

Dear participants,

As a representative of the Deutschen Kinder und Jugendstiftung (German Children and Youth Foundation), I want you to now think about children and young people!

Our democracy is under a lot of pressure. Young people committed to democracy and in youth parliaments are threatened, queer young people are violently attacked, children experience racism in nurseries, and teachers are afraid to defend human, fundamental, and children's rights.

We experience this in our work at the foundation every day: our democracy is being threatened, as the AfD is stronger than ever in Saxony, and not just in election polls ... The latest youth studies show 22% of 18- to 29-year-olds would vote for the AfD nationwide, and the forecast is much higher in Saxony. That is a significant increase. The studies also show that young people are more pessimistic and worried about the future.

“It seems as if the coronavirus pandemic has damaged their confidence in an ability to cope with the future, which is reflected in a persistently deep insecurity,” says youth researcher Klaus Hurrelmann.

I don't want to belong to a generation of adults who abandon children and young people to such uncertainty!

I don't want to belong to a generation of adults who, because of their own fears and worries, their own excessive demands and despondency, leave these children and young people to right-wing “pied pipers” who lure them in with the simplest answers and sow their anti-democratic slogans, contempt for humanity, hatred, and mistrust.

The first sentence of the German Children and Youth Foundation's mission statement reads: “Every child a here, a now, and a future!”

We can only do this together. With each and every one of you!

Let's put all our efforts into the election on September 1 and what comes after to ensure that young people grow up in a good here and now; for me, that means in a democracy, in diversity, with respect and self-determination.

Let's work with all our might to ensure that children and young people have a democratic future in Saxony!