

Committee: Youth Assembly (YA)

Topic: Question on the involvement of the younger generations in democratic processes

Student Officer: Hisham Ayache

Position: Co-Chair

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## Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

It is at my utmost pleasure and honor to welcome you all to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Campion School Model United Nations conference. My name is Hisham Ayache, I am 15 years old, and I will be taking on the privilege of serving as a co-chair in the Youth Assembly (YA) committee. As a GCSE student at the Campion School of Athens, I am aware of the several difficulties that come with what is most likely your first time participating in an MUN conference. In my experience, I remember my first time in Year 7 participating in the CSMUN conference of 2018 where I had absolutely no idea of any of the formal processes. However, to this day I remain grateful of the fact that I took on this challenge and of course, along with the aid and support of my Chairs and Co-chairs of the time. Since then, I have participated in each consecutive MUN conference ranging from ones organized by Campion School all the way to Harvard's HMCE MUN 2021. I strongly believe that the MUN is not only a competition for being able to achieve a best delegate award or even an honorable mention, but also a chance to further expand one's knowledge about certain issues developing across the globe, as well as that, to improve one's critical thinking and public speaking by significantly boosting their confidence.

I feel that it is at utmost importance to make it clear to the delegate that, this study guide, although comprehensive and is to a certain extent a minimized version of the expected knowledge a delegate should be familiar with, this should not be by any means be the extent of your research since as I mentioned before, this is the bare minimum set of information on the respective topic. Therefore, I want to emphasize the importance of conducting your own further research through, of course, the point of view of your respective nation.



## 10<sup>th</sup> Campion School Model United Nations | 8<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022

With all the above being clear, I would like to welcome you once again to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual CSMUN conference and can with full confidence assure you that this will be an unforgettable and knowledgeable experience. I am looking forward to formally meeting you all in September and serving as one of your two Co-chairs of the Youth Assembly.

Yours truly,

Hisham Ayache [hayache@campion.edu.gr](mailto:hayache@campion.edu.gr)

### Topic Introduction

Children's involvement in the government as nicely as some of its primary choices and obligations that operate in favor of the people of the nation is vital. Furthermore, youth have the full right of being capable to share their ideas about a positive issue, fighting or simply a conventional situation taking place in the governmental body. Governments ought to use children's thoughts to assist in making decisions. This consists of choices about laws, policies, services, and authorities spending.

A notable query ought to be that, even if young people had been given this proper to make such indispensable decisions inside a governmental body, how would such a method take place? Well in this case, Children inform their ideas to governments through councils, parliaments, forums, panels, conferences, research, internet discussions, creative activities, campaigns, and strikes. Child and youth councils and parliaments have existed since the 1940s.<sup>1</sup> Councils now exist in 27<sup>2</sup> countries, nationally and at a local level. There are opportunities to share opinions about EU coverage too. In 13<sup>3</sup> international locations there are child or youth parliaments. Council and parliaments are geared up in loads of different ways. Parliaments are often yearly education activities, where children can make recommendations. In 6 parliaments<sup>4</sup> children can propose new laws. Sometimes parliaments and councils have strong connections and regular

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<sup>1</sup> Youth and Political Participation 2013-11-15 - United Nations.  
<https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> *ibid*

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*



meetings with local, national, and international governments or politicians. Some participation opportunities are provided by governments, Children's organizations. Moreover, more could be done to help children share their ideas with governments.

Often, there are arguments that youngsters can make such as not being as skilled in a subject matter when compared to a certified scholar, or even the lack of expert and formal language that is basically utilized within these conferences, meetings and so on. To overcome this obstacle, various options can be used. For example, by using potential such as but not limiting to, making such conferences extra child pleasant via making it greater comfortable and welcoming so that young people feel extra blissful and can in the end modify the professionalism that takes place in such meetings. Secondly, even though it may sound outrageous at first, permitting young people to take the lead in such conferences ought to make the child(ren) turn out to be extra confident about their ideas and principles about a certain issue and or topic. We obviously cannot count on whole self-belief from the youngsters at first, so besides assisting them to be sure about themselves and their problem-solving system and skills, they will ultimately be a very useless asset in such situations.

