

Committee: Youth Assembly

Issue: Youth political participation as a means of bridging activism and electoral politics

Student Officer: Velissarios Velissariou

Position: Co-Head

INTRODUCTION

After the revolting and undemocratic crimes of World War II, the main objectives of the United Nations have been to reinforce the voice of civil society, fight for all fundamental human rights and promote the involvement of all age and social groups in democratic processes. For many years, it has been a challenge for every State to ensure the effective involvement of citizens in the life and decision-making of their social and political communities. Younger citizens, between the ages of 15 to 24, are considered to be one of the most politically significant age groups for two main reasons.

First and foremost, young people are expected to govern a country in the future, thus, they play a very important role in a nation’s development. Secondly, younger voters tend to espouse progressive ideas and possibly believe in democratic standards more strongly than older generations.

As the topic itself declares, action papers on this topic should revolve around not only encouraging the younger generation to take part in political activities, but also bringing a country’s electoral politics and activism together. Thus, young people are one of the major contributors to this supposed connection. Additionally, many of the United Nations sustainable development

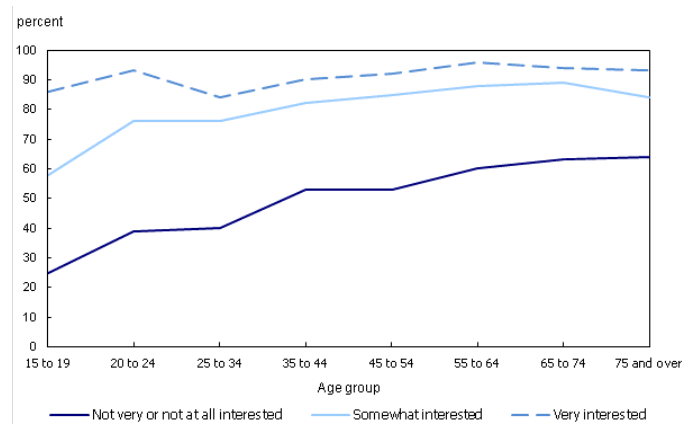
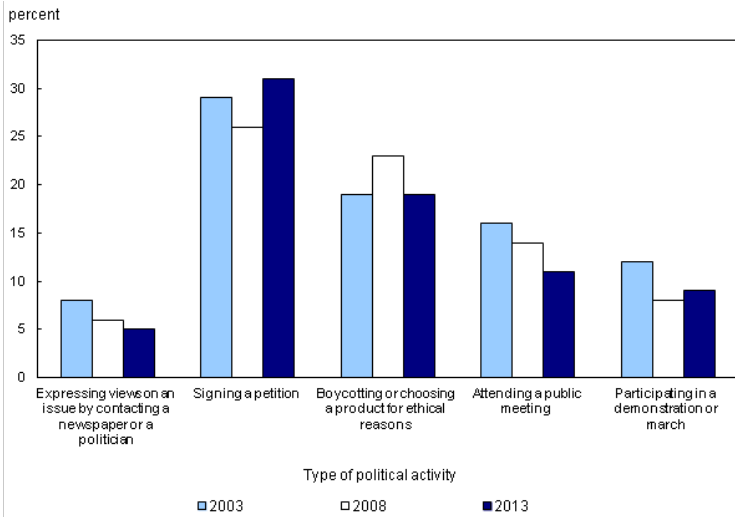


Figure 1: Likelihood to vote in Canada’s federal elections by age (poll)¹

goals concern the youth, with the ultimate one being the creation of a better world for future generations.

However, the youth tends to show a profound amount of reluctance to take part in democratic political electoral activities, at a point it could be said that there is

an ongoing crisis on young people’s civic engagement. Despite making up an excessive amount of the population in many countries, young people often find themselves marginalized from politics and decision making. Especially young people from deprived backgrounds seem to engage in political activities much less frequently than those with higher socioeconomic status.



Furthermore, according to the United Nations, there has been a major decline

Figure 2: The engagement of people aged 15-24 in political non-electoral activities (USA and Canada)²

in the number of voters below the age of 25. This decline is argued to have put the future of democracy in jeopardy since young adults all over the world appear to

be losing faith in the formal values of equality and democracy. This is why one of the main aspects of the debate should be about strengthening youth political participation, to visualize a politically stable future for the world. At the same time, however, the youth is the most active age group when it comes to activism and political involvement, with a percentage of over 60% taking part in non-electoral political activities. It is quite unexpected that people who are politically involved do not turn out to vote.

