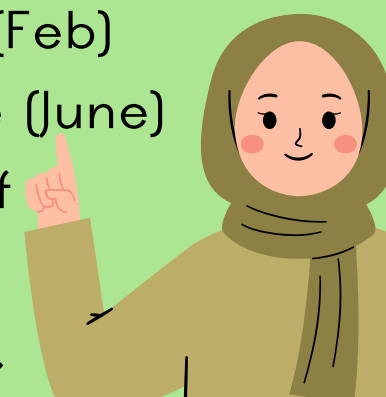
Educators/mentors select ONE slot and support device/data access

C. Self-Scheduled Sessions Options

Educators/mentors to coordinate 8 x 90 - 120 min meetings at suitable times, using FIDS lesson plans and materials provided to guide and support their groups to initiate and implement their youth-led social action projects.

We provide

- educator/ mentor training enabling facilitation of self-scheduled meetings and online call
- access to online portal with all downloadable print and video training materials, links for call
- access to online community for interaction between calls
- tailored support based on participant interactions
- **R1,800 allowance** for materials, data etc transferred to coordinator at launch (Feb) and end of programme (June) following submission of group story of change and all documentation.



Participation Criteria, Allowance and Registration Process

- There are funded spaces for **6 groups** comprising 1 educator/mentor coordinator, 1 educator/mentor assistant and **5 - 7 youth, 13 - 18 years**.
- Youth and educators/mentors can either be South African or non South African nationals residing anywhere across the country. Applications from South Africans abroad will be considered with SA residents given priority.
- **Intermediate/Senior Phase Educators** at schools in South Africa can apply. They must be able to directly engage learners from their class in onsite meetings and online calls
- We will also accept applications from **mentors** can be **community/ organisation-based** and able to directly engage youth participation in onsite meetings and online calls
- **Educators/mentors** must participate in **online training sessions Jan 30th and Feb 1st**.
- Educators/mentors are responsible for supervising attendance to the **8 x 90min online calls** that occur every two weeks. They need to ensure that the youth have access to devices/data to join the calls. They are also responsible for **self-scheduling 8 meetings on alternate weeks** for groups to work on their projects. Sessions can be a single or multiple and should enable 90 - 120 min of contact time outside of the online meetings for youth to work on their social action project.
- There can be more than 7 youth participants per school/group, however only 5 youth can join scheduled calls.
- We have a **two part registration process**. Part 1 must be done by a **coordinator** who must be one of the educators/mentors who joins all the sessions. The coordinator will collate and submit the names of all 5 - 7 youth as well as information about a second educator/mentor who will assist with onsite meetings/online sessions and lead sessions if the coordinator is unable to attend.
- Part 2 must be done by **parents/guardians**. The coordinator is responsible for ensuring that the parents of all participating youth, fill up the parent consent section for registration to be finalised.
- **R1,800 allowance** for materials, data, refreshments or travel expenses paid as per our terms above.
- We provide an **endorsement letter** to the coordinator to support **further fundraising** to support the group's participation, project and travel to Japan, if group is selected as a country representative.
- **Registration** open until **January 30th** or until spaces are allocated on a first come first served basis.

Partner Opportunity

Impact Partners will share opportunity with schools/organisations in their network. Partner logos are added to website etc upon participant registration confirmation. We provide up to R12,000 to the partner who provides in-kind use of their/a venue for a Celebration Event (Aug - Sept) showcasing stories of change and cultural performances of youth.

Shared Investment



This funded programme costs **R3,400** per youth ie **R23.800** per group of 5 - 7 youth and 2 educators/mentors. Together with the **R1,800** allowance, our investment is **R25,600** per group, together with our expertise. Your investment is your trust, time and participation. We have only 6 funded slots. Write to us at design-for-change@edusoil.com if you have any questions. Don't miss out!

