

## 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.*