

Aine Beattie Transcript 14.06.25

Interviewer: My name is Beth Campbell and I am interviewing Aine Beattie for the Young Women's Movement's Young Women Remember project. So to begin with, please can you tell me your full name, where you're from and your previous role with YWCA Scotland?

Interviewee: Hello, my name is Aine Helen Beattie, I live in London but I'm from the Scottish Highlands and I am a current trustee of the Young Women's Movement.

Interviewer: So how old are you?

Interviewee: I'm 25.

Interviewer: And you said you've lived in the Highlands and London, anywhere else in between?

Interviewee: I've lived in Edinburgh for university and then I moved to Glasgow, so I've been living in the Gorbals for two years and just came down to London last May.

Interviewer: Nice, so what do you do for a living?

Interviewee: I am the high value trusts fundraiser at Samaritans, which is the national suicide prevention charity.

Interviewer: So what year did you join the organisation and whereabouts were you in Scotland or London when you joined?

Interviewee: I was living in Glasgow when I joined and it was October 2023 and I met Jenni Snell at a fundraising conference and she encouraged me to sign up for the advisory collective.

Interviewer: Nice, so it was Jenny that invited you then. What about what Jenni told you made you want to join?

Interviewee: We just got chatting about feminism in general, kind of with more of a fundraising slant to begin with and then I told her about some other feminist volunteering that I was doing and she said that she thought that I'd be a really great fit and I've loved every second since.

Interviewer: Oh that's lovely to hear. So what specific projects or initiatives was it that you took part in when you first joined?

Interviewee: When I first joined the advisory collective I was kind of just getting into the swing of things again after a little hiatus. So I attended the Young Women Know celebration at the Scottish Parliament and I've also done media training with the media co-op as well. I did the Young Women in the Workplace campaign with the Rosa campaign which was a fab participatory campaign that we did and I also did the cost of living crisis participatory research as well so that was another one.

Interviewer: Oh my god, wow, that's a really extensive list. So you were based in Glasgow you said when you started this, was there a physical space you guys got together in or was it all more kind of virtual?

Interviewee: There were some virtual ones but it was mostly in the Melting Pot in Edinburgh actually so I got to travel through there which was really nice.

Interviewer: Nice, get back to the old haunt.

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: And what was the community like did you find when you joined the organisation?

Interviewee: I have found it to be so lovely since the first day. I've not really had the experience of having younger feminist friends and young women with the same interests so it's just been fantastic to kind of have those conversations and you know learn from these amazing other young women from across Scotland so it's been lovely, very welcoming and very inclusive which I love and I've learned a lot and I've had a lot of fun, you know, it's been really, really social as well which is nice.

Interviewer: Nice. So where would you say most of the young women involved were? You say you've got a lot of new feminist friends, did you find that they were all concentrated in the area you were in or was it quite a widespread organisation?

Interviewee: I would say really widespread actually now that I'm based in London I know that there's another two at least members down here and I know that there's some Highlanders like myself and like yourself [laughing].

Interviewer: The Scottish diaspora [laughing].

Interviewee: So we, yeah there's been loads of that but again central belt probably is the most common, lots of Dundonians.

Interviewer: Really?

Interviewee: Yeah, yeah surprisingly actually.

Interviewer: I don't think I've come across a Dundonian.

Interviewee: Really? There's definitely one [laughing]

Interviewer: A big presence. So what would you say the main thing on the agenda was when you first joined?

Interviewee: For me or for the organisation?

Interviewer: For the organisation, sorry.

Interviewee: I think for the organisation it was setting... kind of maybe getting the name back out there I think because there had been a little bit of a pause in terms of, well the

advisory collective for sure, so yeah kind of that I would say and structurally maybe trying to kind of formalise some of the processes that they had and the kind of groups that they had looking at what the advisory collective was actually going to do like how it could actually feed into the organisation in a meaningful way so that kind of internal restructuring I think was kind of happening behind the scenes and I didn't really know about it but again also it was the, it was kind of during the time of the cost of living crisis so that was a big focus externally and looking at the impact that that was having on young women across Scotland and beyond but yeah those were the main ones I would say.

Interviewer: What is the advisory collective as someone who does not know? A lay person. If I get this wrong I'm a trouble [laughing].

