

ID TALKS!

This series of ID Talks is dedicated to social justice and youth work. They reflect on humanistic theories, discuss the type of society we live in now, and what kind of reality we want to create for our common future.



ID Talks:

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND BEING HUMAN
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND YOUTH WORK
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTIVISM
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EDUCATION

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EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS



Erasmus+

ABOUT SALTO

...‘Support and **A**dvanced **L**earning and **T**raining **O**pportunities within the Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes’. The European Commission has created a network of seven SALTO-YOUTH Resource Centres to enhance the implementation of the EU Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes, which provide young people with valuable non-formal learning experiences.

SALTO’s aim is to support the implementation of the European Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps Programmes with regard to priorities such as Social Inclusion, Diversity, Participation, and Solidarity. SALTO also supports co-operation with regions such as EuroMed, South-East Europe, or Eastern Europe and The Caucasus and coordinates all training and co-operation activities, as well as information tools for National Agencies.

In these European priority areas, SALTO-YOUTH provides resources, information, and training for National Agencies and European youth workers. Most of these resources are offered and disseminated at www.SALTO-YOUTH.net. Find online the [European Training Calendar](#), the [Toolbox for Training and Youth Work](#), the database of youth field trainers active at the European level ([Trainers Online for Youth or TOY](#)), links to online resources, and much more.

SALTO-YOUTH actively co-operates with other actors in the European youth field, among them the National Agencies of the Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes, the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum, European youth workers and trainers, and training organisers.

THE SALTO-YOUTH INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY RESOURCE CENTRE WWW.SALTO-YOUTH.NET/INCLUSION/

The SALTO-YOUTH Inclusion and Diversity Resource Centre (based in Belgium Flanders) works together with the European Commission to support the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in the Erasmus+: Youth in Action and European Solidarity Corps programmes. Through that, it works to contribute to social cohesion in society at large. SALTO Inclusion and Diversity also supports the National Agencies and youth workers in their inclusion work by providing training, developing youth work methods, disseminating information via the newsletter, etc. By offering opportunities for training, exchange, and reflection on inclusion practice and diversity management, SALTO Inclusion & Diversity works towards the visibility, accessibility, and transparency of its inclusion & diversity work and resources, and towards making ‘inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities’ and ‘positive diversity management’ a widely supported priority.

For more information and resources, have a look at the Inclusion & Diversity pages at www.SALTO-YOUTH.net/Inclusion/



DISCLAIMER

This magazine contains pictures as a result of the Graphic Recording which is an integral part of all the ID Talks events. There are four types of styles throughout the whole magazine.

- **General Cover Picture.** It is used for promotional reasons throughout the social media channels and the dissemination materials and it depicts the logo of SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, the title, and the graphic elements of each version of the ID Talks events. It is displayed as a cover picture of each ID Talks version.
- **Portrait of Speaker.** It depicts each speaker and a few graphic recording elements such as written parts of their "speech" and/or any other graphics according to the style of each ID Talks version. It is displayed on top of the speaker's description page.
- **Main Graphic Recording Card.** It is used for promotional reasons throughout the social media channels and the dissemination materials and it depicts the logo of SALTO Inclusion & Diversity, the title, and the graphic elements of each version of the ID Talks events, including the specific name of the event, the portrait of the speaker, written quotes of their "speech" and/or any other graphics. It is displayed on top of the first page of each article.
- **Graphic Recording Elements.** Throughout each article, the graphic recording elements complement the text with essential parts of each speaker's "talk".



I & D Talks

“Social Justice”

What is it all about?

“ID Talks” is a series of 5 online workshops on 5 major topics to promote inclusion & diversity (ID) and quality youth work. It features youth workers, professionals and volunteers, from all over the world to share insights, research findings, food for thought, good practices or inspirational stories. They will guide participants through the pressing matters and challenges affecting Inclusion & Diversity and inspire them to make their programmes and organisations more inclusive, embrace human differences, look ahead and picture how the future of youth work and Inclusion & Diversity might be.

Each workshop begins with an input from a guest speaker. Afterwards, participants have the opportunity to engage in the discussion, ask questions and share about their own realities and experiences.

For whom?

