

November 2025

N°01

THE PERSPECTIVE

Magazine

SINCE 1963



Leading the Future

Youth Participation in International Politics

Editors' Note

Dear Readers, Dear Members,

Youth participation has become a cornerstone of modern political engagement, with its impact resonating globally. Too often, however, young people are overlooked in international politics. Despite representing the future, their beliefs, opinions, and contributions are frequently dismissed in favor of maintaining the status quo.

In this issue of The Perspective Magazine, we challenge that notion. Our writers explore youth political engagement worldwide, highlighting how young people are not only entering the political arena but actively shaping it. We are excited to present a collection of articles on our theme, "Youth Participation in International Politics". This issue also marks the launch of a collaboration between UPF Lund and RSR Tartu, fostering dialogue and cooperation between their members.

Young people engage in international politics in diverse ways. Some navigate formal institutions like the UN, EU, and national parliaments, while others amplify their voices through digital platforms. Participation also manifests as protest, resistance, and activism. At its core, youth involvement is driven by courage, determination, and a vision for a better future. This issue examines how young people worldwide challenge established power structures and redefine political participation.

The global youth is far from uniform, defying a single narrative or voice. Instead, young people form a rich tapestry of experiences, beliefs, and perspectives, reflected in the varied ways they engage politically.

As you read, we invite you to reflect on this diversity and to not dismiss ideas that are different just because they are far from yours. Look closely, and you'll see the many arenas where youth engagement unfolds: from the halls of diplomacy to the vibrant streets of protest and the quiet corners of the internet.

Sincerely,

Filippo Fioretti Boccato & Olivia Lindgren

THE PERSPECTIVE

2025-2026

November 2025 Issue

Leading the Future

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Filippo Fioretti Boccato

Olivia Lindgren

SUB-EDITORS

Tara Srikanth

Erik Norinder

Emmie Eklund

DESIGN & LAYOUT

UPF Lund "The Perspective Magazine" Editorial Team

COVER PICTURE

Erik Norinder

Protest in Lund

7/10/2025

LEGAL PUBLISHER

Olivia Lindgren

PRINTER

Exakta Print AB

Malmö 2025

500 copies

All views expressed are solely the writers' and do not reflect those of UPF Lund.



**ASSOCIATION OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

LUND EST. 1935

Index

Leading the Future - November 2025 - Issue No.1

UPF President's Address	p.3	The Moldovan Youth Diaspora as a Political Force: How Young Moldovans Shape Their Country's Democratic Future Hilda Laidmets RSR Analysis	p.32
RSR's Address	p.5		
Global Report Emmie Eklund, Graciela Moreno Niño, Olivia Lindgren, Tara Srikkanth UPF	p.6	Young People Back the EU: So What Is Blocking Civic and Political Participation? Hanna Simona Allas UPF Reportage	p.35
Youth Voices in World Politics: Resolution 2250 as a Turning Point Sara Liedholm UPF Feature	p.8	I saw Something on the News Today Emmie Eklund UPF Poem	p.38
Estonia's Youth Voices in the UN: Symbolic Gesture, or Real Participation? Annabel Lindmets, Liisbet Reinsalu RSR Interview-Analysis	p.11	The New Guard: How Young Evangelicals Are Redefining Politics from Brazil to Guatemala Clara Barbosa UPF Analysis	p.40
If Not Us, Who? Interviewing Lund Students for Palestine Tara Srikkanth UPF Interview	p.15	Security Beyond Borders? Understanding Spain's Dilemma Through a Student Perspective Anna Gerda Nurmetalo RSR Interview	p.43
"It's In Their Hands Now": South Africa's Students and the Lived Reality of Protest Sofia Mina Pessina UPF Opinion	p.19		
Minecraft, Roblox and Beyond: Youth Political Expression in Digital Spaces Heili-Mae Möller RSR Feature	p.23		
Memecry: How the Digital Far-Right Pervades Online Discourse Erik Norinder UPF Opinion	p.26		
The Wunderkind of the Hitlerjugend: How the Neo-Fascist Movement Became Younger Erik Plakso RSR Analysis	p.29		

Association of Foreign Affairs (UPF) in Lund

Board Members & Committee Heads Operational Year 2025-2026

ACTIVITY

Gaia Zubrickaite
Semina Kozic

CAREER

Sam Löfström
Mio Bogdon

DEBATE

Michael Alexander Müller

LECTURE

Lina Ingstrand
Juan Camilo Franco
Ellen S. Harrestam

PRESIDENT

Ella Hellerup

VICE PRESIDENT

Micol Zubrickaite

SECRETARY

Emelie Andersson

TREASURER

Klara Sjöström

UFS REPRESENTATIVE

Nomena Andrianjafy

MAGAZINE

Filippo Fioretti Boccato
Olivia Lindgren

PR

Wera Hänsch
Akvile Ramanauskaite

POD & RADIO

Erika Clesi
Hwikyung Lee

TRAVEL

Max Ulander
Sabina Rameke

WEBZINE

Maya Bukhory
Moa Gustafsson



UPF Lund, Operational Year 2025-2026

About UPF Lund

Since 1935, The Association of Foreign Affairs in Lund (abbreviated to UPF from its Swedish name, Utrikespolitiska Föreningen) provides a space for those interested in exploring the world of politics and foreign affairs. UPF's official language is English.

UPF President's Address

Dear Readers,

It is with great joy and pride that I write my first address for The Perspective Magazine. I want to begin by congratulating our Editors-in-chief and their team for publishing the first issue of the operational year. Your dedication and hard work are admirable and evident to all readers of the magazine.

Our association was founded in 1935, a time characterised by economic hardship, rising extremism and social uncertainty. In that challenging political landscape, Gösta Lindberg and his peers saw the need for open dialogue, curiosity, and understanding, and thus UPF Lund was established.

Ninety years later, the world once again faces turbulence. Among us, we see democratic backsliding, disinformation, and conflict, which remind us how fragile peace and democracy are. We also see the importance of civic youth engagement. Young people and students across the globe raise their voices, thirst for knowledge, and come together to work for a fairer, more peaceful world.

UPF Lund captures this spirit by being a platform where curiosity meets critical thinking and by allowing for meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchanges to take place. This issue is co-published with Rahvusvaheliste Suhete Ring (RSR, The Society of International Relations at the University of Tartu), an Estonian student association that, just like UPF Lund, unites students passionate about foreign affairs. Our partnership with our Estonian colleagues stands as a testament to the shared belief that dialogue transcends boundaries. The collaboration not only brings students together but also serves as a small yet meaningful act against rising nationalist sentiment, a reminder that lasting understanding grows from shared experiences.

Enjoy your reading!

Ella Hellerup



Ella Hellerup | President of UPF

This magazine has been jointly produced by UPF Lund and RSR Tartu as part of the Erasmus+ Cooperation project Nordic/Baltic Youth Knowledge Exchange. The project includes the publication of three magazines and two knowledge exchange trips to the respective associations.

This initiative aims to strengthen connections between young foreign affairs enthusiasts in the Nordic and Baltic regions. Through this collaboration, UPF Lund and RSR Tartu seek to build a network of young thinkers, deepen mutual understanding across the Nordic-Baltic region, and promote values of democracy, human rights, and cooperation.

This publication is funded by the European Union.

From geopolitics to K-pop, are you curious about what drives East and South-East Asia today?

Explore the region's complexities in a Master's that puts you at the crossroads of global change within a truly international, interdisciplinary classroom setting.

You take general courses that deal with cross-regional issues, but you also get the opportunity during the second semester to take an interdisciplinary course on a country or region in East or South-East Asia that you want to focus on. The curriculum enables you to specialise based on your regional, thematic, and disciplinary focus, and to critically examine and discuss issues within the field of East and South-East Asia. During the fourth semester, you will have the possibility to travel to Asia to carry out fieldwork and collect material for your master's thesis.

This programme equips you with strong analytical skills, cross-cultural understanding, and in-depth regional knowledge, skills valued across many sectors. It provides an excellent foundation for postgraduate study, teaching, research, or careers in government, international services, private firms, and civil society.

The programme is taught in English.



www.ace.lu.se

Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies

Application
deadline
15 January
2026



LUND
UNIVERSITY

RSR's Address

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that we present this issue, born from a collaboration between Rahvusvaheliste Suhete Ring (RSR, The Society of International Relations at the University of Tartu) and UPF Lund. We in RSR are extremely grateful for the opportunity to work with an organization that shares our values, as we both advocate for youth-inclusive global politics. I would especially like to thank UPF Lund's former presidium, with whom the idea for this project first took shape, and the current presidium for their great cooperation, keeping the collaboration so inspiring and enjoyable.

This Erasmus project underscores the need for a deeper understanding of our region in these uncertain and often perilous times. As we seek to better understand our region and the challenges it faces, we must also recognize the importance of those who will shape its future. Young people bring fresh perspectives, creativity, and courage to international dialogue, making us key contributors to the political conversations that shape our world. This issue celebrates our voices and ideas in youth participation in world politics.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone that made this magazine happen. The pages of this issue reflect what can be achieved through collaboration and shared vision. We look forward to continuing our journey together—empowering young people to engage, connect, and lead in shaping a more united world.

Sincerely,
Annabel Lindmets
President of RSR



Tartu University's RSR Members 2025

Global Report

Climate News | Emmie Eklund

Although the US and EU have increased their reliance on fossil fuels in recent years, the first half of 2025 saw renewable energy surpass the use of coal as the leading energy source worldwide for the first time—thanks to states such as China and India. Wind and solar energy furthermore exceeded this year's increased energy demand caused by industrial development, growing AI server centres, and cooling systems usage during heat waves.



Anna Jiménez Calaf | Unsplash

Ash Hayes | Unsplash



Palestine | Tara Srikanth

This year's UN General Assembly brought broader international recognition of the independent state of Palestine, with nine new states formally recognising Palestine's sovereignty. The number of states that have recognised the state of Palestine has now exceeded 150, or roughly 80% of UN member states. While the recognition—laden with conditions and caveats—is not without flaws, it is an important symbol and another step on the path to a peaceful, political resolution to the conflict.

aboodi vesakaran | Unsplash



Moldova | Olivia Lindgren

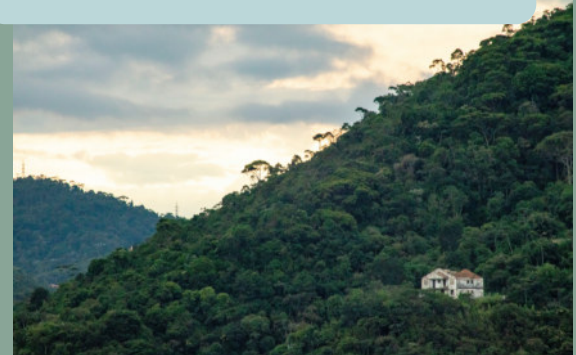
On September 28, 2025, Moldova held parliamentary elections. Despite Russian disinformation campaigns, the pro-European Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) prevailed over the pro-Russian Patriotic Bloc. The election has by many been viewed as a key test of Moldova's democratic resilience, and PAS's victory marks a step toward the country's aim at accession to the European Union.



