

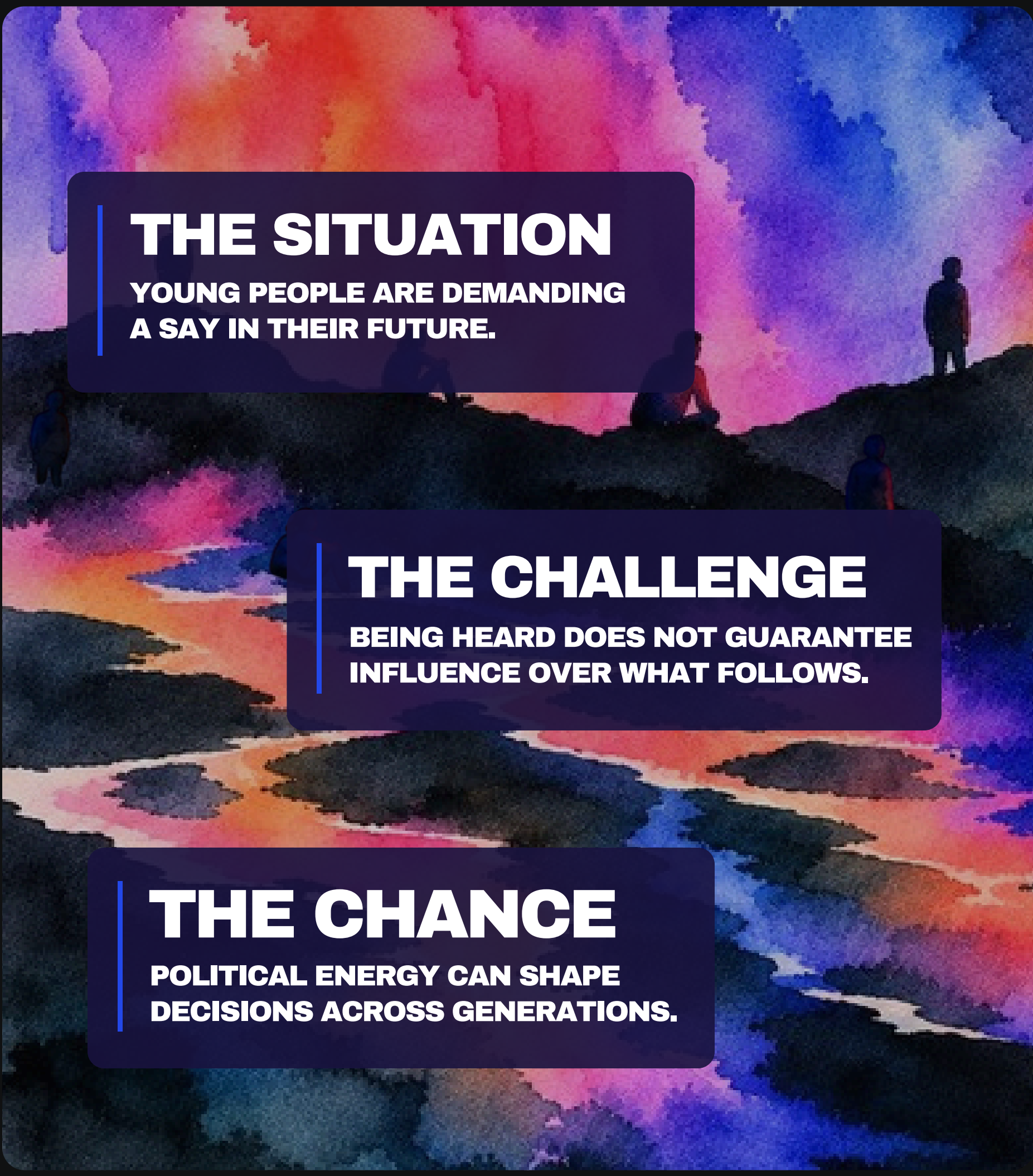


CAN I BUILD A FUTURE?

