

# ANNUAL PLAN 2018

## United Network of Young Peacebuilders



# Overview

UNOY Peacebuilders' 2016-2020 Strategic Plan defines four key action areas. All of our proposes activities in 2018 fall under one of these four action areas. Please note that this annual plan is a draft. It will be further developed and officially adopted during the annual meeting of the International Steering Group of UNOY Peacebuilders in The Hague on 30 October - 2 November.

## **1. To facilitate the build-up of member organisations' capacity to mobilize youth as peacebuilders. In 2018, we will organise:**

- 1.1** A series of *online workshops* on fundraising and monitoring & evaluation open to all UNOY member organisations across the world.
- 1.2** Development of *training modules* on conflict transformation through addressing social narratives.

## **2. To develop young people's capacity to lead conflict transformation processes and advocate for nonviolence and a Culture of Peace. In 2018 we will implement:**

- 2.1** A *Trainings of Trainers* for young people from Europe working on addressing violent social narratives.

## **3. To strengthen UNOY Peacebuilders as a global network with a shared feeling of ownership. In 2018, we will:**

- 3.1** Implement a *Young Peacebuilders Forum* in Europe, bringing together young people from across the region and abroad.
- 3.2** Establish positions of *regional coordination* within the network to ensure more action within the different regions of the network and strengthen the network's sense of community.
- 3.3** Strengthen the *financial sustainability* of UNOY Peacebuilders network-wide, with the support of an external fundraising expert.

## **4. To ensure meaningful youth participation in issues of peace and security. In 2018:**

- 4.1** We will continue to *amplify the local voices* of young peacebuilders in shaping international policies and practice
- 4.2** A new *African Youth Advocacy Team* will begin working to raise awareness among decision makers within African regional intergovernmental organisations of the role of youth in peacebuilding.
- 4.3** We will *increase the knowledge base* on youth participation in peacebuilding

**4.4** We will map past and ongoing youth-focused peacebuilding initiatives of the EU and its partners to ***identify the EU's capability gaps*** to support youth participation in peacebuilding

# 1. Building up member organisations' capacities

As a network of youth organisations, we face common organisational challenges related to issues such as fundraising, organisational learning and assessing the impact of our work. We work together to strengthen each other's organisational capacity through activities coordinated by the International Secretariat and International Steering Group as well as through activities implemented by UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations in direct cooperation with each other.

## Activities in 2018

### 1.1 Ensuring Impact

Type of activity: Online workshops

As a global network of youth organisations, we face common organisational challenges related to issues such as fundraising, organisational learning and assessing the impact of our work. For the network to be as strong as possible, the International Secretariat will organise online workshops related to organisational capacity with a particular focus on fundraising and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

The fundraising workshops will explore different components of effective fundraising: from mapping donors to proposal writing and developing a project budget. UNOY member organisations with a track record in successful fundraising will share their experiences with other organisations in the network. We will also create space for expert input from private foundations, government agencies and civil society organisations.

UNOY's *Youth Impact* study and *The Learning Curve*, a guide to monitoring and evaluation for youth organisations developed by UNOY Peacebuilders, will form the basis of the MEL workshops. Participants will share their monitoring, evaluation and learning practices, identifying what needs to be done to improve them. We will share resources from the Learning Curve and support participants in making use of these tools within their organisations.

## 1.2 Toolkit for peaceful narratives

Type of activity: Development of training modules

Budget: 15.200 EUR

UNOY Peacebuilders will develop training modules for peacebuilding with a focus on building “peaceful narratives” to challenge perceptions and expressions that fuel conflict. By peaceful narratives we mean narratives that foster positive social relationships and constructive dialogue on discrimination, intolerance, migration and other issues.

Working with the participants in the Training of Trainers and UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations with experience of the topic, two editors will compile a set of modules for use by youth peacebuilding organisations. The training curriculum will provide practical guidance and a shared set of modules, exercises, tools to build young people’s capacities to participate in and lead conflict transformation processes in local contexts.

The curriculum will build on the resources that do exist for youth organisations working on topics of hate speech, human rights online, citizenship such as the Council of Europe’s T-Kits and the Compass manuals, by having a stronger focus on peacebuilding and making it more accessible to grassroots organisations around the world. This activity contributes to the development of the youth-led peacebuilding field, and in particular its work on constructing peaceful narratives.

