

## YOUTH-LED PEACE: THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN PEACE PROCESSES

### Knowledge Exchange Workshop

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020

12:00 – 13:30 GMT	<b>Session 1: The Role of Youth in Peace Processes</b>
	<p><b>Asli Ozcelik Olcay, Yulia Nesterova &amp; Graeme Young (University of Glasgow)</b> The “Youth-Led Peace” Project and Consultation Findings</p> <p><b>Mark Muller Stuart QC (Beyond Borders Scotland; Senior Mediation Advisor to the UN DPPA)</b> Inclusive Peace Processes</p> <p><b>Emilia Harriet Hannuksela (Office of the UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth) &amp; Irena Grizelj (Search for Common Ground)</b> Collaborative Partnerships for Youth Inclusive Peace Processes</p> <p><b>Beverly Orozco (Generation Peace Youth Network, Philippines)</b> The Role of Youth in Peacebuilding in Mindanao</p>
13:45 – 15:15 GMT	<b>Session 2: Overcoming the Challenges to Youth-Led Peace</b>
	<p><b>Ali Altiok (Interpeace)</b> What Makes Youth Participation Meaningful? The Politics and Risks of Youth Participation</p> <p><b>Marc Batac (Initiatives for International Dialogue)</b> The YPS Agenda &amp; the Protection of Young Peacebuilders and Young Activists in Repressive Contexts</p> <p><b>Maged Thabet Kholidy &amp; Yazeed Al Jeddawy (Youth without Borders Organisation for Development), Marwa Baabbad (Oxford Research Group), Kate Nevens (International Development Consultant)</b> The Role of Youth in Peacebuilding in Yemen</p> <p><b>Hassan Hamidi (Afghans for Progressive Thinking)</b> Afghan Youth’s Prospects: An Inclusive Peace Process</p>

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

12:00 - 13:30 GMT

**Session 3: A Holistic Approach to Youth Inclusion in Peacebuilding**

**Maria Stage (United Nations Development Programme)**

Supporting the critical role of young people in sustaining peace

**Kuany (UNESCO MGIEP)**

The role of formal and informal education and training in developing young people's peace leadership

**Sinead Gormally (University of Glasgow)**

Creating a positive counter-narrative: Working with communities and young people as catalysts for social change

**Debby Karemera (Never Again Rwanda)**

The role of safe and inclusive participatory platforms for youth

**Agnes Mwambila (Human Rights Agenda (HURIA), Kenya)**

Youth inclusion in peacebuilding: Experiences in Kenya

13:45 - 15:15 GMT

**Session 4: Pathways for Youth-Led Peace**

**Romeral Ortiz Quintilla (Search for Common Ground)**

The Youth 360 Methodology

**Elif Kalan (Conflictus Conflict Resolution Training)**

Community-based peace training with youth groups

**Emily Gifford and Esme Markham (Beyond Borders Scotland)**

Insights from the Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship

**Lorraine Degruson (United Network of Young Peacebuilders)**

Protecting young peacebuilders

**Gatwal A. Gatkuoth (Young-Adult Empowerment Initiative, South Sudan)**

Youth for Peace: Insights from South Sudan

## About the Project

More than 600 million young people live in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Although youth are affected by violence in a myriad of ways and play active roles as peacebuilders in their communities, significant barriers to their leadership and inclusion in peace processes persist. Despite significant international initiatives (most notably the UN's Youth, Peace and Security Agenda set out in Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020) and the establishment of the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security), meaningful youth inclusion in official peace processes remains an exception. Furthermore, the leadership role that young peacemakers, mediators, and peacebuilders play at grassroots and local levels are under-acknowledged.

Adopting a broad understanding of peace processes as "a mixture of politics, diplomacy, changing relationships, negotiation, mediation, and dialogue in both official and unofficial arenas" (Saunders 2001), the "Youth-Led Peace: The Role of Youth in Peace Processes" project aims to:

- examine the barriers to and strategies for youth inclusion in official peace processes; and
- investigate and emphasise the significance of youth leadership as peacemakers, mediators, and peacebuilders at grassroots and local levels; and
- explore the pathways for promoting and investing in youth leadership in peace processes through meaningful partnerships, capacity building, and protection.