Interviewee: The advisory collective is a group of young women who aren't on the board of trustees but are kind of involved in, not the most serious decision making but they're kind of involved in other kind of decision making for the organisation and it's kind of a network for young feminists who want to do projects and want to meet up and do social things as well so it kind of gives you opportunities to do different feminist outreach I guess and also kind of build that network and build your network as well and then in some cases it leads to you it's kind of like a stepping stone before you become a trustee...But I think they're quite interchangeable I think they were speaking quite recently about how you can be a trustee for a bit and then go back to the advisory collective like they want to really kind of put the, the power with the young woman as well so which I love.

Interviewer: Good, does what it says on the tin The Young Women's Movement. So what did working for the movement look like for you on a regular basis would you say?

Interviewee: On a regular basis...

Interviewer: Obviously your roles changed and stuff so you can tell me how from the stages. [Overlap of voices].

Interviewee: Yeah I think to begin with it wasn't hugely it wasn't hugely onerous in terms of like taking up time and there was social events and whatnot and then when we were doing the campaigns and the cost of living crisis research it was maybe like bi-monthly meetings either online or in person and then socials maybe potentially quarterly if not a bit more regularly and now that I'm a trustee that's changed to just being quarterly meetings and then I'm also on the finance subcommittee meeting which is... subcommittee full stop [laughing] and they have meetings also quarterly so it's kind of a bit of a... It's less but there's also fun events that you can do like I went to the Plan UK international launch of a report at the house of lords and on behalf of the board yeah which is fantastic um really, really, really cool report actually, we should put the link in this [laughing] but that was really that was really great.

Interviewer: How do you feel that involvement with the organisation interacted with your life kind of I suppose more career-wise you say you're doing fundraising now, you're on the finance committee do you feel like they kind of fed into each other quite well?

Interviewee: Definitely, I think that the advisory collective gave me the kind of feminist hands-on experience that I was looking for in terms of my career, um, being part of participatory research and then obviously becoming a trustee and having that kind of more um not a position of power but kind of having that like status maybe, um, definitely helped my career in multiple ways you know being a trustee at 24 is really [cross over of voices] something to be proud of, um, tooting my own horn [laughing] but it's definitely helped and it's, it's aligned really nicely not only with my obviously... Values, but my other feminist volunteering and I feel that they feed into each other really well and I'm able to kind of use my learnings from the young women's movement in my other work and vice versa so I really enjoy that.

Interviewer: What is your other work?

Interviewee: I am on the executive committee for the women's international league for peace and freedom, eh, the UK branch, the world's oldest feminist peace organisation so it's a global organisation it is really cool that is very, very, very cool but they're very interconnected, which I love.

Interviewer: Do they ever interact, like the organisations that you know of, interact?

Interviewee: I don't think so but I wouldn't be surprised if they did in the future [cross over of voices] ...They have similar values they've got one person in common so.

Interviewer: Do you feel like the, the Young Women's Movement is good at interacting with other organisations would you say?

Interviewee: I think so yeah I mean they do joint research there's a lot of work, um, you know working on proposals that go into the Scottish government and stuff like that we work quite closely with Engender, I'm pretty sure, with different um recommendations and stuff like that that go out into the Press so yeah I would say we have really good working relationships with others in in the sphere and in the sector.

Interviewer: Um, so what other initiatives were taking place that you weren't a part of you spoke about the advisory board and did you know of anything else happening at the time that was going on?

Interviewee: I know that there was the actual projects like the Young Women Know and stuff like that so like the national projects for younger women in schools and whatnot and my sister actually became a national champion, so yeah I know that that was going on because I heard about it through the advisory collective and I encouraged her to apply as a young woman in school in the highlands and she's absolutely loved that as well so it was just great to have that family intergenerational part of it as well and she spoke at the Scottish parliament which was amazing.

Interviewer: So proud of her and how is she enjoying it?

Interviewee: She loved it it's just ended for her now but she definitely wants to stay involved with the organisation going forward.

Interviewer: So what was your relationship like or is your relationship like with other members?

Interviewee: Really, really lovely I have had a wonderful time getting to know them all obviously we are both in it and we are best friends so that's great.

Interviewer: Yeah, for context best friends from school [laughing] before school actually.

