



# Democracy Workshop

of the Austrian Parliament

No. 2133

Thursday, 21 March 2024



## Democracy - Parliament - Politics

What is our part in it?

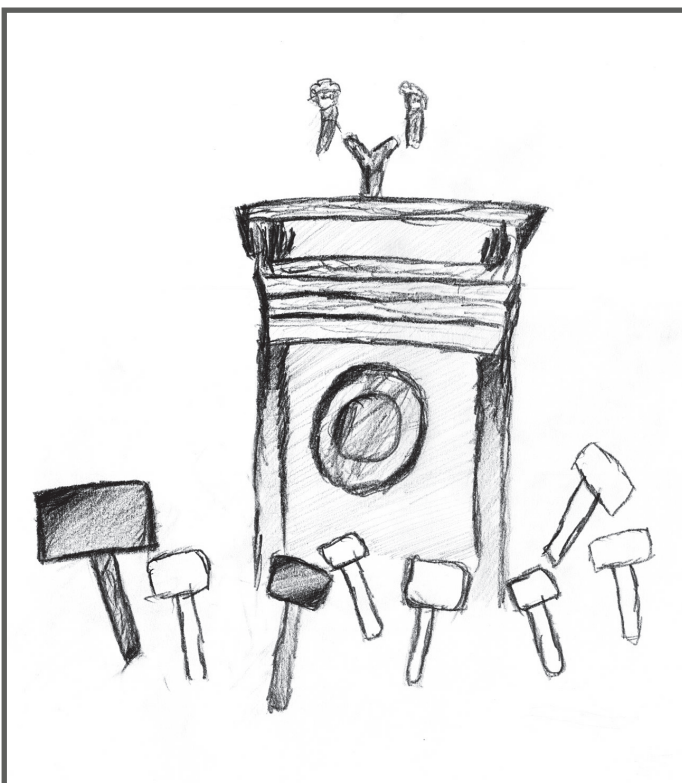
# Society's voice

Alessandra (14), Rafa (13), Regina (14), Sebastian (14) and Karely (14)

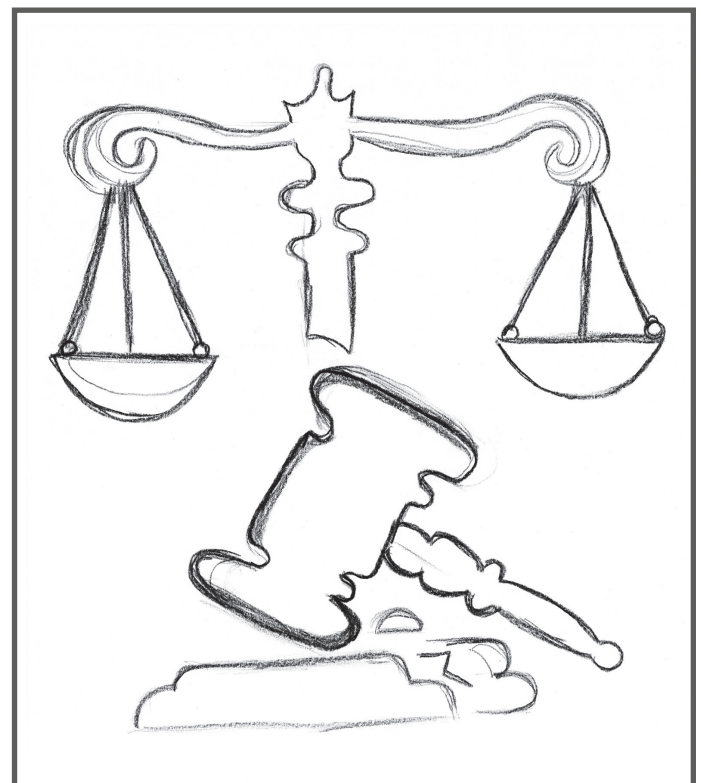
Democracy can be defined as a way to choose our representatives in political contexts, but sometimes it can be even more than that. Giving your opinion at school, giving your opinion at your house or at any place, can also be considered as acting politically, so why do we think of „government“, when we hear the word „democracy“? We can say that at the basis of democracy is the participation of everyone who is part of a society – so why isn't every voice heard? Or: why do some voices seem to matter more than others?

