

CALL TO ACTION 2025

TO ALL EUROPEAN LEADERS, DECISION MAKERS
AND LEGISLATORS

FROM 100 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES,
AT THE KRS EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM 2025



EUROPAKONFERANSEN
EUROPEAN CONFERENCE



KRS EUROPEAN
YOUTH FORUM



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HOPE IS CONTAGIOUS, IT
IS VERY HARD TO STAY
HOPELESS, WHEN YOU
ARE SURROUNDED BY
HOPEFUL PEOPLE.

-DARYNA KHARUK, UKRAINE



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION



KRS EUROPEAN
YOUTH FORUM



KRS EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

The KRS European Youth Forum was held for the second time in Kristiansand, 3-4. May 2025. The conference is a platform created for young people, by young people, and addresses important topics within human rights and democracy in Europe.

In the face of economic uncertainty, rising political polarization, and increasing threats to democracy, young people from across Europe gathered at the KRS European Youth Forum in Kristiansand. Over several days, **100 youth delegates** from diverse backgrounds and nations engaged in critical discussions, exchanging experiences, concerns, and solutions for the future of democracy in Europe.

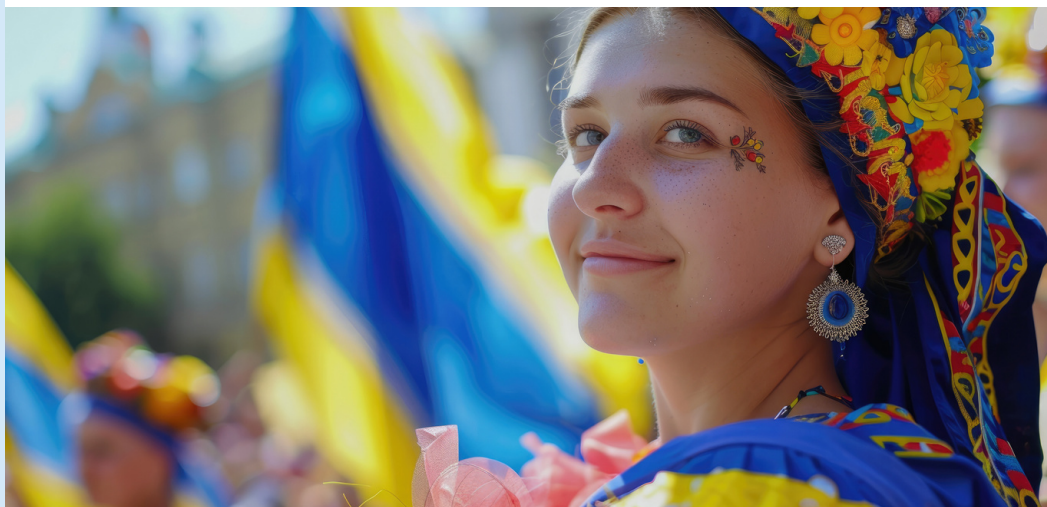
Through dialogue, collaboration, and a shared commitment to democratic values, these young leaders crafted a **Call to Action**—a document that reflects their urgent concerns, lived realities, and hopes for a stronger, more inclusive Europe.

We, the youth of Europe, call upon **leaders, legislators, and stakeholders** to **listen, engage, and act**. The future of democracy depends on those who will inherit it, yet too often, young voices remain unheard in decision-making processes. This document is more than a statement—it is a guideline for shaping policies that safeguard democratic participation, uphold human rights, and ensure economic and social stability for generations to come.

We urge you to use this **Call to Action as a foundation for your work**, integrating the perspectives of young Europeans into policymaking at every level. Our engagement is not just beneficial—it is essential. A democracy that fails to include its youth in shaping its future is a democracy at risk.

The time to act is now. The voices of Europe's youth must not only be acknowledged but **actively included in shaping the policies that define our shared future**. Let this Call to Action be a starting point for meaningful change.

The youth of Europe have spoken. Will you listen?