This project will produce (i) a workshop report addressing the key themes and findings that emerge from the workshop discussion; and (ii) a policy brief that will be shared with project participants and peace-making practitioners and policymakers.

## Workshop Format

This knowledge exchange workshop brings together researchers, representatives of international organizations and donors, conflict resolution institutions, and youth-led peace organisations from around the world. The full list of participants can be found at the end of this document. This is an **invitation-only** and **off-the-record** workshop held under the Chatham House Rule. The workshop consists of four sessions over two days. Each session will start with short presentations (8-10 minutes) that will inform the subsequent open discussion. The design of the workshop and the direction of the project are informed by an online survey and a virtual focus group discussion carried out with a group of youth-led peace organisations.

## Workshop Conveners

- Dr Asli Ozelik Olcay (Principal Investigator; Postdoctoral Researcher, International Law)  
Email: [Asli.Olcay@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Asli.Olcay@glasgow.ac.uk)
- Dr Yulia Nesterova (Co-Investigator; Research Associate, Education & International Development)  
Email: [Yulia.Nesterova@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Yulia.Nesterova@glasgow.ac.uk)
- Dr Graeme Young (Co-Investigator; Research Associate, Development Studies)  
Email: [Graeme.Young.2@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Graeme.Young.2@glasgow.ac.uk)

### **Session 1 (12:00 - 13:30 GMT): The Role of Youth in Peace Processes**

Taking stock of the implementation record of the YPS agenda in its first five years in relation to youth inclusive peace processes, this session will identify and discuss the complex and myriad contributions of youth to peace processes and how the youth-led peace initiatives can be better integrated and acknowledged.

#### *Discussion Themes*

- The unique impact of conflict and post-conflict situations on youth;
- How high-level peace negotiations include or exclude youths, their experiences, perspectives and interests;
- Challenges to and strategies for inclusive peace-making and peacebuilding;
- Recognition of and support for independent youth-led peace practices and initiatives in their everyday and local contexts;
- Why peace needs youth and why youth needs peace: the unique roles that youths can play in peace processes beyond high-level negotiations (e.g. community events, building social/cultural ties, campaigning for issues that are otherwise neglected, taking part in everyday interactions that promote integration and understanding) and the specific benefits that peace that is sensitive to youth can have (e.g. increased opportunities, addressing specific forms of injustice and exclusion, linking various forms of political, economic and social inclusion).

### **Session 2 (13:45 - 15:15 GMT): Overcoming the Challenges to Youth-Led Peace**

This session will focus on the main challenges to inclusion and leadership of youth in peace processes, and how these challenges have been and can be overcome.

#### *Discussion Themes*

- Common challenges faced by youth peacemaking organizations (e.g. those related to political exclusion, economic constraints, social divisions);
- The conditions that allow youth to successfully engage in the promotion of peace (e.g. political/economic/social conditions, spaces for organization, channels for advocacy and dialogue);
- The activities that have seen positive results and the strategies employed that have allowed them to be successful;
- The ability of youth and youth organizations to participate in politics (e.g. voting, forming and participating in political parties, campaigning, advocacy);
- Which youth-led local peacemaking practices are not sufficiently supported and recognized by local, national and international institutions.

### **Session 3 (12:00 - 13:30 GMT): A Holistic Approach to Youth Inclusion in Peacebuilding**

The session will address inclusion of youth in peace processes from a diversity of perspectives (e.g. political, economic, social and cultural inclusion), how a holistic understanding of inclusion can be facilitated, and how inclusion is conceptualized by youth.

#### *Discussion Themes*

- Inclusion and exclusion of youth in peace processes;
- Inclusion and exclusion of youth within constitutional, legal and political frameworks across (post)conflict phases;
- The importance of the economic dimensions of peace and the role of employment and livelihood opportunities in young people's peace leadership;
- The importance of state support (e.g. social security, anti-poverty measures, easing access to loans, registration or assistance) and the role of other actors (e.g. the private sector, civil society, family, communities);
- The role of formal and informal education and training in developing young people's peace leadership;
- How youths and youth organizations can play a role in bridging social divides and opening spaces for dialogue and engagement.