Sasha Pleshco | Unsplash

Brazil | Graciela Moreno Niño

Brazil achieved a remarkable drop in wildfires in 2025, reaching its lowest number of fire hotspots in twelve years. From January to August, about 30,000 hotspots were detected, close to the 28,000 recorded in 2013 and far below 2024 levels. In July alone, hotspots fell from 22,487 to 9,713—a 56.8% decrease—while burned areas went down from 1.8 million to 726,000 hectares—decreasing by 61%. Amazon hotspots fell from 30,000 to 7,000, and in the Pantanal from 6,600 to just 126, showing the impact of stronger national fire prevention efforts.



Vitor Paladini | Unsplash

Venezuela | Graciela Moreno Niño

Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado has been awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize. Machado is known for her tireless struggle for a democratic transition against the authoritarian Maduro regime, often facing threats and persecution. However, her hardline political stance, advocacy of foreign intervention, and alignment with conservative international allies have raised concerns and divided opinion both domestically and abroad. Still, her recognition stands as a sign of hope for Venezuelans who have endured years under authoritarian rule.



Youth Voices in World Politics: Resolution 2250 as a Turning Point

Sara Liedholm | Feature | UPF

It is strange that young people, despite making up nearly half of the world's population, are largely excluded from the decisions that shape their future. They bear the consequences of armed conflicts, economic crises and political failures, yet are expected to remain silent, patient, or entirely invisible. In conflict zones, youth are either seen as victims of violence or suspected future perpetrators themselves.

Although young people are often praised in politics as “the future”, they are rarely given a seat at the table in the present. When the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2250 in 2015, this order was briefly interrupted. For the first time, this demographic was recognised as more than a vulnerable group—they were seen as potential peacebuilders.

But what does it look like in practice? Has this global youth in peacebuilding concept led to real change or is the resolution yet another example of lofty rhetoric without grounding in reality?

The adoption of the resolution came at a time when the world faced prolonged conflicts in Syria, Yemen, and South Sudan, growing international terrorism, and mass displacement. In 2015, over one million people sought refuge in Europe, many risking their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea. While often labeled a “refugee crisis”, some argue it was a crisis of response rather than of refugees, especially as most displaced people remained outside Europe. UNHCR mobilised emergency efforts but also called for more safe and legal migration pathways worldwide. In this context, youth engagement became vital to promoting peace, tolerance, and hu-

man rights.

Resolution 2250 formally acknowledges youth aged 18-29 as active contributors to peace and security, highlighting five key areas: participation, protection, prevention, partnership, and disengagement and reintegration. The resolution urges states to develop national action plans and policies to empower youth in these areas, shifting their role from passive victims to active peacebuilders. However, as a non-binding resolution, many governments have struggled to turn these commitments into well-funded accountable programs, limiting its real world impact.

participation

Participation means ensuring young people have meaningful roles in decision making at all levels. Protection focuses on safeguarding youth from violence and exploitation, especially in conflict zones. Prevention engages them in education and dialogue to prevent violent extremism and conflict. Partnership fosters collaboration between governments, civil society, and young people to build inclusive peace strategies. Disengagement and reintegration support young former combatants in leaving violence behind and reintegrating into society.

Nigeria was among the first countries to respond to the global call for youth inclusion in peace and security, by developing its National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security in November 2021. It was the first African country and the second worldwide, after Finland, to adopt such a plan. The country has since established a national youth organisation and supported local initiatives, especially in conflict-affected areas such as Kaduna state, providing young people platforms for leadership and participation in peacebuilding. Despite these early efforts, challenges such as limited funding and ongoing security issues remain, making progress uneven. Nevertheless, Nigeria's example shows that youth inclusion is possible, even in fragile contexts.

In 2025, Colombia became the first Latin American country to adopt a national action plan in line with the resolution. The plan was developed with support from UNFPA (United Nations Population



Joanna SCD | Unsplash

Fund), several government ministries, and with the active participation of young people from across the country. The aim was to strengthen the role of youth in peacebuilding after the armed conflict with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). FARC was a guerrilla group that fought the Colombian government for over 50 years. The conflict caused widespread violence and displacement, with youth making up one third of its victims. The 2016 peace agreement with FARC laid the foundation for ongoing youth-inclusive peacebuilding efforts.

Although Resolution 2250 marked a historic shift, its practical impact has been limited. Many governments have yet to develop national action plans, and where they exist, implementation is often underfunded and lacks accountability mechanisms. The resolution is non-binding, making it difficult to hold states accountable when they fail to act. Young people are often included in dialogue, but rarely in actual decision making—where the real power lies. At the same time, initiatives like those in Nigeria and Colombia prove that progress is possible, especially when youth lead the process. Achieving youth-led progress requires long-term support, better coordination between the UN, governments and civil society, and a clear shift from symbolic participation to genuine power-sharing.

Ten years on, there is still a significant gap between rhetoric and reality. Youth remain largely excluded from spaces where critical decisions are made despite the fact that their futures are on the line. Yet, young people worldwide are not waiting for permission; they are organising, leading, and creating alternatives where existing systems fail. Resolution 2250 opened the door, but it is now up to governments and institutions to walk through it—transforming intent into action, and inclusion into influence. Only then can the resolution become a true foundation for lasting and inclusive peace.



**POVERTY • DEMOCRACY
MIGRATION • TRADE • RIGHTS
SECURITY • CLIMATE • WAR**

Interested in the European Union’s role in local, regional, national, European or global challenges?

Visit the Centre for European Studies’ website for information about activities that may benefit your learning and thesis work, including funding opportunities for field studies and a Best Thesis Award.

Also, subscribe to our Swedish-language blog Europakommentaren.eu.

Centre for European Studies
www.cfe.lu.se



Estonia's Youth Voices in the UN: Symbolic Gesture, or Real Participation?

Annabel Lindmets, Liisbet Reinsalu
| Interview-Analysis | RSR

Alongside the 80th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly, 2025 also commemorates 30 years since the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). The WPAY—adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1995—was the first comprehensive global framework on youth policies. It included a call for member states to include youth delegates in their UN delegations.

Although the Youth Delegation Programme has been running for 30 years, it is debatable how well-known this form of participation is. The small state of Estonia first established its UN Youth Programme in 2018, making it a relatively new player in the initiative. To better understand the programme, we spoke with two Estonian UN Youth Delegates—Evaliis Läll, the current Estonian delegate, and Linda Luts, the 2021/2022 delegate.

Who are the youth delegates, and what is their mission? While the number of delegates at the UN fluctuates from year to year, most Western countries now run their own youth programmes. In essence,

youth delegates represent their country's youth within the official delegation. Their most important duty is to provide input on youth-related topics and participate in their delegation's work, represent their country at events, establish contacts with other countries for cooperation, and inform the youth about the UN.

What has been the main area of interest for Estonian youth? According to both Linda and Evaliis, it is security.

In Estonia's case, this involves giving lectures about the UN at schools, writing speeches, communicating

with the media, creating social media posts, and—most importantly—getting insight on the youth’s interests.

What has been the main area of interest for Estonian youth? According to both Linda and Evaliis, it is security—especially during Evaliis’s term, in the context of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Evaliis noted that young people’s interests coincide with the interests of the country:

“In my opinion, when I have made school visits and so on, the number one thing for Estonian young people is that Estonia is free. So that we can raise our children in a free country, and if the war in Ukraine ends with an unjust and unsustainable peace, then we probably can not do that here in Estonia. That is number one for everyone.”

As the youth delegate programmes differ from country to country, so do states’ expectations of their delegates. For example, Estonian youth delegates write their own speeches which are then reviewed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs—not to interfere with the content, but to provide tips to make the speeches more impactful. Thus, the delegates are free to represent the matters most crucial to Estonian youth. That is not the case for every country’s delegate.

One of the greatest benefits of the Youth Delegation Programme is meeting delegates from around the world and broadening one’s horizons. While communication is not centralised, delegates connect as much as they can. When asked how freely youth delegates discuss matters, the answers vary. Both interviewees emphasised that it largely

According to Linda and Evaliis, this experience showcased how confronting reality does not diminish idealism but gives it greater purpose and direction

depends on who you are speaking with. Evaliis noted that youth delegates recognised the limited value of high-level sessions where everyone repeats the same talking points, and instead chose to speak openly and freely with each other, breaking down barriers that often constrain diplomats. However, Linda observed that topics with potential for conflict were often avoided.



Linda Luts | Linda Luts at the Embassy of Estonia in Azerbaijan

As an international organisation tasked with bringing all nations together and ensuring lasting world peace, the UN is highly criticised for not fulfilling its purpose. Both interviewees conceded the flaws—notably the Security Council and the veto right—but emphasised that the UN remains indispensable, a body without which they say the world is unimaginable. “The United Nations is so much more than the Security Council, its programmes do bring help to those in need,” noted Linda.

Evaliis highlighted another dimension—the way the UN fosters empathy and human connection among states: “If we did not have that, let’s say figuratively, that one room, that one building, that

one city where representatives and diplomats from all 193 member states come together; a place where they can sometimes just let off steam, share their feelings and thoughts, and negotiate with actual outcomes. [...] Without that space, where everyone can gather, exchange a bit of small talk, or say just a couple of words in someone else's language and the other person lights up because of it, where those human connections are formed... if that space did not exist, I think the world would be a far more dangerous, divided, and unpredictable place."

It seems that our youth delegates remain rather optimistic about the UN's future. Beyond calling for reform of the veto right, they also place hope in the prospect of a woman leading the organisation as the next Secretary General. But is this just the idealism of youth speaking?⁹ As young people, we have an inevitable idealism, and what some may call an obligation to fight for a perfect world. While our idealism drives effective activism, can it become a challenge within a formal delegation, where compromise and adherence to official positions are required?

"The youth delegate programme took off my rose-tinted glasses but it is necessary to actually tackle world problems," both interviewees admitted. The advice given to Evaliis was clear: as a young person, you must not lose your idealism, and as a diplomat, you should act in a way that reflects belief in an idealistic world but never forget the harsh and cold reality. According to Linda and Evaliis, this experience showcased how confronting reality does not diminish idealism but gives it greater purpose and direction.

