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About UNOY Peacebuilders

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY – pronounced ‘You Know Why’) is a global network of youth organisations committed to establishing peaceful societies. Young people constitute half of the world’s population, and we strongly believe in their importance in society. This is why we aim to provide youth with the necessary means to contribute to peace.

UNOY Peacebuilders is a non-political, non-religious, non-governmental organisation that welcomes youth peace initiatives, organisations and young peacebuilders regardless of gender, ethnicity, social class, religion, or any other distinction.

Our vision is youth committed to jointly building a world in which peace, justice; solidarity, human dignity and respect for nature prevail. Our mission is to link up young people’s initiatives for peace in a global network of young peacebuilders, to empower their capacities and increase the effectiveness of their actions.

Since its inception in 1989, UNOY has developed a multi-dimensional expertise in its main areas of action; advocacy and campaigning, capacity building and gender. Our additional core activities include networking, sharing information, research, and fundraising.

The activities we provide combine methodologies such as non-formal education in youth work, peace education, community development and intercultural learning. Operating outside formal education, the non-formal approach we opt for includes a focus on equal (peer-to-peer), friendly, innovative, attractive, and involved relationships.

The patron of UNOY Peacebuilders is H.H. Dalai Lama, Nobel Peace Prize Winner.

The History of UNOY Peacebuilders

In 1989, Nikolai Firjubin, a Russian UN diplomat 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, he 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 pronounced as You Know Why).

UNOY Peacebuilders has grown into an established network with members and affiliates all over the world. The organisation has kept its dynamism and commitment while continuously working for a Culture of Peace. UNOY Peacebuilders has gone through different phases, narrowed its scope, evolved, learned and professionalised. In 2003 UNOY changed its name to United Network of Young Peacebuilders and in 2007 there was an organisational restructuring from a loose network to a membership-based network.
Message from the Chair of the Board

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2011 was a significant year for youth around the world. As the financial crisis has tightened the belt of most governments, youth continue to stand up and make their voices heard, either through the 15-M Movement, also known as Indignant Movement, the revolutions spreading throughout Africa and the Middle East, and also the Occupy Movement worldwide. The large majority of the activists taking part in these movements were youth, deciding it was time for them to take a stand that were frustrated with the lack of opportunities for young people. This display of commitment & dedication increases our commitment to support the youth throughout our network to gain the skills necessary in order to assert a positive influence over the decisions made at local and community levels. As the force of this mobilisation continues to increase in speed, we are committed to continue to support peacebuilding and capacity-building for the worldwide community of youth.

UNOY Peacebuilders also experienced an exciting year in 2011 as we launched our newly redesigned website and logo. This extraordinary achievement has allowed us to representationally express the foundational principles of UNOY as building blocks of peace, with the collective work of our network represented in a more youthful colour and form. The improved design of the website creates a more fluid transition from the diverse sections of the site, allowing users a more pleasant experience and increasing frequency of visitation to the site.

As in 2010, 2011 saw significant staff changes at UNOY Peacebuilders. We said farewell to both Stephanie Moy, International Secretariat and Outreach Coordinator (ISOC) and Julia Deng, Financial Officer. We thank Stephanie and Julia for their continuous efforts at the International Secretariat, and at the same time welcome Matilda Flemming, our new ISOC, and Joseph Koli, the new Financial Officer. We look forward to having them as a part of the team, and look forward to the creation of more exciting projects, and the continuation of the development of our organisation under their direction into 2012.

2011 also saw UNOY Peacebuilders participating in, as well as leading, many exciting new activities which we hope to see continued into the coming years. One very important and successful project, of which we are very proud, was “Job Shadowing; Learning by Seeing, Seeing by Doing!” where ten of our member organisations in different countries collaborated to create nine successful learning experiences for young leaders. The participants had the ability to observe and share their own experiences on their work on peacebuilding, while collaborating on the creation of the campaign for the International Day of Peace. As 2011 marked the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Peace, a week-long festival took place with a myriad of artistic events, including a photo exhibition, a UNOY organised concert, Jam for Peace, with talented, young musicians, and finally a youth-led debate on the role of youth in democratic transitions. Through this continued collaboration within our network, UNOY Peacebuilders has been able to coordinate a plethora of youth peacebuilding activities that have enhanced our overall position in terms of advocacy, and which will continue to advance in self-sustainability in the coming years.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our sponsors and donors who, through their extended support, have contributed greatly to the development of youth capacity and innovative peacebuilding methods, which in turn strengthen the message of sustainable peace created for and by youth. UNOY Peacebuilders is also grateful for the efforts of the team of interns, volunteers, members of the network and members of the International Steering group who have donated their time and talents to reinforce the value of youth-led movements. A special thank you to Eefje van Esch, Leena Laitinen, Oliver Rizzi Carlson, Lillian Solheim, Matilda Flemming and Andrea Duran for completing this report.

Jennifer Aggus,

Chair of Board of UNOY Peacebuilders
Structure of the organisation

The organisational structure of UNOY Peacebuilders is designed to develop and coordinate the work of an international network of young peacebuilders. A network is by definition loosely structured. The present structure has been developed with attention to the history of the organisation, its existing needs, the nature of its activities and the available resources. The structure is periodically reviewed as it is envisaged that our network will evolve, change and develop. Activities are initiated by members and the International Secretariat (IS), led and supported by a small international team based in The Hague, The Netherlands which is guided by an International Steering Group (ISG). The Board advises and supervises issues of a financial and legal nature. UNOY Peacebuilders is registered as a foundation (stichting) in the Netherlands.

The organisational chart of UNOY Peacebuilders is the following:

The Network of UNOY Peacebuilders

UNOY Peacebuilders is a global network of youth-led organisations or youth-led groups within adult peacebuilding organisations active in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation and able to work in English. In 2011, the 49 members of our peacebuilders’ network were based in North America, Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe, as illustrated by the map below. 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. The IS regularly makes a call for membership after which organisations can apply for membership; their application will be reviewed and decided upon by the ISG. Members
must have the capacity to participate in and benefit from the work of UNOY Peacebuilders. In order to apply, the prospective members must complete an application form including information about their activities, their motivation to become a member and letters of reference.

Member organisations should appoint two contact persons under the age of 30, one female and one male and contribute to the network through peace tokens, that is, a contribution in services that members have to render each year in order to strengthen the network. Examples of services that our members can provide include written contributions (translations, research publications, newsletter articles) and time (planning projects or organising events in relation to a UNOY Peacebuilders campaign). Depending on their thematic priorities, member organisations can also join a topical working group, such as the Gender Working Group.

Networking with UNOY Peacebuilders is done in various ways, for instance through mailing lists, the monthly newsletter and social media as well as by attending events organised by UNOY Peacebuilders. The network is also strengthened through joint projects, namely becoming partner organisations for a specific project. UNOY strives to help its members develop their capacity, and does so in various ways.

Members in 2011

EUROPE
Beyond Skin, United Kingdom, www.beyondskin.net

Beyond Skin is a UK organisation which uses the arts to address sectarianism and racism in Northern Ireland. Beyond Skin uses initiatives such as the internet radio station Homely Planet to promote cultural relations and education among youth in Northern Ireland.

Azerbaijan Tafakkur Youth Association, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan Tafakkur Youth Association (ATYA) is national Youth NGO working towards building civil society in Azerbaijan. The organisation is located in Absheron Region (Between Baku and Sumgait cities). The process to establish ATYA began at the end of 2002. The main purpose of ATYA is to enlighten people, especially youth, on the social, scientific-cultural and legal spheres as well as development thinking. It also aims to strengthen young people’s role in civil society building.
YERITAC, Armenia, www.yeritac-am.org

YERITAC is an Armenian youth organisation. Its mission is regional and international youth collaboration and the implementation of youth projects in various aspects of social life, including democratization, civil society formation, human rights, peacebuilding, cultural heritage, ethnic relations, youth integration and development, social conflicts, etc. The organisation is also involved in the sphere of scientific research and assistance to young scholars.