- Youth workers, youth leaders, professionals and volunteers involved in ID in the EU youth programmes, as well as all those interested in youth work and inclusion & diversity topics.

Why should you join?

- Get food for thought and learn from inspirational ID stories.
- Learn about ID topics from the youth work sector and beyond.
- Get information, inspiration, methods to help the youth sector address ID.
- Put some more quality in your (international) youth work.
- Identify and learn how to tackle existing and future challenges within ID.



Event Dates:

- 3 September (13h CET) > **ID Talks Social Justice and Being Human (A Tale of Two Sophias):** What does it mean to be human, who is included and who is excluded? What is social justice? How is the world - our environment, technology etc. - shaping today's young people? Let's look into some modern humanist ideals and theories, debate on societal dilemmas and their implications for youth work practice. Guest speaker: **Maria Pisani**, Malta
- 17 September (13h CET) > **ID Talks Social Justice and Youth Work:** How does social justice translate to youth work? What are the different models to ensure access and equity in youth work? Let's talk about the focus of youth work as a value-based profession - should it be about societal change or individual integration? We will examine youth work on the crossroads of individual needs and structural changes. Guest speaker: **Silvia Volpi**, Italy
- 1 October (13h CET) > **ID Talks Social Justice and Human Rights:** How are human rights regarded in today's society? Are there any new concepts and definitions, and how do they reflect the reality of human rights today? What is the role of youth work in promoting, advocating and defining human rights? Let's see how young people are challenging the existing structures, advocating for new issues and breaking existing patterns. Guest speaker: **Neringa Tumėnaitė**, the UK
- 15 October (13h CET) > **ID Talks Social Justice and Activism:** What is (youth) activism and what forms can it take? Why do young people engage in activism and what issues are they ready to "fight for"? Should youth work be "radical" and "political"? Let's discuss the links between activism and youth work and see how activism contributes to creation of a just society. Guest speaker: **Eimear Manning**, Ireland
- 29 October (13h CET) > **ID Talks Social Justice and Education:** What is the role of (non-formal) education in actively countering injustice and helping to build inclusive democracy for the benefit of all? What kind of tools and resources are needed? Let's discover examples of social justice education and peace education cases, and see how they are contextualised and targeted at young people with fewer opportunities. Guest speaker: **Maria Sakarias**, Estonia

Social Justice and Human Rights

How are human rights regarded in today's society? Are there any new concepts and definitions, and how do they reflect the reality of human rights today?



GUEST SPEAKER: NERINGA TUMĖNAITĖ

Neringa Tumėnaitė is a PhD candidate at SOAS University of London researching youth empowerment within (de)colonial dynamics in contemporary political economy. Her work examines tensions between institutional co-optation and transformative potential, exploring alternative frameworks for planetary wellbeing. Neringa previously served on the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, worked at the EU Delegation to Myanmar, and was a Fulbright-Schuman fellow at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.



Article

Neringa Tumėnaitė



POST-COLONIAL PERSPECTIVES TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND PLANETARY WELLBEING

I have worked and volunteered in the human rights sector for over 7 years, and have largely been a big proponent. Nevertheless, I would like to use this space to highlight some critical, perhaps even a bit provocative points. The presentation and this article are not meant to offer a comprehensive overview. Rather, to give food for thought and discussion from diverse angles, raising open questions from both European and Global contexts.

Youth Work and Resisting Co-Option

Once grounded in radical traditions (such as street-based services and community-based programming), youth work risks losing its revolutionary potential as it becomes "appropriated as mechanisms of control" meant to help integrate young people into the existing socio-economic order (Skott-Myhre, 2005). Unchecked, youth policy may be used to serve to "replace, silence and contain" grassroots movements by absorbing their languagewhilst neutralising their transformative potential (Sukarieh and Tannock, 2008:311). This tension between empowerment and control continues to influence youth engagement today.

Young people asserting their own rights, as well as publicly expressing solidarity with others, have been essential in maintaining a human rights culture. In fact, protests by pupils have been a persistent feature of the history of schooling (Adams, 1990). During one such protest against the Iraq War, Katherine, a 16-year-old pupil from the UK, told the Guardian:

"Tony Blair, obviously, doesn't think Iraqi children are too young to be bombed, so how can we be too young to protest?"



