Democracy Workshop

of the Austrian Parliament No. 2703 Thursday, 24th of September 2026

Our voice matters!

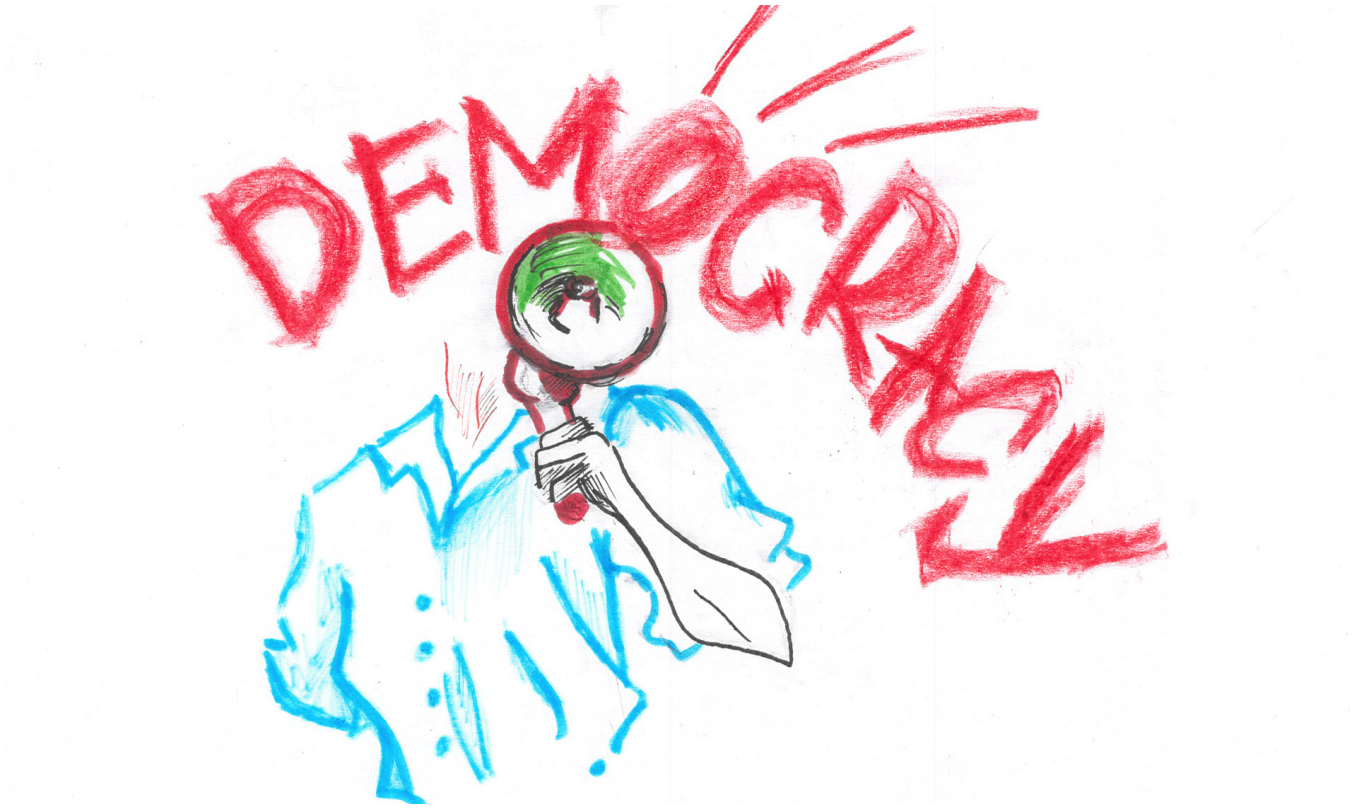


How politics, Parliament, and democracy play a role in our lives

Democracy Workshop

What is democracy in our generation?

Anna (16), Mariia (17), Sofiia (16), Katia (15) and Oleksandra (16)



Democracy - What is this?

Democracy - this is the system of government where people choose their leaders and make decisions together. Democracy includes essential principles like justice, equal rights, and the right to vote.

Within democracy there are important qualities such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and the freedom to express one's culture. In a democracy it is important that opinions are heard and people can be themselves.



In our everyday life we also practice democracy in different areas such as in school (for example voting for leaders of a class or school representatives for the whole school), in our friendship circle (finding out a compromise in very difficult situations), in team sports and also in family relationships.

The future of democracy

In our opinion, democracy should be more digital and open in the future. People should be able to vote online and help make local decisions every day, not just during elections.
Also, it is important to teach people how to spot fake news on the internet. We can teach other people, share and inform about democracy in our communities to improve it. It is also important to speak to people and collect suggestions from them about how to improve democracy.
Democracy can only be improved in a democratic way.



Equality and rights are important for democracy.





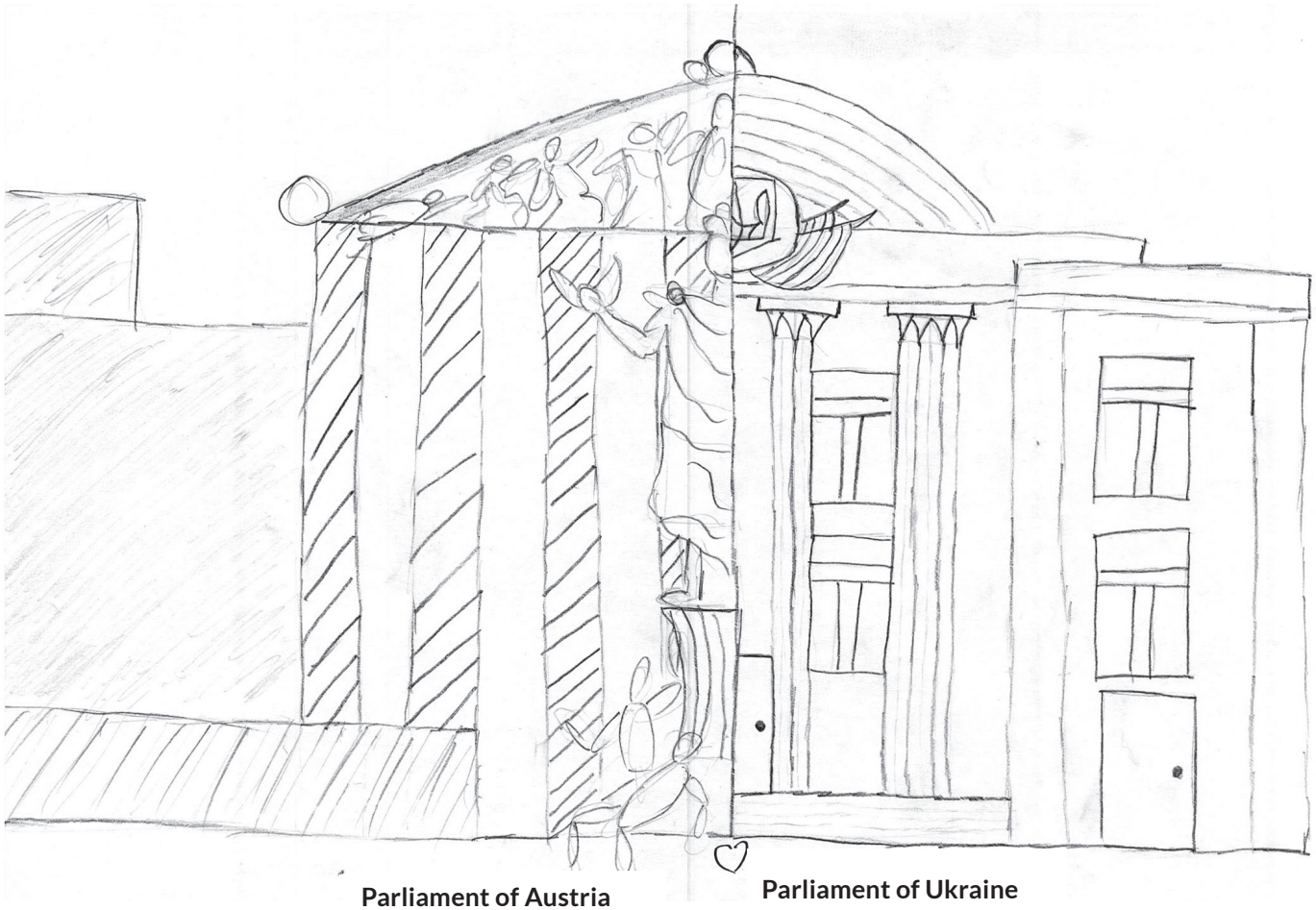




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The Parliament

Sasha S. (16), Sasha L. (16), Sasha B. (16), Mykhailo (16), Grisha (16) and Serafym (15)



Parliament of Austria

Parliament of Ukraine

How does Parliament work?

