

YOUTH-LED ACTIVISM FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

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Looking for a Paradigm Shift

Background

The year 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and the 5th anniversary of UNSCR 2250. Although much remains to be done to accelerate the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and Youth, Peace and Security agenda, it is hopeful to see the many successful efforts that young women and men make to build pockets of trust and cohesion within settings affected by conflict and humanitarian crisis.

All over the world, **young people are playing an important role in peace and development, accelerating the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.** They challenge traditional power structures and advocate for a new social contract between state and society. Both young women and men have become leading actors to promote democratic values, gender equality, women and human rights and stand up for oppressed and marginalized groups within their society.

UNSCR 2535 (2020) has reaffirmed its commitment by adapting a new resolution to strengthen young people's participation already outlined in UNSCR 2250 and introduced new language on full and meaningful participation of 'young people in humanitarian action' and 'protection of civic space'.

The UN resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security also reinforce UNSCR 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Working together with young activists to challenge oppressive structures from a feminist and youth perspective and encouraging active citizenship to address the safety concerns in their society is key. Engagement of young people to work on the women, peace and security agenda (including the principles of UNSCR 1325) on local, regional and international level is **most relevant to effectively respond to today's humanitarian crisis.**



DATE: Monday 19 October

TIME: 9 EST / 15 CET

ZOOM REGISTRATION



In this side event we **engage with young male and female activists on the intersection of the two groundbreaking resolutions on inclusive peace building: UNSCR 1325 (2000) and 2250 (2015).**

Together with both male and female youth activists from the Middle East, North Africa and Asia we discuss **the importance for a gender-responsive approach towards peace building and the interlinkage between Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agenda.** The youth leaders will share inspiring stories and examples of their work as bridge builders and explain how these agenda can mutually reinforce each other.

Objectives

- Raise awareness of what UNSCR 1325 means for young peace activists and how the YPS and WPS agenda are interlinked:
- Discuss the opportunities and challenges that young people face in promoting gender equality and applying a strong intersectional gender lens in working on youth, peace and security with best practices from Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Afghanistan;
- Provide recommendations for policy decision makers on how to support young people's actions in working on the interlinkage in promoting gender equality and accelerating the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Speakers

Aisha Altubuly (23) is a coordinator and project manager-assistant at the organization Together We Build It (TWBI), based in Tripoli, Libya. She has been working on women's issues since she was 15 years old. Through her work, she has developed the capacity of youth stakeholders to speak up and address issues in order for women and youth to be empowered to take active roles in decision-making processes within the framework of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and 2250. She took the lead on many projects that raise awareness on GBV as well as advocating for women's political participation in Libya. She is currently studying Political Science with a specialization in International Relations at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. She is also a member of the UN Women Youth Gender Innovative Agora. TWBI is a main partner in the Cordaid Libya program 'Women and Youth as Bridge builders' supported under the Dutch NAP 1325.

Sofia Ramyar is the former executive director of 'Afghans for Progressive Thinking' (APT), the largest youth-led professional organization in Afghanistan. Ramyar has engaged to further the goals of the UN Security Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security and she lobbied for the UN Security Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security which was adopted in 2015. Sofia Ramyar has spoken at the UN Security Council before on Youth, Peace and Security about the role of youth in promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Ramyar initiated the annual Afghan Youth Representative to the UN program and co-founded a school for internally displaced children in Afghanistan in 2018. She recently published an article about the role of "Victims of War in the Afghan Peace Process" in Kabul. Currently, Ms. Ramyar is pursuing her master's degree in Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University in California, USA. APT is part of the CSPPS and UNOY network, and working together with Cordaid on the global advocacy on Youth, Peace and Security.

Firyal Majdi is project coordinator for peace building projects at the Youth Without Borders Organization for Development (YWBOD), based in Yemen. She has also worked as an executive manager for the Yemen Peace School Organization (YPS). She is a gender trainer, and founder of several initiatives that promote coexistence and community peace. She has been an activist for peace building since 2015 and she has managed advocacy campaigns related to 1325. She is also a podcaster, where she discusses women and life-development issues. YWBOD is a member of the UNOY YGDCP network.

Fryad Fouad Hama (28) is a young Iraqi activist working with the Kurdistan Relief Association (KRA) in Kirkuk. Since 2018, Firyad and other youth members active with KRA joined Cordaid's #YouthSpeak program, which brings young people from Ninewa, Kirkuk and Erbil together to enhance community security. The main focus of his work in this program is to build bridges between polarized communities, old and young people, between different religions and different genders. Together with his peer youth colleagues he is involved in community projects where they amongst other raise awareness on the issue of sexual harassment and promote gender equality. Through several activities they targeted 5.000 community members from all segments; university students, local policy makers, religious leaders, etc.

Final reflections and co-moderation from **Mert Kumru** (23) who is one of the two current Dutch youth-representatives on Human Rights and Security to the UN. He got elected in 2019 by the Dutch youth to represent all of them on the local and world stage. Together with his colleague Hajar Yagkoubi, he attends international conferences, negotiations and other high-level fora in order to provide a different younger perspective on ongoing matters. But besides attending conferences the work of a youth-representative mainly focusses on direct dialogues with their own generation. For the upcoming 2 years he'll be working on numerous topics and issues which are related to the youth.

Organizers

Cordaid has been fighting poverty and exclusion in the world's most fragile societies and conflict-stricken areas for a century. We engage local communities to rebuild trust and resilience and increase people's self reliance. Our professionals provide humanitarian assistance and create opportunities to improve security, health care and education and stimulate inclusive economic growth. Cordaid includes youth not just as beneficiaries, but as partners and leaders in the process of building peace, development and enhancing security within their community.

The **Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)** is a member-led international network composed of civil society actors, practitioners, experts and academics from the Global South and Global North who work together on conflict and crisis prevention, peacebuilding and statebuilding in over 20 fragile and conflict-affected countries (FCAS). Our mission is to amplify the voice of civil society within the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) and to strengthen the voice and capacity of society to effectively engage in, and influence, peacebuilding and statebuilding as a critical contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all.

The **United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)** is shaping the global agenda for Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) in partnership with 110 youth-led grassroots organisations. Our members are from over 56 countries, reaching nearly 13 million young people in 2019. We work towards a world free from violence, in which young people play a leading role in building peace and transforming conflicts. We develop the capacities of our members to mobilise youth as peacebuilders, as well as the capacities of young people to lead conflict transformation and advocate for non-violence. We enable youth to act together through a global network and ensure meaningful youth participation in issues of peace and security.

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