¹Turcotte, Martin. “Persons Who Reported That They Were Very Likely to Vote in the next Federal Election, by Level of Interest in Politics and Age Group, 2013,” *Statistics Canada*, 2013, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2015001/article/14232-eng.htm

The key subject to this year's CGSMUN agenda is the resolution of conflicts in a changing world, which means that young people should be looking for peaceful and democratic means of settling disputes. For example, during the summer of 2020, hundreds of peaceful protests took place, especially concerning the "Black Lives Matter" movement, and many young people actively engaged in them. There is clearly a connection between activism and politics, which means that younger voters who value and find interest in activism, can easily transform into tomorrow's world leaders and voters.

Stretching the definition of both "activist" and "politician" could even lead to two synonyms. When an activist becomes a politician, society loses the former to gain the latter³. This automatically leads to an assumption that activism should not be part of a country's politics. This should by all means be avoided. The major objective remains the same: encouraging young people to be actively seized on political matters and at the same time helping them embrace an opinion of their own. One should also take into consideration that political propaganda should be avoided, which means that the political education of future generations should not excessively lean towards any political beliefs.

² Turcotte, Martin. "Participation of Youth Aged 15 to 24 in Non-Electoral Political Activities, 2003, 2008 and 2013," *Statistics Canada*, 2013, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2015001/article/14232-eng.htm.

³ Kerrey, Bob. "Can Activists Be Politicians?" *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 9 Feb. 2016, 2:21 PM, www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2016/02/08/can-activists-be-politicians/activists-and-politicians-represent-two-different-and-important-roles.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Youth/Young people

The United Nations defines 'youth' as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. This definition of youth entails that children are considered those persons under the age of 14. Worthy of notice is that many States have adopted their definition of youth. However, youth, in general, is the age of leaving education and starting work.

Political Participation

Political participation includes a broad range of activities through which people develop and express their opinions about the world and how it is governed, and try to take part in and shape the decisions that affect their lives. These activities range from developing thinking about disability or other social issues at the individual or family level, joining disabled people's organizations or other groups and organizations, and campaigning at the local, regional or national level, to the process of formal politics, such as voting, joining a political party, or standing for elections.

Activism

Activism is the art of taking action to affect social change; this can occur in a variety of ways and forms. It originates from the intention to change the world and bring about political, social, environmental changes. This can be led by individuals but is often done collectively through social movements or organizations. Activism has played a major role in ending slavery, challenging dictatorships, protecting workers from exploitation, protecting the environment, promoting equality for women and the LGBTQ community, opposing racism, and many other important issues. In extreme conditions, activism can also be used for aims such as attacking minorities or promoting war, or as a means of counter-proposals to the original purpose of activism.

Election

An election is a formal process of selecting a person for public office or of accepting or rejecting a political proposition by voting.

Propaganda

Propaganda is the dissemination of information such as facts, arguments, rumors, half-truths, or lies, usually by a government, to influence public opinion. Deliberateness and heavy emphasis on manipulation distinguish propaganda from the free exchange of ideas and beliefs. Propaganda can be used in several areas, such as commercial advertising, political campaigns, and collective bargaining. It can be targeted toward various social and age groups at both a local and an international level.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the past century, many political movements led by younger members of the society have been observed. At first, young activists would protest for unfair measures and challenge governments. However, before World War 2, political parties started to form. It was no longer about encouraging the youth to be active in the field of politics, but having an excessively helpful and promising age group by the side of a political leader or a Head of State. Especially during Nazi rule in Germany, propaganda was quite common. Young people would be forced to have one specific opinion, which was believed by the government of their country at the time.

Nowadays, many political parties throughout the world have their own youth organizations. Youth political participation went through a major increase during the 20th century. It is the present day, however, that shows an obvious decline in young adults and adolescents getting familiar with political terms and use their judgment to embrace political beliefs.

Newsboys' strike of 1899

During the Industrial Revolution in the United States, child labor was quite common. The rise of capitalism urged even the younger age groups to start working. The "Newsies", namely the young boys who worked for the *New York Journal* and the *New York World* and would give out newspapers went on strike, demanding that their payment per 100 newspapers was increased. The boys were organized by charismatic child leaders leading the protest, met with the paper owners, held 5,000 person meetings and marches, and fended off the adult men who were hired as scabs.

The strike was broken after two weeks, and-despite retaining the pay rate at 60 cents-the newspaper owners agreed to refund the children for unsold newspapers. This movement is considered to be one of the first worker's protests, especially concerning young people or, in this case, children.

