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 Member organizations, Friends and Supporters,

2012 proved to be a resolute year for UNOY Peacebuilders, where the main focus was put on the components that make up the network: the member organizations. Without our global network of youth organizations working in the field of peacebuilding UNOY Peacebuilders would lose its essential link to the grassroots youth and peacebuilding field. Therefore we have been working to strengthen the network in a number of different ways. Our network of youth peace organizations expanded during the last years, and new member organizations from for instance Cameroon, Afghanistan and Estonia joined our network of young peacebuilders.

During 2012 we ran a number of interesting and important projects. The Seminar “Educating for Peace” aimed to show the immense value of peace education projects run by youth organizations around the world. As a part of our Capacity Building work we ran a number of trainings for our member organizations as well as for youth outside of our network. The two first Africa Regional Training Courses that have been in our planning since 2009 finally took place. The first one, focusing on the Great Lakes region took place in Bujumbura, Burundi and the second one, focusing on UNOY members in east Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya. The trainings offered an excellent forum for youth peace organizations from the region to jointly strategize on a shared future of the region. The importance of the trainings was underlined by the attendance of the Burundian Minister of Youth, Mr Jean Jacques Nyenimigabo at the opening ceremony of the training course in Bujumbura.

2012 was a year when UNOY invested in building strong partnerships with other related organizations. The Peace of Minds project is an excellent example of such a partnership: the project was run jointly by Upact (a Dutch peace organization) and UNOY Peacebuilders and was set up so that it could utilise the expertise and resources of both organizations in the implementation of the project. UNOY member organizations in the Philippines, Sierra Leone, India, Azerbaijan and Argentina were partners in the project.

2012 also saw a number of changes of faces at UNOY Peacebuilders. At the International Secretariat we said farewell to Imke van der Velde, International Network and Programme Coordinator (INPC). We thank Imke for her continuous efforts at the International Secretariat, and at the same time welcome Roderick Besseling, our new INPC. The International Steering Group welcomed four new members, Armand Giramahoro, Victoria Vasalo, Meghann Villanueva and Saba Ismail that will represent our global network during the coming two years. The board of UNOY Peacebuilders also saw a change of members. We welcomed Eugenia Boutylkova and Jonne Kuusisto into the board while giving Lieke Scheewe and Merlijn van Waas a very big thank you for their time in the board. We welcome all the new faces to our team, and look forward to the creation of more exciting projects, and the continuation of the development of our organisation under their direction into 2013.

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 Alissa Reinach, Bharath Nataraj, Oliver Rizzi Carlson, Irene Neequaye and Matilda Flemming 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 2012, the 65 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. In 2012 three organizations left the network: European-Mediterranean Youth Bridge e.V. (EMYB e.V.), Germany, Forum of Youth Advocacy (FOYA), United Kingdom and Amahoro Youth Club, Burundi. 19 new members were welcomed into our network:

- Initiatives and Actions for Peace and Development – Burundi
- Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCREAD) – Cameroon
- Organization of African Youth –Cameroon
- Centre for Legal Rights Education Advocacy and Development – CLREAD - Kenya
- The Youth Congress – Kenya
- ELWAK Youth for Peace and Development – Kenya
- JUMUIYA Women Group – Kenya
- Students Against Destructive Actions and Decisions (SADAD) – Liberia
- Advocates for Youth and Health Development – Nigeria
- Solidarity Youth Voluntary Organization (SOYVO) – Somalia
- Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organization (SOYDAVO) – Somalia
- Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT) – Afghanistan
- Centre for Communication and Development (CCD) – Bangladesh
- Jagriti Child and Youth Concern – Nepal
- Gyumri Youth Initiative Centre – Armenia
- Seiklejate Vennaskond – Estonia
- European Intercultural Forum – Germany
- Peaceworks – Sweden

For more information about these organizations, please see the section below.

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 2012

EUROPE

Gyumri Youth Initiative Centre, Armenia, http://yic.am/

YIC organizes activities for young people to increase their participation in national policies and decision making processes. It also raises awareness of the impact of volunteering and advocating for the legal designation of voluntary work.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Seiklejate Vennaskond, Estonia, www.seiklejad.org

Seiklejate Vennaskond literally means adventurers brotherhood. This adventure seeking and daring non-profit organization specializes in areas such as: equality, media impact, fights against racism, HIV prevention and environment protection. It’s also a sending and coordinating organization for European Voluntary Service.

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.

European Intercultural Forum, Germany, http://www.european-intercultural-forum.org/

EIF aims to contribute to democratic and peaceful development in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus. It seeks to achieve these objectives by involving youths and adults on the international level, specifically in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus.


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.
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.

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.

Fundacio Catalunya Voluntaria, Spain, 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.

Peaceworks Sweden, http://www.peaceworks.se/welcometopeaceworkssweden

Peaceworks Sweden is a non-profit peace organisation that is targeted towards the youth. It provides the needed tools for youth and volunteers to run successful projects on their own and on their own terms. As part of their objectives, they aim to, through peace, encourage sustainable developments.

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.

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 (BVBP), 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

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.

African Millenium Vision, Burundi


Initiatives and Actions for Peace and Development is an organization that mainly focuses on sustainable peace and development, specifically in Burundi. It executes these objectives through willing and inspired youths from diverse background. Youths who are eager to change their communities and the world in which they live in are major actors.

Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCREAD), Cameroon, http://www.ccredacameroon.org/

CCREAD is a non-profit organization managed by youths. As the name connotes this organization is targeted at developing and improving the lives of disadvantaged women, children, youths and poor indigenous people. CCREAD also dedicates much attention to the conservation and preservation of our environment.


Organisation of African Youth is a continental youth led non-profit organization based in Cameroon. It reaches out mainly to the youths in its region. Through its many projects, it inspires and empowers youths to contribute to social, political and economic development. By so doing OAYouths aspires to make young people become more responsible citizens.

Action des jeunes pour le Développement Communautaire et la Paix (ADECOP), Democratic Republic of the Congo

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.
Groupement de Promotion Integrale (GPI), Democratic Republic of the Congo

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.