When asked whether their purpose was to bring the UN to Estonia's youth, or to bring Estonia's youth to the UN, their statement was clear: both are equally important. However, it is especially important to make the UN more comprehensible for Estonia's youth—as the UN is a rather distant topic—in order to enable meaningful participation and representation.

But they also learned a lot for themselves. "Diplomacy in the UN sense is a very long process, reaching an agreement can take up to 10 or more years. Which is why I have come to understand that these small steps in between are also very worthy and need celebrating," concluded Linda. This rather unusual form of participation gave Linda a spark for overall youth activism.

While it may seem like youth delegations are gaining more visibility, concerns still linger—



Evaliis Lall | Evaliis Lall at the United Nations General Assembly Hall during UNGA 80

especially as funding for youth-related initiatives is declining, even in typically progressive countries. This is threatening the reach of the programmes. It is known, for example, that the UK has scaled back their youth delegates for that exact reason

What can be done to foster youth participation? For the first time in UN's history, a High-Level Meeting on Youth was held as part of the week-long, youth-focused #YouthLead Festival celebrating WPAY30. An event that aimed to enhance youth participation was overtaken by the UN's firm protocol of the general debate speaking order at the General Assembly. This resulted in many of the youth delegates not being able to give their speeches. Perhaps one way to bolster youth is to give them higher official titles?

Another way would be to give young people more opportunities to visit the UN, and to create more programs that actively engage them. "This is a two-way process where young people also have to consider older generations, not attack them, this way maybe other generations are willing to take us more seriously," Linda added. Evaliis emphasised, "We do not have to oppose other generations, as we need more open discussions with older people."

We as young people have to stand more firmly on our beliefs and for ourselves. The youth participation can not stay just symbolic—real acts have to follow after hearing out young people!

Study Arabic at CMES!

BUILD ARABIC SKILLS AND CULTURAL INSIGHT FOR WORK AND FIELDWORK.

The courses provide practical linguistic knowledge and cultural background for students and staff who want to study Arabic for work, fieldwork and/or research purposes. Participants will learn to read and write basic Arabic and be able to use the language in everyday situations.

The courses are exclusively offered for Lund University students and staff interested in working and conducting research in Arabic speaking countries.



Join Our CMES Events!

GAIN INSIGHTS INTO THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND KEY DYNAMICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Every semester, the Centre for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) at Lund University hosts a variety of public events, focusing on the Middle East region.

The CMES Research Seminar invites LU researchers as well as national and international leading scholars to present ongoing research and analyses on a variety of topics related to the Middle East.



CMES

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

WWW.CMES.LU.SE



A photograph of a group of people at an outdoor gathering, likely a protest or demonstration. In the foreground, a large Palestinian flag (black, white, green, and red) is being held up. Other people in the background are also holding smaller Palestinian flags. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a cloudy sky in the background. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

If not Us, Who? Interviewing Lund Students for Palestine

Tara Srikanth | Interview | UPF

On a sunny morning at the end of September, I sit down with two members of Lund Students for Palestine (LSFP) to talk about their movement and student activism. From the beginning, LSFP have been clear about wanting to remain anonymous in the final article, whether or not we meet in person. Organising the interview has been something of a challenge—communicating with LSFP was a somewhat slow-moving process—but in the end, we managed to sit down and talk. Naturally, my first two questions to them are about precisely these issues—about the anonymisation and what it was about the way they are organised that had so delayed our meeting. To answer these questions, though, we must first look at why and how Lund Students for Palestine was founded, what their goals are, how they work to achieve them, and what the response to their activism has been.

The genocide currently being carried out by Israel in Gaza cannot have escaped the attention of anyone with even a passing interest in foreign affairs. While the latest and most brutal episode of this decades-old conflict is not the focus of this article, a (very) short history is necessary to understand LSFP's background and motivation. On October 7, 2023, the militant wing of the political group Hamas launched an attack on Israel, killing around 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages. The Israeli response—which, at the time of writing, has been found to amount to genocide by a multitude of leading experts and professionals, including an independent UN commission—has brought the deaths of more than 65,000 people and injured more than 160,000. The vast majority of Gaza's population has been displaced repeatedly, and much of Gaza itself has been rendered uninhabitable and almost unrecognisable by Israeli bombardment.

Soon after the events of October 7, 2023, a group of students was brought together by a shared desire to organise for, and in solidarity with, Palestine. While their formation was prompted by the events of October 7, a key part of LSFP's platform is that the occupation of Palestine has been ongoing since the Nakba in 1948. Over the course of several long meetings that were open to students as well as other community members, LSFP developed community guidelines and an official code of conduct, as well as an organisational structure that they describe as “very decentralised” and “flat”, though “constantly evolving”. Decisions are always taken by majority vote at their weekly general meetings—and usually after lengthy discussion—ensuring, as one of the members tells me, that the power always stays within the general meeting. The desire to remain a-

nonymous is partly due to this decentralised structure and the wish to be seen as a collective—rather than being represented by individual members—but there is also a fear of targeted retaliation and repression behind the request.

“[O]ur horizon is the liberation of Palestine and the end of the Israeli occupation”

In the long term, LSFP would like to see Lund University comply with the PACBI initiative—the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel. This compliance would be the culmination of the three demands that they have had since the movement was formed, which ask that Lund University stand in solidarity with and support the Palestinian people, and that it disclose and sever its ties to Israeli institutions and companies that are complicit in the occupation. Achieving this is not entirely without precedent—the members I speak to tell me about the ‘Uppsala Declaration of Conscientious Objection’ that was drafted by professors and researchers at Uppsala University in May 2025. The Declaration was closely followed by a statement from the Board of Uppsala University, calling on the Swedish government to “condemn Israel’s actions in Gaza, resume its support for UNRWA, and act to increase pressure on Israel to comply with international law”. Furthermore, the members I speak to refer me to the six Norwegian universities that have severed ties with complicit Israeli institutions. If they can do it, the LSFP members wonder, what is stopping Lund University from doing the same?

“We see the callousness of the socio-political order we’re inheriting, and we just refuse to accept it as natural”



As the situation in Gaza—and Palestine as a whole—has evolved, the methods LSFP has used to strive for its goals have changed. Additionally, the members I meet tell me: “We have general meetings every week, and something about the movement changes every single week.” Almost two years down the line, LSFP has tried everything from permitted demonstrations and marches to hosting lectures, submitting motions at the student nations and unions, and participating in the Palestinagård encampment in the spring of 2024. Another key part of its strategy is cooperation with other, similar movements and organisations—such as Malmö Students for Palestine (MSFP) and Lund Academics for Palestine (LUAP). One of the members I meet says: “We are people with ideas, time, and energy, but we have nothing else. Like, we don’t have a space, we don’t have money, so we really rely heavily on the community. And we learn a lot from them. I think they learn a lot from us.”

And we learn a lot from them. I think they learn a lot from us.”

As we move toward the end of the interview and I ask the members to tell me about the results they have seen from the university and its students, I am met with a slight air of disillusionment. “I think we’re all aware that Lund University has taken the most aggressive stance against the Palestine solidarity movement on campus in Sweden,” one of them tells me. However, while they seem pessimistic

about their chances of progress with the University and its leadership—whom they have contacted repeatedly, to no avail—they are more positive about the impact they can have by collaborating

The desire to remain anonymous is partly due to this decentralised structure and the wish to be seen as a collective [...] but there is also a fear of targeted retaliation and repression behind the request

with similar movements around Sweden. They tell me: “while we might not be able to find big wins with our administration, we can use what we have to support the other schools and hopefully, eventually, Lund will then follow”.

Looking to the future, the LSFP members tell me that finding a way to balance pushing their demands with the university with fostering longevity in the movement will be crucial. Even if the administration were to acquiesce to their demands tomorrow, LSFP envisions a future in which it remains on campus. As one of the interviewees puts it: “If a ceasefire were to be signed tomorrow, even if the IDF were to leave Gaza tomorrow, [...] we would not just suddenly disband. No. Because, again, our horizon is the liberation of Palestine and the end of the Israeli occupation.” Speaking generally on the trend of youth activism around the world, they tell me that they believe young people are growing into a world they find increasingly difficult to accept. Facilitated by social media, young people have access to current affairs all over the world in an unprecedented way. One way to deal with this is the route that LSFP’s members have chosen: “We see the callousness of the socio-political order we’re inheriting, and we just refuse to accept it as natural.”

LSFP's Demands of Lund University

1. Make a statement in solidarity with Palestine that recognises the role of Academia.
2. Disclose and end all institutional and financial collaborations with Israeli institutions and companies complicit in Israeli occupation.
3. Commit to economic, political and academic support of Palestinian educational systems, students, scholars and teachers.



Victor Pressfeldt | Lund Students for Palestine

"It's In Their Hands Now": South Africa's Students and the Lived Reality of Protest

Sofia Mina Pessina | Opinion | UPF

"[...] it is time for new hands to lift the burdens. It's in your hands now." With these words, Nelson Mandela passed the torch to a younger generation of South Africans, urging them to shape the country in their own image. His grandchildren—today's youth—have not taken this task lightly. From resisting colonialism and apartheid to challenging the soaring costs of education through the #FeesMustFall movement, students have remained at the heart of South Africa's story of resistance. They are not simply successors to their elders; they are innovators who add their own spark, feeding the flame of decades of unbreakable fortitude.

Every year, the streets of Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, and other cities come alive with the voices of young protesters. But to dismiss these moments as 'just politics' is to miss the human story behind them. Protests are lived experiences. They are fear and exhilaration in equal measure. They leave marks not only on campuses, but on minds and bodies long after the placards are put down.

At the heart of student activism is a simple demand: a future. For many, that future rests on higher education—but in South Africa, rising tuition fees, exclusionary academic structures, and daily struggles of poverty make university more of a battleground than a ladder of opportunity. #FeesMustFall was born from this contradiction: students fighting for access to an education that promised liberation but too often reinforced inequality.

Protests begin in unity—songs, chants, collective energy. But they do not always stay peaceful. Once police and private security enter campuses, tear gas and rubber bullets turn assemblies into battlefields. What looks like ‘chaos’ on a television screen is, for those inside it, a cocktail of adrenaline and terror. It is the thrill of raising your voice together—and the fear that this voice might cost you your degree, your freedom, or your safety. And experiences are not the same for everyone. Women and queer students have spoken of a heightened feeling of vulnerability: confronting not only the force of the state, but also patriarchal dynamics within activist spaces. Yet, they remain at the forefront, challenging exclusion both outside and within the movement.

