



**YOUNG  
WORLD  
FEDERALISTS**  
HANDBOOK

2022

# IN A NUTSHELL

## MAKE EARTH DEMOCRATIC

### GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

We are all global citizens because we share a common planet, universal human rights and responsibilities towards each other. These rights and responsibilities should become a reality for everyone, regardless of nationality.

### WORLD PARLIAMENT

The will of all people should be the basis for legitimate and accountable decision-making in global affairs.

### GLOBAL DEMOCRACY

A functioning global democratic society requires that every constituent of the global community is governed democratically and encourages an open civil society.

### WORLD FEDERALISM

The right to local, regional and national autonomy, while practical for the purposes of implementing decisions, must never take precedence over, hinder or negate the clearly defined rights and responsibilities of other world citizens.

### RULE OF LAW

All people, corporations, and governments must be subject to binding, enforceable world law. The principles of a democratic world government must be protected by a world constitution.

## END WAR

### MAKE PEACE

Stop active wars by enforcing a ban on violent conflict. International disputes should be resolved in a court of law.

### GLOBAL PEACE

Establish a global police force for peacekeeping and humanitarian aid, working under and enforcing world law.

### BUILD BRIDGES

Stabilize relations between neighboring communities by facilitating compromises to competition over territory and resources and by instituting truth finding and reconciliation practices.



Young World Federalists and Democracy Without Borders protesting for a world parliament in Berlin, 2021

## PROTECT HUMANITY

### GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

Ensure a global minimum standard of living by legally ensuring clean water, sanitation, and quality food, healthcare, education, and housing for all.

### END OPPRESSION

Strengthen the autonomy of individuals, groups, and nations by putting an end to exploitative economic practices, neocolonialism, and discrimination.

### DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY

Support the diversity of cultures, ethnicities, and languages, while encouraging the growth of a common human identity to deal with common issues.

## SAVE NATURE

### CLIMATE ACTION NOW

Enable a just and quick transition away from fossil fuels via world law.

### STOP ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION

End extractivist development, enforce global environmental protection and prosecute offenders.

### BUILD SUSTAINABILITY

Create a sustainable economy so that every generation can pass on a healthier planet.

## GO BEYOND

### SCIENCE WITHOUT BORDERS

Support advancements in science and technology, and ensure that science informs our world's leaders.

### CONNECT THE WORLD

Extend the free exchange of information and people everywhere.

### THINK BIG

Explore space and embark on scientific and technological endeavors so that all people may benefit from the next revolution in technology.





# ABOUT US



*The Young World Federalists believe that the current system of competitive sovereign countries fails to tackle the global challenges that impact us all. We advocate a new form of global governance, one in which people cooperate to secure their common interest through a democratic world federation.*

## OUR HISTORY

Founded on November 5, 2019, the Young World Federalists are part of a movement that goes back nearly a century, and an idea that goes back millennia. We embody the historically broad support for world federalism by welcoming people from across the political spectrum to our movement. While we vigorously debate issues amongst ourselves, we remain united in pursuit of our vision for a better world.

The Young World Federalists is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and an associate member of the World Federalist Movement.

## OUR VISION

We envision a sustainable, just, and peaceful world through a democratic world government, whether that be through a development of the UN, the formation of a world federation or through any other form of democratic world governance.

## OUR MISSION

The Young World Federalists is a global movement building support for world federalism. To do this, we educate the public and raise awareness, collaborate with like-minded organizations, and mobilize activists and volunteers.

## OUR VALUES

As a global movement for world federalism, we follow these five core values to guide everything we do.

**BIG TENT** Our movement builds on our diverse strengths, backgrounds, beliefs, and identities by welcoming everyone who shares our vision of a democratic world government. We respect different views and encourage constructive criticism and debate.



**Eston**  
President

**LASER FOCUS** Advocating world federalism is our central, but not exclusive focus. We recognize that democratic world governance has broad implications for nearly every global, regional, national, and local issue, however, our laser focus remains on transforming the system of global governance towards a democratic one.



**Nicolas**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**UNITY** We believe we are more effective working together, and commit to the diversity, tolerance and compromise necessary to remain united in pursuit of our common goal. We seek to achieve unity without uniformity and diversity without fragmentation.



**Andreas**  
Communications Chair

**ONE HUMANITY** We all share a common human identity and are part of a global community. Every person is entitled to rights, dignity, and has a responsibility to act in solidarity with humanity.



**Charles**  
Organizing Co-Chair

**ETHICAL ADVOCACY** We hold ourselves accountable to the highest level of ethical behavior and take responsibility for our actions. We communicate honestly, openly, and respectfully both internally and externally.



**Jorge**  
Organizing Co-Chair



**Alec**  
Organizing Co-Chair



# MONTREUX DECLARATION

*During a meeting in Montreux on 23 August 1947, the World Movement for World Federal Government issues a Declaration on the role of world federalism as a political ideal.*

**We** world federalists meeting in Montreux at the first international congress of the “World Movement for World Federal Government”, call upon the peoples of the world to join us in our work. We are convinced that mankind cannot survive another world conflict. Two years have passed since the fighting ended, but Europe and Asia are still strewn with the wreckage of war.

