



Declaration for a strong democracy

Background

In 2021 it will be 100 years since democracy made a breakthrough in Sweden. Our democratic system has had an entirely decisive significance for our country's history, development and prosperity.

There are many reasons to be proud of our democracy and its hundred-year history. At the same time, we should remember that the struggle over who should be included in our democracy has continued long after 1921. It is necessary to continue developing democracy today, just as it was 100 years ago.

Democracies around the world are being challenged and weakened. Although democracy is strong in Sweden, there are a number of challenges that must be taken seriously. Many people feel excluded or do not have the means to participate actively in society. The debate climate is taking a harder tone and anti-democratic actors are becoming more visible.

The Committee for a strong democracy has been given the task of planning, coordinating and carrying out a number of activities to strengthen democracy. Under the heading *Our democracy – worth protecting every day*, we are gathering actors who want to take part in strengthening and developing democracy in Sweden and ensuring that it remains strong in the next 100 years.

The declaration aims to unite the forces supporting democracy and to encourage more people to take a clear stance and work to strengthen democracy.

The declaration has been produced by the Committee for a strong democracy and is part of the committee's work on establishing a national campaign *Our democracy – worth protecting every day*.

The declaration marks the centenary of democracy in Sweden and presents an important opportunity to reassess our democracy and ensure that it remains strong into the future. Those actors who sign the declaration undertake to contribute to the commitments stated in the declaration during the period 2020–2021. The expectation is that a large number of actors will sign the declaration.

The actors' commitments

We safeguard the concept of the equal value of all people, the fundamental rights and freedoms, and the principles of the rule of law, and we condemn discrimination, extremism, xenophobia, corruption and racism. We want to ensure our democracy remains strong in the future and commit to:

- increase knowledge and awareness of the democratic system,
- increase democratic engagement and encourage more people to support democracy, and
- foster a debate climate characterised by openness and respect.

We need to act now to safeguard a strong democracy in the future. Democracy should never be taken for granted.