

INVITATION

31 October 2022

Seminar on the State and Future of Democracy

What is the state of democracy internationally and where is Finnish democracy headed? How has Finland defended democracy and what measures are needed to develop democracy in the future? These questions and more will be explored in a seminar organised as part of the National Democracy Programme 2025 project.

Time: Tuesday 29 November 2022 at 13.00–15.30

Venue: House of the Estates (Snellmaninkatu 9–11, Helsinki) and online

Join us to hear about and discuss the state and future of democracy. Democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental and human rights form the value foundation on which Finnish society is built. In recent decades, however, democratic development has faced serious threats and we have witnessed signs of fragmentation of democracy both near and far. The aim of the seminar is to provide an overview of the state of democracy both globally and in Finland and to discuss the objectives of Finnish democracy policy in the long term.

The presentation of [the 2022 Democracy Award of the Ministry of Justice](#) will take place in connection with the seminar. This year, the Award will be handed out to a civil society actor that has promoted the crisis resilience of Finnish democracy.

The seminar is organised as part of the National Democracy Programme 2025, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Justice. The National Democracy Programme 2025 covers the numerous measures promoting participation and improving the operating conditions of democracy and civil society outlined in the Government Programme of Prime Minister Sanna Marin's Government.

You can attend the event either on-site or online. The House of the Estates can host a maximum of 170 registered participants. Please arrive at the House of the Estates only if you are healthy, and remember to practice good hand hygiene. Hand sanitiser and hand washing facilities will be available at the venue.

If you wish to attend the seminar at the House of the Estates, please register for the event by 22 November 2022 by filling in [the online form](#). A link to the webcast will be published on [the website of the Democracy Programme](#) during the week preceding the seminar.

Welcome!

Minister of Justice Anna-Maja Henriksson

Permanent Secretary Pekka Timonen

Postal address	Street address	Telephone	Fax	Email, internet
Postadress	Besöksadress	Telefon	Fax	E-post, internet
Ministry of Justice	Eteläesplanadi 10	+358 295 16 001	+358 9 160 67730	kirjaamo.om@gov.fi
PO Box 25	00130 Helsinki	Internat.	Internat.	www.oikeusministerio.fi
FI-00023 Government	Finland	+358 295 16001	+358 9 160 67730	www.justitieministeriet.fi
Finland				

PROGRAMME

The event is hosted by **Johanna Suurpää**, Director General, Ministry of Justice

13.00 Opening words

Pekka Timonen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice

13.15 Key note: Global State of Democracy – Trends in Democratization

Dr. Seema Shah, Head of International IDEA's Democracy Assessment Unit

13.45 Democracy Programme 2025: Defending Finnish Democracy

Niklas Wilhelmsson, Head of Unit, Ministry of Justice

Rauno Merisaari, Ambassador for Human Rights, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

14.10 Comments

Veera Heinonen, Director, Democracy and Participation, Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra

Kristiina Kumpula, Secretary General, Finnish Red Cross, Chair of the Advisory Board on Civil Society Policy

Ulkar Aghayeva, Anti-Racism and Equality Specialist, Make Some Noise – speaker forum for young people

Jonna Haapanen, Director of Programmes, Demo Finland

14.30 Break

14.45 Presentation of the 2022 Democracy Award

Anna-Maja Henriksson, Minister of Justice

Addresses by the jury and the award winners

15.15 Closing remarks

Anna-Maja Henriksson, Minister of Justice



Demokratiaohjelma 2025
Demokratiprogram 2025



Demokratiapalkinto
Demokratipris