

The International Youth Summit Sierra Leone (IYSSL) is a registered youth serving organization in Sierra Leone which work centered on youth empowerment, Leadership skills, Climate Change, Advocacy, Clean Water, volunteerism and Gender Equality. As a Youth Serving organization based in Sierra Leone below are the following submissions we have for the following questions 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?

The world is currently facing numerous challenges that have significant implications for the future of human rights. In many parts of the world, there is ongoing political instability, conflict, and a rise in authoritarianism. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these issues, particularly with regards to healthcare and economic inequalities. Climate change also poses a significant threat to the global community, with the potential displacement of millions of people as a result of rising sea levels and extreme weather events.

These challenges threaten the future of human rights in a number of ways. Political instability and authoritarianism can lead to violations of individual freedoms, censorship, and persecution of marginalized groups. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen an erosion of healthcare and economic rights, as resources are diverted to combat the spread of the virus. Climate change threatens the right to life, as people are displaced and face the risk of extreme weather events.

To secure a future for human rights, it is necessary to address the root causes of these challenges. This can be achieved through a focus on democratic governance, the promotion of social justice and equality, and the prioritization of sustainable development. Governments, civil society organizations, and individuals have a responsibility to work towards creating a world where human rights are protected and respected for all.

In summary, for a better future for human rights, the world must prioritize democratic and participatory governance, social justice and equality, and sustainable development to tackle the various challenges.

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?**

1. **Strengthen legal frameworks and regulations:** Decision-makers and policymakers must ensure that laws and regulations are in place to protect the human rights of all individuals.

2. **Increase awareness and education:** Governments and civil society organizations should educate people about their rights and the importance of respecting the rights of others.

3. **Promote equality and non-discrimination:** Decision-makers should aim to eliminate discrimination on all fronts including race, gender, sexuality, or any other form of bias.

4. **Support human rights organizations:** International Organizations, such as the United Nations, should continuously support and endorse human rights organizations to promote and advance human rights.

5. **Increase accountability:** Governments and other organizations should be held accountable for any violations of human rights.

6. **Prioritize efforts to promote economic, social, and cultural rights:** Decision-makers and policymakers should prioritize efforts to promote economic, social, and cultural rights such as access to education, healthcare, and safe living conditions.

7. **Promote international cooperation:** Governments and international organizations should work together to promote and protect human rights worldwide.

8. **Involve the public:** Decision-makers should encourage the public to participate in promoting and protecting human rights and ensure that their voices are heard and taken into account.

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

1. **Educate oneself:** Young people can start by educating themselves on various human rights issues. They can learn about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and understand its

importance. Reading books, attending seminars and workshops, and following the news can help develop a good understanding of human rights.

2. Speak out: Young people can use their voice to speak out against human rights abuses. They can write articles, create videos, or use social media platforms to raise awareness and demand justice for victims.

3. Volunteer: Young people can volunteer their time for organizations that promote human rights. They can help with fundraising, organizing events, and advocating for policies that support human rights.

4. Advocate for change: Young people can use their influence to advocate for change. They can lobby their elected officials and write letters to their representatives to push for laws that promote human rights.

5. Join organizations: Young people can join organizations that advocate for human rights like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and UNICEF and contribute towards their causes.

6. Celebrate diversity: Young people can celebrate diversity by attending multicultural events and festivals. They can help create a welcoming and inclusive community that values differences.

7. Practice empathy: Young people can practice empathy by putting themselves in the shoes of others and acknowledging their struggles. They can work towards developing compassion and understanding towards those whose rights have been violated or are in need of support.

8. Vote: Young people can exercise their right to vote and elect officials who promote policies that support human rights. They should contribute towards selecting the right leaders for whom human right is an important cause.

9. Engage in peaceful protests: When the situation demands, young people can use peaceful protests to advocate for change and raise awareness around issues of human rights and justice.

10. Support human rights financially: Young people can support the work of various human rights organizations by donating, or simply by buying products from ethical companies that promote workers' rights.