



Democracy Workshop


of the Austrian Parliament

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PARLIAMENT



POLITICS



DEMOCRACY

Inside Democracy

Our Votes - Our Thoughts - Our Voice

Politics only for adults?

Linnea (16), Simar (16), Nimet (17), Constanca (17) and Mafalda (16)

This article is about politics, focusing on youth voice, trust in politics, politics in everyday life, things not related to politics.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of involving young people in politics, as many young people feel discriminated against. They also feel that they are not taken seriously, which leads to a decreasing interest in voting. Another important aspect is the importance of trust in politics and politicians.



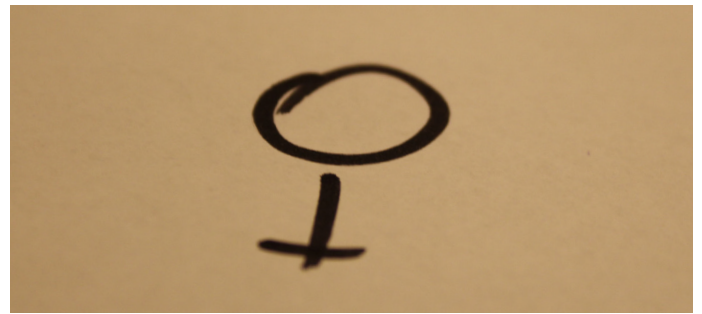
For example, people want there to be no corruption and they want politicians to tell the truth. But we also have to do something! We need more young voices and new perspectives to make the world a better place for every woman, man and child.

So how can we get involved politically? One important aspect is to vote, to discuss a lot is also important or to support something, like a party. Even the way you greet others can be

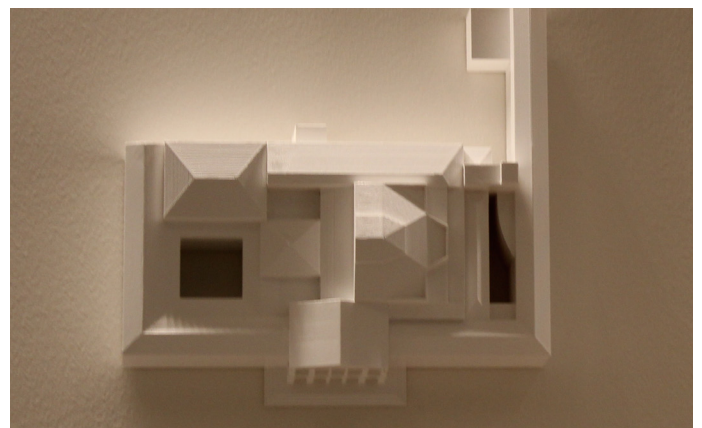
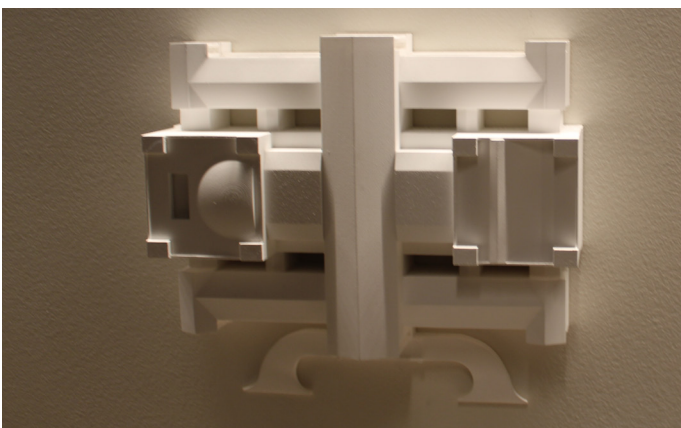


This is Pallas Athene in front of the Austrian Parliament. She represents wisdom and is supposed to remind the parliamentarians to make their decisions wisely.

political and affect how you work together. We also had an interesting interview with two Members of the Federal Council, Simone Jagl and Daniela Gruber-Pruner. They shared their opinions and thoughts on many different topics related to politics. Their goals for engaging in politics is that they want to be able to make the world a better place. It's important to them that everyone is treated equally. Equality is also very important to us, so we talked about women's rights. What stuck with us was the idea of helping another woman in need instead of pointing the finger at each other.



