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European Youth Parliament Ireland Statement on COVID-19 and the Leinster Regional Session December 07/12/2021

Dear Participants, Parents, Members and Teachers,

The European Youth Parliament, as an organisation that runs conferences for secondary school students, is aware of the challenges and concerns surrounding the recent trends in disease transmission of the Coronavirus Covid-19. The emergence of a new “Omicron” variant, coupled with recent government restrictions have impacted the preparation of the activities of our organisation, namely the Leinster Regional Session 2021. All sections of our society – including employers, schools, colleges and other educational settings like EYP, must play a role if we are to stop the spread of this disease. EYP Ireland is committed to ensuring a safe environment for our participants.

There is a great degree of uncertainty as to how the current situation will evolve. This uncertainty has impacted our ability to ensure that our events can go ahead in current, face to face, physical formats. As the nature of our physical events requires international mobility and concrete planning, **a decision has been taken to move the Leinster Regional Session to a digital format.**

The event will still take place from the 14th - 16th of January, however, it will now take place over online platforms such as Zoom and Discord. The quality and experience of our events will not be impacted by such a change, and having successfully run 7 digital conferences of a similar size or larger in the last year, we are confident that the event will still live up to our high standards.

Those who have already registered for the event will be informed of the change in circumstance in due course, and information on how we will proceed with the event will be communicated to them via email.



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At this time, we would like to thank the Head Organisers of the event Zak Aboukrhes and Sara Ivers for their hard work and passion for this session. We are confident that this session will continue to be a wonderful success. As the National Committee of EYP Ireland, we are committed to supporting both Zak and Sara in reformulating the Leinster Regional Session 2021. We would also like to thank the committed volunteers and supporters of the event and hope they will continue with us on this journey.

In terms of the other events of European Youth Parliament Ireland, the National Committee has created a comprehensive and effective COVID-19 compliance guide and checklist, which will be used to evaluate the remainder of our events throughout the year. It will be on this case by case approach that we will decide the format of future events for the upcoming year. At present, we are hopeful that the remainder of our events will be able to take place in a physical format, but certainty in this regard will come in due course

Each decision we make (including the one made today) has not been made lightly, and we will always have the best interests of our participants at heart. We owe a certain duty and standard of care to our participants, and ensuring their health and safety is paramount in our considerations.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Kind Regards,

Luke Cunningham

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President and Director of European Youth Parliament Ireland CLG