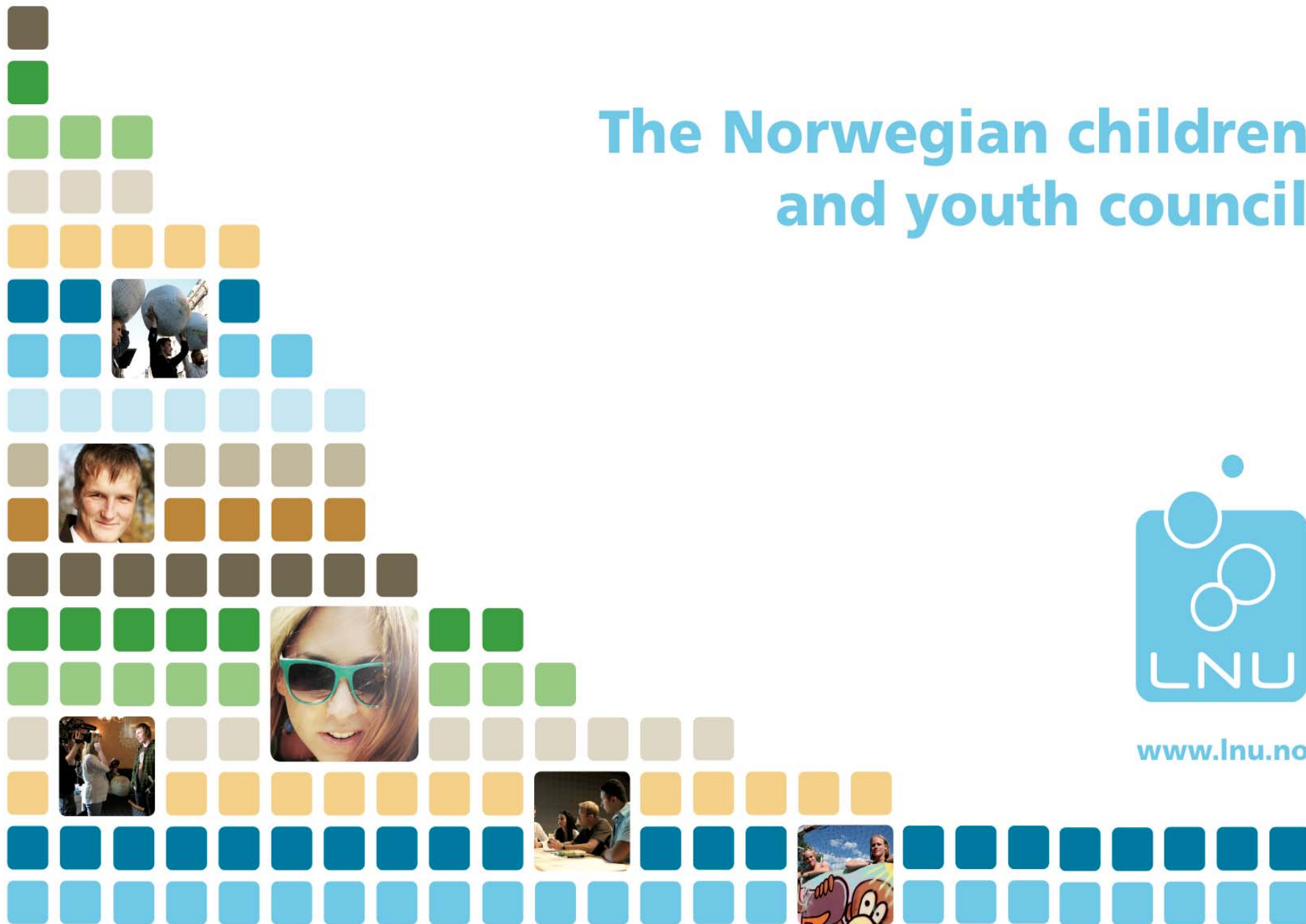


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Youth, Development and Rights

Diversity and Discrimination

Åshild Marie Vige

New York, UN, November 13th-14th

The Norwegian children and youth council



My background

- Young Friends of the Earth Norway
- Queer Youth Norway
- Youth representative for the 67th UN General Assembly
- Board member of LNU



Scope of presentation

Barriers to political participation, focusing on the issues of diversity and discrimination faced by many youth when attempting to engage in the political system

- Why is it important to include youth in political activities?
- What are the barriers?
- What are possible solutions?
 - Real youth participation





Why involve youth?

- Key population in the world
- Diversity as starting point of good policies
- Unique perspectives
- Youth as experts
- Reach out to other youth
-





Barriers

- Lack of legal rights
- Lack of experience and knowledge
- Paternalism
- Lack of acknowledgment of skills
- Continuity
- Youth and stakeholders in the same process
- *Representation*





Example:

THE "YOUTH'S PARLIAMENT" (NORWAY)



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What does *real* participation entail?

