

Youth Council Charter Template

Purpose: Provides a customizable governance framework for establishing youth councils, empowering learners to participate in decision-making and policy development, as outlined in the framework's structural components ([Section 3.4](#)). This template fosters global citizenship, equity, and inclusive leadership, aligning with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions).

Usage:

- **Who:** Youth (ages 10–18), educators, community leaders, and policymakers launching local or regional youth parliaments.
- **How:** Adapt the template to define council mission, roles, processes, and equity mandates, then ratify through community consensus.
- **When:** During pilot planning ([Section 4.4.1](#)), scaling ([Section 4.4.2](#)), or as part of the “Start with the Seed” kit ([Section 4.3](#)).
- **Formats:** Editable Word document, PDF, and markdown, available in 10+ languages, with accessible versions (e.g., audio, braille, sign language).

Equity Safeguards:

- Ensures at least 30% representation of marginalized groups (LGBTQ+, Indigenous, neurodiverse, disabled, caste-oppressed, refugees) in membership and leadership.
- Multilingual materials and oral formats support linguistic and accessibility needs.
- Anonymous voting and feedback options protect vulnerable participants in sensitive contexts (e.g., authoritarian regions).
- Free distribution prioritizes low-income and crisis-affected communities.

Youth Council Charter Template

1. Mission Statement

Purpose: Defines the council's vision and alignment with the framework's principles ([Section 2.2](#)).

Template:

The [Council Name] Youth Council is dedicated to empowering young leaders to shape equitable, regenerative, and inclusive education systems. Guided by systems thinking, global citizenship, and restorative justice, we co-create policies and projects that nurture our communities and planet, ensuring every voice—especially those of marginalized groups—is heard and valued.

Customization:

- Replace [Council Name] with a local or regional identifier (e.g., Oslo Youth Council, Pacific Island Youth Parliament).
- Incorporate local values or priorities (e.g., Indigenous land stewardship, urban sustainability).

2. Membership

Purpose: Outlines eligibility, diversity, and inclusion criteria to ensure representative governance ([Section 3.4](#)). **Template:**

- **Eligibility:** Open to youth aged 10–18, with no barriers based on gender, ethnicity, disability, or socioeconomic status.

- **Size:** 10–50 members, scalable by community size (e.g., 10 for micro-pilots, 50 for regional councils).
- **Diversity Mandate:** At least 30% of members from marginalized groups (LGBTQ+, Indigenous, neurodiverse, disabled, caste-oppressed, refugees), with annual demographic audits ([Section 5.3](#)).
- **Selection Process:** Open applications or elections, with community nominations to ensure accessibility. Anonymous options for sensitive contexts.
- **Term:** 1–2 years, with staggered rotations to maintain continuity.

Customization:

- Adjust age range or size based on local needs (e.g., 8–15 for younger communities).
- Add specific marginalized groups relevant to the region (e.g., Dalit youth in India).

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Purpose: Defines leadership and member roles to ensure effective collaboration and accountability. **Template:**

- **Chair/Co-Chairs (2):** Facilitate meetings, represent the council externally, and ensure equity mandates are met. At least one co-chair from a marginalized group.
- **Secretary:** Records minutes, manages communications, and ensures accessibility (e.g., multilingual summaries).
- **Project Leads:** Oversee specific initiatives (e.g., climate projects, curriculum proposals), with training in project management.
- **Members:** Contribute to discussions, vote on policies, and engage in community projects, with mentorship support.
- **Mentors (2–5 adults):** Educators or community leaders providing guidance, trained in restorative practices ([Section 3.8](#)).

Customization:

- Add roles (e.g., Media Coordinator for digital campaigns) based on council scope.
- Specify mentor qualifications (e.g., expertise in climate policy for SDG 13 projects).

4. Decision-Making Processes

Purpose: Establishes transparent, inclusive processes for policy proposals, voting, and conflict resolution ([Section 3.4](#)). **Template:**

- **Meetings:** Monthly, with hybrid (in-person and virtual) options and accessible formats (e.g., sign language, braille agendas).
- **Policy Proposals:** Any member can propose policies (e.g., curriculum changes, climate initiatives), supported by a mentor and community feedback ([Section 5.7](#)).
- **Voting:** Consensus preferred; if needed, majority vote (50%+1) with anonymous options for sensitive issues. Quorum of 60% required.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Restorative circles facilitated by trained mentors, prioritizing empathy and inclusion ([Section 3.4](#)).
- **Transparency:** Public minutes and annual reports shared via digital platforms or community hubs ([Section 5.8](#)).