Interviewee: So that's been really nice being able to involve my outside friends into it as well it's been really special but the girls that I've met through it have been fantastic um Aine Taylor I would say in particular is another highlander and she's been really, really instrumental in my kind of time here and she also encouraged me to apply for the YWCA European trip that I went to in Budapest recently so and I met a lot of other lovely girls there and others from the advisory collective like Fatima and Amy Wallace stuff like that like they've all been really lovely.

Interviewer: Oh that's great.

Interviewee: And the board are great.

Interviewer: Um, the YWCA Europe what was that and how did you how did you get involved with that?

Interviewee: That was actually Aine who encouraged me to apply for an amazing trip which was called, it's a study session called 'Making change gender equality and peace building in Europe' which was hosted by the European YWCA and also the European Youth Centre in Budapest which is kind of like a diplomatic, um, space and it was fantastic so it was me myself and I think there was seven other Scottish girls and 34 European ladies in general and we spent the week together doing feminist activities and we kind of had sessions that discussed anti-racism, transformative feminist leadership and how to prevent burnout in activism and kind of like prioritising your self-care as an act of resistance which was fantastic , um, and did a little study session trip to the Kingdom of Netherlands, um, embassy and which is a female-led embassy actually in Budapest and got a talk from the deputy ambassador about her like kind of struggles with organising her family and also working really hard obviously in a quite high pressure role, so it was really fantastic.

Interviewer: That sounds so cool the female embassy sounds very, very cool.

Interviewee: Yeah it was amazing.

Interviewer: So did you get to meet people from other YWCA's?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: And that being yes, what did you think of them, their structure, their organisation their team? If you managed to get to know well?

Interviewee: We did yeah it was really amazing to see the differences. A lot of the other European YWCA's have physical buildings where they can meet more regularly in terms of like it's not just an office space, um, and a lot of them are doing really interesting different

work. I think the Swedish one is doing like a summer camp in some kind of way... Um, what's the other one? The Belgian one is really interesting they've they're doing a lot of work with prisoners so instead of prisoners or criminals going to prison they can do voluntary work kind of like whatever you would call that in the YWCA instead which is really cool and they've just started a cafe as well in the space to raise funds in a kind of more sustainable way so it's really, really interesting seeing the differences.

Interviewer: So now we're going to move on to some more explore questions, kind of open-ended ones. So what motivated you to join the organisation, like what drew you to the organisation ideologically would you say? Obviously you said you met Jenni and stuff but was there anything that really attracted you to it?

Interviewee: I think that my intersectional feminist values are pretty unshakeable and they align really closely with the vision of the Young Women's Movement which I love and I felt really represented by them immediately, like the first time I ever went on the website, you know, I loved what I read basically and I just feel that we're so in sync, so, I really think that that kind of feminist and inclusive approach to the work that we're doing especially being young women-led I think is so important and having that kind of local like grassroots community-led work involved throughout is really important to me and I think it makes it the organisation that it is.

Interviewer: So grassroots community-led, would you feel like you've been able to see the effects then at like a kind of local level?

Interviewee: I would say so, I mean even in my own network having you involved and having my sister involved has been kind of something I'm able to see firsthand and I mean my sister had an event with the other national champions and she brought her friend along who's someone that would never really have been able to or had the chance to kind of get involved with an extracurricular like this and being from the Highlands so she brought her along to an event and the other friend absolutely loved it so seeing that kind of small ripple effect has really been special because obviously it's firsthand but you know that it's been multiplied across Scotland.

Interviewer: That's so lovely, you've mentioned the Highlands a lot, do you feel like the Highlands are well represented in the young women's movement?

Interviewee: I mean I'm here, you're here...I think that we could be more well represented, I do think there's obviously a lot of central belt,ers, I think that we are quite well represented but there's always space to do more and I also recognise that it's a bit of a challenge in terms of cost, time and you know travel expenses stuff like that and also trying to raise awareness up north as well as more difficult, arguably, so yeah there's definitely barriers to it but I do think that we're making moves at the moment to make it more accessible for Highlanders like us.

Interviewer: I feel as a Highlander it's accessible to me but yeah it would always be nicer to have, have more of us involved. So yeah, you said it was really nice seeing that ripple effect on a personal level, do you think that you've seen it kind of I suppose I want to say

impersonal but in terms of kind of like wider scale like the, the impact it's had on communities, the movement that is?