Speaking of crimes against humanity during the WWII, Hannah Arendt (1964) questioned: *"How can we tell right from wrong, independent of knowledge of the law?"* Çubukçu (2015) extends this query to the current times, asking:

"What is our personal and collective responsibility under genocide when it is enabled and legitimated by institutions that we consent to – including governments and universities – to the degree that we do not disobey them actively?"



The question is in part answered by civil disobedience, with many peaceful protesters demanding that their governments end the complicity in war crimes through political support (or silence) and arms sales. Nevertheless, this form of engagement is often met with high degrees of intimidation: in countless cases in Europe and across the world, university students have been faced with riot police, arrests, and even threatened with deportation.

In a way, this pattern of repression mirrors the treatment of climate activists. Although governments initially became more lenient towards climate protests, this was short-lived. Once young activists started engaging in alternative forms of participation such as civil disobedience, states began arresting and, at times, even jailing the activists; such disproportionately harsh treatment aimed to discourage future mobilisations.



1 WESTERN CENTRISM

THE NATIONAL INTERESTS
OF MAJOR POWERS ARE
DRESSED UP AS SIMPLE
MORAL PROGRESS
(USED AS A TOOL FOR CONTROL)

2 CO-OPTION OF YOUTH WORK

YOUTH & GRASSROOTS
MOVEMENTS RISK HAVING
THEIR ENERGY AND
TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL
NEUTRALIZED

Yet many young people continue to resist this co-option, expanding their repertoire of resistance. Morrison et al's (2022) framework of interventions for planetary wellbeing can be helpful in contextualising these different actions.

Whilst the ultimate goal remains transition from exploitation, which necessitates systems change and a shift in the asymmetrical power relations, various interventions can aid or distract from this journey (for example, tactical interventions such as protests may help raise awareness, whereas overly-hopeful technical innovations as a solution to the climate crisis may distract from more strategic, long-term goals).

Human Rights and Alternative Epistemologies

Even as freedom of assembly faces restrictions, legal recognition of environmental rights is somewhat advancing. For example, the people's right to a healthy environment is now legally recognised by the majority of the UN's member states.

Of course, the Human Rights approach has limitations as it is not holistic enough to lead to planetary wellbeing by itself. One of the key issues is that it prioritises human needs above the needs of the entire ecosystem; the environment is not viewed as one where all entities are intimately connected to and responsible for one another (Robinson 2020).

HUMAN RIGHTS VS RIGHTS OF NATURE
HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIZE HUMAN NEEDS
OVER THE NEEDS OF THE ECOSYSTEM

This recognition has spurred the climate movements to increasingly embrace legal strategies that aim to expand our frames of reference and thinking. Over the past decade, there has been a significant increase in the use of legal instruments to litigate for the Rights of Nature [1].

It is also important to highlight that the understanding of "Human Rights" as a set of universal norms that everyone can equally accept is not likely to be achieved through education, coercion, or persuasion (Hopgood, 2013:167). One of the reasons is that "universal knowledge" and "best practices" tend to be predominantly white/Western in nature (Kjorholt and Penn, 2019). Therefore, while preserving the existing rights is important, simultaneously, there is also a need to make more space to acknowledge and embrace the diverse ways in which people interpret and customise rights across geographical and cultural contexts.

Youth work, when grounded in radical traditions of equality and inclusion, remains a space where young people can develop their thinking, critical consciousness, and creativity to advance the rights of themselves, as well as nature. If human rights frameworks are to remain useful in the pursuit of planetary wellbeing, we must acknowledge their limitations and embrace, with humility, the importance of learning in diverse ways from diverse sources. There is perhaps no expert better equipped and positioned to do this than youth workers.



"CHANGE REQUIRES
REFLECTION, IMAGINATION
AND RESPONSIBILITY!"



ARE WE IN A
MAJOR
UPHEAVAL?



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In-text references:

[1] More on this discussion in the study we prepared with Ondřej Bárta: [“Young people and climate litigation: situation mapping and recommendations for the youth sector”](#)



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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On behalf of the SALTO Inclusion & Diversity!