Customization:

- Adjust meeting frequency (e.g., biweekly for active councils).

- Add local conflict resolution practices (e.g., Indigenous talking circles).

5. Equity and Inclusion Mandates

Purpose: Ensures the council prioritizes marginalized voices and fosters an inclusive environment (Section 2.2.5). **Template:**

- **Representation:** Annual audits to maintain 30% marginalized group representation, with corrective actions if unmet (Section 5.3).
- **Accessibility:** Meetings and materials in 3+ local languages, with sensory-friendly options (e.g., quiet spaces, visual aids).
- **Safe Spaces:** Anonymous feedback channels and anti-discrimination policies protect vulnerable members (e.g., LGBTQ+, refugees).
- **Training:** All members receive equity training on intersectionality, caste, and neurodiversity, integrated with spiral dynamics (Section 3.2).
- **Community Engagement:** Quarterly forums with families and marginalized groups to co-design priorities (Section 4.12).

Customization:

- Specify local languages or accessibility needs (e.g., Pacific Island dialects, braille for visually impaired).
- Add region-specific equity focus (e.g., caste inclusion in South Asia).

6. Projects and Advocacy

Purpose: Outlines the council's role in leading projects and advocating for change, aligned with framework goals (Section 4.11). **Template:**

- **Projects:** Lead regenerative initiatives (e.g., tree planting, water conservation) or curriculum reforms, tracked via M&E rubrics (Section 5.2).
- **Advocacy:** Present proposals to local governments, schools, or global forums (e.g., UNESCO), using advocacy playbook strategies (Section 10.1).
- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with NGOs, schools, or private sector for resources and impact (Section 4.10).
- **Recognition:** Annual "Regenerative Leader" awards for outstanding contributions (Section 4.14).

Customization:

- List local project priorities (e.g., coral restoration in Pacific Islands).
- Identify specific advocacy targets (e.g., municipal councils, national ministries).

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

Purpose: Ensures council activities are tracked and refined, aligning with the framework's M&E system (Section 5). **Template:**

- **Metrics:**
 - Participation: 70% member attendance and engagement (Section 5.3).
 - Equity: 30% marginalized representation, 80% satisfaction with inclusion (Section 5.3).
 - Impact: Number of projects implemented (e.g., 5+ annually), policy adoption rate (e.g., 50%) (Section 5.2).
- **Methods:** Quarterly feedback surveys, narrative stories, and community forums (Section 5.6).

- **Reporting:** Annual impact report shared with stakeholders, integrated into global dashboard ([Section 5.8](#)).
- **Adaptation:** Adjust processes based on feedback, guided by predictive analytics ([Section 5.9](#)).

Customization:

- Add local metrics (e.g., cultural preservation for Indigenous councils).
- Specify reporting platforms (e.g., community boards, digital portals).

Instructions for Use

1. **Adapt Template:** Customize sections to reflect local context, priorities, and equity needs, consulting community stakeholders ([Section 4.12](#)).
2. **Engage Community:** Hold workshops to co-design the charter, ensuring 50% marginalized representation ([Section 5.5](#)).
3. **Ratify:** Approve via youth and community vote, with transparent documentation.
4. **Launch Council:** Recruit members, train facilitators, and hold inaugural meeting, using facilitation guides ([Section 3.8](#)).
5. **Monitor and Refine:** Track outcomes via M&E rubrics, share stories through multimedia ([Section 7.2.2](#)), and update annually.
6. **Scale:** Expand to regional or global networks, per tiered implementation ([Section 4.2](#)).

Example Use

In 2024, Nordic youth councils adapted this charter to govern 2,000 learners across 10 municipalities, achieving 40% marginalized representation and influencing climate policies that reduced emissions by 10% ([Section 8.1](#)). The charter's equity mandates ensured LGBTQ+ and neurodiverse voices shaped solar park proposals, earning 90% member satisfaction.

Cross-References

- Global Citizenship and Youth Parliaments ([Section 3.4](#))
- Implementation Strategies ([Section 4](#))
- M&E Framework ([Section 5](#))
- Nordic Youth Parliaments Case Model ([Section 8.1](#))
- Advocacy Playbook ([Section 10.1](#))

Download

Available at [framework website](#) as PDF, Word, markdown, and accessible formats (audio, braille, sign language). Contact [globalgovernanceframeworks@gmail.com] for translation requests or support.