What looks like ‘chaos’ on a television screen is, for those inside it, a cocktail of adrenaline and terror

Unfortunately, universities are never neutral in these struggles. By setting high fees, policing student behaviour, or ignoring calls for transformation, they inadvertently politicise their students long before the first march begins. The question is: do they engage with this politicisation in a way that fosters constructive dialogue, or do they default to repression? Too often, the swift answer has been to securitise. Campuses ringed with police tape, lectures disrupted by stun grenades—these are not images of education, but of confrontation. Yet there are alternatives. Students have repeatedly said that what they wanted was recognition, dialogue, and space to be heard. Instead of riot shields, universities could provide mediation forums, open assemblies, or early intervention platforms where grievances are aired before tensions boil over.

There is also the matter of protection. Protecting protesters does not mean excusing violence—it means ensuring that students exercising their right to dissent are not brutalised for it. It means providing mental health support for those carrying trauma, ensuring expelled students are not condemned to lifelong exclusion, and recognising that student wellbeing is inseparable from student politics.

When the chants fade and the streets empty, the protest does not simply end. It lingers in the bodies and minds of those who took part. For some, the memory is one of pride: of having stood up, of having added their voice to history. For others, it is one of wounds: sleepless nights, depression, or fear of the next confrontation. The same movement that empowers can also exhaust and scar. Many student activists describe returning to their dorm rooms with tear gas still stinging their eyes, their ears ringing from stun grenades. Some speak of replaying the scenes in their minds—the rush of running from rubber bullets, the sound of a fellow student being dragged into a police van. These experiences are not easily left behind when lectures resume the next day. Trauma has a way of following them, showing up in panic attacks, in the inability to focus in class, in the constant anxiety that another protest will erupt at any moment.

When the chants fade and the streets empty, the protest does not simply end. It lingers in the bodies and minds of those who took part

And yet, woven through the pain is resilience. For some, activism becomes a source of meaning, a way of turning suffering into purpose. They find strength in solidarity, in knowing that others felt the same fear and chose to stand anyway. Protesters often speak of the movement as a ‘family’, one that feeds them in more ways than one—literally with meals shared when money ran out, and figuratively with the emotional nourishment of belonging to something larger than themselves. But the after-

math is never uniform. Some students return to their studies determined, their activism sharpening their sense of justice. Others never quite recover, their academic lives derailed by arrests, suspensions, or the invisible weight of mental strain. For women and queer students, the scars are often doubled: fighting both the violence of the state and the internalised exclusions within their own movements. This is why remembering protest as a lived experience matters. Because beyond the headlines about ‘violent clashes’ or ‘tuition freezes’ are young people who carry these events in their bodies long after the world has moved on. To understand youth activism is to understand this paradox—that the same chants that inspire a generation can also leave it trembling, and that both truths can exist in the same breath.

But protests also leave something else behind: community. In the aftermath of #FeesMustFall, many students spoke of the solidarity that grew in the struggle. Activists cooked for one another, shared lecture notes, and created networks of care. This is the paradox of protest: while it can fracture relations between students and institutions, it can also build stronger ties among those who marched together.

The outcomes, too, are mixed. On the one hand, #FeesMustFall won real concessions—halting fee increases, expanding financial aid, and forcing the country to confront the unfinished business of decolonising education. On the other, many students paid dearly: expulsions, criminal records, or ongoing trauma. Some carry these costs for life. South African student protests are not anomalies. They are part of a longer lineage of resistance in a country where young people have always been at the forefront of change. They remind us that democracy is not static—it must be renewed and defended by each generation. Behind every news headline about a ‘violent protest’ is a student who went home that night with rubber bullet scars, or one who sang through the fear with their peers. Behind every policy shift are thousands of personal sacrifices.

Mandela’s words still resonate: “It’s in your hands now.” Today’s youth have taken up that challenge, not only by demanding change but by showing us that activism is lived, embodied, and costly. Their protests are not simply moments of disruption—they are acts of courage, carrying the weight of both past struggles and future hopes.



Myolisi | A group of students raise their hands in the air to signal that they have come in peace | Wikimedia Commons | CC BY-SA 4.0



**RAOUL
WALLENBERG
INSTITUTE**

OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

Are you interested in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law? The **Raoul Wallenberg Institute** holds one of the largest library collections on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Europe.

*Opening hours: Monday -Thursday 14:00 - 18:00 / Friday closed.
Welcome to email library@rwi.lu.se to arrange a visit outside of these times.*

Visit our website



Listen to our podcast



 Raoul Wallenberg Institute

 @rwinst.bsky.social

 Stora Gråbrödersgatan 17 B
Lund, Sweden

Minecraft, Roblox and Beyond: Youth Political Expression in Digital Spaces

Heili-Mae Möller | Analysis | RSR

In recent years, youth participation in international politics has extended far beyond parliaments and physical protests. Young people are increasingly using games and virtual worlds as platforms to express their political views, preserve collective memory and engage in activism. Minecraft and Roblox are not just playgrounds for entertainment but stages for digital diplomacy, creative protest and even humanitarian fundraising.

One of the most striking examples is Minesalt, a Minecraft-based reconstruction of the Soledar salt mines in Ukraine, launched in March 2024 by the fundraising platform UNITED24 together with developers including Endorah. The virtual mine does not just recreate the tunnels but tells the story of Soledar's destruction and resilience. Players can explore the environment while learning about the war and are encouraged to donate to Ukraine's reconstruction efforts. UNITED24, a platform initiated by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, reflects how high-level political figures are increasingly recognising the potential of digital spaces in winning over the youth.

Similar projects have emerged across the gaming landscape. In 2024, Ukrainian teenagers launched the project 'Always Ukrainians', creating five virtual museums inside Roblox that explore the lives and legacies of artists whose identities were often misrepresented or appropriated under imperial narratives. Through interactive quizzes, portraits, and storytelling, players can learn about figures

such as Kazimir Malevich and Arkhip Kuindzhi while engaging with broader themes of cultural heritage and decolonisation. The initiative was developed with the support of the GoGlobal Educational Foundation and partners, including Reface and GoITeens.

Young people are increasingly using games and virtual worlds as platforms to express their political views, preserve collective memory and engage in activism

Games have also become a place for political protest. In early 2022, players of Final Fantasy XIV organised in-game demonstrations to show solidarity with Ukraine, gathering in central hubs and dressing their avatars in blue and yellow to reflect the national colours. These symbolic acts highlighted how virtual worlds can become plat-

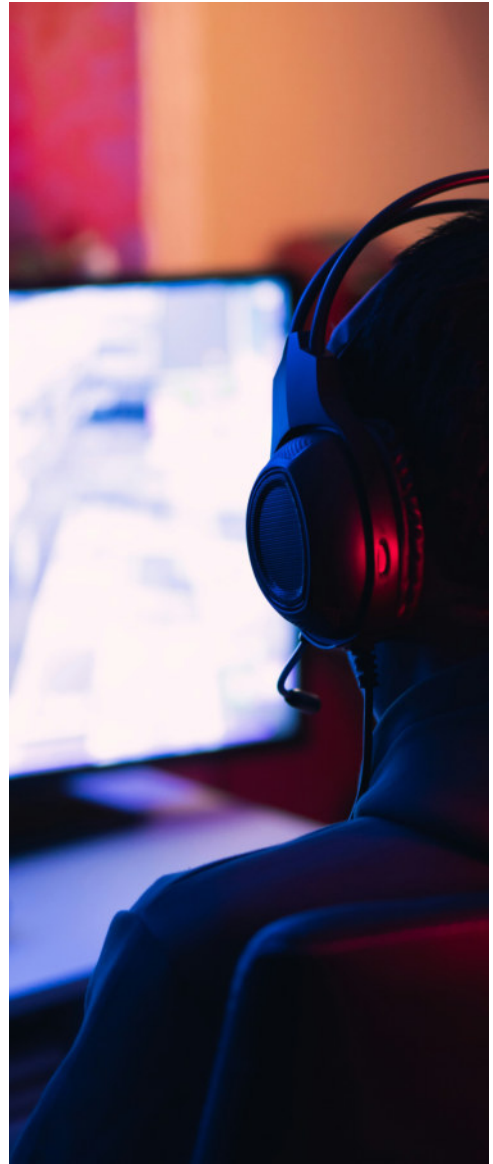
forms for expressing political support and global solidarity. While these in-game protests can raise awareness, critics argue they risk becoming a form of slacktivism—superficial engagement that does not translate into offline action. For example, it is difficult to measure whether these digital expressions directly contributed to tangible policy change or humanitarian aid beyond the initial symbolic gesture. Researchers warn that this kind of symbolic engagement can create a ‘moral satisfaction loop’, where players feel they have contributed enough by participating virtually, potentially reducing their motivation to donate, volunteer, or engage in real-world political action.

These symbolic acts highlighted how virtual worlds can become platforms for expressing political support and global solidarity.

Virtual worlds offer activists a unique advantage: they allow global participation regardless of geography, and they often bypass state censorship. Young players can join a protest or explore a politically charged installation from anywhere in the world, often anonymously. In this sense, games function as ‘political sandboxes’, allowing young people to safely experiment with expressing opinions, collaborating on causes, and practising civic skills.

Virtual reality (VR) is increasingly being used as a powerful tool in activism and awareness-raising. Recent studies show that VR experiences, which place users in a first-person perspective—such as virtual patients or simulated social situations—can strengthen empathy, reduce stigmatisation, and improve understanding of complex issues. Research suggests that immersive environments are particularly effective for young audiences who are already familiar with digital worlds, making VR a promising medium for fostering global awareness and civic engagement.

However, using virtual spaces for political mes-



Franco Sandoval | Unsplash

saging comes with risks. Experts warn that these same platforms can be exploited for propaganda, radicalisation and disinformation. For example, Russia has attempted to influence gaming communities and other online spaces to spread its narratives about the war in Ukraine. Because many users of these platforms are teenagers still forming their political identities, they are particularly influenceable, making gaming communities attractive targets for state-sponsored propaganda.

This raises questions about moderation, fact-checking and platform responsibility. Platforms like Roblox explicitly prohibit political content in their Community Standards, yet political themes occasionally surface and are removed by moderators, as seen when a Ukraine-versus-Russia game was taken down in 2022. Roblox states that it uses automated systems and human review to enforce its rules, but the details of how algorithms shape visibility and moderation outcomes remain largely non-transparent.

Despite these challenges, virtual worlds are becoming an increasingly important arena for civic participation. They allow young people to connect global issues with their own experiences, build communities across borders and experiment with new forms of political expression.

The rise of activism in games and virtual reality illustrates that youth participation in international politics is not confined to traditional venues. For Generation Z, politics can happen on the same platforms where they spend their leisure time. As these digital spaces continue to grow, they are likely to play an even bigger role in shaping public opinion and fostering global awareness.