A question that is regularly asked is whether children's thoughts are already used to help make very essential choices within a democratic or governmental body. This is because, occasionally teens can endorse ideas that are made into laws. Sometimes laws change, primarily based on children's ideas.<sup>5</sup> Sometimes attitudes alternate too. But children do not have adequate accessible information. Children are now not a section of the total decision-making process. There is very little feedback, monitoring, or assessment closer to their ideas.

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<sup>5</sup> European Union. Children's Participation in Government Decisions across the European Union . <https://fe.ccoo.es/8be3b330c2a11882315209caf5e63cb6000063.pdf>.



## Definition of key terms

### Democracy

Democracy or the democratic process is defined as “Prevailing to or characterized by the principle of political or social equality for all.”<sup>6</sup>

### Voting

“A formal expression of opinion or choice made by an individual or a body of individuals, especially in an election.”<sup>7</sup>

### Policies

“A definite course of action adopted for the sake of expediency, facility etc.”<sup>8</sup>

### Expediency

“A regard for what is political or advantageous rather than for what is right or just; a sense of self-interest.”<sup>9</sup>

### Youth Parliaments

“The European Youth Parliament (EYP) is a peer-to-peer educational platform which brings together thousands of young people from all over Europe to discuss current European issues, discover and develop their skills, understand the principles of dialogue, co-operation and respect as well as prepare them to take charge of Europe's future.”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> “Democracy Definition & Meaning.” *Dictionary.com*, Dictionary.com, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/democracy>.

<sup>7</sup> “Vote Definition & Meaning.” *Dictionary.com*, Dictionary.com, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/voting>.

<sup>8</sup> “Policy Definition & Meaning.” *Dictionary.com*, Dictionary.com, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/policy>.

<sup>9</sup> “Expediency Definition & Meaning.” *Dictionary.com*, Dictionary.com, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/expediency>.

<sup>10</sup> “Youth Parliament Program.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 17 May 2022, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth\\_Parliament\\_Program#:~:text=The%20Youth%20Parliament%20or%20Youth.under%20the%20leadership%20of%20Raghavendar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_Parliament_Program#:~:text=The%20Youth%20Parliament%20or%20Youth.under%20the%20leadership%20of%20Raghavendar).



## Councils

“An assembly of persons summoned or convened for consultation, deliberation, or advice.”<sup>11</sup>

## Strikes

“A concerted stopping of work or withdrawal of workers’ services, as to compel an employer to accede to workers’ demands or in protest against terms or conditions imposed by an employer.”<sup>12</sup>

## Scholar

“A learned or erudite person, especially one who has profound knowledge of a particular subject.”<sup>13</sup>

## Asset

“A useful and desirable thing, quality or person.”<sup>14</sup>

## Governmental Body

“A group of people that has the authority to exercise governance over an organization or political entity.”<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> “Council Definition & Meaning.” *Dictionary.com*, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/council>, Dictionary.com,

<sup>12</sup> “Strike Definition & Meaning.” *Dictionary.com*, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/strike>, Dictionary.com,

<sup>13</sup> “Scholar Definition & Meaning.” *Dictionary.com*, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/scholar>, Dictionary.com,

<sup>14</sup> “Asset Definition & Meaning.” *Dictionary.com*, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/asset>, Dictionary.com,

<sup>15</sup> “Governmental Body Definition.” Law Insider, [https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/governmental-body#:~:text=Governmental%20Body%20means%20any%20government,arbitrator%20\(public%20or%20private\).](https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/governmental-body#:~:text=Governmental%20Body%20means%20any%20government,arbitrator%20(public%20or%20private).)



