



**tejo**

**Tutmonda Esperantista Junulara Organizo**

**tejo.org**

# Before starting...

EYE2023 is a **safe space for all**, and a place for different people to share different ideas - always respectfully!

Share your ideas on **youthideas.eu** or visit the EYE2023 **Ideas Hub**, next to the hemicycle!

We are one year ahead of the European Elections in 2024, so **sign up to together.eu** to help **promote European Democracy!**

**Your ideas matter!** It's all about participating actively, sharing your thoughts, questions...

# Languages for Democracy: Linguistic Rights and Meaningful Youth Participation

A light blue world map is centered on the page, showing the outlines of continents and oceans. The map is semi-transparent, allowing the white text to stand out clearly.

# Gender Watch

# Program

Keynote presentation: **Languages for Democracy**

Initial words

Questions from the moderators

Questions **from the public**

**Space for participants**



# Paulína Jalakšová

External Relations of TEJO

Former Grants Officer of TEJO

Former Board Member of YFJ

Behavioral/Experimental Economist  
at the Ministry of Finance (SK)

Degree in Finance and Economics &  
Psychology

# Linguistic Rights

*“Linguistic rights are the human and civil rights concerning the individual and collective right to choose the language or languages for communication in a private or public atmosphere.”*

**Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights, 1998**

# Linguistic Rights and the EU

- Principle of **Multilingualism**

## **Aims:**

- Communicating with citizens in their own languages
- Protecting Europe's rich linguistic diversity
- Promoting language learning in Europe

[european-union.europa.eu](http://european-union.europa.eu), online



# Charter of Fundamental Rights

- The EU bill of rights drafted by the European Convention and solemnly proclaimed in 2000. Legal effect obtained through the **Treaty of Lisbon** in 2009.
- **Article 21 prohibits any discrimination based on language** (among other grounds for discrimination).
- **Article 41** addresses the right of every EU citizen to write to its institutions in any language of the Treaties and to receive an answer in the same language.

**Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 2010**

# Language Discrimination in the EU

Based on the **Charter of Fundamental Rights**, the EU prohibits all language discrimination, but what is the reality?

- Ongoing discrimination against territorial languages in France

**European Language Equality Network, 2021**

- Curtailment of minority language education in Latvia

**OHCHR, 2023**

# Language Discrimination among Young People

Based on a survey on multiple discrimination commissioned by the European Youth Forum:

- Language as one of the grounds for discrimination in **education**, on the **job market, housing market**, and more
- Language as a barrier in recognition of qualification abroad
- Discrimination also when accessing bars, cafes and restaurants or while shopping

**European Youth Forum, 2021**

# What about Youth Participation?

- **Language poses a barrier to participation** to a lot of groups of young people among them **deaf youth, rural youth, young refugees** and **minorities**.
- In particular for our European context, the **Roma youth**, but also other national language minorities.
- Language does not pose a barrier only in offline environment but also **online**.

# Example of the Romani Speaking Minority

- In the context of young people barriers are perceived mainly in the area of **education**.
- Based on a research from Croatia, Czechia and Bulgaria, Romani students are generally disadvantaged by growing up with a language that is not preferred by the general population and is often not used in education (**New et al. 2017**).
- Research in Slovakia, where 10% use Romani as their first language, shows that it is not perceived as a benefit being bilingual and that the knowledge of Romani has no instrumental value (**Gažičová, 2012**).

# Participation Barriers to Youth Civic Engagement in Social Media

- A study conducted with **27 young people** in 5 group interviews in Norway
- One of the key identified **barriers was language**
- Youth in the study argued that language differences in the post of NGOs etc. make it **difficult to reach them.**
- Content should be **comprehensible for younger audience.**
- Content should also be presented in a relevant way by **involving young people** creating the content in their own language.
- Focused more on youth as a whole not specific groups.

**Brandtzæg et al. 2021**

# How Did Covid-19 Change the Situation - Example of Deaf Youth

- Literature review of 34 research articles from all over the world focused on **online education and deaf youth** during the pandemic
- Various barriers identified including **the unavailability of hearing devices, language modality as a challenge, lack of sign language interpreters, difficulty with lip reading,** and more.
- Recommendation included providing proper equipment and technology, improving accessibility and usage of learning materials, improving collaboration and partnership, and more.

**Aljedaani et al., 2022**

# References

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2. Brandtzaeg, P., Haugstveit, I. M., Lüders, M., & Følstad, A. (2015). Participation Barriers to Youth Civic Engagement in Social Media. *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media*, 9(1), 578–581. <https://doi.org/10.1609/icwsm.v9i1.14640>
3. BRYCS (n.d.). *LANGUAGE Integration Barriers: Perspectives from Refugee Youth*. Retrieved from: <https://brycs.org/migration-resettlement-awareness/language-integration-barriers-perspectives-from-refugee-youth/>
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**Thank you!**

The logo for TEJO, featuring the word "tejo" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are white and are contained within a white, rounded rectangular box that has a slight perspective, appearing to float above the background. The background is a dark green color with a faint, lighter green world map visible behind it.