Helsinki Citizens’ Assembly-Vanadzor (HCAV), Armenia, www.hcav.am

HCA Vanadzor is a non political, non religious, non profit NGO. The Mission of HCA Vanadzor is the promotion and support of Civil Initiatives, the strengthening of Human Rights Protection, and Peacebuilding Activities on national and regional levels. The Vision of HCA Vanadzor is a society formed with the supreme values of Human Dignity, Democracy and Peace.

SCAF Youth Center, Belarus, http://scaf.int.by

SCAF Youth Centre is an independent think tank and resource centre focused on youth involvement in peacebuilding, violence prevention, inter-ethnic confidence building, human rights and civic education. There are 70 active youth in the organisation. Some 500 young people are involved annually in SCAF Youth Centre activities.

Service Civil International, Belgium, www.sciint.org

Service Civil International (SCI) is one of the world’s largest international volunteering organisations with ninety years of experience in coordinating short and long term volunteering projects. Through volunteer exchanges they help break down barriers and prejudices between people of different social, cultural and national backgrounds.


U Move 4 Peace (UM4P) is the youth movement of Pax Christi Flanders which works with youth between 17 and 30 years old. UM4P works on three levels by creating encounters, dialogue, and peace projects between youth using art and expressive methods of peacebuilding. The organisation organises national and international trainings and exchanges.

European-Mediterranean Youth Bridge e.V. (EMYB e.V.), Germany, www.emyb.org

European Mediterranean Youth Bridge (Emyb), Germany, works for civil and political development in northern and southern countries. Emyb’s special focus is the creation of a better understanding between the Islamic worlds, Israel, the Balkan countries and their neighbouring states in Europe. The organisation aims to foster critical dialogue between people and cultures. These dialogues are based on the belief that the real enhancement of an existing situation can only evolve from serious questioning of the characteristics that humans, societies, countries and religions have in common, and where they differ.
The Peace Action Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR), Romania
www.patrir.ro

PATRIR has become one of the leading international centres for adult training in the field of peacebuilding and conflict transformation, development, post-war rebuilding, reconciliation and resolution. The Youth and Peacebuilding Programme channels young people's energies and inspiration to enhance knowledge, capacities and possibilities for actions that are decisive in resolving conflicts, bringing alternatives to violence and waging sustainable peace. PATRIR’s activities include training and voice (school presentations, teacher training, on-line learning), consulting, action (movie showings, festivals, campaigns), research and publication, and networking.

Forum of Youth Advocacy (FOYA), United Kingdom, www.forumforyouth.com

The Forum for Youth Advocacy (FOYA) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) working with youth in peace and development. They work to empower marginalized youth to realize their full potential, and build peace within themselves and their communities. FOYA’s work focuses on protecting children in armed conflict, engaging youth in peace building, raising HIV/AIDS awareness, and working with civil society for the inclusion of youth. One of their 2009 projects was the Friends of Naguru Fund, which raised money for young people in Naguru, Kumpala, to provide them with access to education.

Peace Dialogue, Armenia, www.peacedialogue.am

The vision of the organization is, through the formation of multilayer dialogue, to create consciousness among members of society so that they themselves are responsible for peace, that they are vested with the right to demand peace from the authorities. Our mission is to support the active participation of civil society in the processes of peaceful conflict resolution and promotion of respectful dialogue among members of conflicting societies, with the long-term aim of contributing to peaceful prevention of new conflicts.

CEIPES, Italy, www.ceipes.org

CEIPES is a non-profit global organisation active in the field of social and human development that works through education for a world of peace and equality in order to grant fulfilment of universal human rights. The mission of CEIPES is to foster and support the sustainable development of local communities and individuals’ empowerment through education and training, human rights and international cooperation.

Academy for Peace and Development, Georgia, http://www.apd.ge

The Academy for Peace and Development (APD) is an international, non-governmental, non-profit, non-political youth organisation, which aims at empowering youth, promoting peace, tolerance and solidarity in South Caucasus, through assisting young people to acquire knowledge and develop their skills and competencies.

The Human RightS Initiative (HRSI) is an awareness raising and capacity building organization based at Central European University (CEU). HRSI’s mission is to promote social engagement through awareness raising and capacity building. Our main target groups are CEU students and alumni, local and regional students, NGO staff and activists as well as local and regional NGOs.

Fundacio Catalunya Voluntaria, http://www.barcelonavoluntaria.org/

fundació catalunya voluntària The Private Foundation Catalunya Voluntaria is a non governmental, non-profit and non partisan organisation founded in October 2007, though its origins are found in the local youth association Barcelona Voluntaria, established in 1999. The FCV exists to offer young people the opportunity to develop their competences through their active participation in actions and projects with a positive impact on their communities.

NORTH AMERICA

Sports4HOPE, www.sports4hope.org

Sports4HOPE seeks to prevent and reconcile conflicts by inspiring hope, improving the quality of life, and empowering youth in conflict-affected areas through sport and peace education. Their activities are focused on bringing the youth of divided communities together with the aim of reconciliation.

LATIN AMERICA

Argentine Youth Organisation for the United Nations (OAJNU), Argentina, www.oajnu.org

OAJNU is a youth organisation that shares the values and goals of the UN charter. The organisation has headquarters in 6 main cities in Argentina and has over 300 young volunteers under the age of 30. OAJNU promotes change through education, and in 2001 was acknowledged by the UN and incorporated into the UN Department of Public Information.

Fundacion Escuelas de Paz (Schools of Peace Foundation), Colombia, www.escuelasdepaz.org

The Fundación Escuelas de Paz is a collective project with an interdisciplinary team of professionals which started working in October of 1997. The project is part of a range of national and international institutions that work in the promotion and popularization of the Culture of Peace, human rights and International Humanitarian law.
Forum of Youth Corporation from Guayaquil, Ecuador, http://orgs.tigweb.org/18005

Corporación Foro de la Juventud de Guayaquil - Ecuador is a nonprofit organisation founded on March 30, 1995 in Guayaquil, Ecuador to promote the civic education by developing programs that promote comprehensive human welfare and the protection of human rights. The aim is to support youth leadership and social responsibility by developing educational and training programs.

Dinamismo Juvenil A.C., Mexico, www.dinamismojuvenil.org.mx

Dinamismo Juvenil is a Mexican civil non-profit organisation. Its mission is to promote spaces for children and youths, to transform the living conditions in their communities and to help young people lead community projects.

Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Peru (BVB), Peru, http://bvbperu.ning.com

The Brigada de Voluntarios Bolivarianos del Peru is a national youth organisation that works with and for young people by implementing voluntary service activities with an international focus and aimed at social cohesion and solidarity. They work for change, for the personal and social development of young people, and for their integration and participation in the decision-making on youth policies for social change.

AFRICA

Youths for Peacebuilding and Development in Africa (YOUPEDA), Nigeria, www.youpedafrica.org

Youth for Peace Building and Development in Africa - (YOUPEDA) is a non-governmental, non-political, and non-religious non-profit youth organisation formed in 2005 for the development of youth in their immediate communities. YOUPEDA invests in health and peace education for young people, individuals, society and Africa as a whole.

Action des jeunes pour le Développement Communautaire et la Paix (ADECOP), DRC

Action des jeunes pour le Développement Communautaire et la Paix is a non-governmental, apolitical and non-profit youth-led organisation created in Goma (Democratic Republic of the Congo) in 2002 and has 117 youth active in the organisation. There is also a Youth-led Initiatives (YLI) network of about 700 members throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The activities reach about 10,000-15,000 youth each year.

Young Peace Brigades (YPB), Ghana and Sierra Leone, www.youngpeacebrigades.org

Young Peace Brigades is a charity and NGO focused on tackling poverty through promoting access to opportunities for community education, economic development, and health services through volunteering and community self help initiatives. Along with capacity building, advocacy and research, YPB runs a number of successful volunteer and exchange programmes and services.
Kenya Youth Foundation (KYF), Kenya

Kenya Youth Foundation is an indigenous youth organisation founded in 1998 with the sole mandate of mainstreaming youth issues and concerns within the paradigms of policy and development at local, national and international levels. KYF envisions a society where youth from all walks of life play their role in policy development, so as to engage in self-sustaining socio-economic activities with the focus of making the world a better place to live in.


