



INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH
THINK TANK

GOT 5 MINUTES?
LET'S TALK ABOUT
DEMOCRACY!

WE ASKED
THE PEOPLE
OF ISTANBUL...

WHAT ARE
THE FIRST
WORDS THAT
COME TO
YOUR MIND
WHEN YOU
THINK ABOUT
DEMOCRACY?

fake
participation
freedom
liberty
fiction
ideal
human rights
privilege
politics
voting
representation
dream
choice
bureaucratic
illusion
fragile
value driven
elections
power to the people
power

DO YOU FEEL
FREE WHEN
IT COMES TO
CHOOSING
YOUR LIFE'S
PATH?

No, expectations in society make it difficult to freely choose what I want to do

Yes, I can choose and express my religion, beliefs and culture

Yes, I have the freedom to do what I want

No, because my freedom to express myself is restricted

NO (50%)

No, because opportunities are provided unequally

No, many young people are unemployed and have to work for minimum wage

YES (50%)

No, I cannot freely choose, it depends on society's needs

Yes, though high expectations lead to a lot of pressure

No, my path is limited due to my background

No, opportunities depend on one's economic background

Yes, I have total freedom in what I want to do with my life

DO YOU FEEL
LIKE YOU
HAVE ANY
POWER AS A
CITIZEN?

No, I don't have power on my own

Yes, I can
criticize my
government

yes, I can vote

no, I can't study what I
want because it's too
expensive

Yes, I can
hold the
government
accountable

NO (20%)

YES (80%)

Yes, but not enough for systematic change

No, power remains
with the elite

yes, I can protest

Yes, I can select who is in the
parliament

Yes, I can
participate in
and shape
politics

No, citizens do not have much power

yes, I can start a petition

WHAT
WOULD YOU
NEED TO BE
MORE
POWERFUL?

lobby register more accountable make government processes accessible

make education free system mandatory regular public press conferences to hold governments accountable

less bureaucracy, more transparency

"let the people speak" listen to the people

listen to experts youth empowerment

system needs to be merit-based

people must be educated & aware of their rights trust and empower people

more equitable distribution of resources

youth councils psychological support for citizens in need