

# How can the Children's Voting Colloquium best serve your needs and goals in the coming year?

## GROUP 1: ENGAGING WITH CHILDREN

### Michael Cummings

Involving child activists in our Zoom sessions has proved difficult, so I'd like us to brainstorm ways to overcome the difficulty. As much as I enjoy and value our sessions, we're kind of like a group of white people discussing how to overcome racism with little to no representation from people of color. For instance, I volunteer to try to recruit Balinese teen activists Melati and Isabel Wijzen, founders of Bye Bye Plastic Bags, which has already achieved the outlawing of plastic bags in Bali and is progressing in other districts of Indonesia as well. I recommend that our members google and check out their 20-minute Ted Talk, which is impressive. They are very busy and are located half way around the world, which has made it difficult for me to participate in Zoom sessions they have invited me to join. But it's worth a try.

### Adam Fletcher

I would be interested in the colloquium facilitating substantive collaborations to develop practical in-class teaching units for children themselves to learn the value of abolishing the voting age.

## GROUP 2: ENGAGING WITH ACTIVISTS

### Jester Jersey

1. I think we do a great job of occasionally meeting. I do not think this needs to be adjusted in terms of meeting intervals, i.e. there is no need to meet more or less than we are doing. Monthly intervals seems to be just the right approach in terms of scheduled meetings. 2. I think more outreach is needed. I believe the first meeting I attended was last September, so just a few months after maybe the initial meeting. Still, I was welcome and I find our monthly dialogues really educational, informative and inspiring. Especially when we have guests who talk about how they are most affected by laws that don't always allow them to vote. It differs from location to location for each contributor, but hearing from contributors as far as Europe and in the laws that don't always allow them to vote. It differs from location to location for each contributor, but hearing from contributors as far as Europe and in the recent Colloquium, India, shows that what we're doing is worthwhile because it expands democracy and empowers future leaders. I will continue to contribute what I can whenever possible towards this goal. 3. Proactively and actively talking about ways to forward our goals. I think the monthly meetings to discuss empowering youths is great. There is nothing wrong with this. However, we should also try to strategize on more action-based approaches as well. For example, I am helping with H J Res 23, the bill to lower the voting age to 16 nationwide. There are also statewide bills in Oregon, New York and possibly other states. Perhaps members of the Colloquium can each report back to the

general body of members and advocate for who to reach out to. Once we then get a good estimate of what's going on in each of the areas where a member reports from, then if there's a group that we have not already connected with, then we can reach out to them and possibly see how we can work together to help their movement and see how they can help the Colloquium. I think during the second year of the Colloquium, we should try to put more effort into putting some of our work into action.

### **Neena Modi**

1) Lower the voting age 2) Introduce a parent proxy vote for under 16s

### **Wendy Lesko**

My lack of participation is not a lack of interest. I applaud this synergistic Colloquium. One focus of mine is domestic with regards to movement-building behind US Rep Grace Meng's Vote16 legislation. It is always helpful to share progress on youth suffrage in other countries. I look forward to writing more (my most recent blog: <https://youthinfusion.org/2020/09/15/2020-election-vote16/>)

## **GROUP 3: NEW COLLOQUIA**

### **Tanu Biswas**

There are two topics that I propose for colloquiums: - how contemporary child activism is changing adultist democratic norms of what voting means - what could democracy that includes babies look like Unfortunately, I cannot join the session because I am on leave. But I wish participants a fantastic time together. Looking forward to the coming year!

### **Lucia Rabello de Castro**

Maybe more discussions/debates on inter-nation /inter-cultural differentials on the impact of the voting dispositif that may problematize the prioritization of children's enfranchisement. What can we learn about other (specially Third World) children's political experiences that can lead us to favour other pressing / urgent political aims rather than voting? Also, more debates on proxy voting: this is really quite problematical from my point of view.

### **Kriste Lindenmeyer**

I am not completely convinced that a minimum voting age should be abolished, but I am interested to learn more about this idea and others that will help children gain a larger voice in voting.

### **Celine Jeannot Pietroy**

I am very pleased to be kept informed of the collective's thinking and actions in support of children's voting rights. The discussions I have been able to attend are stimulating, and I hope they will continue.

## **Jakob Hinze**

During the last four years, I have been researching the political theory of youth suffrage as a doctoral student. However, as of this fall, I will no longer be working full-time in academia and will therefore be able to devote much less time to researching this topic in the future.

Nevertheless, I am of course still very interested in it, both on a theoretical and practical level. I hope that the Children's Voting Colloquium will continue to offer a framework in which I can regularly exchange ideas with other people who are committed to youth voting and who are also interested in its philosophical dimension. I would like to use the lectures and discussions to learn about new literature, for example, and to exchange ideas with others about it. Through the Colloquium I hope to be able to continue to be deeply involved in this topic and to stay up to date. That's why I am very happy about its continuation and look forward to its activities in the second year.

## **GROUP 4: PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA**

### **Ralph Hall**

I think the group needs to consider its particular strengths and play to those. Other groups can (and are) picking up specific local campaigns. I think the strengths of the group are obviously the academic background, the international grouping, and the strong positioning to completely remove voting ages. Maybe there is literature already out there, but it would be great for the group to be able to discuss and maybe produce a paper (either literature review or original white paper) on how abolishing a voting age would work for young children. I think most people can visualise teenagers voting, but this is something that I haven't quite got my head around and I support abolishing the voting age.

### **John Wall**

More discussion of theoretical groundwork. Reading group. More outreach to children and youth. Develop white papers and other policy-facing documents. Organize large public event for summer 2022. Better organizational structure of the group.

### **Nick Munn**

Time zones make it tricky to attend, for me. So keeping the website updated and using other media is very helpful.