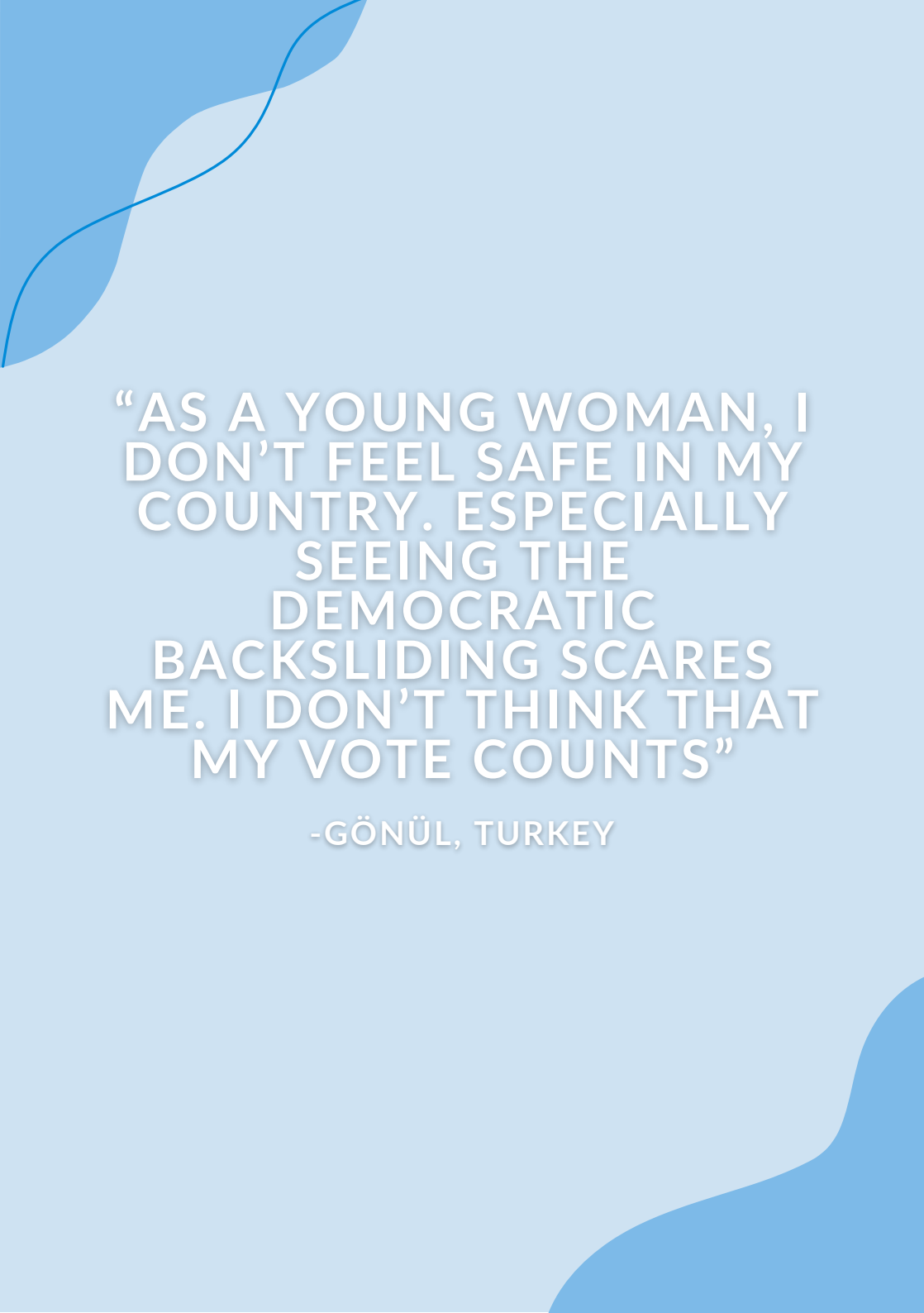




The project Youth Leadership, Engage, and Advocate for Democracy (**Y-LEAD**) brought together 45 young people from Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, North Macedonia, Hungary, Slovenia, and Romania. Hosted in Kristiansand, Norway, during Democracy Week 2025, it created a neutral space for youth from diverse democratic contexts to learn, share, and reflect on civic engagement.

Through simulations, workshops, stakeholder visits, and dialogue with decision-makers, participants explored democratic tools, digital activism, and strategies for inclusive participation. This project strengthen youth engagement and fostered intercultural understanding by breaking prejudice and building positive relations across borders.

