

country, amplifying youth influence in shaping national policies. Zambia experienced a remarkable transformation.

Youth4Parliament is the first movement in Zambia—perhaps even in the world—that has managed to bring together youth politicians from different parties under one roof to discuss the youth agenda peacefully, work together, and offer each other solidarity. In fact, Y4P’s official launch was the first time that secretaries general of various Zambian political parties were meeting in one room around a mutual cause for young people.

We have seen a lot of youth get involved and get elected, but we have also seen a lot of movements being formed because of Y4P. These movements—mobilizing solidarity around various issues—are all riding on the numbers and strength of young people. Most of them have had Y4P members as their frontline mobilizers, including Fight Inequality Alliance Zambia, Girls Gone Political, and Youth Ignite. Y4P has contributed to the eruption of social movements and capacity building for grassroots actors in Zambia.

Y4P has raised our political consciousness. Youth are now voting again and are demanding to be included in political parties. We detest being used as tools of violence. We are more aware of the duties of office bearers. We are more willing to engage in meaningful conversations and activities to develop initiatives that create a better place for us to thrive. Youth—especially young women—have begun to break the barriers that once hindered them.

A lot has changed in the political space because of Youth4Parliament.

This is how it happened.

– The Central Command Team and Founders of Youth4Parliament