What do we want from politics, why is it important to us? We want politics to be more inclusive and to take our views into account. This would make us feel safer because we would feel the consequences of our OWN decisions, not someone else's. It's important that someone else doesn't decide our future.



Here we see 3D printed models (@ Christian Kühn and Harald Trapp - „Plenum. Orte der Macht“) of the Portuguese Parliament (left) and the Austrian Parliament (right). Both countries have different politics, but both countries also work together.

The importance of democracy

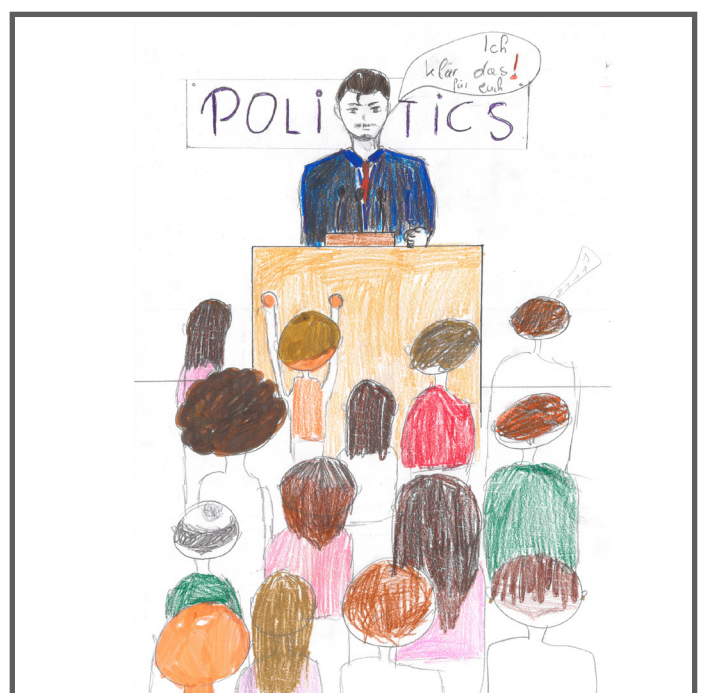
Adriana (17), Kayky (17), Inês (15), Samira (17), Sara (16) and Melisa (16)



Democracy is very important in our society. We thought about where we can find it in everyday life.

What are the key elements of a democracy? One of the most important principles of a democracy is equality. People should have the same rights and opportunities. Everyone's vote has the same value. It is important to know the rules, to have the right to argue about them and to defend your opinion. We have the right to free speech, but we must never forget to treat other people with respect. For example, it is not allowed to discriminate against other people. We can find elements of democracy in our daily lives. When we give up our seats to other people on public transport, we are showing respect. When we talk to people who are alone at school, we show kindness and treat everyone equally. We can express ourselves and show power. If we are not