Importantly, the participants also took part in the **Kristiansand European Youth Forum**, where they joined their peers in this joint call to action, amplifying youth voices for a more democratic and inclusive Europe.

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“AS A YOUNG WOMAN, I
DON'T FEEL SAFE IN MY
COUNTRY. ESPECIALLY
SEEING THE
DEMOCRATIC
BACKSLIDING SCARES
ME. I DON'T THINK THAT
MY VOTE COUNTS”

-GÖNÜL, TURKEY

DISINFORMATION

DISINFORMATION

Disinformation is a tool used by populist far-right groups to promote their narratives and attract more voters. However, it spread hate in society and create polarization among different groups. Undereducated people from marginalized communities, such as small towns and villages and low income households, are especially vulnerable to being manipulated by disinformation. Citizens are misled and vote based on false information benefitting populists political forces.

WE WANT YOU TO:

1. **Invest more** in formal education (private and public). Put efforts to decrease the price of private institutions education, create more programs or courses, aimed at developing the skills of critical thinking and ability to fact-check. **Academic freedom** for students and staff must be guaranteed.
2. **Support youth initiative** for non-formal education (funds and facilities for activities).
3. Secure funding for **independent media**.
4. Invest high **quality education**, which will lead to stronger media literacy and critical thinking skills in the overall population.