Interviewee: I think so, I think as a trustee I'm really lucky to get updates from the staff team quarterly about the impact that it's making in schools and across like social media and stuff like that so I think that we are making a big difference in Scotland and I also feel that since I've joined, and that's not that's not a marker, [laughing] but since I've joined like as I have continued to be part of it people have begun to recognise it more when I when I speak to people about it which is really great and they know a bit more about the work that we're doing and it's the profile has definitely increased I would say, arguably because times are tougher for young women and we've been more proactive in our messaging maybe but I think definitely more people are, are feeling the impact.

Interviewer: Is there any specific thing, you said you get updates a lot, is there anything that you remember seeing that you've been sent or just anything at all that struck you a specific post or a photo or anything?

Interviewee: There's been so many, um, I think what was one that I really enjoyed was there not a young woman remember post quite recently? No?

Interviewer: There might have been.

Interviewee: It was, I don't think it was a... it was maybe just a meeting or social or something but it just is something I think this project especially is so important because it's so niche that there are so many young women out there who have these interests and just kind of being able to bring them all together it's something that I've not seen anywhere else and I think it's really special in its uniqueness in that way. So, anytime I see anything about the young women remember I'm like oh my gosh wow, and also it's important to you know cover this this history.

Interviewer: On that, do you feel like since joining the organisation you've been given a good thorough kind of talk about the history of the organisation?

Interviewee: Probably not to be fair, um, I wouldn't say so. I've looked into some things by myself and obviously I'm just interested in it in general but I would definitely not be able to answer you know a pop quiz question about it or like dates or times or anything but I'd love to know more and that's why I'm excited to hear everyone else's ones of these yeah I can learn a bit but yeah I do think that that's something that we could we could improve on.

Interviewer: I mean, that's what this project's gonna be we're gonna we're gonna hand it to you on a silver platter, um, I take it you know that you know YWCA was the Young Women's Christian Association, um, what do you think about the kind of legacy of Christian values and the fact that it's become kind of a non-secular organisation do you feel like there's been there's a legacy at all or?

Interviewee: I think that it's a really interesting history and it's very intricate in the way that it's been the way that they've gone about it um obviously when I joined it was called the Young Women's Movement so I actually had no idea about the Christian history until much

later, um, and it wasn't made super clear so I think a lot of younger members would also probably be in the same boat as I am and not know that there's that connection but I do find that it's more... I prefer it now personally because I believe that all young women in Scotland can now benefit from the work that we're doing whereas before obviously, um, it was maybe not the case whereas but I understand that you know there's, there's a lot of history there and that it's not to minimise or take away from the good work that was done before but I think now it's kind of given us the opportunity to be a lot more progressive and impressive arguably, it gives us that space and that, that I don't know, it allows us to...

Interviewer: It feels so modern.

Interviewee: It feels a lot more modern.

Interviewer: I mean even the marketing I'm looking at the booklet just now and it just feels so fresh and new for an organisation that's a hundred years old.

Interviewee: It feels more relevant, definitely, and I think that if that hadn't happened it would have been a very different story, you know, I don't think we would have even been doing stuff like this you know um or if it was we wouldn't have had the same reach and we wouldn't have had the same capacity I would say, so, I'm, I'm delighted to be honest [laughing] that they've moved away from that and also I, I believe that it's better because it's, it's reaching every young woman, I've already said that but, yeah, yeah I'd like to reiterate [laughing].

Interviewer: So yeah, the secularisation, big thumbs up for you, you think.

Interviewee: Big thumbs up from me, thumbs up for me, yeah.

Interviewer: What about the other young women's Christian associations that you met when you were at the other place were, were they quite overtly still Christian in there...?

Interviewee: Not overtly I would say we didn't actually really discuss the, the Christianity side of it but I'd be interested to know more about like what they're thinking about that on a European level yeah because they are also still very inclusive and, you know, they're really, it's intersexual feminism yeah that they're proponenting... That there are proponents of so I'm interested in how that kind of works with the Christian values, um, and if there's some tension there, I mean I guess at board level they've had this conversation hundreds of times like we did but um yeah I'd definitely be interested to know what, what their kind of future plans are and how they how they balance that tension.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah no it's very, very interesting excited to see what happens. So what were your hopes for the organisation when you joined many moons ago? [laughing]