## Peacebuilding

“The implementation of measures intended to create or sustain peace, especially in an area affected by conflict.”<sup>16</sup>

## Revolution

“An overthrow and the thorough replacement of an established government or political system by the people governed.”<sup>17</sup>

## Disenfranchisement

“The act of depriving a person of the rights or privileges of citizens, especially the right to vote; the state of being so deprived”<sup>18</sup>

## EMBs

“Election Management Body, is a body that is appointed to oversee the implementation of the electioneering process of any country.”<sup>19</sup>

## Stakeholders

“A person with an interest or concern in something, especially a business”<sup>i</sup>

## UNDP

“United Nations Development Program, a United Nations agency tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.”

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<sup>16</sup> Marketing Communications: Web // University of Notre Dame. “What Is Strategic Peacebuilding? // Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies // University of Notre Dame.” *Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies*, <https://kroc.nd.edu/about-us/what-is-peace-studies/what-is-strategic-peacebuilding/#:~:text=Peacebuilding%20is%20the%20development%20of,conditions%20that%20generate%20deadly%20conflict>.

<sup>17</sup> “Revolution Definition & Meaning.” *Dictionary.com*, Dictionary.com, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/revolution>.

<sup>18</sup> “Disenfranchisement Definition & Meaning.” *Dictionary.com*, Dictionary.com, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/disenfranchisement>.

<sup>19</sup> “EMB Definition.” What Is an Electoral Management Body (EMB)? -, <https://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/em/ema/ema01>.



## Background Information

Young men and women participate in political procedures in a couple of ways. However, the illustration of younger human beings in formal political approaches stays limited.<sup>20</sup> Participation of all citizens in formal political techniques is important for democracy; furthermore, younger humans themselves are calling for higher integration into these processes. A consensus is emerging that growing the participation of young human beings has both instrumental and intrinsic cost for both the young men and women themselves and for the wider society.<sup>21</sup>

EMBs and other electoral stakeholders have a vital role in encouraging and supplying safe surroundings for the participation of younger humans in consultant political processes, and in wider policy and political strategies that immediately influence young people's lives.

Increasing the participation of adolescence requires EMBs and different electoral stakeholders to apprehend the barriers that avoid childhood participation in formal political processes. It additionally requires them to challenge chronic negative assumptions about younger human beings and appreciate the active roles younger men and females are already playing, particularly involving addressing different forms of violence.<sup>22</sup>

Countries that have carried out approaches such as being able to use the involvement of the younger technology in democratic processes are as follows, and naturally from thorough research made, it suggests that the Middle Eastern Countries such as Jordan, Moldova, Lebanon. As well as some European countries such as Poland and the Czech Republic in which two thirds of the younger era have suggested that participation in quite several surveyed things to do is often from their own initiative.

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<sup>20</sup> *Youth and Elections* -, <https://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/yt/onePage>.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

<sup>22</sup> Ibid



## Importance of the participation of the younger generations in democratic processes

Young people take part in political approaches in a couple of ways. However, the illustration of younger human beings in formal political techniques stays limited. Participation of all residents in formal political methods is essential for democracy; furthermore, youthful humans themselves are calling for higher integration into these processes. A consensus is emerging that developing the participation of young human beings has each instrumental and intrinsic fee for both the younger guys and females themselves and for the wider society.<sup>23</sup>

EMBs and other electoral stakeholders have a fundamental position in encouraging and presenting safe surroundings for the participation of young people in marketing consultant political processes, and in wider policy and political techniques that right now influence young people's lives.

Increasing the participation of adolescence requires EMBs and one-of-a-kind electoral stakeholders to apprehend the limitations that keep away from childhood participation in formal political processes. It moreover requires them to assign chronic bad assumptions about youthful human beings and respect the energetic roles youthful men and ladies are already playing, particularly involving addressing distinctive forms of violence.

