

DEMOCRACY NEEDS ALL OF US



Strengthening democracy around the world

DEMOCRACY DOES NOT THRIVE ON ITS OWN – WE MUST STRENGTHEN IT

Democracy is good for people and our planet. It is how we come together to solve problems. But without our support, it will weaken and decline.

WFD draws on UK and international expertise and works with partners to strengthen democracy around the world.

You can help too

UK legislators, parliamentary staff, and political parties contribute their skills, share their experience, and build connections with counterparts overseas. Find out how you can get involved at wfd.org/support

DEMOCRACY IS UNDER THREAT

We live in a period of increased risk to democratic freedoms around the world. Ukraine's struggle to defend its democracy in the face of Putin's authoritarian aggression is the starkest reminder of that.

Just 20% of the world's population live in countries rated as 'free'

In 2023, data showed that levels of global freedom declined for the 17th year in a row. From conflict, to public health emergencies, and organised crime, the biggest threats we face are rooted in or exacerbated by autocratic regimes or weak democracies.

Reversing the decline in democracy is essential to our security and our prosperity.

WFD programmes support those working to strengthen democracy around the world. We support local leaders by providing the expertise, skills, and evidence they need to drive change. WFD's analysis and policy initiatives also aim to support governments that want to ensure their international policies strengthen democracy, even in authoritarian states.

DEMOCRACY IS A PROBLEM-SOLVING SYSTEM

From inequality to climate change, societies face many complex problems that need local, national, and global solutions. Whatever the challenge, it is how we work together that makes the difference.

That is why we need accountable, inclusive, and open political systems that challenge the abuse of power and support the rule of law. Strong democracies solve real-world problems – they nurture good ideas, address citizens' demands, and cooperate with global allies.

DEMOCRACY IS SUSTAINED BY LIGHT

People need access to good information. Moreover, good information is crucial to effective governance. Scrutinising government action helps improve outcomes for society and identify lessons to be learned when things go wrong.

Accountability and transparency build trust and stability. Trust and stability are crucial to peace. That is why WFD is working around the world to shine a light on decision making for the benefit of all people.

DEMOCRACY IS INTERTWINED WITH TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Increased participation of all people in decision-making and strong environmental rule of law are crucial to delivering action on climate change. And, action on climate change is vital to stopping the destabilisation of democracies.

WFD works with local partners to address the urgency of the climate crisis in a way that facilitates ambitious action and includes everyone. Our work on environmental democracy also looks beyond the immediate crisis to the long-term benefits that result from a system that is transparent, incorporates public participation, and allows for justice and accountability.

DEMOCRACY IS THE RIGHT TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Free and fair elections are the basic framework for a healthy democracy. They are how all people have a chance to influence the future of their society and hold their leaders to account.

A credible electoral process is essential for trust, stability, and peace.

WFD supports electoral integrity around the world by encouraging reforms, organising election observation, and conducting research on electoral reform.

DEMOCRACY THRIVES WHEN WOMEN THRIVE

There is a direct correlation between the status and safety of women in a country and the state of its governance.

When women equally participate in decision-making, their joint influence on policy priorities means less corruption and conflict, better education and health outcomes, and greater opportunities for all. That is why we work to support women's political leadership.

DEMOCRACY IS ROOTED IN PARTICIPATION

Democracies are stronger when everyone participates and all voices are heard – including groups that are underrepresented, such as young people, LGBT+ people, and people with disabilities.

Politics has to manage conflicts and trade-offs. That is why inclusive and effective democracies are better at delivering services fairly, and investing in a future where everyone benefits. WFD strives towards a world in which decision-making includes everyone.

Only when all people are represented can democracy live up to its name.

ABOUT WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY

Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) is the UK public body dedicated to strengthening democracy around the world.

Through our programmes, expertise, and research, we work to make political systems fairer, more inclusive, and more accountable.

WFD mobilises UK and international expertise and partners with parliaments, political parties, electoral bodies, civil society, and local leaders to strengthen democracy around the world.

Our team of experts use their local knowledge and insight to support changemakers in the places they live.

We work across more than 30 countries and focus on themes including:

- Disinformation and political discourse
- Accountability and transparency
- Women's political leadership
- Inclusion and equality of participation
- Action on climate and the environment
- Electoral integrity
- Democratic resilience

To play your part,
visit wfd.org/support
or scan the QR code below

#StrengthenDemocracy so that people and the planet can thrive.

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WFD



Garden of Democracy Exhibition
Portcullis House Courtyard
1 September - 13 October 2023

wfd.org

