

In defense of democracy, fighting against extremism

September 2025

In a time of political polarization and global instability, with democracy under threat in many quarters, we, the undersigned Nobel laureates, affirm the importance of democracy and multilateralism and, accordingly, we write in support of the [Initiative](#) of 20 countries to promote democracy by strengthening institutions, addressing income inequality and tackling the online information ecosystem.

As Nobel laureates, we especially commend the leaders participating in the Democracia Siempre initiative for their firm commitment to reason and their agreement that despite the different worldviews of their members, the facts cannot be falsified. We also respect their firm commitment to peace, respect for international law and international humanitarian law.

We support the emphasis on the importance of quality information and news in order to inform the public, promote constructive civil engagement and promote democracy. Indeed, Freedom of Expression is an internationally recognized human right. We are especially concerned about the chilling effects on free press, free speech and academic freedom that have occurred in many countries and the chilling effects of defamation suits against journalists around the world; as well as from the immense power of amplification of mis/disinformation that has been ceded to tech platforms and now the Generative AI companies.

We commend the leaders for their commitment to convert lofty principles into concrete actions and look forward to working together in the future to support this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Stiglitz

Nobel laureate, Economics, 2001.

Maria A. Ressa

Nobel laureate, Peace, 2021.

Klaus von Klitzing

Nobel laureate, Physics, 1985.

Wole Soyinka

Nobel laureate, Literature, 1986.

Óscar Arias

Nobel laureate, Peace, 1987.

Elias J. Corey

Nobel laureate, Chemistry, 1990.

Richard J. Roberts

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 1993.

José Ramos-Horta

Nobel laureate, Peace, 1996.

William D. Phillips

Nobel laureate, Physics, 1997.

Jody Williams

Nobel laureate, Peace, 1997.

Louis J. Ignarro

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 1998.

Anthony J. Leggett

Nobel laureate, Physics, 2003.

J. M. Coetzee

Nobel laureate, Literature, 2003.

Shirin Ebadi

Nobel laureate, Peace, 2003.

Aaron Ciechanover

Nobel laureate, Chemistry, 2004.

Barry J. Marshall

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 2005.

John C. Mather

Nobel laureate, Physics, 2006.

Edmund “Ned” Phelps

Nobel laureate, Economics, 2006.

Andrew Z. Fire

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 2006.

Roger D. Kornberg

Nobel laureate, Chemistry, 2006.

Orhan Pamuk

Nobel laureate, Literature, 2006.

Eric S. Maskin

Nobel laureate, Economics, 2007.

Mario R. Capecchi

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 2007.

Martin Chalfie

Nobel laureate, Chemistry, 2008.

Jack W. Szostak

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 2009.

Leymah Gbowee

Nobel laureate, Peace, 2011.

Tawakkol Karman

Nobel laureate, Peace, 2011.

May-Britt Moser

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 2014.

Edvard I. Moser

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 2014.

Joachim Frank

Nobel laureate, Chemistry, 2017.

Richard Henderson

Nobel laureate, Chemistry, 2017.

Michel Mayor

Nobel laureate, Physics, 2019.

Gregg L. Semenza

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 2019.

Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 2019.

Roger Penrose

Nobel laureate, Physics, 2020.

Guido W. Imbens

Nobel laureate, Economics, 2021.

Annie Ernaux

Nobel laureate, Literature, 2022.

Narges Mohammadi

Nobel laureate, Peace, 2023.

Geoffrey Hinton

Nobel laureate, Physics, 2024.

Daron Acemoglu

Nobel laureate, Economics, 2024.

Gary Ruvkun

Nobel laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 2024.

Oleksandra Matviichuk

Center for Civil Liberties, Peace 2022

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Nobel laureate, Peace, 1989.