

#DemocracyDrinks The Hague

Guidelines for hosting or co-creating an edition

❖ What is #DemocracyDrinks The Hague?

#DemocracyDrinks The Hague is an informal, recurring conversation and networking series bringing together people working on democracy, peace, justice, and democratic participation.

The format prioritises open exchange, cross-sector perspectives, and collective reflection on emerging questions. #DemocracyDrinks is designed as a space to connect, test ideas, and explore tensions that do not easily fit into formal panels, presentations, or debates.

The series is coordinated by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), the Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC), and The Hague Humanity Hub (THHH).

❖ What does it mean to “contribute an edition”?

Contributing an edition means helping shape and host a conversation under the #DemocracyDrinks banner, in coordination with the #DemocracyDrinks team.

It involves:

- Proposing a topic, question, or idea that fits the #DemocracyDrinks ethos
- Co-shaping the format, flow, and participant mix
- Contributing to an open, informal atmosphere that encourages dialogue

It does not mean:

- Running a standalone organisational event
- Launching a project, report, or campaign
- Promoting a single institutional position

❖ **What kinds of conversations work well?**

#DemocracyDrinks editions work best when they:

- Explore dilemmas, tensions, or questions that are still evolving
- Bring together different sectors, perspectives, or experiences
- Encourage exchange and reflection rather than persuasion
- Leave room for nuance, uncertainty, and learning

Proposals that use the format to test ideas, surface new angles, or explore emerging challenges are particularly encouraged.

Examples of previous editions can be found here: [Previous editions of #DemocracyDrinks The Hague](#)

❖ **Format and practical considerations**

Each #DemocracyDrinks edition explores a theme related to democracy, civic space and democratic participation, often intersecting with questions of peace, justice, and social change. Topics in the past have included for example democratic participation, protection of civic actors, women's leadership, extremism, climate justice, and local democracy.

Formats may vary, but a typical edition includes:

- A short facilitated exchange to frame the topic
- Open discussion with participants
- Informal networking over drinks

There are no presentations, slide decks, or promotional materials, unless explicitly agreed in advance. The emphasis is on conversation and connection.

❖ **Hosting, venues, and costs**

#DemocracyDrinks editions are organised with **shared responsibility**.

- Editions may take place at The Hague Humanity Hub or, where appropriate, at another suitable venue.
- When hosted at the Humanity Hub, the venue can be provided, while some basic out-of-pocket costs may apply (for example café staffing or snacks). Participants can purchase drinks at the Hub café.
- When hosted elsewhere, contributing organisations are expected to cover venue-related costs.

Cost expectations are discussed case by case, with the aim of keeping #DemocracyDrinks accessible and feasible.

❖ **Programme timing (indicative)**

#DemocracyDrinks usually take place on Tuesdays or Thursdays (17:00-19:00), in the second half of each month.

The outline below reflects a typical edition and can be adapted as needed:

16:45 — Arrival of organiser and speakers

17:00 — Doors open

17:15 — Welcome and introduction

17:20 — Facilitated conversation

17:50 — Open discussion

18:20 — Informal networking

19:00 — Close

❖ **Communication and promotion**

The #DemocracyDrinks team provides:

- Event registration via the shared platform
- Promotion support through relevant channels (website, newsletter, social media)
- Templates and guidance for event descriptions and visuals

Contributing organisations are expected to:

- Submit event details at least four weeks in advance
- Provide a short event description and speaker information in a timely manner
- Play an active role in promoting their edition through their own networks and channels
- Acknowledge #DemocracyDrinks and tag core partners in related communications

Promotion works best as a joint effort, combining the reach of #DemocracyDrinks with the networks of contributing organisations.

❖ **Proposing an edition**

Ideas for future editions can be submitted via the [online proposal form](#).

Proposals typically include:

- A short description of the topic or question
- Why the idea fits the #DemocracyDrinks format
- Any initial thoughts on speakers or participants
- Preferred timing and location

Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis. You will be contacted if there is interest in developing the idea further.

❖ **After the event**

Contributing organisations are invited to share brief feedback and attendance numbers after their edition. Short reflections or look-backs may be shared jointly through #DemocracyDrinks channels. Photos and insights are always welcome.

❖ **Questions?**

If you have questions or would like to discuss an idea informally before submitting, please contact: democracydrinksthehague@gmail.com