



DEMOCRACY STARTS WITH YOU

Voted Resolution of the South Caucasus Youth Parliament

ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SOCIETY, WE, THE SOUTH CAUCASUS YOUTH PARLIAMENT ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

1. STRONG STEPS TOWARDS DEMOCRACY

Whereas democracy requires strong steps to prevent the violation of human rights,

We call upon the Ministries of Justice to form a Control Committee; recommend that the Parliaments of the South Caucasus increase the salaries; and call on the Ministries of Education to offer more civic education lessons in schools.

2. EQUAL EDUCATION FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Whereas disabled children do not enjoy equal access to education,

We call upon the governments of Georgia and Armenia and donor organizations to create an adapted environment; to increase public awareness and implement joint projects in order to change public approach to disabled people; and to introduce inclusive education in a majority of educational facilities and institutions.

3. LACK OF TOLERANCE

Whereas there is a general lack of tolerance throughout the South Caucasus,

We call upon media and governments to disseminate information and raise public awareness by utilizing mass media; to create different television shows and programs focusing on tolerance, and we call upon donor organizations to organize seminars and workshops aimed at youth.

4. EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW



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Whereas the rule of law remains weak and there is insufficient equality under the law,

We call upon the judiciary to ensure openness and greater transparency of trials and due process,

we call upon the media to communicate and raise awareness through newspapers to provide more information about peoples' rights;

and we call upon governments to ensure and guarantee free and open media.

ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, WE, THE SOUTH CAUCASUS YOUTH PARLIAMENT REQUEST THE FOLLOWING:

WHEREAS THERE IS A NEED TO RESPOND TO GLOBALISATION IN ORDER TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC, DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT,

We express our deep concern that our newly independent states (Georgia and Armenia) do not have enough foreign and local investment for economic development;

Whereas we realize that there are unresolved territorial conflicts in the South Caucasus;

Whereas we see a Lack of information and an absence of political will to support human rights by the governments of the region;

Whereas we note a lack of interest regarding human rights within the community and a lack of qualified teachers in civil education;

Whereas we recognize a lack of international experience and expertise, an absence of EU-funded or state-funded exchange programs, and a lack of networking and communication within the region and outside,

We call upon the EU to decrease taxes and simplify customs procedures to facilitate trade between South Caucasus and EU;

We call upon the EU member states to invest more in the development of specific sectors such as agriculture, chemical industry and textile;



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Whereas we are convinced that conflict can be resolved only through peaceful negotiations between the states,

We call upon the EU to engage international experts in development projects to gain international knowledge and experience;

We call upon the EU to simplify travel procedures and visa regime;

We call upon the EU to invest more in exchange programs;

We call upon the South Caucasus to create a social network/information hub to support information exchange within the region and outside;

We call upon our governments to launch a public awareness campaign and arrange periodic events devoted to human rights;

We call upon our governments to develop educational programs in human rights in all schools starting at the lower level;

We call upon the EU to provide experts to help monitor and implement resolutions to support human rights in the region;

We call upon our governments to support NGOs in addressing human rights concerns and violations and provide information on support processes and structures;

We call upon our governments to support teachers' trainings in civic education.

ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE COMMITTEE UNITY FOR PEACE, WE, THE SOUTH CAUCASUS YOUTH PARLIAMENT REQUEST THE FOLLOWING:

Where as we acknowledge the importance of peace and security as the foundation for the development and well being of our countries and in the South Caucasus,

Whereas our vision of problems and solutions include, a lack of people-to-people dialogue;

Whereas political tensions and unresolved conflicts impose restrictions on the development of people-to-people contacts among Armenian, Azerbaijani and Georgian people;



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Whereas we acknowledge that to breakdown the walls and build contacts are very important for peace;

We call on our people, EU institutions and donor organizations to support confidence-building measures among people and to build bridges through different means, including organizing youth camps, exchange programs, and cross-country trips, and to learn and recognize local traditions, languages, beliefs and differences, as well as common characteristics, which are crucial for durable peace;

We call on the ministries of education of our countries to consider the different perspectives of history and elaborate history books with consolidated perspectives and visions, and we are oppose the role of history to continue to play a negative role and obstacle to our peaceful goals; we thereby call on EU Institutions and donor organizations to support these activities.

Where as the activation of public diplomacy resources may serve to help attain peace in our region and noting the negative role of third states in resolving regional conflicts and problems,

We note that sometimes the involvement of third states to influence the regional agenda serves as a catalyst to aggravating the situation; We warn of the danger of non-peaceful and aggressive involvement of superpowers in the internal affairs of South Caucasus states,

We call for a more active position of the EU to end the disrespect of our sovereignty.

We note the lack of peace-oriented media space and the slow pace of social and economic development.

We state that our vision of accelerating social and economic development consists of the following: more joint economic projects, more programs oriented on social issues and improvement of social policies, the creation of free economic zones in conflict regions that can serve the peaceful transformation of conflicts.

Whereas the lack of political negotiations and the dominance of hate speech in the relationship between governments pose significant problems,



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We acknowledge that regional conflicts led to the isolation of our states, but we call on politicians to pursue more negotiations and talks for finding better solutions for peace, with hate speech banned.

Whereas we recognize a deficit of democracy, defined by the lack of democratic institutions, the immaturity of political and civic culture, the existence of state-controlled and biased media, which makes democracy fragile in the South Caucasus;

We call on the governments, EU, civil society actors and media to increase their efforts at strengthening the process of democratization;

We call upon EU institutions, our partner countries and organizations to be more involved and adopt a more positive role in the peaceful resolution of South Caucasus conflicts;

We call on European Institutions and NATO to assist our countries in their democratic transformation and to help pave a smooth path toward European integration;

We call on all international actors and the Russian Federation to consolidate their approach and vision regarding the development and conflict resolution of the South Caucasus.

ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ECOLOGICAL ISSUES, WE, THE SOUTH CAUCASUS YOUTH PARLIAMENT REQUEST THE FOLLOWING:

We, the youth of the South Caucasus declare that we are aware of the importance of healthy lives for humanity world wide, not only for the present, but also for our future generation;

are aware of the importance of a healthy environment in which animals and nature are safe and can be preserved;

believe in the important roles that politicians play in taking responsibility for the security and health of humans and securing nature;

are concerned about the increasing number of people and children in particular that are becoming ill due environment problems, caused by amongst other things polluting factories;



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Are concerned about the increasing number of animals that die because of the polluted environment as a result of human behavior,

We hereby express our concern over the threats to ecology, fresh air and oxygen due to deforestation;

Express our deep concern for the weakening ozone layer;
Regret that there is not enough political attention devoted to the subject of pollution;

Regret that NGOs working in the field of environmental issues are not heard by politicians, and we regret that polluters are often not punished for their behavior.

We, therefore, call on the governments of the countries in the South Caucasus to make installations of filters a licensing requirement for all factories and to meet the highest standards;

We call on the governments in the South Caucasus to require that polluting factories to have a safety zone around for people and protected nature areas,

We call on the governments in the South Caucasus to make laws that determine marginal norms of emissions, to create facilities for people to sort their trash, and to impose fines for people that pollute streets;

We further call on the governments in the South Caucasus to establish sewage treatment plants;

We call on the governments and people in the South Caucasus to expand green spaces, stop deforestation and allow nature to recover;

We call upon the media, NGOs and schools to inform people about the importance of a healthy and clean environment and how human activities impact the environment, and

We call on the governments in the South Caucasus to cooperate with NGOs in the formulation of public policy and the adoption of laws related to environment.

(All resolutions have been adopted with a relevant majority on 26 March 2011 by the Youth Caucasus Youth Parliament)