



Safeguarding Academic Freedom with the New Generation of Academics : Challenges and Opportunities for Students and Early-Career Scholars

HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM FOR THE NEW GENERATION
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**Academic freedom must be
protected **with** , not only
for, **the new generation** .**

Academic freedom is inside the global education agenda



Global education debate	Academic freedom question
Participation	Who has real power in education governance?
Inclusion	Who can safely speak, study and belong?
Digital transformation	Who controls data, AI and surveillance?
Education in emergencies	Who can continue learning and researching in crisis?
Mobility	Who can cross borders to study, teach and research?
Financing	What becomes possible when education is underfunded?

**Student mobilisation is one
of the signs that education
systems are under
pressure.**



Academic freedom is incomplete when students can speak, but cannot shape the rules that govern them.

The (big) challenges



1. Unequal risk;
2. Precarity;
3. Institutional culture;
4. Digital transformation of the academic life.

The other side of the coin: the opportunities



1. Students can make academic freedom more visible inside the global education agenda;
2. Students and early-career scholars can translate academic freedom into lived experience;
3. Student movements are a early warning system;
4. Solidarity.

The requirements



1. Recognition;
2. Participation with (real) power;
3. Due process;
4. Protection and solidarity;
5. Digital accountability.



We need to build institutions where students are heard before crisis, protected when they speak, included where power is exercised, and trusted as part of the academic community.

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