



e-ISSN 2798-8260



Jurnal ISO: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora Vol: 4, No 2, 2024, Page: 1-10

# The Role of Youth Parliaments in Increasing Youth Participation (International and Uzbekistan Examples)

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DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.53697/iso.v4i2.1977>

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Received: 21-10-2024

Accepted: 21-11-2024

Published: 22-12-2024

**Abstract:** The article examines the role of youth parliaments in increasing the participation of young people in political processes. Also, the article describes the practical experiences of the youth parliaments in the world and the practical measures taken, as well as the practical work carried out by the youth parliament in Uzbekistan. Some problems in the activity of youth parliaments in increasing the participation of young people in political processes, conclusions, suggestions and recommendations for further improvement of its activity are given and socio-political analysis is made.



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**Keywords:** Youth, Youth Participation, Youth Problems, Political Processes, Strategic Subject, Participation in Political Processes, Youth Parliament, Voterelection

## Introduction

Youth participation is the direct activity of young people in the spheres of social life of the country. Educating high-potential young people who are creative, innovative, free and independent thinkers, civil servants with political and legal culture, patriots and people who care about their people, who will make a radical change in the country's development by increasing their participation in political processes, who are a strategic subject of every country possible. At this point, if the participation of the youth of state leaders in political processes is ignored, distrust in the management and politics of state power, the aging of the heads of state agencies and organizations (increasing the number of older leaders), tokenistic (symbolic) participation in elections, indifference to political changes, political radical currents formation of features of tendency to join, distrust of the state's legislation may occur. The role of youth parliaments is incomparable in preventing such negative situations, as well as supporting the legal rights and interests of young people, increasing their legal awareness and literacy, interest and involvement in the legislative and law-making process, and expanding the opportunities to vote on the adopted laws (Stockemer, 2022).

At this point, it is appropriate to give scientific definitions to the concept of youth parliament.

**The Youth Parliament** is an organization established to ensure active participation of young people in decision-making about their lives and future. It provides a forum where young people can voice their opinions, share ideas and propose solutions on important issues related to education, health, employment, environment and other aspects of youth policy (Sana, 2024).

Russian political scientist Alexey Kochetkov comments that "Today, the youth parliament defines the rights and legal interests of young people in the presence of state authorities or in the manner established by them, as well as by other publics as a special social group based on the creation and operation of a special public consultation and radio broadcasting structure (Кочетков, 2005).

On the basis of the above concepts, it is possible to express the following opinion: Youth Parliament - which ensures the active participation of young people in making decisions about their lives and future, gives the opportunity to discuss their problems and ideas with government representatives, and forms the skills and competences intended to express the interests and ideas of young people in political processes institute (Elliott, 2021).

## Methodology

Around the world, many parliaments have information services tasked with liaising with civil society groups and networks. Partnerships work best when youth voices are heard and taken into account by decision-makers, when youth political participation helps solve real problems. Then the thoughts and views of young people will lead to real changes (Sana, 2024).

There are many initiatives that have copied younger versions of the world's political structures, such as:

- Youth parliaments
- Youth parliamentary committees
- Young governors

Often they are formed as a result of cooperation between the parliament, local councils and civil society youth groups. There are also international examples such as the Model UN Parliament. The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) was founded in 1999 and is a youth-led organisation. It is independent of the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government, but is funded by the Government for three years. The Scottish Youth Parliament has 160 members between the ages of 14 and 25.

Elections are organized by local councils under the guidance of staff from the Scottish Youth Parliament. Support for young people in Scotland is available from local councils and youth organisations (Stockemer, 2024).

Once a year the Scottish Government holds a meeting to discuss the progress made by the Scottish Youth Parliament. Examples of how the Youth Parliament has had a positive impact on supporting the rights of young people living in Scotland, mutual respect and consideration by decision makers in the country.

So the benefits of a Scottish Youth Parliament are not only young people and what they learn from their experiences, but also that they can draw on a ready-made group of interested young people to help shape positive policy by the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government. The Scottish Youth Parliament also accepts bookings from other organizations who are interested in the views of young people and want to involve them in their projects. The Scottish Youth Parliament is a good example of meaningful youth participation (Sana, 2024).