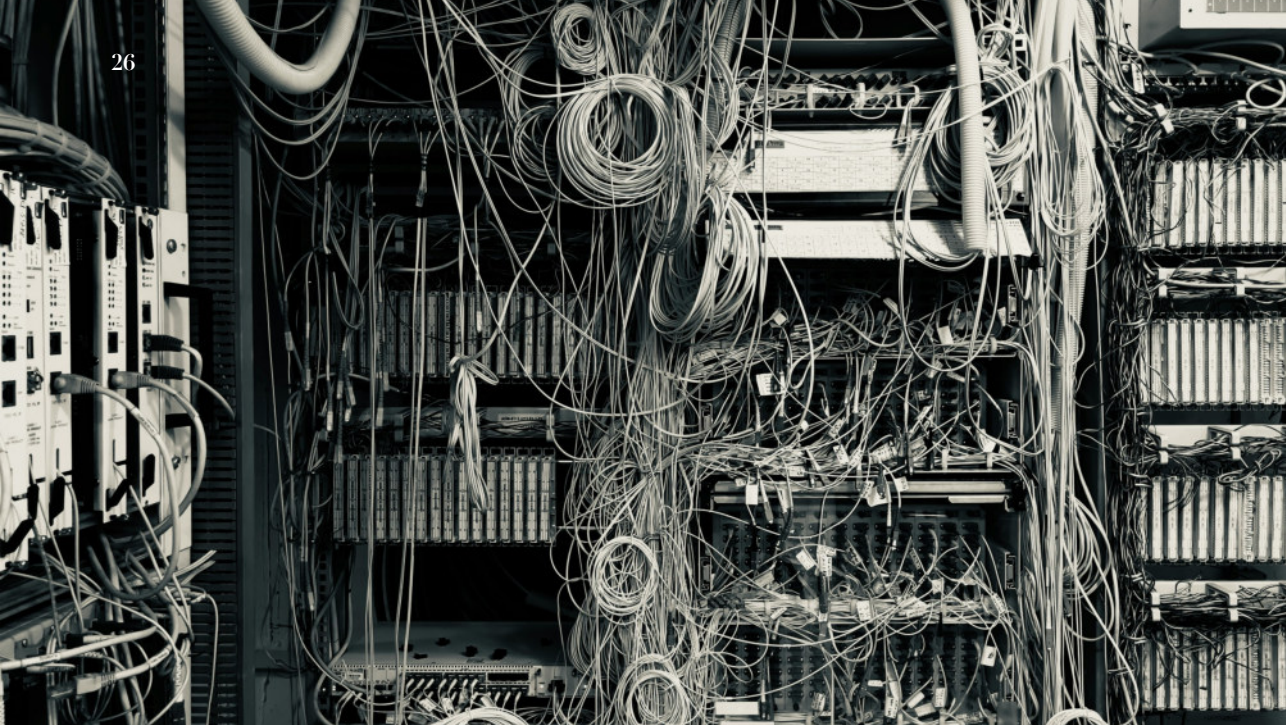
The question remains: how will governments and international institutions respond to this new kind of activism—and can they harness its potential for positive change rather than suppress it?

Young players can join a protest or explore a politically charged installation from anywhere in the world, often anonymously. In this sense, games function as ‘political sandboxes’

[...]



Alex Haney | Unsplash



Memecry: How the Digital Far-Right Pervades Online Discourse

Erik Norinder | Opinion | UPF

The cultural influence of the internet's fringes has long been underestimated. For years, sites like 4chan have incubated memes and expressions that later spill into mainstream discourse. But behind the humour and absurdity that drive their viral appeal lies a more troubling dynamic: the deliberate use of memes by far-right communities to smuggle political messages into everyday conversation. As National Public Radio (NPR) has reported, memes can function as a 'radicalisation pipeline', with irony and satire lowering audiences' defences against extremist ideas.

Researchers describe these memes as Trojan horses of ideology. A funny image, ironic phrase, or deliberately bizarre meme may appear harmless, yet within these layers are messages designed to normalise nationalist, exclusionary, or conspiratori-

al worldviews. The logic is simple: humour travels farther and faster than overt propaganda. By embedding ideology in playful content, far-right groups make their worldview more palatable and harder to challenge. Academic research has shown that in 4chan cultures, irony operates as a cover, creating spaces where violent ideas can be tested without immediate consequence.

This strategy has proven effective. Once these memes escape the confines of 4chan and reach larger platforms such as Reddit, TikTok, or X, their origins often become obscured. By then, the coded language and imagery may have lost their explicit connection to extremist communities, but the framing of issues such as immigration, identity, and nationalism still reflects the ideological underpinnings of their creators. In effect, what be-

gan as fringe in-jokes can set the terms of mainstream debate, shifting online conversations toward exclusionary frames, even when users remain unaware of their origins.

Take, for example, the emergence of ‘looksmaxxing’ terminology into the mainstream—a niche online community focused on facial self-improvement for men, with distinct references to eugenics and racial or genetic superiority. Members of the community create and utilise their own expressions, with terms like ‘mogging’ (to overshadow, especially in personal aesthetic attributes), which evolved directly from 4chan bodybuilding forums, ‘A50 Eyes’ (referring to the supposed superiority of blue eyes, with racial undertones), and ‘ropemaxxing’ (suggesting suicide as a response to lack of attractiveness). These terms covertly package ideas of racial and sexual conflict into words that enter common discussions about relationships, blending humour and hostility, leaving audiences uncertain of where irony ends and ideology begins.

Memes can function as a “radicalisation pipeline,” with irony and satire lowering audiences’ defences against extremist ideas

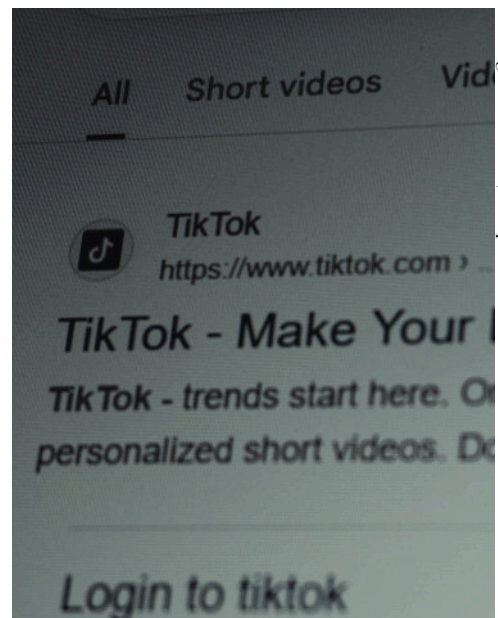
In an age where the proportion of men who openly hold anger towards their lack of female attention is at record highs, and where the political chasm between genders continues to expand, the casual use of combative terminology moves men into a deeper hole and pushes those not yet in the grips of this ideology directly into it. This is the intended goal of these forums and communities: to establish their ideologies in the roots of daily discourse, so that they can pervade the minds of impressionable young men like a weed. In the view of ‘looksmaxxers’, there is no salvation to be found; there is no facial exercise that will turn an ‘incel’ into a ‘chad’. There is only the parasitic growth of hate, and the pleasure of wallowing in its wake.

The danger here is not simply that extremist rhetoric finds a wider audience, but that it does so under the cover of irony. Denial is built into the

strategy: when confronted, creators can dismiss the content as ‘just a joke’.

This plausible deniability makes memes an especially slippery vehicle for spreading radical ideas, particularly among younger audiences more likely to encounter them as humour first, politics second. Far-right influencer Nick Fuentes has been explicit about this, telling supporters in 2020 that “irony is so important for giving a lot of cover and plausible deniability for our views [...]”; “When it comes to a lot of these issues, you need a little bit of manoeuvrability [...]”.

What this reveals is that internet culture is never politically neutral. The same platforms that harbour harmless viral trends also play host to deliberate campaigns of ideological influence. Treating memes as trivial artefacts of online culture ignores their growing role in shaping public discourse. If the past decade has demonstrated anything, it is that the battle over ideas increasingly begins not in parliament or on the editorial page, but in the comment threads, Discord servers, and meme boards of the digital fringe. Recognising this dynamic is the first step toward addressing it. Journalists, policymakers, and educators alike must take seriously how humour and irony function as vehicles for political communication. Otherwise, we risk continuing to underestimate the cultural power of memes—and the communities that weaponise them.



Zulfugar Karimov | Unsplash

South Asia since 2000

- Open seminars and lectures
- Grants and awards for students



LUND
UNIVERSITY

SASNET

SWEDISH SOUTH ASIAN
STUDIES NETWORK





The Wunderkind of the Hitlerjugend: How the Neo-Fascist Movement Became Younger

Erik Plakso | Analysis | RSR

Ever since the defeat of the Axis Powers in World War II, the ideology of fascism has been relegated to the political underground. While other extremist ideologies—such as communism and radical Islamism—have seen some success in maintaining a more permanent presence in politics, the role of neo-fascism has been much more sporadic and minor. Only a handful of examples can be drawn from after 1945 when it comes to notable neo-

fascist electoral success: Greece's Golden Dawn in 2015, Italy's MSI in the 1950s-1970s, and Slovakia's SNS are among the very few to have brought neo-fascism into more mainstream politics. In the vast majority of the Global North, the neo-fascist movement has been marginalised and routed from the Overton window more and more with each passing year. One should note that this article explicitly does not analyse right-wing populist like

the MAGA movement or the various anti-immigration parties of Europe, but rather makes an observation related to those who would claim to be the ideological descendants and next stage of the likes of Hitler and Mussolini: neo-fascists. This observation is that, for various reasons—mostly related to the advent of the Internet—the leadership and main forces of the most relevant neo-fascist movements have been trending younger than before.

In the pre-Internet age, neo-fascist movements existed—for lack of a better word—in ‘real life’. Russia’s ‘Russian National Unity’ (RNU), led by Alexander Barkashov, had training camps, memberships passes, judo training, and other hallmarks of an organisation able to operate in politics, all while utilising more violent means as was the norm during the 1990s in Russia. Barkashov himself was 40 years old during the RNU’s most notable actions at the 1993 Russian Constitutional Crisis. Similarly, Cold War-era organisations such as the American Nazi Party (ANP) or the Socialist Reich Party in Germany were founded by men in their forties who had some professional experience beforehand, or were combat veterans like George Lincoln Rockwell or Otto Ernst Remer. Those founded by the young—such as David Duke’s attempt at founding a neo-fascist party while in university—often ended in failure, and the main neo-fascist organisations had their own youth wings like the National Socialist Liberation Front under the ANP. These organisations resembled traditional political organisations more than they do modern neo-fascist organisations.