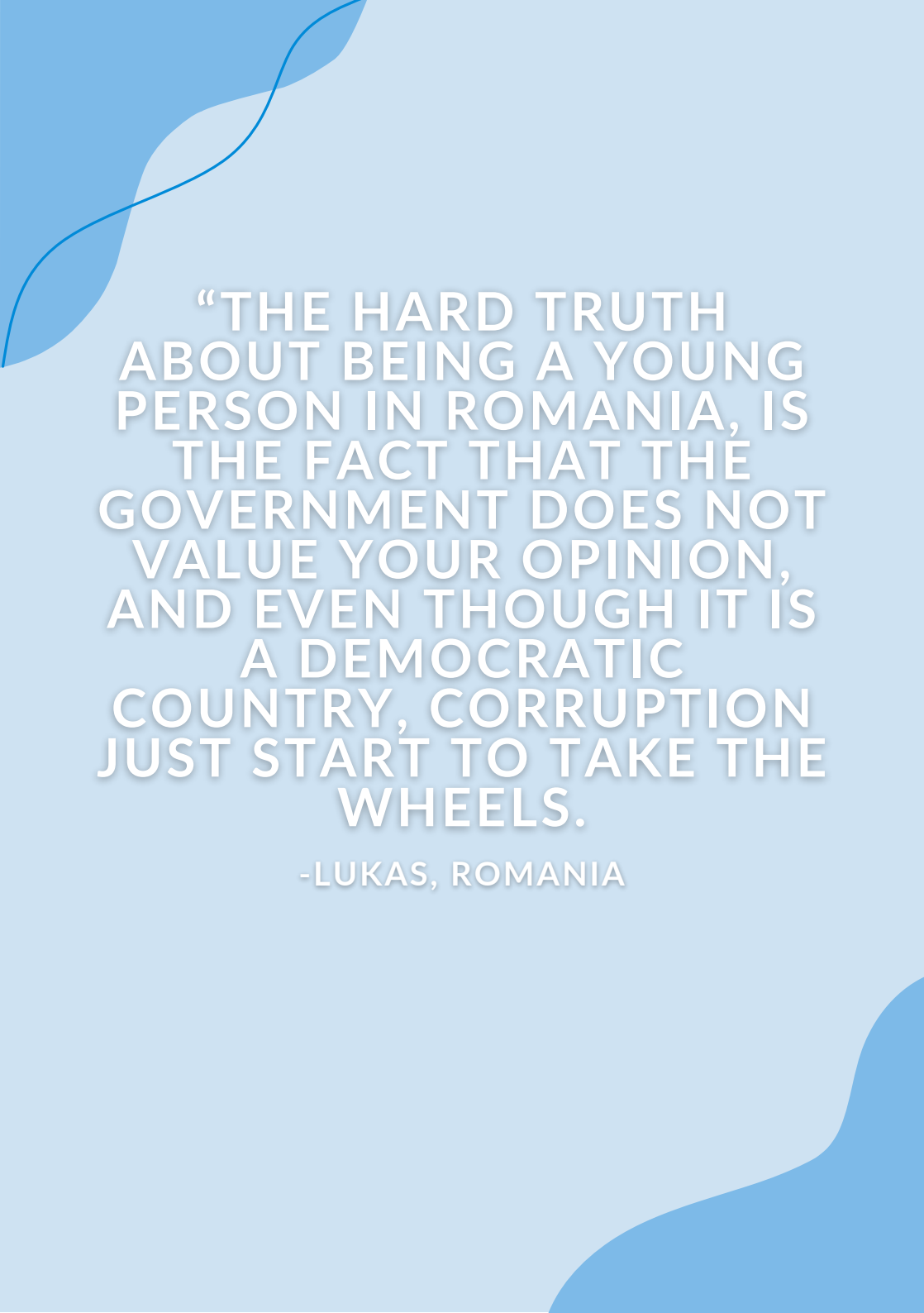
ASK YOURSELF

What **policies** are being implemented to improve media literacy at schools to help young people navigate disinformation?

What steps are being taken to **regulate social media** platforms that amplify disinformation?

How can we ensure that **higher education is accessible to all** and how can we guarantee that education is not sacrificed for the sake of military spendings?



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“THE HARD TRUTH
ABOUT BEING A YOUNG
PERSON IN ROMANIA, IS
THE FACT THAT THE
GOVERNMENT DOES NOT
VALUE YOUR OPINION,
AND EVEN THOUGH IT IS
A DEMOCRATIC
COUNTRY, CORRUPTION
JUST START TO TAKE THE
WHEELS.

-LUKAS, ROMANIA

AUTHORITARISM

AUTHORITARIANISM

Authoritarian regimes and tendencies are now reaching more power in Europe, which compromises democracy and young people's lives.

WE WANT YOU TO:

Spread information about the human rights violations in authoritarian states and support independent democratic movements. We want politicians to stay within the confines of domestic and international law.

ASK YOURSELF

What can you do to help people who live in authoritarian regimes and countries, which have such tendencies?

What are you doing to help them?

What concrete actions are you taking to help them?

WHAT WE ARE DOING

With the power we have - our voices and people who can help us, our community - we take part in organising and empowering young people to fight against repressive authoritarian regimes.

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“I FEEL A DIRECT THREAT
OF A POTENTIAL WAR IN
LATVIA. WE LOVE OUR
INDEPENDENCE, AND WE
DO NOT WANT TO LOSE
IT AGAIN”

-LAURA, LATVIA

VOTING RIGHTS

LACK OF VOTING RIGHTS

Elections and voting play a crucial role in every country. 'Demos' means people or citizen, and 'cratos' means rule or power. So, in democracy, it is the people's, or citizen's rights to vote for a the representative they trust to represent them.

However, many citizens in multiple countries do not use their voting rights when elections are held. In European Parliament elections, the participation rate in Latvia was only 33.83%.

In 2024, Serbia did not fulfil its commitments to hold fair and free elections.

When essential access to information is restricted, when voters can not differentiate between truth, disinformation and manipulation - it directly infringes our voting rights.

If we lose trust in the vote and the systems around it, it infringes on our democratic rights.

WE WANT YOU TO

Bring awareness to the **democratic processes** and the voting system through workshops and lessons to all education levels.

