



## dakar declaration

Generation Democracy is a global coalition of hundreds of politically active young people and youth-focused organizations. At Generation Democracy's founding conference in Dakar, Senegal, in October 2015, more than 40 young leaders from seven nations in West Africa developed this *Dakar Declaration of the Political Rights of Youth* to serve as the guiding principles of Generation Democracy worldwide. With the insight of these influential young people, Generation Democracy does hereby declare its core principles to be:

### equality

**Political rights** are co-equal with Human Rights

**Every citizen** has an inherent and inalienable right to participate in his or her government.

### inclusivity

**Government** must include the needs of all its citizens in its political processes and decision making.

**Local, regional, and national governance structures** must include young people in order to foster more inclusive and representative political processes.

**Political parties** must include youth issues in their manifestos and policy platforms.

**Political parties** must provide young people with equal access to party resources both during campaigns and in between elections.

### engagement

**Young people** must be engaged in the political process in order to ensure accountable governance.

**Political parties** must operate according to democratic values and principles to foster youth involvement in politics.

**International governance systems** must fulfill commitments made to youth through sound policies.

**National governments** should remove institutional barriers to youth participation in the political process.

**Governments** must strive to educate all young people, regardless of social standing, on democratic principles and values.

**National, regional, and local governments**, and the international community and implementing partners must include adequate funding to encourage youth initiatives and youth participation in politics.

### values

**Political disputes** must be resolved without bloodshed and youth must not succumb to external pressure to resort to violence on behalf of political actors.

**Young people** both locally and internationally must first see themselves as united under the banner of "youth" and mutually invested in the future before turning to dividing perspectives of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical (dis)ability, or social status.

**Youth across the globe** must take on leadership roles in both political, economic and civic life in order to foster a transnational culture that values representative and inclusive governance practices.

**We**, as members of Generation Democracy, through peaceful means will change the world to make it the more inclusive, representative and connected future that we want it to be.