

DEMOCRACY

# DEMOCRACY

- Democracy is a form of government in which all eligible citizens have an equal say in the decisions that affect their lives.



- Democracy allows people to participate equally—either directly or through elected representatives—in the proposal, development, and creation of laws. It encompasses social, economic and cultural conditions that enable the free and equal practice of political self-determination.



- ***Two Forms of Democracy***

Democracies fall into two basic categories

- ❖ Direct
- ❖ Representative



- In a direct democracy, citizens, without the intermediary of elected or appointed officials, can participate in making public decisions. Such a system is clearly most practical with relatively small numbers of people – in a community organization, tribal council, or the local unit of a labor union, for example – where members can meet in a single room to discuss issues and arrive at decisions by consensus or majority vote.



# *MAJORITY RULE AND MINORITY RIGHTS*

- All democracies are systems in which citizens freely make political decisions by majority rule  
"Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half the people are right more than half the time."



# *PLURALISM AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY*

- In a democracy, government is only one thread in the social fabric of many and varied public and private institutions, legal forums, political parties, organizations, and associations. This diversity is called pluralism, and it assumes that the many organized groups and institutions in a democratic society do not depend upon government for their existence, legitimacy, or authority.

# SOCIETY

- A society, or a human society, is a group of people related to each other through persistent relations, or a large social grouping sharing the same geographical or virtual territory, subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations.





- Human societies are characterized by patterns of relationships (social relations) between individuals who share a distinctive culture and institutions; a given society may be described as the sum total of such relationships among its constituent members.



- Democratic societies are committed to the values of tolerance, cooperation, and compromise. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "Intolerance is itself a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit."