

ANNUAL REPORT

2015



About UNOY Peacebuilders

UNOY Peacebuilders is an international network connecting 60 youth peace organizations across 45 countries. Our goal is to create a world where young people have the opportunity and skills to contribute to peace. We work to strengthen youth-driven peacebuilding initiatives based on the needs of our members, facilitate a safe space for dialogue and conflict transformation, develop the organizational capacities of our members and to bring the voices of young people to policy makers on a regional and global level.

In accordance with our strategic plan 2011-2015, we contribute to the work of our members through our programs on Capacity Development and Advocacy. In addition to these programs, our work focuses on strengthening the global network of young peacebuilders and strengthening outreach. There is a strong gender dimension to our work, including the development of specific activities and increased gender sensitiveness transversally in the various activities, projects and management dimension.

Our origins

In 1989, a Russian UN diplomat called Nikolai Firjubin had a dream about a general assembly hall filled with young people discussing the major challenges facing humanity. The dream was so strong, that he decided to pursue it. Jointly with others that also shared his dream, such as Maria Kooijman, n realized started to give meaning to this dream. Not long thereafter, the first group of young people from four continents met in Handel, the Netherlands and committed themselves to building a new international youth organisation, which they called United Nations of Youth (UNOY), later renamed to the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders). Since then, UNOY Peacebuilders has grown into an established network with members and affiliates all over the world.

Annual report 2015

United Network of Young Peacebuilders

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A turning point for youth participation in peacebuilding

2015 was a historic year for UNOY Peacebuilders and for youth participation in peacebuilding more broadly. Following a constant buildup of interest and attention through the year, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security on 9 December 2015. This resolution marks the first time the Security Council recognises the positive role that young people play in building peace and preventing violence around the world, shifting the conversation away from seeing young people as a threat to be managed to seeing young people as allies for a better future. The adoption of the resolution was to a large extent the outcome of UNOY Peacebuilders' advocacy for the past years, led by the Youth Advocacy Team, as well as the strong partnerships developed across the sector through the Global Partnership on Children and Youth in Peacebuilding and the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding.

The adoption of this resolution marks a turning point in the story of youth participation in peacebuilding, but it is by no means an end point. In 2015, UNOY Peacebuilders developed a new strategic plan for 2016-2020 setting new targets and objectives for the development of the network and the sector at large. With a tool like UNSC resolution 2250 in our hands, we look forward to solidifying recognition of and support for the work that our member organisations do all across the world.

Other highlights of 2015 include the second Young Peacebuilders Forum: Following the success of the Young Peacebuilders Forum in 2014, celebrating UNOY Peacebuilders' 25th anniversary, the forum has now become an annual event in the network's calendar. 2015 saw the start of the project "Youth Impact", examining and improving monitoring, evaluation and learning processes of youth peace organisations. It saw the publication of an evaluation of child and youth participation in peacebuilding in Nepal, Colombia and the Democratic Republic of Congo, two training courses, the development of a competence framework for peace education, and more.

At the end of the implementation of UNOY Peacebuilders' strategic plan for 2011-2015, we have achieved all the milestones we set for the network in 2011 with the exception of merging the Board and International Steering Group into a single International Board. We now look optimistically ahead to the coming years with a new and ambitious strategic plan for 2016-2020 and a new Security Council resolution.

Advocacy

Making Youth Heard at the UN

Our Youth Advocacy Team brings youth voices to the UN. They went on six missions to the UN in 2015, speaking at events and meeting a number of permanent missions. The main objective of the Youth Advocacy Team in 2015 was to advocate for a UN Security Council resolution on Youth, Peace and Security.

In 2015, UNOY Peacebuilders' continued our advocacy work from previous years, ensuring that youth voices are heard at the UN. In doing this we have been supported by and worked in partnership with the Dutch NGO Cordaid.

The Youth Advocacy Team (YAT), a group of committed young peacebuilders from the network, play the leading role representing UNOY Peacebuilders at international events. The YAT carried out six missions to the UN headquarters in New York, spoke at a number of events, including a side-event to the open debate of the Security Council on the Role of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism and Promoting Peace, co-hosted a side-event to the 15th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 and met with a number of permanent missions.

Violent extremism was an important topic on the YAT agenda at the UN. The YAT was invited by the UN Counter-terrorism Implementation Task Force to provide input for the [UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism](#), and did so in the shape of [5 Action Points for Preventing Violent Extremism](#). Several of these points were included in the final action plan. A YAT mission also took part in the Global Youth Summit to Counter Violent Extremism, and UNOY together with Search for Common Ground coordinated the writing of the outcome document, the [Youth Action Agenda to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peace](#). Finally, in cooperation with Human Security Collective, we launched [10 Guiding Practices for Countering Violent Extremism from a Human Security and Young Peacebuilders' Perspective](#).