Democracy in an institutional context is mostly known as that the presidents and politicians are elected according to the participation of the citizens who vote and share their opinions. But it's well known that in certain countries, there is a chance for corruption or inequality between

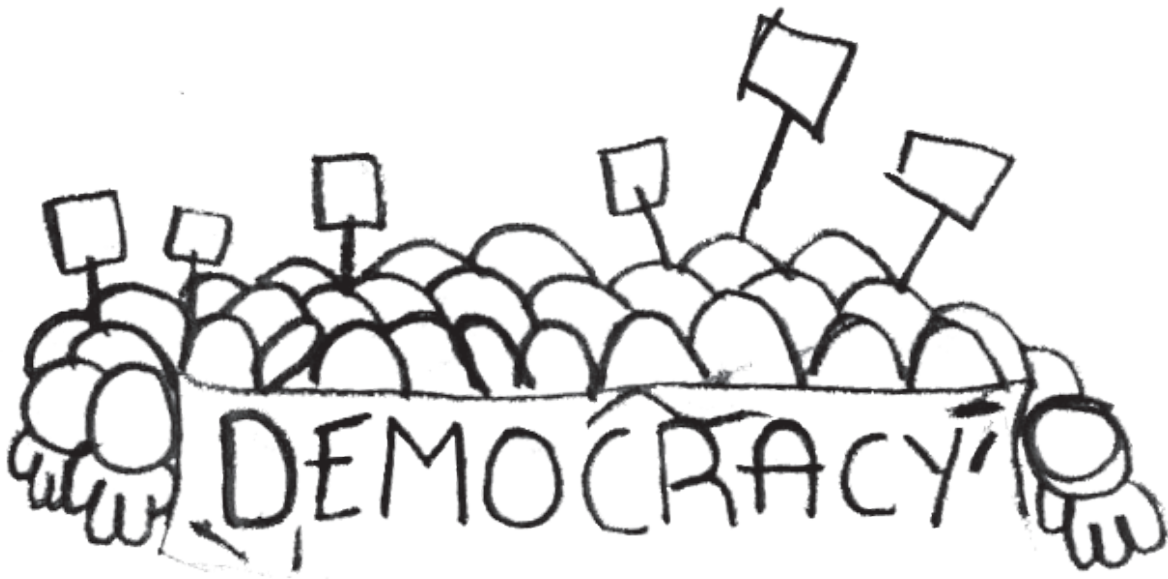
the elections. In our opinion, this is one of the reasons that not every single voice is heard. So within this context, we can say that the majority who shares the same opinion has to protect the minority to have fair elections and for the minority to be heard as well.



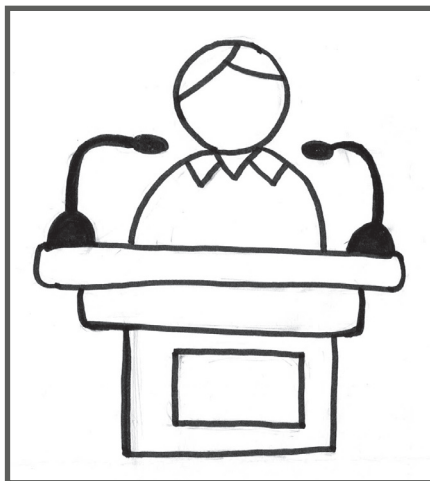
The government should hear people's opinions.



Justice is important in a democracy.



We think that democracy isn't just a way to govern a nation; it can also be a way for a community to live together and communicate. Due to some limitations or personal hindrances in specific countries, some people just don't give their



Representation of different opinions is important for a democracy.

opinion or don't have the chance to. But we want to tell you: Fight for your voice to be heard because there are lots of people that actually can't say their opinion, but if you have that opportunity, just take it and speak for yourself or even the minority.

**When we think of democracy, we think of:**

- ◆ freedom
- ◆ equality
- ◆ human rights
- ◆ inclusivity
- ◆ elections
- ◆ political system
- ◆ solutions
- ◆ progress
- ◆ representatives
- ◆ justice
- ◆ decisions
- ◆ participation
- ◆ peaceful





# You need to know about parliaments!

Daniel (12), Charly (15), Paco (11), Mateo (11) and Matias (12)



Different parliaments, same ideas! Countries and their parliaments are different around the world but also have similarities. E.g. there is an eagle in both the Austrian and Mexican national flag.

## What is parliament? Answers to this question are below:

Parliament is a place for democracy. In a democratic parliament, elected people think, talk, and discuss ideas on how to improve our lives. Members of parliament are the representatives of us, the people. Our representatives are elected for a certain period of time. Often, parliaments have two main tasks: to make laws and control the federal government.