- Meaningful and relevant
- Knowledge and perspectives
- All issues of relevance
- Representativity
- Sustainability
- Connection between the one representing and those being represented





Possible solutions

- Universal agreement on the term “real participation”
- Changing laws, improving rights
- Recognize implications of art. 12 in CRC and similar conventions
- Economic support mechanisms
- Other support mechanisms



By whom were the participants elected?

Who do they represent?

Who are they accountable to?

What will they “take back”?

**ASK THESE QUESTIONS:
(GOVERNMENTS, THE UN...)**



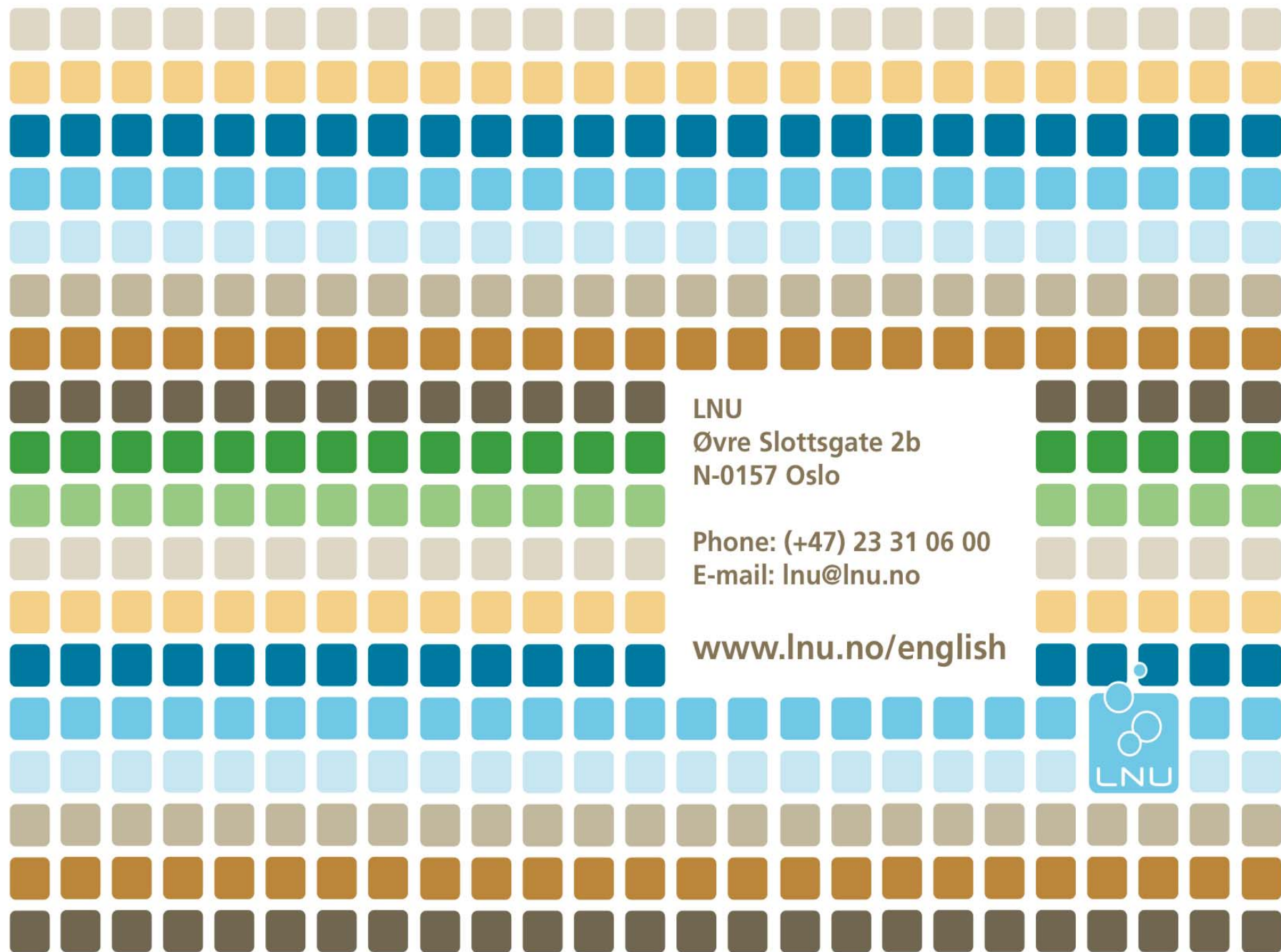
What is the organization doing to create political space for youth?
Who are representing the organization?
How does the organization prepare the ones representing them?
Follow up?

ASK THESE QUESTIONS: (CHILDREN AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS)

THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?

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