Kesofo uses sports as a medium of social change with a focus on youth transformation. The specific aims of the organisation are to use sports to promote social cohesion through management of risk groups (i.e. young people) and the promotion of unity within communities and to promote education by using sport as an attraction to encourage school enrolment and supporting sports as strategy to enhance child development.

Movement for Peace and Reconciliation in Liberia (MOPAR), Liberia

MOPAR is a promoter of peace and reconciliation in Liberia. The organisation works on the capacity development of women and youth leaders, and fosters peer discussions amongst youth through their community Peace Forum. MOPAR believes that conflict resolution can be achieved through discussing issues of commonality between parties.

African Youth Relief Organisation (AYRO), Benin

ARYO is a peace organisation from Benin, working towards the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence. ARYO mainly operates through capacity building, advocacy and public conferences on peace. The organisation aims to protect human rights and to support those living with HIV/AIDS.

Groupement de Promotion Integrale (GPI), DRC

GPI is an organisation working to rebuild peace and transform conflict between tribes and ethnicities in Burundi, following the 1996 war there. Their activities are mostly conducted through education, promotion, dialogue and cultural activities.

Somaliland Youth Development Association (SOYDA), Somalia

SOYDA is a youth based organisation and all activities and programmes run by SOYDA are led by youth. The aim of these youth led programs is to show that youth are able to benefit their communities and are best able to assist other youth. SOYDA wants Somali youth to be able to tackle their problems and participate actively in all issues concerning their life and the community in general.

African Child Peace Initiative (ACPI), Liberia

The African Child Peace Initiative is a youth-led, secular, non-tribal, non-political, non-governmental peace and community development organisation dedicated to creating a better future for the children and young people in post-war Liberia through youth friendly community development and peacebuilding programmes. ACPI works with Liberian youth affected by the civil war - especially the
children - and young women working with children. It also focuses on providing skill training programs to young people and encouraging active participation by young people in peacebuilding and community development in Caldwell and surrounding townships.

**Peacelinks, Sierra Leone**, [http://peace-links.org](http://peace-links.org)

Peacelinks is a youth led organisation that is dedicated to enabling young people, especially those in extremely difficult circumstances, to discover their hidden talent and untapped energy so as to become responsible and well-informed global citizens. The organisation reaches about 500 young people each year through their outreach programme, youth camp, vocational skills training, arts and craft training and music.

**Young Leaders Sierra Leone (YLSL), Sierra Leone**, [www.youngleaders-sierraleone.org](http://www.youngleaders-sierraleone.org)

Young Leaders Sierra Leone was formed in 2003 by youth leaders from Sierra Leone and Sierra Leonean Diaspora to promote the growing recognition of the importance of young people’s participation in decision-making. YLSL was officially launched by the Vice President of the Republic of Sierra Leone in July 2005 at the Miatta Conference Center in Freetown. The organisation promotes commitment and understanding of human rights and democracy. It also fosters a democratic, economically viable, culturally minded, socially oriented, development focused, politically stabled, peaceful and enlightened people, who are free from corruption.

**Coalition for Peace in Africa (COPA)**, [www.copafrica.org](http://www.copafrica.org)

COPA Southern Africa is part of COPA continental which is an African network of peace builders whose purpose is to promote peace, justice, human rights and development through capacity building, advocacy, research and documentation. Today COPA has a membership of 217 individuals and organisations, of which a good number are youth-led, working for peace at various levels across Africa.

**Programme déncadrement et de reinsertion des jeunes ex combattants et en difficultes (PerexC), Democratic Republic Congo**

PerexC is a youth organisation from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The organisation focuses on helping ex-combatants reintegrate into the community. Activities include training the ex-combatants in professions and fostering peacebuilding between them and their communities.

**Amahoro Youth Club, Burundi**, [http://amahoroyouthclub.wordpress.com](http://amahoroyouthclub.wordpress.com)

The Amahoro Youth Club (AYC) is a youth-led organisation founded in 2007 by a group of young University students in Bujumbura, Burundi as a constructive reply to the lack of representation and participation of the young generations in the social and political life of the country. AYC aims to contribute to the consolidation of peace and sustainable development through open spaces for dialogue and idea-sharing by young people.


The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation that stands for the betterment of Eritrean youth. The mission of NUEYS is to organise and build a versatile youth that is aware and proud of its culture, identity, heritage and history. It also
strives to build disciplined, self-confident, mature and responsible youth throughout the country, as well as among Eritrean youth in the Diaspora.

**African Millenium Vision, Burundi**

**West Africa Center for Peace Foundation, Ghana**, [www.wacpfgh.org](http://www.wacpfgh.org)

The aims and vision of WACPF are to promote peaceful coexistence for all, and to provide youth with the necessary skills in peacebuilding, leadership and non-violence. Their main areas of expertise include youth training on peace building, conflict resolution, human rights, leadership skills and community advocacy.

**ASIA**

**Initiative for Peace and Justice (IPJ), Kashmir, India**

IPJ promotes non-violence by organizing open air discussions among youth of different faith and mindsets, and also looks at the incentives for peace and justice conveyed through their writings. Reality shows that conflicts such as the one in Kashmir are at the root of global disturbances. IPJ’s mission is peacebuilding at the international level but also at the grassroot level, especially in conflict zones.

**GZO Peace Institute/ GenPeace, Philippines**, [http://GenPeace.tk](http://GenPeace.tk)

GenPeace is a network of organisations and individuals engaged in youth-led advocacy for a just and sustainable peace in the Philippines. Peace, according to GenPeace, is jobs, justice, food, freedom, land and liberation. It is social justice and food. It is the Bangsamoro’s right to self-determination, as well as the Indigenous People’s right to ancestral lands. Peace is a government accountable to its people. Peace is freedom from fear and want.

**Coalition of Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY) Pakistan**, [www.crypk.tk](http://www.crypk.tk)

Coalition for the Rights and Responsibilities of Youth is a youth-led organisation that promotes and protects youths’ rights and responsibilities in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. CRY’s vision is to develop a sense of responsibility among adolescents and young people by organising them into groups and building their capacities so that they can play roles as agents of change in their communities for the promotion of rights, responsibilities and tolerance.

**Arab Education Institutes (AEI), Palestine**, [www.aicenter.org](http://www.aicenter.org)

AEI-Open Windows is an Arab-Palestinian NGO affiliated with Pax Christi International and established in Bethlehem in 1986 by a group of Palestinian educators. Working with youth, women and educators, it is engaged in the field of community education to contribute to the general causes of participation in public life and in peace and justice.

**International Friends Youth Society (IFYS), Bangladesh**, [http://ifysbd.org](http://ifysbd.org)
IFYS is a non-government voluntary organisation working on awareness building programs in various sectors like Arsenic free fresh water, HIV/AIDS prevention, Micro-Entrepreneurs development, unemployment problems, etc. in their locality. They are also working towards the MDGs.

National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh (NFYOB), www.nfyob-bd.netfirms.com

National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh (NFYOB) is the national coordinating council of youth organisations in the country with a central committee that is elected and constituted by the representatives of different member organisations. There are 300,000 youth active in the organisation and it reaches about 500,000 youth through its activities. In 2000 NFYOB became a nationally lead agency and organized the Global Youth Service Day (GYSD). It has conducted the GYSD successfully each year since then.

International Palestinian Youth League (IPYL), Palestine, www.ipyl.org

IPYL’s mission is to empower youth aged 15-35 against social, economical, and political challenges in Palestinian society, which the Israeli occupation has aggravated. As a result of this, Palestinian youth have been denied educational opportunities, sites for cultural activities and community development resources.

Youth Power (YUVSATTA), India, www.yuvsatta.org

Volunteers of Yuvatta realize that for improvement in man’s condition, every dimension of social life must be improved. They do it, in their small ways. By combining discussion with action, in social, educational, environmental and medical arenas, with the aim of a more desirable future built on contributions from youth.