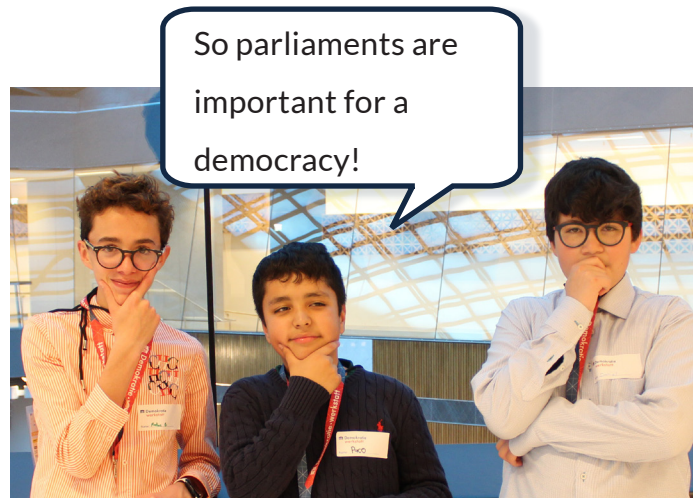
Although parliaments have similar tasks across the world, how their work is done in detail can vary enormously from country to country. Unfortunately, not all parliaments operate

under a democratic system. Some parliaments don't embody the idea of democracy. There are parliaments where the representatives are not allowed to speak freely. Thankfully, we live in a country that is democratic and, therefore, have a democratic parliament. Members of parliament are allowed to give their opinions freely. They come from different political parties and represent the different opinions of the public.

Since parliament is so important, I should know what happens there!



### Why do we need parliaments?





# Politics and its characteristics

Emilia (12), Regina (12), Isabella (13), Rogelio (11) and Zaid (12)



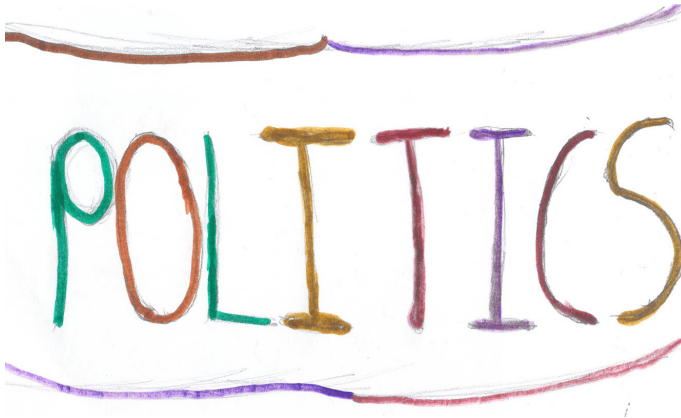
## What is politics about?

Politics is important because it gives us a chance to make our own decisions freely. It includes for us words like: presidents, decisions, rules, democracy, and many more things. A big part of politics is „rules“ . There are rules everywhere. You have to follow them because if you break them, it can have negative consequences. If there were no rules, we think people would be, for example, more disrespectful, and there would be conflict everywhere. Rules help us to organize our lives.

These rules are made by politicians. But not only politicians can decide; they have to include the will of the citizens. The citizens choose their representatives, e.g., through elections. At least in a democracy.

We think that politics is good because it helps us organize our lives, but we also think that we need to have more rules to have more control and prevent conflicts, for example, prevent wars, etc. But some rules are not too good either.





people who share similar opinions.

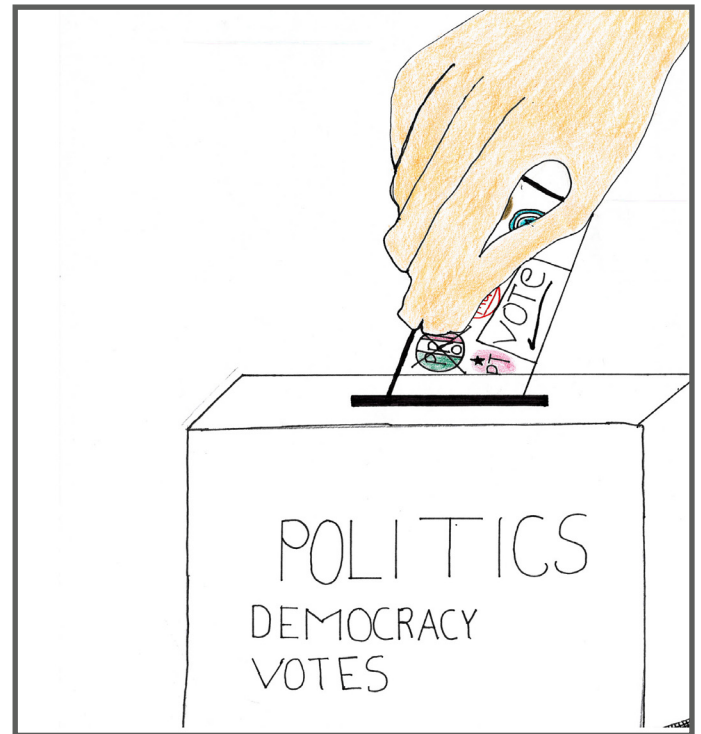
We think that politicians should be more strict with people if they do not respect the rules, because sometimes people don't follow the rules, so to have more control, breaking rules can have serious consequences. And if we don't agree with the rules, we can agree respectfully.

