

Youth and Women in Politics



Understanding Barriers and Opportunities for Youth and Women in Politics

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Date: Sunday 22,3,2026

Objectives

- Understand intersectionality in the context of power and politics
- Explore how democracy can exclude or include different groups
- Identify political and structural barriers facing youth and women
- Recognize the role of youth in democratic participation and reform
- Use civic tools to influence policies and decision-making





Intersectionality & Democracy

Democracy is not only about equal rights in theory, but about equitable participation in practice.

- Different groups experience democracy unequally
- Power is distributed based on social hierarchies and structural inequalities
- Some voices are amplified, while others are systematically marginalized

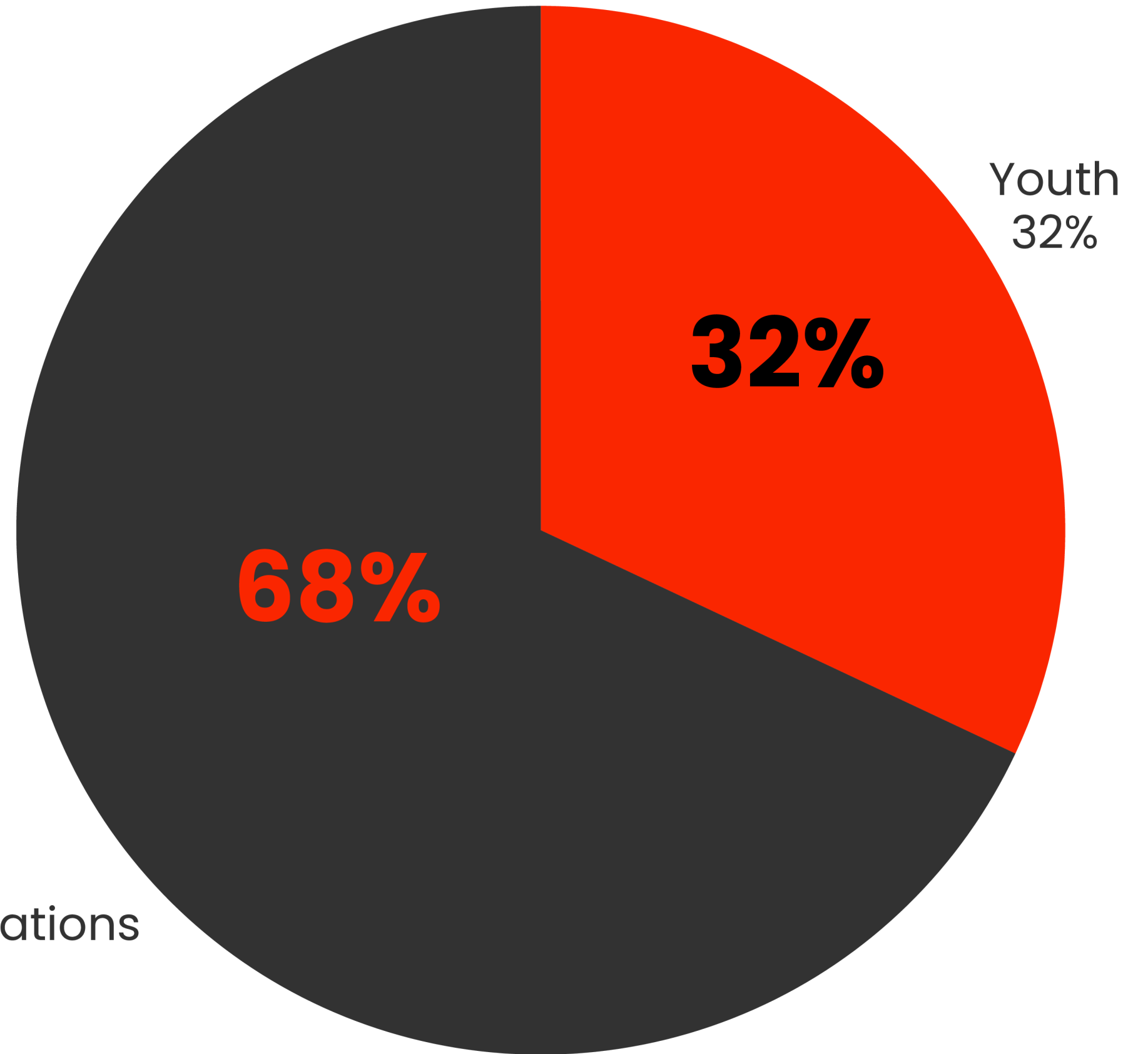
A democracy that ignores intersectionality risks reproducing inequality rather than challenging it.

Youth In Lebanon

Youth in Lebanon represent around 30–35% of the population, but their representation in political decision-making remains very low.

- Youth (18–35): ~32% of the population
- Youth in Parliament (under 45): ~17%
- Youth under 35: almost 0–2%

Non-youth generations
68%



What is the Youth Participation Gap?

The youth participation gap in politics refers to the difference between the large proportion of young people in society and their limited presence and influence in political processes and decision-making.

Activity: Barriers to Youth Participation

Each group will explore one type of barrier affecting youth participation in politics.

