

AHRC Intergenerational Justice Consultation Event Report Summary

Cardiff, 6th of June 2023 (09:30-16:00)

Hosted by the AHRC and the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, and facilitated by Collaborative Capacities, this was an all-day hybrid consultation event with the three primary objectives to: explore what intergenerational justice (IGJ) means to the group and the public; define what we want intergenerational justice to mean and the impact we want it to have; and map out how we might achieve that impact, defining short and medium term actions we can take as individuals, organisations, and collectively, working in collaboration. Participants were from a wide range of disciplines and organisations, including academics, practitioners, NGOs concerned with intergenerational dialogues, and the public sector.

A working definition of Intergenerational Justice resulted from this workshop, which will be open to further inputs and discussions as this conversation evolves:

Intergenerational justice is the process by which we bring the past and the future into the present to protect the interests and rights of current and future generations following our duty of care as temporary stewards of our planet within a just, inclusive and equitable social framework.

The impact the group would like to see was best summed up in this sentence:

The impact that we want intergenerational justice to have is to achieve an environment in which those with privilege and power act to break down unchallenged and unjust power structures to leave the world better than they found it and encourage others to do the same.

Several key messages emerged during the event:

- **Fairness is the underlying ethical framework** with which to practice justice that leads to accountability and reparations. It is important to
- **Continue listening to diverse voices** and include different generations and demographics in this ongoing dialogue
- **Explore innovative communication** and media methods to achieve impact at scale
- **Keep communication channels open** by reporting back to those involved, and continue to connect people with ideas and best practice
- **Evolve funding models** so that intergenerational justice can be embedded in practice
- **Clarify the dynamic between law and justice and politics** through engaging communities
- **Act on the discussions from this day** to bring about real change, using the results of this consultation to bridge the gap between dialogue and the development of policy

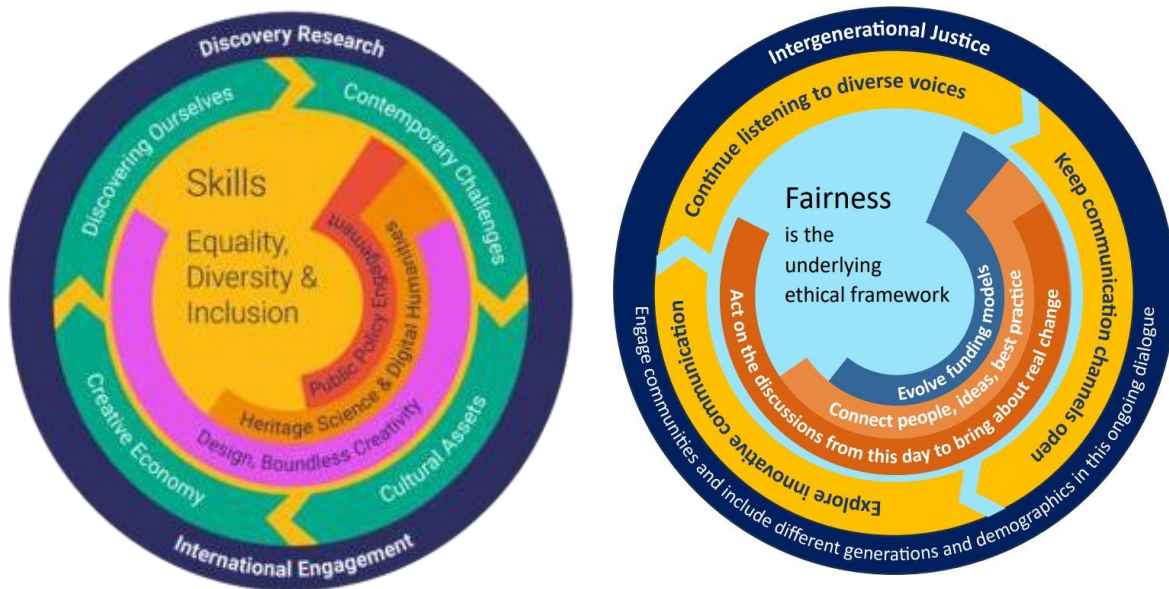
The wide ranging conversations that took place provided further validation to the vision that the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) has for intergenerational justice, as stated by Chief Executive Officer, Professor Christopher Smith: "we consider our obligations across space and time, whether it be older



generations or to the young or to those as yet unborn.” It “captures our commitment to the deep and recent past, to the most pressing challenges of an inequitable world, and our imaginative engagement with the near and distant future.”

The process and results of this event significantly aligned with [AHRC’s Theory of Change](#), providing individuals and organisations an opportunity for **discovering ourselves** and sustaining a culture of enquiry in our world; it tackled **contemporary challenges** around how we have and how we should live together; it celebrated our **cultural assets** in honouring the work of those past and engaging those to come; and the conversations included several references to the use of our **creative economy** to further develop and complement this work (Figure 1).

Fig. 1. On the left is AHRC’s vision diagram ([Who AHRC is – UKRI](#)); the diagram on the right summarises the key messages that arose from the Intergenerational Justice Consultation Event on 6 June 2023.



Holding the event in Cardiff further validated this approach, as the Keynote Address by Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru), highlighted the clear commitment in Wales to a single Sustainable Development Principle (Egwyddor Datblygu Cynaliadwy) based on the [United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals](#), and which informs all ways of working: to “act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (i’r corff weithredu mewn modd sy’n ceisio sicrhau bod anghenion y presennol yn cael eu diwallu heb beryglu gallu cenedlaethau’r dyfodol i ddiwallu eu hanghenion hwythau).”

The alignment with AHRC’s core vision along with the [Theory of Change](#) and lessons from the Welsh government’s commitment to collaborative, inclusive ways of working will enable us to work strategically with colleagues across UKRI in our mission to embed intergenerational justice across all our work.

Respectfully submitted by Sawsan Khuri and Karen Sidwell, Collaborative Capacities, July 2023