In November 2015, the UN Peacebuilding Commission held its first meeting ever on the topic of youth. The permanent representative of Sweden hosted the meeting, and Gwendolyn Myers spoke in the meeting on behalf of UNOY based on and [UNOY's input for the UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review](#). She also spoke at an informal meeting hosted together with the New York Peacebuilding Group following the PBC meeting.

UNOY continued its active participation in the UN-Civil Society Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding, and in autumn 2015 UNOY was appointed co-chair of the group. UNOY also took part in the annual meeting of the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO).

Forum

Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security

The Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security was the first event of its kind bringing together 400 experts on youth, peace and security including 200 young people. The Global Forum was a collaboration between four UN agencies (UN Peacebuilding Support Office, the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, UNFPA and UNDP), the Royal Hashemite Court of Jordan, Search for Common Ground and UNOY Peacebuilders.

The Global Forum, hosted by the Crown Prince of Jordan, was a turning point in the global conversation about the role of young people building peace and preventing violence. It opened up a new space for conversations between groups that otherwise would not have met, from young people building peace at the grassroots level to global policy makers.

The key outcome of the Global Forum was the [Amman Youth Declaration](#), a common vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework to support youth in transforming conflict, preventing and countering violence and building sustainable peace. Among other things, the declaration calls for a UN Security Council resolution on Youth, Peace and Security:

“The United Nations must establish a global policy framework recognising and addressing the specific needs, assets, potential and diverse identities of youth ... We call on the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution on Youth, Peace and Security.”



Policy

UN Security Council resolution 2250

On 9 December 2015 the United Nations Security Council adopted [resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security](#). The resolution constitutes a landmark for young peacebuilders around the world. The resolution calls on Member States to promote youth participation, facilitating an enabling environment for the youth to prevent violence and engaging the youth in political processes, including peace processes and dispute resolution mechanisms. Broadly, this new resolution views the youth as peacebuilders rather than the victims or perpetrators of violence.

At UNOY Peacebuilders we have been working since 2012 to pave the way to this resolution. Some of our key strategies have been bringing the youth's voices on peace and security to high-level policymakers through our Youth Advocacy Team and bringing young peacebuilders to the UN headquarters in New York. The Amman Youth Declaration adopted at the Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security in August 2015 was a key turning point on this path. The declaration called for an international policy framework to be adopted. It was handed over to the Foreign Minister of Jordan who promised to bring the declaration to the attention of the Security Council. The Security Council finally adopted resolution 2250 on 9 December 2015.

There is no doubt that the resolution constitutes a big step forward, supporting the youth's contribution to building peace. Nevertheless, it is not the end of the road. Young peacebuilders and youth-oriented organizations must now unite efforts to ensure that the resolution is translated into a reality. We must ensure that governments, intergovernmental bodies and members of the civil society work together to implement the articles present in the resolution. This requires rethinking old policies on the basis of the new resolution, promoting funding for the youth to be able to actively participate in building peace and working even harder to bring more youth on board to build peace in our communities.

At the same time, we must ensure that young people are aware of resolution 2250 and are able to make use of it in their work. As a first step in spreading the word, UNOY Peacebuilders launched a [micro-video campaign](#) to raise awareness of the resolution in December 2015, continued in 2016.

UNOY Peacebuilders recognizes the significance of resolution 2250 and strongly welcomes young peacebuilders to join us in the next steps to ensure that the resolution is reflected into binding policies across the world.

Capacity development

Youth as advocates for peace

Together with Cordaid and Human Security Collective, UNOY Peacebuilders organized an international advocacy training on conflict transformation and human security in March, 2015 in The Hague. Trainings such as these are crucial to successful youth advocacy for a culture of peace and non-violence. If young people are to be able to actively engage in dialogue with policy makers, they need to be equipped with the appropriate skills.

The purpose of the training was to build the skills and knowledge of young change makers and peacebuilders on advocacy for conflict transformation and human security. The training aimed to link young people's grassroots community and peace activism with advocacy at the global level. It was an opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences and approaches on advocacy and it was aimed to connect the experiences of young change makers and peacebuilders with the international policy realm. By improving their skills and knowledge, participants can improve and expand the advocacy activities of their organizations.