The work of rehabilitation is paralysed; the peoples suffer from lack of shelter, food and clothing, while the nations waste their substance in preparing to destroy each other. The second attempt to preserve peace by means of a world organisation, the United Nations, is powerless, as at present constituted, to stop the drift of war.

We world federalists are convinced that the establishment of a world federal government is the crucial problem of our time. Until it is solved, all other issues, whether national or international, will remain unsettled. It is not between free enterprise and planned economy, nor between capitalism and communism that the choice lies, but between federalism and power politics. Federalism alone can assure the survival of man.

We world federalists affirm that mankind can free itself forever from war only through the establishment of a world federal government. Such a federation must be based on the following principles:

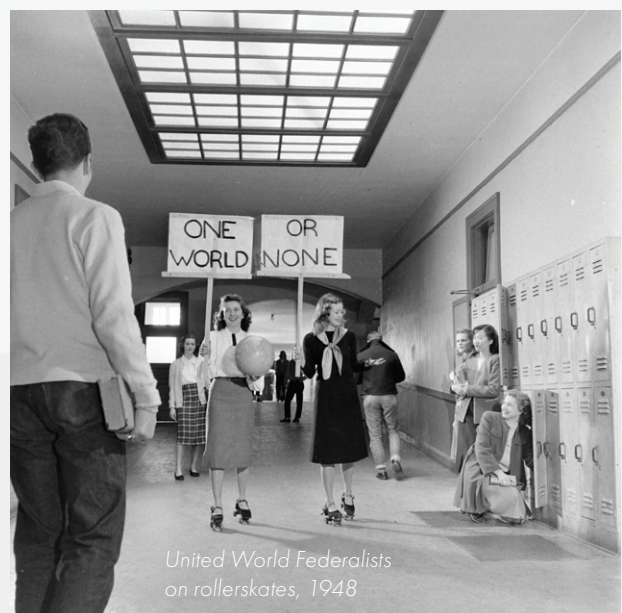
1. Universal membership: The world federal government must be open to all peoples and nations.
2. Limitation of national sovereignty, and the transfer to the world federal government of such legislative, executive and judicial powers as relate to the world affairs.
3. Enforcement of world law directly on the



*United World Federalists at a protest in San Francisco, 1950*

individual whoever or wherever he may be, within the jurisdiction of the world federal government: guarantee of the rights of man and suppression of all attempts against the security of the federation.

4. Creation of supranational armed forces capable of guaranteeing the security of the world federal government and of its member states. Disarmament of member nations to the level of their internal policing requirements.
5. Ownership and control by the world federal government of atomic development and of other scientific discoveries capable of mass destruction.
6. Power to raise adequate revenues directly and independently of state taxes. We propose to make use of any reasonable methods which can contribute to the early achievement of world federal government to prevent another world war.



*United World Federalists on rollerskates, 1948*



We consider that integration of activities at regional and functional levels is consistent with the true federal approach. The formation of regional federations – insofar as they do not become an end in themselves or run the risk of crystallising into blocs – can and should contribute to the effective functioning of federal government. In the same way, the solution of technical, scientific and cultural problems which concern all the peoples of the world, will be made easier by the establishment of specialist functional bodies. Taking into account these principles, we recommend the following lines of action:

1. The mobilisation of the peoples of the world to bring pressure on their governments and legislative assemblies to transform the United Nations Organization into world federal government by increasing its authority and resources, and by amending its Charter.
2. Unofficial and concerted action: in particular the preparation of a world constituent assembly, the plan of campaign for which shall be laid down by the Council of the Movement in close cooperation with the parliamentary groups and federalist movements in the different countries. This assembly, set up in collaboration with organized international groups, shall meet not later than 1950 for the purpose of drawing up a constitution for the world federal government. This plan shall be submitted for ratification, not only by the governments and parliaments, but also to the peoples themselves, and every possible effort shall be made to get the world federal government finally established in the shortest possible time.

Without prejudging the results of these two methods of approach, we must expand our action as quickly as possible, so that we may take advantage of any new opportunities which present themselves to the federalist cause. One thing is certain we shall never realise world federal government unless all the peoples of the world join in the crusade.

**More than ever time presses. And this time we must not fail. ☒**

## OUR NETWORKS



The Young World Federalists is an associate member organization (AO) of the World Federalist Movement. Founded in 1947, WFM-IGP is the umbrella organization for all world federalist organizations around the world.



## GLOBAL DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

We are a founding member of the Global Democracy Initiative, whose aim is to build an innovative system of participatory global governance.

## OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations that share our vision of a united world through a democratic world federation.

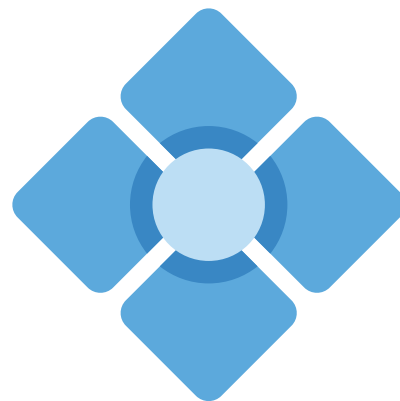


WORLDBEYONDWAR.org  
a global movement to end all war





# GLOBAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION



*Adopted by the Global Assembly on 5 November 2021*

## **The Young World Federalists,**

### **Declaring**

that the revival of the Young World Federalists after decades of nonexistence and being more geographically spread all over the world than before is a momentous event in itself;

that the Young World Federalists is currently the only global youth movement advocating for world federalism;

that its existence is a necessity due to the current turning point that humankind finds itself at;

