



As we enter a new year, we take the month of January to reflect on the work conducted last year by our fellow peacebuilders who are leading the way to advance the YPS agenda. The Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security is pleased to present the first newsletter of 2024 that aims to amplify the testimonies, experiences and events of grassroots practitioners and coalition members.

## ADVANCING THE YPS AGENDA



### How Can We Strengthen Investments for the YPS Agenda?

[UN Youth Office](#)

In September 2023, the United Nations Youth Office, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders organized a UN General Assembly side event entitled [Transitioning Policy into Action - Advancing the YPS Agenda through Multilateral Collaboration](#). The event was co-convened

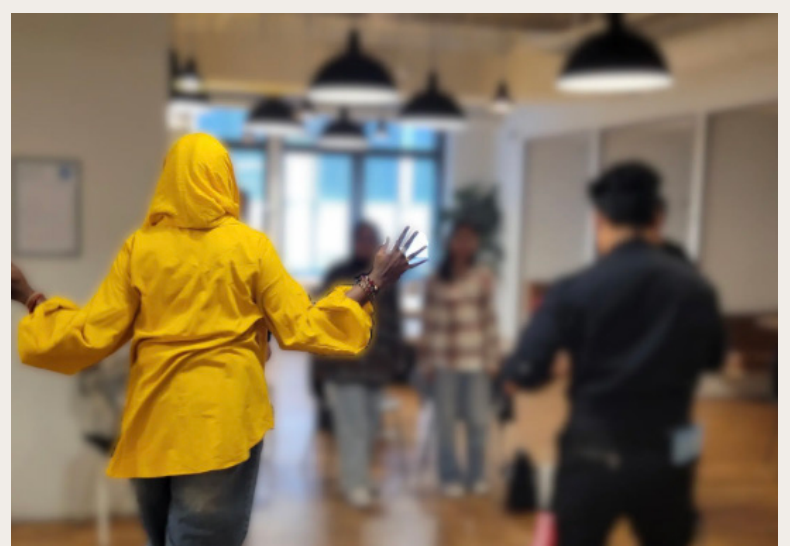
by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN and the Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the UN and took place on the sidelines of the upcoming High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and served as an opportunity to reflect on the policy paper “Advancing financing of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in the United Nations” co-authored by OSGEY and UNOY. The event also provided an opportunity to discuss the role of multilateral collaboration in advancing the YPS Agenda. The [policy paper](#) provides a brief analysis of the current state of financing for the YPS agenda, including youth-led peacebuilding, within the UN system, and outlines recommendations to strengthen these investments.



### Bridging Responsible Digital Usage in Today's Digital Age

[Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)

A group of youth-led organizations in Maguindanao province is helping young people, parents, and guardians strengthen their capacity against online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) and other types of cyber violence. Nonviolent Peaceforce went behind the scenes with two youth organizations, Titayan: The Bridges of Youth and Council of Active Bangsamoro for Community Educational Progress (CABCEP)'s Kadtag Magungaya: A Youth Initiative of Active Digital Citizenship Workshop to capture their initiatives in responsible digital usage.



### Community in the Face of Hate

[Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)

Nonviolent Peaceforce is accompanying groups at actions, training community organizations, and sharing tips online about how to be safe in response to a surge of hate violence targeting Muslim, Arab, Sikh, South Asian, Palestinian, and Jewish communities in the US as a result from the escalating conflict in the Middle East. Learn more on how these trainings are helping to [find creative ways to identify and deal with threats](#) through nonviolent means.



### ADVANCING THE YPS AGENDA



#### Equipping Youth Peace Mediators to Analyze Violent Conflicts Through an Inclusive Lens

[Peacemakers Network](#)

In line with the 2020-2025 Five Year Strategy of the Peacemakers Network and building upon the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland's leading Youth, Peace and Security work, 17 youth with diverse local contexts from 15 different countries convened in Helsinki, Finland in November 2023 as part of the Network's first-ever

religion and peace mediation course. There, they participated in intercultural and intergenerational discussions on techniques and approaches to engage in the work of peace mediation. Hear from [Henri Sougourounoma Kabore](#) and [Joy Gitau](#) on their experience with the in-person course!



