

R2 European Students at Risk programme

Proposer: Young Greens of Norway - Grønn Ungdom
Agenda item: 6. Resolutions

Motion text

Background

Across the globe from Belarus and Myanmar to Hong Kong, Turkey and Iran, student activists face severe persecution for their efforts to promote human rights, democracy, and the right to education. They are at risk of being imprisoned, tortured and/ or persecuted. There's been an increase in the oppression of critical voices by authorities. As one example we have Masha Amini - an Iranian woman arrested in Tehran for opposing mandatory hijab and subsequent death in police custody, which sparked a wave of protests throughout Iran in September 2022. Additionally the Iranian regime followed up with 409 attacks directly attached to student expressions and the poisoning of more than a thousand girls in fifty eight schools in August 2023. Consequently, it is crucial to implement protection measures for these student activists and others who are vulnerable.

One such mechanism is the Students at Risk programme, which supports students facing persecution for their human rights activism. This program aims to protect those at risk of being denied either directly, or indirectly their right to education and other fundamental rights.

They are being offered an opportunity to study in a safe country in order to complete their education. The initiative seeks to advance human rights and the right to education by empowering student activists by providing them with an academic degree.

The Students at Risk programme is an important programme in the fight for democracy, freedom of speech and human rights as it protects the fundamental right to education.

The original programme was initiated in 2014 by The National Union of Students' in Norway (NSO) and the Norwegian Students' and Academics International Assistance Fund (SAIH). Other countries have also started similar programmes, such as the Polish NAWA programme for Belarusian students and DAAD Germany's Hilde Domin programme for the general student population. Other countries are

also working on establishing their similar programmes. However, due to national limitations in funding, language requirements and application processes the existing programmes can only accept a limited number of students each year.

The Federations of Young European Greens (FYEG) is calling for more solidarity and cooperation in Europe. There is a need for a coordinated European approach to ensure that students at risk can complete their studies. We are seeing an urgent need for a programme that supports student's rights in the European Union, which can provide rapid assistance in emergency circumstances and ensure the right to education.

For all that, **the Federation of Young European Greens calls to:**

- Support the establishment of a European programme of scholarships for students at risk of persecution due to their student, human rights and democratic activism with a single access point for the applicants, coordinating and co-funding national schemes.
- Establish an interim solution at the European level, either by allocating additional funds to existing programmes or by creating new ones.