Interviewee: All those years ago, um, my hopes for the organisation, personally, I hoped that it would provide me with information and experience um new friends and also provide my career a boost realistically, um, so those were kind of my personal hopes and aspirations and all of those things have come true which is fantastic. Um, and then I think as a wider organisation I hope that it would become more of a household name I would hope that the kind of, the coverage of the work that we're doing, um, would grow and that we could grow

also as an organisation in terms of our reach and our capacity to reach more young women in Scotland and kind of get bigger and better basically so I think those. I really wasn't thinking anything huge when I joined as an advisory collective member but now as a trustee I hope that we can provide a safe space for all young women in Scotland to be themselves and to learn and to grow and to meet others, um, and I also hope that we can give that opportunity to more because I've had such a wonderful time and I would just love for others in the movement to... others not in the movement to be in the movement [laughing].

Interviewer: So, what's your favourite memory from when, from when you were part of the organisation still are part of the organisation.

Interviewee: Still am and still loving it, um...

Interviewer: Memory to date then?

Interviewee: Memory to date... Budapest was amazing but that was technically European YWCA, um, so that was really special. I loved the 100th birthday party, that was so fun, um, I travelled up from London on a disgustingly early train for the event and it was just fantastic we had themed cupcakes, there was, er, there was like a disco, there was massages there was lots of creative like um bracelet making and all this kind of stuff like it was so fun and loads of girls loved it um and everyone loved it and it was great to meet the founders and stuff like that so... Not the founders the funders, the Paul Hanlon foundation were there and kind of speaking to them about the work that we were doing it just kind of was a perfect , as a fundraiser, for a funder and such a key funder at that to be able to see like the impact of our work in real time so successfully it was like a dream come true, so as a board member [laughing] it was really satisfying, um, yeah and they were obviously delighted as well so that was great, um, but also I just had a great time and made loads of bracelets so and had I think four cupcakes.

Interviewer: I was gonna say I saw the cupcakes on Instagram they looked lovely.

Interviewee: And then I think, there was, there was another really special event um in Edinburgh, I think it was another 100th celebration I think it wasn't the birthday party but it was the celebration perhaps that was for adults and that was a great time as well because it was great to meet other people in the in the sector also like that was kind of my first experience of meeting others in the women's third sector in Scotland um which is kind of where I want to be and it was just great to kind of be there and, and network with those people, you know, it's an opportunity I wouldn't have had otherwise and again there was lots of bracelet making and cupcakes [laughing].

Interviewer: More cupcakes [laughing].

Interviewee: Yeah it was great.

Interviewer: well that's good the next sort of question is what, what networks have you been able to build?

Interviewee: It's been great I mean obviously the trustees that I'm working with are so accomplished and amazing and they're definitely people that you, you would want to know

in Scotland as a young woman, er, so yeah the trustee's 100 percent Jenni's a powerhouse she's my icon I'm just in awe of her, um, but then I guess outside of the outside of the movement the funders of course I mean that's really handy for, for me and in my roles everywhere which is great and there's also been opportunities to meet with the women's budget group so that was with the cost of living campaign and there was a woman who was working with us from there who was really interesting and we worked really closely with her and learned a lot from her which was great and then also with the Rosa campaign, that was well, it was funded by the Rosa campaign but those connections as well, um, and then...

Interviewer: What is the Rosa campaign?

Interviewee: The Rosa campaign is another organisation that we worked with for the, um, the Young Women in the Workplace, um, so I think that that's all I can say [laughing]. Um, and who else? I feel like it's very... Well I've met some MPs actually to be fair at the House of Lords event that we attended as board members um and got to speak to them on behalf of the organisation which has been fantastic and same in the Scottish Parliament as well, so, yeah it's really opened a lot of doors that would have been closed.

Interviewer: Do you think you want to stay in fundraising/ funding?

Interviewee: I think for now I'm enjoying fundraising I would maybe want to move away from trust and foundations which is my kind of area of expertise at the moment um and move more towards philanthropy kind of side of things, I think that that's where the, the trends are going in the field or in the sector at the moment um, I feel that trust and foundations might be a dying breed, I don't know I don't know...

Interviewer: What's trusts and foundations?

Interviewee: Well trust and foundations, um, I think a lot of them are closing down at the moment like family trusts.

Interviewer: Okay, yeah.