A country needs places where people can come together, discuss politics, and make political decisions. Parliament is such a place. This is where elected politicians meet and debate.

In democracy, everyone has the right to state their opinion and thus has the chance to make their life better. But it would be difficult to ask everyone personally, so there are people who have been voted by citizens.

Those chosen representatives are called Members of Parliament (MPs). Their job is to decide on laws by listening to the population and to control the government. People all across the country choose deputies that represent people's voices.

In Parliament, when it is time to pass new laws, MPs vote on them. If there's more than 50 % agreement, the law is passed. Members of Parlia-

ment decide to agree or disagree by having the needs and options of citizens in mind.
In our opinion, good laws made by Parliament are an important way to make people's lives better. Parliament helps us to improve ourselves by passing laws on education and protection of our rights. Without Parliament, life would be worse because there would be no participation and no laws made by elected people, which can help improve us and our lives.







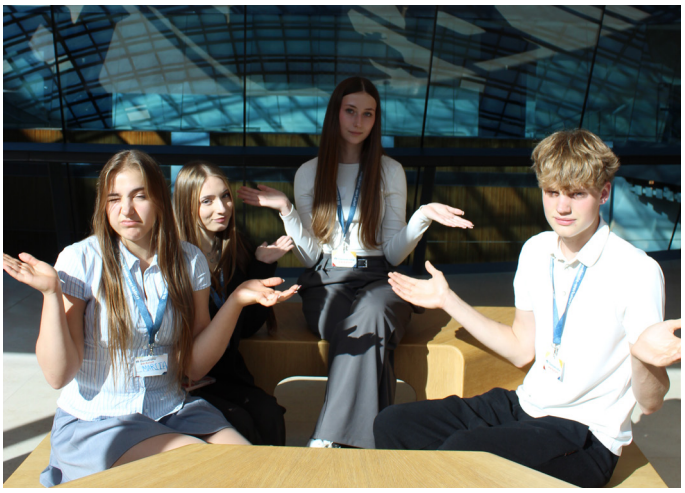
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Politics in life

Mariia (17), Illia (16), Masha (16) and Yasmina (15)

What does politics mean for the youth?





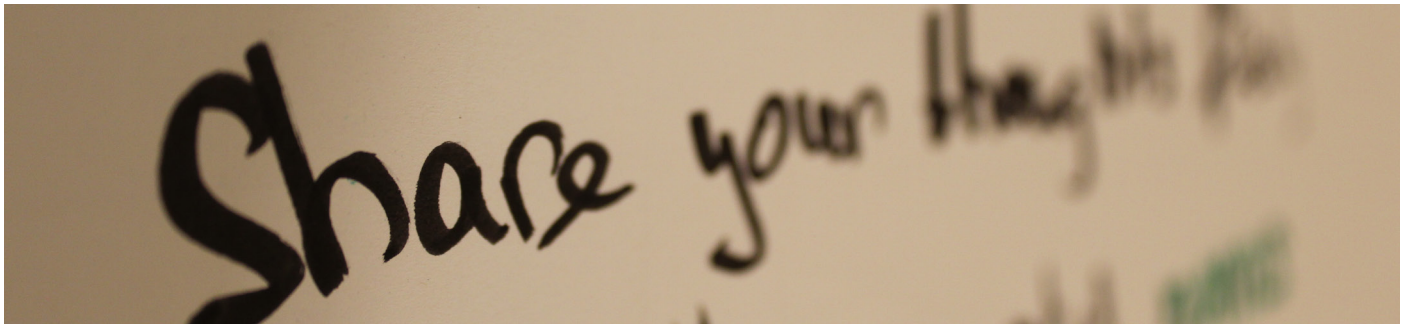
We come across politics every day, finding it in multiple areas of our lives, for example, digitally, in social media, at school, or even with our friends and family.

We also thought about where in our lives we don't find any politics, and we realized there is actually nothing that hasn't got anything to do with politics - so everything can be political!



How can we act politically?