### **Acknowledging**

the dramatic situation of the environmental crisis;

the continuous threat of nuclear proliferation;

the possibility of a confrontation between the major powers of the world in the future;

the activities of international terrorist and criminal organizations endangering humankind;

the increasing issues posed by new technologies and their possible military applications;

the difficulty of managing international migration and, at the same time, protecting migrants' basic human rights;

the growing power of multinational corporations, in particular technology companies, and their exploitation of the lack of effective supranational authorities in order to further their own interests;

the threat posed by the current pandemic and future ones;

### **Observing**

the current struggle of regional organizations to proceed towards more integrated unions;

the rise of nationalist and far-right groups throughout the nations of the world;

the spreading of misinformation across the internet that reveal how false the illusion is that all global problems can be solved via technological tools alone and not through civic engagement;

the increasing willingness of the world's youth to support collective action for a better world and, at the same time, their increasing mistrust of national governments;

### **Affirms**

that the middle ground between a Westphalian and a Kantian system where the world was before the Great Recession of 2008, the resurgence of the nationalism, the substitution of the G8 with the G20 as principal forum of the economic powers and the COVID-19 pandemic is no more;

that now only two roads are possible for humankind: a slow decline towards barbarism and death, or the beginning of the federalist era;

that supranational federalism is the only system that can guarantee the survival and the progress of humankind for the coming centuries;

that the creation of a world parliament, a world government and a world justice system are not an evil plan of potential tyrants but the natural development of humankind that started from small tribes, passing through city-states, ancient empires, medieval kingdoms, and modern nation-states;



the nation-states were one of the greatest political achievements of humankind that allows to create a common destiny between people from Paris to Marseille, from Delhi to Bangalore, from Beijing to Shanghai, or from Mexico City to Ciudad Juarez, but now humans have the need to think about their destiny together;

that supranational federalism has already a vast supporting literature spreading through the last centuries.

### ***In this sense, YWF supports***

the efforts of its members and volunteers all over the world to bring world federalism to the public debate;

the campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly and the development of the International Court of Justice;

the plan to gather all federalist movements under common projects;

the partnerships with movements and groups that can help bring the world towards world federalism;

### ***Refusing***

to be defined as a movement of “dreamers” or “utopians” for the simple fact that the only alternative is the current system of nation-states that is not anymore able to protect the well-being of their citizens;

any kind of compromise with nationalists, fascists, homophobic, and racists groups;

### ***Stressing***

how the speed of the development of new chapters all over the world in the two years since its foundation demonstrates that “federalism was already in the air” and the YWF is here to gather together the young people that can feel it;

that even if the YWF does not exclusively support any specific path towards world federalism, it is always available to help any efforts in that direction from the part of any organizations;

its neutrality in terms of ideology and religious views supported by its individual members. In this sense, YWF is a non-partisan and nonsectarian movement because it does not pursue any political power and does not have any religious view to propagate. It simply wants the creation of common global democratic institutions with limited but real power;

the total unwillingness of most of the national governments of the world to proceed towards the beginning of the federalization of the world.

For this reason, in the current political situation, YWF design the present strategy to push the national government in the other direction:

- focusing more on the creation of the local chapters;
- constructing collaboration with other federalist movements;
- searching for contacts with the civil society;
- looking for individual politicians sympathizing with the cause.

YWF's financial resources continue to be collected in a way that will maintain the independence of the organization and its focus on world federalism.

### ***YWF invites its members***

to follow the decisions taken during the 2021 Global Assembly of the Young World Federalists and contained in the policy platform;

to continue their activities all over the world;

to maintain and improve their relationships with the different levels of the wider movement;

to increase their personal knowledge by further educating themselves about world federalism;

to attend the events organized by the Young World Federalists and its chapters at the local, regional, national, and global levels.

*“One should think that the wish to create a decent form of life on this planet and to avoid the danger of unspeakable destruction would change the passions of responsible men. You cannot rely on that, my young friends. May you succeed in activating the young generation in this sense, so that it will strive for a policy of peace on a grand scale.”*

- Albert Einstein



# MAKE EARTH DEMOCRATIC

*Create a democratic world government empowered to serve the common interest of humanity.*

## GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

*We are all global citizens because we share a common planet, universal human rights and responsibilities towards each other. These rights and responsibilities should become a reality for everyone, regardless of nationality.*

Where a person is born should not disadvantage them. Freedom of movement should eventually be extended to all people everywhere. Every person should be able to exercise civil rights on the global stage. Global citizenship provides a meaningful basis for participation in global affairs. The existential challenges we face require that we all cooperate to secure our collective interest in sustainability, justice, and peace.

## WORLD PARLIAMENT

*The will of all people should be the basis for legitimate and accountable decision-making in global affairs.*

All of humanity should be equally represented on the global stage. A world parliament would allow everyone to participate directly in global affairs and to hold national governments accountable to humankind. Representatives in the world parliament should be elected through universal suffrage in free, equal, secret, and direct elections. The world parliament would have the constitutional authority and democratic legitimacy to propose and pass binding legislation.

