



2020
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
FOR GLOBAL ACTION

IYD 2020 Podcast Segment Descriptions

Overall

For this year's theme, Youth Engagement for Global Action, we will be discussing how the engagement of youth is enriching local, national and global institutions and political processes. Accompanied by our host Lucy Fagan, two guests join the conversation in each segment. The guests represent the different scales of youth action and political engagement, covering local (sub-national/community level), national and global scales. Hosted by youth for youth, this podcast will showcase how young people are crucial partners in political processes and in development. It also seeks to draw lessons with regard to how youth representation and participation in politics can be enhanced, especially for the purpose of responding to global challenges.

Segment 1. The Local Level

The first segment of the podcast discusses youth engagement at the local scale with *Javan the poet—a spoken word artist, rapper, and political activist from Nairobi Kenya, and Lynrose Jane Genon—Member of the Executive Council of Young Women Leaders for Peace, Philippines—from Mindanao the Philippines*. Effective examples of engagement and issues that exist at this scale will be discussed, with guests deliberating the role of youth in addressing them and how their participation in governance structures can be enhanced.

This session ends with a musical response to this year's theme created by a collaboration of young artists from Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania and the US, including Alien Child, Sean Slaughter, Ramya Ramana, Zuhura Seng'enge (The African Lioness), and our speaker Javan the Poet. The song was curated by Lisa Russell and produced by Create2030, a network of artists working to promote the Sustainable Development Goals. For more about the artists and how to download the song, go to Create2030.org/IYD.

Segment 2. The National Level

A third of countries do not allow persons under 25 to run for parliament. With young people making up just over 2% of the world's MPs, and with as much as 76% of the world's upper houses of parliament lacking any MP aged under 30, youth are still conspicuously missing from parliamentary representation. One third of countries do not even allow persons under 25 to run for parliament. This can leave youth disenchanted with the world of politics and distances them from the decision-making processes that have a direct effect on their lives and communities. At the same time, young people are also engaging in other ways at the national level to create positive change. In this session, we discuss the importance of involving young people in political conversations and processes at the national level with *Nikoli Edwards—*who was appointed Senator in Trinidad and Tobago at the age of 25 and recently launched a political party—and *Joe English—*founder/CEO of 'Hope in a Box', a national nonprofit that helps rural educators create safe and inclusive classrooms for LGBTQ students.

Segment 3. The Global Level

Globally, the international system of governance is paying closer attention to the participation of youth in its processes, and youth led movements have also gained traction on a number of global issues in recent years. This segment discusses the engagement of youth at the global level, for instance through the UN Youth Delegates programme, and how local and national action can be scaled up to the global stage with *Hajar Yagkoubi—*a Youth Delegate just about to complete her term—and, *Eglė Janušonytė—*elected Liaison Officer for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights at the International Federation of Medical Students Association.