

# The ForYouPage.Org Manifesto

## [2023 Original]

ForYouPage.org is a youth-led NGO and a global coalition of youth advocates on a mission to unite young leaders and mobilize our peers in grassroots advocacy for our individual flourishing and our collective social justice.

By joining forces, we aim to amplify our voices and empower individual advocacy by providing each of us with resources, opportunities, and support of a community.

By joining forces, we aim to inspire more of our peers to advocate locally and globally, to not only build a more equitable and sustainable world by our own hands, but to make friends, take risks, and to nurture our own growth within.

At ForYouPage.Org, we are committed to the following principles:

### Principle 1. Youth Advocacy for Youth Flourishing

**We firmly believe the key to youth flourishing is to empower the youth to take risks and exercise agency through advocacy.**

We believe the cause of youth mental health crises is the feeling of powerlessness - to not feel in charge of our lives and to feel hopeless on many urgent issues of our time, and we believe the solution is advocacy. Advocacy provides a platform for us to step out of our comfort zones and channel our passions into meaningful action, exercising our own power to contribute to the causes we care about.

[Our Approach 1] We lower the barrier for advocacy by connecting youth with a network of youth led social ventures and local volunteers and help with causes of their choice.

### Principle 2. Youth Advocacy is for Everyone

**We firmly believe youth advocacy encompasses any grassroots action that involves giving back to and exercising kindness in our communities.**

We believe that youth advocacy does not need to consist of grand actions only by the 'cool' and the 'accomplished.' Whether it's organizing a neighborhood cleanup, volunteering at a local shelter, or raising awareness about important social issues, we believe every act of leadership or kindness is youth advocacy. Transcending notions of popularity or achievement, together we aim to create a culture where every grassroots community action is recognized, celebrated, and valued as a vital part of youth advocacy.

[Our Approach 2] We are fully open to all youth to participate in community advocacy at any level of commitment. We invite all grassroots youth to join us and we aim to serve all youth by providing the requisite knowledge and connections.

### Principle 3: Projects as Friendship Building & Connection Driven approaches

**We firmly believe connection driven collaboration through advocacy is not only a fundamental pathway to cultivating meaningful friendships but also the most effective way to get projects done.**

When young individuals come together with a shared purpose, we form connections that go beyond mere acquaintanceship. By enhancing the collaborative nature of advocacy projects, we foster genuine bonds between participants grounded in mutual understanding, trust, and support. These meaningful friendships serve as a powerful catalyst, fueling motivation, resilience, and a collective drive to see projects through to completion.

[Our Approach 3] We employ people centered approaches. No interest forms. No deadlines. Our volunteers will connect with you directly. We help the youth find like minded people for advocacy projects that they can work on together.

#### Principle 4: ?Fully Youth Led Collective

**We firmly believe youth advocacy cannot be a solitary battle. We strive to be a collective, fully youth led.**

When young people join forces, our voices resonate louder, our impact extends further, and our ability to enact meaningful change is greatly enhanced. We also believe it is essential to ensure this collective is fully youth-led, a space where we feel safe to express our opinions freely and to explore our purpose fearlessly. The strength of youth advocacy lies in the convergence of diverse perspectives, experiences, and talents, all united under a common cause.

[Our Approach 4] On issues shared across regions such as climate change, we help facilitate cross-region advocacy actions and we form working groups to talk to stakeholders and policymakers together.

#### Principle 5: ?Open Knowledge Sharing

**We firmly believe open knowledge sharing is the key in facilitating multilateral cooperation, individual advocacy and decentralized community self-organization.**

When knowledge is freely shared and accessible, it becomes a powerful tool for connecting individuals, communities, and organizations. It enables communities to tap into collective intelligence, share local wisdom, and adapt strategies to suit their specific needs and contexts.

[Our Approach 5] We maintain the [Wiki.ForYouPage.Org](https://www.wiki.foryoupage.org/), a shared advocacy and community resources database where everyone can contribute. We encourage everyone to contribute by bringing your knowledge and we encourage everyone to utilize this platform and its curated resources to advocate.

#### Principle 6: ?Coalition as the Bridge

**We firmly believe that stakeholders have a genuine desire to support youth, while young people are driven to create changes but need support and guidance, and we need to bridge the gap between these two sides.**

While stakeholders possess resources, expertise, and connections, young people often require support, guidance, and opportunities to fully realize their potential as change-makers. We aim to bridge the gap and to create a powerful synergy where stakeholders can provide the necessary support, mentorship, and resources more efficiently and effectively to empower young people to effectively drive change.

[Our Approach 6] We coach our youth volunteers in communication **and perspective taking** skills and we organize youth led community meetings where stakeholders and youth can come together to have dialogue.



future by our own hands.

**Be together to change together.**

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Revision #14

Created 3 June 2023 16:15:37 by Admin

Updated 18 November 2024 20:27:46 by Marx