Countries that have carried out strategies such to be in a role to beneficial resource the involvement of the youthful science in democratic strategies are as follows, and naturally from thorough research made, it suggests that the Middle Eastern Countries such as Jordan, Moldova, Lebanon. As well as some European nations such as Poland and the Czech Republic in which two thirds of the younger era have advised that participation in quite a quantity surveyed things to do is extra often than not from their very own initiative.

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<sup>23</sup> *Youth and Elections* -, <https://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/yt/onePage>.





## Obstacles to overcome

### Age requirements to vote or run for office.

The first barrier for early life participation is the minimal balloting age requirement set for national elections at 18 in most countries<sup>24</sup>, which disenfranchises youthful citizens. The second barrier for early life participation is the minimum age for eligibility to run for office, which is regularly set greater than the age to vote. Additionally, by postponing the age requirements to vote or run for office, the point of constructing a youth friendly atmosphere will most likely be eliminated. And it goes without saying that the youth will feel more comfortable while participating in democratic processes when there is no set example for them to work towards or follow their footsteps, such as a young electee of the office.

### Age restriction in campaigning in some of the countries.

As early life (15-35) encompasses “minors without voting rights’, “minors with vote casting rights’ and “young adults with voting rights”<sup>25</sup> Some electoral laws penalize political parties who use minors for campaigning. It can be a mission to both shield adolescence and inspire their participation at the identical time. With harsh penalties that campaigns must face in the case of using minors for campaigning, will also have the same consequences that are mentioned above about the age requirements to vote or run for office. And the only way to resolve this whole issue is to construct a more youth friendly atmosphere for young, and passionate participants of democratic processes around the globe.

### Increased costs

For candidate nomination and campaigning and the lack of political finance guidelines make it even harder for early life to start a political career. Similarly, if events are now not giving monetary guidance to younger candidates at the equal quotes as for

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<sup>24</sup> *Youth Participation 2013-11-12 - United Nations.* <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-participation.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid*



older candidates, they are disadvantaged. With the significant obstacle which seems almost impossible to overcome, it will come without any surprise that even the most inspiring youngsters who are passionate in democratic processes, will not even attempt to improve their overall knowledge in the democratic factor in their nation and or that of other nations.

### Social and cultural traditions

In most societies, politics has been for centuries an area of older, regularly male, and wealthy citizens, a situation that has resulted in the systematic exclusion of younger people from political debates and decision-making and therefore contributed to the below representation of youth.<sup>26</sup> Despite a broad consensus that younger generations have a vital role to play in political processes, the participation of formative years in politics remains a sensitive problem in some regions. While participation of all residents at the neighborhood stage is the cornerstone to build wholesome democracies, it is regularly at the nearby stage that young humans are not given the possibility to take part in decision-making processes.<sup>27</sup>

### The experience of “double discrimination” towards women in democratic processes

Based on their age and gender. They additionally regularly journey additional barriers in contrast with men. Because of social conventions and/or insecure or risky environments, girls still face serious limitations to get registered as voters and to cast their votes. Some age eligibility for candidacy (such as between 25-30 years old) can negatively influence women’s decision<sup>28</sup> to run for the office, as this age bracket is occasionally the age where ladies “are expected” to get married or have children. They are additionally underrepresented as a body of workers in EMBs, mainly in senior

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<sup>26</sup> *Youth Participation 2013-11-12 - United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/factsheets/youth-participation.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> *Youth and Elections -*, <https://aceproject.org/ace-en/topics/yt/onePage>.

<sup>28</sup> *Youth Participation 2013-11-12 - United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/factsheets/youth-participation.pdf>.



positions.<sup>29</sup> Despite gender quotas established by many EMBs for boards or commissioner posts, different senior leadership positions are nonetheless overall or even fully male-dominated.

## Advantages of involving the younger generation in democratic processes

### Increase in political to civic engagement

The involvement of adolescence in politics leads to civic engagement which is broader than political engagement because it can consist of carrier to the neighborhood through involvement in health, education, and charity work. Political engagement is a greater centered issue of civic engagement and can be expressed through voting, collaborating in political demonstrations, and signing petitions for specific issues.<sup>30</sup>

### Creates better future citizens

Young human beings who take part politically in their community from early on are more likely to become engaged residents and voters. So, to have higher “young” citizenship, politics is one of the excellent tools.

