TEAM 4

Pervin Karayiğit

What Civil Society Can Do to Develop Democracy

discuss this question with examples from non-governmental organizations around you and present the results of the study with text, video, infographic

Sevim Hazar -

A civil society is comprised of groups or organizations working in the interest of the citizens but operating outside of the governmental and for-profit sectors. Organizations and institutions that make up civil society include labor unions, non-profit organizations, churches, and other service agencies that provide an important service to society but generally ask for very little in return.

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What, then, can the independent, voluntary, law-abiding, tolerant and pluralistic organizations of civil society do to build and maintain democracy?

The first and most basic role of civil society is to limit and control the power of the state. Of course, any democracy needs a well-functioning and authoritative state. But when a country is emerging from decades of dictatorship, it also needs to find ways to check, monitor, and restrain the power of political leaders and state officials.

Civil society actors should watch how state officials use their powers. They should raise public concern about any abuse of power. They should lobby for access to information, including freedom of information laws, and rules and institutions to control corruption.

This constitutes a second important function of civil society: to expose the corrupt conduct of public officials and lobby for good governance reforms. Even where anti-corruption laws and bodies exist, they cannot function effectively without the active support and participation of civil society.

A third function of civil society is to promote political participation. NGOs can do this by educating people about their rights and obligations as democratic citizens, and encouraging them to listen to election campaigns and vote in elections. NGOs can also help develop citizens’ skills to work with one another to solve common problems, to debate public issues, and express their views.

Fourth, civil society organizations can help to develop the other values of democratic life: tolerance, moderation, compromise, and respect for opposing points of view. Without this deeper culture of accommodation, democracy cannot be stable. These values cannot simply be taught; they must also be experienced through practice. We have outstanding examples from other countries of NGOs—especially women’s groups—that have cultivated these values in young people and adults through various programs that practice participation and debate.

Fifth, civil society also can help to develop programs for democratic civic education in the schools as well. After dictatorship, comprehensive reforms are needed to revise the curricula, rewrite the textbooks, and retrain teachers in order to educate young people about the crimes of the past and teach them the principles and values of democracy. This is too important a task to leave only to officials in the education ministry. Civil society must be involved as a constructive partner and advocate for democracy and human rights training.

Sixth, civil society is an arena for the expression of diverse interests, and one role for civil society organizations is to lobby for the needs and concerns of their members, as women, students, farmers, environmentalists, trade unionists, lawyers, doctors, and so on. NGOs and interest groups can present their views to parliament and provincial councils, by contacting individual members and testifying before parliamentary committees. They can also establish a dialogue with relevant government ministries and agencies to lobby for their interests and concerns.

And it is not only the resourceful and well organized who can have their voices heard. Over time, groups that have historically been oppressed and confined to the margins of society can organize to assert their rights and defend their interests as well.

A seventh way civil society can strengthen democracy is to provide new forms of interest and solidarity that cut across old forms of tribal, linguistic, religious, and other identity ties. Democracy cannot be stable if people only associate with others of the same religion or identity. When people of different religions and ethnic identities come together on the basis of their common interests as women, artists, doctors, students, workers, farmers, lawyers, human rights activists, environmentalists, and so on, civic life becomes richer, more complex, and more tolerant.

Eighth, civil society can provide a training ground for future political leaders. NGOs and other groups can help to identify and train new types of leaders who have dealt with important public issues and can be recruited to run for political office at all levels and to serve in provincial and national cabinets. Experience from other countries shows that civil society is a particularly important arena from which to recruit and train future women leaders.

Ninth, civil society can help to inform the public about important public issues. This is not only the role of the mass media, but of NGOs which can provide forums for debating public policies and disseminating information about issues before parliament that affect the interests of different groups, or of society at large.

Tenth, civil society organizations can play an important role in mediating and helping to resolve conflict. In other countries, NGOs have developed formal programs and training of trainers to relieve political and ethnic conflict and teach groups to solve their disputes through bargaining and accommodation.

