



Youth and Schools Resource Development Commission

Youth and schools engagement is a vital and integral part of the Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP). We are lucky to have core funding from the Scottish Government for a Youth and Schools Officer, who works to (*inter alia*): engage, inspire and support the c250 school members of the Partnership; support school linking between Scotland and Malawi, working in partnership with our sister network the Malawi Scotland Partnership (MaSP); and inspire direct youth engagement in the bilateral relationship, working with our Youth Committee.

We recognise this is a uniquely difficult period for schools, with continued significant disruption caused by Covid-19 and much catch-up required, meaning many of even those teachers most passionate about Malawi are struggling to be able to justify time spent on a Malawi link. However, we also recognise that while these challenges are widespread, they are not universal and we do not wish to be fatalistic. We are seeing new schools approach the SMP keen to start a new link and there remain a number of teachers and schools that have maintained momentum or even looking to expand their work.

The continued absence of Scotland-Malawi travel has hit hard many of those school links which were built on regular visits. However, the shift to digital, and the resultant closer working between the SMP and MaSP, has also created new opportunities for different sorts of engagement between schools: potentially more inclusive, sustainable and scalable than an over reliance on in-person travel.

What is now needed are tangible and inspirational resources, which align with current curriculum requirements. The SMP has around £5,000 available which we are keen to invest in developing our youth and schools offering. We are looking for someone to work on this project as a commission, with the development of five new SMP school resources which could then be delivered and rolled out by the Youth and Schools Officer in the months and years to come.

We seek an individual who has the necessary skill-sets and expertise to deliver this work, and who has time and capacity between October 2021 – February 2022 to carry it out. The ideal candidate would:

- Have proven experience of developing engaging educational materials;
- Have a working knowledge of the Scottish curriculum and the contemporary needs and priorities of Scottish teachers;
- Have a knowledge of Malawi and the relationship between Scotland and Malawi; and
- Be based in Scotland and have an existing, legal right to work in Scotland.

We do not wish to be too prescriptive about what exactly these new schools resources should be focused on, other than that:

- They should be appealing for schools and young people in both nations, clearly connecting into the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence and engaging contemporary issues of interest

www.scotland-malawipartnership.org

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- With dignified, reciprocal partnership at their core, they should include a range of ideas, practical activities and lesson plans which schools can themselves deliver and/or the SMP Youth and Schools Officer could visit schools (in person or digitally) to deliver
- They should specifically relate to and be relevant both for those schools with a link to Malawi and those without on topics relevant to young people and with a clear call to action
- They should not rely on previous teacher or pupil knowledge of Malawi
- They should be digital, in that they can be made publicly and freely available on the website
- They should be interactive and engaging, perhaps with a range of different media
- They should, together, significantly enhance and underpin the SMP's offering to school members
- They should share and advance the values, principles, ethos of the SMP, and advance our charitable purpose
- There should be a strong Malawi voice/input, in keeping with our values (colleagues in MaSP are available to assist)
- They should be appropriately framed given the current context, recognizing the pressures and challenges schools are facing
- They should complement the updated School Partnership Practical Guide, which the Youth and Schools Officer is in the process of completing.
- There should be readily adaptable for both primary and secondary use

This is a very output-focused commission, with the delivery of tangible products at the end. We therefore require someone with previous relevant experience, a high degree of professional effectiveness and someone with proven delivery skills.

While we require a high degree of personal drive and autonomy of working, we would encourage the individual commissioned to work and share with the Youth and Schools Officer through the process, to ensure the resources developed fit in well with the SMP's wider youth and schools' work. We are also able to offer potential support and input from our school members, Board and our colleagues in MaSP.

A sum of £5000 is the maximum available for this commission (inclusive of all taxes). A further design budget of up to £1,200 will be available for the external design work, by a professional design company.

We invite discussion and reflections from individuals that are interested in this commission and who demonstrably have the required skills, expertise and professional experience. We hope to make the commission before the end of October and would require all the work to be completed by the end of February 2022, so it could be officially launched at the March 2022 Youth Festival.

To express an interest in this commission, please email stuart@scotland-malawipartnership.org a max one-page outline of why you feel you meet the brief, with links to your previous work as soon as possible. This is a rolling commissioning process, and it will be awarded as soon as we are fully satisfied that we have found a suitable practitioner for the commission.

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