The American Youth Congress (AYC)

During the Great Depression, one of the most memorable financial crises in history, young people in the United States of America formed a new movement of political activism during the 1930s. This unique activist movement was a way of protesting. The newly-formed Congress promoted a liberal agenda and demanded that the government supports the underprivileged families and people affected by the financial crisis. Even though the Congress was mostly comprised of blue-collar, unemployed, student, and minority youth. 4.5 million young Americans from civil rights, labor, student, religious, fraternal, political party, and peace organizations, who were arising in an era when the voting age was twenty-one, and in a political system that had traditionally ignored young people, managed to have a significant amount of influence in the United States citizens. First Lady Evelyn Roosevelt even raised money and led a campaign in favor of the AYC. The AYC is considered to have been able to unite black and white, rural and urban, student and non-student, religious and secular, lower and middle-class, immigrant and old stock, liberal and radical, under the purpose of equality and fairness.

Hitler Youth (HJ) and Free German Youth

In January 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed the Counselor of Germany, and his administration quickly started to consolidate power and outgrow political opponents. In 1933, Hitler Youth took over all other youth political organizations, and all Catholic and Christian youth parties were eliminated by 1936. Political Propaganda was excessive, and all German children were influenced to support the government and adopt its Nazi and Anti-Semitist way of thinking. This was one of the first times when

a government used propaganda on young people to stabilize its future and try to retain and preserve Nazism in Germany.

Some years later, in 1946, after the fall of Nazi Germany, young people all across East Germany founded the Free German Youth, which was an activist movement meant to unite the people who became enemies during the Nazi Rule. However, despite its liberal character, the movement was under the wings of the communist administration of the country. This shows that one of the biggest concerns for the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SAD) regime was the field of youth policy. These political movements brought about the idea that the youth plays a major role in every country's politics, and it can be manipulated to even retain a dictatorship.

YoSoy132 Movement



Image 1: Poster stating #YoSoy132 against presidential candidate: it's neither hate nor intolerance against his name, but rather being full of indignation as to what he represents.⁴

Two months before the presidential elections in Mexico, thousands of both public and private-university students protested against candidate Enrique Peña Nieto and the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). The youth protesters mostly gathered around television stations. This movement had the goal of ensuring the right of expression for all Mexican citizens, and in the end limiting political corruption in the country. The movement also spread a lot faster due to the use of Twitter to spread the message of the movement and organize the

⁴ "Poster Stating #YoSoy132 against EPN: It's Not Hate nor Intolerance against His Name, but Rather Being Full of Indignation as to What He Represents." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*, 2012, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yo_Soy_132#/media/File:Marcha_Yosoy132_-_3.jpg

demonstrations. Two people were killed and over 200 were arrested during these protests.

Barack Obama election in 2012

One of the major contributors that gave Barack Obama the chance to serve a second term in the US presidency was the youth vote. The youth turnout in his initial election in 2008 was not as consequential as the one in 2012. This means that he won young people, and convinced them to vote for him. Obama managed to win the youth vote nationally both times, with young voters proving the decisive difference for his election.

Social Media Influence

Researchers argue that, in today's technological world, there is no excuse for a young person not to vote because they do not know enough about the candidates. In fact, one might find it hard to escape day-to-day political news than subscribe to it. Social media and communication have become as crucial as the candidate's websites for disseminating information about relevant issues. This online climate of information allows potential voters to form a fuller picture of the candidates (though there are also lots of misrepresentations on social media). Thus, any person that is in contact with technology and the media, especially the youth, is very likely to vote objectively and responsibly. There is, naturally, the problem of misinformation. There are many possible solutions to the spread of false information that is related to the topic, which will be discussed later in the study guide.

