**YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board Submission**

Q1: What are the challenges the world is facing now, how will they affect the future of human rights, and what future do you want for human rights?

**Answer:** Some of the challenges the world currently faces are:

* Corruption- a complex social, political and economic issue that hinders the rule of law and the safeguard of basic human rights, the functioning of institutions, enables all crimes, and represent a significant factor leading to many inequalities in countries today. As explained in the [UNODC Module Series on Anti-Corruption](https://grace.unodc.org/grace/uploads/documents/academics/Anti-Corruption_Module_7_Corruption_and_Human_Rights.pdf) , corruption leads to violations of specific human rights is an obstacle to the implementation of all human rights of all generations,; can cause structural damages related to the building of human rights frameworks; is detrimental to peace-building, peacekeeping and conflict resolution thus hindering human security.

Due to rampant corruption worldwide, especially in under developed, conflict and post conflict areas of the world, citizens indeed get denied basic human rights. Something as familiar as safe drinking water is uncommon in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, or Papua New Guinea. According to a 2023 report from [World Vision](https://www.worldvision.org/clean-water-news-stories/10-worst-countries-access-clean-water), 54% of the population from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad lack access to essential water services, while 57% of Papua New Guinea's population also lack imperative water services. It becomes even more problematic and an infringement of human rights when children have to leave school and walk hours to fetch water when country leaders could utilize resources designated for public use to put things in place and support their people. Corruption continues to undermine the growth and development of our nations, leaving its citizens in poverty.

* Lack of quality education- As a basic human right, education helps lift people out of poverty, levels inequality, and enriches democratic values and processes which are at the base of rule of law and sustainable development. There are many countries worldwide where the lack of quality education has been a severe issue and threat to human security, especially in African rural communities. Many factors, including the lack of qualified teachers in rural communities, the embezzlement of funds meant for education, and the lack of school buildings in some of these communities, have been attributed to this. Sometimes, even if the schools are available, there are no desks or benches for the students to sit on. It is important to note that strides are being made in this direction. However, governments should do more to address this situation.
* Drug Abuse- Drug proliferation in many communities has become a significant problem over the years, with many Youths taking dangerous substances brought into their countries, leading to increased crimes, health reduction and, in some cases, death for the users. According to a [2022 UNODC report](https://reliefweb.int/report/world/unodc-world-drug-report-2022), around 284 million people aged 15-64 used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26 percent increase over the previous decade. The report adds that young people use more drugs, with higher use levels in many countries than the previous generation. In Africa and Latin America, people under 35 represent the majority of people getting treated for drug use disorders. Now, in as much as some drug users are responsible for their decisions to take drugs, leaders should also be held accountable for the lack of the execution of drug laws, policies, or legislation on the books. The massive flow of drugs in communities is a threat to the individual health of the users and the right to security for the users and the communities where they dwell.

Q2: 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?

**Answer:** The recommendations of the YouthLED Integrity Advisory Board are:

* Governments should strengthen their criminal justice responses in order to issue comprehensive and well-rounded legislations and making sure to strengthen their law enforcement as well as judiciaries so to ensure proper investigation, prosecution and legal finish to cases of illicit drug trafficking
* Youth can generate sustainable impact when it comes to efforts to enhance the rule of law, safeguard human rights, and promote justice, integrity and health. In this view Governments should work together with the United Nations, academia and civil society organizations in order to strengthen mechanisms designated to capture the views and contributions of young people, as a prominent component of society and tomorrow’s integrity leaders, in order to promote corruption preventive measures grounded on quality education, meaningful youth empowerment, innovation and technology.
* Civil society should continue to work with the communities to provide education on holding their leaders accountable for their actions, using public funds, and enforcing laws that are in their interest.
* The United Nations should continue to work with governments to ensure that the Sustainable Development Goals are implemented in the interest of the citizens of the world.
* Policymakers should create policies that support the rights of people and ensure that they push the enforcement of these policies.

Q3: What commitments and actions can young people take towards advancing human rights in the future?

**Answer:** Youth can commit themselves to advancing Human Rights by understanding that change starts with them, and if the future should be better for all humans, they should do away with following current examples that have proven to not to be in the interest of the improvement of lives. Young people should be change-makers in their communities, taking a stance against corruption by civically advocating for the right things to be done in their various countries, and pushing back on discrimination in their schools and workplaces . Youth can exert their passion and energy to advance human rights in the future by taking simple actions like learning what their rights are and what the rights of their communities are, and volunteering to provide education to these communities where the need be,voting in elections and encouraging others to exercise their vote. They can also form cross-borders collaborations and alliances with other youth groups for learning and advocacy purposes.