

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Thursday, 17 March 2016

University students inspire young leaders to make global impact

Students from the University of Tasmania will this week help facilitate an annual educational event, aimed at empowering young people to forge global change.

The United Nations Youth Tasmania State Conference will see high school and college representatives between the ages of 15 and 19 converging on Hobart for the three day event, which will encourage them to voice their opinions and discuss timely international issues with peers.

University students from across several faculties will coordinate debates, workshops and an “international crisis” problem solving scenario as part of the conference, to challenge the next wave of local leaders to start thinking on a global scale.

Co-convenor and University of Tasmania Bachelor of Arts student Nick Gribble, said this year’s conference theme *A Society of States* was largely aimed at starting a conversation amongst young people on the subject of Human Rights.

“We want these delegates to have a better awareness of this global topic, as well as the politics, policies, and international relations surrounding it,” Mr Gribble said.

“Human Rights matters in modern society, and the conference will be encouraging these young students to look further afield than media releases to better understand what is behind the issue.”

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) Professor David Sadler said University students were showing academic leadership by influencing young people to make meaningful change.

“It is exciting to see our University students helping shape the futures of these aspirational young people, and I am confident the skills and knowledge they learn as part of the conference will inspire them to excel,” Professor Sadler said.

The UN Youth Tasmania State Conference will begin tomorrow **Friday, 18 March** and run until **Sunday, 21 March** with students meeting at the University Medical Sciences Precinct and Hobart Town Hall as part of the event.

Information released by:

University of Tasmania, Communications and Media Office

Phone: 6430 4966

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au