Programme déncadrement et de reinsertion des jeunes ex combattants et en difficultes (PerexCV), Democratic Republic of the Congo

PerexCV 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.

National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), Eritrea, http://www.nueys.org/

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.

West Africa Center for Peace Foundation, Ghana, 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.

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.


CLREAD is a non-profit organization that provides diverse development programmes and services to community members, private sectors, NGO’s and public institutions. Its objectives are to contribute to human rights, gender, democratic governance and development matters and in this way reduce poverty, ignorance and influence policy change.


The Youth Congress is a youth targeted and youth led organization. It aims to provide youths with a more conducive environment, an environment where their rights as humans are not disregarded and there is equal opportunities for all.

**Elwak Youth for Peace and Development, Kenya**

The Elwak Youth for Peace and Development is a youth NGO in Kenya. Its major target group is the youth in its region. This organization provides a platform for the youths in conflict transformation and violence related activities. Through leadership and advocacy programmes, the youth is empowered to take up decision making roles.


As the name implies, most of Jumuiya Women Group empowerment and advocacy programmes, as well as activities, are targeted towards women. As part of its objectives, it aims to realize its goals through and with the involvement of women and youth. It strives to achieve the key elements of the Millennium Development Goals in specifically Uasin, Gishu areas and the North Rift region of Kenya.

**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.

**Students Against Destructive Actions and Decisions (SADAD), Liberia**

The aim of this organization is to encourage and build a violent free society, protect and promote the rights of women and children, and empower youths across the country and sub-regions. SADAD strives to equip its community with the right tools to resolve conflicts and initiate peace and thus promote human rights and the rule of law.

**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.

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

ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH AND HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, Nigeria, http://www.advocate4youth.com/

This patriotic but non-partisan, non-profit making organisation is managed by youths. AYHD aspires to create a Nigerian society where both young and old combine their efforts and skills to build peace, harmony and help develop the country.

Peacelinks, Sierra Leone, 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

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.

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.

Solidarity Youth Voluntary Organization (SOYVO), Somalia, http://www.soyvo.org/

SOYVO is an organization which gives a voice to the marginalized people, particularly women, children and youths in Togdheer Region in Somaliland. It articulates their problems and strives to make this group of people self-reliant. It also complements the efforts of its government to develop the region through sports, education and environmental protection projects.
Somaliland Youth Development and Voluntary Organization (SOYDAVO), Somalia, [Website](http://www.soydavo.org/)

The focus of SOYDAVO is on youths, women and children. It works closely with local authorities and contributes to the realization of Somaliland’s short and long term goals. This way it intends to strengthen the peace, ensure democratic changes and alleviate poverty in the region.

Coalition for Peace in Africa (COPA), [Website](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.

**ASIA**

Afghans for Progressive Thinking (APT), Afghanistan, [Website](http://www.apt.af/)

APT mainly focuses on students, specifically university students. They work together with this group to develop a free and peaceful society. Their trainings, conferences and debates serve as a platform where new ideas are shared and relevant changes are discussed or enforced. The relationships between university schools both within and across its borders are also strengthened.

Centre for Communication and Development (CCD), Bangladesh, [Website](http://www.ccdbd.org/)

This communication and journalism based non-profit organization is a proponent of free flow of information, of press and of speech. CCD utilizes communication media to promote human rights, good governance, women empowerment and gender equity. It also seeks to develop and sharpen the skills of journalists, thus making them better professionals.

International Friends Youth Society (IFYS), Bangladesh, [Website](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), [Website](http://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.
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.

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

Volunteers of Yuvsatta 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.


JCYCN is acknowledge as being the first ever child club established by former child club activists and youths. It is a non-partisan and non-profit making organization. Its activities are targeted towards the protection and promotion of the rights of Nepal’s children and youths.

Coalition of Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY) Pakistan, 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.aeicenter.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 Palestinian Youth League (IPYL), Palestine, www.ipyl.org

IPYL’s mission is to empower youth aged 15-35 against social, economic, 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.
**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.

The ISG convened in February 2012 in The Hague, the Netherlands. The main issue discussed during the two-day meeting was communication within the network and the need for finding the right communication channels to reach out to our members and beyond.

In 2012, the ISG consisted of:
- Rahel Weldeab, National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), Eritrea
- Paula Ramirez Diazgranados, Fundacion Escuelas de Paz, Colombia
- Armand Giramahoro, Initiatives and Actions for Peace and Development (IAP), Burundi (since October 2012)
- Victoria Vasalo, Organización Argentina de Jóvenes para las Naciones Unidas (OAJNU), Argentina (since October 2012)
- Meghann Villanueva, Fundacio Catalunya Voluntaria (FCV), Spain (since October 2012)
- Saba Ismail, Coalition of Rights and Responsibilities of Youth (CRY), Pakistan (since October 2012)
- Hovhannes Jonas Grigoryan, Armenia (until October 2012)
- Nikki Al Ben Santos Delfin, Philippines (until October 2012)
- Mohamed Sillah Sesay, Sierra Leone (until October 2012)

**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
- Valari van Tusschenbroek, treasurer
- Sanne Tielemans, board member
- Eugenia Boutyikova, board member (since November 2012)
- Jonne Kuusisto, board member (since November 2012)
- Rob Watson, board member (until July 2012)
- Merlijn van Waas, co-chair (until December 2012)
- Lieke Schewee, secretary (until December 2012)

Honorary Chairs:
- Nikolai N. Firjubin
- Rabbi A. Soetendorp
- Maria Kooijman

International Secretariat (IS)
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. 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.

