

Gen Z leading global protest against governments

20th October 2025



Young people across the globe are taking to the streets in protest against their governments. From Madagascar, to Peru, to Indonesia, Generation Z is rising to express their growing discontent with their leaders. Gen Z consists of

people born roughly between 1996 and 2010. They share a common perception of a world of increasing inequality, corruption, nepotism, corporate greed, and a bleak outlook regarding career prospects. This week in Madagascar, a group of protesters dubbed "Gen Z Madagascar" helped oust the country's president. Young Indonesians took part in deadly demonstrations over lawmakers' pay. In Morocco, people marched to call for better healthcare and education.

The protesters have two things in common. One is a growing exasperation about the state of the world; the other is the use of a flag from a Japanese manga called "One Piece". The flag depicts a skull with a straw hat and crossed bones. In the manga, a group of pirates fly the flag and fight against oppressive governments and injustice. In real life, the flag has appeared on banners and social media, and seen in graffiti worldwide. Al Jazeera reported that in protests in Nepal, the flag was painted on murals, hung from vehicles, and was displayed in place of national flags. It added: "It is used partly in satire, partly as a statement: rejecting the status quo, calling out what protesters see as failures of governance."

Sources: [amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org) / [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com) / [theconversation.com](https://www.theconversation.com)

Writing

Public protests are an important part of society and democracy. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

young people / protest / Generation Z / discontent / inequality / nepotism / greed / things in common / exasperation / flag / skull / injustice / mural / graffiti / status quo

True / False

- 1) The article says young people are sitting in streets to protest. T / F
- 2) People from Generation Z were born in the 1960s and 1970s. T / F
- 3) There is no common theme among the things Gen Z is protesting about. T / F
- 4) Young Moroccans protested for better education and healthcare. T / F
- 5) Protestors worldwide are protesting with a flag from a Japanese manga. T / F
- 6) The flag has a picture of a skull wearing a leather hat. T / F
- 7) In Nepal, protestors used the flag instead of the national flag. T / F
- 8) Protestors are using the flag to reject the status quo. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. globe | a. condition |
| 2. discontent | b. feeling |
| 3. perception | c. parody |
| 4. nepotism | d. overthrow |
| 5. oust | e. shows |
| 6. state | f. dissatisfaction |
| 7. depicts | g. brutal |
| 8. oppressive | h. the way things are |
| 9. satire | i. world |
| 10. status quo | j. favouritism |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of Generation Z?
- c) What are you most exasperated about?
- d) What things would make you take to the streets?
- e) What do you think of Japanese manga?
- f) What will it take to end all oppressive governments?
- g) What single change would you like to see in the world?
- h) What questions would you like to ask governments about protests?

Phrase Match

1. people across the globe are taking
 2. express their growing
 3. corporate
 4. a bleak
 5. people marched to
 6. The protesters have two things
 7. a growing exasperation
 8. a group of pirates fly
 9. displayed in place of national
 10. rejecting the status
- a. outlook
 - b. about the state of the world
 - c. discontent
 - d. call for better healthcare
 - e. quo
 - f. to the streets in protest
 - g. flags
 - h. in common
 - i. greed
 - j. the flag

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about your generation?
- b) What do you think of protests?
- c) How happy or unhappy are you with the world today?
- d) What are your biggest complaints about your country's government?
- e) What inequalities are there in your country?
- f) What damage is corporate greed doing to the world?
- g) What do you think of nepotism?
- h) What advice do you have for the protesters?

Spelling

1. They share a common erncoetppi
2. inequality, corruption, opsimnet
3. a kbale outlook
4. career spostcrep
5. helped suot the country's president
6. irmdatnoonests over lawmakers' pay
7. growing eaoapnseixrt
8. The flag ectidps a skull
9. fight against reipsosvep governments
10. in fitaigrf worldwide
11. the flag was painted on lmasur
12. failures of necgonarev

Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. f	3. b	4. j	5. d
6. a	7. e	8. g	9. c	10. h

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	Who is Gen Z expressing discontent about?
2.	What kind of greed is Gen Z protesting about?
3.	What did Gen Z in Madagascar do to their president?
4.	What are young Indonesians demonstrating about?
5.	Where are protesters calling for better education and healthcare?
6.	How many things do the protesters have in common?
7.	What kind of hat is shown on the "One Piece" flag?
8.	Who in the Japanese manga fights against oppressive governments?
9.	Where was the "One Piece" flag displayed instead of a national flag?
10.	What did Al Jazeera say protesters are rejecting?

Speaking – Protests

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that would make you protest at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Government corruption
- Saying no to war
- Freedom of speech
- Saying no to fossil fuels
- LGBTQ+ rights
- Climate change
- Price/Tax rises
- Religious freedom

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.