Eleventh, civil society organizations have a vital role to play in monitoring the conduct of elections. This requires a broad coalition of organizations, unconnected to political parties or candidates, that deploys neutral monitors at all the different polling stations to ensure that the voting and vote counting is entirely free, fair, peaceful, and transparent. It is very hard to have credible and fair elections in a new democracy unless civil society groups play this role.

What, then, can the independent, voluntary, law-abiding, tolerant and pluralistic organizations of civil society do to build and maintain democracy?

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Necla Tedik

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Necla Tedik

15 Temmuz şehitleri Anadolu Lisesi-Adana

Necla Tedik

When we have problems and feel lonely to solve it, NGOs help. Many people who has same problem with you or not, think with you, feel with you and try to find solutions in a democratic way.

Elif sude keskin

NGOs help you to communicate with others and to share your thoughts easily. You can discuss about these thoughts.

Elif sude keskin

NGOs stick people together. People feel more comfortable and strong with these friends.

Elif sude keskin

NGOs fill the gaps between citizens and governments. They help to say your thoughts and have an answer of government. By this way, you act in a democratic way and share your ideas.

Elif sude keskin

NGOs help us to state that World is our home and we also have the chance of share our ideas and what we think. NGOs help us to hold the World in our hands together. Because it's not only my, your home; it is everyones' home and we should hold our World with two hands.

Elif sude keskin

Elif Ceren GÜNGÖR

Non-governmental organizations, working independently of themselves, working in accordance with their political, social, cultural, legal and environmental objectives, voluntarily receiving their members and employees and non-profit organizations.

Elif Ceren GÜNGÖR

MANUELA PICAZO TADEO -

ECOMAR NGO

Sheila Guardiola

very good work,Sheila Guardiola

Sevim Hazar

elif ceren güngör and Necla Tedik, you are working hard! Congratulations!!

MANUELA PICAZO TADEO -

Social society, an organized group of individuals with civil society consciousness, does not refer to the issues that they complain to others; It tries to solve it with the support of civil society organizations and itself. Civil society is seen as the starting point of the problems and issues it criticizes. If the public's consent is distorted, civil society needs to be corrected. The formation and development of the culture of democracy depends on this dynamic structure. If we can establish social society and develop it through a culture of democracy, we can also accelerate the transformation of political culture in itself and its transition to participatory democracy. The proliferation of communication and communication pathways in our age can provide a high and practical way of participation in management and selection processes. Thus, a direct contribution to the development of direct democracy system and participatory democracy can be made.

Gamze Kilic

Civil society is a community of free citizens who can direct themselves out of state institutions and defend their rights and freedoms. Civil society expresses the desires and concerns of individuals and society and protects their rights and interests. It provide voluntary public service on issues such as aid, health care and education to the needy. Democratic understanding in society contributes to the establishment of democratic principles in governance. Civil society is one of the most important factors in the development of democracy. Those grups that direct themselves provided many benefits to society with non-governmental organizations. There are millions of NGOs working on issues such as human rights protection, education, environment, health, women's rights. Many people say that some important agreement has done because of these NGOs. For example, in 1840, it played an important role in the signing of the "World Convention Against Slavery".

beyzanur guc

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Gamze Kilic

Civil society organizations contribute to the strenghtening of democracy and ensure the functioning of the government and private sector. Moreover, they ensure the democratic functioning of public administration.The first of the works that can be done by the non-governmental organizations in the protection and development of human rights and freedoms is to fight against those who violate these rights and freedoms by using their rights. Civil society can protect human rights or contribute to gender equality by establishing things -like union- to develop democracy. Furthermore, they can contribute to develop democracy by respecting their rights without categorizing people.

aleyna sevinc

Civil society can use democratic rights and defend it for develop democracy

Adnan Süyüncü

It can be given as a lesson in schools. Posters can be prepared. Campaigns can be arranged.

cevap verSevdiği sözlerDüzenleSilZehra Polat - 23.06.2019 @ 16:10

thanks for work,is very nice

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