Modern neo-fascist movements have been deeply affected by multiple factors. Chief among them would be increased repression from law enforcement, deepened radicalisation of ideology, and the rise of the Internet. These have all resulted in the core of the movement becoming younger than their predecessors. The Internet has given neo-fascists an all-new means of gathering and organising. One of the prime forums dedicated to neo-fascism during the 2010s was Iron March, headed by the Russian nationalist Alisher Mukhitdinov, known online as Alexander Slavros. At the peak of Slavros’s influence, he was in his twenties. Iron March was one of the main centres of neo-fascist interaction, and factions that resembled groups with specific members and goals soon emerged. The most well-known of these is the Atomwaffen Division (AWD), which was founded by 20-year-old Brandon Russell in 2015. The Atomwaffen Division’s most prominent members

were also largely in their twenties—and sometimes even underage. The AWD also spawned copycats and rival organisations such as the Feuerkrieg Division (FKD) in Estonia, which was founded by a mere 13-year old boy.

The AWD also spawned copycats and rival organisations such as the Feuerkrieg Division in Estonia, which was founded by a mere 13-year old boy.

These were not harmless groups that existed purely online, even if the Internet is a crucial factor in their existence. The AWD was linked to various plots, such as one to target electric substations, and the FKD was linked to an allegedly planned attack in Las Vegas. Modern organisations see their role as fundamentally different from more traditional ones, which are largely dying out in this era: the ANP was broken after the assassination of Rockwell, but drifted further into non-recognition, and its closest descendant today is the functionally irrelevant National Socialist Movement (NSM). National Action in the United Kingdom was proscribed and driven into extinction, leaving behind the more AWD-like Sonnenkrieg Division. One of the products of this process is the ascension of ever-deeper radicalism manifested in the form of SIEGE ideology, named after the collection of articles written by James Mason, ‘SIEGE’. SIEGE ideology differs from more traditional national socialism in that it sees society as the enemy, rather than something to be conquered through mass revolution or electoral victory. Instead, it prescribes sporadic accelerationist violence as the proper means to incite a race war and lead to a utopian national socialist society.

Donald Trung Quoc Don | Propaganda Sticker for a Neo-Nazi group in the Groninger City of Winschoten, Oldambt | Wikimedia Commons | CC BY-SA 4.0



Naturally, SIEGE ideology is not the only manifestation of neo-fascism in the modern day. Still, more moderate counterparts—such as Nick Fuentes’s ‘America First’ movement and Thomas Rousseau’s ‘Patriot Front’—are still led by incredibly young figures formed by the Internet and informed against a backdrop of firmer and firmer police action against far-right neo-fascist political movements. Modern neo-fascist movements may be less sizable and influential in mainstream society, but the increasingly young, radical, and decentralised nature of the neo-fascist movement could be a warning sign when it comes to neo-fascist terror. The most infamous instances of neo-fascist terror in the modern day—the 2011 terrorist attack in Utoya and the 2019 mass shooting in Christchurch—were not committed by organisations such as AWD or NSM, but rather by lone wolves operating under the ideology that they espoused. The age of the Internet and the rise of SIEGE ideology has brought a new face to neo-fascist terror: one that is younger and has a greater appetite for destruction.

The increasingly young, radical and decentralised nature of the neo-fascist movement could be a warning sign when it comes to neo-fascist terror



The Moldovan Youth Diaspora as a Political Force: How Young Moldovans Shape Their Country's Democratic Future

Hilda Laidmets | Analysis | RSR

Nearly one-third of Moldova's population lives abroad, making it one of the most migration-affected countries in Europe. Young Moldovans are especially present in EU member states, where they gain access to democratic institutions and opportunities unavailable at home. While official statements in Brussels emphasise Moldova's commitment to European values, the reality on the ground is far more complex, with the country still balanced between East and West. This is precisely where the youth diaspora comes into play. Young Moldovans abroad are not passive observers: through their votes, activism, and transnational networks, they have become a political force shaping Moldova's democratic path and European future.

Moldova's migration story began in the 1990s, when economic collapse and political instability prompted thousands to leave the country. While the first wave was mostly composed of working-age adults seeking economic survival, today's diaspora is increasingly shaped by students, young professionals, and activists. For them, migration offers education, careers, and exposure to democratic societies, but it also comes with emotional costs of separation from family as well as financial constraints.

Importantly, young Moldovans abroad stay connected to their homeland. They remain tied to Moldova through financial remissions, visits, cultural initiatives, and digital activism. This two-way attachment, rooted both in Moldova and abroad, gives the youth diaspora its unique political significance.

The youth diaspora's most visible impact is on elections. In 2020, Moldovans abroad (many of them young) played a decisive role in electing Maia Sandu, whose pro-European platform contrasted with pro-Russian opponents. Their turnout was record-breaking, demonstrating both a commitment to democratic reforms and a capacity to reshape domestic politics from afar. In 2021, the same pattern repeated in parliamentary elections, where diaspora support consolidated pro-European forces. These experiences illustrate how young Moldovans abroad became crucial swing voters in determining the country's political trajectory.

In the 2025 elections, the pro-European Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) won a decisive victory, securing about half of all votes with nearly all ballots counted. Its main rival, the pro-Russian Patriotic

Electoral Bloc, fell well below 25%. Although many expected a much closer race, the result was clear-cut — largely thanks to the diaspora. Moldovans abroad voted overwhelmingly for PAS, giving it nearly 80% of the overseas vote, especially in Italy, Germany, Romania, the UK, and France. This strong support of the younger, pro-European diaspora has become a pivotal force in pushing Moldova toward Europe, even when the outcome at home seems uncertain. While generational divides remain, with older citizens often more sceptical of integration, the broader reality is clear: the youth diaspora stays tied to their homeland and has established itself as a political actor with long-term influence.

Young Moldovans abroad are not passive observers: through their votes, activism, and transnational networks, they have become a political force shaping Moldova's democratic path and European future

Beyond the ballot box, the diaspora engages in civic activism and lobbying across borders. Student associations, cultural groups, and grassroots organisations abroad serve not only as spaces for preserving Moldovan identity but also as platforms for political engagement. In EU countries, young Moldovans have organised solidarity campaigns for Ukraine, raised awareness of Moldova's challenges, and lobbied for closer ties between Chişinău and Brussels, with Romania playing a particularly important role as a gateway to European institutions. These transnational networks transform the diaspora into a bridge, amplifying Moldova's voice in European debates.

Dual citizenship, especially through Romania, adds another layer to this activism. For many young Mol-

dovans, a Romanian passport is not simply a travel document, but access to education, work, and political participation in the European Union. At the same time, they see themselves as both Moldovan and European. This dual belonging helps them support their home country and take part in debates and organisations across Europe.

The political role of the youth diaspora is reinforced by knowledge transfer. Just as programmes like Erasmus help young people in Europe learn about each other's societies, Moldovan students and professionals living abroad also absorb democratic practices and institutional experience. Many of them return with not only professional skills but also democratic values and civic norms.

Those who do not return permanently still stay connected through initiatives like Diaspora Origins (DOR), regular visits, or online collaboration. In this way, the diaspora contributes to Moldova's development not only financially but also intellectually and socially. Returnees often establish NGOs, start businesses, or launch civic projects, becoming drivers of innovation and reform.

Despite their transformative role, the youth diaspora faces contradictions. Some in Moldova question whether those living abroad should shape domestic politics. Others note that not all young Moldovans abroad share pro-European views, since Russian narratives still reach parts of the diaspora. At the same time, the departure of many well-educated young people raises concerns about

the loss of talent at home, even as their skills and experiences abroad generate new opportunities for Moldova.

Moldova's youth diaspora is not just a result of mass migration. It is also a political force that mobilises voters, builds transnational networks, transfers knowledge, and uses dual citizenship to influence both Moldova and Europe. One thing is clear: young Moldovans abroad are central to their country's democratic path. By serving as cultural and political bridges, they tie Moldova closer to the European project. The challenge for policymakers in Chişinău is to see this potential not only in symbolic terms but through real engagement. Making use of the ideas and democratic outlook of the youth diaspora could be decisive for Moldova's European future.

[T]he youth diaspora stays tied to their homeland and has established itself as a political actor with long-term influence



Parlamentul Republicii Moldova | "DOR - Diaspora Origins Returns" Program, 2025 edition | Flickr | CC0 1.0



Young People Back the EU: So What Is Blocking Civic and Political Participation?

Hanna Simona Allas | Reportage | UPF

The 2025 Eurobarometer Survey found that 61% of young Europeans are optimistic about the future of the European Union, despite lingering concerns about the cost of living (41%) and peace and global stability (30%). This suggests that although the majority of young people remain hopeful about the EU, they also recognise the challenges ahead. Thus, it would be reasonable to expect a high rate of democratic participation among young people.

However, the EP Youth Survey 2024 showed that only 39% of respondents voted in local, national or European elections, while 26% of respondents indicated having participated in creating or signing petitions—either on paper or online. So, what keeps young people from taking a more active role in civic and political processes? As an EU Youth Delegate, I interviewed the participants of the European Union Youth Conference 2025 event in Copenhagen and listened to what young people themselves had to say about this topic.

The majority of people I spoke to found their initial motivation to participate in democratic processes—whether through volunteering, taking part in youth democracy forums and conferences, or being active in their local communities—in dissatisfaction with the status quo. While we often talk about the importance of role models who inspire us to take action, many interviewees pointed out that it was the lack of adequate role models that encouraged them to step up.

For example, Hope (23), from Ireland, stated: “I really wanted to have my voice in the room as well to represent people who look like me, people who might have similar cultural experiences, and people who are from the city but also from marginalised communities.”

Emma (26), from Denmark, pointed out that, in addition to a lack of far-reaching diversity among young people active in civic processes, there is also performative inclusion: young people are consulted in decision-making processes, but it often feels that their opinions or proposals are gathered to fill a quota, not to actually be taken into consideration. Emma recalled: “I realised that young people’s voices are not as influential as they deserve to be. I started my volunteering journey in a very local community, and there are many politicians and municipal workers who want to know what you think, but they are not always ready to take it into account when making new policies. That’s why I got involved. I thought I had the resources to stand up and say something.” Other interviewees also pointed out being driven by a proactive mindset

and seeing that, despite the difficulties, it is possible to bring about change, even if only on a local level.

While being active in civic processes themselves, the interviewees were aware of and worried about the obstacles holding young people back from being more active in their local and national communities or at the EU level. Rudolf (27), from Estonia, and Alija (23), from Bosnia and Herzegovina, highlighted that many young people simply do not know about the full extent of participation opportunities. Voting might appear to be an easy way to participate for many but, ironically, it can also feel insufficient on its own. Since they are not familiar with other participation methods, voting may not seem worth the effort, leading to complete inaction among young people.

