

DECLARATION OF HOPE FOR YOUTH

We are the participants of the Hope for Youth Forum on the 10th of June 2021. We believe that people can only realize themselves and become happy by working freely, and labour should be valued beyond pay. We are young people who came together to evaluate the problems that the COVID-19 pandemic has made more explicit in the labour market for young people, the medium and long-term effects of these problems, and possible solutions. Hoping that the impossibility of building a happy society without solving the problems of the youth is recognized, and that no one is left behind, we ask for the following from all stakeholders of the society, for a social order in which we can access equal rights and opportunities with our contemporaries without discrimination and in which we can cherish the hope for a future of decent life in the light of universal human rights:

1. We want "decent work" to be recognized as a fundamental human right.
2. In this era where information is rapidly getting obsolete, and change is swift, we ask for an education system that teaches us to ask "How?" and "Why?" questions at every level of learning, and that invests in learning to learn.
3. We do not want to stay on the edge of the age as individuals whose recitations are outdated and dysfunctional.
4. In a global labour market polarized between a limited group of highly qualified workers enjoying decent work and a large group of the working poor whose skills can only take on jobs too costly for robots to undertake, we do not want to be the easily dispensable labour.
5. We do not want to face unemployment due to skill mismatches.
6. It is necessary to update the content and methods of vocational education programs offered in vocational high schools, vocational schools, and universities with effective social dialogue by listening to all stakeholders and including young people in this dialogue.
7. School quotas in vocational fields with limited job opportunities after graduation should be reviewed, education planning should be responsive to labour demand.
8. We want to improve and update our skills with employers' financial and institutional supports, whom we expect to be aware of our lifelong learning needs and motivations.
9. We ask for a digital infrastructure that ensures equitable access to information and public services across the country.
10. We ask for balanced regional development plans and investment programmes that will not force us all to migrate to a few metropolises but will offer a productive and fair future in the cities we were born.
11. In line with the increasing prevalence of atypical working forms, we, young people are being pushed into informal and precarious employment, especially through online job platforms. We demand that the necessary arrangements be made in our social security and labour legislation in order to ensure the access of young people to registered and secure employment and to facilitate insurance processes.
12. We demand practical "registered working procedures", especially suitable for digital platforms, are developed, registered working culture for all kinds of work are encouraged, and implementation is inspected.

13. We want to be in the working environment we deserve in our jobs, get the wages we deserve.
14. We do not want to be deprived of social security and income security just because we are young and do not meet the conditions for the number of premium days during our unemployment. On the contrary, we want the right to social protection to be ensured for everyone at all ages.
15. We want expansion of the public space that is open to all of us free of charge, including Youth Centres, maker workshops, libraries, parks, and green spaces that bring us together, enabling us to produce together and be happy.
16. We ask for the establishment of consultancy and grant supports so that we, young people, can realize our innovative ideas and establish our own businesses.
17. We ask for an assessment of our skills and guidance towards working life with individualized job and career counselling services.
18. We ask for the provision of more opportunities for the disabled youth among us to enable easier access to social life and transformation of the institutional and physical infrastructures that create barriers thereby it is easier for everyone to access opportunities.
19. We ask for regulations regarding professional development, working hours, working place, leaves, and care services that especially young women need for transition to working life and maintaining working in fair conditions, and closer supervision and inspection of the private sector by the public authority.
20. We demand that the voices of the rural youth among us be heard, and equal opportunities in access to education, social life, and decent jobs are ensured.
21. For the communication between the state, workers, and employers to be of a quality that acknowledges the rights of us young people, we want civil society and trade unions to engage in "effective advocacy primarily".
22. We demand that public and private sector recruitments are carried out in a fair, transparent, and merit-based manner.
23. We ask for the elimination of digital injustice, which has become more visible and perceptible with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and equal access to education and training opportunities for everyone.
24. We demand that the youth labour is rewarded in internships, and within this framework, paid internship opportunities are increased.
25. We demand that volunteering efforts are rewarded; volunteering is not exploited as unpaid labour.