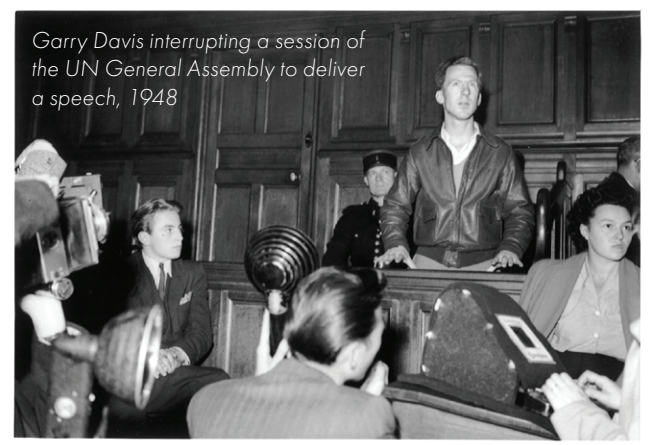
## GLOBAL DEMOCRACY

*A functioning global democratic society requires that every constituent of the global community is governed democratically and encourages an open civil society.*

Everyone should have the right to take part in the government of his country and region,



directly through freely chosen representatives or through some other democratic means. Democratization of authoritarian countries and flawed democracies should proceed in parallel with and would benefit from the creation of a global democracy. Civil and human rights must be strengthened everywhere in the world. Strong civil rights ensure that democratic processes function properly.



*"We, the people, want the peace which only a world government can give. The sovereign states you represent divide us and lead us to the abyss of total war."*

- Garry Davis

*"The question is not one of 'surrendering' national sovereignty. The problem is not negative and does not involve giving up something we already have. The problem is positive - creating something we lack, we have never had, but that we imperatively need."*

- Emery Reves

*"The only way out [of international dictatorship] is to place international law above governments, which means that there must be a parliament for making it, and that parliament must be constituted by means of worldwide elections in which all nations will take part."*

- Albert Camus





# WORLD FEDERALISM

*The right to local, regional and national autonomy, while practical for the purposes of implementing decisions, must never take precedence over, hinder or negate the clearly defined rights and responsibilities of other world citizens.*

We believe federalism is one means of achieving a balance between unity and diversity by vertically separating powers. The sovereignty of the world federation originates from the sovereignty of humanity. Decisions should be taken at the lowest level of government at which they can directly or indirectly be addressed by all the people concerned so as to ensure the rights of all are adequately accounted for. Lower levels of government must never be allowed to circumvent such decisions for any purpose whose effects lead to retaining or creating discriminatory practices. A global federation would not replace sovereign nations: these would continue to deal with national issues. A world federation would complement national sovereignty over national issues with an additional, global layer of governance for a clearly defined set of global issues. A world federation derives its legitimacy both from the constituent nations and the inherent, global citizenship of all people in the world.

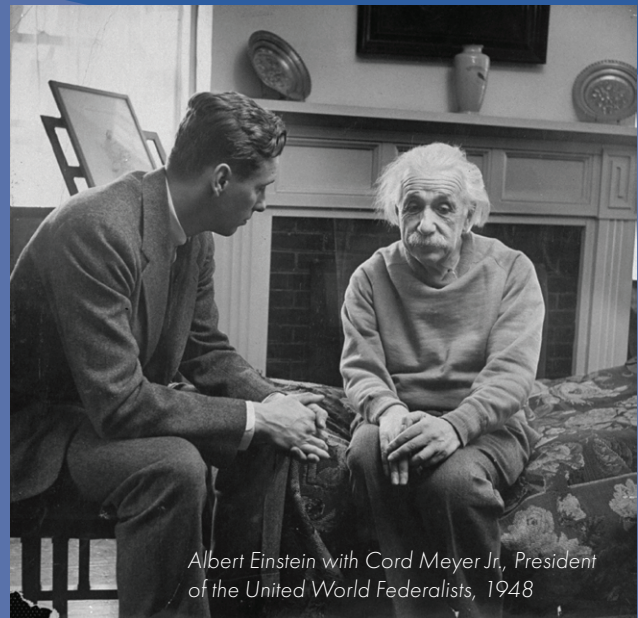
## RULE OF LAW

*All people, corporations, and governments must be subject to binding, enforceable world law. The principles of a democratic world government must be protected by a world constitution.*

Human, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights should be protected by a globally binding constitution. This ensures protecting the rights of minorities, preventing tyranny, and forming the basis for just global affairs. Globally binding legislation would be drafted and passed in a democratic process, in which the world's population is represented equally. An independent global judiciary would interpret world law and hold offenders accountable. Global law enforcement would ensure that legislation passed in the world parliament cannot be circumvented by governments, corporations, or individuals. Checks and balances between the legislative, executive, judiciary are necessary to protect individuals and ensure that power rests ultimately in the hands of the people.

*A democratic world federation turns the unfulfilled promises of international treaties into enforceable world law. A world federation allows humanity to bring the four ideals peace, justice, sustainability, and progress into reality.*

A global commons must be established, where the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land we live on, the processes of bio-chemistry, the information required for basic human and social advancement, and the use of the gravitational field of our planet cannot be exclusively claimed by any individual or organization to the exclusion of others unless that individual or group has established a temporary contractual agreement with the body politic which does not disadvantage its individuals without fair compensation.