Politicians come together in political parties.

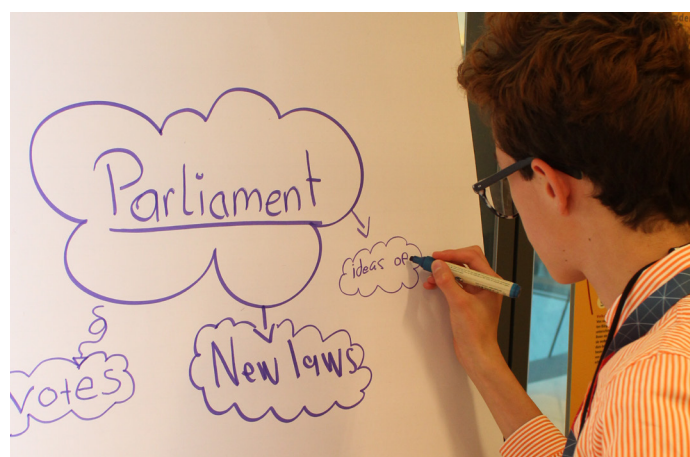
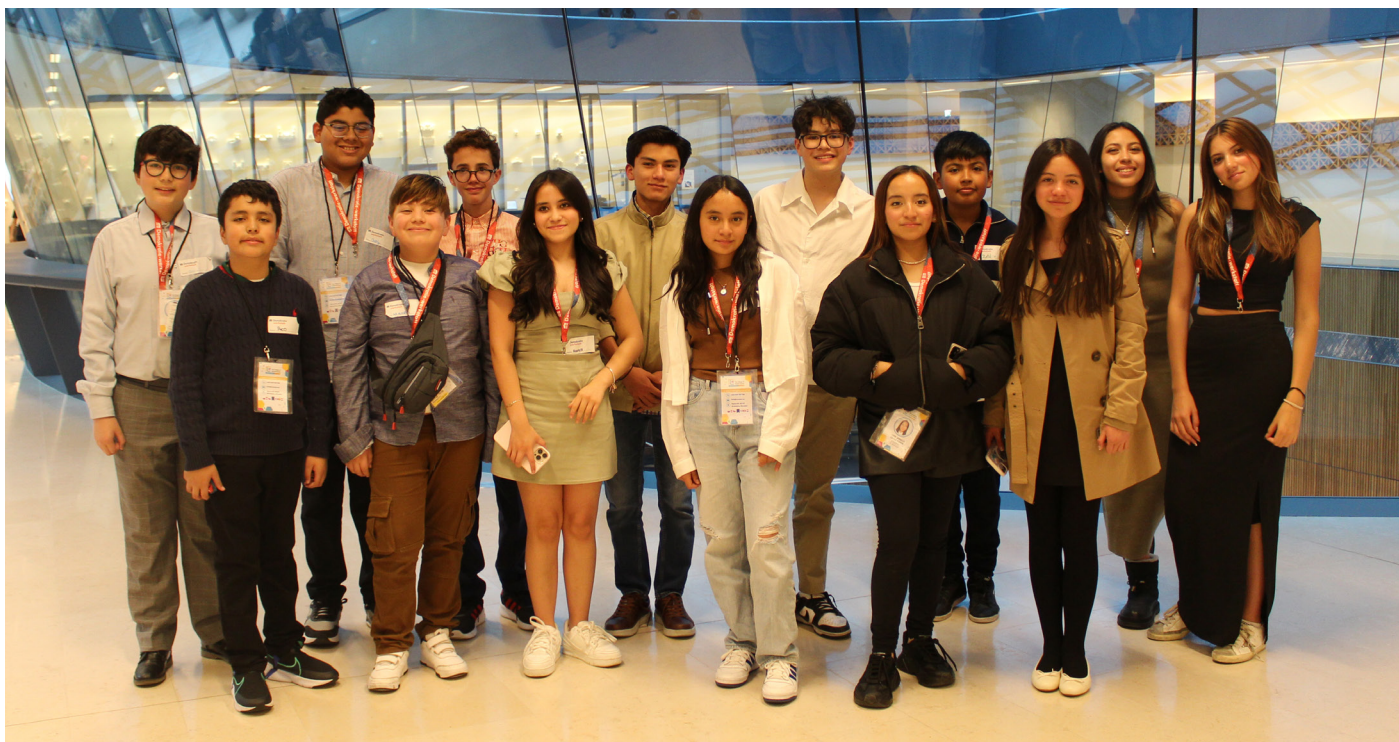
There are so many political parties because people have different ways of thinking. Political parties are groups of



Rules are in all parts of our life. For example: Traffic Lights.







# Imprint

**Publisher, media owner, producer: Parliamentary Administration**

**Basic direction: Raising awareness about democracy. Special Workshop**

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