**tejo**

**Tutmonda Esperantista Junulara Organizo**

[tejo.org](http://tejo.org)

## Work

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

Adjunct Professor at the National University of Ireland-Galway, and Visiting Professor at the Université catholique de Lyon and at Vytautas Magnus University

Author of 300 publications in more than 30 languages

## Education

Doctorate in Law, Maastricht

## Prizes

2021 Prize of the Federalist Union of European Nationalities,

2004 Linguapax Award (Barcelona, Spain)

The Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland

Tip O'Neill Peace Fellowship (Northern Ireland, UK)

# Fernand de Varennes



# Jessý Jónsdóttir

## Association

LUF - the national youth council of Iceland

Vice-president of Young Nordics in Iceland (Ung Norræn)

Soon to be member of the Advisory Council of the Council of Europe.

## Education

MSc. in Mechanical Engineering

## Work

Strategic Project Manager at Össur, a prosthetic company



# Giorgios Papaioannou

## Association

Represents the Erasmus Student Network to the European Youth Forum & the Council of Europe

## Education

BA in Political Science from the University of Crete

## Involvement

Humanitarian Aid by European Solidarity Corps in Palestine



# Nina Grmuša

## **Association**

External representative to the Advisory Council on Youth

Trainer at European Federation for Intercultural Learning

## **Education**

Background in anthropology, international relations and intersectionality.



# Albert Stalin Garrido

## **Association**

President; World Esperanto Youth Organisation (TEJO);