## 2. Young people's capacities

Central to our vision and mission are the role of youth as agents of change and as actors in transforming societies. We aim to empower young people to make use of their unique potential in transforming conflicts and to empower youth to advocate for peaceful and nonviolent change in their communities.

By changing the lens through which young people understand conflict, we can open new opportunities for sustainable change by learning how to creatively and constructively deal with conflict in a way that helps us develop as individuals and communities. With understanding conflict comes the need to develop skills and competences to be able to deal with and transform it, for individuals to act as agents for conflict transformation.

Young people also need to be able to voice their opinions and concerns in peacebuilding, and highlight and give visibility to their experience and contribution in the field. Through developing their capacities as advocates for peace, young peacebuilders share existing tools and resources on advocacy, learn from each other's experiences on the ground, and improve strategies for effective advocacy for peace as a collective.

### Activities in 2018

#### 2.1 Working with Conflict

Type of activity: Training of trainers

Budget: EUR 21.000

This Training of Trainers aims to build the capacities of 20 young people active in European youth organisations to address some of the continent's key current challenges through the methodologies of peacebuilding. In particular, this training will train young trainers in the use of narrative-based methodologies to transforming conflicts.

Each training cycle will begin with an online training period, followed by a face-to-face training. After the face-to-face training, participants will be supported

in designing their own multiplier trainings about youth addressing conflict which they will then implement in their own communities.

This training will build on UNOY Peacebuilders' long experience of organising trainings of trainers focused on conflict transformation with different themes, using a model which has been developed and refined over the last four years. It will also build on work done across Europe and globally in recent years to address violent narratives, including through the No Hate Speech campaign.

## 3. Strengthening the network

As the leading global network of youth peace organisations, UNOY Peacebuilders draws its strengths at the local, national, regional and global levels through the work of its members. Members of the network are independent and focus on diverse areas of peacebuilding including human rights, conflict transformation, gender equality, environmental sustainability and children's and women's rights. This makes it vital to ensure that the members have a shared sense of being a community.

This sense of community and joint ownership of the network is achieved by effective communication and representation mechanisms. Face-to-face networking opportunities are vital to foster network cohesion and enable young peacebuilders to work together, relate to and support each other. Clear regional representational mechanisms enable UNOY Peacebuilders to act as a global network and the International Steering Group ensures accountability between member organisations and the International Secretariat.

Accessing sustainable funding remains to be a persistent challenge for youth organisations working in the peace and security field. In 2016, an average of 71% of the grant applications submitted by member organisations of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders were unsuccessful. This challenge is also felt at the global level. With the adoption of UNSCR 2250 and the shaping of a new Youth, Peace and Security sector, UNOY Peacebuilders has entered into a new phase where there is a need for stronger financial sustainability network-wide.

### Activities in 2018

#### 3.1 Young Peacebuilders Forum in Europe

Type of activity: Forum

Budget: EUR 20.000

The Young Peacebuilders Forum 2018, to be held in The Hague, is an event bringing together 60 young people active in peacebuilding from across Europe and beyond for 4 days. The Young Peacebuilders Forum will build on UNOY's experience of organising events with a similar structure in Europe annually from 2014 to 2016, but as with previous years its thematic focus will be unique.

The Young Peacebuilders Forum 2018 will be focused on discussing and developing responses to some of the violent narratives driving hate speech, violence and violent extremism across Europe, with a focus on topics such as populism, migration and refugees, polarisation.

## 3.2 Regional coordinators

Type of activity: Network structure

Budget: EUR 17.000

In 2017, we set up two positions of Regional Coordinators in Asia and West and Central Africa. The regional coordinators are responsible for initiating and coordinating regional activities within the network, fostering ownership and a sense of community at the regional level.

In 2018, we will continue this process by setting up Regional Coordinator positions for East and Southern Africa and potentially for Middle East and North Africa.

## 3.3 Strengthen the network's financial sustainability

Type of activity: Strategy development

Budget: EUR 17.000

UNOY Peacebuilders will engage a fundraising expert as a consultant to provide advice on fundraising strategies and opportunities. The fundraising expert will in their consultancy, together with the International Secretariat, develop strategies to identify and approach potential long-term donors, including creating an effective branding and "sales pitch" for the network itself.

In 2018, the aim is to continue the professionalisation and organisational development at the UNOY Secretariat, especially focused on ensuring efficient processes and that the financial management of activities matches the implementation of activities.