**YOUNG MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL CHANGE,
AND THE FUTURE OF MULTILATERALISM**

21 SEPTEMBER 2026

 **UNITED NATIONS
FOUNDATION**



THE SITUATION

**YOUNG PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING
A SAY IN THEIR FUTURE.**

THE CHALLENGE

**BEING HEARD DOES NOT GUARANTEE
INFLUENCE OVER WHAT FOLLOWS.**

THE CHANCE

**POLITICAL ENERGY CAN SHAPE
DECISIONS ACROSS GENERATIONS.**



CAN I BUILD A FUTURE?

**YOUNG MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL CHANGE,
AND THE FUTURE OF MULTILATERALISM**

WHAT INSTITUTIONS CHANGED. WHAT PEOPLE COULD STILL DO.

215

CASES

A SELECTED SAMPLE
WITH A DOCUMENTED
ROLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

97

COUNTRIES

PUBLIC EVIDENCE
REVIEWED THROUGH
AUGUST 2026.

THE DEMAND

WHAT DID INSTITUTIONS
ACCEPT, REJECT OR
LEAVE UNRESOLVED?

THE PEOPLE

WHAT CAPACITY
REMAINED TO
ACT TOGETHER?

DAILY LIFE BECOMES A QUESTION OF POWER

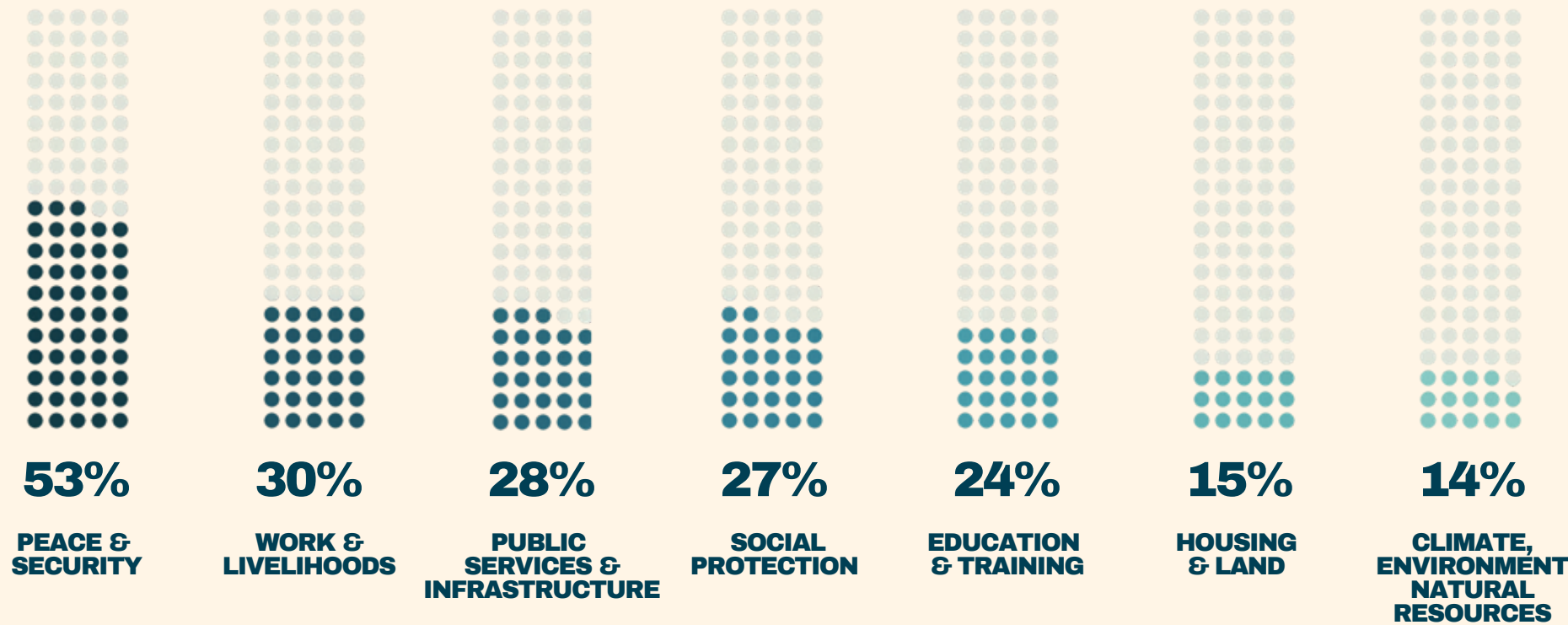
4 IN 5

CASES COMBINED DAILY-LIFE DEMANDS
WITH CLAIMS ABOUT PUBLIC POWER.