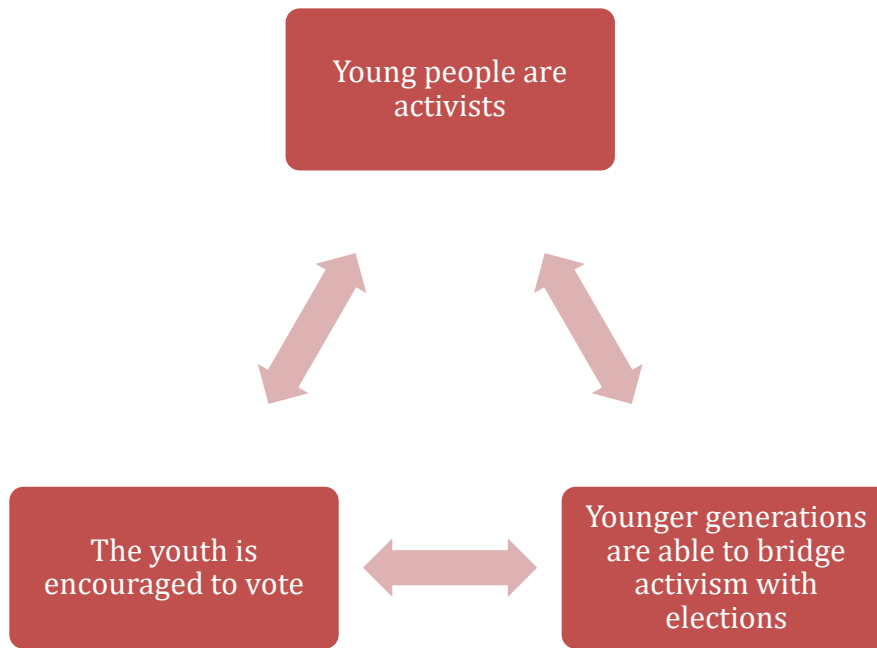
In May and June 2020, social media played a major role in the promotion of activist movements. Worthy of notice is the relatively small attendance at one of President Trump's rallies in Tulsa. The small attendance was partially attributed to users of TikTok, a social networking platform. Namely, young activists reserved tickets for the rally but did not show up, resulting in a rather disappointing rally with many empty seats. Ever since the idea that TikTok is a platform where progressive ideas can be shared with millions of users has been spread widely. In the age of technology,

spreading messages is much easier than it used to be. Especially during pandemics such as the one in 2020, the use of online means can be profitable for a country's citizens. This means that bridging activism with electoral politics is not impossible.

The importance of youth political participation

The youth vote matters quite a lot; first of all, given that almost half of the world's population is below the age of 25, and a vote with many young voters will truly serve the purpose of democracy since a large number of young people will possibly lead to a unanimous decision. Respectively, the absence of youth may lead to less objective results. Either way, encouraging youth political participation will cause a rise in the number of voters. The youth vote has the potential to be highly influential in a country's elections, as they constitute a majority of eligible voters. Now, more than ever, it is essential that young people take advantage of their right to vote, to create a future that aligns with their progressive and newly-formed fundamental beliefs and set a precedent for future generations.

What should be clear by this point of the study guide is that the fact that young people engage in non-electoral political activities should be a reason to bridge activism with electoral politics. In order to do that, the youth should be encouraged to engage in the latter. Thus, the ultimate goal would not be only to increase youth political participation, but also to let the youth influence the rest of the population on the issue of activism.



Minimum voting age

There has also been a major debate on the legal age of voting, which-according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is set at 18 years of age at most States, only with some exceptions. Many politically engaged adolescents have requested the right to vote from age 16. Lowering the minimum voting age could potentially bridge activism and protests with electoral procedures.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

United States of America (USA)

As mentioned before, the United States' government elected in 2012 depended on the youth vote to win the presidency. Additionally, political decisions and opinions developed by young people tend to be unanimous in the US. With youth political non-electoral engagement trending, the youth vote is expected to be crucial in the 2020 presidential elections. A poll conducted by the Harvard Political Opinion Project (HPOP) indicated that approximately 30 percent of young voters aged 18 to 29 consider themselves to be politically engaged or politically active, while in 2017 only 24% of the youth was affirmative to that question. This change in -mostly activist-

participation may reflect the large number of youth demonstrations recently seen across the country, including the Black Lives Matter movement. In the meanwhile, a website named Circle provides the public with information on youth civic engagement in the United States. This could be a very useful tool for a delegate's research.

People's Republic of China

China has had the same youth strategy for many years, which mostly included "turning young people into moral patriots". However, China has faced multiple financial and political changes in the past 30 years, which is why its youth is seeking for better chances and more attention to the younger population. China is one of the largest States that are currently forming their youth policy.

