

Our generational project



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Date 2024-12-13 18:13

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Hi friend,

Last week, The Obama Foundation hosted our third annual Democracy Forum, and this year, the event was centered around the concept of pluralism. Now let's face it: this is not a word most of us use in our day-to-day lives, but the concept of pluralism should be familiar to us all.

The idea is that because we live alongside individuals and groups who are different from us, we commit to a system of rules that helps us peacefully resolve our disputes, and not only tolerate each other, but join in collective action.

[I hope you'll watch our new video to hear a little more from me and our incredible speakers at the Democracy Forum about this concept.](#)



You might be wondering if the idea of pluralism can even work in the current moment and if the concept is even worth saving.

I believe the answer is yes. I'm convinced that if we want democracy to survive, we're all going to have to work towards a renewed commitment to pluralism.

So how do we do that? Here are a few principles to consider as we move forward:

1. Building bridges isn't contrary to equality and social justice. In fact, it's our best tool for delivering lasting change.
2. Pluralism doesn't require us to deny our unique identities or experiences. But it does require that we try to understand the experiences of others and look for common ground.
3. Pluralism works better when it's about action and not just words.
4. We're not born with the muscles to make pluralism a habit. It takes practice, and we need to rebuild the institutions that give us that practice.

I realize that none of this will be easy. Building up habits and practices that help us trust each other again is a generational project, which is why I'm so excited about the young people, some of whom we heard from last week, who are experimenting with different ways to do it.

[Hear a bit from some of these incredible leaders by watching our new video about the Democracy Forum now.](#)

Watch now

I hope you'll also commit to this work. Together, we can reduce the cynicism that is so prevalent in our politics right now, and ultimately, work together to solve the greatest challenges of our time.

–Barack

P.S. If you're looking for ways to take action now, consider applying for our Leaders program. We're looking for emerging changemakers between the ages of 25-45 both in the U.S. and around the world who want to build on their ability to make positive change. [Apply, or send the application to someone you know, by January 5, 2025.](#)

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