Capacity development

Youth peace organisations as learning organisations

Youth organisations are in their essence learning organisations. Young people are constantly growing and learning, and so are their organisations. However, youth organisations are can also be fleeting in their very nature, with a high turnover of people and organisational memory easily lost. Because of this, it's very important that monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) processes are clearly integrated into organisational structures.

It was on this basis that several UNOY Peacebuilders member organisations, working with the International Secretariat, conducted research into MEL practices in youth peace organisations in 2015, under the title *Youth Impact*. Key findings of the research so far include:

- Monitoring, evaluation and learning are increasingly important for youth peace organisations
- MEL activities are more intense and developed at the operational (project) level compared to the organisational level.
- The organisations have limited time and capacities to learn from their activities and to share that knowledge.
- There is a clear and strong need to improve knowledge management mechanisms.
- Most organisations have strategic plans containing goals and general objectives. The plans do not outline specific indicators and do not include a monitoring and evaluation plan.
- Personnel have general planning and reporting skills, yet specific and advanced MEL competences are lacking.
- Organisations allocate limited (financial) resources to MEL activities.

The organisations participating in the research are CEIPES, SCI, FCV, PATRIR and EIF, along with the International Secretariat. They will continue to work together in 2016 to build on their findings and develop guidelines for MEL in youth peace organisations.

Capacity development

Competences in peace education

While peace education has gained ever more relevance and recognition over the past years, it is characterized by a low level of conceptualization and diverging quality and, lack of a coherent framework for understanding competences and for recognising learning. Mainstreaming Peace Education: Competence Framework is a two-year project aimed at developing a framework for understanding and recognising competences within the field of peace education. In doing so, we are building on the Mainstreaming Peace Education manual published in 2014, outlining some of the key components of peace education.

The UNOY Peacebuilders International Secretariat is one of the developers of this framework, along with the ASHA Centre, Humana People to People, Habitat Centre for Governance and Development and UNOY Peacebuilders' member organisation the European Intercultural Forum.

The Mainstreaming Peace Education: Competence Framework project will, once completed in 2016, have led to the following five key outputs:

1. Competence framework: including knowledge, skills and attitudes
2. Evaluation indicators
3. Assessment methods
4. Educational guidelines for achieving key competences
5. Spread the recognition of peace education by linking to other existing frameworks like Youthpass and Europass certification system (transparency of qualifications for European citizens), recognised in the European Union.

According to UNOY Peacebuilders' Annual Impact Review 2014, over 75% of the network's member organisations were actively working on peace education.

Capacity development

Training trainers

On 11-17 October, 2015 twenty young people gathered together mainly coming from EU and EU neighborhood policy countries in Vilanova I la Geltru, Barcelona to participate in a 4th volume of the Training of Trainers with a general title "Understanding and Working with Conflict" and with a certain focus on designing and implementing quality trainings for conflict transformation.

The participants were trained with theoretical knowledge through an online training course, for a duration of 6-weeks, and an assessment of competences was held to evaluate their competences of a trainer before and after the ToT.

The residential training course was a turning point for participants to define conflict transformation and peacebuilding in youth work and in local and international communities, to share a week of learning, exchange and development. The sessions were not only based on recaps and inputs on peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and basics in facilitation, but also on hands on practice with its indispensable phases: planning, preparation, delivery, feedback ,evaluation and learning.

The participants went through a number of realistic exercises to enhance their training skills, including running their own training sessions. A special focus was also given to participants' competences in planning, monitoring and evaluating trainings.

Strengthening the network

Young Peacebuilders Forum

In 2015, the United Network Of Young Peacebuilders held its second Young Peacebuilders Forum in The Hague on November 11-15. The theme of the forum was Ensuring Quality in Youth Peace Work. The forum gathered 59 participants from 32 different countries, including members of UNOY and non-members. The participants took part in discussions, workshops and meetings related to quality in youth peace work, particularly monitoring and evaluation and also had the opportunity to inspire one another sharing stories and experiences, and to create new partnerships.

Highlights of the forum included:

- Sharing stories of young peacebuilders, including participants as well as external guests
- Learning about the findings of the [Youth Impact research project](#)
- Discussing common understandings on quality in youth peace work
- Bridging the two established sectors of youth work and peacebuilding with a session open to the public
- Participants' sharing their own expertise through self-organised workshops
- Speed dating at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Participants gained stronger networks and new connections with other young peacebuilders, as well as increased insights into the under-explored question of what constitutes quality in youth peace work.