Countries in which the youth is marginalized and should be encouraged to engage in civic activities

According to the UNDP, there are several countries where immediate action to promote youth political involvement was necessary, thus were provided with help from the United Nations. The list comprises of the following countries:

Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, OPT (Palestine)

European Union (EU)

The European Council adopted resolution 456 on December 18th, 2018, and recognized the youth as an age group with different needs than other older generations, which faces various newly-emerged challenges. This resolution proposes a youth strategy for all EU Member States, which is to be active from 2019 to 2027. In the first steps of forming the youth policy, 11 European Youth Goals⁵ were drafted. In spite of being limited in Europe, the Union has set out to achieve the increase of

⁵ *Youth Goals*, www.youthconf.at/yg/youthgoals-2.

youth participation on a global scale. This is why the European Union has made multiple partnerships to contribute to worldwide human development and youth political participation.

African Union (AU)

The African Union has been putting a lot of effort into promoting youth participation in the past years. It has been actively assisting Member States to create suitable legislations and frameworks for young people, while one of the main objectives of Africa’s “Decade of Action” (2008-2019) was the creation of a programmatic framework specially



Image 2: A delegate from DRC at the 2019 Youth Connekt summit.⁵

designed for young people, in accordance to the African Youth Charter. What is unique and characteristic about Africa is that its Nations consider International Days to be quite important, and thus organize multiple campaigns, Youth Forums and Celebrate the African Youth Day (November 1st). In 2019, the Africa Youth Connekt Summit, an annual summit concerning youth participation and presence in Africa, was held in Kigali, Rwanda, and welcomed more than 10,000 young participants from all across Africa. The goal of last year’s summit was “Boosting industrious young Africa”. In the past three years, the summit is being held under the banner of the African Union.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The UNDP works in almost every UN Member State, helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by eradicating poverty, and eliminating inequalities and discrimination. In many cases, the UNDP has assisted countries and Heads of State to develop policies, bridge partnerships, take advantage of

⁶ Mugisha, Emmanuel Côme. “A Delegate from DRC Poses for the Camera at the 2019 Youth Connekt Summit. Courtesy.” *The New Times, Rwanda's Leading Daily*, 2019, www.newtimes.co.rw/news/high-expectations-10000-african-youth-meet-kigali.

institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain the targeted results⁷. UNDP has noticed that young people are politically seized, which is why its youth strategy includes encouraging them to participate in electoral politics and public decision-making, as to achieve sustainable development.

United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY)

This is the UN body responsible for bridging the youth with the United Nations and encouraging the active electoral participation of young people.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
507 BC	The political reforms of Cleisthenes lead to the world’s first-known democracy in Athens, which required the citizens of a State to decide for its own fate
December 8 th , 1946	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was proclaimed in the General Assembly session in Paris
November 20 th , 1989	The Convention on the Rights of the Child was opened for signature at the United Nations General Assembly
September 5 th -12 th , 1994	The International Conference on Population and Development sets the sexual and reproductive health on the global agenda, recognizing the youth’s importance in the future of the world
November 7 th , 2012	Barack Obama wins the US presidential elections and extends his term at the presidency for another four years, counting on young citizens to make the decisive difference

⁷ “United Nations Development Programme.” *UNDP*, www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html.

January 17 th , 2013	The United Nations Office of Secretary General's Convey on Youth is formed
December 9 th , 2015	The United Nations Security Council adopts its first-ever resolution focusing exclusively on youth and the role of young men and women in peacebuilding
November 21 st , 2016	Hundreds of youth activists, representatives from youth organizations, UN and government officials gathered at the United Nations Office in Geneva to attend the first-ever Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, focusing on the role of young people in a country's public decision-making.
June 6 th , 2018	The Security Council adopts the second-ever resolution focusing on youth and their role in conflict prevention, thus making it obligatory for UN Member States to promote youth development and participation (UNSC resolutions are binding for all Member States)
September 20 th , 2019	Climate activist Greta Thunberg leads worldwide demonstrations about climate change, largest to be ever held. The majority of the protesters were students from more than 180 different countries
May 25 th , 2020	The killing of African-American citizen George Floyd generates hundreds of protests and activist demonstration, focusing on eliminating racism and discrimination

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Apart from the above-mentioned organizations of the United Nations, various committees have drafted several resolutions and treaties directly aimed at the topic. Some of them can be found here:

World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)⁸

The UN General Assembly declared the year 1985 as the International Youth Year and considered the youth to be one of the main pillars of future development and peace. Of course, that could only happen through active participation by young people. The UN recognized the important role young people play in the world, and, in particular, their potential contribution to development. The Programme contains analytical data that addresses the issue and makes multiple proposals on strategies and policies that can be adopted by States.