### Breaks the existing status quo

In countries of dictatorship, the youthful generation’s fresh ideas and new leadership can assist to overcome authoritarian practices. Protests led by adolescent leaders can force autocratic leaders to step down from power, allowing these youths to turn out to be part of formal decision-making.<sup>31</sup>

### Youth advocate for other youth

The young people face many issues in the world; however, these troubles go unheard. Since the adolescence would better understand different younger people, the

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<sup>29</sup> Youth Participation 2013-11-12 - United Nations.  
<https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-participation.pdf>.

<sup>30</sup> Boutros, Christina. “4 Benefits of Youth Political Participation.” *GLOBAL YOUNG VOICES*, GLOBAL YOUNG VOICES, 8 Jan. 2016, <https://www.globalyoungvoices.com/fast-news-blog/2016/1/6/4-benefits-of-youth-political-participation>.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid



exceptional way to enhance this newer generation would be through politics, which is a device used to act for development.

### Major countries and organizations involved

#### United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, the minimum age requirement for young people as voters is 18 years old.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, the individual must register their names on the electoral register (also known as the electoral roll). Registration to vote acts from the age of 16 and may also be done online. In terms of young people being able to become political representatives in the United Kingdom, yet to this day, there is no legislation governing young people as members of political parties<sup>33</sup>. On the contrary, the age at which they can join, other eligibility criteria and the benefits of membership are matters for the parties' own rules. Furthermore, candidates for European and UK parliamentary elections and for regional elections must be 18 years old or over.<sup>34</sup> There are no quotas for young people.

#### Moldova

In Moldova, this UNDP-supported venture mobilizes and links diverse prone organizations of early life around access to justice and imperative human rights, in line with national objectives for higher social and financial possibilities for youth, justice and social inclusion. It builds on possibilities introduced through the pending growth of the state-assured criminal resource system into non-criminal areas. The mission entails at least 10 advocacy groups of youth who are vulnerable which includes formative years who are unemployed, participants of the Roma community, dwelling with HIV and AIDS,

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<sup>32</sup> "YouthWiki." *5.2 Youth Participation in Representative Democracy* | YouthWiki, <https://national-policies.eacea.ec.europa.eu/youthwiki/chapters/united-kingdom-england/52-youth-participation-in-representative-democracy>.

<sup>33</sup> *ibid*

<sup>34</sup> *ibid*



have disabilities, or are migrants or refugees.<sup>35</sup> Youth analyze strategic advocacy skills to follow their key worries and are receiving guidance from the venture in making hyperlinks to legal useful resource carriers and assist networks, as nicely as the National Legal Aid Council and associated initiatives which pursue to develop capacities to aid formative years empowerment for disadvantaged youth.

## Lebanon

The Lebanese Parliamentary Internship Program has been accelerated to a larger variety of Lebanese graduates of all universities in Lebanon, providing them a real possibility to participate in public policy making. This program affords them with an education on public coverage making tools; and introduces them to the legislative and oversight features of the Parliament and its characteristic in the framework of parliamentary diplomacy in regional and national issues.<sup>36</sup>

On the International Day of Democracy, a conference on “Democratic Transitions in the Arab World and their Impact on Lebanon was held with the participation of youth and females in political parties. The assembly supplied entry points and follow-up moves for childhood and women’s groups to interact with political events on policy definition.

The goal of the conference used to be to elevate and enhance public focus on democracy and emphasize on its significance alongside the improvement and the merchandising of Human Rights and indispensable freedoms. In addition, surveys on the “opinions and expectations of residents as to the roles of the Lebanese Parliament”<sup>37</sup> were dispensed to all attendees. A youth action sketch has been developed and recommended by way of the Parliament.

