Below, you may find feedback from Malta's National Youth Council on the OHCHR's call for input on the study on youth and human rights.

* Challenges faced by young people in your country;
* Youth in Malta are faced with constant criticism from the general public, especially with regards to political activism. Political active youth are criticized for 'wasting time' involving themselves in 'thing they don't understand', whereas politically inactive youths are criticized for being apathetic towards the current political situation in the country.
* The lack of a youth charter on both National and International level hinders the safeguarding of youths rights. Formally recognising youths, recognising their rights and aiding them to know what legal safeguard they have would facilitate a more open community for youth participation.

Providing training and information for youth to learn about their rights is a foreign subject in Malta. Creating a platform to access such rights and how they can voice their opinion in according to what's important for them is the next step forward.

* Examples of discrimination against young people in the exercise of their rights;
* The right to equal treatment is of value to the principle of human rights. This goes without saying that valuing youth's opinion is key to a democratic country. The treat of freedom of expression is creating a barrier for youths to speak their mind in important key issues that will impact them greatly.
* Discrimination on basis of age and for one to obtain employment with good wages and work conditions hampers a healthy and proactive lifestyle in order for youths to participate in a democratic process.
* Marginalised youths, such as ethnic minorities and LGBTI youths find it difficult to exercise their rights.It is difficult for them to infiltrate the society and share their opinions as they feel misunderstood and mistreated. Having suitable educational material in order to educate and diminish stereotypes will facilitate a more inclusive society. This in return would actively enhance youth participation and a more healthy relationship between policy and youths.

* Are you aware of policies and programmes aimed at supporting young people to realise their rights? If so, please describe them;
  + Unfortunately, such policies only exist for Maltese children, but not for Maltese Youths, even though Youths are a specifically defined sector of society. Whilst Children are educated on their rights (especially their rights from the UNCRC), Youths are unfortunately left unrealised on their rights, and the only people pushing for further realisation are youth organisations.
* How are youth organisations or youth-led structures involved in developing, implementing, monitoring and/or evaluating policies and programmes on youth in your country?;
  + Malta’s National Youth Council and Students’ Union work tirelessly to promote youth rights and to give the nation’s youth a stronger, collective voice in fighting for our rights and future.
  + The latest youth-led initiative being implemented in Maltese law is the ‘Vote 16’ initiative, where through the National Youth Parliament (organised by the National Youth Council) a call was raised to lower the voting age from 18 to 16. Unfortunately, Youths in Malta are treated with a strong level of *tokenism* with regards to the implementation of national policy, **even** in policies that directly affect youth.
* What measures at international level would facilitate/support the realisation of young people’s rights;
  + A separation must be made by the UN between *children* and *youth*. It’s fundamental that the UN recognises that youth are their own independent group in society, that require their own rights, protection and realisations. Only on the recognition of the importance of youths as a group and the further need for ‘Youth Rights’ would the rights of youth be further realised.