



Press Release
4 November 2008

**Brown, Cameron and Clegg join forces to
launch new programme to support the next generation of political leaders**

At a moment of decisive change in world leadership the Young Foundation tomorrow launches a major new programme, UpRising, to develop new leaders, with a keynote lecture from Rosabeth Moss Kanter, probably the world's most respected thinker on leadership and the dynamics of change.

The programme has been set up to address what the Young Foundation calls 'channel blockage' – the lack of routes for many talented young people, particularly from white working class, and minority communities, into positions of power .

Increasingly the key positions of power are held either by older people (the average age of councilors is 58) and by the middle-aged middle class who dominate positions in quangos. UpRising, set up by the Young Foundation with three year funding and the support of v, the youth volunteering organisation, is a leadership programme developed to support and train a new generation of public leaders. UpRising is being piloted with young people ages 19 to 25 in the East London boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Newham and Tower Hamlets and aims to address this issue and create opportunities for young people to form strong ties and work together to serve their communities.

The programme has won the endorsement of the three main party leaders:

Gordon Brown said “... I am delighted that UpRising exists ...– whether by becoming famous movement leaders or local school governors, whether we make the headlines or just make the time, we can all make a difference. I am delighted by the innovative work that the UpRising leadership programme is doing to find and unlock the talent of future leaders that otherwise risks being wasted. I hope that we'll soon see UpRising working in communities right across the country helping a whole new generation of people to find the courage to make the change. I know that your first wave of programme participants will include the MPs, business executives, charity chairs and community leaders of the future. I wish you all the very best of luck in making history.”

Rt Hon David Cameron MP

“I was most interested to read about this exciting programme, which really does look like a very worthwhile and interesting idea. I would, therefore, be delighted to become a Patron of UpRising. I would also love to engage further with this exciting project.....I do hope that the three-year pilot programme is successful and wish everyone involved in the programme the very best of luck.”

Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP

“I would be delighted to become a Patron of The Young Foundation’s new organisation, UpRising. I wholeheartedly share your ambition to engage more young people from marginalized communities in politics and public decision making. The UpRising initiative is an exciting means of doing this and has my full support.”

For more information and interviews please contact Helen Crumley, Events and Communications Manager at the Young Foundation on 020 8709 9265 or helen.crumley@youngfoundation.org.

Notes to Editors:

- On Wednesday 5 November Rosabeth Moss Kanter will give a lecture entitled ‘Leadership and values in difficult times’. In this lecture, Rosabeth Moss Kanter will reflect on the nature of leadership in difficult times, and on how leaders can remain true to their values and thrive because they do. She will also offer her reflections on the US Presidential Election which will have taken place the day before.
- The lecture will be followed by a reception with Ed Vaizey MP, Tony Wright MP and Trevor Phillips to officially launch the Young Foundation's UpRising Leadership Programme. UpRising has been developed to support and train a new generation of public leaders. UpRising is being piloted with young people ages 19 to 25 in the East London boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Newham and Tower Hamlets.
- This event will be held in the Lecture theatre at Imperial College London Business School, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ. Registration will be at 5:30pm for a 6:00pm start. The event will finish around 8:30pm.
- Rosabeth Moss Kanter holds the Ernest L. Arbuckle Professorship at Harvard Business School, where she specializes in strategy, innovation, and leadership for change.
- The UpRising website is at www.uprising.youngfoundation.org
- The Young Foundation is a centre for social innovation based in London. It combines research, social venture funds and local projects, and hosts the global social innovation exchange (SIX) which links several hundred organisations around the world. Since its foundation in the 1950s it has been a pioneer of social entrepreneurship and innovation and has helped to create over 60 successful organisations.

- v is the youth volunteering organisation launched in May 2006 whose mission is to inspire a new generation of volunteers in England aged 16-25. v is supported by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.
- This vinvolved project is part of v's £75 million National Youth Volunteering Programme, which aims to inspire 500,000 young people aged 16-25 to get positively involved in their communities.
- To find out more about v visit the organisations website www.vinspired.com. For volunteering opportunities in your area visit v's portal for young people www.vinspired.com.
- UpRising is also supported by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, IDeA and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

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