UNDP is now working with the applicable parliamentary committees to implement the strategy, consisting of any possible adjustments to laws that are required.

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<sup>35</sup> Youth and Political Participation 2013-11-15 - United Nations. <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf>.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid

<sup>37</sup> Ibid



## Libya

At a time when Libya is redefining its social contract, and revising core social and economic policies, dependable statistics is critical to informed decision-making, inclusive of on formative years priorities. Young people's voices need to be reflected, as identified via the Libyan Transitional Government, which has made early life empowerment a top priority.

The mission affords coaching to youth-led advocacy agencies on governance assessments. It will assist the improvement of an indicator framework on degrees of formative years participation and the mainstreaming of adolescence issues—covering processes such as debates in the National Transitional Council, country wide reconciliation efforts, the advent of a charter and political celebration development.

## Cambodia

The 'Strengthening Democracy Program/Component: Youth Multimedia Civic Education Initiative'<sup>38</sup> aimed at reaching 3 million young voters. It is a series of TV and radio broadcasts developed in partnership with BBC Media Action, informed by a baseline study on youth knowledge, attitudes and practices in the context of public affairs. The broadcasts used entertaining stories oriented around the experiences of young people to inform them of their civic rights and responsibilities and break down stereotypes that youth should refrain from active roles in public life. Post-broadcast research found that younger voters felt more positive about democratic participation.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> "Youth in Cambodia: Media Habits and Information Sources - Media Action." *BBC News*, BBC, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/publications-and-resources/research/reports/asia/cambodia/media-habits>.

<sup>39</sup> "Youth in Cambodia: Media Habits and Information Sources - Media Action." *BBC News*, BBC, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/publications-and-resources/research/reports/asia/cambodia/media-habits>.



Timeline of events

<u>2011</u>	UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF) issued a call for proposals from UNDP Country Offices in support of innovative and catalytic projects on youth to inform public policymaking.
<u>2017/2018</u>	Countries in the EU pleaded for the involvement of the younger generation in democratic process after the publishing of the “EU Youth Strategy”
<u>2012</u>	Council Recommendation on the validation of non-formal and informal learning.
<u>2010</u>	Cambodia, the ‘Strengthening Democracy Program/Component: Youth Multimedia Civic Education Initiative’
<u>Since 1987</u>	Erasmus+ or (European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students)
<u>2014</u>	The further development of the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF), which further strengthens its main aim and strives for excellence while doing so.



## Previous attempts to solve the issue

### Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF)<sup>40</sup>

In 2011, the UNDP Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF) issued a name for proposals from UNDP Country Offices in help of progressive and catalytic tasks on early life to inform public policymaking, education formative years as high-quality leaders, extending get entry to justice, opening area for early life empowerment and democratic governance. 37 proposals have been accepted, out of which 9 are in Africa, eight in the Arab States, 5 in Asia and the Pacific, 8 in Central and Eastern Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States, and 7 in Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>41</sup>

In countless challenging countries, formative years exclusion was strongly evident, frequently crossing with different types of marginalization linked to gender, location, way of life and/or community. Across the projects, activities consist of strengthening early life advocacy groups, imparting great lookup to engage with public authorities, and fostering the introduction of country wide formative years councils and plans. Several tasks place a robust emphasis on social media and statistics technology. Innovative strategies range from social partnerships for carrier transport to provincial adolescence parliaments to a digital sport on adolescence and local governance. This team of projects which is special in themselves, has also helped to inform UNDP organizational lesson getting to know in terms of the graph and implementation of youthened initiatives, taking into consideration the improvement of splendid and sensible adolescence indicators; institutional and contextual analyses (political analyses) at some stage in the programmed diagram phase; and partnership building.

