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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**CALL TO UNITE BRITAIN BY MORE INTERGENERATIONAL MIXING TO END ‘AGE APARTHEID’**

**New report highlights twenty radical ways to create ‘a country for all ages’ by 2030, countering ageism, loneliness and poor health, care, learning and housing in divided Britain**

Urgent action is needed to tackle the divisions facing older and younger generations and unite Britain, according to think tank United for All Ages in its new report, ***Together in the 2020s***, published today (7 January 2020). Britain is one of the most age segregated countries in the world, having become more so in the last decade.

Bringing younger and older people together can help tackle some of the biggest social problems facing all generations in Britain – from poor health and care, anxiety and loneliness to learning, housing and lifelong opportunities. Intergenerational projects can change attitudes to ageing, reduce ageism and increase trust in a country where people are often divided by age, as seen at the recent general election.

Britain and its ageing society could be transformed by acting on the report’s recommendations contributed by twenty five national and local organisations. The contributors are concerned about improving relations between the generations and range from the Children’s Commissioner for England, Local Government Association, Nesta and Youth Sport Trust to the Older People’s Commissioner for Wales, Centre for Ageing Better, Care England, Anchor Hanover and Grandparents Plus.  They have shared ideas and projects for making Britain ‘a country for all ages’ by 2030.

The report makes key recommendations for action for all ages in:

* **every community**: developing 1000 centres for all ages and enabling more care homes to become community hubs; extending schools’ opening hours to provide community spaces for intergenerational activities; scaling up homesharing schemes for older and younger people as part of the growth in intergenerational living; promoting residential streets as play spaces; training students together on intergenerational projects
* **social and economic policies**: setting up a new government department for connection to support and join up intergenerational action nationally and locally; assessing all policies’ intergenerational impact; redesigning the economy to make the most of the ageing society; legislating for the long-term and planning for future generations; introducing an intergenerational curriculum; creating a ‘bond for all ages’ with tax breaks to help working families pay for care and learning
* **in culture, media and sport**: extending the Welsh campaign to end #EverydayAgeism across the UK; making online mentoring universal for young people seeking advice on life-shaping decisions; using the power of football and sport to bring generations together and change local communities; creating media awards for good (and bad) coverage of ageism; designating a Bank Holiday as a national day of unity raising awareness and bringing the country together

A full list of the report’s twenty recommendations is below in Notes to Editors.

The report’s analysis of recent research shows Britain is one of the most age segregated countries in the world, particularly for the oldest and youngest generations. In Britain people have relatively little contact with other generations outside their own families.

This trend has intensified in recent decades and has been exacerbated by the housing market with older people more likely to live in rural areas and towns with younger people in city centres. Residents of some local authorities are much older on average than other areas, and vice versa, putting pressure on local services and finances. Wealth has become more concentrated amongst older age groups.

Some nine million people say they are lonely. Four million of those are older people with many younger people also reporting loneliness, with a major cost to health, work and finances. Ageism is the most commonly experienced form of prejudice – by older and younger people – but is not given wide attention.

The new report highlights the growth in 2019 of projects bringing different generations together to mix and share activities and experiences. It shows how these projects bringing younger and older people together can give children a good start in life, change attitudes, improve older people’s health and care, and increase trust and understanding between generations.

Examples of projects featured in the report that could be scaled up include: The Together Project; InCommon; Youth Sport Trust’s Active Across Ages; Brightside; Homeshare; Apples and Honey Nightingale; London Play; Clarion Futures; Activate Learning; and The Cares Family.

Stephen Burke, director of United for All Ages, said: “Bringing Britain together is one of the biggest challenges for the new decade. The last decade saw huge disconnection and division. The 2020s can be different. Ending ‘age apartheid’ and ageism and promoting more intergenerational mixing could help create a Britain for all ages by 2030 – united not divided.

“More mixing between the generations is the way to build trust and understanding across our communities and our country. To make it happen requires not just vision and ambition, but also political will and leadership locally and nationally.”

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

‘Together in the 2020s: twenty ideas for creating a Britain for all ages by 2030’ can be downloaded from 7 January 2020 at [www.unitedforallages.com](http://www.unitedforallages.com) The report contains a wide range of projects, ideas and case studies illustrating the key recommendations.

For advance copies of the report, media enquiries, interviews etc, please contact Stephen Burke, director of United for All Ages on 01692 650816 or 07714 334510 or [stephen.burke@unitedforallages.com](mailto:stephen.burke@unitedforallages.com) including contacts for contributors to the report.

United for All Ages is a ‘think and do’ tank and social enterprise that aims to build a stronger Britain and stronger communities by bringing younger and older people together. Launched in 2010, United for All Ages

works with policymakers, councils, charities, universities and companies to make ‘a Britain for all ages’ a reality. United for All Ages focuses on how action for and by all ages can tackle some of Britain’s major social and economic issues. The social enterprise is working with nurseries and schools and older people’s housing and care schemes to create shared sites across the UK. It also coordinates the Intergenerational Housing Network. United for All Ages is marking its tenth year with a series of special activities this year. [www.unitedforallages.com](http://www.unitedforallages.com) @united4allages