Interviewee: Like the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Interviewee: Yeah, like that obviously that's not closing anytime soon but I think the move towards statutory is probably happening and yeah they're very, excuse me, oversubscribed so I don't know what the future will look like but yeah I would like to move more into feminist fundraising I'm kind of making sure that, um, feminist projects are being very flexibly financed.

Interviewer: do you think in Scotland where you want to end up career-wise?

Interviewee: Yes, it's where I'd like... I'd like to travel first um I would love to go to New York I'd love to go to you know maybe Dublin something like that, um, but yeah I'm always going to end up in Scotland.

Interviewer: You think? All roads point to Scotland [laughing]. How do you feel now that obviously you're in London, away from Scotland as I am. How do you feel that kind of geographical disconnect kind of informs maybe your relationship with Scottish feminism and the organisation or?

Interviewee: I think it makes me more passionate about it I think it's really, I was worried that I would feel disconnected and if anything it's been the opposite so yeah I think that the geographical distance makes me appreciate the work that we're doing in Scotland so much more and I think we're working in a slightly easier political climate than obviously in Westminster, um, and it allows us to be more outspoken and brave and bold with the work that we're doing which I'm so proud of but, um, it also makes me more frustrated to be in London so yeah and I'm so proud like I'm so proud to be a Scottish feminist and part of this amazing Scottish feminist organisation and I think it's a really good example that you can hold up to other nations and especially in London and say well look we can do this you know so and this is how yeah.

Interviewer: Have you found any spaces similar enough to this one in London do you think I haven't personally um...

Interviewer: Me neither [laughing]

Interviewee: As a feminist [laughing] I feel like I would have sniffed it out like a bloodhound, er, no there's, there's been some nice events and stuff like that that I've not felt the same kind of community or I've not found the community, I'm sure it's maybe there but, um, it's harder to find for sure.

Interviewer: That's sad I get that, um, were there any or have there been any big major political or social events and that have happened concurrent to your time being in the organisation you mentioned the cost of living or was that before?

Interviewee: The cost of living crisis for sure...

Interviewer: COVID was that before?

Interviewee: COVID was just before, so it was kind of looking at the, the ramifications of COVID, um, for sure, cost of living crisis, um, we've had a general election, so the conservatives were voted out, big time [laughing], that was a big one and we had the Scottish elections as well actually which were shocking, um, and we also had the re-election of Donald Trump has been in my time which has led to a lot of uncertainty and difficulty, financially I guess and also politically, obviously, um, climate wise it's been pretty bad. I was at COP 29 on behalf of WILP and was able to kind of... And was speaking on, on a feminist, um, taking a feminist lens to the, the climate crisis uh which is disproportionately impacting women and so that's something that's definitely been happening a lot more recently and we've also had the genocide in Gaza and also in the Congo, and you know, there's a lot of political uncertainty um and unrest and horrifying violence you know across, across the world at the moment and that's been probably one of the biggest ones I think, um, the ongoing situation in Palestine alongside um, the new trans ruling in Scotland, so that's also kind of brought up a lot of questions into how we're going to you know go on and continue to support, um, the young trans girls that we that we work with and that we support and

want to continue to be part of the organisation and how we can kind of make that fit with these new laws that will be implemented quite soon, so I would say those are...

Interviewer: There's a lot going on in the world I feel like they all do kind of impact the way the organisation...

Interviewee: Yeah 100%, I mean, when you're looking young girls are not a monolith, um, they're, they're not, we can't just put them all into one big group, um, and that's and that's why the intersectional aspect of this is so important because all of these impacts, er, young girls and young girls in varying different ways and much worse for others so yeah it's...

Interviewer: It's bad. Culturally do you think that the organisation's had to deal with shifts and ideas of womanhood and femininity, you know. I'm thinking things like I guess Andrew Tate and you mentioned Donald Trump and things like that yeah do you feel like that you know the organisation has had to face these sort of things?