UN Security Council Resolution 2250⁹

This resolution was unanimously adopted by Security Council Member States on December 9th, 2015. Through this resolution, all Member States are urged to promote youth political participation and respect the rights of young citizens.

UN Security Council Resolution 2419¹⁰

For only the second time, the Security Council passed another resolution concerning young citizens of the world. This time, it mostly focused on how young citizens of a country can contribute to public decision-making and peacebuilding. This time, the connection between activism and youth political participation is clearly distinctive.

UN Intervention and Assistance¹¹

As mentioned above, the UN has assisted Member States that did not promote youth political participation, disapproved of activism and marginalized the youth. The UNDP has organized youth forums, promoted and assisted the creation of Youth

⁸ United Nations World Programme for Youth: https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/wpay_text_final.pdf

⁹ UNSC Resolution 2250: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12149.doc.htm>

¹⁰ UNSC Resolution 2419: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13368.doc.htm>

¹¹ United Nations Youth: <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf>

Parliaments throughout the world, hired trainers who talk to young people and promote political participation through programs, founded and created television broadcasts promoting political participation and cooperated with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Most importantly, it has assisted a significant number of States (i.e. Azerbaijan, Libya, Lebanon) to form their youth policies, revise their civic education curricula and make the necessary changes to avoid the discrimination of youth.

United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF has been actively participating in any crisis situation in the world. One major action encouraging youth participation took place in Nepal. UNICEF supports a project named 'Voices of Youth' project. Every week, a radio team raises a question and asks listeners to contribute to the discussion, giving the chance to young people to form political opinions about various issues.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Apart from the United Nations' efforts to solve the issue, there have not been any major efforts on an International level. Many countries do not consider the issue to be top-priority, and do not put a lot of effort into promoting youth political participation. At a point, it could be even considered undemocratic to force individuals to vote, since they possess the right to abstain. However, many governments across the world try to approach the youth and occasionally launch campaigns focusing on youth, using modern-day informal language and presenting the things young people are looking for: activism and a future without major inequalities.

By doing that, governments and electoral candidates achieve a potential short-term participation of youth, however do not ensure or guarantee anything. They are mostly focusing on ensuring electoral presence, and not actually getting people interested in political activities. This is why more effective measures need to

be taken. Here are some examples of activities to promote youth political participation:

Kyrgyzstan

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems' (IFES) democracy camps in Kyrgyzstan invited high school and university students to take part in interactive workshops (2018), where they learn about the fundamental values of democracy and equality.

Switzerland

In Switzerland, the National Youth Council organizes a mentoring program called 'From Woman to Woman'. Young women are given the chance to interact with female politicians and learn about their work.

Greece

In 2016, the Greek government lowered the minimum voting age from 18 years to 17 years of age. During the elections of 2019, the left-wing government promoted youth political participation and requested that all 17-year old citizens vote in the elections by launching a relevant campaign.

European Union (EU)

In Europe, there are Online Voting Advice Applications which inform citizens about political parties in their country and help them identify which ones best match their own preferences and beliefs. Young people have contacts via the Internet, which is why this movement can be easily associated with them. Again, the Internet makes it easier to engage in times of epidemics or pandemics.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The main objective of this issue is bridging activism with electoral politics. Clearly, younger generations have a major role in achieving this goal. However, this connection should be made naturally, as young people engage in civic activities more and more frequently. In order to do that, the youth should be encouraged to participate in a country's decision-making. The first step towards the ultimate goal of young people being a stable pillar of all societies is getting them to vote, to protest and to form personal opinions on issues that are related to them and the world they live in. This issue could be seen either from an official or an unofficial aspect. There are multiple approaches to resolutions which could be taken into consideration:

Legal Framework

One of the proposals that may come up in the debate is the existence of a youth-friendly legal framework. This approach aims at more official measures, and legally valid decisions. This means that a framework would set the cultural norms and determine the rules and the terms for a young person's engagement. Lowering the minimum voting age would be one of the laws that could be drafted. Another possibility would be the existence of youth quotas, which aim at encouraging the election of members at the age of 30-40 years in a parliamentary system. Finally, governments organizing and financing campaigns, whereas making sure that young people in rural areas have the chance to vote by taking actions such as but not limited to funding the renovation of electoral centers and ballots. In general, a system that allows the youth to engage in parliamentary procedures and public decision-making would be essential. However, all delegates should keep in mind that the committee will not be looking for specific laws, but for proposals to make to States.