### **Session 4 (13:45 - 15:15 GMT): Pathways for Youth-Led Peace**

This concluding session will explore the future directions for promoting and investing in youth leadership in peace processes through meaningful partnerships, capacity building, and protection.

#### *Discussion Themes*

- Promotion of youth inclusion in official processes and of the recognition of youth-led everyday and local practices;
- How can the YPS agenda be further institutionalized at local, national and international levels in relation to youth inclusion in peace processes;
- What capacity building activities have been and would be helpful to young peacemakers? Which skills and subjects should be targeted in youth peacemaker training programmes?;
- How the capacity of young peacemakers to act as mediators can be built and enhanced.

## List of Participants (in alphabetical order)

1. Agnes Mwambila (Program Officer, Human Rights Agenda (HURIA), Kenya)
2. Alex Maxwell (Research Assistant & PhD Candidate, University of Glasgow)
3. Ali Altiok (YPS Project Officer, Interpeace)
4. Asli Ozcelik Olcay (Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Glasgow; Academic Coordinator, Glasgow Centre for International Law and Security)
5. Beverly Orozco (Head of the National Secretariat, Generation Peace Youth Network, Philippines)
6. Chelsea Payne (Peacebuilding Support Office, UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA))
7. Debby Karemera (Peacebuilding Team Leader, Never Again Rwanda)
8. Elif Kalan (Co-founder and Trainer, Conflictus Conflict Resolution Training)
9. Emilia Harriet Hannuksela (Associate Expert, Office of the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY))
10. Emily Gifford (Projects & Festival Manager, Beyond Borders Scotland)
11. Erin Bourke (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK)
12. Esme Markham (Projects Officer, Beyond Borders Scotland)
13. Gatwal A. Gatkuoth (Executive Director, Young-Adult Empowerment Initiative, South Sudan)
14. Gemma Standeven (Deputy Policy Analyst, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK)
15. Gizem Kilinc (Youth, Peace and Security Expert, OSGEY)
16. Graeme Young (Research Associate, University of Glasgow)
17. Harriet Fildes (Programme Manager, The Scottish Human Rights Defender Fellowship, University of Dundee)
18. Hassan Hamidi (Afghans for Progressive Thinking)
19. Irena Grizelj (Head of Programs - Myanmar, Search for Common Ground)
20. Juan Jeannet Arce (Mediation Support Unit, UN DPPA)
21. Katarina Skoko (Youth, Peace and Security Consultant, OSGEY)
22. Kate Latimir (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK)
23. Kate Nevens (Freelance International Development Consultant, Gender, Youth, Peace & Security)
24. Kuany (Project Officer, UNESCO MGIEP)
25. Laura Buzzoni (Peacebuilding Support Office, UN DPPA)
26. Lorraine Degruson (Co-Director (Strategy), United Network of Young Peacebuilders)
27. Maged Thabet Kholidy (Chairman, Youth without Borders Organisation for Development)
28. Marc Batac (Regional Programme Coordinator, Initiatives for International Dialogue)

29. Maria Stage (Programme Analyst, Youth Empowerment, Governance Team, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Global Policy Network, United Nations Development Programme)
30. Mark Muller Stuart QC (Founder, Beyond Borders Scotland; Senior Mediation Advisor to the UN DPPA; Visiting Professor in Practice, LSE)
31. Marwa Baabbad (Head of International Projects, Oxford Research Group)
32. Mehmet Ilhanli (Director, Young Peacebuilders of Turkey)
33. Romeral Ortiz Quintilla (Search for Common Ground)
34. Ruth A. Ojo (Founder, Destined Leaders, Liberia)
35. Saji Prelis (Director, Children & Youth Programmes, Search for Common Ground)
36. Sinead Gormally (Senior Lecturer, University of Glasgow)
37. Tom Vrolijk (Intern, United Network of Young Peacebuilders)
38. Yazeed Al Jeddawy (Project Coordinator, Youth without Borders Organisation for Development)
39. Yulia Nesterova (Research Fellow, University of Glasgow)