Albert Einstein with Cord Meyer Jr., President of the United World Federalists, 1948

*"There is no salvation for civilization, or even the human race, other than the creation of a world government."*

- Albert Einstein

*"The sovereignty which belongs to us, we now wish to re-divide, giving to a higher world level of government - which we continue to control through our representatives - the power to decide questions of world-wide concern."*

- Georgia Lloyd

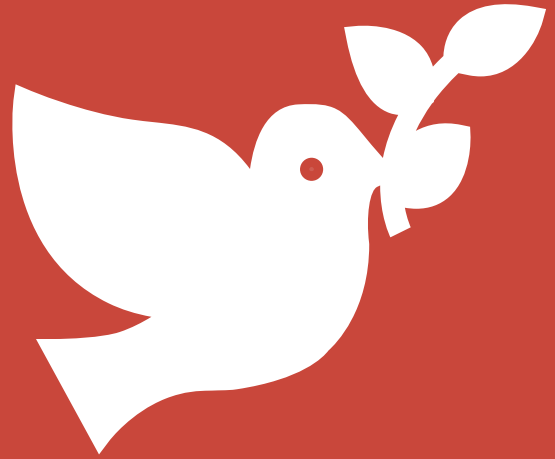
*"The use of force stands in need of control by a public neutral authority, in the interests of liberty no less than of justice. Within a nation, this public authority will naturally be the state; in relations between nations, if the present anarchy is to cease, it will have to be some international parliament."*

- Bertrand Russell



# ABOLISH WAR

*Settle disputes and build world peace by basing international relations on binding world law.*



## MAKE PEACE

*Stop active wars by enforcing a ban on violent conflict. International disputes should be resolved in a court of law.*

Perpetrators of war crimes should be put on trial before a world court, such as an empowered International Criminal Court.

Active conflicts should be settled by the parties before a court of law, whose decisions would be carried out and supervised by international peacekeeping forces.

International quick response teams would ensure a successful and efficient humanitarian response in times of crisis.

Direct accountability of national governments to world law complements and supports their accountability to their population and provides a peaceful path to ensure good governance.

## GLOBAL PEACE

*Establish a global police force for peacekeeping and humanitarian aid, working under and enforcing world law.*

National militaries and UN Peacekeepers could be retrained, repurposed, and combined into a global police force, operating on the basis of a world constitution. This allows a significant reduction in the overall manpower and cost of the defense sector.

A global police force under the control of the world parliament would ensure that aggression cannot be initiated unilaterally by any nation or group. The police force would further be balanced and complemented by law enforcement at national and local levels, and would over time become redundant.

By cooperating with neighboring countries and the rest of humanity through a world federation, nations would build the peaceful habits that address the root causes of conflict through

diplomacy and collaboration before conflicts ever have a chance to escalate. Resource sharing agreements and social, political, and economic cooperation at the regional and global level would keep war in the history books for everyone.

## BUILD BRIDGES

*Stabilize relations between neighboring communities by facilitating compromises to competition over territory and resources and by instituting truth finding and reconciliation practices.*

We believe a democratic world government, unlike arms control treaties, would eliminate the competition for strategic advantage that is a key driver of the development of new weapons of war and a source of conflict. International peacekeeping forces and investigators under direct control of a representative global parliament could enforce a prohibition on weapons of war, especially for weapons of mass destruction and weapons based on emerging technologies.

Resources, knowledge and lives not spent on the military could be put to more productive use. Violence costs the world over a tenth of the annual economic output. With less military spending, there would be more than enough money to provide equal opportunities to all, further stabilizing peace.

*"World federalists hold before us the vision of a unified mankind living in peace under a just world order. The heart of their program - a world under law - is realistic and attainable."*

- U Thant

*"I am an uncompromising pacifist... I have no sense of nationalism, only a cosmic consciousness of belonging to the human family."*

- Rosika Schwimmer



# PROTECT HUMANITY

*Enforce human rights law and make worldwide solidarity a reality through globally accountable governance.*

## GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

*Ensure a global minimum standard of living by legally ensuring clean water, sanitation, and quality food, health-care, education, and housing for all.*

Human rights should be enforceable through world law. People in disadvantaged situations should be able to sue those responsible and legally demand alleviation of their hardships.

The root cause of global poverty is not lack of resources, it is dysfunctional global politics. The distribution of humanitarian aid, capital, knowledge, and labor in a world federation would be fairer and reduce global inequality.

Global, comprehensive minimum regulation and taxation is essential to eliminate the loopholes of a patchwork of different national regulatory and tax regimes. This ensures that multinational corporations pay their fair share back to global society, and guarantees a global minimum standard for labor rights, safety standards and environmental practices.

## END OPPRESSION

*Strengthen the autonomy of individuals, groups, and nations by putting an end to exploitative economic practices, neocolonialism, and discrimination.*

Authoritarian countries exploit their right to sovereignty in the international system to discriminate against minorities within their borders, mistreat migrants attempting to cross them, and exert undue influence beyond them with impunity. Global democracy is crucial to give a voice to the oppressed, no matter their situation within their own country, their host country, or the interests of powerful countries.

A global democratic framework would give



disadvantaged groups and countries the ability to develop independently of economically, culturally, and politically dominating nations. Global democracy can put power back into the hands of the people and shape globalization into a force for good that works for everyone.