Staff in 2012:
- Lillian Solheim, International Network and Programme Coordinator (until January 2012)
- Matilda Flemming, International Secretariat and Outreach Coordinator
- Imke van Der Velde, International Network and Programme Coordinator (until December 2012)
- Roderick Besseling, International Network and Programme Coordinator (since December 2012)
- Joseph Kojo Foli, Financial Officer

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 cornerstone 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 2012, the International Secretariat has been supported by the following interns:
- Alinta Geling, the Netherlands, F
- Ana Maria Rey Martinez, Colombia, F
- Andrea Duran, USA, F
- Anna Isabela Knack, Germany, F
- Eefje van Esch, the Netherlands, F
- Emily Miller, United Kingdom, F
- Eveline Gerritsen, the Netherlands, F
- Erik Meinema, the Netherlands, M
- Fanny Tittel Mosser, France, F
- Filipa Carreira, Portugal, F
- Hanh Nguyen, Vietnam, F
Hisashi Oki, Japan, M  
Irene Neequaye, Ghana, F  
Kim van Luijk, the Netherlands, F  
Laura Schneider, Germany, F  
Leena Laitinen, Finland, F  
Lenka Valacsaiova, Slovakia, F  
Marcelo Facchina, Brazil, M  
Marta Pellek, Hungary, F  
Patricia Martin Gomez, Spain, F  
Rachal Cox, USA, F  
Samantha Uichico, Philippines, F

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 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. Interns do feel that they gain professional experience while working at UNOY; they have been given responsibilities to work equal to staffs at UNOY.

Annual Impact Review

As a part of UNOY Peacebuilders’ monitoring and evaluation strategy an Annual Impact Review (AIR) of the UNOY Network for the year 2012 was done early 2013. A questionnaire was sent out to all 64 members of the network with the aim of collecting data on their activities and impact in 2012 as well as their experience of being a UNOY member. Out of the 64 member organizations 54 have responded to the AIR. This is approximately 84%. The objectives of the AIR are 1) To evaluate overall performance of UNOY in the year 2012; 2) To evaluate whether its members expectations have being met; 3) To find out inspiring projects of our members and 4) To better the experience of our members

The questionnaire for instance asked about member organizations’ motivation for joining the network. The main motivation for organizations to join the network is, according to the results of the AIR to build new (regional/international) partners. The second motivating reason (25%) to join the UNOY network is to acquire new ideas/information. Access to training programs is also of essence to member organizations. This element represents 20% of their responses (see fig. 3). According to some organization, acquisition of funds is their main motivation.

On the basis of these motivations, members were asked whether their expectations have been met by the UNOY network. According to the AIR, 16 member organizations’ expectations have been fully met. 28 of UNOY’s member organizations’ expectations have been met. 6 organizations were undecided about their position on the above. Two organizations disagree with the statement that their expectations have been met (see fig. 4).

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To understand what the biggest challenges of our member are, we asked them to choose from a list of six challenging options and the result is that of Fund raising/financial skills were the biggest challenge; for majority of our members (i.e. 76%). The second and third ranked challenges are; not enough access to training programs and not enough (regional/international) partners. Regarding the question of whether the member organizations’ membership in UNOY has helped them overcome those challenges, a great number of members agreed with this stance (37 including members who strongly agreed). 10 members were undecided whereas 6 members disagreed. Reflecting on this response therefore, although our efforts are appreciated, we still need to do more to assist our members with their challenges.

The overall objectives of the AIR 2013 have been realized in terms of finding out the performance of UNOY Peacebuilders in the year 2012 which reveals more positive impact by meeting members’ expectations (85% of the members feel that they have met their expectation and the rest of the 15% do not feel so, among the 15%, 11% have not given the answer) and keeping them in contact and helping them to build network among members of UNOY.

When asked whether UNOY is assisting the members to overcome their challenges, 28% give other than positive responses; from which we can conclude that we can further strengthen the support we give these members. Also when we look into future expectations of members, the majority of them want assistance and information fundraising skills followed by linking up with other members of UNOY, to have more joint projects.

Therefore we will work hard to better the experience of those members who are not satisfied with joining the UNOY Peacebuilders network. Actions we foresee include:

- Ensuring a strong connection with those 15% of members, whose expectations have not been met, and making sure to see what their actual needs are and supporting them to our best;
- Giving fundraising support to the members needing such and including a fundraising training for our member organizations in the strategic planning for the coming year and assist our members in project proposal and referring them to donors for funding;
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 2012 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: 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.

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

Activities during 2012 in chronological order

Educating for Peace Seminar (February 2012)

On 4-5 February 2012 the United Network of Young Peacebuilders in collaboration with Upact hosted the Educating for Peace Seminar at the International Baccalaureate Global Centre in The Hague, the Netherlands. The seminar was attended by 80 participants on the first day and 40 on the second day.

The seminar aimed to explore successes, challenges and opportunities in youth peace initiative and to stimulate and develop innovative and sustainable youth peace education projects. Representatives of youth peace organisations engaged in peace education projects gathered to share their experiences with the participants of the event.
The key note speakers of the seminar were Celina Del Felice from Radboud University Nijmegen and Emer Beamer from Butterfly Works. They provided the participants with insights into the practices and challenges of peace education and shared their own experiences in peacebuilding. The participants also had the opportunity to gain practical skills during several workshops. International and Dutch experts on peace education and peacebuilding shared their first-hand experience, perspectives and methodologies. Among the workshop facilitators were Nikki Delfin, Gertjan Vriend, Jalmar Pfeifer, Hester van Toorenburg, Meg Villanueva, Katja Noordam, Paula Ramirez Diazgranados, Rania Murra, Celina Del Felice, Henk Bekker, Marco Bermudez and Rahel Weldeab.

The seminar was very successful as it managed to bring together people from various filed related to peace education. The participants and facilitators included students, NGO workers as well as people from academia. The seminar played an important role in bringing these different perspectives together to share ideas, experiences and future prospects for peace education. The networks of the participants and the facilitators were expanded and best practices was shared – both within parties from the Netherlands and from abroad.

As a result of the seminar, UNOY Peacebuilders has established a mapping tool of youth peace initiatives all over the world. The mapping can be accessed here: https://www.peaceportal.org/web/the-unoy-peacevilla/home

**Study Visit to Washington DC (February 2012)**

In February Matilda Flemming was invited by Cordaid to travel join them for a study visit to Washington DC. The main objective of the visit was to get to know Search for Common Ground (www.sfcg.org) better and to consider the possibility of future joint projects. This resulted in the development of a project idea focusing on youth in the Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region. For more information about this project, please see “Postponed activities”.

