



Be a Youth Social Rights Ally!

Sign our Youth Pledge on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan

WHY A YOUTH PLEDGE?

Young people are being hit hard by the social impact of the pandemic. Youth unemployment has risen 3 times faster than the rate of the rest of the population during the pandemic. This increase in precarity is taking its toll on young people's mental health, with young people reporting higher levels of loneliness, tension and depression than any other age group¹.

But the warning signs were already there even before the pandemic struck. Young people were already overrepresented in precarious work, had higher unemployment rates and had the highest poverty rate of any age group in the EU².

The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and its endorsement at the Social Summit in May 2021 under the Portuguese Presidency is a key opportunity for the EU to protect young people's social rights. The EU's commitment to supporting young people as symbolised through "Next Generation EU" needs to go beyond the recovery. Safeguarding youth rights in the long term through the Pillar must be a priority as well.

Young people need your support! The European Youth Forum, and the 100+ youth organisations we represent, are calling on representatives of the EU institutions and Member States to join us in pledging to uphold youth rights and support the participation of young people and youth organisations in the initiatives outlined in the Action Plan.

¹ Eurofound (2020) [Living and working with Covid-19](#)

² Eurostat (2019) [At risk of poverty or social exclusion rate](#)

Eurostat (2020) [February 2021 Unemployment rate](#)

Eurostat (2019) [Temporary Employment Rate.](#)

THE PLEDGE

It is evident that young people are one of the groups hardest hit by the social impact of the pandemic, with youth unemployment and youth poverty rates at very high levels and much higher than for the rest of the population.

The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and the initiatives included within are an important opportunity to promote young people's rights which are under threat as a result of the pandemic and due to existing structural challenges linked to the labour market and social protection systems.

Young people should be protected by promoting policies that create quality employment opportunities for young people, ensuring their access to social protection and to essential support services. The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan includes important actions to this end.

Dialogue with young people and youth organisations is crucial to help ensure they are meaningfully involved in the further development and implementation of the Action Plan.

Nicholas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

I personally subscribe to the following ambitions:

- Considering youth rights across the initiatives included in the Action Plan.
- Holding annual meetings with youth organisations from the EU and national level and young people to discuss the youth perspective in relevant initiatives under the Action Plan.
- Highlighting the important perspective of youth in Member States' implementation of the initiatives included in the Action Plan at national level with the aim that the measures fully support young people.

[Representatives of The Council of the EU or individual EU Member States]

I personally subscribe to the following ambitions:

- Protecting the rights of young people by ensuring that their rights are mainstreamed in all relevant EU legislation linked to the Pillar Action Plan.
- Supporting engagement in dialogue and exchange at national level with youth organisations and young people to discuss the youth perspective in relevant initiatives under the Pillar Action Plan, both in 2022 to assess upcoming initiatives

and in 2024 to report on the results of the Pillar Action Plan, and to inform the planned 2025 review of the Pillar Action Plan.

- Promoting the full implementation of the reinforcement of the Youth Guarantee at national level, with a focus on the quality of the offers as outlined in the Pillar Action Plan.
- Promoting a high level of investment into the creation of quality jobs, social protection and support services for young people through the Next Generation EU financial instrument and the European Social Fund Plus.

MEP Brando Benifei

MEP Niklas Nienaß

MEP Damian Boeselager

MEP Lidia Pereira

MEP Alícia Homs Ginell

I personally subscribe to the following ambitions:

- Protecting the rights of young people by ensuring that their rights are mainstreamed in all relevant EU legislation linked to the Pillar Action Plan.
- Holding regular exchanges with young people and youth organisations in relation to the Pillar Action Plan.
- Promoting dialogue with the Council of the EU and youth organisations to discuss how to protect youth rights in upcoming EU initiatives and to review Member States' actions on upholding youth rights.
- Promoting adequate investment in youth through the Parliament's budgetary control mechanisms for the MFF and Next Generation EU, including the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

The European Youth Forum commits to:

- Engaging with the European Parliament, European Commission, and the Council Members to highlight the needs of young people and to ensure the protection of their rights in all relevant EU legislation linked to the Pillar Action Plan.
- Developing awareness and support for the European Pillar of Social Rights and the initiatives linked to the Pillar among national and local youth organisations and young people.

- Promoting our Youth Social Rights Allies and the work they are undertaking to support young people.
- Facilitating and showcasing exchanges between Pledge signatories and youth organisations and young people.