

Speech of **Ms Helmen Kütt**, Vice President of the IPU Estonia group at the  
General Debate „*Parliamentary action for social development and justice* “  
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Distinguished Chair, dear colleagues, honourable hosts!

In the pursuit of justice, no one should be left behind. Equality is our strength, and injustice is our greatest vulnerability. National Parliaments hold the power to shape the future everywhere. Creating policies that can uplift the marginalized is our privilege, and to ensure equal opportunities for everybody is our duty. Today, I stand before you to emphasise the importance of our parliamentary work in achieving social development and justice for every citizen - no matter their background, gender, or economic status.

One of the greatest threats in our societies are the deeply rooted inequalities in the communities. As a society, we have seemingly agreed to help out those in need. However, the practice often differs from the reality. We don't always manage to address the needs of everybody, leading to inevitable inequalities. This can lead to division, marginalisation and eventually radicalisation. We will never tackle these problems, without addressing the underlying injustices. The vulnerability starts to reproduce itself, leading to further isolation from the society. Needless to say, these vulnerable groups are often exposed to the influence of unfriendly forces, targeting marginalised groups to disrupt stability within communities. We see this in Russia's playbook, and we know that creating instability is only the first step towards their goal.

Therefore, it is our duty to minimise the inequalities by offering adequate support to all in need. As a society, we should realign our words and actions – if we value justice, we must fight inequalities and celebrate differences. Belonging to different social groups, having different socio-economic capacities or social identities could be our strength, not our greatest weakness.

This is where we, the representatives of our nations, must step up. We must be loud and clear not only in our messages, but also in our actions every single day. Fundamental freedoms cannot be questioned or restricted anywhere. We have to adopt the regulations which will take into account the universal rights for life, development, education, property, and freedom of speech. By creating inclusive societies and fighting injustices, we create a more peaceful world for ourselves and our children. In the times of acute instability, where democracies are crumbling and radicalisation is rising everywhere, stability must be our goal.

Let us remember that the work of National Parliaments is not just about passing laws—it is about shaping a future where stability, justice and opportunity are within reach for all. Through collective action, we have the power to create a society where no one is left behind. But this requires each of us to push for change, and to ensure that the policies we create reflect our shared values of equality and justice for all.

As we look to the future, I urge you all to hold your representatives accountable, to stand up for those whose voices have long been silenced, and to continue the work of building a more just society. Together, we can create a world where every individual has the opportunity to thrive; a world where inclusion and justice is the standard.

As Nelson Mandela once said, 'Action without vision is only passing time, vision without action is merely daydreaming, but vision with action can change the world.'

Let us take action, and let that action bring us closer to the world of justice and equality we all deserve.

Thank you for your attention!