**ISG meeting (February 2012)**

The annual face-to-face meeting of the International Steering Group took place February 1-2 in The Hague. Present were Rahel Weldeab, National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), Eritrea; Paula Ramirez Diazgranados, Fundacion Escuelas de Paz, Colombia; Hovhannes Jonas Grigoryan, Armenia and Nikki Al Ben Santos Delfin, GenPeace Philippines. On the agenda of the meeting were issues of “Sensing” of the network and local/global situations based on ISG accounts and international trends so we know the current realities we need to contend with; Assessment of the year 2011 based on the Milestones in the Strategy; Upcoming activities; Development of the network; the peacetoken system; selection criteria for new members; Democratizing the ISG (s)election system; UNOY advocacy; and Communication.

The meeting was of great importance, especially to the International secretariat with two new coordinators. The meeting was deemed productive by its participants – all needed points were discussed and the discussions were solution-oriented.

**The Night of Youth for Peace (September 2012)**

September 3 as a follow-up event to the Peace of Minds project, UNOY Peacebuilders arranged a panel discussion called The Night of Youth for Peace in collaboration with Leiden University College and Upact. The event was held at Leiden University College in The Hague and gathered about 20 young people. Four young peacebuilders, Marianela Saccella from Argentina, Angeli Bustria from the Philippines, Vivek Dubey from India and Kenan Mehdiyev from Azerbaijan, all from UNOY Peacebuilders’ network shared their experiences of peacebuilding with fellow participants. A short movie about the event can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kys3HBDqYbl&feature=endscreen
Training Course: Promoting Peace through Projects and Partnerships (September 2012)

The training course on Projects and Partnerships took place in Schoorl, the Netherlands September 2-8 and was supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The aim of the training course was for youth to discover how to implement their own non-formal project related to peace and human rights education and to get support in realizing them.

The young people were key in this project as the main objective was to make them work on their personal projects during more than half of the training course. They were really stimulated in order to have a concrete project to implement in their organization and had to work actively in all the related workshops in order to plan their projects.

The 5-day long training was based on non-formal education which means that interactive games and experiential learning were a great part of the sessions. Team building and inter-cultural exchange were composing an important part of the course. While participants were introduced to theoretical concepts through presentations; group exercises and workshops were further used to explain the concepts and look at how to implement them in practice. Participants were equipped with new skills and knowledge through the concept of peer-to-peer learning and learning by doing. During the course the participants were equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and values to successfully develop, organize and fundraise for their own project. Furthermore, the content of the training course was based on peace and human rights education which includes peace and reconciliation as well as conflict related topics such as escalation and analysis of conflicts. Therefore, at the end of the course the participants had the necessary knowledge of peace and human rights education that they can now translate into concrete projects.

The Training Course was a great experience for both the youthful participants as well as our youthful trainers. The course was characterized by great and vibrant energy and active participation and the team received positive feedback on the sessions that were offered. We consider the project as successful. At the end of the training three groups came up with advanced projects and are now writing projects proposals in order to get funds. At least one other project was on a good way and might be implemented but will need more time for planning. One other group didn’t really manage to have a concrete project within the timeframe because they had no idea previously to the training. We are still offering support to them to ensure follow-up. Generally speaking, their new acquired skills will support them in further developing their projects but also in their work in their respective organizations.

Learning moments for our organization future projects are linked to the participants’ selection. In the future, we are going to get to know the candidates better before the training in order to have a more homogeneous group and to know in advance the level we have to give to the sessions. We should do this through Skype interviews as application forms were not sufficient to measure the real level of participants. We tried to have the participants assess their own level (self-assessment) but in the end this did not work out for us as a team.
Unir la Jeunesse Africaine pour la Paix: Regional Training Course in Great Lakes region (September 2012)

"Unir la Jeunesse Africaine pour la Paix" was a training course that included 24 youth workers, member of UNOY and Cordaid partners along with local organisations, from three different countries from the Great Lakes region in Africa (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda). The training was held in Bujumbura, Burundi, on September 10-15, 2012, and aimed at providing youth NGO members in the region with skills in conflict transformation and project development and management. Additionally, the training also served as a space for networking and exchange of ideas and fundraising strategies for peacebuilding in the region. The training course was held in French, and focused on the creation of several different work plans to be later developed into projects that bring together the Great Lakes youth around peacebuilding.

The program of the training was designed to provide participants with a combination of capacity building activities and spaces for exchanges about their perceived challenges in the region. At the end of the training, participants were expected to create a series of project work plans aimed towards establishing partnerships. In the work plan, they were also encouraged to define a set of stepping stones for the follow-up of the projects.

As a final product of the training course, participants created a series of six different work plans containing general and specific objectives, as well as a roadmap to be implemented in the course of the next 2 months. Follow-up activities include the provision of two feedbacks of draft proposals by UNOY, two progress reports in the course of project implementation as well as the facilitation of a Facebook group by UNOY partner IAP.

Considering that this was the first of a series of trainings to be held in Africa in the coming months, the training can be regarded as an important kick-off for uniting African youth and peace organisations. The choice of the topic proved to be correct, and it is highly likely that the training will generate future cooperation on a regional level among youth in the Great Lakes region.

In addition, several positive dimensions can be highlighted in the training itself. Besides the right choice of topic, the logistics and partnership arranged between UNOY and IAP, as well as between the two organisations and the venue proved to be fruitful. This reinforces the benefits a good partnership can provide. Moreover, the focus on the planning stages prior to the arrival in Bujumbura also gave the necessary tranquillity to deal with the unforeseen events that undoubtedly arise. The clear notion of what are the stepping stones for the program, as well as the potential threats to its execution, allowed the activities to be thought ahead even during the training, which mitigated some potential risks that could have arisen. Finally, in terms of monitoring participants’ experiences about the training, the strategy of resorting to IAP staff to do so, with no involvement of the trainers, proved to be correct in the sense that it allowed participants to express opinions that may not have been
emitted had the debate been with UNOY.

