

GenNation Building

Youth Duties and Rights Draft Declaration - Version 2

5
min

Reading Time

7-10
min

Response Time

The bulging youth demographic is expected to play a significant role in articulating and building the nation. But this duty can only be accomplished if we co-create the right space and context and narrative in which the young can have agency, take important decisions and reach their own potential even as they make change in the world. Towards this end, a draft declaration of youth duties and rights has been 'crowd created'. This process continues to follow the open architecture model and we are looking for your contributions as young people, adults, institutions and communities to the foundational architecture of youth duties and rights because it is in this intergenerational dialogue that the seeds of a real and sustainable future for this planet lie.

Context and Process

There is no doubt that young people have been at the forefront of the many inspiring and positive changes around the world and in India. The epic role played by young leaders in the COVID -19 crisis cannot be applauded more. Campus movements for change have been alive and impactful, over the past year, as have several CSO and Government initiated youth citizenship movements. In many ways, it's how young people would describe, a 'woke' moment, with Jagriks (Jagruk + Nagriks) being born every day. Across the world, we can see, the battle to save the planet is being led by children still in school; Another example of youth leadership and youth engagement is seen in the movement against racial discrimination. Even as we look around us, heads of state across the world are getting younger by the day.

With the exponential increase in access to knowledge for young people, they now are more opinionated, aware, decisive and aspirational. It's a rare inflection moment, which can pivot us way beyond the demographic dividend thinking that permeates the youth discourse today. The society has placed immense expectations of the young people to lead nation-building for India, but as a nation, we must create an enabling environment for our youth.

The Youth Duties and Rights Draft Declaration upholds and draws from the values and the fundamental rights and duties enshrined in the Indian Constitution. This declaration aims to bring out the special rights and duties that relate to the large youth cohort of this Nation. These youth rights and duties, may be implicit in the Constitution but we believe they need to be explicitly brought out so that can be acted upon to contribute to a youth movement; just as in the case of the United Nations Convention for Rights of the Child, supported the child rights movement.

The process has been initiated by the vartaLeap Coalition - a cross-sectoral, collaborative space for co-learning with a vast combined experience that is taking the discourse of 'Every Youth a Jagrik' forward at scoul (scale with soul) to move youth-centric development from the margins and make it a new norm in every space that young people occupy or that impacts young people. This draft declaration of youth duties and rights has been 'crowd created' through a process that has involved over 100 individuals and organisations. While a longer list emerged, the group chose to prioritise three duties and three rights that may be added to, in the future. This process continues to invite engagement and value addition of all citizens and we look forward to your joining this mission!

We request you to please read the declaration, endorse in principle the mission and value add to the declaration by contributing new words, phrases, sentences, graphics, illustrations and case studies and related stories, where you have seen these duties and rights lived. Every signatory (young people, adults, organizations, informal groups) will be a co-author of the Youth Duties and Rights declaration which will be finalized by Nov 26, 2020.

Youth Duties and Rights

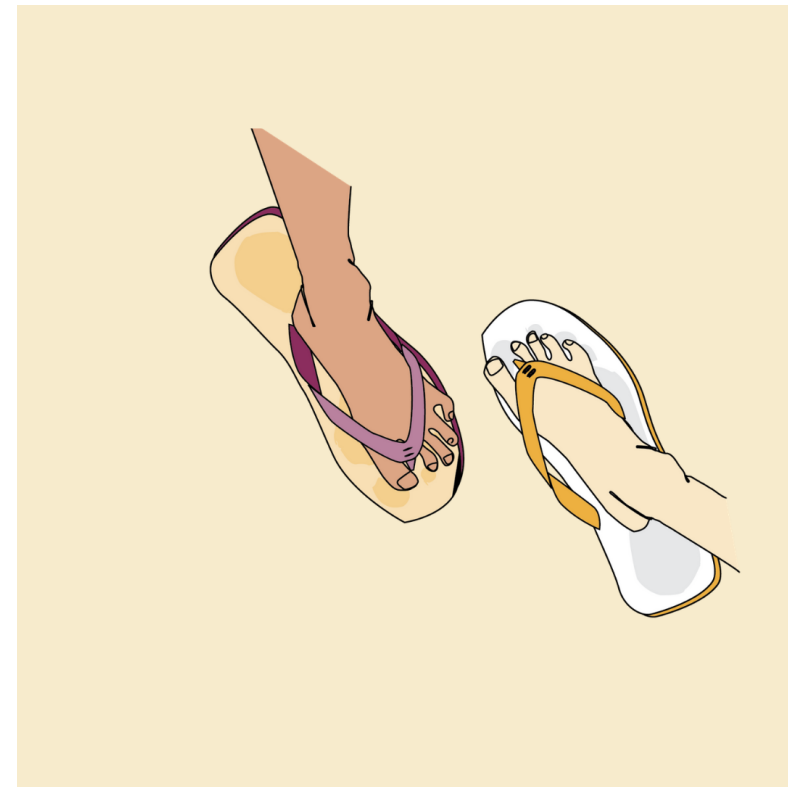
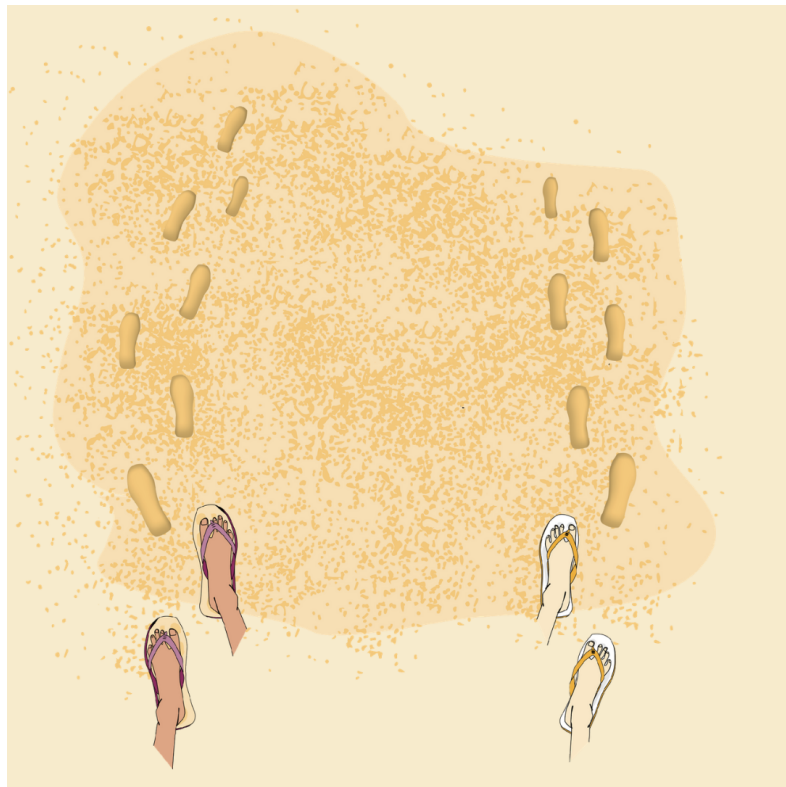
Duty

Right

Duty to take leadership in processes in every space/ sphere

1

Right to decision making and representation in every space/ sphere



Indicative practices:

- a) To take charge of community problems and challenge the status quo; inspire others to do the same under the constitutional framework
- b) To seek authentic information, and co-create narratives of hope through their work, inspire and support other young people to do the same towards building meaningful collegiality.
- c) To seek opportunities for empowering and capacitating themselves on leadership skills with a life long learning lens.

Indicative practices:

- a) Corporates, Political parties, Governments, CSOs, Educational institutions and institutions/ firms in all sectors to reserve a %age of seats in their highest strategic and decision-making bodies for youth below 35
- b) All youth-related policies along with budgetary allocations to be co-decided with a representative and reference group of young people including budgetary allocations and strategies for skilling, SRHR, education etc.
- c) Right to decide in all matters related to their lives including relationships and sexual preferences, career choices, domestic issues, etc. as well as all crucial decisions that affect the whole family