#### Advancing the SDGs Through the YPS Agenda at the Local Level

[UNFPA](#)

During the SDG Action Weekend in September 2023, the Permanent Missions of the Dominican Republic and France to the United Nations, in collaboration with DPPA, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNOY and GPPAC, co-hosted a side event on "Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda at the Local Level". This event

provided a platform to foster intergenerational dialogue, emphasizing the pivotal role of young people in achieving peace and the SDGs. Discussions centered on supporting youth contributions to peace processes, emphasizing the need to shift from instrumentalizing youth to recognizing their agency. The event highlighted the challenges faced by young refugees. Key themes included the imperative to protect youth activists, mobilize diverse youth at the local level, and accelerate SDG implementation for peace and security. Participants underscored the importance of translating commitments into actionable solutions, advocating for sustainable financing mechanisms for the YPS agenda.



#### Promoting Intergenerational Collaboration for Sustainable Peace

[UNFPA](#)

On October 2023, the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the UN, together with UNFPA and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP) co-hosted a roundtable discussion on "Promoting Intergenerational Collaboration for Sustainable Peace: Uniting the WPS and YPS Agendas." The event highlighted the intrinsic connection between the WPS and YPS agendas within

the broader framework of global peace and security. Emphasizing a joint commitment to gender equality and youth empowerment, these agendas serve as a crucial platform for bridging generational and gender gaps, amplifying the voices of the most marginalized. Panelists, including young women activists from Canada, Colombia, DRC, Germany and Pakistan, eloquently demonstrated the synergies between WPS and YPS, challenging stereotypes and advocating for inclusivity in decision-making processes. Their powerful narratives underscored the urgency of addressing structural barriers, unequal power relations, and patriarchy to ensure that peacebuilding reflects the intricate realities of conflicts and diverse societal experiences.



## ADVANCING THE YPS AGENDA



### Training of Trainers to Contextualize YPS

[UNFPA](#)

From 16-19 October 2023, a Training of Trainers (ToT) on the Development of National Framework for YPS in West and Central Africa took place in Yaounde, Cameroon. Co-organized by UNFPA and the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education in Cameroon, the ToT gathered 30 participants representing governments, UN entities and youth-led organizations from: Benin, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire,

Mali, Nigeria, Togo, The Gambia, and Sierra Leone. The intensive four-day training helped translate global policy frameworks into practical, nationally contextualized YPS plans, accelerating implementation. The ToT aims to establish a cohort of trainers in West and Central Africa with a comprehensive understanding of the YPS agenda, equipping them with skills to facilitate NAP development, and enhancing their ability to engage diverse youth in peacebuilding. At the end of the ToT, 10 road maps were designed to support the development of national YPS frameworks in the region, and the Cameroonian Government committed to establish its national YPS framework by 2024.



### Strengthening Regional Capacities of UN and Civil Society Organizations

[UNFPA](#)

The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in collaboration with the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) co-organized a Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) in Tbilisi, Georgia from 06 to 10 November 2023. Designed to strengthen regional UN and civil society organization capacities, the pilot ToT trained 23 professionals from the Ukraine, South Caucasus, Western Balkans, and Central Asia. The comprehensive program, blending self-study, online webinars, and a week of in-person training, equipped participants with the skills to design and facilitate inclusive YPS workshops, conduct learning needs assessments, and collaborate on advancing the YPS agenda at the regional and country levels.



### International Dialogue and Cooperation for Peacebuilding

[UNFPA](#)

The International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Youth Forum, partnered with the Office of the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes, UNFPA and UNDP to organize a skills-building dialogue on YPS from 22-24 November 2023 in Tanzania. The event brought together over 50 young peacebuilders from 12 countries, alongside representatives from youth-led peacebuilding networks such as United Network of Young Peacebuilders. The workshop was designed and facilitated by young peacebuilders, and provided essential orientation on the global and continental frameworks of the YPS agenda and also created opportunities for exchange with senior peacebuilders fostering intergenerational dialogue and cooperation. The youth-led approach enriched discussions and propelled the [ICGLR Multi-functional Youth Fora](#) toward informed and empowered engagement in regional peacebuilding processes.



### ADVANCING THE YPS AGENDA



#### The New Agents of Peace in Zummar: A Case Study of a Youth Peace Team Preventing Violence in Their Community

##### [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)

In Zummar, Iraq, a Youth Peace Team (YPT) successfully managed to prevent further violence from occurring in the community after the horrific death of a 5 year old child. The team conducted shuttle diplomacy between the child's family and the family of the perpetrator, stressing the importance of nonviolence and building trust in duty barriers to handle the criminal case and produce a just outcome. While the local criminal justice mechanisms referred to and handled the case, the YPT continued to follow up with the families. [Learn more](#) about how the YPT continues to conduct awareness-raising sessions with the community on the need for nonviolence.