Research

Evaluation of Child and youth Participation in Peacebuilding

UNOY Peacebuilders co-chairs the Global Partnership on Children and Youth in Peacebuilding. In 2015, the partnership completed its evaluation of child and youth participation in peacebuilding in Nepal, Colombia and the Democratic Republic of Congo which began in 2014. The evaluation was led by UNOY Peacebuilders, Save the Children Norway, Search for Common Ground, World Vision International and PATRIR on behalf of the Global Partnership.

Three key recommendations identified by the research include:

1. Engage children as peacebuilders from a young age to ensure continuity and increased impact
2. Encourage multi-pronged and multi-stakeholder efforts supporting children and youth in peacebuilding to multiply and amplify peacebuilding impact
3. Engage with children and youth as partners in formal and informal governance and peace structures in a wide range of contexts, not only in contexts affected by armed conflict

The [full research report](#) provides more details on the findings as well as country-specific recommendations.

This evaluation provides a valuable basis for on-going advocacy, demonstrating the importance of the participation of children and youth in peacebuilding efforts. It also shows the value of sectoral partnerships such as the Global Partnership on Children and Youth in Peacebuilding: By pooling their resources the organisations were able to achieve more jointly than they would have been able to do independently.

Network membership

UNOY Peacebuilders is a global network of youth-led organisations or youth-led groups within larger organisations, active in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation. In 2015, the 65 members of our peacebuilders' network were based in North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe. The network is non-hierarchical; member organisations are not branches or representatives of UNOY Peacebuilders. They preserve their own identity, their goals and strategies to deal with their local and regional challenges.

The members are selected on the basis of their thematic orientation, activities, experiences, interests and geographical location. Applications for membership are then reviewed by the ISG and the International Secretariat.

As is the case with youth organisations in any sector, some of the organisations within UNOY Peacebuilders have ceased to exist while other new youth peace organisations have either been created or come into contact with the network for the first time.

In 2015, three organisations left the network (The Youth Congress, ADECOP and Upact). Six organisations joined the network in 2015: Kuria Development Community for the Marginalised (Kenya), Tumult (Belgium), Masakheni Projects Trust (Zimbabwe), Local Youth Corner (Cameroon) and Youth Resource Center Tuzla (Bosnia-Herzegovina). We warmly welcome them into UNOY Peacebuilders and look forward to working together in the future.

Annual Impact Review (AIR)

The Annual Impact Review (AIR) is the result of an annual survey which UNOY Peacebuilders sends out to all its members. The AIR is the main tool to monitor and evaluate our work by gathering feedback from the network members. The main objective of the AIR is to evaluate the overall performance of UNOY Peacebuilders on an annual basis. It also provides us with an insight into members' expectations, challenges and strengths, allowing us to ensure that the good work continues and that improvements are made where necessary.

The AIR Report is based on the responses of the AIR Questionnaire. Completing this questionnaire is a requirement for the UNOY Peacebuilders membership and members who do not comply risk being disaffiliated from the network. In 2014 the response rate was 90%.

The findings of the AIR 2014 demonstrate that UNOY Peacebuilders is a dynamic youth-led network, with an average of 86% of our member organisations' staff aged below 35. On average, members' expectations of their UNOY Peacebuilders membership have been met, although members generally feel that the existing communication mechanisms within the network should be strengthened. Moreover, the lack of funding and a high turnover of trained staff continue to threaten the work of many member organisations. Yet, the majority of the member organizations feel highly motivated and willing to engage with other network organizations and are satisfied with the work of the International Secretariat (IS), encouraging the IS to "keep up the good work" with some very helpful recommendations.

Recommendations derived from the AIR 2014 include:

- To improve communication and interactions between member organisations.
- To intensify the number of joint projects within the network.
- To strengthen regional coordination of network activities.
- To develop a monthly newsletter to inform members about the work of the IS.
- To further encourage members to share suggestions, experiences, learnings, etc.
- To improve the existing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms used at UNOY Peacebuilders.
- To help members with fundraising/proposal development.
- To organise more trainings and meetings for members.

More information concerning the results of the AIR 2014 Questionnaire can be found on the AIR 2014 Report.

