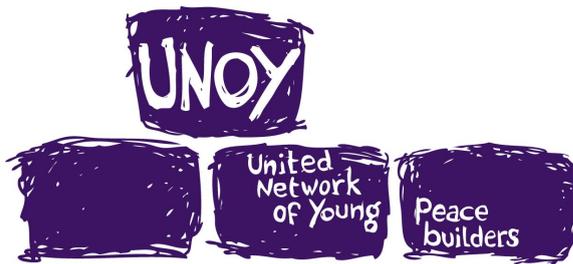


# ANNUAL PLAN

## 2019

United Network of  
Young Peacebuilders



# Introduction

UNOY Peacebuilders is shaping the global agenda for youth, peace and security in partnership with 87 locally grounded organisations. We have members in over 50 countries that have reached 4.87 million young people in 2017, and UNOY is empowering them by amplifying their voices and highlighting their work to policy makers on a local, regional and global level. UNOY provides them with a safe space for dialogue and conflict transformation.

By translating local peacebuilding work into international policy, UNOY Peacebuilders is building the capacities of young people and connecting partners throughout the network to develop joint approaches to common peace and security challenges. UNOY supports its members in their outstanding and diverse contributions to peace building through 4 action areas of its strategic plan.

<b>Action area 1</b> → Strengthening organisations as mobilisers of young peacebuilders	<b>Action Area 2</b> → Developing young people’s capacities for conflict transformation
<b>Action area 3</b> → Building a global network with a shared feeling of ownership	<b>Action area 4</b> → Raising youth voices through advocacy

# Overview

All of our proposed activities in 2019 fall under one of these four action areas.

## **1. To facilitate the build-up of member organisations' capacity to mobilize youth as peacebuilders. In 2019, we will:**

- 1.1** Organise a series of **online workshops** on fundraising open to all UNOY member organisations across the world;
- 1.2** Disseminate our new **toolkit on conflict transformation** and provide support to members on how to use the training modules included in the toolkit.

## **2. To develop young people's capacity to lead conflict transformation processes and advocate for nonviolence and a Culture of Peace. In 2019 we will implement:**

- 2.1** A **trainings series on conflict transformation** for young people (linked to UNOY members) in Europe and the Southern Caucasus;
- 2.2** Follow up phase of an **online training for localisation of UNSCR 2250** (Youth, Peace and Security) in the Asia-Pacific regions.

## **3. To strengthen UNOY Peacebuilders as a global network with a shared feeling of ownership. In 2019, we will:**

- 3.1** Implement a **Young Peacebuilders Forum** in the **Americas**, connecting young peacebuilders from across the continent and beyond;
- 3.2** Further the decentralisation and local ownership of the network by establishing positions of **regional coordination in Americas & MENA**;
- 3.3** Develop and implement **regional activities** in all regions of the network.

## **4. To ensure meaningful youth participation in issues of peace and security. In 2019:**

- 4.1** We will continue to **amplify the local voices of young peacebuilders** in shaping international policies and practice (towards UN, and through networks & alliances UNOY is part of);
- 4.2** **African and European youth advocacy teams** will continue to advocate for the development of regional policies and funding for 2250 implementation;
- 4.3** We will **increase the knowledge base** on youth participation in peacebuilding, by disseminating Progress Study & our youth-led research reports;
- 4.4** We will **map EU support to youth participation** in peacebuilding.

## **5. In order to make progress towards cross cutting priorities identified for UNOY in 2019, we will :**

**5.1 Develop and implement a communications strategy** to strengthen UNOY's internal communications and visibility;

**5.2 Establish gender as a key area of our work**, mainstreamed throughout our network, priorities and projects;

**5.3 Focus on UNOY's organisational development**, building the Secretariat's individual and organisational capacity to lead and support the network.

# Action Area 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 (including Regional Coordinators) and International Steering Group as well as through activities implemented by UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations in direct cooperation with each other.

## Activities in 2019

### 1.1 Improving fundraising capacities

Type of activity: Online workshops

Budget: EUR 2.948

As a global network of youth organisations, we face common organisational challenges, fundraising is a major concern for our member organisations. In 2017, an average of 34% of our members' grant applications were successful. One of the underlying reasons is that many of our member organisations lack capacities to write strong funding proposals.