#### From Conflict to Community: Overcoming Gang Violence in Juba's IDP Camp

##### [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#)

IntergroupWajor concern for South Sudanese communities, particularly those who reside in internal displacement camps (IDPS). Following the withdrawal of the UN Mission South Sudan as security actors from sites since 2020, youth groups - which self-identify as gangs emerged in greater numbers and have become a major safety concern for communities. In the past few months, noting the limitations of a punitive and retributive response to this violence, Nonviolent Peaceforce has pursued an [engagement strategy with gang members](#), police, and community members, that has resulted in significant reductions in violent incidents within the camp.



#### Roadmap to the Operationalization of the YPS Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

##### [UNFPA](#)

To advance the YPS Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), a Regional Intergenerational Meeting took place in Bogota, Colombia on 27-28 November 2023. Co-convened by the Youth Working Group of the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) in the LAC region, the Iberoamerican Youth Organization (OIJ) and the Government of Colombia, with the support of the Swedish Cooperation, the meeting was attended by more than 70 participants from the region, including young peacebuilders, youth networks, UN representatives and government authorities from 10 countries. The event produced a road map to advance in the operationalization of the YPS agenda in the region, focusing on the development of national action plans on YPS, the consolidation of a regional narrative on YPS for the LAC region and the strengthening of the regional articulation of regional youth networks, governments and UN Agencies for this purpose.



#### Roadmap to the Operationalization of the YPS Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean

##### [Nigeria Coalition on Youth Peace and Security](#)

Nigeria developed and launched its National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) on November 1, 2021. To build upon the five pillars of the UNSCR 2250, the NAPYPS of 2021-2024 is now in its pilot phase of implementation in Adamawa, Anambra, Delta, Kaduna, Oyo and Plateau states to measure impact and collect data that will guide scaling full implementation to other states. [More about the NAPYPS can be found here.](#)



# GLOBAL COALITION ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

**JANUARY 2024  
NEWSLETTER**

## RESOURCES



### **Everyday Peacebuilding Through the Arts** [Mobile Arts for Peace](#)

Mobile Arts for Peace is a four-year international, multi-disciplinary project which provides a comparative approach on the use of interdisciplinary arts-based practices for peacebuilding in Kyrgyzstan, Rwanda, Indonesia and Nepal. It is a collaborative project between universities, cultural artists, civil society organizations, and young people across the world. [Episode 1 of the podcast is now out!](#) This episode explores the name of 'Mobile Arts for Peace' (MAP) and explores the question, how does this name encapsulate the essence of an idea and create impact? Hear more from Professor Ananda Breed's own inspiration and past research as we find connections to 'everyday peacebuilding' and 'mobilities,' and explore how relevant the project's participatory arts methods are concerning how they advance dialogue for peacebuilding.



### **Whose Voice Counts? Young People in Peace and Security Research**

#### [Our Generation for Inclusive Peace](#)

In this episode of OGIP's Research Event podcast, 'Whose Voice Counts? Young people in peace and security research,' OGIP invited research contributors and partners to discuss the role of young people in peace and security research. Critical topic areas discussed were emphasizing that systems and structures need to change to enable more young people to shape the practices that impact them. [Listen more here.](#)

### **Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Country Priority Analysis**



### REPORTS & POLICY BRIEFS



#### Independent Snapshot Series: Advancing the YPS Agenda in UN Peacekeeping Operations

[UN Youth Office](#)

The United Nations Youth Office (UNYO), in collaboration with the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), conducted the first-ever mapping study to gather information on UN peacekeeping operations' efforts to engage with young people and implement the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda. This initiative aimed to map and document best practices from ten UN peacekeeping operations to develop recommendations on strengthening the YPS agenda across the UN's peace and security pillar. Based on the study that concluded in September 2023, the summarized snapshot version titled 'Independent Snapshots Series: Advancing the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda in UN Peacekeeping Operations' was developed and launched in December 2023. Its key findings and recommendations can be accessed [here](#).



#### Violent Extremism Definitions: From Official Ambiguity to Conceptual Clarity


[Peacemakers Network](#)

What is violent extremism (VE) exactly? What is the difference between countering and preventing violent extremism? Due to challenges to non-addressal of key root causes and overlapping efforts by different stakeholders faced by young peacebuilders, this paper aims to address 3 parts: 1) how policy-making institutions such as UN bodies and multilateral donors define VE, 2) what young peacebuilding practitioners' perspectives on VE definitions are, and 3) how the ambiguity of these definitions can be cleared from the perspective of young peace researchers. [Read more here.](#)

### QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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