



Democracy Works Academy aims to support the development of future leaders who can make a real impact in their communities through the development of specific skills, values, and knowledge.

This programme is driven by the vision of democracy as a continuous work-in-progress, with the Academy being a vehicle to strengthen broader civic engagement in upholding the values enshrined in the South African Constitution.

## GET IN TOUCH

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## INTRODUCTION TO DEMOCRACY WORKS FOUNDATION

Democracy Works Foundation (DWF) is a southern African non-profit company focused on democracy development in the region. With headquarters in South Africa, DWF works through its country offices to provide tools to develop and build resilient democracies. DWF also has offices in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Zambia, and eSwatini.

As an independent foundation, we build and promote inclusive, equitable and sustainable consensus democracies for development in our countries of operation. We do so by providing tools, platforms and content to strengthen democrats, democratic culture and democracy institutions.

DWF opened its doors in 2014 in response to the weakening of public institutions, corruption and declining public participation in South Africa as well as concerns about democratic and development progress in post-liberation Southern Africa.

DWF works on the supply and demand side of democracy. We operate across several programmatic areas:

- ✓ **Monitoring:** we collect data, do research and provide analysis on the state of democracies
- ✓ **Institutions:** we support the capacity of democracy institutions to fulfil their mandates
- ✓ **Citizens and leaders:** we train future democrats to drive change
- ✓ **Climate and democracy:** we strengthen the capacity of communities and democracy institutions to prioritise climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives
- ✓ **Culture:** we provide platforms for democratic engagement to cultivate new ideas for democracy

We believe that democracy is always a work in progress. It is often challenged and never complete. DWF is uniquely placed to continuously invest in and nurture resilient democracy and development.

In partnership with In Transformation Initiative (ITI), which brings expertise in peacebuilding and intergenerational dialogue in Africa and globally; and The University of Pretoria, who is one of Africa's top universities and the largest contact university in South Africa. With a high quality of teaching and learning in the classroom, online, and in communities. DWF has established an Academy that supports young people in becoming engaged and critical citizens by building a transparent, accountable and responsible values-based society in South Africa.

## WHAT IS DEMOCRACY WORKS ACADEMY?

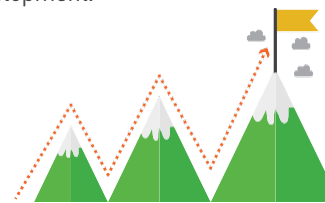


Democracy Works Academy (DWA) aims to provide support to young people in South Africa who are passionate about social development, upliftment, and growth of their country.

Through a series of residential seminars and an online learning platform – in partnership with the University of Pretoria – Democracy Works Academy harnesses the skills, knowledge, and lived experiences of individuals, and capacitates them to become active citizens within their communities. The Academy is inclusive. For this purpose, we will recruit young people from urban, semi-urban, rural and township communities.

The Academy supports participants in becoming active and engaged citizens, and leaders in public and private institutions to develop a more inclusive, transparent, and accountable South African democracy. Upon completion of the programme, an alumni network will be established for participants to further their skills development.

## WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE?



Throughout South African history young people have played a vital part in the pursuit of change and social justice. The Academy recognises the role and potential young people possess and in honor of this, we have designed a programme for the purpose of providing support, resources, and knowledge to assist them in furthering their causes for a better South Africa. Democracy Works Academy is a seven-month programme that will support participants in:

- ✓ Building knowledge, skills, and capacity to be empowered and active citizens in South Africa.
- ✓ Developing awareness in their role as citizens by creating a transparent, accountable and responsible values-based society and inspiring participants to act.
- ✓ Supporting the South African Constitution, human rights, and democracy in South Africa.
- ✓ Establishing a network of young people throughout South Africa, who are critical, engaged, and who is committed to supporting the development of a transparent, accountable, responsible, and values-based society in South Africa.

## ACADEMY PROGRAMME OUTLINE



The overarching aim of Democracy Works Academy is to produce active, self-aware, and critical young people that drive change. The curriculum is designed to offer a holistic perspective on democracy and social justice and provides support for the development of young leaders who can hold office bearers and state institutions accountable, develop communities, and strengthen democracy.

The curriculum consists of three residential seminars – with a focus on political education, civic education, intergenerational dialogues, and 'looking to the future'; as well as an online learning platform – to ensure participants receive purposeful knowledge and skills they can take back to their communities.

## PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS



- ✓ Passionate about being a change-maker in South Africa
- ✓ Minimum matric certificate
- ✓ Need to be between 19 - 30 years old
- ✓ We work in all nine provinces, however, this varies year on year - check website for clarity

