

The Youth 2030 Spoken Word Workshops

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Introduction:

My name is Kelvin Akpaloo. I am a facilitator and spoken word artist and **I am passionate about promoting human rights, inclusion, integration of minorities, and community and youth development.** I work at both a national and international level, using the creative arts, especially **spoken word, poetry, and dance.** I am a storyteller and a story harvester and have more than five years practical experience as a spoken word artist, youth leader, creative director, choreographer, facilitator, and artist director.

On the national level, **I have worked extensively with the National Youth Council Ireland on several of their programmes.** This has given me the opportunity **to work in a national and international context on programmes that address and challenge inequality.** In addition, I work with Eurobug International and Tallaght Community Arts, while I have also hosted workshops for a number of non-government organisations e.g., Amnesty International, the Intercultural and Refugee Programme, and the No Hate Speech Network.

Spoken word poetry for me, is not just a poem written on a piece of paper and me talking about it. Spoken word poetry is another gateway for individuals to express themselves artistically and to display the importance of words. Spoken word is an experience – where **with a small use of powerful words, you might change someone's perspective or someone's action and how they might deal with something.**

I have worked with the Youth 2030 project at NYCI, and this has allowed me to **highlight spoken word as a key tool for youth workers in tackling inequality both locally and globally.** Using the SDG framework, I was able to bring a global justice lens to this collaborative work.

My work involves:

1. **Spoken Word** workshops.
2. Body movement workshops (**Dance**).
3. Workshops for youth leaders or workers on using **Art** as a tool to empower young people.
4. Workshops to tackle **Hate Speech** online and offline either using movement or Spoken Word.

5. **Youth Empowerment** workshops through art and creative methods.

Introduction - Spoken Word Workshops

(1 day or 2 - 3-day Workshops)

Two of the most powerful weapons to communicate, to tell stories, to show respect, or to begin wars are **the tongue and the pen**. Words command, inspire, send hate, empower, motivate, and so on. Words are delivered by tongue and pen through spoken word poetry.

Spoken word poetry is one of the dynamic ways of supporting young people to have a voice, to tackle issues they wish to talk about, either personally or socially. A big example of a young person using the spoken word to talk about social issues was Amanda Gorman at US President Joe Biden's inauguration reminding us that **politics needs poetry**.

In my workshops, we will explore the power of words through spoken word poetry. We will explore the meaning of the spoken word, how it differs from the traditional poetry style. We will write poems and create a character for poems, making a connection with poems, the use of sound, delivery and performing of poems, and finally learn how to transform and present poems onto the screen or stage.

3 Part (3 days) Spoken Word Workshops: 1.5 hours – 2 hours per day.

In the first workshop: Introductions, getting to know each other, our social issues we wish to tackle, our fears, expectations, and contribution. We will explore the meaning of the spoken word, how it differs from the traditional poetry style, and how to create a story or feeling in a poem.

In the second workshop: Participants will write their poems, creating a character for their poems, creating a connection with their poems, learn about the use of sound to bring about emotions. Participants will also learn how to write poems directly focused on **Human Rights** and **Global Citizenship Education** to make a statement, raise awareness, question politics, climate change and create solidarity for people who are minorities.

In the third workshop: Participants will learn how to deliver and perform their poems to an audience. This session will **focus on rhymes, rhythms, flow, tempo, energy, speed, and breath control**. All of this is important as it helps to **create emotion, atmosphere** and feeling in the poems. These emotions, atmosphere, and feelings will be used to create a connection with the **audience on stage, at home, face to face, on the screen or even when people read your poem**.

And finally, participants will learn how to develop a spoken word video that demands attention and brings your poem to life visually.

One day Spoken Word Workshop (1.5hr - 2hrs)

For a **one-day workshop, we will first identify the social or personal issues one wishes to tackle.** From there, we explore the meaning of the spoken word, how it differs from traditional poetry style, the benefits of spoken word poetry and how to create a story and feeling in a poem. **We will also look at how to write your spoken word poem,** having a connection and a character for and with your poems, having a flow in your poems and how to perform your poem to the audience.

Examples of my work in spoken word

Spoken Word Poem I wrote about [Colonisation](#):

My Spoken Word piece made for the **Youth 2030 One World Week 2020 Youth Summit** on [Power](#):

Spoken Word Workshop with young people in the **Youth 2030 Young People's Committee** on a [Just Transition](#).

Cost for Delivery of Workshops