## DIGNITY AND EQUALITY

*Support the diversity of cultures, ethnicities, and languages, while encouraging the growth of a common human identity to deal with common issues.*

A democratic world government would grant all people, regardless of inconsequential details like their place of birth or residence, the rights to participate in global democracy, and move freely throughout the world, while also supporting all linguistic, cultural, and ethnic identities, compatible with democratic world governance.

A world parliament would give fair representation to previously sidelined communities and make their needs more visible. Global politics would no longer be dominated by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, but by the democratic body-politic.

*"I join the Army of Peace. Granted, it is still a very small army whose soldiers don't have any weapons besides the ideas of law and humanity. But everything that has ever grown, has once started small and inconspicuous."*

- Bertha von Suttner

*"If the matter is presented clearly, it will not be hard to get people to agree that protective institutions are necessary, both on a regional and on a world-wide scale."*

- Karl Popper





# SAVE NATURE

*Protect our home through law and regulation, by prosecuting crimes against the environment, taking effective action on climate change, and building a sustainable economy.*

## CLIMATE ACTION NOW

*Enable a just and quick transition away from fossil fuels via world law.*

The international agreements aimed at curbing greenhouse gas emissions have failed. The planet continues to heat up as national governments compete over who, what, when, and how to tackle the greatest challenge humanity has ever faced. Breaking this stalemate before our time runs out requires a global authority with the power and legitimacy to pass and enforce binding climate laws. A world parliament is necessary to compel every country to act, e.g., through a global carbon tax, or cap and trade scheme, or any number of the proposed solutions to the climate crisis.

The current international system is dominated by the biggest polluters and has proven time and time again that it is incapable of addressing this global problem with the urgency it demands. Communities most affected by climate change should be given greater influence on global environmental policy, through a world parliament acting for the common good of humanity.

## STOP ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION

*End extractivist development, enforce global environmental protection and prosecute offenders.*

Protecting the environment currently relies on international treaties lacking enforceability. Countries disregard environmental treaties to stay economically competitive, so they continue to burn forests, pollute waterways and oceans, and generally turn a blind eye to environmental degradation. Binding and enforceable global legislation would prevent



this environmental destruction by holding each country and corporation to higher standards of environmental protection and prosecuting those who break the law. Ecocide should be recognized as a crime against humanity.

## BUILD SUSTAINABILITY

*Create a sustainable economy so that every generation can pass on a healthier planet.*

The current system of international agreements was built with the aim of providing a framework for peaceful competition in the global economy. Yet, the focus on independent nations distract from the reality of our interdependent world by putting national interests before global necessity. A democratic world government would turn attention towards the common interests of humanity, build mechanisms for countries to create a sustainable global economy, and avoid the destruction of unaddressed climate change.

*"World government is not only possible, it is inevitable; and when it comes, it will appeal to patriotism in its truest, in its only, sense, the patriotism of men who love their national heritages so deeply that they wish to preserve them in safety for the common good."*

**- Sir Peter Ustinov**

*"Orbiting Earth in the spaceship, I saw how beautiful our planet is. People, let us preserve and increase this beauty, not destroy it!"*

**- Yuri Gagarin**



# GO BEYOND

*Advance science, technology, the arts, and education from a global perspective so that all people may contribute to and benefit from new innovations.*

## SCIENCE WITHOUT BORDERS

*Support advancements in science and technology, and ensure that science informs our world's leaders.*

International competition can hinder the ability of scientists to cooperate effectively and share valuable information. A democratic world government would facilitate the global collaboration between researchers and enable scientific breakthroughs and the development of cutting-edge technology by innovators from every corner of the globe.

Global and national politics should be based on the best available research. Scientific research should not be restricted or tainted by national strategic interests. A democratic world government would protect the principles of scientific freedom, including communication and education, and ensure global safety and ethical standards in research and development.

## CONNECT THE WORLD

*Extend the free exchange of information and people everywhere.*

Division and discrimination are often the outcomes of nationalism taught at an early age. A democratic world government would have the ability to remove travel restrictions, support common language learning, and fund cultural exchanges for the global youth and students. These efforts would expand perspectives and promote the vision of a united humanity.



## THINK BIG

*Explore space and embark on scientific and technological endeavors so that all people may benefit from the next revolution in technology.*

Independent national space and science programs allow for national pride to get in the way of progress. A world federation could fund and operate a more efficient, unified space program for humanity and allow the humans to travel into space as citizens of Earth.

Just as ambitious global cooperation has provided global public goods like the International Space Station or the Universal Postal Union, a united humanity could tackle emerging issues such as space debris, multiresistant bacteria, and artificial intelligence. United, we will be able to go beyond what is possible today and open a new chapter in human history.

*"Future peace, security and ordered progress of the world demand a world federation of free nations, and on no other basis can the problems of the world be solved."*

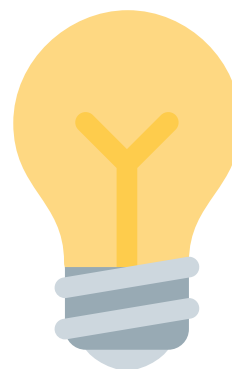
**- Jawaharlal Nehru**

*"Our own land and our own flag cannot be replaced by any other land or any other flag. But you can join with other nations, under a joint flag, to accomplish something good for the world that you cannot accomplish alone."*

**- Eleanor Roosevelt**



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## WHAT IS WORLD FEDERALISM?

