

# MondiaYouth Perspectives 2025

Barcelona, Oct 1, 2025

On behalf of MONDIAYOUTH,

We acknowledge all cultural agents, agitators, mediators, artists, creators, young people, civil society, policymakers, and ministers who are present here today.

Culture is one of the biggest pillars of humanity. Today, it is threatened by environmental and geopolitical crises, the justification of genocide, emerging technologies, shifts in the global economy, and the lack of institutional recognition for cultural rights. Legal frameworks have proven unenforceable in times of crisis, and culture has not been effectively integrated in peace-building and liberation processes. Tangible and intangible heritage are endangered as a result.

The weaponisation of culture fuels nationalist intolerance and the loss of cultural and civic spaces. Simultaneously, differences in technological access across geographies and generations, biased algorithms, and online misinformation exclude various communities from cultural dialogue. Economic disparity, lack of accessibility, and systemic marginalization limit access to cultural participation. Investment is prioritized only when economically expedient, and funding is housed within complex bureaucracies. As a result, while cultural rights may be recognized in writing, there are limited accountability mechanisms to ensure that everyone can exercise them.

Culture offers extraordinary potential for combatting these challenges. Young people build cultural initiatives that can promote cross-cultural dialogue and civic engagement. These also enable cultural innovation while integrating indigenous knowledge and traditional practices. Culture may also serve as an economic driver for indigenous, diaspora, and local communities rather than an extractive force. In this context, digital tools can be leveraged to make culture more accessible.

Governmental and intergovernmental organizations must safeguard cultural rights and ensure sustainable cultural production and mediation. This includes decolonizing culture to promote cultural autonomy. This also entails amplifying young voices in policy-making— not only being at the table but being a meaningful part of the conversation. In this effort, education and intergenerational awareness are vital connectors between opportunity and action.

**With these in mind**, MondiaYouth participants propose the following seven priority actions:

**First, a concrete effort must be made to increase accessibility to culture.** Digital connectivity and inclusive infrastructures must be recognized as basic public services. Long-term community-led partnerships to connect institutions and youth should be created.

**Second, formalize representation of youth, vulnerable, and disadvantaged communities.** Cultural institutions and spaces should dedicate themselves to promoting visibility, recognition, and acceptance of these groups in the cultural sector. This includes developing decision-making processes that meaningfully engage with them and value their presence.

**Third, leverage emerging technologies in the service of culture, not at the expense of it.** It is critical to develop mechanisms for ethical, inclusive, and transparent engagement with technological tools and to democratize technical skillsets. Public institutions must cooperate to regulate the use of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence to safeguard cultural and artistic workers' intellectual property and privacy.

**Fourth, make investment in culture a long-term and sustainable budget priority.** Systems to access financial investment must prioritize accessibility, inclusivity, and transparency. Private institutions should be encouraged to invest in culture alongside existing public support. Access to financial information and financial education is critical in empowering cultural agents.

**Fifth, institutions have a responsibility to support culture and uphold cultural rights.** Governments should invest in research and develop mechanisms to ensure transparency and monitor the impact of culture on peace and socioeconomic development. Legislation at all levels must protect cultural rights and prevent unsustainable practices from displacing local communities. Deconstructing colonial heritage is the way to uplift the true diversity of culture on a global scale.

**Sixth, cultural and creative workers must be recognized and supported.** Cultural and creative workers should be valued across all levels of social life. National authorities must enforce the protection of cultural agents' labor rights. Governments and cultural institutions must also create pathways for the professional development of cultural agents.

**Seventh, reframe education to empower youth as cultural connectors.** It is paramount that formal, informal and non-formal educational agents increasingly integrate cultural education in their practices. Career opportunities in arts and culture should be particularly opened up for young people. When we empower communities and artists, we foster collaboration, artistic freedom, and innovation across sectors.

Before we close, we would like to leave you with a final message. We were honored to have space in MONDIACULT to exchange ideas and voice our views and expertise. MONDIAYOUTH represents a global commitment from policy makers to acknowledge youth as political agents. Looking ahead to MONDIACULT 2029: let us voice our opinions in the same rooms in which you speak.