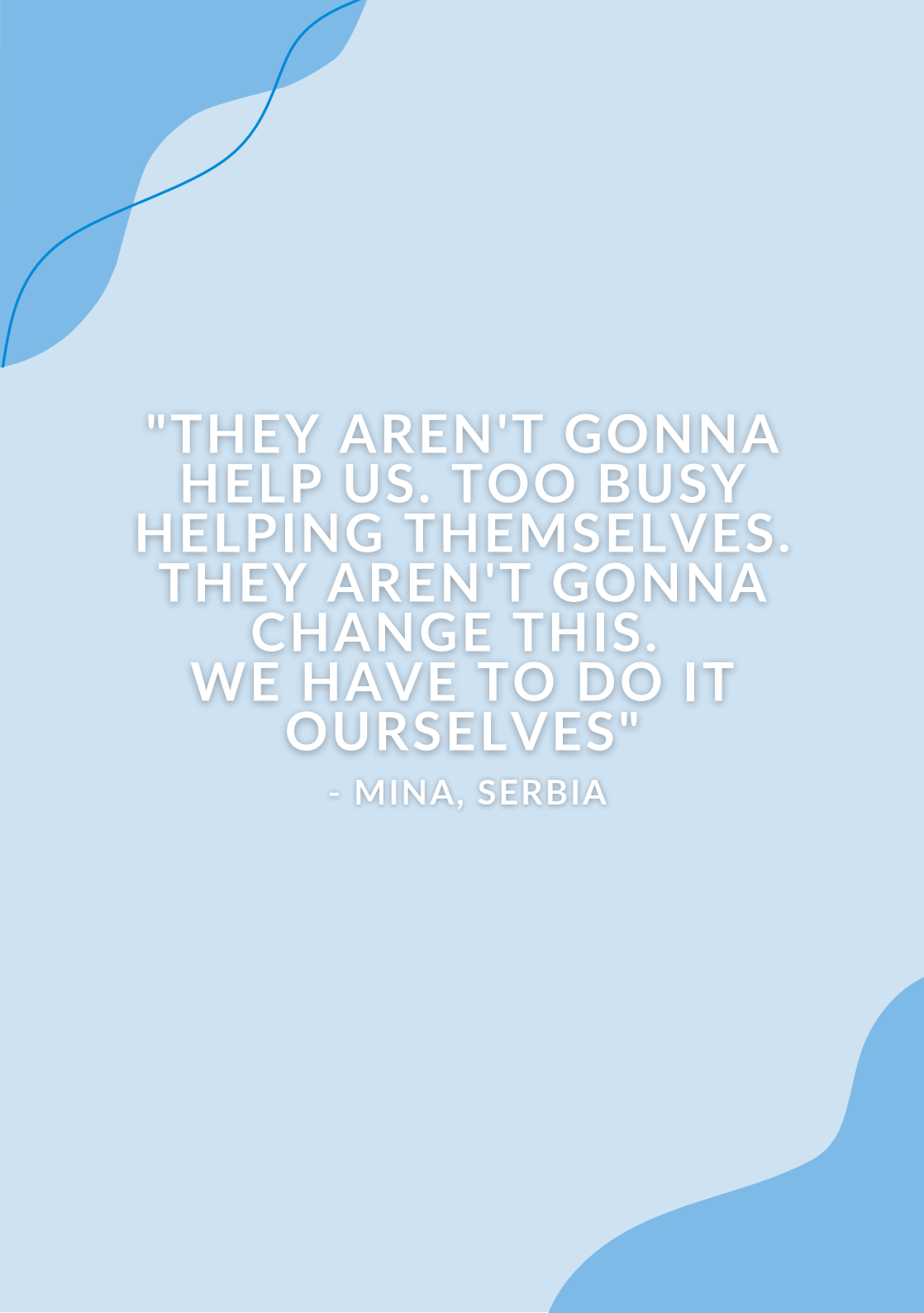
Guarantee a **safe ground for media** to cover the information about elections, voting options and information about political parties and candidates.

Create a **central elections committees** in every country, that provides and organizes elections and invite citizens to vote.

Create a **digital voting system** in every country.

Explain to citizens the process of elections.

Guarantee the fairness of elections.

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"THEY AREN'T GONNA
HELP US. TOO BUSY
HELPING THEMSELVES.
THEY AREN'T GONNA
CHANGE THIS.
WE HAVE TO DO IT
OURSELVES"

- MINA, SERBIA

INEQUALITY

INEQUALITY

Everyone has experienced exclusion at some point: in poor education, a segregated world. For some, exclusion is a defining part of their lives. Equality is the very foundation of democracy. The existence of inequality is a failure of democracy.

To be included is a basic human need, and inequality affects everyone in different ways, depending on the setting. It can take an economic form, it can present itself as discrimination, exclusion, or aggression. Any form of inequality will only lead to more inequality. It deprives people of opportunities, of a sense of security, and strengthens classism.