World federalism is a system where local government deals with local issues, national government deals with national issues, and a new layer of global government deals with global issues. At the global level there would be a legislative world parliament directly elected by global citizens, an empowered executive, and an independent judiciary. The global government would not replace sovereign nations, it would work with and complement them, dealing only with global issues that are not better addressed at lower levels.

## WHY DO WE NEED WORLD FEDERALISM?

We need world federalism to take effective action on global problems such as climate change, pandemics, poverty, and war. The reason we currently find these problems so difficult to solve is that we run the world as a competition between nations, rather than in the common interest of people. National governments often know which course of action would be best for humanity but cannot take it for fear of weakening their own position on the global stage. The root cause of this dilemma is unrestricted national sovereignty. In a world federation, with a global government for global issues, not only could we prevent and solve global crises, we could launch ambitious new projects.

The rise of nationalism around the world might make it seem impossible to achieve a world federation, however humanity cannot continue living unsustainably forever. Either we create effective global governance, or we risk environmental catastrophe. Our current system of international cooperation was built in response to the destruction of two world wars. The goal of the Young World Federalists is to avoid making the same mistake, and reform global governance before humanity endures another catastrophe.

## WOULD WORLD FEDERALISM WORK?

Yes. Over forty percent of the world's population live in federal nations like Ethiopia, Pakistan,

Mexico, Germany and the United States. Regionalization processes around the world, such as the European Union, East African Community, and the Caribbean Community are developing novel variations of federation. Federations can govern diverse cultures, languages, religions, and ethnicities over large geographic areas while successfully addressing issues of common concern.

In terms of scale, the size of the political unit has been increasing for millennia from the village, to the city, to the nation – only a small step remains to the global level.

## HOW DO WE BUILD A WORLD FEDERATION?

World federalists agree on the goal of a democratic, world federation, but have different opinions as to which route to take. Given that it cannot be known in advance how a world federation will actually come about, this diversity of opinions provides flexibility and strength to the movement. The pathways to a world federation include reform of the UN, cooperation between the world's democracies, integration of regions like the European Union and the East African Federation, and bottom-up grassroots global democracy from outside any of the current systems.

**UNITED NATIONS REFORM** The UN could be transformed into a world federation through revision of the UN Charter, either by moving directly to Charter review, or with an incremental approach starting with an advisory UN Parliamentary Assembly.

**UNION OF DEMOCRACIES** Free democracies could form a union. More autocratic countries might then have economic and political incentives to join the union and democratize. One day, this could grow into a world federation.





**REGIONAL INTEGRATION** Regional institutions such as the European Union and the East African Federation could unite on a global level. Strengthening regional alliances is likely to help promote world federation as people become aware of the benefits of working together across nations.

**GRASSROOTS WORLD DEMOCRACY** A world parliament, outside of the UN, and with voluntary elections could be created. As participation in elections grew, its political legitimacy would grow, too – eventually evolving into a world federation.

## HOW WOULD WORLD FEDERALISM HELP WITH SUSTAINABILITY?

Fighting the climate crisis, and achieving sustainability, currently relies on international treaties lacking enforceability. It is in each nation's interest not to take the first step, because it would put them at a disadvantage in the world economy. This approach has proven ineffective, as evidenced by ever-increasing global temperatures and ongoing damage to the ecosystem. Only effective global governance and binding legislation can limit greenhouse gas emissions and keep us within planetary boundaries.

## HOW WOULD WORLD FEDERALISM HELP WITH PEACE?

Despite our efforts in arms control and cooperation, international relations are still ruled by the principle of unrestricted national sovereignty. Each state reserves for itself the right to pursue its own interests, even at the expense of others. Such behavior should be just as unacceptable and illegal between nations as it is between people.

World federalism would provide the means to resolve conflicts of interest peacefully and sustainably through the application of world law. War between nations to exploit neighbors would become just as unthinkable as war between Texas and Wisconsin, Bavaria and Saxony, or Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

## HOW WOULD WORLD FEDERALISM HELP WITH POVERTY?

According to the Global Peace Index 2020, violence costs the world over a tenth of the annual economic output. Moreover, an uneven patch-work of tax laws incentivize companies

to exploit legal loopholes and tax havens just to remain competitive in a globalized economy. With less military spending, and a fair system of global taxation, there would be more than enough money to provide equal opportunity to all.

## HOW WOULD WORLD FEDERALISM HELP WITH PROGRESS?

A system for global cooperation would enable funding for projects that propel humanity forward as a whole. Space exploration, medical research, cultural exchange, and economic development could all benefit from the binding global legislation, effective democratic governance, and the shared sense of humanity that a world federation would provide.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF WORLD FEDERALISM?

**TYRANNY** The idea of world government raises fears of global tyranny. As world federalists, we are not advocating a unitary world government with the power to abolish nations and manage all affairs centrally. Rather, to counter the risk of a tyrannical global government, we advocate that countries should retain sovereignty over national issues and work together on global issues within a world federation. Moreover, mature democracies have learned to counter the risk of tyranny with separation of powers, rule of law, a free press – enshrined in constitutions. We advocate the same institutions at the global level.