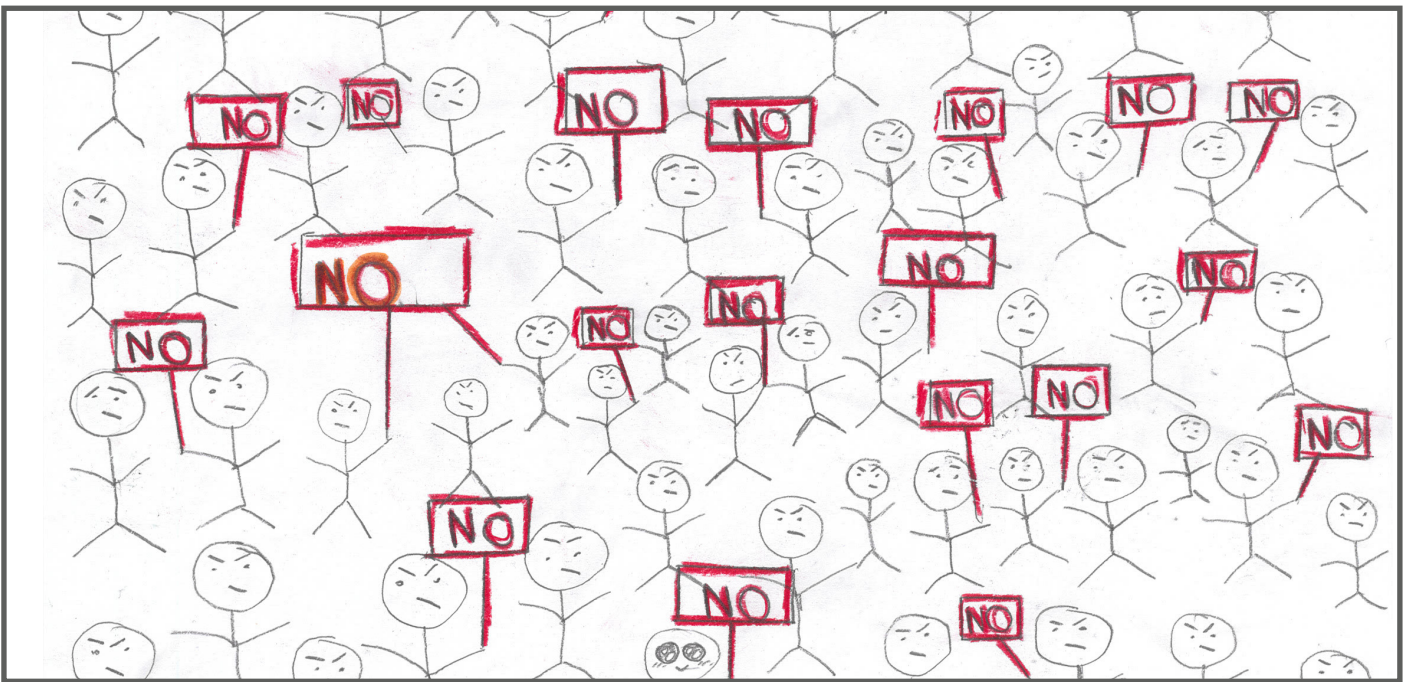
happy with the way things are, we have the right to protest and speak out.



In a democracy, everyone elects representatives.

We also asked two Members of the Federal Council about democracy: Daniela Gruber-Pruner and Simone Jagl. They said it would be dangerous to live in a country that wasn't a democracy. They think that there wouldn't be human rights for everyone. To make democracy safe, they think it is important to encourage

