Why we are raising our voice

The basis of UNMUTE: Rise for Justice, a campaign for every young person in Karnataka, whatever their caste, religion, language or region.

UNMUTE KARNATAKA

Karnataka is not silent. It has been muted.

30 injustices on the record, sorted under the five kinds of justice our Constitution promises. Read them. Share them. Then tell us what you see in your own district.

Social justice

8,079

atrocity cases against Dalits and Adivasis, 2023 to June 2026

8 issues

Economic justice

2,95,710

government posts lying vacant

8 issues

Political justice

99,32,000

fewer names on the final voter list

3 issues

Health and environmental justice

102

taluks qualified as drought-hit in 2026

6 issues

Legal justice

More injustices

170

deaths in police custody in India, 2025–26

3 issues

41

recruitment-exam paper leaks in five years

2 issues

Social justice

Equality and dignity for every person, with no discrimination by caste, religion or gender.

Articles 14–17, 46

8,079

Caste atrocities

8,079 atrocity cases against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were registered from 2023 to June 2026. Over five years, only 47 of 10,573 cases ended in conviction.

Source: Official answer · Deccan Herald

54,720

Women's safety

54,720 cases of crimes against women were registered from 2022 to July 2026, and only 228 have ended in conviction. Trafficking of women rose from 137 cases in 2023 to 429 in 2025.

Source: Official answer · Official answer

18.12.2025

Hate and division

Hate speech and communal violence harm every community. The Karnataka Assembly passed the Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill on 18 December 2025; it must be enforced fairly, for everyone.

Source: Karnataka Assembly, Dec 2025

77%

Fair representation

About 77% of High Court judges appointed in India since 2018 come from the general category. Dalits, Adivasis, backward classes, women and minorities need a fair share of public institutions.

Source: Law Ministry, Rajya Sabha

13.79%

Girls leaving school

13.79% of girls dropped out of high school in 2025–26. The rate is falling, from 19.74% in 2023–24, but poverty, migration and household work still push girls out.

Source: Official answer Q1789

46,792

Government schools

Karnataka's 46,792 government schools teach 35,35,262 children, and the government admits enrolment is falling as families migrate and turn to private schools.

Source: Official answer Q1039

4,579

Child marriage

4,579 pregnancies among girls aged 14 to 17 were recorded in 2024–25 and 3,308 in 2025–26, according to provisional health data given to the Assembly.

Source: Official answer Q415

17,795

Children at risk

Emergency calls to the child helpline 1098 doubled, from 8,782 in 2023–24 to 17,795 in 2025–26. Of 1,572 child labour cases, only 89 ended in conviction.

Source: Official answer Q1106 · Labour Department data

Economic justice

A livelihood for all, and wealth that is not held in a few hands.

Articles 38, 39, 41, 43

2,95,710

Jobs

2,95,710 government posts are vacant, the government told the Assembly in August 2026, while 8.6% of Karnataka's young people, and 12% of young women, are unemployed.

Source: Official answer Q1587 · PLFS 2025

3,652

Farmers in distress

3,652 farmers died by suicide between April 2023 and July 2026, according to the Agriculture Department's answer in the Assembly.

Source: Official answer Q1430 · Official answer Q876

84

Minimum wages on hold

Revised minimum wages for 84 kinds of work were notified on 22 May 2026, but the Cabinet sent them to a sub-committee in August, so workers are still waiting while prices rise.

Source: Official answer Q1002

4,00,000

Gig and daily-wage workers

Karnataka has about four lakh gig workers. Its 2025 law sets up a welfare board and a welfare fee on platforms; it now has to reach the workers it was written for.

Source: Deccan Herald

25.4%

Poverty in the north

Poverty is 25.4% in Yadgir, 20.2% in Raichur and 18.6% in Kalaburagi, against 7.8% for the state as a whole.

Source: NITI Aayog MPI

8.94%

Prices and fees

Food prices rose 8.94% in the year to October 2026 (national), and private engineering colleges were allowed to raise government-quota fees by 10% in 2024–25 and 7.5% in 2026–27.

Source: MoSPI CPI, Oct 2026 · Deccan Herald

40%

Wealth in few hands

The richest 1% of Indians hold about 40% of the nation's wealth, and the richest 10% about 65% (national).

Source: World Inequality Report 2026

3.647%

A fair share for Karnataka

Karnataka's share of central taxes fell from 4.713% to 3.647% under the 15th Finance Commission, which the state estimates cost it over ₹80,000 crore. The 16th Finance Commission (2026–31) raised it to 4.131%.

Source: Deccan Herald · GSTimes

Political justice

One person, one vote, one value; the freedom to speak, ask and dissent peacefully; and clean government.

Articles 19, 325, 326

99,32,000

Every eligible voter on the list

Karnataka's final voter list of 27 October 2026 has 99.32 lakh fewer names than before the special revision. Eligible voters left out can apply again with Form 6.