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<sup>40</sup> "Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund 2014: United Nations Development Programme." *UNDP*, <https://www.undp.org/publications/democratic-governance-thematic-trust-fund-2014>.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid





## The Youth Multimedia Civic Education Initiative

The Asian state of Cambodia, the ‘Strengthening Democracy Program/Component: Youth Multimedia Civic Education Initiative’ aimed at achieving 3 million young voters.<sup>42</sup> It is a sequence of TV and radio broadcasts developed in partnership with BBC Media Action, knowledgeable by a baseline study on childhood knowledge, attitudes, and practices in the context of public affairs.

## Erasmus+<sup>43</sup>

Erasmus+, founded in 1987,<sup>44</sup> supports youth-driven local, national, and transnational participation projects run by informal groups of young people and/or youth organizations encouraging youth participation in Europe's democratic life. One of the fundamental ambitions of Erasmus+ is to provide young people with opportunities to engage and learn to participate in civic society (providing pathways of engagement for young people in their daily lives but also in democratic life, aiming for a meaningful civic, economic, social, cultural, and political participation of young people from all backgrounds, with special focus on those with fewer opportunities).

Additionally, these projects aim to raise young people's awareness about European common values and fundamental rights and contribute to the European integration process, including through contribution to the achievement of one or more of the EU Youth Goals. Furthermore, they also develop young people's digital competences and media literacy (critical thinking and the ability to assess and work with information) with a view to increasing young people's resilience to disinformation, fake news, and propaganda, as well as their capacity to participate in democratic life and

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<sup>42</sup> Author: Tori Harris Sally Gowland, and About BBC Media Action More knowledge from BBC Media Action. “Youth in Cambodia: Media Habits and Information Sources.” *The Communication Initiative Network*, 8 Sept. 2014, <https://www.comminit.com/global/content/youth-cambodia-media-habits-and-information-sources>.

<sup>43</sup> “What Is Erasmus+?” *Erasmus+*, <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/about-erasmus/what-is-erasmus>.

<sup>44</sup> “Youth Participation Activities.” *Erasmus+*, <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/programme-guide/part-b/key-action-1/youth-participation>.



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bring together young people and decision makers at local, regional, national, and transnational level and/or contribute to the EU Youth Dialogue.

### ‘Strengthening Democracy Program/Component: Youth Multimedia Civic Education Initiative’

This attempt aimed at reaching 3 million young voters. It is a series of TV and radio broadcasts developed in partnership with BBC Media Action, informed by a baseline study on youth knowledge, attitudes and practices in the context of public affairs. The broadcasts used entertaining stories oriented around the experiences of young people to inform them of their civic rights and responsibilities and break down stereotypes that youth should refrain from active roles in public life. Post-broadcast research found that younger voters felt more positive about democratic participation

## Relevant UN Resolutions, Events, Treaties and Legislation

### United Nations Youth

This UN treaty addresses the extreme magnitude and importance of the involvement of younger technology in democratic processes. In addition, it goes over how participation is an integral right. It is one of the guiding principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that has been reiterated in many different Conventions and Declarations. Through lively participation, younger humans are empowered to play a necessary position in their personal improvement as well as in that of their communities, supporting them to research indispensable life-skills, boost know-how on human rights and citizenship and to promote wonderful civic action. To take part effectively, young humans ought to be given the proper tools, such as information, schooling about and get admission to their civil rights.



European Union (UN) Youth Strategy<sup>45</sup>

With “Engage” the EU Youth Strategy aims towards a meaningful civic, economic, social, cultural, and political participation of young people. They encourage the democratic participation of young people in democratic processes by supporting them on a local, regional, and national level. They encourage the implementation of citizenship education as to inspire vocality. Young people in Europe are getting more and more connected. Connections, relations, and exchange of experience are a pivotal asset for solidarity and the future development of the European Union. This connection is best fostered through different forms of mobility.<sup>46</sup> Today, young people across Europe are facing diverse challenges and youth work in all its forms can serve as a catalyst for empowerment and for that reason the members of the European commission were encouraged to implement a European Youth Work Agenda for quality, innovation, and recognition of youth work and to provide sufficient support on all levels.

