

Contents



What is the state of democracy? LO's view of the state, from a trade union perspective. Global analysis with a focus on Sweden.



Trade union analysis of the situation: reasons why, and what are the problems.



Democratic self-defence - what unions can do: reasons for union involvement in democracy building, and tools at different levels that can be used to make a difference.

2012:
46%



2022:
72%

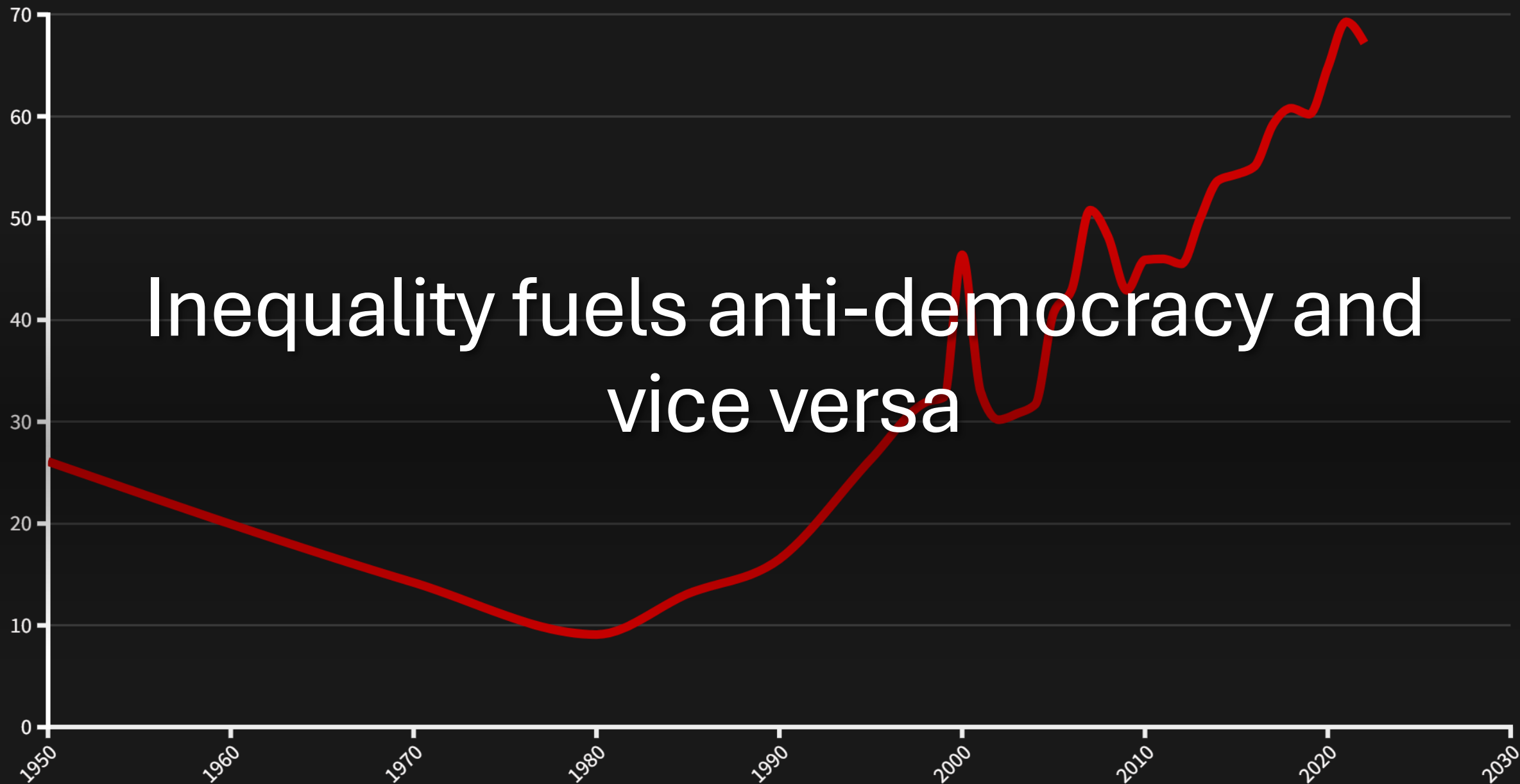


More and more countries
are falling behind in
democratic development.

Proportion of the world's population living
in countries with limited democratic rights.

Source: V-dem 2023

Antal industriarbetarlöner



Inequality fuels anti-democracy and vice versa

■ Genomsnittlig inkomst för vd:arna på 50 svenska storbolag

In Sweden last night...

