



Community
of Democracies

20 years of the Warsaw Declaration

June 2020

Message from the Secretary General

June 27, 2020, marks the 20th anniversary of the Community of Democracies and its founding document, the Warsaw Declaration, which outlines core democratic principles essential for the establishment and functioning of a democracy.

By adopting the Warsaw Declaration in 2000, more than 100 states recognized the universality of democratic standards. They agreed to respect and uphold these principles, making the Community of Democracies a truly unique coalition of countries, built not on geographical, economic, or linguistic criteria but the commitment to shared values enshrined in the Warsaw Declaration.

Two decades on, the principles of the Warsaw Declaration remain relevant and perhaps even more important than in 2000. We are witnessing new and complex challenges to democracy, from the global health crisis to authoritarian regimes that are increasingly aggressive and sophisticated in undermining democratic societies. By respecting and upholding the values of the Warsaw Declaration, we can make our democracies more reliable and more effective in addressing these challenges.

For the 20th anniversary of the Warsaw Declaration, I am delighted to share with you newly-launched posters that freshly illustrate the universal principles of human rights and democracy contained in the Warsaw Declaration. Designed by an award-winning Polish artist, Nikodem Pręgoski, the posters are a joint initiative of the Community of Democracies Presidency of Romania and Poland, host to the Warsaw-based Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies.

As the Community of Democracies begins its next two decades of work to promote, defend, and strengthen democracy worldwide, I welcome this series of illustrations as a 'fresh face' of shared values that provide a roadmap for aspiring and transitioning democracies as well as a checklist for established democracies.

Secretary General Thomas E. Garrett



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Romanian Presidency
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June 27, 2020, marks the 20th anniversary of the Community of Democracies and its founding document, the **WARSAW DECLARATION**. Adopted by 106 states at the Community's opening Ministerial Conference in Warsaw in 2000, the Warsaw Declaration outlines 19 core principles for the effective establishment of democracy, recognizes the universality of democratic values and agrees to respect and uphold these principles.

27 czerwca 2020 przypada dwudziesta rocznica Wspólnoty Demokracji (ang. Community of Democracies) oraz jej deklaracji założycielskiej - **DEKLARACJI WARSZAWSKIEJ** (ang. Warsaw Declaration). Przyjęta przez 106 państw uczestniczących w pierwszej Konferencji Ministerialnej Wspólnoty w Warszawie w roku 2000, Deklaracja Warszawska zawiera 19 zasad niezbędnych do funkcjonowania demokracji, uznaje uniwersalność wartości demokratycznych oraz zobowiązuje do ich przestrzegania i podtrzymywania.

Data de 27 iunie 2020 marchează aniversarea Comunității Democrațiilor și a documentului său fondator, **DECLARAȚIA DE LA VARȘOVIA**. Declarația de la Varșovia a fost adoptată de 106 state cu prilejul primei reuniuni ministeriale a Comunității, desfășurate în anul 2000. Declarația enunță 19 principii pentru o democrație funcțională, îndeamnă la respectarea și promovarea acestora și afirmă universalitatea valorilor democratice.



Free and fair elections

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government, as expressed by exercise of the right and civic duties of citizens to choose their representatives through regular, free and fair elections with universal and equal suffrage, open to multiple parties, conducted by secret ballot, monitored by independent electoral authorities, and free of fraud and intimidation.



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¹
FREE AND FAIR
ELECTIONS

Equal access to public service

The right of every person to equal access to public service and to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives.



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2
EQUAL ACCESS
TO PUBLIC SERVICE

Equal protection of the law

The right of every person to equal protection of the law, without any discrimination as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.



3
EQUAL PROTECTION
OF THE LAW

Freedom of opinion and of expression

The right of every person to freedom of opinion and of expression, including to exchange and receive ideas and information through any media, regardless of frontiers.



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4
FREEDOM
OF OPINION
AND OF
EXPRESSION

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

The right of every person to freedom of thought,
conscience and religion.