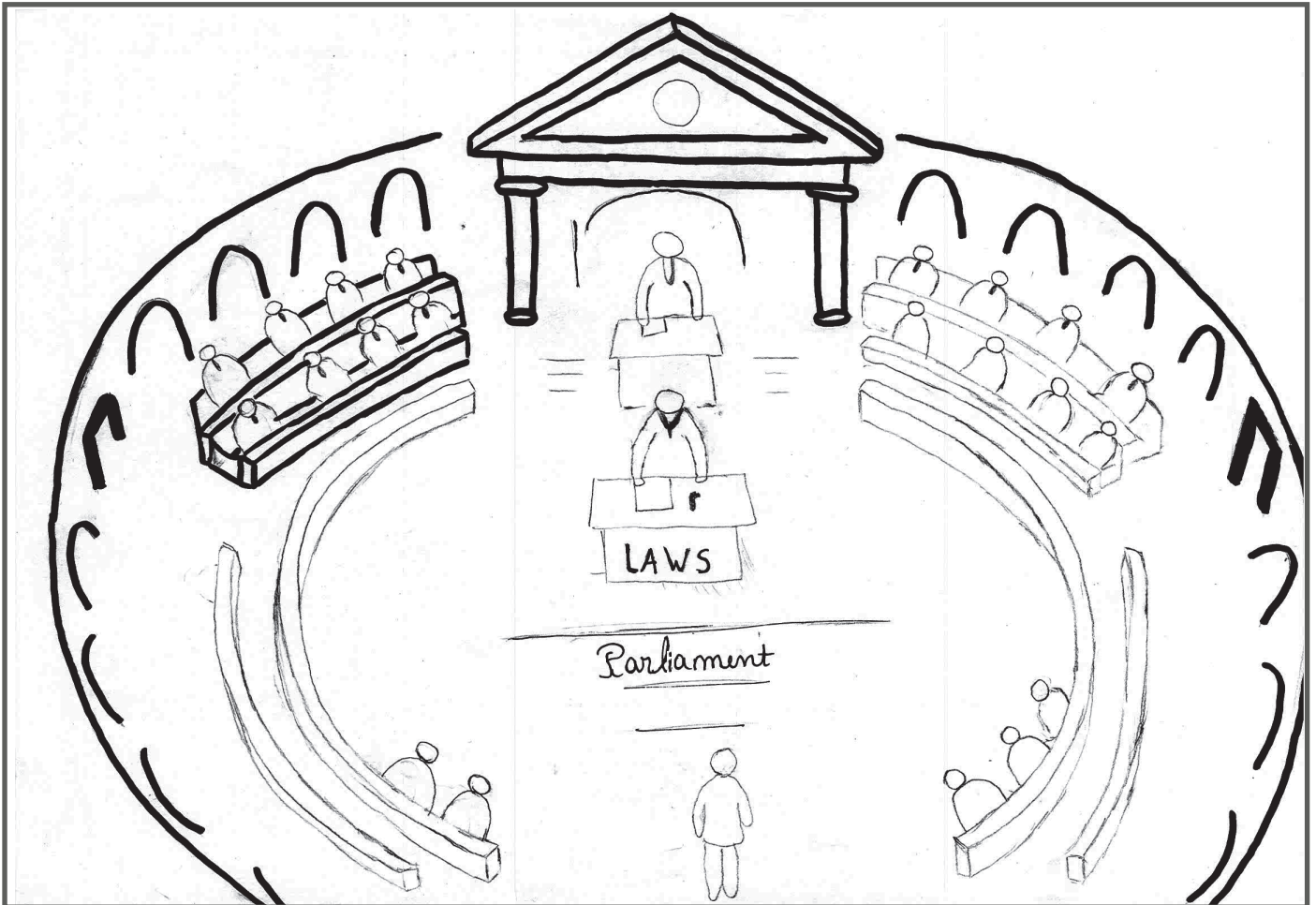
young people to share their ideas, to know that their voices matter and that by working together they can change things. Finally, we hope that everyone expresses their ideas and understands the principle of democracy. If we don't understand democracy, the world will be a mess. We need rules to protect our freedoms.



The right to protest and the right to vote are important rights in a democracy.

Parliament and Politicians

Djellza (17), Patricia (17), Anusch (16), Mafalda (17) and Sara (17)



This article is about parliament and the work of politicians there.

Let us start by telling you about Parliament. Parliament is an institution where different people with different opinions come together to agree on a solution for many people. This is how laws are made that work for as many people as possible. Parliament is often called „the heart of democracy“. Politics, and therefore parliament, is part of our everyday life.





Interview with two politicians:

This article is also about the political experiences of two people who work in Parliament: our guests were Members of the Federal Council, Daniela Gruber-Pruner and Simone Jagl. Their answers gave us the following information:



to leave the political stress at work so as not to burden their families. They try to accept the frustration that they often experience and let it out by going for long walks or jogging. Dealing with disagreement and criticism is the hardest part of the job. In debates, politicians' views can differ, making the atmosphere tense and emotions run high.

Do they have to hide their personality to get more votes? Many people are more impulsive, but it is still important to remain who you are. It was a very interesting and informative interview!

Does their professional life affect their private life? "Politics is never-ending, it starts in the morning and ends when you go to bed" - Simone Jagl. This means that as a politician, your work and your life are intertwined. But politicians try



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