



**Input by the International Movement  
All Together in Dignity - ATD Fourth World  
(Youth Dynamic)**

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

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Contact: [youth.europe@atd-fourthworld.org](mailto:youth.europe@atd-fourthworld.org)

The views provided here after are based on the numerous dialogues and debates which took place during the 2022-2023 European Youth Campaign organised by the International Movement All Together in Dignity - ATD Fourth World.

Around 150 young people from 10 European countries were involved in the discussions, with almost 100 with experience of hardship because of social exclusion, early school leaving, care orders and care leaving.

A comprehensive account of the learnings and messages from this campaign will be posted on [www.facebook.com/ATDYouthEurope/](https://www.facebook.com/ATDYouthEurope/) in October 2023 at a time when international community will celebrate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

- 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?**

There are many challenges the world is facing today: rapid upskilling

and changes in work; the urgency of a green transition; the potential negative impact of digitalisation, social media and of use of IA; legal and illegal drug consumption; widespread migration; decreased trust in democracy; and growing inequalities. They are all demanding a review of the foundations of our societies. It is paramount for the human rights frameworks to be kept as our compass. They should continue to be developed and strengthened, and will need to find ways to involve youth from deprived areas in the discussions and decisions if the inequalities and the insecurities that are driving many of the anti-democratic forces are to be effectively addressed. The way youth from the low income groups of society are genuinely involved from the start in the processes to reflect on the future of Human Rights will impact the way human rights work for all and are supported by the general public.

**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?**

In the face of the growing inequalities, UN Member States, Civil Society and International Organisations should develop policies and programmes to make sure that every young person can act as a rights holder. The enjoyment of human rights by young people from marginalised backgrounds needs to be a specific area of focus and receive financial support.

On European ground, the Council of Europe « Enter » recommendation (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/enter/the-recommendation> - ACCESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM DISADVANTAGED NEIGHBOURHOODS TO SOCIAL RIGHTS - Recommendation CM/Rec(2015)3) is a example of Human Rights policy approach which needs to be monitored and extended to make sure all young people feel and can act as rights holders.

One strong barrier to the enjoyment of human rights by young people in particular and all citizens in society, is the lack of protection against discrimination based on social origins or socio-economic grounds. This lack of protection was detailed by UN Special Rapporteur On Extreme Poverty and Human Rights in 2022 (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/a77157-banning-discrimination-grounds-socioeconomic-disadvantage>)

To improve access of all to human rights, UN Member States, Civil Society and International Organisations should make sure all national jurisdiction protect citizens against this form of discrimination.

During the ATD campaign, young people also requested that the professionals, stakeholders and institutions around them be guided by the principles of caring and building relationships based on trust. #SupportDontPunish could be their hashtag. More training for professionals should be available in order to improve their abilities to empower all young people as rights holders. Beyond individual practice, institutional harm/ill treatment towards young people should be looked at more carefully as a systemic issue that can negatively impact self-esteem and assertiveness of youth. Institutional management should also reinforce the rights holder position of young people.

One particularly important move in the human rights frameworks at all levels is the recognition of a **right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment**. After the UN, Member States, the Council of Europe, a few days ago the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child called also on States to take action on children's rights and the environment, with a focus on climate change (<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/un-committee-rights-child-calls-states-take-action-first-guidance-childrens-rights>).

This much needed move has to be genuinely effective, and to create changes for all young people, including young people from marginalised and deprived communities. All around the world youth from these communities live often in run-down social estates, in unsustainable settlements, in polluted or unsafe environments, and suffer from the impacts of climate change. The new recognition of this right, supported by the international institutions, will need to deliver for the most disadvantaged youth in order to maintain the credibility of the whole human rights frameworks and faith in democracy and rule of law.

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

To advance human rights for all, young people from all backgrounds should be supported by national programmes to reach out to young people with deep experiences of hardships and design youth projects and youth advocacy together. The challenge to be not only rights holders but also become human rights defenders together is a game changing process for all young people and for the future of human rights.

Young people can take similar actions together in the face of the

environmental and climate crisis. A greener, fairer future must be built with all young people, without perpetuating the exclusion of those who suffer the greatest injustices today. Young activists are needed that accept to learn from those who are the furthest behind and lead with them in processes that are genuinely inclusive.

Policymakers and private funders, including governments, civil society, businesses and international organizations should continue to develop youth programmes in which strong social mix and inclusivity are a major requirement and continue to monitor genuine participation of young people from very deprived backgrounds (including early school leavers, young offenders, youth in recovery from addiction, youth from marginalised communities, care leavers, youth with disability...).