



JUNE
2023

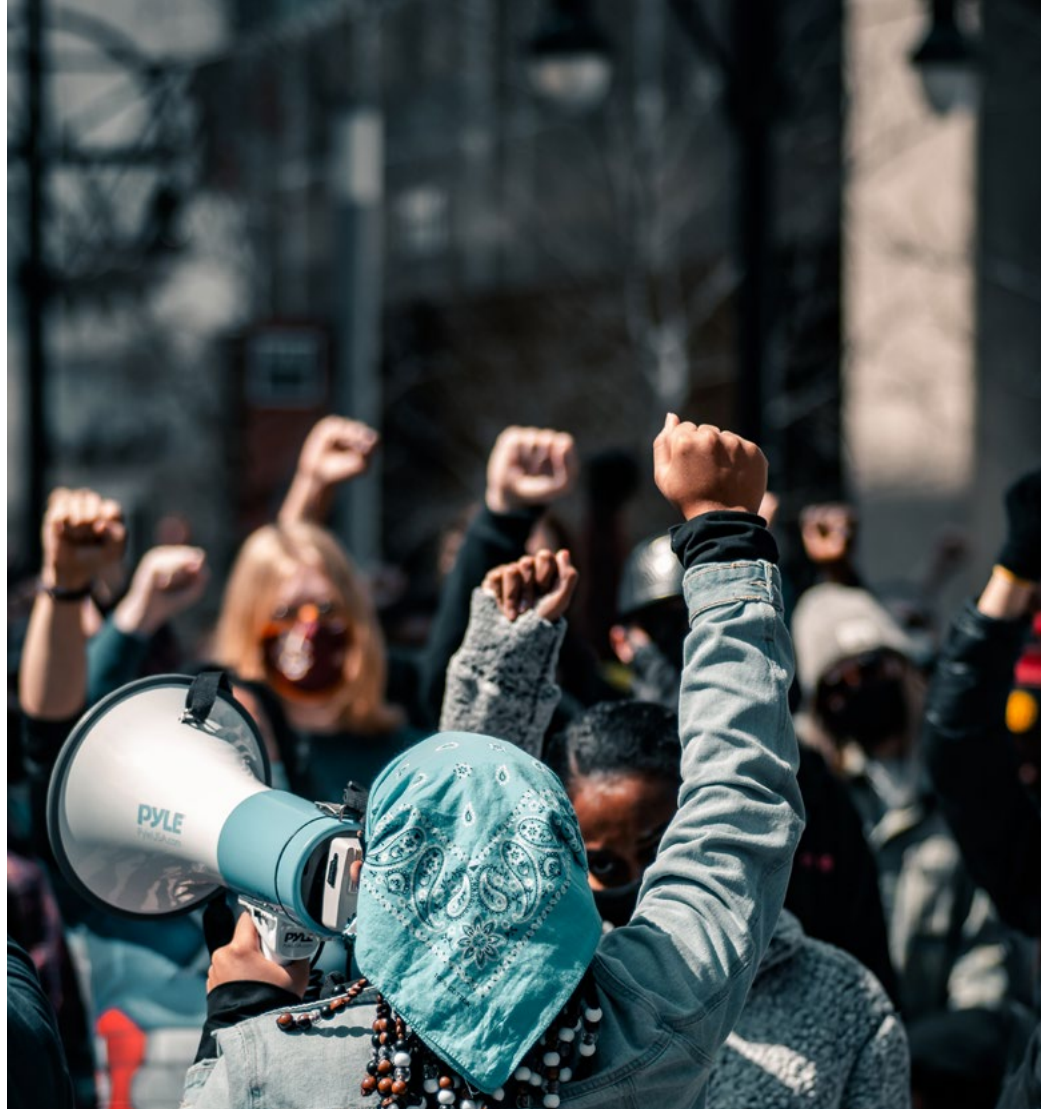


CANVAS

PEOPLE POWER

ACADEMY

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The 2023 CANVAS People Power Academy will provide discourse on current events and strategies that apply to a variety of struggles around the globe. Together we will explore recent lessons from pro-democracy movements that are effectively challenging autocrats; how activists can stay engaged in transition of power processes; the power of women and youth in the fight against repression, and we will also discuss fundraising strategies for nonviolent campaigns. These sessions will connect you to new perspectives and experiences that can bolster your movement's success. The sessions will be hosted by Srdja Popovic, Slobodan Djinic, and Breza Race with expert guests sharing their experiences from Iran, Afghanistan, Brazil, Georgia, Egypt, India, Myanmar, and the United States. We hope to see you this June for an in-depth exploration of the threats of our time and the tools we have to overcome them and create a better world.



Session I

CHALLENGING AUTOCRATS: BOTTOM-UP RESHAPING OF PRO-DEMOCRACY MOVEMENTS

Tuesday, June 20th at 9 am EST / 3 pm CEST



After almost two decades of democracy backslide, the Freedom House “freedom in the world” index accounts for reverse the trend, as a number of autocrats and “illiberal” democrats are put on the defense by their own populations. After years of focusing their efforts across the globe on climate change and the “tyranny of oil”, generation Z seems to be fired up about making a historic connection between fossil fuels, their main exporters, and global democracy and peace. And while Western governments are pressed to divest from Putin’s oil and gas, autocrats and “illiberal democrats” from China to Iran and from Brazil to Georgia and Turkey are losing their positions of power or are being challenged with mass demonstrations.

With developments around Georgia’s Foreign Agent Bill, being the latest example of successful actions and initiatives driven by the youth, are we finally witnessing the “beginning of the end of authoritarian tide”?