AN IMMEDIATE CONCESSION CAN LEAVE
THE WIDER DEMAND UNRESOLVED.

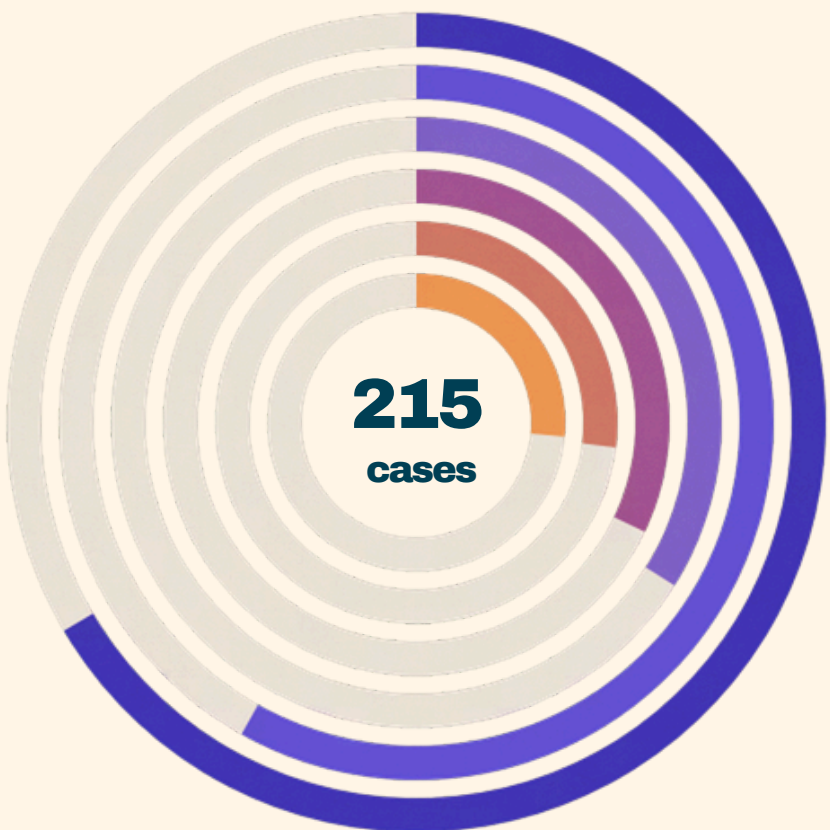
DAILY LIFE

Share of cases with each demand



PUBLIC POWER

Share of cases with each demand



- Accountability, investigation or remedy 67%
- Democratic rules and safeguards 58%
- Voice, participation or consent 34%
- Fair burdens and consistent rules 32%
- Corruption, impunity, elite protection 27%
- Transparency and evidence 27%