International Secretariat

The International Secretariat (IS) consists of a young international and multicultural team under the age of 35, led by two Leading Coordinators who together form the Management Team (MT), a financial coordinator, a project coordinator and several interns. The main function of the IS is to coordinate and implement the activities of the network and provide administrative support in cooperation with the members and in consultation with the International Steering Group and the Board. The staff of the International Secretariat in 2015 were:

- Matilda Flemming, Leading coordinator
- Sölvi Karlsson, Leading coordinator
- Imre Veeneman, Project coordinator
- Esther Irungu, Finance coordinator (to February 2015)
- Bart Horeman, Finance coordinator (from April 2015)

Interns and volunteers make up an essential part of UNOY Peacebuilders' activities. Internships generally span from 4 to 6 months on full- or part-time basis, and are unpaid. Volunteers furthermore make important contributions to events organised by UNOY Peacebuilders. The interns and volunteers at the International Secretariat in 2015 were:

- Anna Gorter, Netherlands
- Chloé Desesquelles, France
- Christopher Duane, Germany
- Dylan Jones, Australia
- Helene Ruud, Norway
- Ludmila Dias Andrade, Brazil
- María José Velásquez Flores, Bolivia
- Olga Sholderer, Russia
- Panagiotis Kontogiannis, Greece
- Pawel Bryk, Poland

The international and multicultural, young and dynamic atmosphere is especially appreciated. The turnover of volunteers remain high, and the management works to ensure that proper hand over takes place between volunteers in order to ensure continuity and sustainability.

International Steering Group (ISG)

The International Steering Group (ISG) has a strategic advisory role in the network and counsels the International Secretariat (IS) and the Board on matters related to the focus of the work, plans and activities of the IS and the network at large. The ISG consists of six representatives of the network's member organizations, elected on a regional basis. The ISG provides advices on themes within the field of Peacebuilding and Youth; it reports on the membership status of organizations in the network and appoints new members to the ISG. The ISG represents within its capacity the members of the UNOY Peacebuilders network.

Members of the ISG are elected by member organisations for a period of two years with half of the ISG replaced each year. Members of the ISG should seek to promote the work of the network as a whole and not the interests or positions of their organisation of origin.

ISG members in 2015:

- East Africa:** Armand Giramahoro, Initiatives and Actions for Peace and Development (IAP), Burundi, until mid-2015. Chigi Sharon Bwana, Centre for Legal Rights Education, Advocacy and Development (CLREAD), Kenya, from mid-2015.
- Europe:** Meghann Villanueva, Fundacio Catalunya Voluntaria (FCV), Spain until mid-2015. Andra Tanese, Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR), Romania.
- Asia:** Saba Ismail, Coalition of Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY), Pakistan, until mid-2015. Tilottam Paudel, Jagriti Child and youth Concern (JCYC), Nepal, from mid-2015.
- West Africa:** Rashid Zuberu, Young Peace Brigades (YPB), Ghana.
- Latin America:** Marcelo Velazquez, Organización Argentina de Jóvenes para las Naciones Unidas (OAJNU), Argentina

Board

The board is the legal body of UNOY Peacebuilders and supervises the activities of the International Secretariat. The board's main function is to approve overall plans and budgets, overview financial administration and make decisions related to the hiring of staff in the future, in consultation with the ISG.

The board is composed of two co-chairs, a secretary, a treasurer; and general board members all based in the Netherlands. Board members are selected, by the board, according to a gender and age balance, qualifications and experience in the field of peacebuilding, institutional development, financial management and past involvement in UNOY Peacebuilders' activities. The members of the board are all volunteers and receive no remuneration for their work.

Board members in 2015:

- Daniela Vicherat Mattar, co-chair
- Shireen Lau, co-chair
- Yi Ling Ho, treasurer
- Antonietta Trapani
- Carrie Grycyskiwicz
- Rieneke Van Santen
- Siebrich Visser
- Len Middelbeek
- Jenny Aulin
- Jilt van Schayik

Honorary Chairs:

- Nikolai N. Firjubin
- Rabbi A. Soetendorp
- Maria Kooijman

Fundraising and finances

Donors

UNOY Peacebuilders is financed by grants from a number of different donors. In 2015 we received operational funding from the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme and the Council of Europe's European Youth Foundation.

Project funding was received from Cordaid, the Council of Europe's European Youth Foundation, the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme and Haëlla Stichting.

We thank all our donors for the support they have shown to youth participation in peacebuilding in 2015 and look forward to fruitful future cooperation.



BUILDING FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES



Erasmus+

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



STICHTING

Fundraising and finances

Overview of incomes and expenses

2015	2014
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Incomes

Structural grants	63.180	61.211
Project grants	240.508	218.963
Financial income and expenses	744	1.707
Donations	95	-
Sum of incomes	304.527	281.881

Expenses

Direct program costs	(281.200)	(279.979)
Direct fundraising costs	(9.243)	(10.644)
Management and administration costs	(6.162)	(7.096)
Sum of expenses	(296.604)	(300.268)

RESULT	7.922	(15.838)
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More details can be found in UNOY Peacebuilders' annual accounts, available online.