The Welsh Youth Parliament (WYP) (Welsh: Senedd Ieugend Cymru (SIC)) is a model youth legislature established in 2018 by the Senedd (then the National Assembly for Wales). Its aim is to empower young people to make decisions and give them a voice in Welsh politics. The Welsh Youth Parliament is made up of sixty members aged between 11 and 18. 40 members were elected by electronic election by Senedd constituencies, and another twenty members were elected by partner organisations (Roos, 2021b). All sixty members of parliament meet at the national level a total of three times during their two-year term. Parliament meets in the Senedd building in Cardiff Bay. In addition, members meet in regional meetings to continue the work program; It is held in four constituencies in Wales - Mid and West Wales, North Wales, South East Wales and South West Wales Three regional events will also be held over the two years, where young people from across Wales can meet and hear their views from their elected representatives (Sana, 2024).

The UK Youth Parliament was established in 1999 to empower young people, including those from marginalized communities, to influence the parliamentary process. The National Youth Agency runs the UK Youth Parliament and works with partner organizations to deliver the programme. The British Youth Parliament ensures that young people in the UK are given a voice on any issue that affects them, as set out in Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

The British Youth Parliament is elected every two years. The mandate of the British Youth Parliament begins on April 1 and ends on March 31 Elections are administered to local authorities (or bodies acting on behalf of or on behalf of local authorities) in England and Wales, the Scottish Youth Parliament in Scotland and directly by the National Youth Agency in Northern Ireland. Once elected, youth parliamentarians meet with decision-makers, organize events, campaign, give speeches, hold debates and ensure that young people's views are heard by decision-makers (Sana, 2024).

Looking at Asian countries, for example, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan launched the first Youth Parliament of Pakistan (YPP) in 2007 to build youth leadership skills and critical thinking, develop political knowledge, and meaningfully engage Pakistani youth in democratic decision-making. Since then, the Youth Parliament has developed the leadership skills of nearly 1,000 young Pakistanis between the ages of 18 and 29 from all provinces and territories of Pakistan. A number of graduates of Pakistan Youth Parliament are currently serving in leadership positions in politics, government, civil service, law, business and corporate sectors (Roos, 2021a).

The aim of the Pakistan Youth Parliament is to strengthen Pakistani nationalism among the youth, especially at a time when doubts and self-doubts are spreading among

the youth. The Pakistan Youth Parliament aims to build trust and confidence among the country's future political, corporate, business, legal and technological leaders and to provide them with a platform to develop and strengthen their vision for Pakistan. Based on this foundation, the Youth Parliament educates young people on how to become active citizens and build successful careers, empowering them to understand the global, regional and local challenges of today and tomorrow and inspiring them to address them as the next generation of leaders.

The objectives of the Pakistan Youth Parliament are to develop the leadership potential of the youth of Pakistan and enable them to:

- Development of critical thinking, intellectual interest, empathy and innovation;
- Becoming active citizens and creating a successful career;
- understanding the local and global problems of today and tomorrow and learning to solve these problems;
- Understanding the political system, democratic values and culture of Pakistan;
- Learning to be tolerant of different points of view and engage in logical, reason-based communication; is to develop policy alternatives based on the perspective of young people to solve important problems.

PILDAT will launch Pakistan's 18th Youth Parliament in February 2023, building on learnings from previous Youth Parliaments. To enhance the knowledge and leadership skills of young Pakistanis on how to become good citizens and successful professionals as they are empowered to understand global, regional and local contexts (Sana, 2024).

If we look at the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, by the decision of the State Duma of the Russian Federation dated July 4, 2001 No. 1742-III, a public youth chamber (renamed as the Youth Parliament in 2011) was established under the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. The State Duma apparatus of the Youth Parliament is a permanent body that provides legal, organizational, documentation, analytical-informational, financial, material and technical support for the activity. The Youth Parliament was established in order to study the problems of young people in the Russian Federation, to provide timely responses to them by the state authorities, to assist the activities of the State Duma in the field of legal regulation of the rights and legitimate interests of young people, and to prepare recommendations for solving the problems of young people in the Russian Federation. Also, this parliament performs the following tasks: developing recommendations and preparing proposals aimed at improving legislation in the field of ensuring the protection of the rights and legal interests of young people and sending them to the relevant committees of the State Duma;

- Analysis of draft laws under consideration in the State Duma and sending the results to the relevant committees of the State Duma
- Introducing young people to the activities of the parliament
- Formation of legal and political culture of young people;

- Educating young people in the spirit of patriotism and helping to form moral directions; participation in parliamentary hearings, roundtable discussions and other events held in the State Duma
- It is to support the development of the system of youth parliamentarism in the Russian Federation (Sana, 2024).