Categories overlap. Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

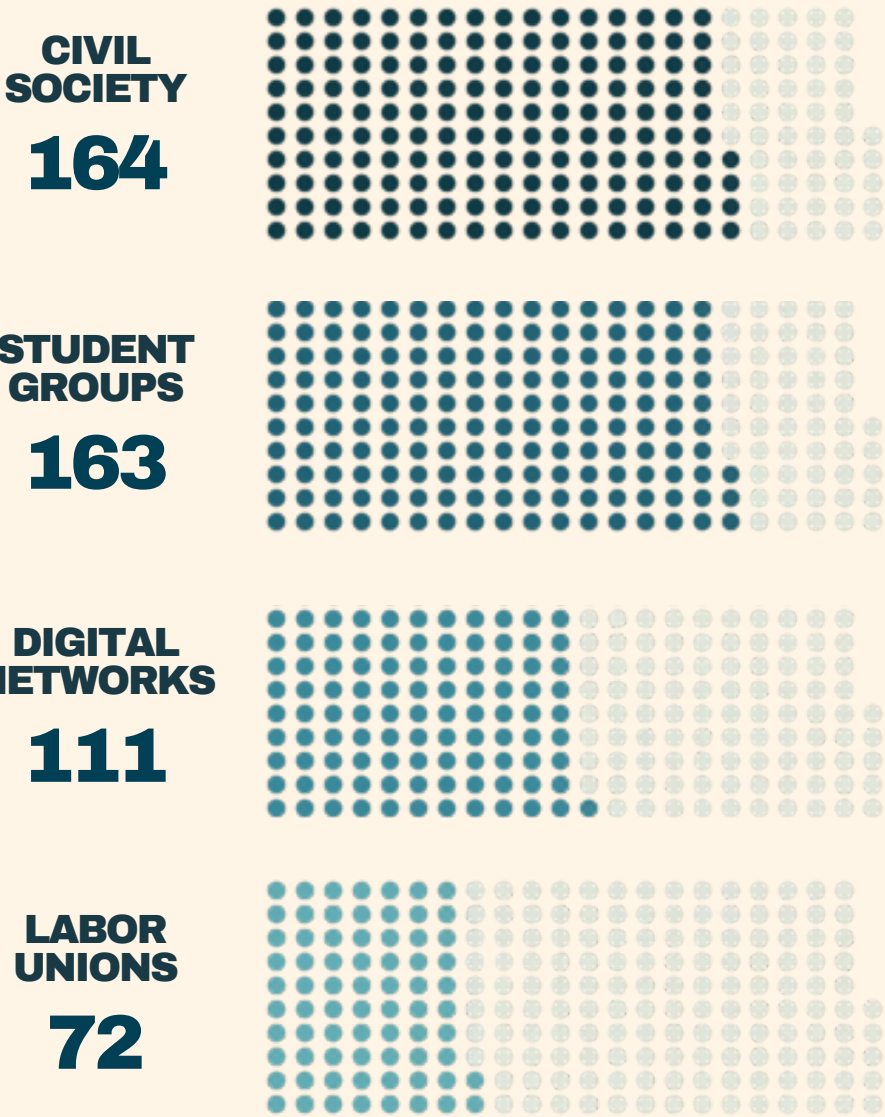
ACCESS TO POWER DOES NOT SETTLE WHO GETS A SAY

INSTITUTIONS CHOOSE
WHOM TO NEGOTIATE WITH.
COURTS AND AGENCIES SET
THE TERMS OF A RESPONSE.