On the other hand, the training has also served as a valuable learning tool for the upcoming trainings in Kenya and Ghana, in the sense that it has shown some flaws that can now be mitigated. The first of these threats relates to the selection of participants. One of the reasons behind the lower level of satisfaction with the content of the program relates to the different kind of expectations participants had. Although all of them expected to acquire skills for project development and management, the different levels of proficiency in the topic led the program to fall in the void of being too advanced for some and too basic for others. Thus, the selection of participants with a relatively uniform level of experience may be beneficial for better tailoring the content of the course to the group as a whole.

The second lesson relates more directly to the creation of the content for sessions. Unfortunately, during the planning stages of the training, the imperatives of logistics have prevailed over the research for improving its content. In this sense, the discontent of participants could have been better managed if different strategies for delivering the training were elaborated. One of the reasons for that were the limited resources for the training, which impeded the realization of a meeting among the trainers to devise a full-fledged strategy for the programme. If the resources available do not allow for such a meeting, it is important to try and set a specific space for the presentation and discussion of all the sessions, possibly with more than one person and with substantial time for discussion and creation of different strategies for delivering the content. In addition, a preparation meeting organised on the day before of the beginning of the training is highly relevant to ensure the understanding of all staff involved as well as to support a sense of ownership.

The third valuable lesson to be taken from the training in Burundi refers to the clarity of the communication with participants. Cultural barriers with communication will always be present in projects such as the ones executed by UNOY. This is at the root of the issue raised with the per diems. From the perspective of UNOY, if per diems are not mentioned as part of the support provided to participants, they would simply not exist. According to participants, however, there was some confusion in that regard, which led them to conclude that the absence of reference to the procedure, did not imply its inexistence. Therefore, it is also important to emphasize the roles and responsibilities of participants not only with regards to transportation and accommodation costs, but also with respect to the provision of per diems.

In sum, the training in Burundi was a good experience for all people involved. The learning dynamics, as hoped and expected, involved not only a unilateral transmission of knowledge, but an actual exchange of perspectives that in the end provided each and every participant, trainer and staff with something new. It is expected that the occasional shortcomings of the training could be properly documented along this report, so that they become a source of learning. Hopefully, UNOY will be able to assess this progress by the end of the next training in Nairobi.
**International Day of Peace: Round table discussion on Peace Education (September 2012)**

To celebrate the International Day of Peace, UNOY Peacebuilders together with Leiden University College arranged a round table discussion called Practice What You Preach: Building Peace with Peace Education. The aim of the roundtable discussion was to focus on the interactions between peace education and policy making: is it the case that we practice what we preached? The event aimed to establish a dialogue between the various peace theories and the actual practices and experiences of peace-making and peace-buildings. The speakers of the event were Jenny Gillet (Curriculum Manager at International Baccalaureate), Prof. Lennart Vriens (Prof. of Peace Education at SIFE University College Utrecht), Iona Ebben (Clingendael Institute) and Lieke Scheewe (Board Member UNOY Peacebuilders).

**Study Session (October 2012)**

From October 14 to 20, 2012, the Study Session “Youth Advocacy for Peace” took place in the European Youth Centre in Budapest with the support of the Council of Europe. UNOY Peacebuilders initiated this Study Session and organized it together with its partners Fundació Catalunya Voluntària, the International Centre for the Promotion of Education and Development and the Support Initiative for Liberty and Democracy in the Baltic Area with the aim to give youth peace NGOs an opportunity to reflect on advocacy, as well as to share practices and ideas on how to improve their advocacy work and to create a space to exchange ideas, expertise and approaches on advocacy in the local, European and international level, by exploring various activities, possibilities and challenges related to youth peace advocacy. It also aimed at assisting youth NGOs of UNOY Peacebuilders’ network in their role as active stakeholders by engaging in national and international decision making processes related to peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

Specific objectives were to share understanding and perspectives on advocacy; share understanding in defining peace advocacy; elaborate on the challenges, possibilities and limits of peace advocacy; exchange ideas, implemented projects and good practices that are related to peace advocacy; discuss the role of a youth network and how this can not only strengthen the advocacy of its members but also advocate with and on behalf of the network; share and explore practical tools to help guide members in the preparation and implementation of their visits and engagements in policy development /decision-making, including organising advocacy trainings; collect examples, experiences and case studies of member organisations’ engagements with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental international bodies and agencies like the United Nations, the European Union, etc. and design an advocacy action plan oriented to contribute to create a culture of peace for the network, as well as support for members/participants to design their own advocacy action plans.

In order to ensure the multiplying effect as well as diversity, 25 active youth peace workers were selected from various conflict and non-conflict regions within and outside of Europe to participate in
the session. As strengthening our network was an equally important element, the team invited representatives of both current and potential network member organizations, providing them a unique opportunity to meet face-to-face.

With regard to the programme, a balance was made between theoretical and practical aspects of peace advocacy. As such, participants had the chance to reflect on methods, ideas, challenges and opportunities in their work on the one hand and build their capacities with useful skills, resources and inspiration. They also worked on their own advocacy strategies to be implemented after the Study Session. Experts coming from Hungary and the USA also gave inspirational inputs; they shared their knowledge and experiences and stimulated the participants to explore the applicability of this input in their own settings. Additionally, participants were given abundant space to share their own practices either informally during breaks or during group work and through workshops they could facilitate themselves.

As a result of the diversity and the constant exchange, the group developed strong dynamics. The inclusive atmosphere and high energy level contributed to a constructive learning environment, enabling participants to develop themselves and learn from each other. In the same line participants stressed common efforts as the best way to enhance the effectiveness of youth peace advocacy, inspiring them to develop concrete advocacy strategies to be implemented in the future and which particularly strengthen the UNOY network.

The main results for UNOY and the other partner organisations were:

a) UNOY has in course a plan to set up the advocacy strategy of the network,
b) Partners learned more about peace advocacy,
c) UNOY reinforced the own competences in training in the field of peace advocacy,
d) Reinforced partnership among UNOY and the other partners,
e) New youth exchange project to be implemented by the team members organisations (inviting also participants’ NGOs) on the theme of alternative society (The pink sky project)

The Study Session provided ample opportunities to reflect on advocacy. Participants were able to discuss the theoretical framework of advocacy as well as the specific meaning of peace advocacy, they considered several examples of advocacy at various levels, and often shared their own experience to explain their point of view, adding to the learning of the whole group. The various aspects, challenges and specificities of peace advocacy were explored in interesting ways, providing in-depth discussions and substantial learning for the members of the organizing team as well. This confirmed the value of bringing together young people with experience or interested in advocacy to create a mutually enriching environment.

