

UNSCR 2250 and beyond

a youth toolkit

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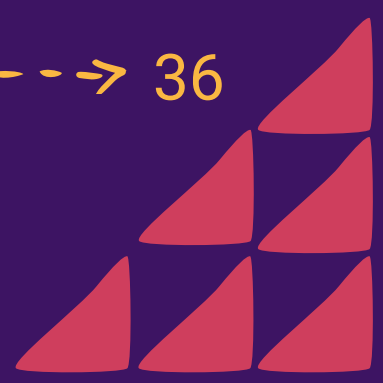
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1 INTRODUCTION

In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2250 (UNSCR 2250), the first-ever thematic resolution on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). This historic document is very important for us as young peacebuilders as it brings recognition and legitimacy to youth's efforts in building peace. We have gathered some useful documents and ideas into the toolkit to help us all better understand the importance and content of the resolution. We hope it will help us advocate for the resolution's implementation in our country and local communities.

The toolkit is divided into five sections:

- KEY DOCUMENTS
- UNSCR 2250 PROGRESS: 5 YEARS
- NEW YPS FOCUS AREAS
- IMPLEMENTING UNSCR 2250
- WHAT'S NEXT

The previous edition of this toolkit has been translated to Spanish: [descarga aquí la versión española](#) and Korean: [download the Korean version here](#). We will include links to the translation of this current edition once they become available.

In addition to the toolkit itself, why not join our [Youth, Peace and Security group](#) on Facebook? It's a place to share experiences, get advice and connect with other people who are also working on UNSCR 2250. There is also the [Juventudes Por la Paz group](#) for Spanish speakers.

This current toolkit was last updated in May 2021. It builds upon UNOY's original 2250 toolkit, contributed to by Andrea Curcio, Clara Pietrek, Iram Parveen, Ludmila Dias Andrade, Matilda Flemming, Miraji Hassan Mohamed, Mridul Upadhyay, Romeral Ortiz Quintilla. Illustrations were provided by Mena Marleen Wellen and most photos taken by Leonardo Párraga.



2 KEY DOCUMENTS

Learn more about UNSCR 2250, documents that inspired it, and succeeding resolutions that followed.

To meaningfully use UNSCR 2250, we first have to understand it. Below we present the resolution itself, as well as an overview of other key documents that inspired the resolution, including emerging research, a policy paper and national commitments to help us understand the wider arena of YPS.

After UNSCR 2250, two more resolutions, UNSCR 2419 (2018) and UNSCR 2535 (2020) followed. We have compiled some information about them below.

2.1 UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2250

On 9th December 2015, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2250 (UNSCR 2250), the first-ever thematic resolution on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). This historic document is very important for all young peacebuilders worldwide because it brings recognition and legitimacy to young people's positive contributions in building peace.

THE RESOLUTION ITSELF:

The full text of the official resolution can be found here

A GUIDE TO UNSCR 2250:

Everything you need to know about UNSCR 2250 in one place. What does the resolution say? Why does it matter? What can we do with it?

UNSCR 2250 EXPLAINED:

For a more in-depth explanation of the resolution and what it means, read the annotated version

INFOGRAPHIC:

A visual one-pager that summarises key principles and pillars of the resolution

2.2

INSPIRATIONS FOR UNSCR 2250

It is important to note that UNSCR 2250 was not the first time alternative narratives about young people participating in peacebuilding, especially young people's positive contributions to peace, was highlighted. There were several documents, including consultations, focus group discussions and numerous online and offline conversations that all built up to what UNSCR 2250 finally became - one stepping stone after another.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING:

A nine-step guide to include young people in peace processes.

AGREED UN LANGUAGE ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING:

A report by UNOY Peacebuilders on the language used by the UN Security Council on youth between 1995-2013.

UN PLAN OF ACTION AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM:

A plan developed by the UN Secretary-General, which includes a section on youth empowerment.

ACTION AGENDA TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND PROMOTE PEACE:

The outcome document of the Global Youth Summit against Violent Extremism, this document approaches youth participation in countering and preventing violent extremism.