It is a current, international problem, and although we talk about it, it is still unresolved and is impacting those most vulnerable.

WHAT WE WANT

The change starts with you – educate yourself and then educate others. Disseminate the information and take initiative to make sure those affected by inequality know about their rights and the opportunities they have. LISTEN to those who are affected by inequality. Let THEM speak about their problems, worries, fears, and needs. Make room for them. Combat greed and selfishness as the mindset and values, as they lead to fewer opportunities and resources for the masses, creating an initial imbalance. PEOPLE should be the ones representing themselves as much as they can, not the politicians, as they are often not affected by the problems of those less advantaged.

Desensitize the sensitive topics, talk about them, and don't be afraid of be afraid - that is what these minorities have to face every day.

Show solidarity, become their ambassador. Stand with them, not next to or behind them. Speak out! Don't be afraid to use your voice. Take action and connect with NGOs.

Spread the word around, create connections with people in power to make the change possible. Have an open mind and be willing to work with everyone.

ASK YOURSELF

Rights for the minorities do not deprive the ones already privileged – they fill the gaps in the system. Equality and equity are not the same, we need to understand that.

Take a step back and review the laws that GUIDE THE LIVES of the people around you.

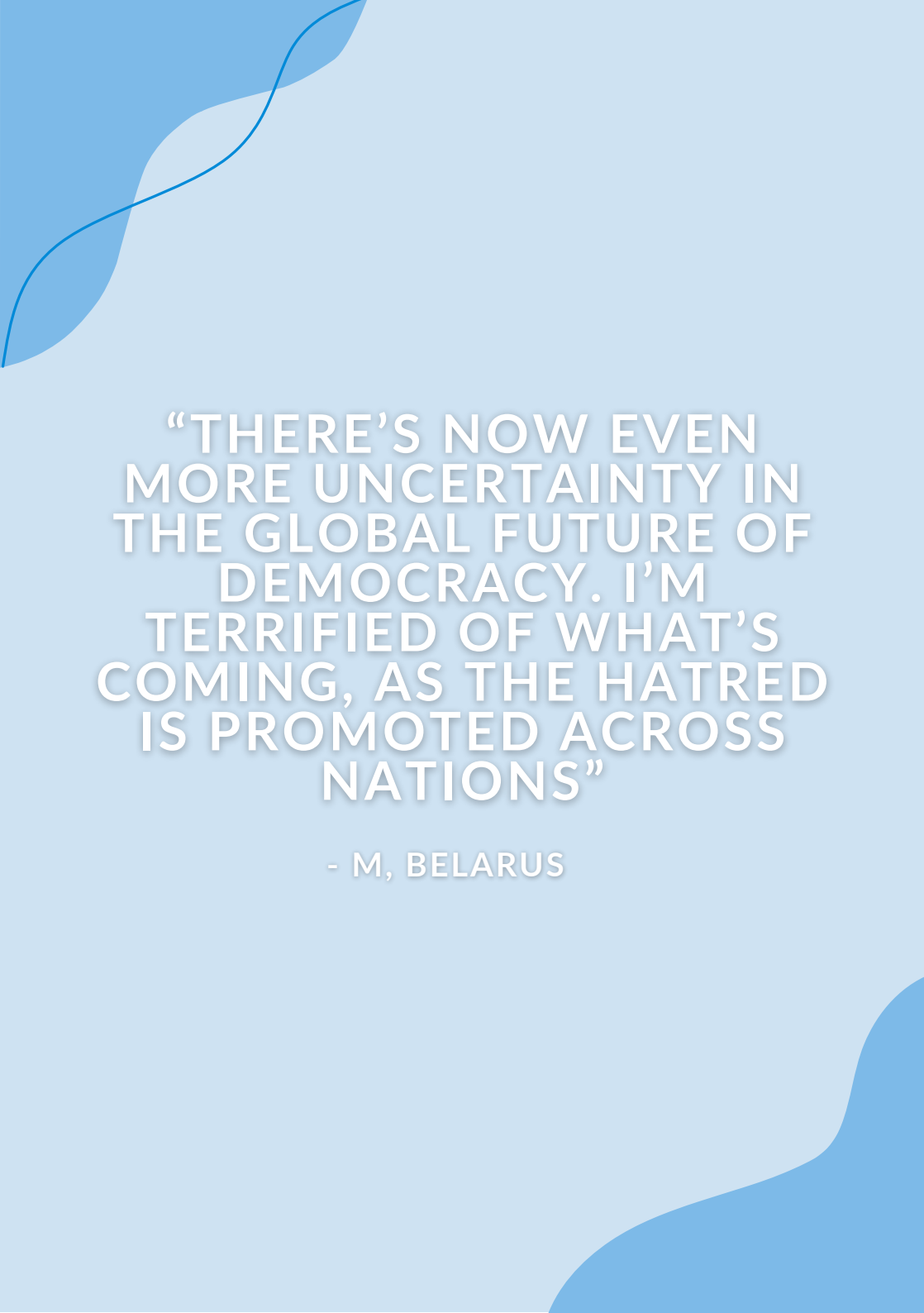
Are they inclusive?