The EU Youth Strategy conducted the 6th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue - Youth in Europe: What’s next? which took place in 2017/2018<sup>47</sup> – and its aim was to collect the voices of young people and contribute together to creating the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027. As a result, eleven European Youth Goals were developed. These goals reflect the views of European youth and represent the vision of those active in the EU Youth Dialogue.<sup>48</sup> Some of these goals were to connect the EU with Youth, equality of all genders and mental health and wellbeing.

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<sup>45</sup> “EU Youth Strategy.” *European Youth Portal*, [https://europa.eu/youth/strategy\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/strategy_en).

<sup>46</sup> “Connect.” *European Youth Portal*, [https://europa.eu/youth/strategy/connect\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/strategy/connect_en).

<sup>47</sup> “EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018.” *European Youth Portal*, [https://europa.eu/youth/strategy/strategy-2010-2018\\_en](https://europa.eu/youth/strategy/strategy-2010-2018_en).

<sup>48</sup> Ibid



## Possible solutions

### Allowing the younger generations to engage in “political movements”

By doing this, the younger technology is becoming more normally involved in sharing their opinions even when controversial. This makes them relaxed in sharing their opinions and ideas as well as simultaneously mastering how to be given different opinions. This can be done in several yet effective ways, for example, lowering the voting age, this will allow the youth to be familiarized with their nation's current democratic state and generally allow them to be more knowledgeable in this field. As well as that, such outcomes can be achieved by lowering the age of eligibility to run for office, this is an excellent way to involve most of the interested youth within democratic processes because even in the more uncommon case that a young person is to be elected for office, no one will walk away without learning anything new for what the future must bring in terms of democracy.

Furthermore, since in few yet significantly relevant cases, young women face double discrimination. This issue needs to be made more aware of. Since in some nations a woman, especially young, it is near impossible to run for office since the traditions of a country might lean towards favoring a male to be running such affairs for the country. So by making the world more aware of this double discrimination towards young women, it has to be brought up more often as a case and should generally become made more well aware of.

### Both formal and informal engagement

Both are useful for a vivid and resilient democracy and ought to be supported. There is robust evidence that the participation of young people in formal, institutional political approaches is enormously low when in contrast to older citizens throughout the globe. This challenges the representativeness of the political machine and leads to the disenfranchisement of young people.



To respond to the wishes of younger people, and to assure that their simple human rights are diagnosed and enforced, younger people's active and significant participation in their societies and in democratic practices and approaches is of essential importance.<sup>49</sup> Meaningful youth participation and leadership require that younger human beings and younger people-led groups have opportunities, capacities, and gain from an enabling environment and applicable evidence-based applications and insurance policies at all levels. Realizing young people's right to participate and be included in democratic methods and practices is also indispensable to ensure the success of internationally agreed development dreams and to refresh the development agenda.<sup>50</sup>

In countries that are in battle such as the political and financial instability in Lebanon, and the hostilities in Ethiopia and many more, UNDP acknowledges that younger humans can have interaction in peacebuilding, main non-violent revolutions, using new technologies to mobilize societies to deliver change. Young people have established the possibility to build bridges throughout communities, working together, helping to manage struggle and promote peace. Young people are critical stakeholders in hostilities and in peacebuilding and can be dealers of alternatives and grant a basis for rebuilding lives and communities, contributing to a greater simple and peaceful society.

### Avoiding "Double Discrimination" towards young women

As mentioned previously, it is common that in several countries, not only are young women discriminated against due to their age, but also purely due to their gender. This means that younger males are more likely to achieve more in terms of democratic movements than younger women.

There is obviously no materialistic solution to this matter, so with that said, the only way to overcome these obstacles in nations in which young women face "Double

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<sup>49</sup> Youth and Political Participation 2013-11-15 - United Nations.  
<https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf>.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid



Discrimination”, is to hold several campaigns in support against this discrimination in the hopes of bettering the current situation for passionate young women around the globe who are deeply interested in participating in democratic processes at a young age.

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