Youth Network for Peace and Development, Nepal

YNPD has a vision of prosperous Nepal with the leadership of youth leaders, where the youth manipulated still, will be in leading place and the adults will be for advices. YNPD attempts to build capacities of youth leaders from rural areas on project planning and management. YNPD is an organization fighting for the whole empowerment of the local and rural youth who are still not provided any opportunity for exploring their internal talents.
International Steering Group (ISG)

The ISG consists of 5 members that are active young people within UNOY member organisations coming from different regions of the world. The ISG is the member organisations’ representative body within the network. The ISG’s main function is to give strategic advice on priorities and thematic orientation of the organisation as well as advising on the planning of activities, taking into consideration members and affiliates’ needs, concerns and proposals.

Members of the ISG are proposed by the member organisation and the secretariat, in response to an open call. ISG members are selected for a period of two years. 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 and they can communicate directly to both the secretariat and the ISG to express their views and concerns. The ISG is in charge of selecting its new members, in consultation with the member organisations, Board and secretariat.

In 2011, the ISG consisted of:

- Rahel Weldeab, Eritrea
- Paula Ramirez Diazgranados, Colombia
- Hovhannes Jonas Grigoryan, Armenia
- Nikki Al Ben Santos Delfin, Philippines
- Mohamed Sillah Sesay, Sierra Leone

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.

Members of the Board in 2011 were:

- Jennifer Aggus, co-chair
- Merlijn van Waas, co-chair
- Lieke Scheewe, secretary
- Lilian Peters (until May 2011)
- Valari van Tusschenbroek, treasurer (since May 2011)
- Marije van Velzen (until June 2011)
- Wout Visser (until July 2011)
- Maya Kudamurad (until September 2011)
- Sanne Tielemans, board member (since November 2011)
- Rob Watson, board member

Honorary Chairs:

- Nikolai N. Firjubin
- Rabbi A. Soetendorp
- Maria Kooijman
International Secretariat (IS)

The main function of the International Secretariat (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 ISG and the Board.

The International Secretariat consists of a young international and multicultural team (generally under the age of 30), led by the International Secretariat and Outreach Coordinator and the International Network and Programme Coordinator, who together form the Management Team (MT) and consisting of a financial officer and several interns. Depending on the activities, the team can be assisted by freelance project leaders.

Staff in 2011:

- Lillian Solheim, International Network and Programme Coordinator
- Stephanie Moy, International Secretariat and Outreach Coordinator (until October 2011)
- Matilda Flemming, International Secretariat and Outreach Coordinator (from November 2011)
- Julia Deng, Financial Officer (until June 2011)
- Joseph Koli, Financial Officer (from June 2011)

Team members have the opportunity to take part in training courses, study sessions, or conferences, as representatives of UNOY Peacebuilders, as learning from these activities benefits both the individual and the organisation.

Volunteers and interns make up an essential part of UNOY Peacebuilders’ activities. The interns in the office are all volunteers, and make up a corner stone of our activities. Interns generally volunteer for 4-6 months on full- or part-time basis. Special trainings are provided to the interns jointly with other organisations. Volunteers furthermore make important contributions to events organised by UNOY Peacebuilders.

In 2011, the International Secretariat has been supported by the following short-term project leaders and interns:

- Alessandra Verrucci, Italy, F
- Barbara Amaral, Brazil, F
- Catalina Barzescu, Romania, F
- Charles Mweke, Nigeria, M
- Eefje van Esch, Netherlands, F
- Gloria Mkushi, Zimbabwe, F
- Jeltsje Boersma, Netherlands, F
- Johanna Ospina, Colombia, F
- Kathrin Gottwald, Germany, F
- Lenka Valacsiaova, Slovakia, F
- Marta Pellek, Hungary, F
- Patricia Martin Gomez, Spain, F
- Reenske Oosterwijk, Netherlands, F
- Roosmarijn de Geus, Netherlands, F
- Sani Kosasih, Indonesia, F
- Sarah de Morant, France, F
- Sarah Harrison, Australia, F
- Suhith Sitharthan, Singapore, M
- Sybylla Andersen, Australia, F
- Vera Hendriks, Netherlands, F
- Vera Santner, Austria, F

Volunteering interns are generally satisfied with their stay at UNOY Peacebuilders. The international and multicultural, young and dynamic atmosphere is especially appreciated. Efforts continue to be made to strive for gender balance in the team. The turn over 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.
Pool of resource persons

The pool of resource persons is composed by persons with expertise in the fields of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, youth work or other related fields; previous involvement within the UNOY Peacebuilders activities is not mandatory but is a plus. The pool of resource persons also includes volunteers, who regularly assist in various projects and activities. Many former board members, staff and interns regularly support the international secretariat with advice and expertise.
Activities and projects
UNOY Peacebuilders works through non-formal education on three specific themes: capacity building, advocacy and gender mainstreaming. In the following pages, you will find information about projects implemented by UNOY Peacebuilders in 2011 and their impact on participants.

Capacity building: A large component of the work of UNOY Peacebuilders is Capacity Building, which refers to enhancing individuals’ abilities to achieve their goals, through an active process of learning and developing. We develop our capacity building activities programme on more than one level. Through our projects and activities, we aim to provide knowledge, skills and tools for different target groups, including the UNOY Peacebuilders’ members, the international youth team at the International Secretariat, as well as Dutch and Diaspora youth living in The Netherlands.

We do so by organising workshops and training courses, which are effective ways of building up the skills of young peacebuilders and which provide a space for young people from different background to exchange experiences, network, and build bonds of friendship and solidarity.

Advocacy and Campaigning: Advocacy is the act of pleading or arguing in favour of something, such as a cause, idea, or policy and is an ongoing dynamic process. UNOY Peacebuilders advocates for the role of youth in peacebuilding, and more specifically to promote the visibility and recognition of youth active in peacebuilding, promote partnership between young peacebuilders and other stakeholders, involve youth in campaigning for a culture of peace and, finally, encourage them to voice their opinions and concerns in forums. UNOY Peacebuilders targets all levels of decision-making, including the local, national, regional, and international level.

Campaigning refers to raising awareness through gatherings, public activities and PR-campaigns amongst the general public on issues of concern to the members of the network. In this respect, UNOY Peacebuilders focuses on issues relating to the role of youth in peacebuilding, with the aim of motivating the youth in particular to take action.

Gender: UNOY Peacebuilders has been working on gender since 2008 and systematically includes a gender perspective in all activities implemented.

Activities during 2011 in chronological order
Job Shadowing: Learning by seeing, seeing by doing! (November 2010 - October 2011)
The project ‘Learning by seeing, seeing by doing’ took place over a period of one year.

The project ‘Learning by seeing, seeing by doing’ was designed to help improve future international cooperation between 10 youth-led organisations from around the world, by sending their young leaders to another organisation to observe and follow their activities for a week. In the period of one year, youth leaders from ten different countries working on peacebuilding especially related to poverty, social exclusion and gender equality initiatives engaged in jobshadowing exchanges – both as hosting and visiting youth workers. In addition to the jobshadowing, they gave workshops and trainings, met with policy-makers to promote their cause and organised a campaign for the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2011. The project was funded by the European Commission’s Youth in Action Programme 3.2 – Youth in the World: Cooperation with countries other than the neighbouring countries of the European Union, the European Youth Fund of the Council of Europe, Oxfam Novib and GPPAC.
The project started with a preparation meeting with the core team members in order to plan the project and distribute tasks and responsibilities, such as fundraising, timeline, application process, project manual, core team management, etc.

The partners were involved in the project design and planning from the beginning of the project. The partners were responsible for organising the local visits themselves under the guidelines for the projects. They were also in touch with their counterpart that would visit and together would choose a specific thematic focus for the visit and plan the workshops and policy visits. The job shadowing visits themselves took place in the period from March to October 2011. Each partner organisation had the opportunity to send one youth leader to another partner in the project and receive one youth leader from a second partner organisation. Below, you can see how the visits were organised.

