



HOW TO PROMOTE THE ACTIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL MINORITY YOUTH

The extent to which people belonging to national minorities participate in all spheres of life is an indicator of the level of pluralism and democracy in a society.

In a comprehensive new recommendation, the Council of Europe has now set out what member states should do to promote the active political participation of national minority youth.

If you are interested in strengthening democracy and participation of national minority youth, this Recommendation shows you how to achieve this.

**Council of Europe
policy framework**

**Active political participation
of national minority youth**

Anti-discrimination

ACTIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL MINORITY YOUTH



The new recommendation on national minority youth participation

■ **Aims** to promote the active political participation of national minority youth.

■ **Clarifies** that member states may refer to the meaning of “national minorities” as it is used in the national legal framework or context.

■ **Describes political participation** as “the right and the process by which individuals participate in and have the opportunity to meaningfully influence political decision-making processes ... with the aim of ensuring that their needs are adequately reflected in the outcomes of those processes.”

■ **Specifies that political participation encompasses:**

- ▶ **freedom of expression**, including on social media;
- ▶ freedom of assembly, including online debates and demonstrations;
- ▶ **freedom of association**, including the establishment and joining of political parties; and
- ▶ depending on their age and other conditions in national legislation, the **right to vote and to stand for election**, to participate in referendums, youth councils and similar structures and to hold public positions.

**More on the recommendation
and the Council of Europe’s
work on the active political
participation of national
minority youth:**



What governments should do

■ Consider explicitly **enshrining** the right of national minority youth to active political participation **in law**.

■ **Secure the right to political participation** for national minority youth by developing and enacting general **strategies and action plans**.

■ **Ensure that there are spaces** to enable national minority youth to **participate in political life**, such as in Parliaments, municipal councils and other elected bodies, governmental institutions, youth parliaments and councils, school and student parliaments, advisory and consultative bodies, online platforms and media.

■ **Provide opportunities, means and support** to national minority youth to overcome obstacles to political participation, by:

- ▶ providing **information, education, and training**;
- ▶ organising **events and projects**;
- ▶ facilitating the presence of national minority youth in the **media**;
- ▶ providing appropriate procedures for accessing **citizenship and registering** to vote;
- ▶ providing training programmes and other **job opportunities**; and
- ▶ considering providing **financial support** to national minority youth and organisations representing them.

■ **Encourage national minority organisations** to provide space for youth, in particular girls and young women and other groups facing intersectional discrimination.

■ **Encourage political parties** to achieve adequate representation of national minority youth in their structures.

■ **Encourage media** to give space to national minority youth to express their views and present themselves. Media professionals should be trained to **avoid stereotyping, discrimination, and sexism** in their reporting.

■ **Encourage civil society organisations** to motivate national minority youth to join their organisations.