We think there are multiple things you can do, but two things are especially important to us: first, share your thoughts; second, we need to listen to each other. This is the base for decision making, creating, and accepting norms.

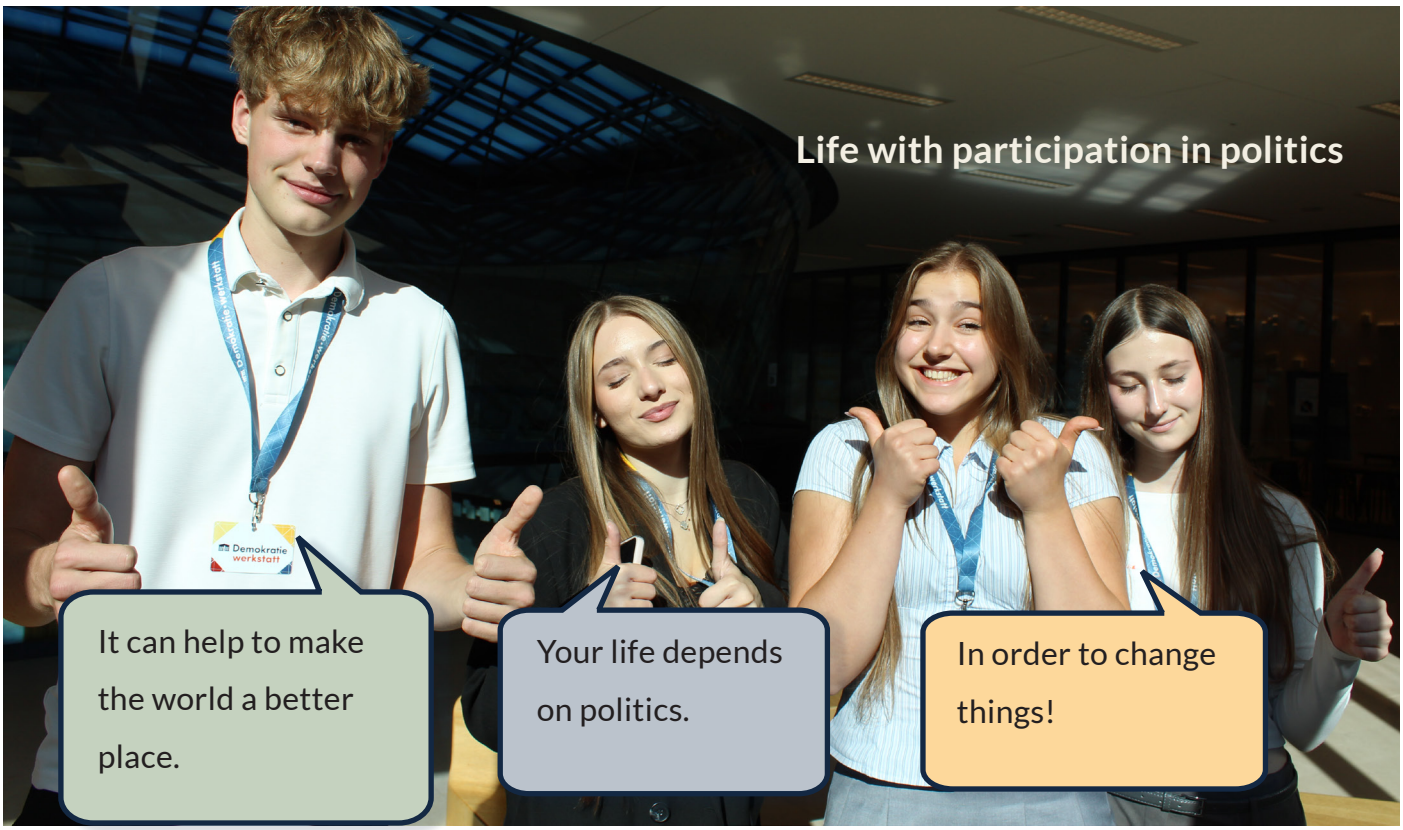




It is important to engage in politics. Politics is trying to make (good) change happen, so taking part in it is an important way to do that. Engaging in politics is also a way to challenge existing relations of power.

We think there are certain things you need to act politically: your voice needs to be heard. You need some sort of confidence to state your opinion. We need knowledge and information and, to some extent, some power.

Why do we think it is important to care about politics?











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