



NATIONAL  
DEMOCRATIC  
INSTITUTE

**Working for Democracy and  
Making Democracy Work**

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## Working for Democracy



**Tom Daschle**  
*NDI Board Chair*

“The defining issue of the 21st century is the fight between freedom and oppression. The work NDI does has never been more important or in demand than at this moment in time.”



**Tamara Cofman Wittes**  
*NDI President*

“NDI’s mission is both inspiring and essential: we strive for a world where all people’s voices are heard, and where democracy’s promise of a brighter future is open to everyone who seeks it.”

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that believes a world rooted in freedom — where people have a say in how they’re governed and with leaders who are accountable to their people — fosters more stability, security and prosperity for everyone.

NDI envisions a world where democracy and freedom prevail, with dignity for all.

For over four decades, NDI has worked with local partners in over 150 countries to help people unleash their power to make democracy work for them. We partner with those who do the work of democracy, in community groups, political parties, parliaments, and governments. NDI provides guidance, collaboration, tools, and training proven to be effective in:

- **Empowering people** to have a say in how they’re governed
- **Making democracy work** by helping political parties, governments and elected officials be more responsive, accountable and effective in meeting the needs of their people
- **Strengthening democratic societies** by supporting freedom’s advocates and pushing back on forces that seek to undermine freedom around the world.

NDI is privileged to work with exceptional individuals whose tireless efforts for freedom make the world a safer, more secure and prosperous place.

**Tom Daschle**  
*NDI Chair*

**Tamara Cofman Wittes**  
*NDI President*





# Making Democracy Work

## Our Mission

People all over the world seek freedom, fairness, opportunity, and open, accountable government. These core elements of democracy are the foundations for strong societies, thriving economies and a more secure world. We know that when people have a choice, they choose democracy. NDI strives for a world where people have a say in how they're governed and where leaders are accountable to their people — creating a more stable, peaceful and prosperous world for everyone.

## Our Impact

NDI was founded in 1983, working in its early years to support democratic politics in Asia and Latin America. In the 1990s, after the fall of the Berlin Wall, NDI helped nations in Africa, across Europe, and elsewhere build democratic institutions after decades of oppression. Over four decades, NDI has helped thousands of local partners and tens of millions of people enjoy the benefits of living in a democratic society: governments that are better able to meet the needs of their people, and communities with higher life expectancies, lower infant mortality and greater economic growth. Freedom works!

NDI's efforts contribute to global stability and security by:

- Giving voice to everyone who seeks freedom and fairness
- Supporting open, honest and accountable government that works for citizens and responds to their needs
- Shrinking space for violent extremists and criminal organizations to recruit and prey on people
- Bridging divides that give rise to armed conflict
- Reducing the numbers of people who flee their homes to escape violence, poverty and repression, and
- Cultivating better partners for private sector trade and investment.

Countries that are governed by democratic principles help protect global security by promoting stability, opening new markets and reducing the threats from extremists and the adversaries of freedom.

Brutal authoritarian regimes are using their influence to undermine trust in democracy and provoke conflict within societies — for the sake of their own power and advantage. In the Middle East, the Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America, forces opposed to democracy are threatening human freedom, hurting ordinary people, and provoking regional and global instability.

It is vitally important to global security, strength and prosperity to invest in helping people around the world stand up for freedom and democracy. Join the movement!

**"America's national security, economic strength and global leadership are best secured in a world where freedom prevails. NDI's work is a strategic investment that benefits the American people and reflects their values."**

NDI President Tamara Cofman Wittes

## Empowering People

NDI supports citizens from all parts of society in their demand for freedom, economic opportunity and open and accountable government. We help women overcome barriers to full political participation, including supporting them against violent attacks both online and off. We provide skills to help young people find their voices, engage in decision-making, and grow into the next generation of elected leaders.

## Making Democracy Work

NDI works with legislatures, executive officials, local governments, and advocates to promote transparency in government, build citizen trust and reduce corruption. We support credible elections based on international standards. Our work with political parties helps citizens drive change based on common interests and policies, and our candidate debates inform voters' choices.

## Strengthening Democratic Societies

NDI counters authoritarian influences that undermine freedom and democracy across the globe, and we help citizens resist oppressive governments. In conflict zones, we facilitate dialogue to address grievances, prevent terrorism and reduce mass migration. We also promote digital safety and provide online tools to citizens that help make governments more efficient, fair and accountable.

**Join us in working for democracy and making democracy work.**

**National Democratic Institute**

455 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001

202-728-5500

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