



Democracy and Rule of Law Collective

The **Democracy and Rule of Law Collective** brings together (independent) researchers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and civil society organisations active in The Hague, the Netherlands.

We are dedicated to **promoting and strengthening Democracy and Rule of Law as the foundation for just, secure and economically prosperous societies**, at home and around the world.

As a Collective, we believe in a world based on rights, not one where might is right. An overwhelming **86% of the global population still prefers to live in a Democracy**. From sustainable economic development to public health, gender equality, peace, and conflict resolution, democratic systems consistently serve people better than autocratic regimes. Democracy may be imperfect, but it remains the strongest foundation for a just and thriving society.

We advocate for open and inclusive Democracies where people are heard, disputes are resolved peacefully, power is balanced, and political decision makers operate transparently and are held accountable.

Why we came together

The Collective was established in response to the **growing political challenges and threats to Democracy** we see in the Netherlands and around the world - from **shrinking civic space** and the rise of **authoritarianism** to **weakening international cooperation**, growing **self-interest in global politics**, and a **sole focus on military power**.

These trends are making societies increasingly vulnerable, instead of more resilient and just.

A **strong and independent rule of law**, coupled with transparent and accountable democratic governance, is not only crucial for human rights and justice, but also directly underpins a stable and predictable environment necessary for economic growth, innovation, and resilience against external threats.

Conversely, the **erosion of democratic principles** and rule of law can lead to instability, corruption, and a weakening of economic foundations, directly impacting a nation's economic security and citizens' livelihoods.

The trends that we are witnessing worldwide are dangerous. Autocrats and populists are seeking to **diminish the appeal of Democracy as a system where citizens have rights and are protected**. The attack on Democracy and Rule of Law is so blatant that we need to step up our efforts and stand up for strong democracies, inclusive institutions and robust rule of law.

Why The Hague?

As the City of Peace and Justice, The Hague already hosts a vibrant ecosystem of experts working across Democracy and the Rule of Law. This offers a fertile ground for innovation.

Moreover, The Hague routinely welcomes international delegations from diverse sectors and disciplines, bringing expert knowledge and innovative solutions to the forefront. This unique combination of local expertise and global exposure makes The Hague an ideal melting pot for new partnerships, projects and ideas to emerge.

For any questions or inquiries please contact
engage@humanityhub.net

About the Collective

The Collective is made up of organisations and highly engaged individuals working on democracy, access to justice and the rule of law.

The Collective takes an open and inclusive approach to membership, with no formal sign-up process or fees, just a shared commitment to connection and collaboration.

By becoming a member/contributor to the Collective, you consent to:

- Joining the Collective's mailing list;
- Attending the Collective's meetings and events whenever possible;
- Taking leadership on selected activities, in cooperation with other members of the Collective, and in coordination with the secretariat, based on your availability and expertise/interest;
- Being an ambassador for the Collective;

The Collective will be governed by a group of four members on a rotating basis (the Humanity Hub community manager and three Collective members);

- The Hague Humanity Hub offers a **community management framework** and a **community manager** to coordinate interactions and ensure a smooth flow of information across Collective members and the wider community of The Hague.
- Three members will be voted into the governance body for a period of six to eight months. The Humanity Hub will provide a community manager to ensure information flow among members and visibility of the Collective.
 - Each member will be assigned as lead of one of the Collective's activities.
- Each Activity Lead will be responsible for:
 - Coordinating Collective members involved in related working groups/clusters;
 - Reporting back to the governance body and the rest of the Collective on any progress or updated;
 - Raising any concerns, questions or opportunities related to this activity.