



Gothenburg Democracy Talk 30 November 2020: Facts, Norms and Human Rights

Civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights are invaluable backbones in an open and democratic society. The rights exist thanks to international conventions, national laws, international and national authorities such as courts, councils, and NGO's such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. In practice human rights cannot be sustained without people's sound knowledge about the legal sources and actual compliance to the rights, which contribute to a continuous norm building process. Schools play a foundational role raising new generations to be supportive, knowledgeable, and critically minded about human rights.

Inspirational questions to ponder on when preparing for the talk

- How does your family background, and where you live, influence your will and capacity to engage politically by voting, demonstrating, or writing protest letters?
- Do you think that school's textbooks, study material, and teaching methods stands up for human rights, and encourage critical discussions about compliance to the rights?
- If students in a school come from diverse or uniform family or residential backgrounds, would that influence teaching and discussions on human rights?
- Is there popular support and compliance to LGBT-rights in Sweden?
- What role does social media play in norm building and compliance to human rights? How can social media promote, and how can social media undermine, human rights?
- Union rights and decent working conditions are basic for a humane working life, do you think that work life rights are enough covered in the school discussion on rights?
- Is there popular support and compliance in Sweden to the rights of ethnical minorities as Sami or Roma people, and religious minorities as Jews or Muslims?
- If you had the possibility to wish for forward-thinking research, school textbooks, and teaching methods, what aspects of human rights would you suggest?

Organizers: The IYTT-International Youth Think Tank www.iythinktank.com, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs <http://www.swemfa.se/drive-for-democracy/democracy-talks/>, and the high-school Ingrid Segerstedts Gymnasium <http://www.isgy.se/>

Participants: Twelve students from Ingrid Segerstedts Gymnasium: Sara Kårlin, Anna Jacobsen, Mons Hovde, Sofia Bergholtz, Gustaf Häntak, Felix Malmström, Edvin Johansson, Emilia Barisa, Thea Bodestig, Ebba Heitzmann, Moa Hermansson, and Klara Larsson. Four IYTT Youth Fellows: Fermín Lecanda, Lisa Mastiaux, Petter Rodebjer, and Lina Arvidsson, who acts as subgroup moderators. The Zoom-sessions also welcome IYTT international reference group members Pam Fredman and Cecilia Malmström.

Date and time: November 30, 10.00-16.00

Venue: Zoom and Ingrid Segerstedts Gymnasium, Södra vägen 25, 400 16 Göteborg

Contacts: Urban Strandberg, co-founder and project manager of the IYTT, Johan Hallenborg, deputy director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Henrik Nilsson, social science and media teacher at ISGY.



About the talk

The general theme is how schools can teach about human rights to achieve broad support behind the rights as well as a potential to stand up critically for the observance of rights. The overall thrust is the students' ideas. Put differently, the main idea of the day is for the high-school students to discuss what messages they want to convey to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The moderators' task is to promote an engaged conversation where every individual should have an equal say. Moderators are thus supposed to create an open and productive speech situation, but also be prepared to catalyze the discussion in the groups and see too that the group achieve results. Ending the day, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will receive the high-school students' ideas and proposals, which thus will be added to the Democracy Talk project.

Program

- 09.45 Students and moderators meet in two groups (Classrooms)
- 10.00 Organizers' welcome: Urban Strandberg (Zoom)
- 10.10 Opening words: Ann Linde, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Zoom)
- 10.20 Students and moderators Q&A with Ann Linde, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Zoom)
- 10.35 Groups' brainstorming discussions (Classrooms)
- 12.00 Lunch break
- 13.15 Groups join to share ideas from the brainstorming (Zoom)
- 14.00 Groups develop ideas and prepare presentation slides (Classrooms)
- 15.00 Final presentations, 10 min per group, followed by an open floor discussion (Zoom)
- 15.50 Organizers closing words by Johan Hallenborg, followed by brief end of day, Urban Strandberg (Zoom)

Group 1, classroom Mac-salen

Moa Hermansson
Klara Larsson
Emilia Barisa
Gustaf Häntak
Felix Malmström
Anna Jacobsen

Moderators

Fermín Lecanda
& Lina Arvidsson

Group 2, classroom 12

Thea Bodestig
Ebba Heitzmann
Sara Kårlin
Mons Hovde
Sofia Bergholtz
Edvin Johansson

Moderators:

Lisa Mastiaux &
Petter Rodebjer