**LOSS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY** We believe that national identity is threatened by every nation being forced to tackle the same global problems. While we do advocate a united, democratic humanity to tackle global problems, federalism guarantees that nations would be free to focus on their own national identities, issues, and solutions. There is no tension between national identity for national issues and global identity for global issues.

**NOTE** Whilst governance can never be risk free, the absence of global government poses a far greater risk to the peaceful and sustainable existence of human life on Earth.



## HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS?

The United Nations is an international organization, not a government, which seeks to improve cooperation between competing countries on a chaotic global stage. It provides a forum for countries to discuss issues, but there are several deliberate design features that prevent it from providing effective governance:

- The five permanent UN Security Council members can, and regularly do, use their veto powers to prevent action being taken.
- The UN General Assembly cannot pass binding legislation and has no mechanism to enforce resolutions.
- The UN has no express separation of powers (i.e. legislative, executive, judicial).
- Voting based on the principle “one nation, one vote” instead of “one person, one vote”.
- The members of the UN are nations, not citizens, and people have no way to directly participate in the decision-making process.

These design flaws create a UN in which countries have the last word. This makes it nearly impossible to take coordinated action on pressing problems, such as climate change, pandemics, poverty and war. In a world federation, however, member states and citizens would be subject to binding world law, formulated by a world parliament representing humanity.

## IS YWF LEFT, RIGHT, OR CENTER?

YWF deliberately does not take a left, right, or centrist position. We advocate a world parliament to debate ideas and solutions to global problems, not for any particular decision that body might take. We look forward to lively, worldwide debate on global issues from people on all sides of the political spectrum.

YWF members have diverse views on pretty much every issue aside from world federalism. Our membership includes conservatives, socialists, liberals, and many others. We debate issues amongst ourselves vigorously but remain united in our advocacy of a global, democratic, federal government.

## WHAT DOES YWF THINK OF AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS?

We believe that every person is entitled to inherent rights, inviolable dignity, and has the responsibility to act in solidarity with humanity. Authoritarian countries often exploit their right

to sovereignty in the international system to discriminate against minorities within their borders, mistreat migrants attempting to cross them, and exert undue influence beyond them with impunity. Global democracy is crucial to give a voice to the oppressed, no matter their situation within their own country, their host country, or the interests of authoritarian governments.

For a democratic world federation to work, every constituent of the global community must practice democratic governance. Democratization of authoritarian countries and flawed democracies should proceed in parallel with, and would benefit from, the creation of a global democracy.

## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Volunteers from the Young World Federalists have collected countless books, articles, video lectures, webinars, research papers, theses, manifestos, and novels on the topic of world federalism. You can find a curated list of these resources with additional information on our website.

To begin with, the following books and articles provide the best overview:

- **Montreux Declaration**  
(World Federalist Movement, 1947)  
*This declaration is the founding document of the World Federalist Movement, written in response to the creation of the United Nations. For your convenience, it has been reproduced in full in this document.*
- **A World Parliament: Governance and Democracy in the 21st Century**  
(Andreas Bummel and Jo Leinen, 2018)
- **Planethood: The Key to Your Future**  
(Benjamin B. Ferencz, 1991)
- **World Federation? A critical analysis of world government**  
(Ronald J. Glossop, 1993)

## SOUNDS GREAT! HOW CAN I HELP?

Frankly: **spread the word!** This is by far the most effective way to kickstart lasting political change. Talk to your friends and family about world federalism, discuss how a global perspective could help us solve global problems, and invite them to promote the idea.

You can further support the organization by becoming a volunteer and helping with day-to-day tasks, organizing a local city/university chapter, and/or by becoming a member. More info on the next page.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP



*We can't change the world alone.  
But you can help us build a world that works for  
everyone.*

Follow us online, participate  
in our social media  
communities, and like & share



Fund our work through one-  
time or recurring  
donations



Support our  
campaigns  
by signing  
petitions and  
sending letters  
to your local  
representatives



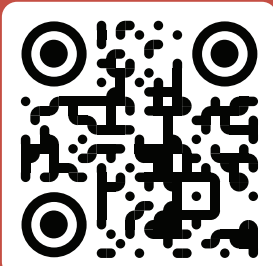
Participate in  
a local chapter  
and take part in  
real-life protests  
and actions



Mention world federalism to  
your family and friends and  
spread the word



Join our official membership  
program and shape the  
movement, elect the Board, and  
run a committee yourself

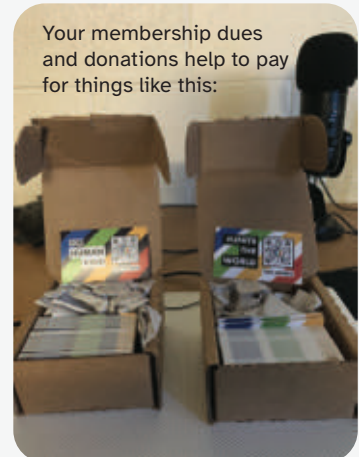


Volunteer for YWF and contribute  
your skills to the cause



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The policy platform has been drafted by Eston McKeague, Andreas Hemmetter, John Vlasto, and Nicolas Rowe.  
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Young World Federalists  
[www.ywf.world](http://www.ywf.world)

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