Interviewee: Especially with working with young women in schools I have, er, there's a stat about from the behaviour in Scottish schools research in 2023 which was two years ago now was highlighting an increase in misogynistic views and language in male students as an emerging concern and I think we've really seen that uptake in the last two years since that research was done, um, I think it's great that shows like Adolescence are bringing, um, attention to it I wish that it had been perhaps a young woman focused or led project that got people to pay attention but I'm glad that people are paying attention now I do think that we need to kind of shift the shift the onus of the kind of fixing, fixing this issue of you know rampant misogyny in schools and online with young men and the kind of rise of incel behaviour and activity to be on men because I'm just stop framing it as a like the woman is the issue or the victim and start framing it as the men are the problem and they are the aggressor and they have to be dealt with in that way not looking at like victim-led policies but looking at um looking at the men in the in the first light so but yeah I would say that it's been difficult for the Young Women's Movement to, um, look at that and there's, there's been really important work done in Scotland like the White Ribbon are working with, um, young men and stuff like that they're doing really, really important work.

Interviewer: What's the White Ribbon?

Interviewee: It's like, er, it's like Scottish feminist men's organisation?

Interviewer: Oh.

Interviewee: Yeah it's really cool, you should look into it, um, and one of the advisory collective works there.

Interviewer: Oh great

Interviewee: Yeah so easy...

Interviewer: Another cross...

Interviewee: Yeah another crossing um but yeah I think that they've done a really good job because obviously they're working with young women in schools who are facing this kind of disgusting misogynistic behaviour first hand all the time so having to adjust to that and you know it's it's all a lot of it is online and it's a lot more insidious than anything that we've kind of seen before and it's harder to see it if you're not in it and you're not 13 years old and on that group chat and whatever so um yeah so it's very difficult to tackle that one.

Interviewer: Yeah big challenges ahead I'm sure you'll think of something though [laughing]. Speaking about men is there are there any men that you know that are involved in the organisation or do you feel like the organisation kind of interacts with male groups I don't know the YW no the YMCA I don't know ?

Interviewee: I'm not sure I think the European YMCA is more proactive I guess but well speaking of the Swedish group um to go back to that they're young women who are part of the YMCA and they were able to attend this YWCA one because they don't have a YWCA, um, and I do think that they were kind of saying that there was a very there's still a very patriarchal setup to it in that in that specific branch maybe but maybe kind of more widespread across the Swedish one... Which was really interesting um and it was great to see that they were at the study session trying to combat that which is a problem that we luckily don't have in Scotland, um, and I think we do a lot of important cross, cross like sector work for example with White Ribbon and like those connections but I don't think we do a lot of work with young men. I would argue that it's something that to look into in the future my sister, Roisin, as the national champion delivered a talk to the Scottish youth charity the SSE which is the Scottish school boys camp and she delivered one of the talks about consent and safe relationships to the young girls at that camp last summer and there was maybe 40 of them between the ages of 16 to 18 who attended and she did a great job and it was such a really, really special and important um discussion that I was very lucky to be a part of and see it firsthand but one of the feedback things that we got after was the girls said that they would have loved for the boys to be involved in that chat because they were the ones who needed to hear it and you know, there was that safe space that was created because there were no boys there and they could really freely talk about what's happened to them and their experiences and how they felt about it but at the same time it was like well you know we recognise that but we also need the boys to know that this is how we're feeling about it and get that information that Roisin was sharing as well so it's definitely men and young boys engagement with feminism and them knowing that it's not a dirty word and it's not gone too far there's air quotes for that um, is so important, yeah.

Interviewer: Yeah that's a lot more work for you to do [laughing] . Um, do you feel like you're part of a global movement?

Interviewee: I think post Budapest study session I feel a lot more connected to the global movement, yes, before that I'm not sure that I would have had the same answer um just because my work with the young women's movement has been so Scotland focused but I mean we're obviously in a different country right now and it, it was really great to learn about what the other YWCA's were doing so I would love for that to be made more clear maybe for other younger women so yeah, because now I do and I feel really connected to those lovely you know girls in Belgium and stuff like that so yeah now I do which is great.

Interviewer: Yeah, do you feel like the secularisation has, has played a part in that, maybe, that kind of disconnect between the YWCA even just changing the acronym perhaps?

Interviewee: Yeah probably, yeah I think it probably did I mean I think that there was a lot of confusion initially when we arrived because we were calling it the young women's movement and that's what they weren't calling theirs that so you know and like with the Albanians they couldn't get their heads around it kind of thing, so, um, yeah I would definitely agree with that but I don't know is that the price to pay and I feel like there's ways to overcome that to be fair, just kind of increase communication but we're busy so...

Interviewer: Do you think communication could should be increased between the young women's movement and the wider YWCA more than it is?

