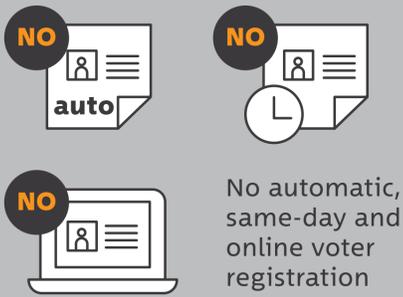


# 10 FACTS



## That Will Make You Rethink Our Election

### 3 Voter-friendly elections for all?



#### DID YOU KNOW?

No automatic, same-day and online voter registration. No early, mail and absentee voting except for the armed forces, police, officers of the Elections Commissions, etc. Countries such as Belgium and Germany automatically add citizens to their voter list once they turn 18 by the election day while voter-friendly countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Iceland have voter turnout above 80% of their voting-age population, compared to 62.95% in Malaysia during GE13.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

In a democracy, voter registration and voting should be made as easy, available and accessible as possible for all who are eligible.

### 6 Oh youth voters, where are you?

3.8 million unregistered eligible voters in Malaysia



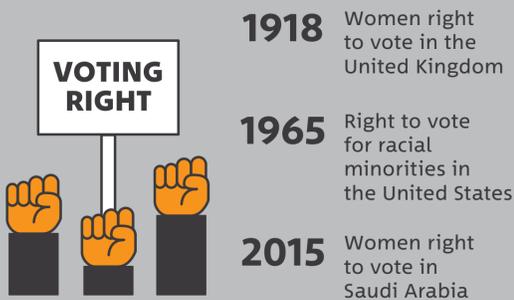
#### DID YOU KNOW?

Of the 3.8 million unregistered eligible voters in Malaysia two-thirds are between the ages of 21 to 30, making youths the largest group of non-voters in Malaysia.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Putting issues affecting youths on the country's political agenda requires youth participation and representation in the country's democratic process. Democracy is revitalised and given new life when generation after generation of youths continue to participate and be represented in this important process.

### 9 Too privileged to not vote?



#### DID YOU KNOW?

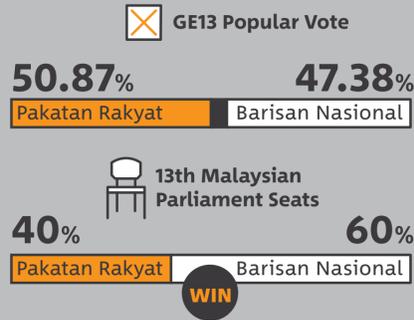
Voting used to be reserved for white male property owners in western democracies. In 1918, women were given the right to vote in the United Kingdom. The Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965 in the United States, safeguarding the right to vote for racial minorities. Women in Saudi Arabia were given the right to vote since 2015 only.

In Pakistan, female voter turnout is 19.5% lower than men, where many women face harassment, chastisement, and violence for exercising their right to vote. In a 2015 parliamentary by-election in Pakistan, none of the 50,000 eligible female voters in the constituency turned out to vote, after mosques broadcasted warnings against women voting and baton-wielding men blocking women's access to polling stations.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Voting is not only a right but also a privilege in certain countries. It continues to be a right fought with blood in countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan for instance. Voting should be seen as a civic duty and not something to be taken for granted.

### 1 A government chosen by the people?



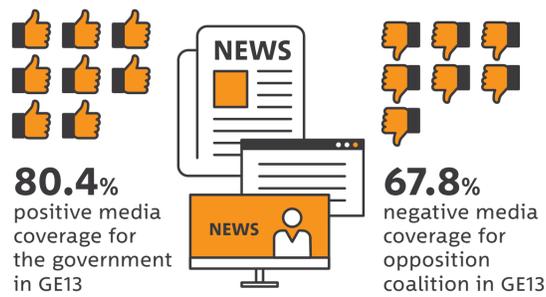
#### DID YOU KNOW?

In GE13, Pakatan Rakyat received 50.87% of the popular vote but only 40% of parliament seats while Barisan Nasional received 47.38% of the popular vote but 60% of parliament seats. Who won?

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Under an unjust electoral system created to favour one party, winning the people's votes does not guarantee winning the majority of seats in parliament.

### 4 Media - watchdog or lapdog?



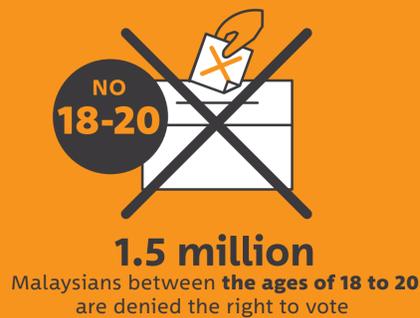
#### DID YOU KNOW?

In GE13, 80.4% of positive media coverage was for the government while 67.8% of negative coverage was for the opposition coalition. Malaysians were denied open, honest and independent debates on policies and election manifestos on most mainstream, traditional and print media. One-sided messages were being fed to Malaysians, robbing them the opportunity to get educated on issues, consider different perspectives and become informed voters.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Mass media plays an important role in informing citizens on issues that matter and has the responsibility to present these issues in a transparent, independent and truthful manner. Journalism that fails to act as a watchdog but instead a mouthpiece of those in power is an affront to democracy.