Another issue raised by many concerned the (often unconscious) biases surrounding youth involvement. For example, Hope (23) pointed out that young people sometimes feel that a certain educational background or additional competencies are necessary to have a say in topics concerning them. Uriel (26), from France, highlighted that biases about young people’s age and perceived abilities often lead to misconceptions about them being less capable or knowledgeable simply because they are younger than other policymakers. She summed up: “I think the older generation does not want to listen to us because they think we do not have the expertise or the

While we often talk about the importance of role models who inspire us to take action, many interviewees pointed out that it was the lack of adequate role models that encouraged them to step up

knowledge.” Nevertheless, she emphasised that young people can still offer fresh perspectives and are more aware of certain issues.

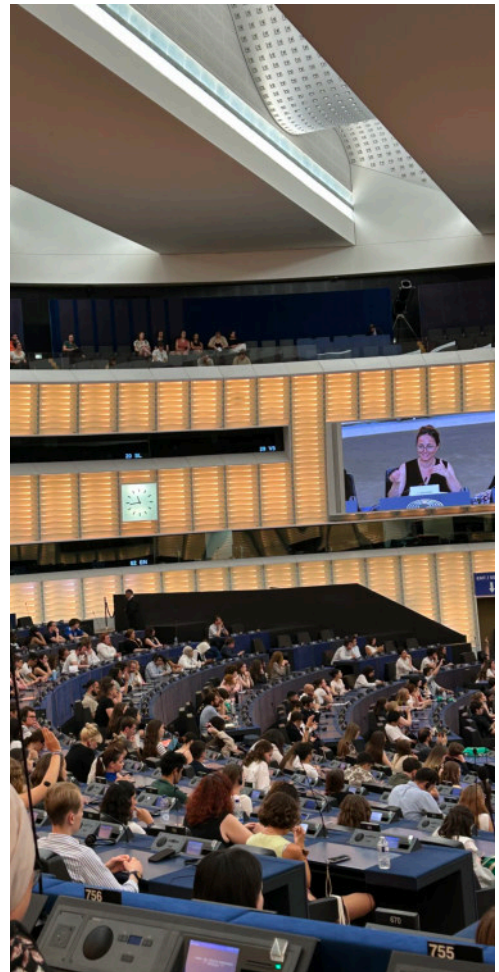
Adrian (26), from Poland, noted the media’s tendency to oversimplify complex issues and the polarising effect of dramatic either-or arguments, which can create the impression that no reasonable solutions exist for today’s challenges. In addition, Alija expressed concern about the lack of hope some young people have for the future. He noted that many young people are leaving Bosnia in hopes of finding a better life elsewhere, instead of trying to make Bosnia a better place to live. He concluded: “We need to have a more positive view about the future in our own country.”

However, amidst all this, we should not forget that it is often the pebble in our shoe, not the mountain ahead, that wears us down. As Emma (26) mentioned: “Honestly, most of it is time and resources. Young people today are very busy; there are many expectations placed on us; you need to excel in school, you also need to get involved, and volunteering often demands a lot from the person volunteering. [...] I think young people are just busy with life.”

So, does this mean that there is little hope for youth participation? Not necessarily. Ultimately, there are many young, passionate individuals who recognise society’s challenges and are eager to take action (or have already done so). What we need to focus on is how to make the entry barriers to active civic participation as low as possible. Rudolf (27) emphasised the importance of effective communication. “We should make everyone aware that it is absolutely normal for a young person to be active in politics or in their local communities in general. And we should also encourage these young people to share their experiences with others and motivate their friends to join them.”

There is also a need to improve the overall political culture. Policymakers and politicians need to engage in meaningful conversations with young people, be inviting and transparent about their work, and act as role models for young people in terms of respectful negotiation and debate culture. Naturally, the importance of simply taking the first step should not be overlooked. It can all start with showing up to your local community centre, casting your first vote, or simply getting acquainted with reading the news. After all, as Plato observed: “One of the penalties of refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.”

‘We should make everyone aware that it is absolutely normal for a young person to be active in politics or in their local communities in general’



Hanna Simona Alfas | Inside the European Parliament in Strasbourg during the European Youth Event (EYE), 2025

I saw Something on the News Today

Emmie Eklund | Poem | UPF

I saw something on the news today
Not those news, they never tell the truth
Bought off by the highest bidder
buying into their propaganda to self-soothe

I saw something on the news today
26 million people in Sudan are starving to death
waiting for attention, for someone to finally care
as their torn-apart government steal its peoples'
breath

I saw something on the news today
Seven of nine planetary boundaries are now
breached
as pollution turns the oceans into acid
the whales stop singing their songs of hope and
peace

I saw something on the news today
Over 40,000 children work the mines of the DRC
earning a dollar—and illness and injuries—per day
to extract cobalt
to build technology that sells for thousands
It's in your hands
Literally

I saw something on the news today
Russia bombed Ukraine for 12 hours straight
Keeping the people from sleep and rest, adding
over 600 airdropped nightmares to their fitful wait

I saw something on the news today
China uses state-imposed forced labour to produce
our clothes
26 million tonnes of fast fashion end up in their
landfills every year
spreading pollution and chemicals and illnesses
the people fear

I saw something on the news today
“US: Masked men kidnap people off the streets”
Beaten, cast aside, placed in swamp prisons; the
men lied
No one knows who will reappear at home, and who
beneath sheets

I saw something on the news today
Doctors in Gaza extracted a baby from their
beheaded mum
Just 1.5% of farmland remains—two square
kilometres to feed two million
Israel's demolition policy is clear: “leave no trace of
life”, not a single crumb
They prepare to blast any aid flotilla with the press
of a thumb

I saw something on the news today
Sweden expands its sustainable rare earth metal
mining in the north, but
soon the Sami village will have nothing more than
memories to cherish
Are stories “enough” I wonder, when the culture
and people perish

I saw something on the news today
Politicians and billionaires and corporations turn a
blind eye
“business as usual, forever,” they say
keep working for my money if you want to get paid
What did you think they'd do; the lives of the
many are held captive by the few

I saw something on the news today
I saw something on the news
I saw something
I saw

I saw

I saw, and I stood with my peers—we roared, we wept, we did not sleep

I saw, and I got beat down by our protectors in big helmets and gear

I saw, and I felt the world crumble around and inside me

I saw, and I did not want to see any more

For a lot of young people today, social media is a direct link to politics and current events. We can see mass atrocities unfold in real time on a different continent and learn about local issues immediately in a way that was completely unfathomable just a couple decades ago. This incredible access to information comes with positives and negatives. We can stay informed and inform others very easily and quickly, but false information spreads like wildfire. Depending on our algorithms or the platforms we are on, the influx of impressions and information about catastrophic events simply never ends. This is what my poem illustrates; how a single hour of scrolling on Instagram can show glimpses of myriad detrimental news stories and lived realities, overloading the senses and creeping close to the heart, evoking emotional responses that are very difficult to deal with and may feel very lonely. But—none of us are alone in this.



The New Guard: How Young Evangelicals Are Redefining Politics from Brazil to Guatemala

Clara Barbosa | Analysis | UPF

A new generation of political actors is on the rise across Latin America, not from the traditional ranks of student movements or trade unions, but from the pews of burgeoning evangelical churches. In countries like Brazil and Guatemala, politically mobilised evangelical youth are becoming a formidable force, advocating for a conservative agenda that extends far beyond the pulpit. Their influence is reshaping debates on education, gender rights, and even foreign policy, signalling a significant transformation of democratic participation in the region. This new wave of religion-driven youth activism is not merely a regional curiosity but a potent indicator of the evolving relationship between faith, politics, and the aspirations of a new generation.

In Brazil, the election of Jair Bolsonaro in 2018 marked an important moment for the political influence of evangelicals, a demographic that now constitutes over 30% of the population. Within this powerful voting bloc, a younger, digitally-savvy generation has been instrumental in amplifying a conservative message. Religious events across the country are strategically used to prepare young evangelicals for political engagement, framing it as a divine calling to defend Christian values in the public square.

A key battleground for this new generation has been the education system. Movements like 'Escola Sem Partido' (School Without a Party), which aim to combat what they deem 'gender ideology' and 'left-wing indoctrination' in classrooms, have found fervent support among young evangelicals. Through social media campaigns and grassroots organising, they have actively campaigned for a more conservative curriculum—one that aligns with their biblical worldview on family and sexuality. This activism is not spontaneous but is often nurtured within the vast network of evangelical churches, which provide both the ideological framework and the organisational infrastructure for political mobilisation.

On the issue of gender rights, young evangelicals in Brazil have been at the forefront of opposing advances in LGBTQ+ rights and reproductive health. They are vocal participants in public demonstrations and online debates, often framing their opposition in terms of defending the 'traditional family'. Led by figures like pastor Damarens Alves, who was the Minister of Women, Family, and Human Rights, Brazil actively worked to oppose resolutions promoting sexual and reproductive rights at the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of American States (OAS). Brazilian diplomats were instructed to challenge the use of terms like 'gender ideology' and to advocate for 'pro-life' and 'traditional family' values.

This activism has contributed to a political climate where progressive social policies are increasingly under threat. Even in the realm of foreign policy, the influence of this young, conservative Christian base has been palpable. During the Bolsonaro administration, there was a noticeable shift in Brazil's diplomatic posture, with a stronger alignment with countries that share similar conservative and religious values.

This movement is constantly affecting other countries in Latin America. Guatemala, for example, has a long and complex history of evangelical political involvement, heavily influenced by its relationship with the United States. This historical context has paved the way for the rise of young evangelical leaders who are now mobilising to defend conservative values in the political arena. While not as openly organised on a national scale as their Brazilian counterparts, their influence within local communities and in shaping the national discourse is undeniable.

Within this powerful voting bloc, a younger, digitally-savvy generation has been instrumental in amplifying a conservative message

In the sphere of politics, young evangelicals in Guatemala are increasingly visible in local governance and civil society organisations. They are actively involved in campaigns that champion 'pro-life' and 'pro-family' platforms, mirroring the rhetoric of the Christian right in the United States. One example is the political party 'Vision with Values' (VIVA), which is explicitly centered on Christian conservative values and is an openly Christian right-wing party. This party and the evangelical candidates they field—such as former President Jimmy Morales, who won on the ticket of the FCN-Nación party and is an outspoken evangelical—explicitly run on platforms promoting social conservatism to mobilise large voting blocs around issues like opposition to abortion and the defense of the 'traditional family'.