The Youth Parliament under the State Duma develops legislative initiatives to protect the rights and interests of young people, helps authorities and young citizens to better understand each other, teaches politics. The Youth Parliament under the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation operates on the basis of the Statute approved by the State Duma's decision 3315-8 GD of March 16, 2023.

In this regard, the youth council (parliament) under the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus was established in July 2020 and is a consultative body that carries out its activities on a public basis. The purpose of the Youth Parliament is to support the activities of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus in the field of legal regulation of the rights and legal interests of young people.

The Youth Parliament consists of representatives of youth aged 18 to 31 years who are citizens of the Republic of Belarus, usually from among the leaders (representatives) of youth parliamentarian bodies. The presidiums of the respective local Councils of deputies of the basic regional level from each district and city under the province submit one candidate to the youth parliament. The decision on the delegation of a candidate to the Youth Parliament is made after the discussion of the candidates at the meetings of the presidiums of the respective local Councils of Deputies. The term of office of the Youth Parliament is two years. The mandate begins on the day of the first Majlis of the newly elected youth parliament and ends on the day of the opening of the first Majlis of the new youth parliament.

The activity of the Youth Parliament is carried out in the form of meetings, presidium, commissions, other bodies of the Youth Parliament, as well as in open sessions of the Chamber of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus and the Council of the Republic of Belarus, their standing commissions and other forms in accordance with the Statute and Regulations of the Youth Parliament (Sana, 2024).

If we look at Uzbekistan, the PF- Pursuant to Decree No. 5953 (O'zbekiston Respublikasi Prezidentining, 2020), the Youth Parliament was established under the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis in order to ensure the implementation of the 21st part of the State Program I. Priorities for improving the state and society building system, "Further expanding the participation of youth in the law-making process". Also, with the Decision No. 2749-IV of the Council of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 12, 2022 (O'zbekiston Respublikasi Oliy Majlisi Qonunchilik palatasi Kengashining, 2022) "On improving the activities of the youth parliament under the legislative chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan", the statute of the Youth Parliament under the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan was approved.



## Result and Discussion

The goal of the Youth Parliament is to support the legal rights and interests of young people, to increase their legal awareness and literacy, to involve young people in the legislative and law-making process, and to participate in increasing their involvement in parliamentary life by widely promoting the adopted laws among young people.

The tasks of the Youth Parliament are as follows:

- development of proposals for the improvement of legal documents related to the protection of the rights and freedoms and legal interests of young people; discussing current problems of law-making and law enforcement practice with the participation of young people and preparing proposals aimed at eliminating them;

- Assistance in the implementation of control and analysis activities of the Legislative Chamber;

- to increase the awareness of young people about all stages of parliamentary activity and law-making;

- discussing current issues with the participation of young people and preparing proposals aimed at eliminating them; organization of practical discussions on the issues of law-making, as well as legislative techniques, legal and technical formalization of legal drafts;

- cooperation with youth organizations to increase the political knowledge of young people and strengthen their patriotic spirit;

- assistance in further development of international cooperation in the field of youth policy.

The Youth Parliament performs the following functions in accordance with the tasks assigned to it: identifies legal gaps in youth legislation and develops proposals for improving legislation;

- participates in the implementation of control and analysis activities of the Legislative Chamber based on the proposal of the Legislative Chamber or its relevant committee;

- holds discussions with the participation of young people on the issues that concern them; In order to increase the legal literacy of the members of the Youth Parliament, it organizes training courses and various activities in cooperation;

- organizes various events and promotes initiatives in order to strengthen the spirit of patriotism among young people;

- carries out extensive promotional activities in order to increase the awareness of young people about all stages of parliamentary activity and law-making; Makes speeches through the mass media in order to convey to the youth the activities of the Legislative Chamber and the content of the adopted laws;

Based on the approval of the Youth Affairs Commission of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the Youth Affairs Commission), in order to further develop international cooperation in the field of state policy related to youth, takes measures to establish cooperation relations with youth parliaments in foreign countries;

Assists the Legislature, as well as other official organizations based on the approval of the Commission on Youth Affairs, in the implementation of measures aimed at protecting the rights and interests of young people studying and working in foreign countries (O'zbekiston Respublikasi Oliy Majlisi Qonunchilik palatasi Kengashining, 2022).