During a pre-electoral period, training programs that help the youth develop leadership skills could potentially take place, whereas revising educational systems and introducing political sciences at schools and universities would definitely be good for youth participation. Some other approaches to a resolution are the following:

Discrimination of young women and young people with disabilities

Women had been a subject of discrimination for many years, which is why the elimination of inequalities based on gender should be underlined for the next generations (SDG number 5), either on the field of legal frameworks, or through campaigns that promote gender equality.

Additionally, there should definitely be measures for disabled young people, to whom the above-mentioned measures may not be accessible. Youth with disabilities should by no means be left out of this procedure.

Thus, one of the main objectives of the Action Paper should be stressing the values of equality in order to avoid discrimination against groups of young citizens.

Social media and young people

The younger generations have contact with technology, which is why the promotion of youth political participation through online campaigns can lead to significant results. Even though there can be no legislation over that, it can strengthen the youth's participation. Focusing on social media could make a huge contribution to resolving the issue.

Electoral and Post-Electoral period

Of course, campaigns that raise public awareness and encourage young people to vote are necessary in order to achieve electoral participation coming from the youth. At the same time, a government should support youth-lead organizations, listen to the requests of young people and not condemn activism. The promotion of activism can be achieved in many ways, such as limiting police brutality and not forbidding or influencing any protests and demonstrations.

Youth political participation is not going to be easy to achieve. However, starting to promote it will be the first step towards a major goal: the democratic conduct of all public decision-making procedures.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

“American Youth Congress.” *Encyclopedia.com*, Encyclopedia.com, 18 July 2020, www.encyclopedia.com/economics/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/american-youth-congress.

Barrett, Martyn. “Young People's Civic and Political Engagement and Global Citizenship.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/young-peoples-civic-and-political-engagement-and-global-citizenship.

Belschner, Jana. *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, Taylor & Francis, 2018.

Cillizza, Chris, and Aaron Blake. “President Obama and the Misunderstood Youth Vote.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 24 Apr. 2012, www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/post/president-obama-and-the-misunderstood-youth-vote/2012/04/23/gIQAuGIQdT_blog.html.

Deal, Jaden. “Youth Political Engagement and Hope Ahead of the 2020 Election.” *Harvard Political Review*, 18 Nov. 2019, harvardpolitics.com/united-states/youth-political-engagement-and-hope-ahead-of-the-2020-election/.

“Equal Participation in Political and Public Affairs.” *OHCHR*, www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Pages/EqualParticipation.aspx.

“EU Youth Strategy.” *Youth - European Commission*, CSUDAY, 22 Oct. 2019, ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en.

Fisher, Dana R. “Youth Political Participation: Bridging Activism and Electoral Politics.” *ResearchGate*, July 2012, www.researchgate.net/publication/234146848_Youth_Political_Participation_Bridging_Activism_and_Electoral_Politics.

Forbrig, Joerg. *Revisiting Youth Political Participation: Challenges for Research and Democratic Practice in Europe*. Council of Europe Pub., 2005.

“Greece Lowers Voting Age to 17.” *European Youth Forum*, 3 Aug. 2016, www.youthforum.org/greece-lowers-voting-age-17.

Herrman, John. “TikTok Is Shaping Politics. But How?” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 28 June 2020, www.nytimes.com/2020/06/28/style/tiktok-teen-politics-gen-z.html.

History.com Editors. “Adolf Hitler Is Named Chancellor of Germany.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 28 Oct. 2009, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/adolf-hitler-is-named-chancellor-of-germany.

History.com Editors. "Ancient Greek Democracy." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 23 Aug. 2018, www.history.com/topics/ancient-greece/ancient-greece-democracy.

"July 20, 1899: Newsboys Strike." *Zinn Education Project*, www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/newsboys-strike/.

Kerrey, Bob. "Can Activists Be Politicians?" *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 9 Feb. 2016, 2:21 PM, www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2016/02/08/can-activists-be-politicians/activists-and-politicians-represent-two-different-and-important-roles.

"Life for Young People in Nazi Germany." *BBC News*, BBC, www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z897pbk/revision/3.

Lührmann, Anna. "Enhancing Youth Political Participation throughout the Electoral Circle." United Nations Development Programme, Jan. 2013.

McDougall, Alan. *Youth Politics in East Germany: The Free German Youth Movement 1946-1968*. Clarendon, 2004.

Motsch, Heinicke, et al. *Community Based Rehabilitation: CBR Guidelines*. World Health Organization Approved Guidelines, 2010.