To address this, the International Secretariat will organise online workshops related to organisational capacity with a particular focus on fundraising

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 as well as the major learnings that the IS

identified in developing its own fundraising strategy for the IS and the network. With the help of a series of fundraising workshops, UNOY aims to improve the financial sustainability of member organisations in all regions.

## **1.2** Youth4Peace Training Toolkit

Type of activity: Dissemination of resources

Budget: EUR 5,774

The International Secretariat will convene online seminars (possibly in the form of webinars) to support member organisations in making use of our new online toolkit for peace education, including the following topics: peacebuilding, conflict transformation and transforming narratives. During the seminars, UNOY members who have already tested and used the toolkit will share their experiences and lessons learned with other members. The Editor of the toolkit will also be invited to share practical tips on how to use the toolkit in different conflict settings.

## 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 2019

#### 2.1 Transforming Conflict

Type of activity: Training series

Budget: EUR 39.000

This training series will bring together 7 UNOY members from Europe and Southern Caucasus for two sets of training on conflict transformation and project management.

The training cycle will begin with a 4 weeks online training period, followed by a face-to-face training in February. After the face-to-face training, participants will design and implement their own multiplier trainings on the basis of a needs-assessment that they have carried out in their communities. The second face-to-face training will take place in May, followed by a 4 month period during

which the multiplier trainings will be implemented. The project will be wrapped with an online evaluation meeting in September.

This training will build on UNOY Peacebuilders' long experience of organising trainings courses focused on conflict transformation and project management, in close collaboration with UNOY's member organisation in Georgia, Academy for Peace and Development.

## **2.1 Localising 2250 in Asia**

Type of activity: Online Training series

Budget: 18,900 EUR

The aim of this 'Online Training for Localisation' is to empower young people from Asia Pacific region to act as "mobilisers" of Resolution 2250 in their local communities, nationally and internationally. The training is based on the guide "Translating Youth, Peace & Security Policy into Practice", co-created by UNOY Peacebuilders. The training will sharpen young people's understanding of the political environment and power relations around youth participation in peacebuilding, build their skills in translating international policy into local reality in a youth-led way and give them the tools to reach out and influence decision makers.

## 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.

### Activities in 2019

#### 3.1 Young Peacebuilders Forum in Americas

Type of activity: Forum

Budget: EUR 98.000

The Young Peacebuilders Forum 2019, to be held in The Americas with the support of UNOY members there, will bring together young people active in peacebuilding from across the region and beyond. This four-day event will be the fifth edition of our Young Peacebuilders Forum, but its regional focus will be unique and centered on increasing UNOY's visibility and build partnerships in the region.

#### 3.2 Regional coordinators

Type of activity: Network structure

Budget: EUR 20.000

In 2017, we set up two positions of Regional Coordinators in Asia and West & 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, a Regional Coordinator position for East and Southern Africa was established. In response to a renewed demand from members to strengthen UNOY as a democratic and bottom-up platform and positive assessment of existing regional structures, it is indisputable that **UNOY needs to continue shifting towards a decentralised structure** leaning on regional coordinators on which stronger regional sub-networks are being formed and through which communication flows between UNOY's different structures.

In 2019, another two regional coordinator positions will be established, namely in the Americas and in the Middle East & North Africa. Each time, the kick-off meeting for these positions will be coupled with regional activities to strengthen cohesion between members. All coordinators will be empowered with **increasing support** (both in human resources and financially) **to lead the development of activities at the regional level**, in order to support common approaches to shared peace and security challenges within the global network.

### 3.3 Implementing UNOY strategy in the regions

Type of activity: Strategy development & regional activities

Budget: EUR 63.600

Regional cooperation is a cornerstone of global networking. By linking local youth peace organisations regionally, we can foster a sense of participating in a global movement. Building regional communities of young peacebuilders will bring the network closer to our member organisations, making it possible to identify regional challenges and priorities for collaborative approaches, and seeking closer engagement with regional intergovernmental bodies to operationalise UNSCR 2250 in regional policies.

Each regional coordinator will facilitate the development process of **a regional agenda by our members in order to fuel advocacy, visibility and networking** at the regional level.

# 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 2019, UNOY Peacebuilders will disseminate the findings of the Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security and our own youth-led comparative research which we completed at the end of 2017.