Source: Election Commission data

157 / 180

Free and peaceful speech

India ranks 157th of 180 countries in the 2026 World Press Freedom Index, and eight journalists were killed in India in 2025, one of them in Karnataka. Article 19 protects the right to speak and to gather peacefully.

Source: Reporters Without Borders 2026 · Free Speech Collective 2025

91 / 182

Corruption

India ranks 91st of 182 countries in Transparency International's 2025 Corruption Perceptions Index, scoring 39 against a global average of 42.

Source: Transparency International 2025

Health and environmental justice

Care when we are sick, food that nourishes, safe water and air, and land and forests protected for the people who live on them.

Articles 21, 47, 48A

587

Doctors and hospitals

The government accepts that community health centres lack doctors and has opened 587 doctor posts to contract hiring. Court records show a shortfall of 454 primary health centres.

Source: Official answer Q988 · Karnataka High Court

14.2%

Hunger and nutrition

Only 14.2% of children aged 6 to 23 months get an adequate diet, and 18.7% of young children are wasted, the highest share among the southern states.

Source: NFHS-6

102

Drought and drinking water

102 taluks in 23 districts qualified to be declared drought-hit in August 2026, and tankers and hired borewells were supplying drinking water to 612 villages and 92 town wards.

Source: Official answer Q1469 · Official answer Q650

117

Water, heat and climate

Five districts over-use their groundwater, 15 districts are highly vulnerable to heatwaves, and extreme weather killed 117 people in Karnataka in 2025.

Source: CGWB 2025 · Climate India 2025

89%

Adivasi forest rights

About 89% of individual forest-rights claims by Adivasi and forest-dwelling families in Karnataka had been rejected by mid-2025.

Source: Lok Sabha reply

6,825

Drugs

4,105 drug cases were registered in 2024, and police data show 6,825 in 2025. Young people need protection, treatment and awareness, not only arrests.

Source: Official answer Q304 · Karnataka State Police data

Legal justice

Equal protection of the law, a fair and speedy trial, legal aid, and no one punished or evicted without due process.

Articles 14, 21, 22, 32, 39A

103.9%

Fair trial and bail

Karnataka's prisons were at 103.9% of capacity in 2022, and across India 73.5% of prisoners are undertrials still waiting for their trial to end.

Source: NCRB Prison Statistics

170

Deaths in custody

170 people died in police custody in India in 2025–26 up to mid-March, three of them in Karnataka, the government told Parliament.

Source: The Wire (government data)

300

Homes and evictions

About 300 homes were demolished at Kogilu Layout, Bengaluru, in December 2025, affecting around 3,000 people, according to High Court proceedings.

Source: Karnataka High Court

More injustices

Problems that cut across all five, and affect young people everywhere.

41

Exam paper leaks

NEET-UG 2026, taken by more than 22 lakh students, was cancelled after leak allegations. One investigation counted 41 recruitment-exam leaks in 15 states in five years, affecting 1.4 crore applicants (national).

Source: ETV Bharat · Business Today

63.1%

The digital divide

Only 63.1% of women in India had recently used the internet, against 76.7% of men. Without access, people are shut out of jobs, classes and public services.

Source: NSO telecom survey 2025

Seen an injustice that is not on this list?

What UNMUTE is

UNMUTE: Rise for Justice is a two-month statewide campaign by Solidarity Youth Movement Karnataka, from 17 November 2026 to 17 January 2027. It calls on young people to speak up for justice, equality and democratic rights through peaceful, lawful and constitutional action.

Injustice does not ask anyone's caste or religion. A farmer in debt, a girl pulled out of school, a family evicted overnight, a worker unpaid, a voter left off the list: these wrongs touch every community. So this campaign belongs to all of Karnataka's young people.

Why speak up now

When wrongs go unspoken, they start to look normal. The government's own answers in the Legislature this August show thousands of farmer suicides, lakhs of vacant government posts, girls leaving school, and crimes against women and Dalits that rarely end in conviction.

Young people are close to these problems in every village and ward. UNMUTE asks them to record what they see with evidence, take it to the office that can act, and

keep asking until it does.

How we work

- Facts before slogans: every issue we raise carries its place, its evidence and the office that can act on it.
- Peaceful and lawful: we use petitions, meetings with representatives, the press, the courts and the vote.
- No hate: we reject violence, intimidation, communal hatred, misinformation and blaming whole communities.
- Serve as well as speak: we help people reach the schemes, documents and remedies they are entitled to.
- Together: we work alongside anyone, of any background, who stands for justice.

The Constitution is our common ground

> "JUSTICE, social, economic and political; LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation."
>
> **Preamble to the Constitution of India**

It guarantees equality before law (Articles 14–15), ends untouchability (17), protects free speech and peaceful assembly (19), life and liberty (21), freedom of religion (25–28) and the rights of minorities (29–30), and lets every citizen go to court for a remedy (32).

A call to every young person

To unmute is not to shout. It is to speak truthfully, act lawfully and serve widely. Karnataka's young people can show that rising for justice strengthens the Constitution, our communities and the whole state.