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Equal access to education

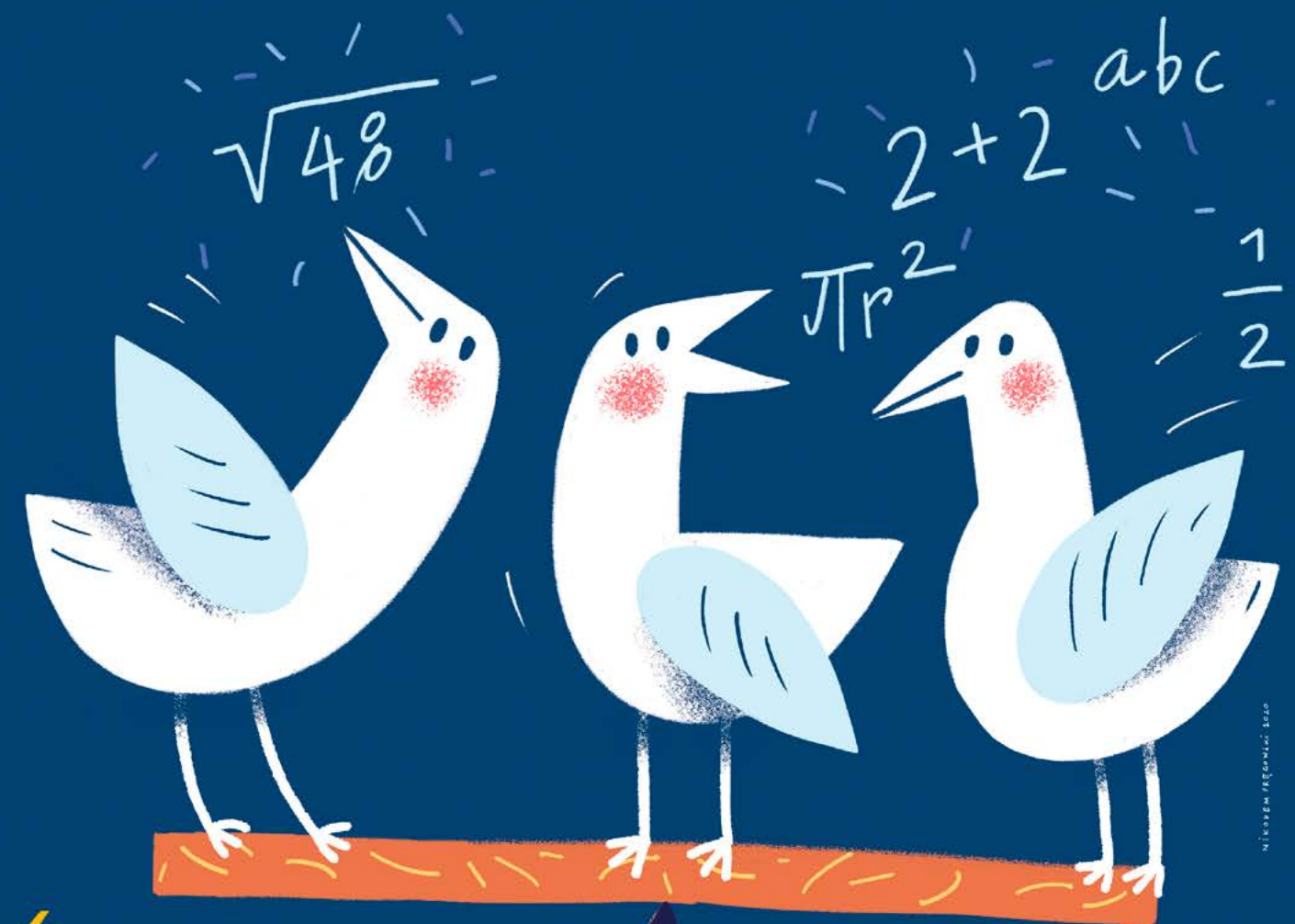
The right of every person to equal access to education.



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6
EQUAL ACCESS TO
EDUCATION



$$100 \div 4$$

$$x = ?$$

The right of the press to collect, report and disseminate information, news and opinions

The right of the press to collect, report and disseminate information, news and opinions, subject only to restrictions necessary in a democratic society and prescribed by law, while bearing in mind evolving international practices in this field.



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7
THE RIGHT OF THE PRESS
TO COLLECT, REPORT
AND DISSEMINATE
INFORMATION, NEWS
AND OPINIONS

Respect for private family life

The right of every person to respect for private family life, home, correspondence, including electronic communications, free of arbitrary or unlawful interference.

8
RESPECT
FOR PRIVATE
FAMILY LIFE



Freedom of peaceful assembly and association

The right of every person to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, including to establish or join their own political parties, civic groups, trade unions or other organizations with the necessary legal guarantees to allow them to operate freely on a basis of equal treatment before the law.



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9
FREEDOM OF
PEACEFUL
ASSEMBLY AND
ASSOCIATION

The right of persons belonging to minorities or disadvantaged groups to equal protection of the law

The right of persons belonging to minorities or disadvantaged groups to equal protection of the law, and the freedom to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, and use their own language.



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THE RIGHT OF
PERSONS
BELONGING TO
MINORITIES OR
DISADVANTAGED
GROUPS TO EQUAL
PROTECTION
OF THE LAW



Free from arbitrary arrest or detention

The right of every person to be free from arbitrary arrest or detention; to be free from torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment; and to receive due process of law, including to be presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



11
FREE FROM ARBITRARY
ARREST OR DETENTION

Competent, independent and impartial judiciary

That the aforementioned rights, which are essential to full and effective participation in a democratic society, be enforced by a competent, independent and impartial judiciary open to the public, established and protected by law.

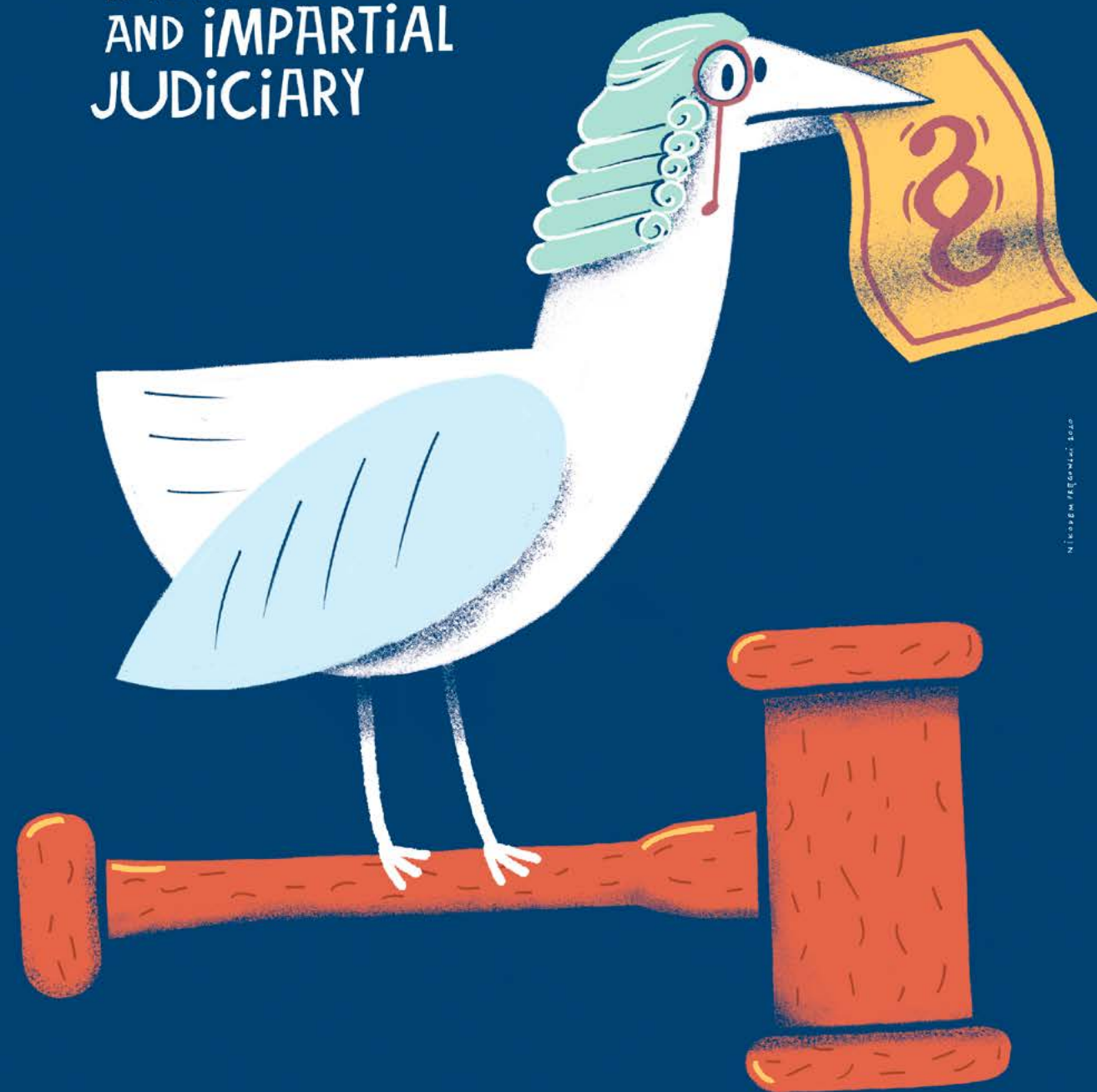


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¹²
COMPETENT,
INDEPENDENT
AND IMPARTIAL
JUDICIARY



Nikolaus Hagen: 2020

Elected leaders uphold the law

That elected leaders uphold the law and function strictly in accordance with the constitution of the country concerned and procedures established by law.

13 ELECTED LEADERS UPHOLD THE LAW



The right of those duly elected to form a government

The right of those duly elected to form a government, assume office and fulfill the term of office as legally established.

14
THE RIGHT OF THOSE
DULY ELECTED
TO FORM A
GOVERNMENT



The obligation of an elected government to refrain from extra-constitutional actions

The obligation of an elected government to refrain from extra-constitutional actions, to allow the holding of periodic elections and to respect their results, and to relinquish power when its legal mandate ends.

15
THE OBLIGATION OF
AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT
TO REFRAIN FROM
EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL
ACTIONS



That government institutions be transparent, participatory and fully accountable

That government institutions be transparent, participatory and fully accountable to the citizenry of the country and take steps to combat corruption, which corrodes democracy.



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16
THAT GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS BE TRANSPARENT,
PARTICIPATORY AND FULLY ACCOUNTABLE

That the legislature
be duly elected and
transparent and
accountable to the
people.



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17
THAT THE LEGISLATURE BE DULY ELECTED
AND TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE
TO THE PEOPLE



Democratic control over the military

That civilian, democratic control over the military be established and preserved.



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18 DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY



That all human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – be promoted and protected

That all human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – be promoted and protected as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments.



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THAT ALL HUMAN RIGHTS-
CIVIL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC,
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL- BE
PROMOTED AND PROTECTED

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