The job shadowing visits included youth meetings, outreach activities, workshops and policy visits. The themes covered were poverty, social exclusion, gender equality, youth participation and peace advocacy. Each job shadowing meeting focused on peer-to-peer learning, among colleagues from the European Union and partners in the global South, using different methods like discussions, interviews, and participatory learning.

During the job shadowing exchange the youth leaders:
- shared about their organisations, its aims and objectives, and the local realities in their countries, including main challenges of youth organisations;
- shared experience and knowledge regarding the running of a youth organisation, including management and legal structures;
- shared experience and knowledge regarding the running of local youth projects (development, implementation, fundraising and evaluation);
- engaged in local outreach activities where the guest youth leader provided a workshop or activity for the youth community of the host organisation aiming to raise awareness on the impact of global issues related to poverty (MDG1) and social exclusion and gender inequality (MDG3) on youth in communities in other countries;
- Conducted two meetings with local/regional/national policy makers active for youth or development affairs related to the topic of poverty, social exclusion and gender inequality;
- Engaged in activities to facilitate a cultural exchange between the visiting youth leader and the local youth.

In total, approximately 15,000 people were reached. The direct impact on the young people involved include personal links with youth workers from other countries, better partnership, improved networks, sharing of good practices, understanding of local realities. Through the project, partners also got to better understand the role of local context and its existing structure in supporting the work of the organisations (for example, in Ghana, the jobshadower had to
ask permission from every chief of each village to gather young girls for the women empowerment workshop).

Key outcomes of the project included increased understanding of the similar global challenges facing youth in the North and South, building of solidarity and mutual understanding within the UNOY Peacebuilders network as well as strengthened international relationship between the ten organisations that participated, therefore making it easy to initiate projects not only between each of the two linked countries but with the other countries as well. Furthermore, the project contributed to globally creating better communities through awareness-raising and capacity building of young people.

For more information see the project report and the project website, which includes the blogs from the job shadowers.

**Interplay Towards a Policy Making Exercise (December 2010 - July 2011)**

In the project ‘Interplay Towards a Policy Making Exercise’ 10 to 15 youth/student teams from different cities in the Netherlands competed in researching the impact of the European development policies in (post) conflict countries, by means of a position paper, while it built the advocacy capacity of a number of UNOY member organizations. The competition included a problem analysis on the effect of violence on youth in certain (post-) conflict countries in the Global South. Each team consisted of 2 to 5 persons. They were assigned a (post-) conflict country in the Global South and were linked with a member organisation of UNOY. The participating UNOY members were Amahoro Youth Club, Burundi; Somaliland Youth Development Association (SOYDA,) Somalia; Arab Educational Institute (AEI), Palestine, Coalition for Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY), Pakistan; Fundacion Escuelas de Paz, Colombia; African Child Peace Initiative (ACPI), Liberia; PEREX-C, DRC; YOUPEDA, Nigeria and Kenya Youth Foundation (KYF), Kenya

Together with the youth from the UNOY member organizations the Dutch youth assessed the impact of EU development cooperation policies and of violence on the population in the country in question.

A team of experts and advisors chosen by UNOY Peacebuilders selected the best proposal consisting of an actor mapping, a problem analysis and a position paper including an advocacy strategy. The winning team together with their partner in the South won the opportunity to attend lobby and advocacy meeting in Brussels. There the winning team met EU representatives of the European Parliament and policy officers of the Director General working on Development Cooperation of the European Commission and presented their position paper to them.

During all the phases of the project, UNOY Peacebuilders provided input and support to the teams taking part in the competition by organising workshops in cities in the Netherlands on advocacy, conflict and actor mapping. UNOY Peacebuilders supported the winning team and the relevant partner from the South on their lobby mission in Brussels.

For more information see the project website and the project report.

**Peace of Minds 2011 (May 2011– February 2012)**

Peace of Minds (previously known as Do It Yourself) is a two-year project carried out in cooperation with Upact, UNOY Peacebuilders and Windesheim College. The first round of the project took place in 2011, and the second round will take place in the autumn of 2012. Peace of Minds is an educational programme for Dutch students that is aimed at sensitising them to issues connected to development
and peacebuilding. The students are challenged with a real-life development problem, or challenge, that they should try to solve by coming up with innovative ideas to find solutions to the challenge.

Five member organisations of UNOY Peacebuilders (OAJNU, Argentina; National Federation of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh; Perex-CV, DRC; ADECOP, DRC and Arab Education Institute, Palestine) were partners in the project and provided the Dutch students with challenges. The Dutch students worked together in a team with one of the international partners worked to find a solution to the challenge. The project included a kick-off weekend, master classes, workshops, excursions and a public event.

Peace of Minds will continue with a second round of challenges in autumn 2012.

For more information see the project website.

**Youth Participation through Virtual and Intercultural Dialogue, School (3-9 July)**

The project “Virtual and Intercultural Dialogue” was a three-phase project that took place in 2011. The project included an action research on youth participation and intercultural dialogue, a 5-day training course and local follow-up projects to advocate for the outcomes and recommendations of the research or a project to address the issues identified. The project was organised by UNOY Peacebuilders in collaboration with six organisations from across Europe and was supported by Council of Europe (through European Youth Foundation) and by Haëlla Stichting.

After the research phase and online discussions, the participants attended the training course on youth participation and advocacy that took place on July 3-9th in Schoorl. The main focus of the training was the empowerment of youth in youth participation on issues related to intercultural dialogue. The participants learned and discussed topics related to youth participation and project management. The topics included, for example, ways of conducting advocacy, conflict mapping, levels of participation, a problem tree exercise, SWOT analysis and communication strategy.

Participants shared information about their research process, resources and interests with each other. Issues such as diversity, advocacy, citizenship, youth participation, intercultural dialogue, experience and current realities of theirs countries were discussed in smaller groups as well. The participants learned not only about the different issues they were facing, but could also compare and learn about the similarities. In the evaluation, participants scored the training course as “good” or “very good”. The participants were enthusiastic about meetings with other people, cultures and countries (intercultural dialogue), and would have liked even more team building activities.

For more information see the project report.

**International Day of Peace (17 - 23 September)**

The UNOY Peacebuilders organised many events in the week of the International Day of Peace. The celebration aimed to raise awareness about the International Day of Peace and about the role of governments and the general public on peace building efforts. It also aimed to promote the work of smaller NGOs for peace worldwide. Because it was the 30th anniversary of the International Day of Peace, the celebration did not only cover the 21st of September, but the whole week. The programme of the week was as follows:
17 September: Tribute to Miles Davis Festival. UNOY Peacebuilders took part in the festival in order to raise awareness of our activities as well as to fundraise for our activities. The goal of this event was to reach out to a new audience and to potential donors/volunteers, increase the amount of resource persons, advertise UNOY’s activities and raise awareness and money for the upcoming Hague in Peace project. Miles Davis was one of the most influential jazz musicians of the 20th century and he raised his voice, attitude and image against the turbulent African civil rights movement, a political force uniting both young people and older generations in a fight for greater freedoms and peace.

18 September: The Hague International Day. The Hague International Day, which is organised by the municipality of They Hague, allows the public to take a look behind the scenes of international organisations in The Hague. At the World Forum in The Hague, organisations engaged in promoting peace, justice and security had the chance to present their work to the visitors. UNOY Peacebuilders also took part in the fair by setting up a stand to promote the work done by our network, as well as to promote other events organised by us during the week. Furthermore, some international organisations opened their doors and arranged tours around their offices for the public.

19-21 September: Photo exhibition. UNOY Peacebuilders, together with Fundació Catalunya Voluntària and in the framework of the European Year of Volunteering, organised a photo competition with the theme “Youth Volunteering for Peace”. Member organisations of UNOY Peacebuilders had the chance to send in three photos, and the best photos were displayed in the American Book Center in The Hague and online. The public then had the chance to vote for the entries, and the winner was presented with a digital photo frame.

21 September: Jam for Peace! UNOY organised a very successful concert in Café Quirky in The Hague, where young and talented musicians celebrated peace through their music. The line-up included Biba and Lukas, 100 Watt and Odd Establishment and attracted a young and lively audience of 120 people. Moreover, peace flowers and poems from the Valentine Peace Project were handed out to the audience at the end.