The participants were also able to learn about the ways in which they can interact and do advocacy at the regional and international level by learning about the Council of Europe and the United Nations. The presence of experts added perspective to the technical aspects of interacting with regional and international bodies.

The role of a youth network was not discussed as extensively as originally planned. However, the importance of having a support system in order to be able to do the difficult work of advocacy was well received by the participants. Some of them specifically mentioned it as a main learning point for them. Furthermore, the role of a youth network was specifically discussed within the UNOY advocacy group, leading to the development of plans for the strengthening of the UNOY network and its efforts in peace advocacy.

It should also be noted that while the UNOY advocacy group did not produce an action plan, it decided not to do so in order to have a more sustainable and long term strategy that would respond to the real needs of UNOY network members. Thus, the discussions on the youth peace advocacy network focused on the important first steps to be taken instead of jumping into an advocacy plan without the support of the rest of the network. The issue of creating a culture of peace for the network itself was not discussed, but can be on the agenda for the discussions within the whole UNOY network, once the UNOY advocacy platform envisioned by the UNOY advocacy group is in place.
Regional Training Course in East Africa (December 2012)

“Uniting African Youth for Peace” was a training course that included 18 youth leaders from four different countries from East-Africa (Kenya, Somaliland, Uganda and South-Sudan). The training was held in Nairobi, Kenya on December 3-7, 2012, and was aimed at providing youth with the opportunity to improve their skills in finding common ground and building partnerships among each other. Additionally, the training also served as a space for networking and exchange of ideas, best practices and challenges that youth experience in their peacebuilding efforts in their respective localities.

The objective of the training course was to enable youth organizations in the East Africa Region to develop their capacities in relation to partnership building, project development and advocacy for peacebuilding. The training also aimed to promote the exchange of best practices and ideas to overcome challenges that youth organizations face in their respective localities. To achieve these objectives, UNOY Peacebuilders has cooperated with Cordaid and Perspectivity to develop the training module ‘Care for a Common Cause, Finding a New Perspective for Youth Engagement’. This training module is focused on youth engagement and partnership building based on finding common ground together with different stakeholders. Within the training module, the aim is that participants learn how to identify and acknowledge relevant stakeholders and develop the necessary skills and attitudes to find common ground to work towards a shared cause. Furthermore, the training module aimed to function as an open platform in which experiences are shared and first steps are taken to develop collective projects with participants.

From the participants’ evaluation, it becomes clear that participating youth were very satisfied with especially the content of the training and the group work among the participants. As the content of the training focused on working towards common ground with all relevant stakeholders, UNOY feels that it is safe to conclude that the training sufficiently met the aim of learning participants to identify relevant stakeholders and acknowledging the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach, improve their knowledge on youth engagement and developing skills to work towards common ground and developing projects collectively.

From the perspective of UNOY Peacebuilders, we however regret that the Future Search method and related sessions were only used as a simulation, instead as a first step in developing common projects with the UNOY network in East-Africa. Therefore, we feel that the aim of engaging in first steps to develop collective projects was not sufficiently reached. Furthermore, UNOY Peacebuilders thinks that effectiveness of the Care for a Common Cause module would have been improved if the Future Search methods were more often linked to the practices and experiences of the UNOY members. This would have given the members additional opportunities to share experiences with each other, while relating the Future Search methodologies to the experiences participants have at their own organizations.

In the initial phase of organizing the training course, UNOY Peacebuilders faced some challenges in finding enough suitable participants for the training course. Although most member organizations reacted with a lot of enthusiasm, arranging flights and visa for participants from South-Sudan and Somaliland proved to be occasionally challenging. Although UNOY Peacebuilders and especially the
Youth Congress invested a lot of effort in arranging the visa for one participant from SOVVO, Somaliland, we were not in time to timely secure a visa for this participant. Another problem arose when a participant from South-Sudan was rejected access to Kenya upon arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International airport. Therefore it is important for UNOY and participants to start arranging flights and visa as early as possible.

Secondly, it is important to make clear arrangements concerning travel and arrival times with participants. In some cases, the late arrival of some participants on Sunday night caused them to be tired during the first day of the training. Furthermore, it is important for UNOY to keep in touch with traveling participants, as some participants experienced difficulties reaching the venue because of a Matatu strike (local public transport). Under such circumstances, it is important to discuss alternative travel options with participants and make clear arrangements with them.

Despite initial challenges, UNOY Peacebuilders was very satisfied with the group of 18 youth that eventually participated in the training course. Most youth present participated actively, were eager to learn and had a genuine concern for the discussed issues. Therefore, UNOY Peacebuilders wishes to thank the participants for their enthusiasm and their informed contribution to the training course.

Projects that UNOY Partnered in

**Peace of Minds (August-December 2012)**

Peace of Minds (POM) is an initiative by Upact, UNOY Peacebuilders and Windesheim – Honours College. It is supported by different Dutch partners among which are SBOS and Oxfam Novib. Peace of Minds offers Dutch students the chance to use their talents and skills to cooperate with youth organizations in developing countries. Program participants will work with professional coaches and trainers to develop their project management and intercultural communication skills; expand their network with fellow motivated students, NGO’s, multinationals, politicians and experts; and acquire new insights and experience in development and peacebuilding issues.

In 2012, the international partners involved in this project were Argentine Youth Organisation for the United Nations (Argentina), GenPeace Youth Network (the Philippines), Young Leaders of Sierra Leone (Sierra Leone), Yuvsatta (India) and Azerbaijan Tafakkur Youth Association (Azerbaijan). These international youth organizations, members of the network of UNOY Peacebuilders, have provided challenges to the Dutch students on such diverse topics as closing the digital gap, creating inter-religious dialogue, human rights education as well as youth unemployment in slums. Over the course of the program, teams of students will attempt to come up with new ideas and projects to address these issues. Peace of Minds Academy offers its students a monthly program from the end of August until December 2012 comprising a kick-off week, several workshops, master classes and excursions.