Group 1:
Social Barriers



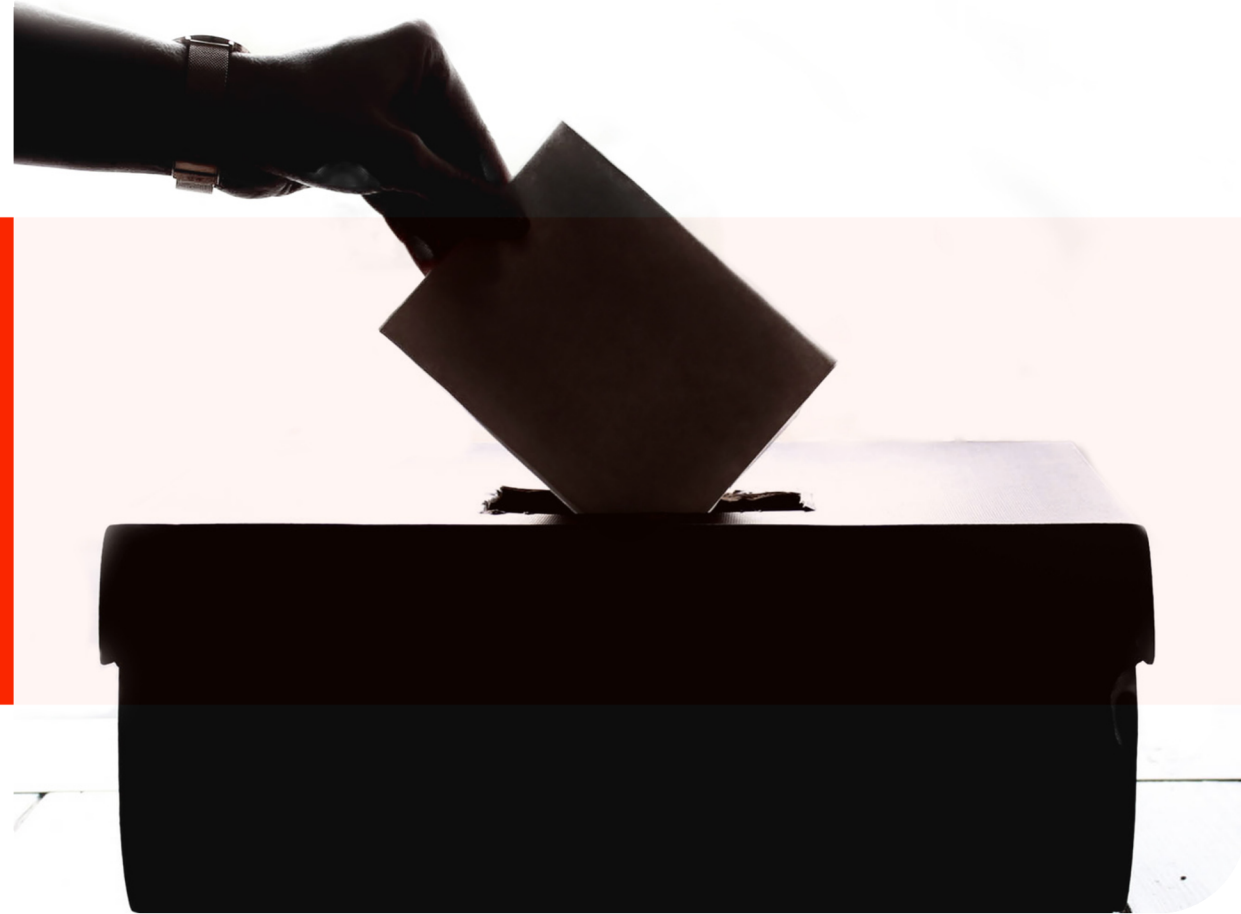
Group 2:
Economic Barriers



Group 3:
Legal / Institutional Barriers



Types of Political Participation



Electoral



Non-electoral

Tools for Youth Participation in Lebanon (Electoral)



Voting → choosing representatives and influencing outcomes



Running for office → participating as candidates (municipal or parliamentary)



Campaigning → supporting candidates, mobilizing voters, raising awareness

Election monitoring → ensuring transparency and accountability

Through the YMDA campaign supported by MUBS, youth worked on advocating for the youth law in municipalities in Lebanon, aiming to strengthen the role and representation of young people in local governance.

Tools for Youth Participation in Lebanon (Non-Electoral)

Civil Society Organizations

Example: Lebanese Youth Parliament

Provide space for dialogue, advocacy, and policy engagement

Community & Local Initiative

Example: Municipality Youth Councils

Engage in local decision-making and community development

In Lebanon, you have the right to ask questions and get answers. Through the Access to Information Law (Law 28/2017), any young person can request information from public institutions like municipalities or ministries without needing a special reason. This means you don't have to stay in the dark about decisions that affect your life. Whether it's budgets, projects, or policies, you have the power to ask, understand, and speak up.

Tools for Youth Participation in Lebanon (Non-Electoral)

Legal Tools

Example: Access to Information Law (Law 28/2017)

Right to request public information

Promote transparency and accountability

Digital Participation

Generate content for campaigns and advocacy

Simplify and explain laws and policies

Analyze public issues and identify community needs

Support fact-checking and fight misinformation

What's one small step you can take to support youth and women in politics in your community?

**Democracy is not given it is
shaped by those who choose to
participate, challenge, and lead.**

And That Roles Start with you.