



PODCAST 10

YOUTH AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY: THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHANGE - MAKERS



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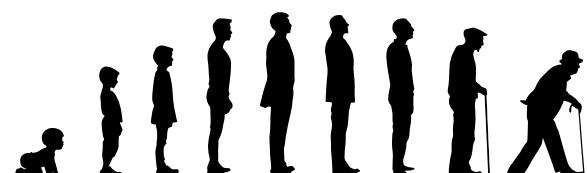


Welcome to today's podcast where we will explore the impact that young generations have on social solidarity.

Young people play a crucial role in driving social change and fostering solidarity in communities and around the world. As the world faces challenges such as climate change, inequality, and political unrest, young people are increasingly at the forefront of movements that promote social justice, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability.

Social solidarity refers to the sense of unity and collective responsibility that binds individuals together in support of a common cause. Young change-makers are building global and local movements that emphasise interconnectedness and mutual support, recognising that social issues such as poverty, migration, and human rights violations are interlinked and require collective action.

In the last episode we have focused on the digital world and how social solidarity is affected by it. Digital technology and social media play an essential role in youth activism. Online platforms enable young people to create movements, spread awareness, and rally others for causes. Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and X formerly known as Twitter help amplify messages globally, while apps and websites allow for fundraising, awareness campaigns, and petitions.



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Young people are championing a variety of causes, including climate action movements such as Greta Thunberg's Fridays for Future, Black Lives Matter, gender equality, and mental health awareness. They are using digital platforms, organising protests, and advocating for policy changes. The ease of access to information and global communication tools has empowered youth to mobilize and influence decision-makers like never before.

Youth-led movements are creating space for a diversity of voices. Young changemakers are not just focusing on their own needs but are amplifying the voices of marginalized and underrepresented groups. For example, young refugees and migrants are advocating for their right to a better life.

While youth activism often begins outside traditional institutions, young people are increasingly working with governments, international organisations, and businesses to achieve systemic change. Youth advisory councils, UN Youth forums, and NGO partnerships allow young people to engage with and influence policy at the highest levels.

Sustainability is a key theme in youth-led initiatives, especially around environmental concerns. Young leaders are advocating for greener practices, policies, and lifestyles, while pushing for significant investments in renewable energy, waste reduction, and responsible consumption. Their work emphasizes the need for intergenerational equity and the idea that today's generation should not deplete resources for future generations.



Empowering youth through education is vital to building a generation of change makers. This involves not only formal education but also access to leadership development programs, community organizing, and learning through lived experiences. Many young people are involved in peer-to-peer education, using social media and grassroots activism to teach others about social issues and how they can get involved.

This generation of young changemakers is motivated, informed, and united by the desire to create a fairer, more just world. Their drive for social solidarity brings people from diverse backgrounds together, offering a model for future global collaboration in tackling the challenges that lie ahead. The younger generations are dedicated to reshape and amplify the concept of social solidarity in profound ways. Social solidarity refers to the sense of unity and shared responsibility that binds people together, especially in addressing common challenges. As young people become increasingly engaged in activism, social justice movements, and community work, they are influencing how solidarity is expressed and understood across the globe.

Is social solidarity going to move online for the younger generations?

Young people today are digital natives, meaning they've grown up with the internet, social media, and online activism. This connectivity allows them to form solidarity across borders in ways that previous generations couldn't. Through social media, young people can engage with diverse communities and share information instantaneously, breaking down geographical barriers to solidarity.

This connectivity fosters a sense of global citizenship, where youth view issues like climate change, human rights, and social justice as interconnected across national and cultural boundaries. It's no longer just about local or national solidarity but about global solidarity for shared causes.

This approach leads to a more diverse, empathetic, and collective form of solidarity, where youth movements are not simply advocating for their own rights but also for those who have been historically silenced or oppressed. By acknowledging these intersections, young people are strengthening the foundation of solidarity by ensuring no one is left behind.

Young generations are increasingly skeptical of traditional hierarchies and centralized power structures, and they prefer grassroots, decentralized movements. This shift in organizing allows for localized solidarity that reflects the unique needs and experiences of different communities. Young people are embracing forms of activism that empower local communities to take action, often using technology to coordinate and amplify their efforts.

Through platforms like crowdfunding and young people are building solidarity from the ground up. They are addressing issues such as local poverty, access to education, or food security, while recognizing that solutions to these problems need to be rooted in the experiences of those most affected.



As young people push for social justice, they are also advocating for changes to economic systems that often perpetuate inequality. For example, youth-led movements like the gig economy and universal basic income proposals suggest that solidarity can be achieved through alternative economic models that prioritize social welfare over profit. The younger generation is increasingly questioning the traditional norms of work, wealth distribution, and access to resources. In doing so, they are pushing for a shift toward solidarity economics, where people care for one another and share resources more equitably. This could lead to a more cooperative, community-oriented model of solidarity that transcends capitalist individualism.

Younger generations are more aware of Mental Health and Well - being.

The younger generation is also placing an important emphasis on mental health as part of the broader concept of social solidarity. They are advocating for greater access to mental health care, combating stigma, and encouraging a culture of support and openness around mental health. In this way, youth are expanding solidarity to encompass not just physical well-being but emotional and psychological health too. By creating communities where mental health is prioritized and destigmatized, young people are showing that true solidarity goes beyond physical needs and extends to the well-being of individuals, fostering a sense of interconnectedness and care.

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The new world that younger generations are building around social solidarity begs to pose the question:

Is the younger generation able to work with the older generation to achieve the same goals?

While young people are often seen as the leaders of social change, they are also finding ways to collaborate with older generations to drive transformation. Intergenerational solidarity allows for the exchange of wisdom and experience from those who have been advocating for change for decades, while also infusing fresh perspectives and innovative approaches from younger people.

This collaboration is especially critical in areas like politics, education, and climate action, where long-term solutions require the participation of both young and old. Young people are working with older activists and policymakers to ensure that future generations benefit from the changes they advocate for today.

In essence, the younger generations are broadening the definition of social solidarity to be more inclusive and global. Their activism is focused not only on addressing the challenges of today but on building a more sustainable, and compassionate world for future generations. As young people continue to lead movements, foster empathy, and engage in community-building, they will leave a legacy of solidarity that transcends borders, identities, and generations.

Young change makers are recognising that the fight for a better world cannot be siloed into separate issues whether it's climate change, economic inequality, or racial injustice. They understand that true solidarity means addressing these interconnected issues together, and that social justice and environmental justice are two sides of the same coin.

They are pushing for new economic models, such as solidarity economics, that emphasise cooperation over competition, collective well-being over profit, and community-based solutions over individualism. These efforts are not just about short-term fixes but about transforming societal values and structures to promote long-term collective care and interdependence.

The increased focus on mental health is also a critical part of this transformation. As youth advocate for better mental health support and de-stigmatize emotional well-being, they are expanding the concept of solidarity to include not only physical and social care but also emotional and psychological support. This is a reflection of a deeper, more holistic understanding of what it means to care for others in society.

The next generation of change makers is setting the stage for a new kind of global solidarity, one that is rooted in empathy, inclusivity, and mutual support.



By challenging the status quo, embracing diverse perspectives, and leveraging technology to amplify their voices, they are laying the foundation for a more just and sustainable world. The youth of today are not just responding to the problems of tomorrow, they are proactively shaping a future built on the values of shared responsibility, collective action, and solidarity for all.

We hope you have enjoyed the last episode of the series of podcasts around social solidarity. Follow us on social media for more materials around social solidarity.

See you soon!

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