Are the people included?

Do these laws provide security to everyone or just the chosen few?

Remember: the dynamic of the world shifts. Some of these processes are out of our control, but if one day you shall find yourself in the position of those excluded, do everything in your power to create a world where everyone feels safe now.

Our lives are in your hands.

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**“THERE’S NOW EVEN
MORE UNCERTAINTY IN
THE GLOBAL FUTURE OF
DEMOCRACY. I’M
TERRIFIED OF WHAT’S
COMING, AS THE HATRED
IS PROMOTED ACROSS
NATIONS”**

- M, BELARUS

Youth delegates from KRS European Youth Forum opened and closed the European Conference 2025. The following closing speech was given by Kaja Mavric from Slovenia.

“My name is Kaja and I come from Slovenia. This weekend young people from across Europe came together. We shared our stories, our hopes, and our fears. And honestly—it was painful to hear what some of us are going through. In countries like Hungary, Ukraine, and Serbia, basic freedoms are under threat. Voices are being silenced, and lives are in danger.

We urge you to use this Call to Action as a foundation for your work. Because including the perspectives of young Europeans in policymaking isn't just beneficial—it is essential. A democracy that fails to include its youth in shaping its future is a democracy at risk.

In 2024, we talked about democracy, human rights, and freedom of speech. In 2025, we're talking about authoritarianism, disinformation, inequality, and the feeling of being unheard. This isn't just a shift in language—it's a shift in reality. What good is democracy if we can't vote—or worse, if we feel like our vote doesn't matter? What are human rights if the most vulnerable still aren't protected? And what does freedom of speech mean when we're drowning in propaganda? And as we speak, right-wing movements are on the rise across Europe. Their influence is spreading—reshaping laws, policies, and the very tone of public discourse. Other countries are watching and following. But we refuse to let fear define our future.

We do not want a Europe—nor a world—where people are divided and oppressed because of religion, culture, or identity. Strip away our clothes, our jewelry, our skin color—we are all the same. Flesh and bone. We are equal. And we deserve to be treated that way.

The time to act is now. The voices of Europe's youth must not only be acknowledged, but actively included in shaping the policies that define our shared future.

To the politicians in this room, and across Europe: our lives are in your hands. You are not just decision-makers—you are our representatives. And that means you have a responsibility to shape a future that we can believe in.

