

Candidate G

Encouragement

Encouragement – something we seldom see in the modern day. It is a key aspect of any good society; something that pushes people to be brave and feel empowered. After all, that is exactly what the word means, to give people the courage to perform a certain task or deed. It saddens me to say that this article consists of nothing but malice and slander.

Firstly, young people are not selfish. I do not understand where this generalisation has come from and I don't think I ever will. I believe that this text is a typical view from the older generation of young people and a view that the generation before them might have had of the now older generation. Young people are not selfish in comparison to every other individual in society; they only do what is expected of them, that is to keep safe, to stay healthy and most importantly, to be educated. They play their role as anyone else does, and this common misconception that they are lazy simply because they do not work or pay for essentials must stop.

Why is it that young people are seen this way? Why are they perceived, particularly, as lazier and less motivated than anyone else? Perhaps it is because others are jealous. Jealous of their youth and their ability to find any way on earth to have fun. Perhaps it is simply because they are not employed or don't work (which I am afraid would be rather difficult for people under sixteen anyway). Perhaps it is because areas of society are collapsing and working people need people to rely on or someone to blame. Either way, young people are perceived as selfish and lazy by many and are given ridiculous names, like 'generation smartphone', to rub salt into the wound.

Do not misunderstand me, there are many aspects in society where young people should be encouraged to help or to contribute, but to force young people to volunteer? To force children who are busy with education and solving the many aspects of life that one must solve; to volunteer? To put it simply, plainly and bluntly, it seems wrong. As well as this, it has never worked. Conscription is an example of this failing to work – an extreme example – but nevertheless an example. Winston Churchill introduced conscription in the nineteen-fifties in the hope that it would build skills and a mindset for young people to work. Instead, it brought about a generation of scarred, angry and unmotivated young people who did anything they could to avoid conscription. Is this what we want for young people? Or do we want to encourage them to volunteer so that they are willing to socialise, work and contribute to society?

Finally, I can't understand why volunteering is even an option. Living in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, surely hiring staff to perform this voluntary work is more efficient. I agree that getting young people to work for no money gives them a mark of pride when they are working, but in the real world, the motive is money and in the real world, one must make money to survive. I am therefore saying that voluntary work should not exist in the first place, and what would encourage young people to work and share their wealth, thus contributing to society, would be to pay them for helping others.

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Do not misunderstand me, there are many aspects in society where young people should be encouraged to help or to contribute, but to force young people to volunteer? To put some student children who are busy with education and not being the many aspects of life that one must volunteer? To put in simply cash, plainly and blindly, it seems wrong. As well as this, it has never worked. Compulsions is an example of this - not paying to work - an extreme example but nevertheless an example. Winston Churchill introduced conscription in the middle-fifties in the hope that it would be a bridge between a mindset for young people to work. Instead, it brought about a generation of stressed, angry and unwanted young people who did anything they could to avoid conscription. In this, what is best for young people? Or do we want to encourage them to volunteer so that they are willing to socialise, work and contribute to society?

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 share their ~~own~~ wealth when their contribution to
 society would be to pay them for helping others.