### 7 Not mature enough to vote?



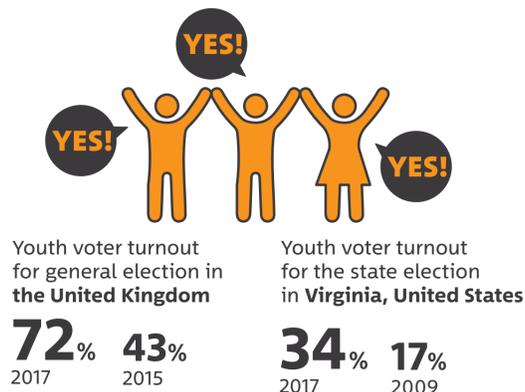
#### DID YOU KNOW?

1.5 million Malaysians between the ages of 18 to 20 are denied the right to vote even though they are adults who can marry, raise families, drive, sign contracts, serve in the army and pay taxes. Malaysia remains as one of the only nine countries in the world (Oman, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Singapore, Kuwait, Jersey, Cameroon and Malaysia) with the voting age of 21. Almost all other countries have the voting age of 18.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The right to vote is indispensable in a democracy. Adult citizens are expected to perform various duties and responsibilities but yet not given the right to choose the government entrusted to oversee their welfare. Reducing the voting age to 18 helps increase long term and early electoral participation and representation.

### 10 Youth voters = game-changers?



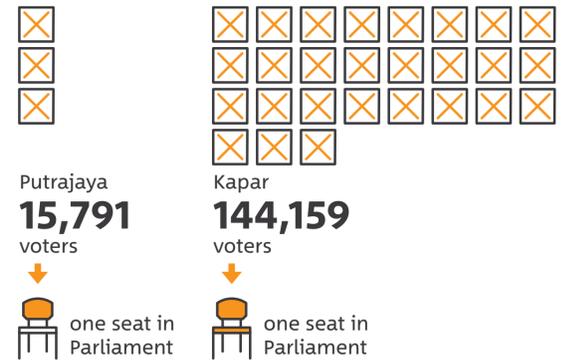
#### DID YOU KNOW?

Youth voter turnout (18-24 years old) for the 2017 general election in the United Kingdom was between 66.4% and 72%, compared to 43% in 2015, denying the conservative party (the then overwhelming favorite), its majority in parliament. In the 2017 Virginia state election in the United States of America, youth voter turnout (18-29 years old) was 34%, doubling the turnout rate in the 2009 election (17%), giving the Democrats their biggest gain in statewide offices and legislature in decades.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

When youths show up and vote for parties and candidates that care about their interests and concerns, it makes a huge difference. Youth voters are game-changers.

### 2 One person = one vote?



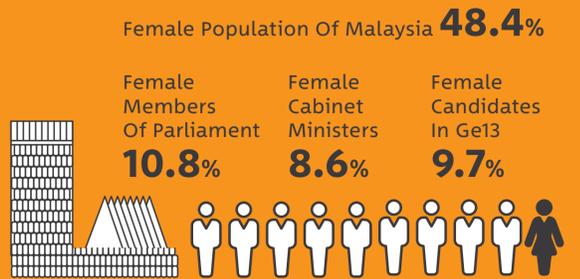
#### DID YOU KNOW?

Smallest parliamentary constituency - Putrajaya (15,791 voters) - one seat in Parliament. Largest parliamentary constituency - Kapar (144,159 voters) - one seat in Parliament.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

1 vote in Putrajaya equals 9.13 votes in Kapar. This is more than 9 times the weight of representation. Grossly over-representation of small and rural constituencies.

### 5 Half of Malaysians forgotten?



#### DID YOU KNOW?

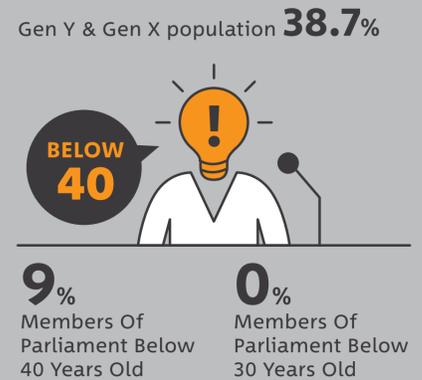
As of 2017, 48.4% of the estimated population of Malaysia are female but only 10.8% are members of Parliament (24 out of 222 MPs). The percentage of female cabinet ministers is even lower at 8.6%. Only 9.7% of the candidates in GE13 were female.

Countries such as Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Norway consistently have more than 40% of their parliament seated by female representatives, with Iceland being ranked #1 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index for the ninth consecutive years. Countries such as Canada, Sweden and France have cabinet members consisting of at least 50% women.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Women's political participation is just as important as other forms of participation. Gender equality means better representation of women in all aspects of society, including decision-making process at all levels. As studies have shown, women in politics are more likely to address social and welfare issues such as pensions, health, family, childcare and poverty than men.

### 8 Young country, old ideas?



#### DID YOU KNOW?

As of August 2015, Gen Y and Gen Z make up Malaysia's biggest population at 11.9 million (38.7%) but only 9% of our MPs are below 40 years old. There is no MP below 30.

#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

A representative democracy needs young voices especially in countries with a large youth population like Malaysia. Including youths in the legislative process brings new blood and fresh perspectives to the country's development. An inclusive and participatory system for young Malaysians is crucial for the continuous progress of our country.

UndiMsia! is the first-of-its-kind civic education programme in Malaysia, aimed at strengthening the ownership, participation and representation of youths on their right to vote and civic responsibility. Its goal is for youths to develop critical thinking and solve issues affecting them through effective forms of activism.

Projects under UndiMsia! are designed based on four pillars; information, process, action and platform for a coalition of civil society. This infographic falls under the information pillar.



<https://www.facebook.com/UndiMsia/>