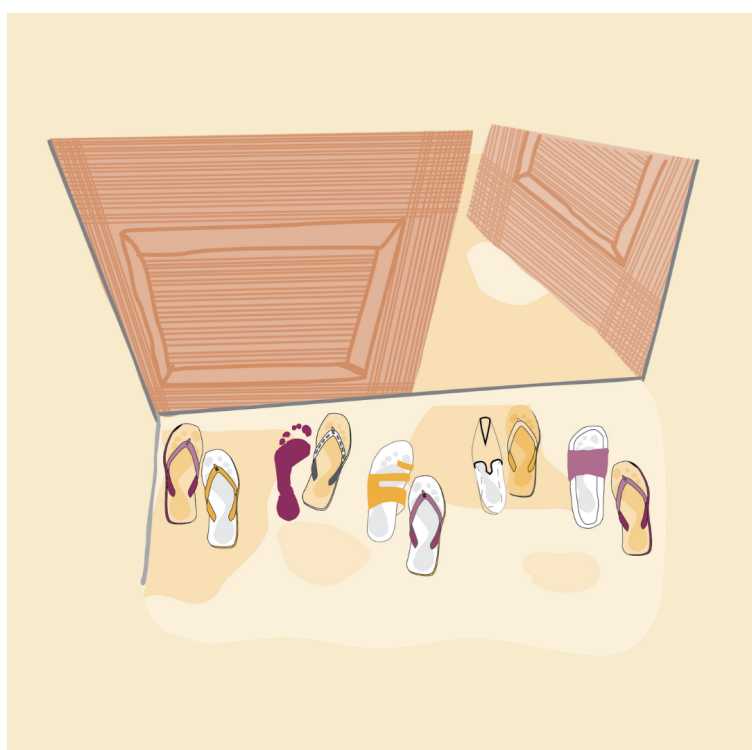
Duty

Right

Duty to promote fraternity and social harmony by proactively establishing diverse relationships (across identities, abilities, ideology and perspectives) and to promote harmony and inspire fraternity while recognising intersectionalities of identities and addressing divisions and discrimination through everyday actions

2

Right to enabling trusting and inclusive spaces for self-discovery and self-realisation through social action



Indicative practices:

- a) To make friendships with people from across caste, race, ethnicity, nationality, class, religion and belief, sex, gender and gender identities, language, sexual orientation, abilities, age, health or other status. and collectivise towards nurturing collegiality in diverse groups of people through shared experiences
- b) To acknowledge conflicts as a means of progress in a relationship; build upon the diversity and address social inequalities
- c) To dialogue and inspire dialogue as the means of creating a better understanding of a shared journey and bringing together polarised groups

Indicative Practices:

- a) Co-create new or transform existing spaces for young people to congregate and undergo ably facilitated and mentored self to society journeys designed on universal principles.
- b) Inspire communities to co-own these spaces along with the young people.
- c) Ensure diversity and engagement by design across class, caste, gender, faith, sexual orientation, abilities, ideology, perspectives etc. in shared and other organisational spaces without social-political-economic barriers.

Duty to proactively engage in social change by volunteering for community service or direct community actions



Indicative practices:

- To build a world view by seeking out and meaningfully engaging with differing perspectives and nurture such engagement into a passion for a social cause and transformation
- To engage in activities to protect the environment and treat the rest of nature (including all species) with respect
- To plan life and career choices in a way that one finds time for consistent and sustainable engagement with issues of choice by offering personal talents and skills and creating well-being for fellow humans and the planet; completing volunteering commitments with excellence, zeal and reflectivity
- To co-create and nurture spaces and projects for other young people to volunteer wholeheartedly in the areas of their passion in their available time; nurture and commit to the well-being of self and others; develop it as a learning experience, such that all young people get as much or more than they give and thus become volunteers for life

3

Right to sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurial opportunities of one's choice, transcending barriers of identities



Indicative practices:

- %age of Skilling and Education budgets for employability, provide better terms and create a sustainable ecosystem for entrepreneurship development; also amplify role models in local geographies with proven models bringing
- Skilling and vocational institutions to co-create courses with young people and companies based on aspirations and needs; life capacity enhancement and career counselling to be part of the experience, as well as ample internship opportunities for learning by experience maturing into appropriate economic and social security opportunities.
- Alternate forms of dignified livelihoods that support and regenerate the biodiversity and environment; decent jobs with adequate social protection in both organised and unorganised sectors
- Affirmative action for those discriminated on the basis of their identities, abilities, ideologies and perspectives (such as caste, race, ethnicity, nationality, class,, religion, belief, sex, gender and gender identities, language, sexual orientation,, age, health or other status) and the intersectionalities therein.

Prepared by: The vartaLeap Coalition

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