Chairperson; Philippine Esperanto Youth

## **Work**

Profession: Geographer, English Teacher and Translator

## **Involvement**

Language and human rights activist

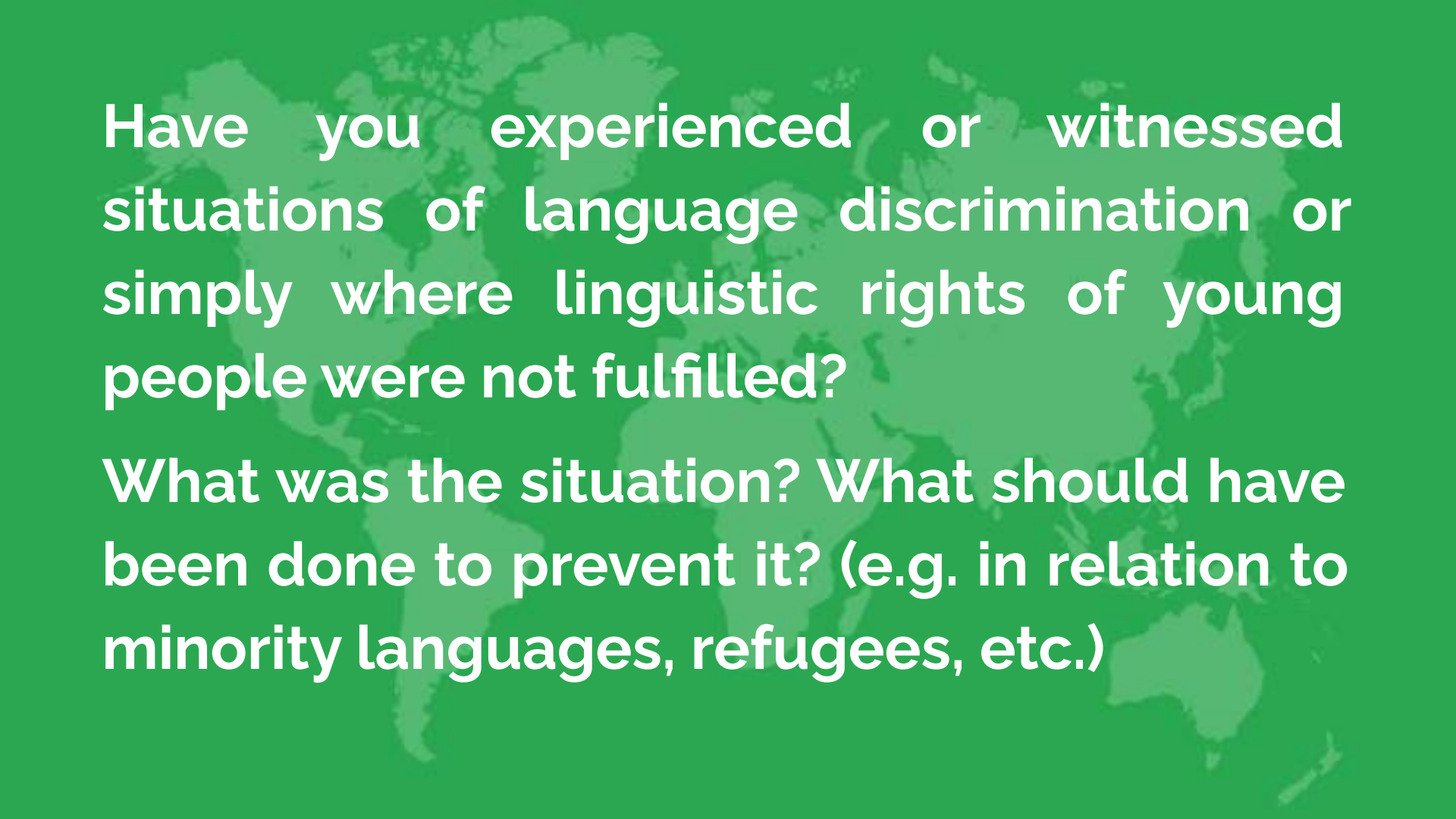


# Languages for Democracy: Linguistic Rights and Meaningful Youth Participation



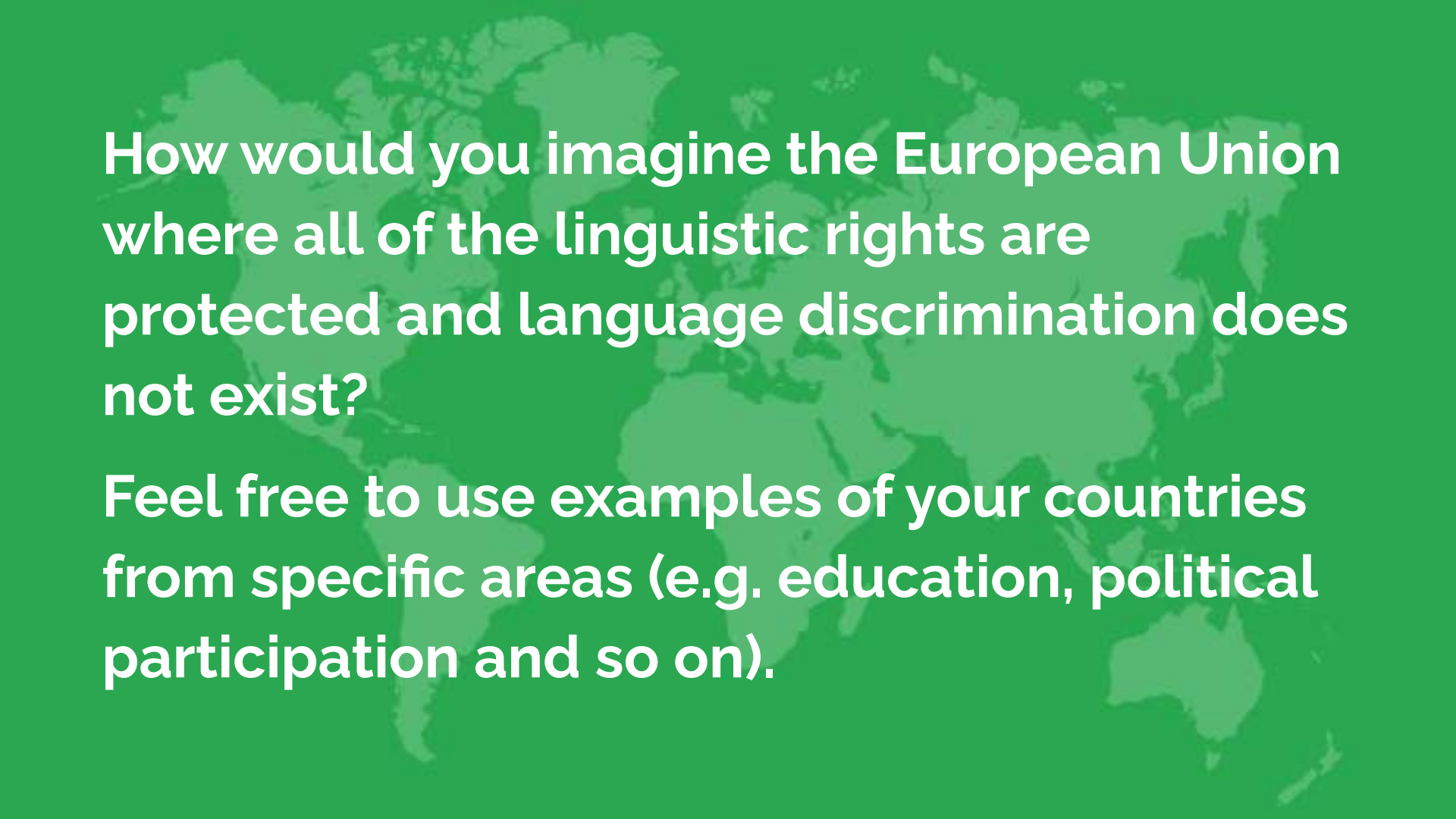
A faint, light-colored world map is visible in the background, centered on the Atlantic Ocean. The map shows the outlines of the continents in a light beige or tan color against a dark blue background.