22 September: Debate: the role of youth in democratic transitions. The year 2011 has seen several long-term oppressed regimes go through what the media called the Arab spring. The Tunisian revolution has been an inspiration for other Arab countries and in particular for the youth. Educated and open to the world, the youth have realised that they had the power to change things peacefully: the protests have shared techniques of civil resistance in sustained campaigns involving striking, demonstrations, marches and rallies. In addition to the use of social media to organise, communicate and raise
awareness in the face of state attempts at repression and internet censorship. Panel included Dr. Kristen Cheney, senior lecturer of Children and Youth Studies at the ISS; Hilton Nyamukapa, student of Dr. Kristen Cheney; Fatma Wakil, born in Afghanistan and board member of the Afghan Youth Foundation (Keihan); and Yassine Boussaid, cultural entrepreneur and together they discussed the role of youth in democratic transitions.

Workshops
20 September: Workshop on intercultural dialogue. The workshop on Intercultural Dialogue was facilitated by UNOY Peacebuilders in their office. It was organised in partnership with Global Human Rights Defense, and the 30 participants discussed and explored challenges to intercultural dialogue. The workshop received very good feedback from the participants, and the activities were considered effective.

20 September: Film screening: “The Day After Peace”. In the film, Jeremy Gilley explains all obstacles and challenges he had to face to create an international day of peace and retraces with humour all steps he had to make, contacts he had to go through. The screening was attended my 22 people, and the film was considered very inspiring.

21 September: Workshop on role of youth in peace talks. Based on the situation in Afghanistan, participants learned how the various youth stakeholders of a conflict communicate with each other. The workshop was facilitated by Fatma Wakil, Board member of the Keihan Foundation and Ilias Mahttab. In the workshop, the participants were assigned to roles of different stakeholders in the conflict in Afghanistan, and they simulated a conference between the parties, trying to promote the interests of the specific side, from the perspective of the youth.

22 September: Workshop on project implementation. The workshop gave the participants the opportunity to learn how to plan and manage a project and what the different phases in the process are. The workshop was facilitated by Yasir Syed, Chair and project manager of Culture Clash 4 U.

23 September: Workshop on youth work and peacebuilding. With this workshop on youth work and peacebuilding, participants learned how they could engage locally for global peace. The workshop was facilitated by Janneke Francissen of Platform Spartak. After the workshop a BINNGO-event (Bi-Monthly Informal Networking for NGO) was held, during which, youth and potential volunteers had the opportunity to meet NGOs looking for young volunteers and/or developing youth-related projects.

All the activities above were organised in the framework of the jobshadowing project (see above). For more information see the project website.

PAVE the Way! Peace and Volunteering in Europe 2011 (23 October – 29 October)
The Study Session on Volunteering for Peace took place in the European Youth Centre in Budapest, Hungary from October 23 to 29, 2011 and was organised in collaboration with UNOY Peacebuilders members Service Civil International, Fundació Catalunya Voluntària and Academy for Peace and Development as well as with The South East European Youth Network and Support Initiative for Liberty and Democracy in cooperation with the Council of Europe. The Study Session brought together 30 young men and women from 22 different countries. All participants had experience in and are active with an organisation in the field of youth work, peace building, conflict transformation, social work, inter-cultural learning and / or cultural diversity. The Study Session aimed at strengthening the understanding of key concepts and practices related to volunteering for peace, thus leading to the enhanced peacebuilding dimension in voluntary activities within organisations in UNOY Peacebuilders’ network.
During the week of the Study Session, the participants explored the concept of volunteering by sharing their own experiences and perceptions, they learned about different people, cultures, insights in volunteering and peace, different perceptions of peace and layers of volunteering and they visited NGOs that are either run by volunteers or working with volunteers. Throughout the session, the participants shared best practices of volunteering and volunteer management, as well as their different experiences of volunteering within the country where they were carrying out their volunteer work at the moment. They were also introduced to important concepts around the issue, such as peace, peace building and conflict and how this relates to volunteering. Furthermore, the participants also held their own workshops where good practices and innovative projects could be explored. The Study Session was highly evaluated by the participants. They indicated that the Study Session helped to develop practical insights and therefore the general aim was almost fully achieved. A number of follow-up projects were also planned during the session.

Gender Equality and Diversity in European Youth Initiatives (20 – 27 November)

“Gender Equality and Diversity in European Youth Initiatives” was a training course for 24 youth workers (including trainers and support staff) from European countries, such as the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, Spain, Romania, Hungary, Turkey and Poland. The training took place in Schoorl, the Netherlands, on 20-27 November 2011. The training aimed at dealing with gender discrimination and inequality as well as to provide the participants with a “gender lens”. Furthermore, the training course strove to encourage the participants to develop a gender-sensitive approach in their youth work. The training course focused on the role of young people and of grassroots youth work initiatives in raising local communities’ awareness of gender issues. In addition, attention was paid to other social inclusion issues such as disability and ethnicity (specifically regarding Roma minorities) as these issues are often closely interlinked with gender inequalities and discrimination. Moreover, the participants had the opportunity to go to Amsterdam for one day and learn about the work developed by organizations such as Amnesty International, Fairwork and Mamacash.

The training course was based on non-formal education. Tools, such as peer-to-peer learning, workshops, participants’ presentations, simulations and exercises were integral parts of the project. The gender toolkit developed by UNOY Peacebuilders was used as a guide for the methodology.

The partners were involved in the planning of the project, the implementation, evaluation and reporting as well as disseminating the results through articles on the topic.

According to the participants’ evaluations, they gained awareness and a new broader approach regarding the topics discussed.

As a result of the training, participants indicated that they wanted to use the information on gender mainstreaming theory and gender analysis in their home organisations. They also wanted to
incorporate the method of forum theatre in their own work and presentations. Furthermore, many of the participants showed interest in raising awareness by giving a presentation, training, workshop or campaign on gender in their organisation. Others wanted to conduct more research on gender and LGBTQI related issue.

According to the evaluation, the training course has increased the motivation of participants in various ways. Some have become more motivated to continue their work on gender in exchanges and trainings, others have been introduced to new tools and skills to approach LGBTQI problems and how to include a gender aspect in their work.

For more information see the project report.

Events that UNOY Partnered or Participated in

UNOY Peacebuilders works in close partnership with both its members but also with other strategic partners. Every year, UNOY partners in activities coordinated by one of our partners. We see this as an important way of increasing our leverage, especially as UNOY Peacebuilders is a small organisation with limited resources. Furthermore we put big value on working together with like-minded organisations, as we are convinced that our impact is vastly increased through these partnerships.

THIMUN (26 January)
UNOY Peacebuilders held a workshop on project management as a part of the Youth Assembly organized within The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) 2011. THIMUN Youth Assembly aims to educate youth on local and global issues in a multicultural setting, while emphasizing the role of the youth as a stakeholder, through thematic and project management workshops, lectures and discussions.

PEACEbag Training Course (22 – 28 March)
Peacebag was a seminar in Athens, Greece which was a EuroMed training on Intercultural Education for Peace and Conflict Mediation. This formed part of a long term project in partnership with 18 organizations from 14 countries in the European-Mediterranean region supported by the Anna Lindh Foundation. The Peacebag included both theory and practice combined through trainings taking place in Barcelona, Cairo and Athens which then lead to the development of a Peace Bag Toolkit for intercultural understanding and fostering a culture of peace to be used and carried out in different global and local contexts.

For more information see the project website.

Meeting Alliance of Civilisation (9-10 April)
UNOY Peacebuilders took part in the first convention of the Global Youth Movement for the Alliance of Civilizations (GYM for AOC) in Baku, Azerbaijan. Representatives from youth organisations interested in joining the GYM for AOC met to discuss and make decisions regarding this structure’s governance as well as its action plan for the coming year.