- Sweden tops the list of the world's most democratic countries.
- But in 2022, Sweden's index fell the most among European countries, along with Belarus and Russia (IDEA The Global State of Democracy 2023: The New Checks and Balances).
- Declining participation due to fewer trade union members.
- Also declining: Reduced political respect for opposition, counter arguments and how unions and other organisations are affected and can influence. (*V-dem institute*)

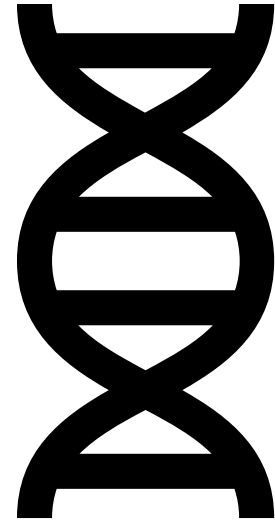
Our democracy is under silence attack

- *Tidö Agreement: **threat to the rule of law.** Press support, freedom of association, surveillance, etc. NGOs that criticise are threatened by SD.*
- ***Safety representative** should not be a position of trust.*
- *Mandatory **unemployment insurance** to reduce incentives to join a union.*
- *Limited willingness to **consult**, fewer referrals reach the trade union.*
- *Proposal to limit **freedom of association.***
- ***Right to strike** under threat? "Proportionality"*
- *And more!*



Why should trade unions care?

- ⇒ Democracy and empowerment are in our DNA.
- ⇒ Silence is not an option.



The role of civil society/NGOs

Make it show!

Question!

Provide options!

Balance: do not contribute to polarisation!

Democratic self
defence – What
can the trade
union do?

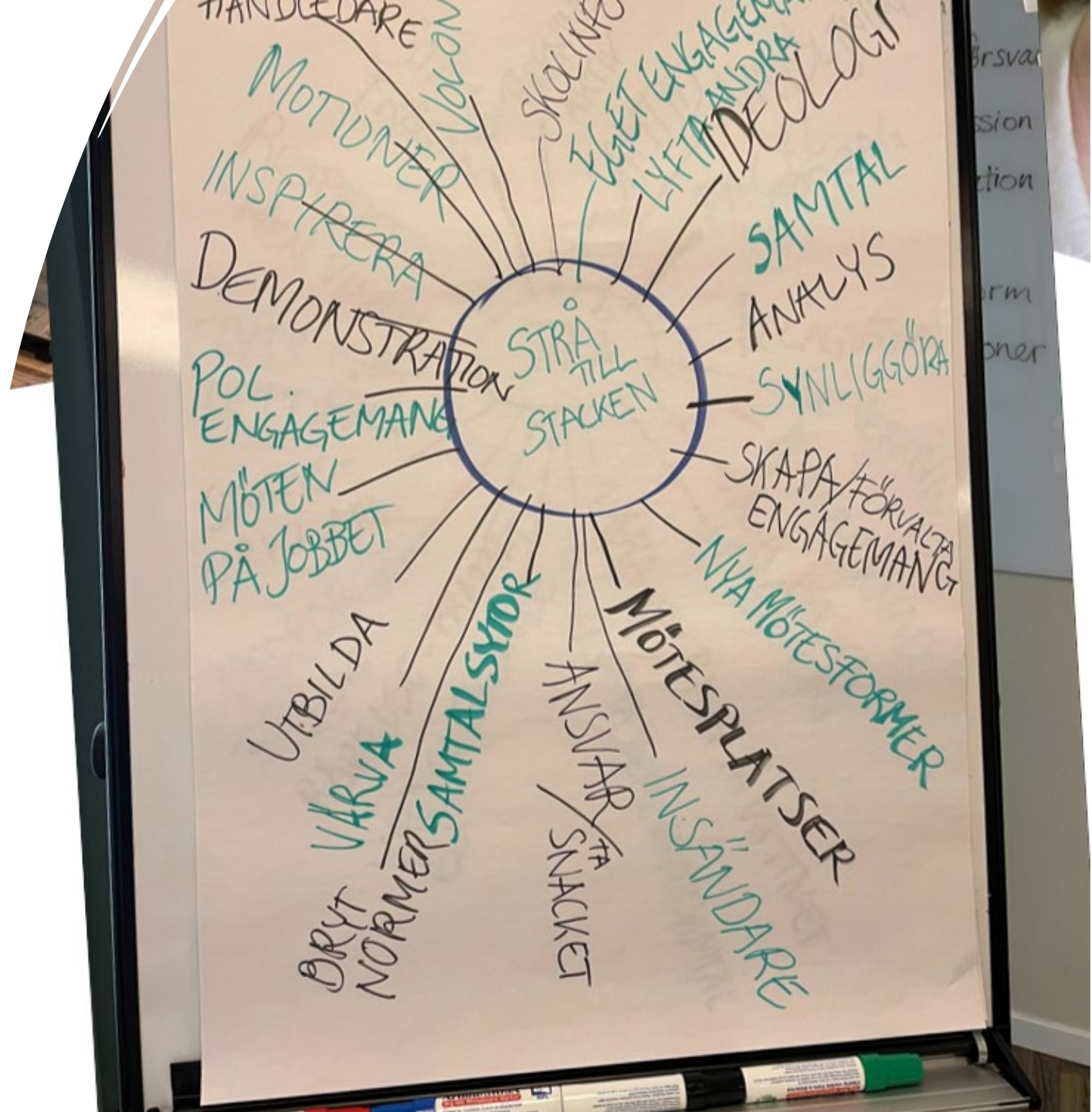
Policy for equality! For example:

- Strong welfare state
- Increased income equality
- Promoting trade unionism
- Feminist foreign policy
- Solidarity-based aid policy



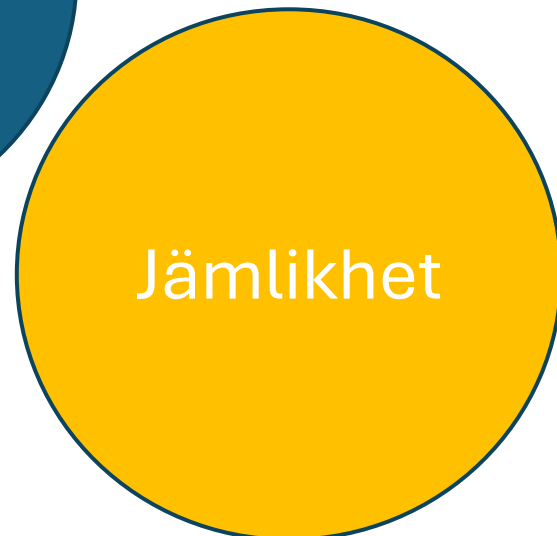
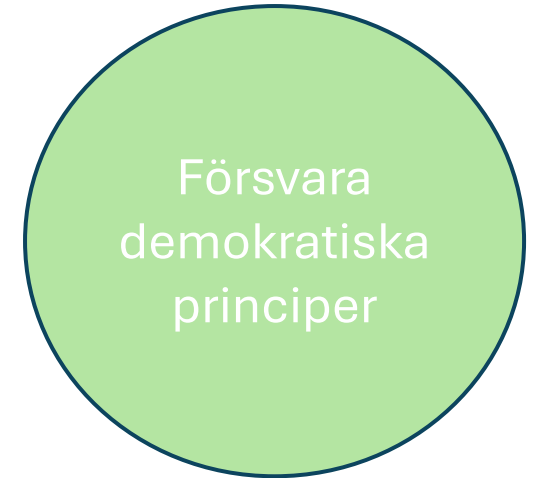
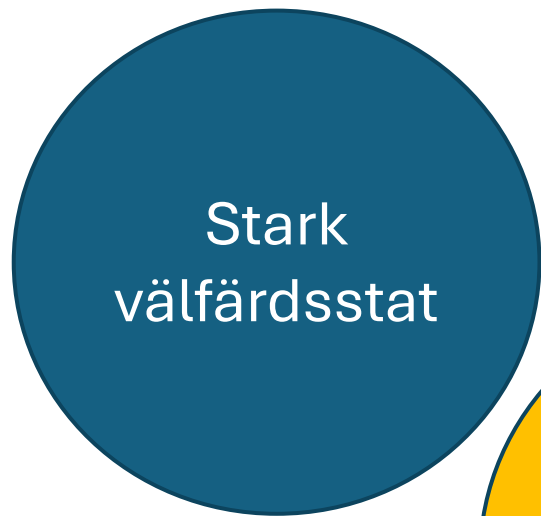
Methods

- Raising positive messages
- Standing up for everyone's equal value
- Public education on the conditions of democracy
- Co-operate with other democracies



Many tools available!

In the same way that democracy can be broken down, it can be built up.



Everyone can be
a hero of
democracy!

