



CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS UNITES US: YOUTH FOR JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY.

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE KEY ACTORS IN STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY.

Knowing the fundamental rights and freedoms allows you to:

- Participate actively in democratic life.
- Stand up for everyone's rights.
- Help to build a critical and aware citizenry.

Youth engagement is sustained by adhering to and practicing human rights principles: therefore, it is essential to know what human rights are, and to collectively defend them.

OAS Interamerican Democratic Charter Corner:

Article 7

Democracy is indispensable for the effective exercise of fundamental freedoms and human rights in their universality, indivisibility and interdependence, embodied in the respective constitutions of states and in inter-American and international human rights instruments.

HUMAN RIGHTS ENSURE THAT EVERYONE CAN LIVE ENJOYING DIGNITY, EQUALITY, AND RESPECT.



Adopted in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the rights of all people. Today it has been adopted by 192 nation states.

In the Americas, the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that the promotion of human rights is indispensable for the development and strengthening of democracy.

In 2023, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights reaffirmed that children and youth have the right to participate and to be listened to. This highlighted the valuable contribution of youth to the society and the fact that respecting their right to engage constituted a right in itself.

The principal challenges in the region: violence, corruption and impunity.

When young people defend their rights, they help to construct more just and democratic communities.

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS: A VITAL LINK.

Education is a human right and a tool that enables rights to be known about, respected and practiced.

Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

- ✓ Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages
- ✓ Elementary education shall be compulsory.
- ✓ Technical and professional education shall be made generally available
- ✓ Access to higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

Education shall be directed at the full development of the human personality and the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, promoting understanding and friendship among peoples and cultures.

The school is a space where human rights are protected when it does the following:

- ✓ It teaches principles like dignity, liberty and justice.
- ✓ It promotes students' participation in voicing their opinions and in decision-making.
- ✓ It guarantees a safe space free from violence and discrimination.
- ✓ It ensures that there are equal opportunities and that everyone is treated with respect.
- ✓ It defends freedoms like freedom of expression and free thinking.

School is key for learning, for living together and for exercising one's rights collectively.



RIGHTS IN ACTION!

Learning about human rights also means deepening one's knowledge about them, putting them into practice and living them.

Knowing: understanding what human rights are and why they are important in everyone's life.

Doing: using them in daily life: respecting and standing up for them, how to act when injustice occurs.

Being: converting these values into part of our way of living together with respect and engagement inside and outside of school.

RELATIONS BASED ON TOLERANCE ARE ROOTED IN RESPECT AND EMPATHY.

Tolerance means respecting and accepting difference: different cultures, different ways of thinking and different lifestyles.

In school, tolerance is strengthened when the school community:

1. Respects ideas and beliefs.
2. Recognizes different forms of apprenticeship.
3. Participates in varied types of activities.
4. Listens attentively to other people.
5. Offers support in situations where there is need.
6. Promotes empathy in everyday living together.



YOUTH AND CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES

Young people face a variety of different realities, but in the midst of them all, it is possible to defend and promote human rights.

Young people can drive change in the following ways:

Mobilizing public opinion through their networks and social media.

Engaging in social movements.

Defending everyone's rights.

Through promoting education and social awareness in the community.

Social innovation and the creation of joint initiatives.

The Right to engage and to be listened to:

In 2017, the **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** highlighted the right of children and young people to engage and to be listened to. This does not refer to just any type of engagement, but rather, engagement in a significant and protagonist capacity.

This voice for youth is a human right and an essential contribution to democracy.

Intergenerational collaboration opens more possibilities for violence prevention and for the strengthening of democratic life.

School and daily engagement are fundamental spaces where this right may be fully practiced.