## Activities in 2019

### 4.1 Amplifying local youth voices

Type of activity: Youth Advocacy

In 2019, 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 Global Coalition for Youth, Peace, Security 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 will plan and implement 1 advocacy missions to New York to call for funding mechanisms accessible by youth organisations to implement local peace initiatives and to disseminate the UN Secretary General's Progress Study on Youth, Peace, and Security.

## 4.2 Strengthening the role of African Youth

Type of activity: Regional Dialogue

Budget: EUR 7.404

A new African Youth Advocacy Team has been created and begin working to raise awareness among decision makers within African regional intergovernmental organisations of the role of youth in peacebuilding in 2018. In 2019, the A-YAT will follow up on its first advocacy mission to the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and strengthen its strategic engagement with regional bodies and stakeholders across the continent.

## 4.3 Mapping YPS in the EU

Type of activity: Youth-led research

Budget: EUR 29.800

In May 2018, the EU took important steps to ensure the implementation of UNSCR 2250 in Europe and beyond by adopting the Council Conclusions on the role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society. An important starting point will be an assessment of existing EU policies, programming and projects supporting the role of youth in peacebuilding.

In 2019, 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. The research report will be launched in spring 2019, coinciding with an E-YAT mission to Brussels.

## 4.4 Role of youth in peace processes

Across the world, young people are actively working to support peace processes, and are calling for a space in ongoing peace negotiations, but continue to be unrepresented and excluded from decisions that will directly impact their present and future prospects for peace. In 2019, UNOY will co-organise a Symposium in Helsinki together with UN and civil society partners on the role of youth in formal and informal peace processes, with a view to developing possible recommendations, guidance and suggestions on concrete ways to enhance this, in support of the UNSCR 2250 and UNSCR 2419.

# 5. Cross-cutting areas of our work

2019 is a year of change for UNOY. The changes in the field of youth peace and security, increasing decentralization of UNOY and growth of the organisation means the role of the IS needs to evolve. Institutional strengthening of youth networks and organisations is key to scaling up projects, expanding our outreach, and thus increasing impact of youth initiated peacebuilding activities. In 2019, a lot of our team's effort will be focusing on the below cross-cutting priorities geared at strengthening the way we communicate about our work to the world, gender sensitivity within the network, and individual and organisational capacity of our organisation to shape the global agenda for youth participation.

## Activities in 2019

### 5.1 Making our impact visible

Type of activity: Communications strategy development and implementation

Budget: EUR 40.750

Following the the second round of support from PeaceNexus Foundation to UNOY's organisational development a communications strategy will be developed in line with the fundraising roadmap guiding UNOY in the short, mid and long term.

The network development consultation of 2016 and successive AIR reports show that UNOY is unique platform that brings together a wealth of resources (expertise, materials and toolkits, opportunities). These resources are used both by members, and numerous individual supporters of and contributors to our work (young professionals, trainers, etc.). These resources constitute the backbone on which current and future activities of UNOY are developed: by tapping into the network's existing wealth and fostering collaborative and peer-to-peer learning. We will make this incredible potential increasingly accessible to all members of UNOY, and beyond, by centralising information about UNOY members and resource persons in an efficient and user-friendly database of member organisations and by translating our website and core documents to overcome linguistic barriers that young peacebuilders frequently

face in accessing our information and resources.

## **5.2 Mainstreaming Gender in our work**

Type of activity: Gender person and strategy development

Budget: EUR 41.950

This year our team will work to step up in our efforts to work gender sensitively, as well as deepen our members' understanding of core concepts in oppressive gender relations and gender inequality in relation to youth and conflict. This will be done by the appointment of a gender focal point whose role will be to strategise UNOY's gender engagement in the coming few years and a programmatic vision for this.

## **5.3 Strengthening the International Secretariat**

Type of activity: organisational development and trainings

Budget: EUR 18.200

As we embarked on this new chapter, UNOY leading coordinators have put together a strategy for UNOY's internal growth to match the increasing budget, team and regional focus. Matching this is the need to focus on UNOY's organisational development, in order to build in the structures, routines, and institutional strength required to steer the network. This will be carried out by the leading coordinators with advice from external experts.

Beyond institutional sustainability measures, we want to strengthen the capacity of the staff in the IS to deliver the proposed action. Training opportunities will be provided the regional coordinators and IS staff on fundraising, project and financial management and leadership and financial management training for the IS.