# 4. Meaningful youth participation

Young people often find themselves being perceived as a security threat to be managed or as victims to be protected from violence. At the same time, youth groups across the continent are working to prevent violence, ensure security and build peace at the community level. Their work is largely local and, for the most part, does not form a basis for national and regional conversations on peace and security. Rarely do they have a seat at the table taking decisions about peace and security related issues which nevertheless affect them significantly.

Internationally, there is increasing recognition of the role of young people in building peace and preventing violence. However, this recognition is largely confined to global institutions such as the United Nations, which adopted UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security in December 2015. We now must ensure that our needs and views are reflected in inclusive policies, that we are involved in decision-making as real partners, and overall hold the UN and member states accountable throughout the implementation of the resolution.

To ensure the localisation of this international policy instrument we have been redirecting some of our advocacy work to the regional level, seeking closer engagement with intergovernmental bodies such as the European Union, the African Union and the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS). Building a robust and knowledge-driven foundation for the operationalisation of UNSCR 2250 has been a key priority ever since its adoption. In 2018, the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security is expected to be finalised, and UNOY Peacebuilders will carry out a number of studies to increase the evidence base on youth participation in peacebuilding further.

## Activities in 2018

### 4.1 Amplifying local youth voices

Type of activity: Youth Advocacy

Budget: EUR 36.466

In 2018, we will continue to amplify the local voices of young peacebuilders around the world in global conversations on peace and security to shape policy and practice. We will collectively advocate, through the global Youth Advocacy Team (YAT), European Youth Advocacy team (E-YAT), and UNOY's leadership of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding, for an increasingly enabling environment for youth civil society in fragile and conflict affected states, with a special focus on the implementation of UNSCR 2250. Members of our youth advocacy teams will monitor UN, EU and Member State policy and practice on youth, peace and security.

The YAT and E-YAT will plan and implement 2 advocacy missions to call for funding mechanisms accessible by youth organisations to implement local peace initiatives and to launch the UN Secretary General's Progress Study on Youth Peace and Security which will be finalised in 2018.

## 4.2 Reframing the role of African Youth

Type of activity: Regional Dialogue

Budget: EUR 11.764

In spite of the African Youth Charter (2006), a comprehensive framework addressing the rights and obligations of young people, much of the AU's policies and programmes on youth, peace and security are focused on youth as "troublemakers" or on job creation.

A new African Youth Advocacy Team will begin working to raise awareness among decision makers within African regional intergovernmental organisations of the role of youth in peacebuilding. The A-YAT will organise an inter-generational dialogue event with ECOWAS in Abuja, Nigeria on the positive role of young people in promoting peaceful elections, and carry out one advocacy mission to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The aims of the mission is to advocate for strengthened youth participation in regional decision making and mechanisms for the prevention and transformation of conflict, as well as mobilise greater political commitment, financial support and accountability at the African level for the implementation of resolution 2250.

## 4.3 Building the evidence-base

Type of activity: Youth-led research

Budget: EUR 34.583

The goal of this research project is to contribute to an increasingly evidence-based approach to policies and programming related to peace and security by deepening the the existing knowledge base on the positive roles of youth-led civic engagement related to peacebuilding.

This will be done by documenting and examining young people's roles in peacebuilding, and especially study the factors that enable or/and constrain these roles. In doing so we will build on previous efforts to understand youth participation in peacebuilding, including the Global Survey and Mapping of Youth Peacebuilding Organisations, implemented jointly by UNOY Peacebuilders and Search for Common Ground, the most comprehensive survey of the sector to date.

In order to ensure far-reaching impact the findings of the research conducted within this project will be used to inform a series of policy briefs as well as to provide input to the UN Secretary-General's Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security. The study will be a youth-led participatory action research in four five countries: Afghanistan, Libya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Colombia, where our members have been actively involved in different types of peacebuilding activities.

## 4.4 Mapping YPS in the EU

Type of activity: Youth-led research

Budget: EUR 29.800

In March 2017, the High-Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, announced that the EU is ready to play a leading role on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250. An important starting point will be an assessment of existing EU policies, programming and projects supporting the role of youth in peacebuilding.

In 2018, UNOY will complete a mapping of past and ongoing youth-focused peacebuilding initiatives of the EU and its partners. The aim will be to create a baseline to identify capability gaps for meaningful youth participation in current EU and partner engagements, and produce a set of recommendation to increase the accessibility of EU funding for youth-led peacebuilding work.