Mugisha, Emmanuel Côme. "High Expectations as 10,000 African Youth Meet in Kigali." *The New Times | Rwanda*, 9 Oct. 2019, www.newtimes.co.rw/news/high-expectations-10000-african-youth-meet-kigali.

National Democratic Institute. "Youth Political Participation." *Ndi.org*, 24 Apr. 2020, www.ndi.org/what-we-do/youth-political-participation.

"Nazi Propaganda and Control of the Arts - Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939 - OCR B - GCSE History Revision - OCR B - BBC Bitesize." *BBC News*, BBC, www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2932p3/revision/2.

Organization, Latino Voices. "YoSoy132: How A Mexican Student Protest Was Born (WATCH)." *HuffPost*, HuffPost, 30 June 2012, 6:45 am, www.huffpost.com/entry/yosoy132-mexican-youth-gr_n_1637689.

"President Barack Obama Defeats Romney to Win Re-Election." *BBC News*, BBC, 7 Nov. 2012, www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-20233064.

Pun Ngai, Ngan, et al. "China's Youth Policy Formulation and Youth Participation." *Children and Youth Services Review*, 8th ed., vol. 23, 2001, pp. 651–669.

Robillard, Kevin. "Study: Youth Vote Was Decisive." *POLITICO*, 7 Nov. 2012, 01:03 PM, www.politico.com/story/2012/11/study-youth-vote-was-decisive-083510.

Rodriguez, Cecilia. "Biggest-Ever Climate Protest In Photos: Greta Thunberg And The World's Youth Demand Action." *Forbes*, Forbes Magazine, 21 Sept. 2019, 6:45 pm EDT, www.forbes.com/sites/ceciliarodriguez/2019/09/21/biggest-ever-climate-protest-in-photos-greta-thunberg-and-the-worlds-youth-demand-action/#6ba584b3ab4d.

"Security Council Underlines Vital Role of Youth in Building Peace, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2535 (2020) | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *United Nations*, United Nations, 14 July 2020, www.un.org/press/en/2020/sc14251.doc.htm.

"Security Council, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2250 (2015), Urges Member States to Increase Representation of Youth in Decision-Making at All Levels | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *United Nations*, United Nations, 9 Dec. 2015, www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12149.doc.htm.

Shawa, Elizabeth. "Why the Youth Vote Matters." *The Nation Online*, 26 July 2018, www.mwnation.com/why-the-youth-vote-matters/.

Susarla, Anjana. "TikTok Teens and the Trump Campaign: How Social Media Amplifies Political Activism and Threatens Election Integrity." *The Conversation*, 15 July 2020, 5:00 pm, theconversation.com/tiktok-teens-and-the-trump-campaign-how-social-media-amplifies-political-activism-and-threatens-election-integrity-141266.

Turcotte, Martin. "Political Participation and Civic Engagement of Youth." *Government of Canada, Statistics Canada*, Government of Canada, 27 Nov. 2015, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2015001/article/14232-eng.htm.

"UN Development Programme (UNDP)." *The UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion*, 26 Aug. 2019, unfashionalliance.org/members/undp/.

UN Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. "First Human Rights Forum Focuses on Role of Youth in Public Decision-Making." *United Nations*, United Nations, Nov. 2016, www.un.org/youthenvoy/2016/11/first-human-rights-forum-focuses-role-youth-public-decision-making/.

"UN Security Council Adopts Historic Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security." *United Nations*, United Nations, 9 Dec. 2015, www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/12/un-security-council-adopts-historic-resolution-on-youth-peace-and-security/.

UN, Volunteers. "Youth Connekt Africa Summit to Explore Civic Engagement and Volunteerism as a Pathway to Development." *UNV*, 11 Oct. 2019, www.unv.org/News/Youth-Connekt-Africa-Summit-explore-civic-engagement-and-volunteerism-pathway-development.

"United Nations Development Programme." *UNDP*, www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html.

United Nations Youth. "Youth, Political Participation and Decision-Making." *United Nations*, 15 Nov. 2013, www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-political-participation.pdf.

United Nations Youth. "Youth Political Participation." *United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-participation.pdf>.

United Nations. "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *United Nations*, www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/.

"UNSCR 2250: Introduction." *UNSCR 2250 | Introduction | Youth4Peace Portal*, 2015, www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Introduction.

"Youth Empowerment." *UNDP*, www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/democratic-governance-and-peacebuilding/youth-empowerment/.

"Youth." *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/youth-0/index.html.