



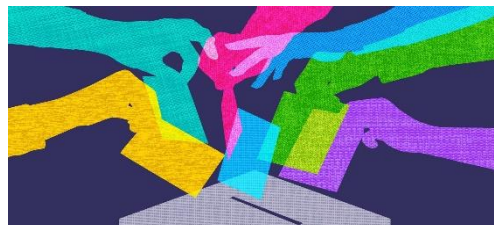
United Nations

**Peace, dignity and equality
on a healthy planet**

International Day of Democracy, 15 September 2025

Every year on 15 September, the world marks the International Day of Democracy, a moment to reflect on the health of democratic institutions and the role of citizens in shaping their societies. Established by the United Nations in 2007, the day serves as a reminder that democracy is not a given, it must be nurtured, protected, and continuously renewed.

Marking the 18th International Day of Democracy 2025 United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted “the courage of people everywhere who are shaping their societies through dialogue, participation, and trust” deeming these efforts as more vital than ever “at a time when democracy and the rule of law are under assault from disinformation, division, and shrinking civic space.” (*United Nations*, 2025).



Why This Day Matters & How HOPE Australia Fits In

In Australia and beyond, democracy extends beyond formal votes; it is nurtured through civic engagement, transparent governance, and community-led action. At HOPE Australia Inc. our mission echoes this ethos: empowering individuals and communities to “Think Globally - Act Locally” in their stewardship of the environment. That same principle, grassroots empowerment, strengthens democratic resilience. By encouraging informed, local-level advocacy, HOPE nurtures participatory democracy in action.

HOPE’s promotion of deliberative democracy - including keeping local councils better engaged with citizens - is but one example of how environmental stewardship and democratic engagement go hand in hand.

Why Democracy Matters

At its heart, democracy is about people having a voice. It safeguards freedoms of expression, assembly, and association, while ensuring accountability from leaders. Strong democracies promote peace, protect human rights, and create opportunities for fair participation in social and economic life.

To mark the day the UN Democracy Fund will host an event at UN Headquarters to highlight how democratic participation can be transformed *From Voice to Action*. In a time of shrinking civic space and rising disinformation, building trust, dialogue, and shared decision-making is more urgent than ever. Rooted in the principle of “We the Peoples,” this event aims to show democracy as a living force for agency, hope, and cooperation (*United Nations*, 2025).

A Shared Responsibility

Democracy thrives when citizens are engaged and active. Whether by voting, participating in community life, volunteering, or holding institutions accountable, every action contributes to stronger, more inclusive societies. This year’s commemoration is a chance to reflect on what each of us can do to ensure democracy remains vibrant and representative.

How You Can Get Involved

- **Learn & Share:** Explore resources on democratic rights and responsibilities.
- **Engage Locally:** Join community forums, public consultations, or local decision-making bodies.
- **Support Transparency:** Advocate for open institutions and fair representation.
- **Inspire Others:** Encourage friends, family, and colleagues to participate in civic life.

Looking Ahead

As we mark the International Day of Democracy in 2025, let us recommit to the values that bind us together: freedom, equality, accountability, and respect for human dignity. Democracy works best when everyone has a voice, and when every voice is heard.

(Written by Perry Bowe, HOPE researcher Qld)