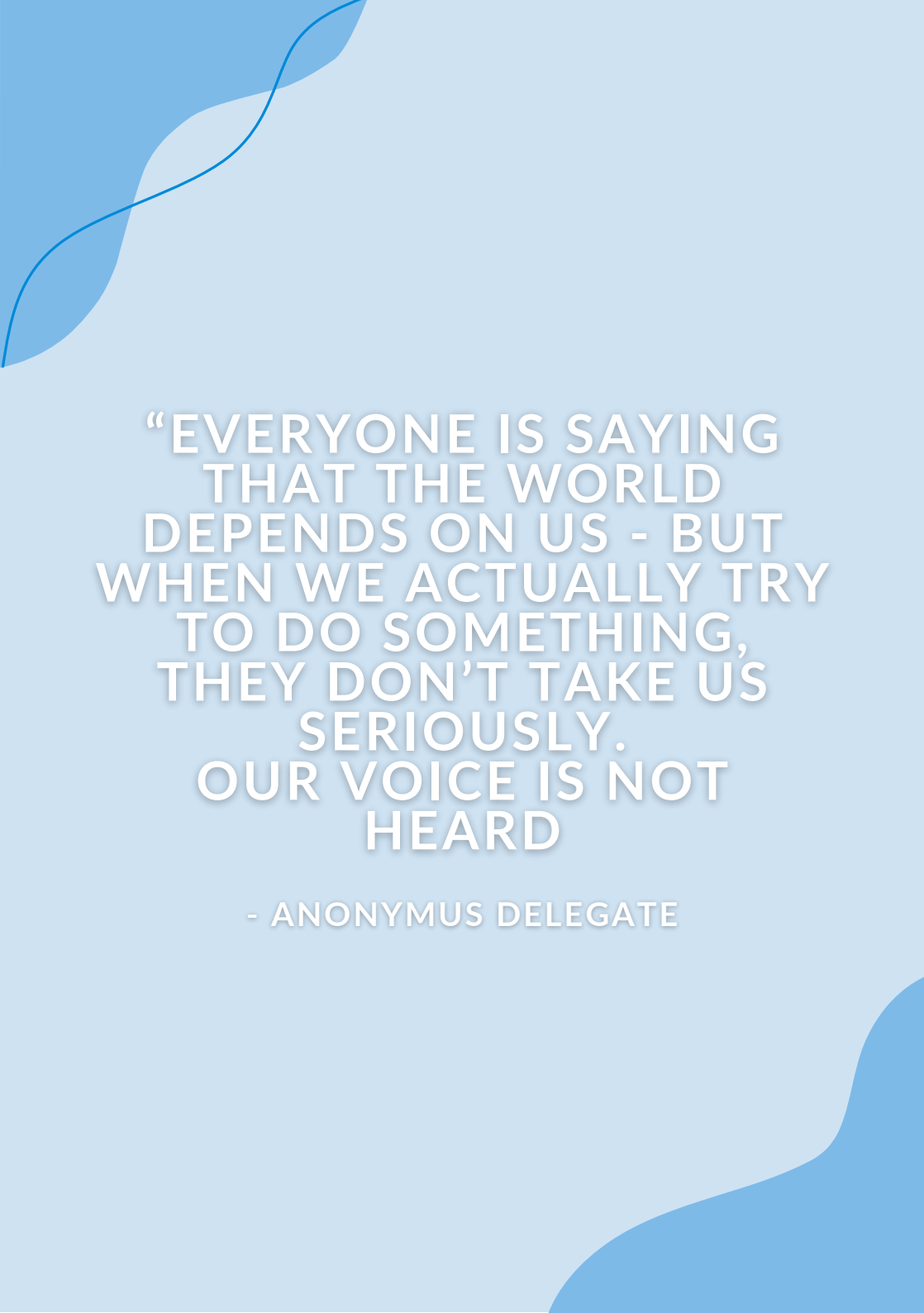
A future we can participate in.

A future that we can survive in.

The youth of Europe have spoken.

Will you listen?"

Written and performed by Kaja Mavric from Slovenia, at The European Conference 2025

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“EVERYONE IS SAYING
THAT THE WORLD
DEPENDS ON US - BUT
WHEN WE ACTUALLY TRY
TO DO SOMETHING,
THEY DON'T TAKE US
SERIOUSLY.
OUR VOICE IS NOT
HEARD

- ANONYMUS DELEGATE

CREATED BY

THE DELEGATES AT
KRS EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM

FACILITATED BY MARGRETHE
AURORA SELJENES

DESIGN, LAYOUT AND EDIT:
SHEILA SIMMENES

REPRESENTING:
PVN NORWAY
SAMSEN KULTURHUS
FORTHEM ALLIANCE

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL
THE DELEGATES, PRESENTERS,
SPEAKERS AND
COLLABORATORS THAT MADE
THIS FORUM AN EXPERIENCE
AND PLATFORM FOR
EXCHANGING IDEAS,
INSPIRATIONS AND
PERSPECTIVES.

