



BUILDING COLLECTIVE POWER

GLOBAL PLATFORMS // NETWORK FOR YOUTH-LED ACTIVISM

Young people are at the forefront of some of the most important movements right now: The calls for climate justice, women and girls' rights, protection and acceptance of LGBT+ people, pro-democracy and anti-authoritarianism.

Global Platforms give young people a space to share and get inspiration, to act on social injustices, and to connect in global solidarity through a worldwide network built around activism and volunteer engagement.

WHAT IS A GLOBAL PLATFORM

A Global Platform is a place where young people meet around a common dream of progressive change – and get a chance to turn that dream into reality. Through training, action and networking Global Platforms act as incubators for volunteers and activists, amplifiers for social movements and safe spaces for young people from marginalised groups.

Each Global Platform is part of a global network that connects young people across the world – for sharing experiences and inspiration, solidarity actions, online training, volunteer opportunities, cultural exchanges and much more.

Global Platforms vary in size and shape: From a simple room to a bigger setup with café, training facilities and cultural events. It is usually hosted by an ActionAid office or a local affiliate organisation. Often a larger Global Platform is connected to several hubs around the country. In places of conflict and humanitarian emergency Global Platforms can be mobile or temporary spaces where young people organise to strengthen disaster response, recovery and resilience.

A Global Platform is usually financed by the host organisation through grants or core funding. To keep it sustainable – and to engage with the local community – many Global Platforms rent out training facilities, have on-site cafés and hostels, volunteer exchange programmes, markets with local products or merchandise sale.

WHAT WE DO - TOGETHER

For more than a decade thousands of young people have been supported through the Global Platforms Network to demand rights, seek influence and fight for a more sustainable world.

In Zambia the Youth4Parliament movement used Global Platforms to strengthen their campaign that led to a landslide victory for young people. In El Salvador mobilisation, creative campaigning and alliance building culminated in a historic law against metallic mining. In Bangladesh a women's movement has brought their fight for climate justice to leaders at global assemblies. In Kenya the Global Platforms helped ignite a campaign against sexual harassment at education institutions – leading to concrete changes and a larger #CampusMeToo movement in East Africa. When the #EndSARS protests took off in Nigeria, and when the military coup happened in Myanmar, the Global Platforms Network activated its huge community on social media in solidarity actions – reaching more than half a million people.

There is great potential in expanding the Global Platforms Network to give more young people the chance to learn, grow and collaborate across borders. To give them the opportunity to bring their stories and their voices to a global audience.

HOW IT WORKS IN PRACTICE

Though challenges and visions for young people can be very different from country to country – or from city to village – the Global Platform network is tied together by a shared methodology around organising for change. Through decades of experience and collaboration we have gathered tools, and strategies to support young people everywhere.

A Global Platform is first and foremost a place to meet, exchange ideas and organise. Staff and volunteers are trained to support and coach young people on how to create positive change. Community is at the heart of this and we connect people both locally and globally to share experiences, inspire each other, campaign together and organise solidarity actions.

Tools and methodologies are constantly refined, e.g. to fit different realities like conflict and humanitarian emergencies. Regardless of local differences each platform must be a safe space that adheres to basic human rights and shared values of feminism, climate justice and protection of marginalised groups.

LOCALLY ROOTED – GLOBALLY CONNECTED

The Global Platform Secretariat is hosted by ActionAid Denmark with staff based in a range of countries. The secretariat organises the network, co-creates tools and methodologies and offers training to support all Global Platforms and their staff in various ways.

The secretariat holds monthly global meetings, organises face-to-face gatherings and hosts online talks and discussions. The Global Platforms digital community gives volunteers and staff a place to share inspiration, learn and connect directly with each other.

Special attention is given to two key struggles that unite young people all over the world including climate justice, gender equality and democratic influence. This focus allows volunteers in the Global Platforms Network to speak with a united voice and push more effectively for global change.

GET INVOLVED

MAIL CONTACT@GLOBALPLATFORMS.ORG

WEBSITE GLOBALPLATFORMS.ORG

FACEBOOK FACEBOOK.COM/GLOBALPLATFORMS.ORG

INSTAGRAM [GLOBALPLATFORMS](https://www.instagram.com/GLOBALPLATFORMS)

NEWSLETTER GLOBALPLATFORMS.ORG/THE-YOUNG-ACTIVIST

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