

Call for input: Views of youth-led and youth-focused organizations and institutions on the future of human rights for the development of the Human Rights 75 Youth Declaration

What are the challenges facing the world today, how will they affect the future of human rights, and what future do you want for human rights?

While it's true that we currently face numerous challenges, climate change and armed conflicts—wars—are two that have and will continue to have a significant impact on human rights. As society tries to move towards a more promising future, both challenges hinder that progress and undermine the desired goal.

Climate change is a global crisis affecting countless communities, threatening our ecosystems, and exacerbating resource scarcity, such as water and arable land. Despite clear attempts to find technological, diplomatic, and educational solutions, the trend towards a bleak future is gaining momentum without a unanimous global strategy. The old saying "bread for today, hunger for tomorrow" still prevails internationally, where countries—both developed and developing—prioritize unsustainable development over combating climate change. We are not only destroying our home—the planet—but also leaving a devastating future for the youth.

Armed conflicts, on the other hand, violate the basic human rights of millions of people for the economic interests of a minority. They trigger impoverishment and force mass migrations to other countries. Progress as a society is impossible as long as these types of conflicts continue to exist. Moreover, conflicts are likely to increase due to the scarcity of natural resources driven by climate change.

If these challenges are not effectively addressed, we risk regressing decades in terms of human rights. Future generations may face a world where security, access to basic resources, and the freedom to live in peace are unattainable for many.

We aspire to a future that prioritizes sustainability and peace, where sustainable development is a real practice. A world where nations collaborate to combat the climate crisis and where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and mutual understanding. We envision a planet where everyone, regardless of their origin, lives in harmony with nature and without the constant fear of conflicts and wars.

As Global Shapers Bilbao, we commit to being an active part of the solutions and promoting actions that bring us closer to this ideal.



What recommendations do you have for decision-makers and policymakers, including governments, civil society, international organizations, the United Nations, and others, to advance human rights in the future?

Listen to us. Count on us. You can't govern a country without considering the population that will sustain it in the coming years.

Here are our recommendations:

- **Active Inclusion of Youth:** It's essential that young people are not only consulted but are actively integrated into decision-making processes.
- **Realistic Climate Actions:** We urge leaders to adopt and fulfill more ambitious commitments under various international agreements, prioritizing sustainability and clean technologies.
- **Investment in Innovation:** Promote innovation and entrepreneurship by providing resources, training, and access to networks that can turn ideas into tangible solutions.
- **Promotion of Accurate Information:** In the age of misinformation, it's crucial to promote media literacy and fact-checking mechanisms.

Lastly, let's talk about helices. It's time to implement the quadruple helix innovation model, where civil society, academia, industry, and government work together for a better society.

What commitments and actions can young people take to advance human rights in the future?

The same ones that adults should adopt. We advocate for a more sustainable world where economic interests are not prioritized over people's lives. A world that invests in research and development to find new solutions that allow for greater—always sustainable—development and improve the quality of our lives. In short, a world where every person can be born, grow, and prosper with their Human Rights assured.

None of this is new, but until it is fulfilled, we commit to insisting and fighting for it. If we don't have a seat at the decision-making table, we will bring our own chair from home and place it alongside the rest.