Young Child Rights Advocates Project (May 2011)
Seven young advocates were selected to take part in the Young Child Rights Advocates Project in The Netherlands in May 2011. The project was organised by ICDI and IREWOC. During the training course, in which several of UNOY members took part, the youth advocates got support in developing a project proposal and training in generating media attention. On 28th of May, the group visited UNOY Peacebuilders’ office where they received a presentation on
the activities and the network of UNOY. UNOY Peacebuilders also gave a speech on the final day of the event.

**SpeakOut! International Human Rights Training Programme 2011 (15 – 17 June)**

This event was organised by the Unrepresented Nations and People Organisation (UNPO). It was designed to bring together UNPO youth members from a wide range of nations and backgrounds along side young professionals in the Netherlands with a profound interest in Human Rights, in order to learn and develop a mutual understanding and working knowledge of human rights advocacy, United Nations tools and mechanisms, effective lobbying practices in the European Parliament, and enjoy an opportunity to network with peers. UNOY did a presentation on how to design an advocacy strategy. In this presentation, a theoretical overview of what is advocacy was given and exercises were done with the problem tree, SWOT and mapping.

**Opportunities for All? Mainstreaming Gender Equality in European Youth Projects’ in Bosnia-Herzegovina (2 July - 10 July)**

This study session was organized by Centar Fenix. UNOY Peacebuilders was a partner organisation in the training course and had the task of treasurer. It was aimed to share experiences and knowledge on how gender equality can be promoted and mainstreamed in youth projects as well as how to ensure gender equality in youth work with young people. Objectives were to identify challenges young people face in relation to gender equality, to explore current trends of gender mainstreaming in youth work, to exchange experiences and good practices of gender mainstreaming in youth projects and youth work in general, to explore ways of ensuring gender equality in youth projects and to analyze and make proposals on how the principles of gender equality in youth work can be implemented in Europe and European Youth policy.

**Duke University Summer Program (13 July)**

In continuation of its work to introduce more young people to peacebuilding initiatives and due to the success of last year’s visit, UNOY Peacebuilders met once again with a group of 27 American students from Duke University’s Summer Program. The students, aged between 16 and 18, had been specially selected by Duke University, and had come to the Netherlands for an educational visit, as part of a summer course on international humanitarian and criminal law.

During the meeting, held on the afternoon of the 13th of July at UNOY Peacebuilders’ office in The Hague, the participants were introduced to UNOY Peacebuilders and its activities. Several of the member organisations and their projects were introduced and a debate was held on “The Role of Youth in Peacebuilding”. The participants were very responsive to the topics discussed, and their public speaking skills were admired by the UNOY Peacebuilders staff.

**Summer School Utrecht 2011: Creative Peace and Human Rights Education (31 July - 12 August 2011)**

The summer school was organised by the University of Utrecht. UNOY Peacebuilders participated as a partner and invited the students on the 10th of August to show how peace work is being implemented in practice. The presentation was an introduction to the work of UNOY Peacebuilders and two workshops were held and focused on practical implementation of peacebuilding, and methods which could be used by participants.

**Global Human Rights Defence - Building bridges for a multicultural Europe (18 – 25 September)**
UNOY Peacebuilders was invited by GHRD to give a workshop in their training course on building bridges for a multicultural Europe. In this week, workshops, debates and discussions were held on migration and cultural integration in Europe in The Hague. In total, there were 18 participants from different countries in Europe. The workshop of UNOY Peacebuilders was specifically aimed at culture, identity and non-formal education. The aim of the presentation was to create awareness of cultural differences, own culture, cultural differences within one ‘national culture’, changes in culture over time and generation.

ID Challenge (13 October)
An information evening was held by Stichting Oikos, DFD and UNOY on the competition ID-Challenge and migration and developing projects. UNOY participated as the organisation which is active in the field of migration and development. We informed students about UNOY Peacebuilders’ projects, our collaboration partners and what challenges and opportunities are in the field of migration in development, in order to help them with developing ideas for migration projects.

Working with Conflict (7 – 14 November)
This training course was organised by Fundació Catalunya Voluntària. UNOY Peacebuilders was present as a partner organisation and trainer. It aimed to help young people to gain a new and improved appreciation of conflict, to deepen young people’s understanding about conflicts by closely looking at its nature and dynamics, and giving them practical skills and tools to transform their conflicts and learn from them. The training dealt with how to work with conflicts – what is their nature, the different types, how to analyse them, and different ways of dealing with them. The participants acquired practical knowledge and skills to work with different types of conflict.

Postponed Activities
Although we strived to carry out all activities mentioned in the year plan, some activities planned for 2011 were postponed or cancelled.

Postponed
Peace Education evaluation chapter
In 2010, UNOY started working on a book chapter on “How do you know if you create peace? A reflection on what is good youth peace work”, which will be featured in an edited book “Peace Education Evaluation”. The chapter is a cooperation between UNOY, CEIPES, Beyond Skin and Escuela de Paz. The chapter is expected to be finished in spring 2012, once the feedback for the draft has been incorporated into the text.

Africa Trainings
The planning for the Africa Training started in 2011. The project proposal was finalised early 2012, and the first training should take place in September 2012. The biggest challenge in developing the project has been fundraising, which is the main reason why the project had to be postponed.

Peace Education Seminar
UNOY Peacebuilders annual seminar, this time with a focus on Youth Initiatives in Peace Education was originally planned to take place in late 2011. However, for scheduling reasons the seminar was held in February 2012.
Advocacy work

UNOY Peacebuilders advocates for the role of youth in peacebuilding, and more specifically to promote the visibility and recognition of youth active in peacebuilding, promote partnership between young peacebuilders and other stakeholders, involve youth in campaigning for a culture of peace and, finally, encourage them to voice their opinions and concerns in forums. UNOY Peacebuilders has appointed two representatives responsible for advocacy: Meghann Villanueva (focused on advocacy in New York) and Oliver Rizzi Carlson (focused on advocacy in Geneva).

Throughout the year, UNOY Peacebuilders was represented in Geneva based NGO-networks, such as the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns - Geneva), the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning – leading to UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, the Culture of Peace Working Group and Collectif Paix-non-violence.

UNOY Peacebuilders participated in numerous events at the United Nations in Geneva throughout the year organised by UN agencies, State Missions to the UN, or NGOs on the topics of a culture of peace, youth movements, cultural heritage, a human right to peace, the rights of the child as well as the right to education. At these events UNOY Peacebuilders aimed to raise awareness of our work, to network, as well as to influence reports or resolutions to be considered by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) or the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

In general, the advocacy effort was to recognise the importance of education for a culture of peace, the role of youth in promoting it, and the recognition of this education both as a right in and out of itself as well as a means to uphold other rights (including but not limited to human rights education).

UNOY Peacebuilders held the following interventions at official UN meetings:

1. Oral statement at HRC16 on Empowering Children to Transform Cultural Violence (March 9, 2011)
3. Joint oral statement at HRC16, on the Draft UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (March 2011)
4. Oral statement at ECOSOC High-Level Segment on education: Education as Resource (July 6, 2011)
5. Written input on High-Level Meeting (HLM) on Youth at UN in New York (July 25-26, 2011)
6. Workshop at HLM on Youth at UN in New York (July 26, 2011): A culture of non-violence and peace: empowering youth through skills-based and values-based education with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

UNOY Peacebuilders participated at the following special events:

1. Presentation on youth, the culture of peace and sustainable development, with a focus on the World Report on the Culture of Peace and the role of youth at Global Youth Conference organized by Earthfocus Foundation in Geneva (March 18, 2011)
2. Peace Education Workshop together with IFRC at World Peace Festival in Berlin (August 27, 2011)
3. Event with high-school students at the UN on the International Day of Peace (September 21, 2011) The event was organised by the UN NGO Liaison Unit, UNOY, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University and the AEDIDH. It was an introduction for the high-school students to peace, peace education, and their role as youth in creating peace in the world.
4. Keynote speech at International Seminar on Youth and Culture of Peace organised by UNESCO Etxea in Bilbao, Spain (September 22, 2011)
5. Panel presentation as part of “Youth as drivers of a culture of non-violence and peace: the power of sports, arts and creativity” event, part of the 31st International Conference of Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement (November 28, 2011)
Communication and outreach

Communication and outreach is an essential activity of UNOY Peacebuilders, as we are a global network with limited opportunities for face-to-face interaction. The communication is two-fold: internal within the network, and external with relevant stakeholders and the general public interested in involving youth in peacebuilding.

