

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

Practical programs for civic education in the United Kingdom

This essay will describe two practical civic education (better known in the United Kingdom as citizenship education) programs which are run by the Citizenship Foundation, a UK-based NGO which both campaigns for public policies that support citizenship education, and also runs its own citizenship education programs targeted at young people. These two programs are: (i) our Mock Trials competitions, which introduce young people to the legal justice system and the concepts behind the rule of law; and (ii) our Make a Difference Challenge program, which helps children choose and take practical actions on issues they care most about, and then to reflect on and learn from their activities. Before describing these programs in detail, it may be helpful to set our work within the context of the UK's history of fluctuating political support for citizenship education.