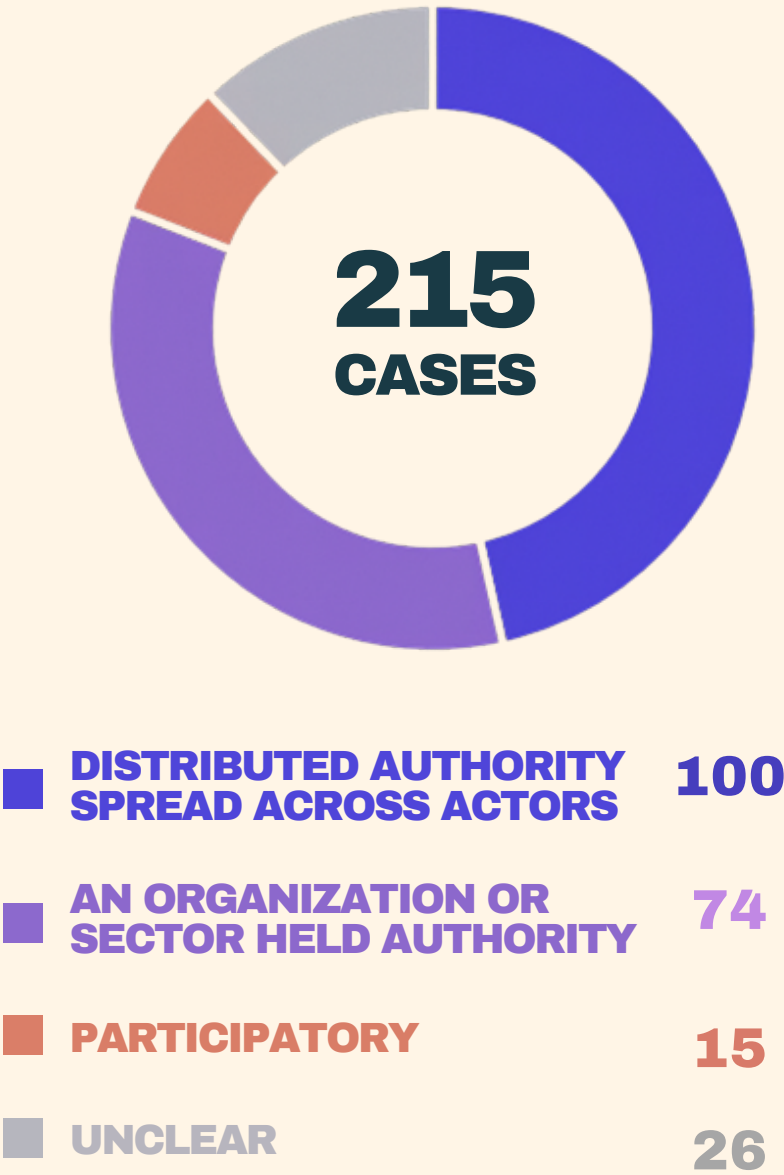
THE PEOPLE WHO CARRIED A DEMAND MAY
LOSE INFLUENCE OVER WHAT FOLLOWS.

93% HAD MORE THAN ONE DOCUMENTED
FORM OF ORGANIZING

FORMS OF ORGANIZING



DECISIONS WITHIN MOVEMENTS



EACH DOT REPRESENTS ONE CASE.
FORMS OF ORGANIZING CAN OVERLAP.