Members of the Youth Parliament will be made up of a total of 100 people from among citizens aged 18-30, with gender equality ensured and also involving young people with physical disabilities. People's deputies elected to the regional, district (city) councils of youth representatives, 6 from each region in equal numbers, 84 in total, and 10 according to the recommendation of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, and 6 according to the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Youth Culture and Sports, by the decision of the Senate Council. membership is confirmed.

In 2023, the Youth Parliament prepared 455 proposals on 21 of the bills considered in the Legislative Chamber. Also, in 2023, members of the Youth Parliament will participate directly in 61 times during the meetings of the deputies of the Legislative Chamber in the regions, monitoring and analysis events and dialogues with the voters.

In 2023, the Youth Parliament established active cooperation with state bodies, and its 150 members are attached to 21 ministries and departments. As a result, practical meetings were organized in 13 ministries and offices. The scope of cooperation with youth abroad, youth parliaments under the legislative bodies of foreign countries has significantly expanded. Members of the Youth Parliament participated in 21 international events, including conferences held in 9 foreign countries (Sana, 2024).

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the youth parliament is a system that acts as a bridge between the state and the youth. Also, it will clearly determine the knowledge and skills acquired by young people in the political and legal sphere, and their life positions, and will create a political environment for them to become true successors of the state parliament in the future. The political changes taking place in today's world are increasing the interest and political participation of young people in political processes. However, the activity of political institutions does not have much influence on the active participation of young people in political processes. Because there are cases where political institutions only fulfill state tasks, what they do is done only for reporting, and insufficient attention is paid to finding solutions to youth problems and supporting them. At this point, it is appropriate to list some problems in the activity of youth parliaments in increasing the participation of young people in political processes:

**firstly**, the fact that the Youth Parliament is only used to carrying out tasks that are not part of the government's activities;

**secondly**, the participation of the parliament in the deliberations of draft laws and their decisions do not have official force;

**thirdly**, the fact that the members of the parliament are not taking a responsible approach to studying the problems related to the youth of the area where they live, identifying their causes, and discussing them among the youth;

**fourthly**, that their campaigns to protect the interests of young people, to bring their problems to the parliament platform, to ensure the participation of young people in law-making, will be held in front of the government only for the sake of reporting or in name only;

**fifthly**, the fact that some young people do not have information about the activities of the parliament. The goals and tasks of the youth parliament should be specified. For example, there are several institutes in Uzbekistan that study youth problems, take initiatives, and study proposals. The goals of such organizations as the Institute of Youth Problems and Prospective Personnel Training, the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, and the Youth Affairs Agency are close to each other. Study and analysis of youth problems should be carried out by a single organization. If there are a lot of organizations, each one of them has this and that task, and the problems remain problematic.

To increase the participation of young people in political processes, the following suggestions and recommendations can be made to further improve the activities of youth parliaments:

**first**, to improve its activity as a strategic political institution that creates opportunities for interaction between youth and the state in political processes;

**secondly**, to develop a plan of measures to attract not only talented, intellectual potential youth to the parliament, but also unorganized youth based on the requirements;

**thirdly**, development of a law or concept of state significance that will increase the legal and political literacy of young people in our country, strengthen their confidence in the state administration and political system, and increase the effectiveness of their constructive participation in political processes;

**fourthly**, the attitude of young people in all regions of our country to political and legal processes, identifying and developing solutions to problems in areas that serve to increase the participation of young people in political processes, such as education, employment, production, elections, etc., by conducting sociological research;

**fifthly**, it is to strengthen the opportunity for the members of the youth parliament to raise the problems of the youth without hiding them, to include their free and independent opinion and proposal in the draft laws on youth issues, without any pressure from some leaders or deputies.

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