**Questions for you**



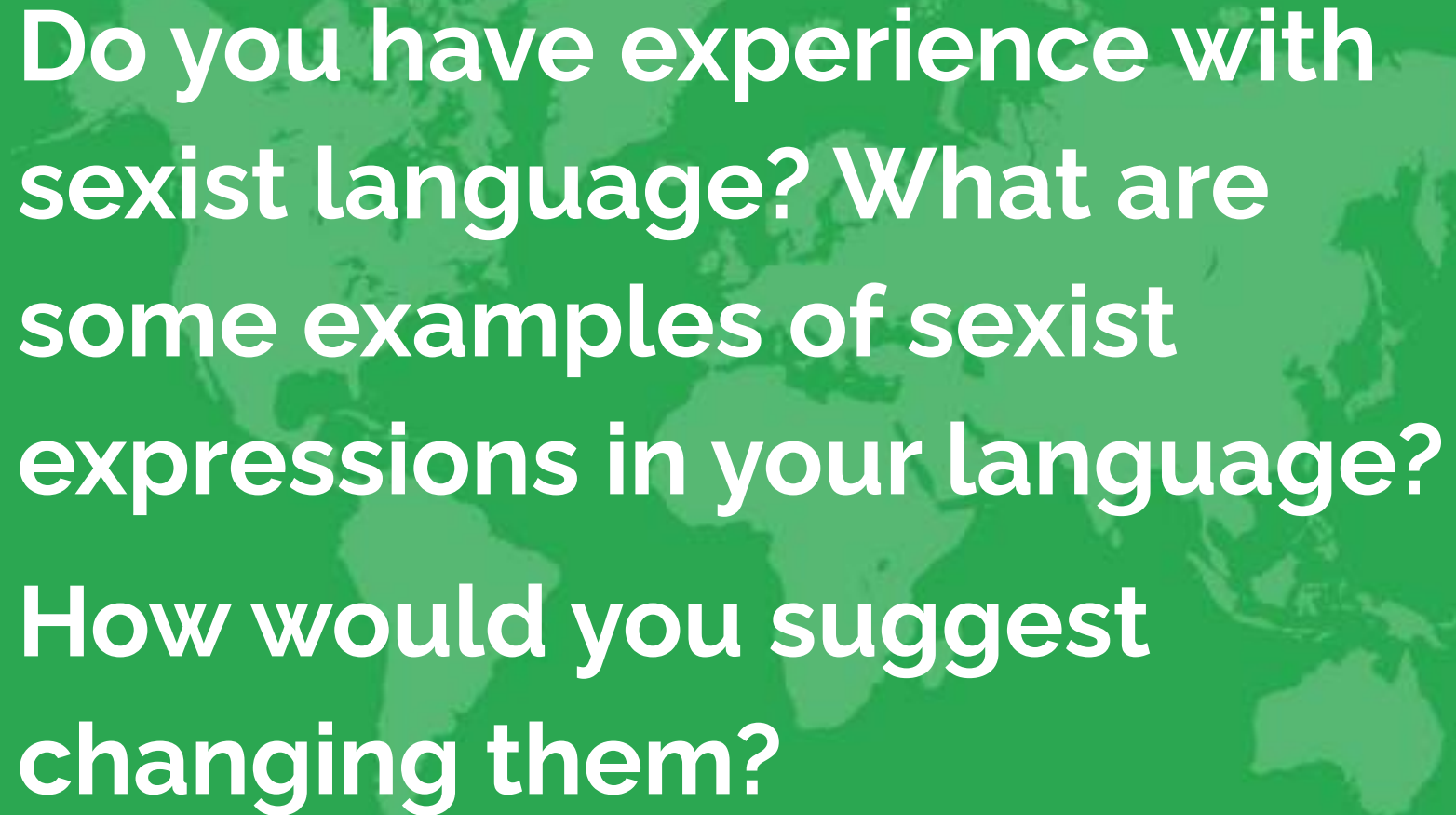
Have you experienced or witnessed situations of language discrimination or simply where linguistic rights of young people were not fulfilled?

What was the situation? What should have been done to prevent it? (e.g. in relation to minority languages, refugees, etc.)



**How would you imagine the European Union where all of the linguistic rights are protected and language discrimination does not exist?**

**Feel free to use examples of your countries from specific areas (e.g. education, political participation and so on).**



**Do you have experience with sexist language? What are some examples of sexist expressions in your language? How would you suggest changing them?**

# Languages for Democracy: Linguistic Rights and Meaningful Youth Participation