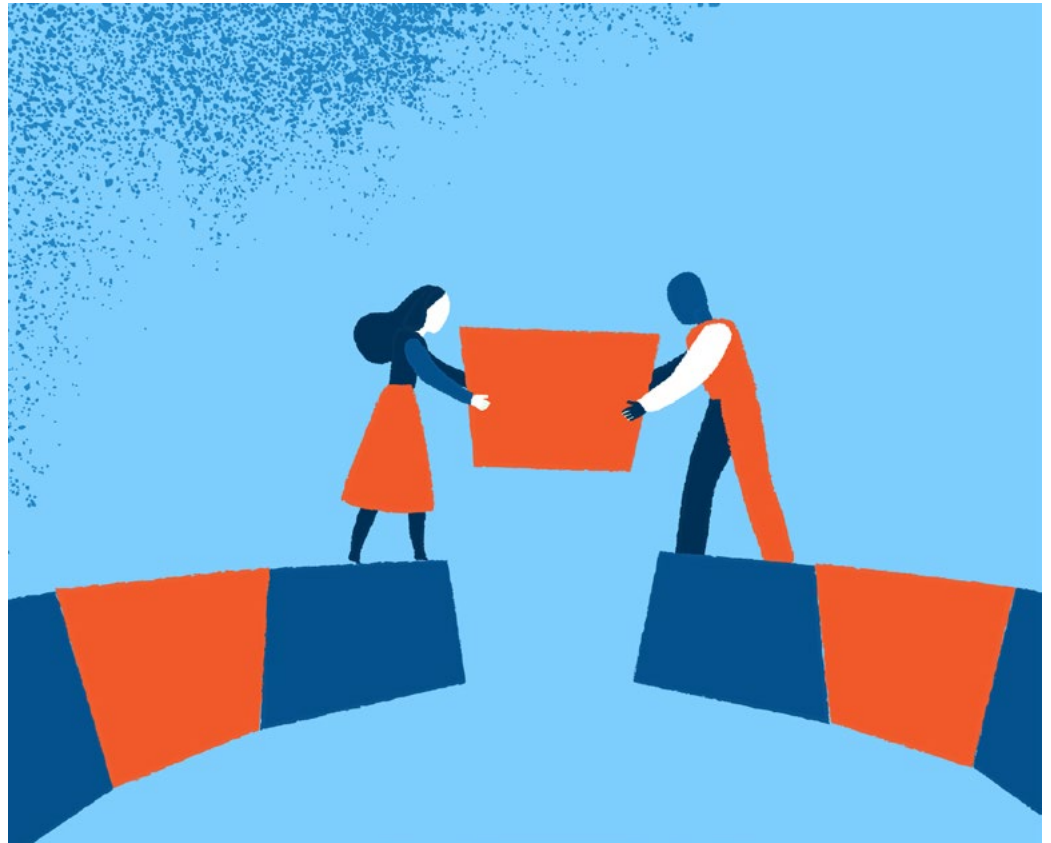
Through social, and economic confrontation, activists around the world demonstrated a global coherence of people expressing similar grievances. This panel will dive in the effect of creative tactics that we witnessed in the last 12 months.



Session II

**TRANSITION TOWARDS DEMOCRACY AND POWER SHIFTS:
WHAT ACTIVISTS NEED TO BE AWARE OF AND HOW TO STAY
ENGAGED IN THE TRANSITION PROCESS**

Thursday, June 22nd at 9 am EST / 3 pm CEST



Having your movement succeed in nonviolent struggle is just the beginning – it doesn't stop there. Once change has come, it is important for nonviolent movements to hold the people in power accountable. Furthermore, advocacy that makes sure the whole society is benefiting from the change is essential. Activists must not be afraid to get involved in institutional reform and continue to advocate from within – in order to make them strong and independent tools of democracy. In all circumstances, maintaining stability throughout the process includes continued organizing and clear messaging in this fragile stage.

In this session, we will discuss the transition process and how activists can prepare. It is vital for activists and civil society to remain engaged throughout the transition process to ensure people's demands will be followed through.



Session III

REBELLIOUS WOMEN: HOW THE WOMEN CAPTURED THE WORLD'S ATTENTION, BECOMING THE FACE OF CONTINUED FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Tuesday, June 27th at 9 am EST / 3 pm CEST



The death of Masha Amini by Iran's morality police in September 2022 unleashed protests that continue today, their fight for basic human rights captured the world's attention. Brave women and girls, such as those gassed in Iranian schools, have challenged the regime despite fears of execution and repression. These women flooded streets and united people regardless of gender, ethnicity, and nationality, calling for freedom of expression, autonomy, and access to education and health-care. In the face of extreme discrimination, they motivated international support and generated actions around the globe.

This session will focus on women's empowerment and leadership in nonviolent movements. We will also discuss the power young people possess to command international attention and alter norms in their societies, emphasizing the fight for human rights.



Session IV

FUNDRAISING: HOW TO SECURE FUNDS FOR YOUR NONVIOLENT ACTIONS AND CAMPAIGNS

Thursday June 29th at 9 am EST / 3 pm CEST



Being able to fundraise for your nonviolent struggle is one of the essential factors for movement maintenance, as it lays the foundation for creating a competitive action plan. All movements - from Venezuelan confronting Maduro to those going against the military junta in Myanmar, and people who challenged Bolsonaro in Brazil - can benefit from obtaining funds from international organizations, nationally operating NGOs, or local sources that can assist in acquiring necessary resources for the movement, such as print materials, office space, medical aid, and food. Having a toolkit of fundraising knowledge helps ensure the survival and impact of any movement.

This panel will present attendees with the options and skills to fundraise effectively. Joined by both an experienced donor and activists, it will discuss the logistics of securing the finances to enable movements to move forward.



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