**A RESPONSE CAN
LEAVE MUCH OF
THE DISPUTE
UNRESOLVED**

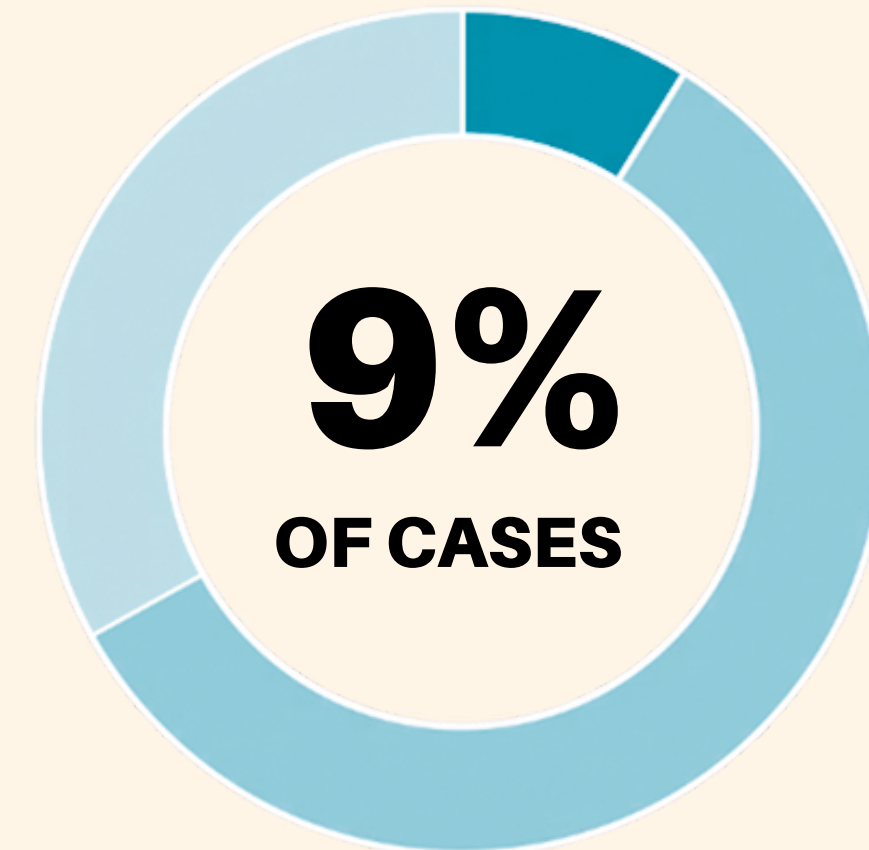
ABOUT

1 IN 2

**CASES SAW STATE CONDUCT BECOME
PART OF WHAT THE MOVEMENT
CHALLENGED.**

**STATE CONDUCT IS A SEPARATE
MEASURE AND CAN OVERLAP
WITH DEMAND OUTCOMES.**

**HOW FAR THE
DEMAND ADVANCED**



**SAW INSTITUTIONS ADVANCE THE CENTRAL
DEMAND, AND IN 58% THEY PROGRESSED
ONLY PART OF A WIDER CLAIM**

POLICY CHANGE AND COLLECTIVE POWER CAN DIVERGE



HUNGARY · 2020



KENYA · 2024



INDIA · 2024

1 IN 4

INSTITUTIONS CHANGED. COLLECTIVE CAPACITY DID NOT STRENGTHEN.

1 IN 6

NO CLEAR INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE. COLLECTIVE CAPACITY STRENGTHENED.

A MOVEMENT'S STRENGTH ALSO LIES IN WHAT PEOPLE CAN DO TOGETHER LATER

ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL GROUPS

BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER WHEN THE ISSUE RETURNS

LEGAL, MEDICAL AND SUPPORT NETWORKS

HELP PARTICIPANTS STAY INVOLVED AND WITHSTAND PRESSURE

EVIDENCE AND SHARED KNOWLEDGE

REOPEN CLAIMS AND TEST OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS

SKILLS AND WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

PREPARE PROPOSALS, NEGOTIATE AND ORGANIZE AGAIN

GLOBAL ACTION CAN CARRY A DEMAND FURTHER

ABOUT

1 IN 3

CASES USED A DIPLOMATIC
OR MULTILATERAL PROCESS.

MOVEMENTS USE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
TO DEFEND GAINS AND HOLD GOVERNMENTS
TO THEIR COMMITMENTS.



VANUATU • 2025



COLOMBIA • 2021



UKRAINE • 2025

WHAT INSTITUTIONS AND FUNDERS SHOULD DO

01

**RESPOND
TO THE
BROADER
DEMAND**

**STATE WHAT WAS
ACCEPTED, REJECTED
AND LEFT UNRESOLVED.
SHOW WHAT CHANGED
IN PEOPLE'S LIVES.**

02

**MAKE
ROLES
CLEAR**

**NAME WHO DECIDES
AND WHO ACTS NEXT.
KEEP EVIDENCE
ACCESSIBLE THROUGH
IMPLEMENTATION.**

03

**BUILD
POWER
BETWEEN
PROTESTS**

**PROTECT POLITICAL
SPACE. OFFER
FLEXIBLE SUPPORT
FOR ORGANIZING AND
COORDINATION.**

04

**MAKE
THE UN
COUNT
AT HOME**

**PRESERVE EVIDENCE
AND TRACK DELIVERY.
EXPLAIN HOW CHOICES
MEET COMMITMENTS AND
WHO BEARS THE COST.**



**YOUNG PEOPLE ALREADY SUPPLY THE WORLD'S
POLITICAL ENERGY. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSING
IS THE CAPACITY TO CARRY THAT ENERGY
INTO DECISIONS AND ACROSS TIME.**

MOVEMENTS.OURFUTUREAGENDA.ORG



EXPLORE THE EVIDENCE

THE REPORT, CASE ANNEX AND CODING TABLE
MOVEMENTS.OURFUTUREAGENDA.ORG

READ THE REPORT

CASE ANNEX

CODING TABLE

OUR FUTURE AGENDA