The internal communication is online-based. We communicate with our members through mailing lists, online communication tools such as Skype, as well as through social media. The external communication and outreach is similarly online based – key components are our monthly newsletter, the website and social media. Hard copy brochures are also used for public outreach. The publication of Peaceful Digest, a specific newsletter including event and funding opportunities finished in the end of 2011. Instead we have increased our activity on social media as a way to communicate events and funding opportunities to our members.

The success of online presence in 2011:

- Approximately 16,000 visitors on the new website
- Approximately 57,000 page views on the new website
- 1,769 fans on Facebook page
- 464 Friends on UNOY Peacebuilders’ Facebook profile
- 99 Twitter followers
- 88 Tweets

Overall outreach of UNOY Peacebuilders in 2011:

- 103 youth took part in the training courses organised by UNOY Peacebuilders
- 4,247 people were reached through the celebrations of the International Day of Peace
- 1,945 people received UNOY’s newsletters

New logo and website

One of the biggest achievements of 2011 was the re-design of the UNOY logo and the website. The new image of UNOY Peacebuilders is based on the new logo. The website was launched in June 2011.

The idea of the logo is to stress the building part of peacebuilding. Bricks are a universal symbol for building; they also stand for the building blocks or tools that UNOY Peacebuilders uses, such as connectedness and expertise. The handmade style used in the design stands for the human character of UNOY Peacebuilders and reflects that this is a youth (led) organisation. The purple-blue colour is a modern reference to the traditional peace colour. In the mean time, the purple is more youthful and reflects the dynamism of the organisation. The shape of an unfinished wall suggests that peacebuilding is a dynamic process, with an active role for the UNOY Peacebuilders. There is still a lot to be done; there is room for more bricks on the wall. Finally, the wall also represents the network, each member being a brick. The network/peacebuilding wall can then be extended infinitely.

In June 2011, the new and improved UNOY website was launched. It was designed around the new logo, styles and colours, and portrays our youthful spirit and dynamic engagement in peacebuilding projects. The different categories are in the shape of building blocks, from which it is possible to browse through the site and find all the information that the user is looking for. The website is better structured than the old version and the improved outlook of the site makes it easier to browse.

The website provides a better communication platform for UNOY Peacebuilders member and partner organisations, and it is easier to navigate to find the information you are looking for. One of the aims of the website was also to create a UNOY social media, where members can set up their own profiles and share their knowledge and experience. We believe that this will help strengthen the network as it
allows better cooperation between the Secretariat and the member organisations, as well as the members themselves. The interactive features of the new website are expected to be improved in 2012.

Publications

Every year UNOY Peacebuilders publishes a number of toolkits on topics in our field of expertise. During 2011 three toolkits were published:

**Peace Bag Project**

On 21 September 2011 - International Day of Peace, a virtual toolkit on mainstreaming Peace Education and Intercultural Dialogue in the Euro Med-region was launched. Coordinated by the Fundació Catalunya Voluntària and UNOY Peacebuilders, this publication is the result of the work of 18 youth organisations from 14 countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region. The work on this toolkit took more than a year and involved more than 100 volunteers from around the world.

A number of training courses that use the Peacebag have been and will be held in 2012. In 2011 a Peacebag training course was held in Athens, Greece with the goal of increasing knowledge and understanding among cultures, combating stereotypes, and fostering cooperation in the field of joint youth initiatives among Euro-Mediterranean countries.

For more information, see: [http://peacebag.org/](http://peacebag.org/)

**New fundraising trends guide**

The fundraising toolkit document was designed to give NGOs an overview of the recent developments in non-profit fundraising. The toolkit is divided into two parts. The first provides an overview of the new approaches taken by ‘traditional’ donors (governments, foundations, corporations and individual philanthropists) in the way they donate. The second is devoted to innovative ways through which NGOs have begun self-raising funds, including entrepreneurship and online fundraising. Tips on how to fundraise and links to further useful documentation can be found throughout the report, helping NGOs get the resources they need to fund their projects.

The toolkit can be accessed [here](#).

**Gender Toolkit: A manual for Youth Peace workers**

In November 2011, UNOY Peacebuilders published a new edition of its Gender Toolkit. The toolkit builds on the experiences of UNOY Peacebuilders, its members, the Gender Working Group, the capacity building projects and literature on gender (mainstreaming). The publication is designed to help in the process of engendering and sensitising youth organisations involved in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, intercultural dialogue and multiculturalism. The toolkit reflects the views of the authors on different aspects of Gender issues. According to the authors, there was a growing need for developing flexible and context-sensitive tools for supporting gender mainstreaming of UNOY Peacebuilders’ network in the next couple of years. The Gender Toolkit was used during the Training Course “Gender Equality and Diversity in European Youth Initiatives”

The toolkit can be accessed [here](#).
PSO Action Network Research
UNOY Peacebuilders participated in PSO’s Action Network Research resulting in the publication “Looking at collaboration in North-South networks - Experiences from an action research”. The action research was initiated by PSO in April 2010 with UNOY Peacebuilders and four Dutch development organisations. The action research process was accompanied by workshops. The publication showcases the five participating networks’ stories written by the key persons involved, Gulalai Ismael was UNOY Peacebuilders’ key person and she was assisted in the research by Rahel Weldeab. Their action research focused on UNOY Peacebuilders’ Gender Working Group.

In her research Gulalai describes how UNOY Peacebuilders faces challenges creating ownership of the Gender Working Group among its members. In the research Gulalai and Rahel analyse a number of reasons for the poor participation in the GWG. For one, the secretariat’s dependency on e-mail as a means of communication does not foster any sense of affiliation. They discover that this pattern is hard to break, but feels that the solution lies in approaching members less as users and more as partners.

The report can be accessed here.
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

M&E was one of the key priorities during 2011. The development of a new M&E strategy began, a board member, Rob Watson, was appointed for M&E and an M&E intern, Eefje van Esch, was recruited. UNOY Peacebuilders seeks to establish a comprehensive M&E strategy to better assess where we are effective and where there is room for improvement. A good monitoring and evaluation plan will enable the International Secretariat and the board to better assess the impact its programmes have on the members and youth working for peace and to adjust its programmes accordingly. The M&E will not be an end in itself - it is a tool to improve organisational effectiveness. Therefore it should be used as a guide and a tool to identify areas for improvement, and not as a prescriptive.

As a part of the new monitoring and evaluation strategy an Annual Impact Review of the UNOY Network for the year 2011 was done early 2012. A questionnaire was sent out to all 49 members of the network with the aim of collecting data on their activities and impact in 2011 as well as their experience of being a UNOY member.

24 members responded to the questionnaire. In total, the organisations reported that they carried out 548 activities in 2011. On average, each organisation carried out 22 activities or projects. The topics of the activities ranged from Promoting Peace Activism among young people to Child Rights and protection to Micro Entrepreneurship Program for young people to Integration of Gender in disasters relief and humanitarian work to Conflict management to Human rights to Youth employment. Several organisations reported, however, that a number of projects had to be cancelled due to budgetary limitations.

The scope of activities ranged from trainings, camps and exchanges to projects aimed at secondary schools and youth interactions. Most activities were aimed at a young audience, particularly to those that participate in youth peace organisations or who live in marginalised conditions. Most of the activities carried out were related to peacebuilding (462). Furthermore, 147 advocacy activities and 64 gender activities took place. Some projects had elements of more than one focus area. In total, 53,000 people were reportedly reached through the activities carried out by the member organisations that participated in the questionnaire. There are a total of 3619 individuals involved in the member organisations.
Finances

The finances of UNOY Peacebuilders have been kept in check during 2011. The annual turn-over in 2011 was 196 100 euro and the result for the same year was 8 200 euro. The equity in 2011 added up to 36 200 euro.

Donors, Sponsors and Partners

Thank you to all our donors, sponsors and partners!
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