

Structure of the discussion

"What does democracy really mean?"

Hand out name badges and cards

-> Specify guiding questions

1 What do you expect from this discussion on democracy?

2. What are important issues in a democracy for you?

3 What are your experiences with democracy so far? Would you describe yourself as an active and democratic citizen?

Take notes and give time for reflection

Introduction and presentation

- Presentation of our NGO and Wake-Up project.

- Presentation of the results and your own person

- introduce ourselves and tell us why we think it is important to have this discussion now

General Disclaimer before discussion:

- We conduct a respectful discussion, listen to each other and do not judge opinions

- We only deal with a small part of the topic of democracy (participation), there is of course much more to it

- We have prepared some theses or statements and would like to throw them out and ask you to comment on them

- Addressing the time limit, summarising it briefly and concisely, as far as possible

- Discussion should be about your experiences, your issues should be in the foreground, we want to try to get everyone involved and have their say

- We want to record the most important points in writing on a flipchart and take them up again at the end

- Our output: To take stock of what it means to be a democratic citizen and to be actively involved

Democracy as a form of government

"All sections of the population are equally represented in Germany and are taken into account in parliament.

- Should every country be democratic?

- What are important elements of democracy for you?

- Does democracy rather bring peace to the world or at least between democracies?

- Do you perceive Germany as disenchanted with politics?

- Are you interested in politics? What has aroused your interest? Especially questions to Beshoy, Amjad, Terkin etc.

Opportunities for participation within a democracy

"Democracy also works when only a few people participate"

"Elections are the most important and valuable means of getting involved in democracy. «

"As in some other countries, there should be compulsory voting in Germany. «

"A high turnout is not so important for democracy, I can stay at home. «

- What prevents you from becoming more involved in society and in political processes, or what do you think prevents other people from doing so?
- Do you influence your political involvement more by voting or by volunteering?
- What can you do to make it easier and perhaps more attractive to participate?
- How can I make myself heard?
- How have you already been politically involved or why not yet?
- Should there be compulsory voting?
- What do you think will happen if fewer and fewer people feel it is important to make use of their right to political participation? Does a society perhaps need a certain disenchantment with politics?
- How can you, as a democratic citizen, take an active part in your society?

Problems within a democracy/ in general

"People are not interested in politics, why should they go to vote?"

"Most politicians get involved out of inner conviction and not because they want to exercise power. «

- What do you think is wrong with democracy or what can be improved? How would you imagine your perfect form of government?
- Why do so many people no longer feel addressed or misunderstood?
- Why does democracy (not) work?
- Amjad, Beshoy, Terkin, how do you perceive Germany's democracy problems? Do you feel better represented here in Germany?

Current forms of participation

"Taking part in citizens' initiatives or similar is a better way of political participation than simply voting".

"Can demonstrations really change anything?"

- Has the pressure to get involved socially or politically increased for you in the last months and if so why?
- Why is democracy experiencing such strong participation, especially in recent months
- Why do you think that so many people are suddenly getting involved? Was there a trigger, a change/jolt in society? (Bee citizens' decision, Stuttgart

Summary/Final statement:

To conclude: what exactly does democracy mean to you now? What did you take away from the discussion and has something changed in your idea of democracy?