UNOY Peacebuilders is responsible for the organising of the communication between the international partners and the Dutch students and facilitating the so-called challenges as well as facilitating the international partners’ visit to the Netherlands for the kick-off week August 27-31.

To find out more about the project, please see www.peaceofminds.nl.

**Across Continents**

Across Continents was a European Voluntary Service project that included 12 volunteering placements in three host countries: Argentina, Colombia and Nepal. There were four sending countries: Italy, France, Spain, and Netherlands. The main themes of the project were anti-discrimination and human rights education. The main aims of the project were to contribute to create a culture of peace and human rights for all and to enhance active participation through volunteering.

The activities in the host countries were educational workshops with children and youth on the topics of ethnic equality, citizenship and human rights; Model United Nations Simulations; activities in the framework of peace, human rights and self-development with young people from a disadvantaged quarter; leisure activities (sports, arts) with children from an orphanage, mentoring disabled children.
at school as well as a Youth Human Rights Education Club. The methodology used throughout the project was in the framework of the non-formal education and peace education approach: experiential learning, cooperative learning, active participation, learning by doing.

**Training Course: Protect Your Rights (May 2012)**
The project “Protect Your Rights – Youth Rights and Active Participation” was organized for 24 youth workers from Youth in Action programme countries and partner countries from South East Europe (SEE). It took place in Kichevo, Macedonia May 20-27. The training aimed to contribute to a higher engagement of young people in social and political life by fostering the protection of youth rights and empower young people to take an active role in their communities.

**Youth Protagonists of Change (April-November 2012)**
Youth Protagonists of Change was implemented during 2012 and was organized in three main phases:
- Phase 1: Training course (April 2012)
- Phase 2: Follow up projects (May-October 2012)
- Phase 3: Consolidation seminar (November 2012)

The main goal of Youth Protagonists of Change was to contribute to change this situation by proposing a long-term intervention aimed to empower young people to promote sustainable social change and a culture of peace and human rights in their communities and at global level.

**Training Course: Peacebag (August 2012)**
The Peace Bag Training of Multipliers was an 8-day training course that aimed to build the training capacities and skills of young educators, trainers and multipliers on mainstreaming peace education and intercultural dialogue through non-formal education, with a specific focus on Euro-Mediterranean youth work. The practical manual “Peace Bag for EuroMed Youth” created by 18 organisations in the EuroMed region was the main resource of the training.

**Training Course: Build Peace on Your Own (September 2012)**
The training course “Build peace on your own- Civil society for a United Caucasus” was organized for 24 project coordinators and youth leaders from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Germany, Spain and The Netherlands. The training course is the first part of the two-year project “Build peace on your own- Civil society for a United Caucasus”. It aims to strengthen organizational capacities by fostering professional competences of project coordinators and youth leaders already involved in small-scale community projects for young people affected by the conflicts in the Southern Caucasus and those working on international level on conflict transformation. Moreover, the training course offered the possibility for youth workers from the Caucasus to discover, discuss, and elaborate, together with colleagues from Western Europe, on successful peace-building and conflict transformation measures of the past and draw conclusion for own measures.

**Training Course: 360 Peace in Media (September 2012)**
360° Peace in Media was a training course that aims to discuss the overall connectivity between media and peacebuilding process also going through the freedom of expression and information in media. It concentrated on media’s role in peacebuilding and conflicts, another aim was to bring together youth who are interested in media tools in Europe, South Caucasus, and the Mediterranean to share their realities and experiences related to working with these tools.
Training Course: Youth Building Peace (October 2012)

The project Youth Building Peace: Empowering the Caucasus: is a global 2 year project which aims to empower the region’s youth constituency by strengthening capacities of young people in the field of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and intercultural dialogue - using training and networking as principal tools. This will be done through a long-term 10 phase project, where a thorough needs and SWOT analysis done by youth organisations themselves, will be the basis of the training, education and networking envisioned in this project.

The seminar taking place 6-13 October 2012 in Barcelona focused on the role of training and capacity building in fostering a better and peaceful Caucasus region. It looked closely into the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to training and capacity building in the region, and how organisations in both the EU and Caucasus give concrete support to strengthening the development and consolidation of inclusive, participatory and pluralistic democracies in the region.

Events that UNOY 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.

- Anna Lindh Foundation Forum Preparatory Meeting on Youth (Istanbul, July 2012)
- Nordic Peace Conference (Oslo, August 2012)
- Inaugural Conference of the University for Peace in The Hague (The Hague, September 2012)
- Online Dialogue: Engaging Youth in Non-Violent Activism (Online, November 2012)
- Council of Europe Conference on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (Strasbourg, November 2012)
- Euro-Arab Cooperation Training of Trainers – Council of Europe & League of Arab States (Tunisia, December 2012)

Postponed Activities

Although we strived to carry out all activities mentioned in the year plan, some activities planned for 2012 were postponed or cancelled.

Mainstreaming Peace Education: Approaches, Methodologies, and Visions

This project on Mainstreaming Peace Education in Adult Education was set to start in autumn 2012, however, the kick-off meeting was only held in January 2013.

Regional Training Course in West Africa

The West Africa training, set to take place in Ghana, was originally planned to take place in autumn 2012. However, for funding reasons the training was moved until summer 2013.

MENA Youth Dialogue and Workshop

This event organized by Search for Common Ground in partnership with Cordaid and UNOY Peacebuilders was originally set to take place in June 2012, however, for various reasons it was moved until March 2013.

Youth Advocacy Team

Although the activities of the Youth Advocacy Team started in August 2012, the lobbying mission to the United Nations was postponed until spring 2013 for strategic reasons.
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). In 2012, UNOY Peacebuilders furthermore established a Youth Advocacy Team lobbying for a United Nations Security Council Resolution on youth and peacebuilding.