Interviewee: I think it definitely could be a hundred percent, um, should be? I personally would say yes because I had such a positive experience with it I'm not sure that and I think that the other young women from Scotland would say the same thing like we all still have a group chat with the other girls that's really active and you know, have been invited to Belgium and Macedonia or something like that, great, um, so yeah I would never want anyone else to not have that good experience or you know communication with opportunities to travel you know stuff like that so yeah I would definitely... I personally... I'm not sure what other people would say [laughing].

Interviewer: Um, what impact do you feel like you have achieved through the movement personally?

Interviewee: Oh...

Interviewer: That's a big question...

Interviewee: Well I've got two new recruits so [laughing] that's two for two... Yeah I think I've, um, definitely raised awareness of it in my own network um which is fairly large you know I post about the young women's movement on LinkedIn all the time so there's at least 500 people are seeing it [laughing], um, and drawing attention to it on my personal social media and stuff like that I think is good. I think I've been a valued member of the participatory research groups, you know, I'm quite talkative and I'm not afraid to chat away as, as the 27 minute mark says but yeah I think that I'm a valued member in that way, um, and I bring a certain skill set to the finance subcommittee meeting as well with my fundraising experience and also my external feminist fundraising not fundraising, volunteering with WILP, gives me kind of like a more global look at it as well, kind of like looking at it from a more peace like a feminist peace perspective and I have that kind of knowledge and I've studied international relations so I've done a lot of feminist theory work, so I have that kind of, you know, foreign policy side of it um which I think is good but yeah I think the best part about it is that everyone brings something so different to the table and that's what's so special.

Interviewer: As you said young women aren't a monolith we all we all have something different to bring, um, so slightly provocative question what, what challenges do you feel like you face within the organisation?

Interviewee: It's quite a difficult question because compared to other organisations that I've worked for or worked with I feel that I've had very little challenges with the Young Women's Movement, they are very flexible they're very accommodating , um, the expenses that they pay are fantastic, um, like for travel and stuff like that I would say it's more difficult for me to get to meetings like in person now that I live in London obviously but that was a personal choice so that's fine um, I would argue we haven't had any trustee training yet but so that I would say would be that would be one thing kind of formalising that side of it but also I think that everyone has been really friendly and the meetings themselves have been we're kind of learning as we're going we're learning on, on our feet or whatever that saying... Um, so it's not actually been like too overwhelming I didn't feel like I was thrown in the deep end at all which is great, er, but yeah maybe that kind of formalising of the trustee training I would say and apart from that I think it's been pretty challenge free.

Interviewer: That's good, you say learning as you're going do you feel like it's still kind of in the earlier stages of obviously the whole kind of secularisation rebrand, I think that was in 2016 so does it feel like things are kind of still in a kind of liminal space and changing a bit?

Interviewee: I think things are definitely more settled than, maybe that I'm only thinking that because I've come in after the 2016 mark and I'm sure that others are maybe still kind of adjusting but this is all I've known so I don't feel that as strongly but I do think that this trans ruling is going to lead to a lot of internal discussions about branding and whatnot, um, and you know, organisational risk. So, I think that we're up, we're up for some more of that in the coming months [laughing].

Interviewer: Well I'm sure you guys will handle it very well, so last question what would you like the future of the movement to look like?

Interviewee: That is a very difficult question, um, I would like to see the future of the movement... I'd like us to be able to grow and support as many young women in Scotland as possible, um, and every different, every different kind of young woman in Scotland and I would love for them all to feel as equally supported as I have , um, however our however much our differences are, um, I'd love for us to be well funded into the future, um...

Interviewer: Every organisation's wish [laughing].

Interviewee: Um, I would love for... Yeah just to have that kind of stability to kind of grow and keep learning as well from others in the sector and not get complacent and which I don't think we are I think that we're really like we're on it, you know, with that kind of thing um and I would love to see us maybe kind of... I think that we are pretty we're quite a diverse organisation but I think that everyone can always do more, um, so looking at that you know, um, as like as an ongoing an ongoing aspect of it, um, yeah I'd love to just see us continue to support young women and champion gender equity in Scotland and beyond.

Interviewer: A big ask [laughing].

Interviewee: We can do it.

Interviewer: Okay great, thank you so much for your time this has been excellent I'm going to interview, end the interview now.

Interviewee: Thank you very much, it's been lovely.