The debate over gender rights in Guatemala is

another area where young evangelicals are making their voices heard. Young conservative Christians have been active in opposing legislation aimed at expanding sexual and reproductive health education and have advocated for policies that reflect their conservative moral framework. For instance, the ‘Life and Family Protection Law’ (Law 5272), approved by the Guatemalan Congress in 2022, criminalised miscarriages and imposed prison sentences for those who promote or facilitate access to abortion, explicitly prohibited same-sex marriage, and outlawed the teaching of sexual diversity and gender equality in schools. Even though the law was shelved by the Constitutional Court, it clearly demonstrated the existence of a legislative conflict and intense dialogue about diminishing gender rights in the region.

While young evangelicals in both Brazil and Guatemala share a common conservative agenda, their methods and the political contexts in which they operate differ. In Brazil, the evangelical youth movement appears more integrated into a national political machine, with clear connections to a powerful ‘Evangelical Parliamentary Front’ and a history of successfully influencing presidential elections. Their use of large-scale religious events and sophisticated social media campaigns point to a high degree of organisation and strategic planning. In Guatemala, the mobilisation of young evangelicals seems to be more grassroots and community-focused, though no less impactful. Their political engagement is often intertwined

with the historical legacy of US evangelical influence and the ongoing ‘culture wars’ that dominate the political landscape. While they may not have the same level of centralised political power as their Brazilian counterparts, their ability to shape public opinion and mobilise at the local level is a significant political force.

Despite these differences, a common thread unites these movements: a sense of religious mission to reshape society according to their interpretation of Christian values. This is transforming the very nature of democratic participation in Latin America, moving it beyond traditional ideological divides and into the realm of faith-based identity politics.

The rise of politically active evangelical youth in Brazil and Guatemala is a testament to the enduring power of religion in shaping the political landscape of Latin America. These young activists are not simply inheriting a political tradition; they are actively reshaping it, using new tools and strategies to advance a conservative agenda that is impacting everything from education and gender rights to foreign policy. Their mobilisation represents a significant challenge to the secular and progressive forces in the region and is a clear indication that the future of democracy in Latin America will be increasingly contested on the grounds of faith. Understanding the motivations, methods, and goals of this new generation is essential for anyone seeking to comprehend the complex and evolving political dynamics of the region.

Matheus Câmara da Silva | Unsplash





Security Beyond Borders? Understanding Spain's Dilemma Through a Student Perspective

Anna Gerda Nurmetaló | Analysis |
RSR

The meaning of security varies across nations, shaped by history, politics, culture, and geography. For many Nordic and Eastern European countries, it predominantly means the ability to defend against foreign aggression. Yet security also encompasses socioeconomic well-being and internal stability—issues increasingly debated as NATO defence budgets rise.

Spain has been vocal in stressing that higher military spending must not come at the expense of citizens' social security and other critical investments. This article explores Spain's defence spending policies, the dynamics of its coalition government, and the influence of NATO commitments. Under the pressure of sustaining military missions abroad, increasing defense spending, and engaging in debates over European armament, Spain is in a difficult position to balance its values, concerns, and priorities that shape its role on the global stage.

For Adrián, the first thought that comes to mind when he hears 'security' is financial security—food on the table and a roof over one's head. However, academically, he would answer differently: "I would like to be housed, fed, and to live a normal life, but for that I need defence from any outsider force that can interfere with the normal course of life."

In light of the heightened security threats in Europe, NATO has begun to rethink its previous agreements on military investments among member states. At the June NATO summit in The Hague, members agreed to raise defence spending to 5% by 2035. Spain's prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, requested an exemption—arguing that higher defence spending is not Spain's priority, and presented a variety of other reasons—which caused debate within NATO.

One of the unresolved problems of the distribution of state funds lies in disputes on an institutional level. Spain currently has a minority government led by the centre-left political party PSOE (Partido Socialista Obrero Español) alongside its coalition partners Podemos and Sumar. Many NATO members have criticised Sánchez for making Spain an unreliable counterpart, though he must answer to Spain's parliament.

"The thing is, it is a minority government with the support of other parliamentary parties, some problematic ones even, that can make it a difficult government to hold," says Adrián.

Sánchez's party, PSOE, does support the increase of military spending, contrary to Podemos and Sumar. That has been the root issue of the defence budget

debates. Sánchez has had a hard time finding common ground with his coalition partners.

"The two main parties, both on the right and on the left, are in favour of the spending," says Adrián, referring to the left-wing PSOE and right-wing Partido Popular. "Not everyone agreed on how much, but everyone agreed to spend more, except these two parties, Podemos and Sumar," he claims.

"I would like to be
housed, fed, and to
live a normal life, but
for that I need defence
from any outsider
force that can interfere
with the normal
course of life"

"The two main parties, both on the right and on the left, are in favour of the spending," says Adrián, referring to the left-wing PSOE and right-wing Partido Popular. "Not everyone agreed on how much, but everyone agreed to spend more, except these two parties, Podemos and Sumar," he claims.

Spain's main problem in security debates seems to be the deep polarisation of political powers both in the government and in the Spanish parliament's 'Cortes Generales'. Podemos and Sumar are left-wing parties that emphasise the importance of investment into welfare, healthcare, education, housing, and green transition—and are sceptical of the increase in the military budget.

"Sumar eventually gave in because they do not really like NATO, they do not like the United States, but they also really do not like Russia," says Adrián. "They are pro-Ukrainian, pretty explicitly. So eventually they gave in. They are more or less voting with PSOE." Adrián highlights the main aspect by which Podemos differs from other coalition parties. "Podemos is harder left. They do not like sending military aid to Ukraine because they think it prolongs the war," he claims.

Spain has consistently prioritised the investment of

state funds into social programmes. Pensions, healthcare, housing, unemployment and other social protection areas reach up to 41% of the whole public spending of Spain. However, it is still lower than the average of pre-2004 EU countries. Nevertheless, Podemos and Sumar stress the need to continue these programmes as a core of internal security.

Adrián believes that another reason for Spain's unwillingness to invest in defence is the distance from what is happening in Ukraine. "Obviously, there is fear about Russia. Like every two to three months, there's a nuclear submarine on the southern coast, and everyone goes crazy. But it isn't right on our doorstep, you know?"

"Obviously, a war between the European Union or NATO and Russia would affect the Spanish standard of living. But the only direct invasion that would threaten us would be Morocco, right?" claims Adrián. "But in reality, Morocco will not invade Ceuta or Melilla." Although 55% of the Spanish see Morocco as the main external threat, Adrián argues that Ceuta and Melilla ('Las Plazas de Soberanía') are unlikely targets. He says Spanish defence spending there has long been enough to deter aggression.

However, beyond external threats, Spain's history with NATO also shapes perceptions. "There is a contingent of people who do not really like this whole NATO thing—spending more, sending weapons to a foreign country," Adrián comments that many Spaniards, especially the older generations, have a negative perspective on NATO because of Spain's involvement in the Second Gulf War in 2003.

Adrián brings up the Spanish PM José María Aznar (in office 1996–2004), who is widely held responsible for this decision. "We sent troops there. That was a really big problem for a lot of people in Spain," he acknowledges. At the time, 85% of the Spanish opposed the war, and the image of NATO today has been profoundly shaped by this event for the Spanish.

At the NATO summit in June, although not agreeing to the 5%, Spain settled on raising the spending to 2.1%. However, the funding challenge remains. "I'm in favour of taxing really rich people or putting on an extra wealth tax," says Adrián. However, he also emphasises that there needs to be another way. "Spain doesn't have enough wealthy people to pay for a 2.1% military spending," he acknowledges. "What I would like is cutting back on

the government spending, the administration, and maybe taxes on more wealthy people, but honestly, it is going to have to be the deficit."

Nevertheless, Adrián thinks that many Spanish people would be more willing to contribute to defence spending if it were for European autonomy. "People would support it more because they do not support Americans and do not want to depend on them that much. Even a lot of leftist people I know do not really like defence spending. If it is different spending, to be independent of the United States, then they do like it because they do not like the United States."

Adrián discloses that the majority of the younger people do not really know about the Spanish involvement in NATO missions abroad, because it does not have any publicity. Nevertheless, he believes that the younger generation would still support its continuation, especially if it would strengthen European autonomy. Adrián highlights that strategic autonomy in military matters is something that has to be worked towards. "The idea of building up European industrial web production, I think it is good, and I think it is happening." The key solution seems to be more investments in European autonomy on a military level—more joint projects between European countries.

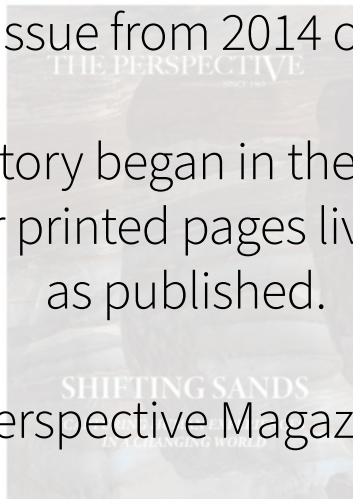
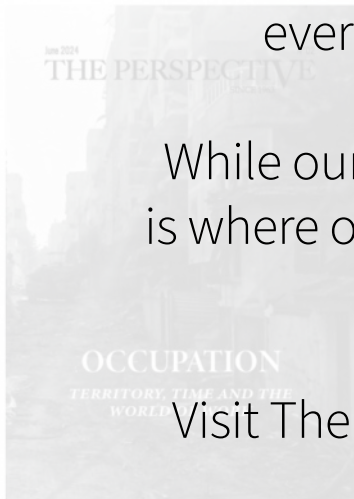
This article draws on one interview, aiming not to represent all Spanish youth but to share one young person's perspective on European security and Spain's current political landscape.

Adrián Cuesta Vergara is a student of Political Science and Administration at the University of Granada in Spain. His main topic of interest and research is European security, alongside political philosophy and environmentalism. He has frequently contributed to the annual *Curso Internacional de Defensa (CID)*, organised by the Spanish Army and General Military Academy.



From Our Recent History, Intact.

Explore our digital archive:
a complete, page-for-page collection of
every issue from 2014 onward.



While our story began in the 1960s, here
is where our printed pages live on, exactly
as published.

Visit The Perspective Magazine Archive:



This publication includes materials licensed under Creative Commons Attribution licences CC BY 2.0 and CC BY 4.0.
Where applicable, according to the licensing, original authors and sources are credited alongside the material.

Further information about the licence can be found at
CC BY 2.0 – <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>
CC BY 4.0 – <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

B**PP****Sverige, Port Payé**

Ej retur

Avsändare:
Exakta Print AB
Brännögatan 5
211 24 Malmö

The Perspective and UPF Lund seek to inform, inspire, and ignite debate

This publishing has been funded by the European Union. The views and opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not represent the official position of the European Union or MUCF. Neither the European Union nor MUCF bear any responsibility for them.