Youth Advocacy Team
The goal of the Youth Advocacy Team (YAT) is to advocate for greater youth involvement and participation in peacebuilding processes. The Youth Advocacy Team will advocate for the necessity of creating a United Nations Security Council Resolution on youth, peace and security. This resolution would particularly focus on addressing the needs and experiences of youth in conflict and post-conflict scenarios. The team will in spring 2013 make a week-long visit to the United Nations in New York to lobby for their cause with Member States. During autumn 2012 the team has done research on relevant topics, done a mapping of actors, schedule meetings with policy makers and prepare a policy paper. The team has also received training in advocacy and campaigning.

The members of the team are:
- Mohammad Haroon, Afghans for Progressive Thinking, Afghanistan
- Emad Karim, Youth & Development Consultancy Institute Etijah, Egypt
- Iram Parveen, Iconcern, India
- Krmanj Othman, Centre of Human Rights, Reconciliation and Public Policy, Iraq
- Noelia Negri, OAJNU, Argentina
- Gulalai Ismail, Coalition on the Rights and Responsibilities of Youth, Pakistan
- Daniel Obi Peter Youth for Peace Building & Development in Africa, Nigeria
- Eefje van Esch, UNOY Peacebuilders, the Netherlands

UNOY Peacebuilders’ Advocacy Efforts in Geneva
In 2012, UNOY Peacebuilders was represented in Swiss and Geneva-based NGO-networks, such as the Swiss Peace Education Network, the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning (whose work led to the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training), and the Collectif Paix-non-violence.

In 2012 UNOY Peacebuilders focused less on interventions at official UN meetings, participating mainly at UN events related to the right to peace such as the Expert Meeting on the future challenges of the Open-ended Working Group on the Right to Peace (June 25, 2012). This was done in preparation for extensive engagement with the Open-ended Working Group on the Right to Peace in its first and subsequent sessions in 2013, given the relevance of peace education, the culture of peace and youth engagement for the right to peace.

A major focus during 2012 was on expanding the UNOY Peacebuilders network of contacts/partners and participating in special events on the topics of a culture of peace, youth movements, and the right to peace. At these events UNOY Peacebuilders aimed to raise awareness of our work, to network. In general, the advocacy effort was to recognize 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). There has also been a specific effort this year to focus on the right to peace and the importance of peace education for its implementation.

UNOY Peacebuilders took an active part in the following special events:
UNOY Peacebuilders – Annual report 2012

Meeting on a future European Institute of Peace: “Open Space: Envisioning the Future of European Peacemaking” – Brussels, Belgium (January 27, 2012)

Public event on eliminating violence against women by the White Ribbon Campaign Switzerland on the Place des Nations – Geneva, Switzerland (March 8, 2012)

Red Talk: “Let’s get serious: challenges and opportunities for youth leadership” at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) – Geneva, Switzerland (May 8, 2012)


Conference: “Peace Education in Switzerland: Challenges and Perspectives” leading to the establishment of the Swiss Peace Education Network – Broc, Switzerland (October 27-28, 2012)

Opening of the Basel Peace Office – Basel, Switzerland (November 16, 2012)

Symposium at the Basel Peace Office (November 17, 2012)

Meeting of the Swiss Peace Education Network (December 4, 2012)

Swisspeace Annual Conference – Bern, Switzerland (November 20, 2012)

Several sessions with youth at a public high school, following up on event organized for the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2011 (January-December 2012)

Additionally, in 2012 UNOY Peacebuilders put a lot of effort into the organization of a conference on Infrastructures for Peace titled: “Nesting Peace: Creating Infrastructures to Sustain Diversity.” This Summit, organized in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace (GAMIP) as well as Pacicultura, will be held in Geneva on September 16-20, 2013. The important role of youth in infrastructures for peace as an innovative approach in peacebuilding will be emphasized.
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 success of online presence in 2012:

- 9,471 visitors on our website www.unoy.org
- 2,615 likes on Facebook page
- 565 Friends on UNOY Peacebuilders’ Facebook profile
- 246 Twitter followers
- 323 Tweets
- 2,312 people received UNOY’s newsletters

Overall outreach of UNOY Peacebuilders in 2012:
- 357 youth took direct part in the activities organised by UNOY Peacebuilders

Photo Contest

Leading up to the International Day of Peace September 21, UNOY Peacebuilders arranged the photo contest “A Picture for Peace” on Facebook aiming to give young people aged 15-30 all over the world the chance to show their contributions to peace by taking part in a photo contest. All photos entering the contest should answer the question: “Why do youth play an important part in peacebuilding?” We are very grateful to photographer Stefano de Luigi for allowing us to use his picture for the marketing of the contest. 45 contestants entered the competition and 859 people liked the Facebook page of the contest.

Bárbara Pereira from Portugal won the contest with the following answer to the question we asked: “Knowledge is a way to instruct people to peace. To choose the best for ourselves we must learn the best way to lead peace to us and to others. By tracing the youth future with the point of a pen, we are able to raise a conscious generation, giving hope to us and to them - the children of the future, that will be the parents of tomorrow. It’s a big process that starts NOW. Let’s share knowledge. Let’s share hope, so we can share peace. - Kid in the Classroom Window @Soweto Slum, Nairobi, Kenya”
The runners up in the contest were: Anouk Aimée Boom, Ashlesha Khadse, Emad Karim, Mark Koterwski, Roli Mahajan, Sana Zulfiqar, Sariful Shamim, Subhash Ghimire, Sylvia Frain and Yasmine Bennis. The winning pictures can be viewed here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KCfyA-Z-Ewk

Thanks to our cooperation with the International Network of Museums for Peace (INMP), the winning photo as well as the runners up have been exhibited globally. In 2012 the exhibition was shown at the Bertha von Suttner Building (home of the UNOY and INMP secretariats), The Netherlands, at the Missing Peace Art Space, U.S.A. as well as at several schools in Dayton, Ohio, thanks to the Missing Peace Art Space, U.S.A. The exhibition will continue its tour in 2013. For an updated schedule of the tour, please visit the INMP website.
Finances

The finances of UNOY Peacebuilders have been kept in check during 2012. The annual turn-over in 2012 was 181,587 euro and the result for the same year was 184 euro. The equity in 2011 added up to 36,400 euro.

Donors, Sponsors and Partners

Thank you to all our donors, sponsors and partners!
General contact information

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