

# **Human Rights 75 Youth Declaration**

Green Teen Turkiye Consultations

*Green Teen Turkiye is a youth-led organisation based in Turkiye focusing on environmental activism. Our main purpose is to make environmental work available for young people in Turkiye and in the world by establishing a platform for the young generation to gather, give voice to their ideas and take action.*

*This report is prepared by Green Teen Turkiye members for the “Call for input: Views of youth-led and youth-focused organisations and institutions on the future of human rights for the development of the Human Rights 75 Youth Declaration”.*

## **1. What are the challenges the world is facing now, how they will affect the future of human rights, and what future do you want for human rights?**

Green Teen Turkiye as a youth-led organisation focusing on environmentalism would primarily like to draw attention to the climate emergency and its wide impact on several human rights. Climate change is in the ‘global boiling’ level currently as Mr. Antonio Guterres also warned. Especially this past few months, the world experienced extreme hot weather and record breaking temperatures. Young climate activists have been demanding action from stakeholders and world leaders for years now. Never before seen temperatures prove and put forward tangible consequences of the crisis that everyone can see but this is not the only outcome of climate change. It became a key problem to be solved to successfully implement human rights.

Climate change causes major landlosses, food and water shortages effecting especially the most vulnerable geographical areas. This brings us to the point where it expands the equality gap between people. Certain societies living primarily in Africa and Middle East hit by the crisis much more heavily due to the already existing inequalities, economic and social problems and geographical location. The most basic humanitarian needs which are to shelter, eat, access to clean water are destroyed by the climate crisis as well as they are triggered by the outcomes of COVID-19 and crises between countries. This accumulation of obstacles forces millions to migrate and contributes to another crucial problem, the refugee crisis.

Climate justice will also determine the future of human rights as the young generation of today will be suffering from the climate crisis much more than generations that caused it the most. At this point, it is the right of young people to be included in climate-related decision-making processes and actions.

## **2. What are your recommendations to decision and policymakers, including governments, civil society, international organizations, the United Nations, and others, to advance human rights in the future?**

Green Teen Turkiye wishes to see more youth inclusion in decision and policymaking of international organisations, governments, and civil societies.

Although there are opportunities for the young generation to engage in activities to specify their demands to policymakers, unfortunately very little are them actually implemented. After the discussion of youth ideas in international or national organisations, we believe a review including key points such as what policies have been adopted, will be implemented and which promises are given based on consultations can be briefed back to young people to enhance their engagement in the process after consultations as well as encouraging policymakers to put their pledges into practice. These reviews would also contribute to making the process significantly more transparent and would inform the stakeholders.

Furthermore, inclusion of the most vulnerable people suffering from human rights violations in the policymaking is a must to be accomplished in order to reduce the inequality gap. In this regard, to fully attain a variety of different points of view, protection of the freedom of press, thought and right to protest are crucial to ensure understanding all aspects to the issue.

### **3. What commitments and actions can young people take towards advancing human rights in the future?**

Young people are highly encouraged to take action and give voice to their ideas through youth engagement and participation in civil societies. It is the youth to create a social movement and spark change if everybody is committed to demanding action.

We believe the young generation should be involved more in youth-led organisations to show wide commitment for human rights related issues and bring their involvement with human rights activism to all parts of their life, especially about education. Combined with the efforts of international organisations, governments and civil societies to include more young people, we believe our generation will eagerly show a wide participation to enhance policies and decision.