

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP

19TH NOVEMBER 2003

CITIZENSHIP

The purpose of this exercise is to encourage members to share their thoughts and opinions on collective responsibilities and share their perspectives of citizenship in everyday life.

Before the meeting, please consider how your work and the work of your organisation contribute to citizenship and participation in civic life, either through the residents you are representing or the people who use your services.

FOR DISCUSSION

The precise definition of citizenship may vary according to culture, class, politics and country. Here are a few definitions to prompt your thinking

Educational:

Citizenship is about understanding how society works; how individual and collective actions affect the community, locally and globally; how we can participate in society and influence outcomes. It's about shared rights and responsibility.
(from 'Citizenship Matters')

Legal definition:

People who have the right to live in the UK, are protected by the law and can participate in the democratic process. They have a responsibility to keep within the law, pay taxes, uphold the rights of others etc.

Active Citizenship:

The notion of legal rights and responsibilities within the context of participation in decision-making and society as a whole.

EU Definition of Citizenship:

The notion of citizenship has a dual dimension since it both defines the way the members of a community participate in the exercise of power, that is the nature of their relation with the government, and it defines that which creates the social bond and the identity between the individuals of a same community.

The article 8.1 of the [Maastricht Treaty](#) states: "*Citizenship in the Union is hereby established. Every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union*".

Citizenship of the Union is dependent on holding the nationality of one of the Member States. In other words, anyone who is a national of a Member State is considered to

be a citizen of the Union. In addition to the rights and duties laid down in the Treaty establishing the European Community, Union citizenship confers four special rights:

- freedom to move and take up residence anywhere in the Union;
- the right to vote and stand in local government and European Parliament elections in the country of residence;
- diplomatic and consular protection from the authorities of any Member State where the country of which a person is a national is not represented in a non-Union country;
- the right of petition and appeal to the European Ombudsman.

Global Citizenship:

Global citizenship refers to being a part of global community, or acknowledging the interdependence of different communities around the world - it is not a legal definition.

According to Oxfam the global citizen is someone who:

- Is aware of the wider world and has a sense of their own role as a world citizen
- Respects and values diversity
- Is willing to act to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place
- Takes responsibility for their actions

Global citizenship is less defined by legal sanction than by "associational" Status, which is different from national citizenship. Since there is no global bureaucracy to give sanction and protect global citizens, how are individuals who live, work and play within trans-national norms to exercise the status that goes beyond national boundaries and sovereignty?

Zrinka Bralo,
Director,
Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum
7th November 2003

Officer Contact:
Helen Kay,
Partnership Support Officer,
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea,
Tel: 020 7361 3671
Email: helen.kay@rbkc.gov.uk