AMMAN YOUTH DECLARATION:

The outcome document of the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, this declaration is a roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework on Youth, Peace and Security.



2.3

RESOLUTIONS SUCCEEDING UNSCR 2250

UNSCR 2419

On 6th June 2018, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2419, reaffirming its commitment to the implementation of UNSCR 2250. The resolution has an additional focus on the inclusive representation of youth in negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements for the prevention and resolution of conflict.

The resolution also requests the UN Secretary-General to report on the implementation of resolution 2419 and 2250 by May 2020.

[Read the full Resolution 2419 here](#)

UNSCR 2535

On 14th July 2020, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2535, its third on Youth, Peace and Security. Co-sponsored by France and the Dominican Republic, one of the most significant elements of this resolution is that it confirms Youth, Peace and Security as a permanent agenda of the Security Council. It requires the UN Secretary-General to submit a biennial report to the Council on YPS implementation of UNSCRs 2250 and 2419. By embracing the previous policy frameworks on YPS, the resolution further signals a commitment by the United Nations to integrate the YPS agenda in a coordinated and systematic approach.

From YPS policy to action. The new language in UNSCR 2535 strengthens the political commitment to the operationalisation of the YPS agenda, with special emphasis on the meaningful inclusion of youth in peace processes and humanitarian action. It calls for the development of guidance on the protection of young people. It also intensifies the role of the United Nations in building the YPS agenda, specifically mentioning the role of the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY) to be responsible for coordinating efforts and activities on YPS, and for tracking the implementation of UNSCR 2250, 2419 and 2535 throughout the UN-wide system.

[Read the full UNSC Resolution 2535 here](#)

[Read a brief assessment of UNSC Resolution 2535 here](#)

2.4

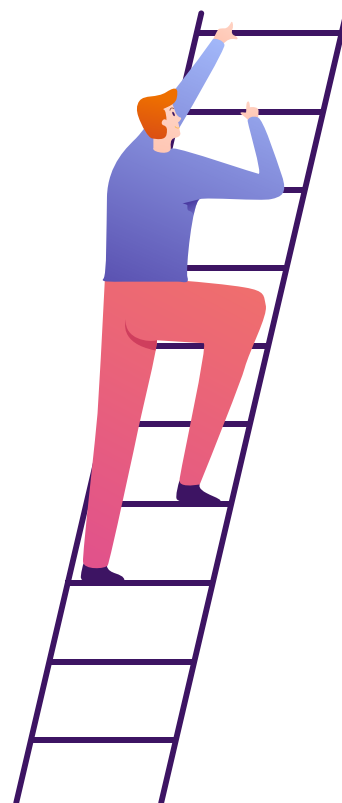
PROGRESS STUDIES FOR UNSCR 2250

The Missing Peace:

Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security (2018)

UNSCR 2250 called for a Progress Study on young people's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution. Up until then, there was very little evidence on the activities, achievements and aspirations of young people working on peace and security.

[The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth and Peace and Security](#) filled this critical gap, giving young people across the world the opportunity to contribute to the discussions on the main peace and security issues facing their communities.



The Progress Study was developed through a uniquely participatory research process, including face-to-face discussions (focus group discussions, regional and national consultations) with a total of 4,230 young people, as well as research, surveys and mapping exercises carried out across 27 countries.

[Read the full Progress Study here](#) (available in English, Arabic, French, Spanish)

Mapping a Sector:

Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding.

[Mapping a Sector: Bridging the Evidence Gap on Youth-Driven Peacebuilding](#) contributes to the Progress Study. UNOY jointly produced the report with [Search for Common Ground](#). It analyses 399 responses from youth-led organisations answering the Global Survey (2016) and provides a broad overview of the activities, achievements, strengths and needs of youth-led organisations.



2.5

POLICY PAPERS FOR UNSCR 2250

We Are Here:

An Integrated Approach to Youth-inclusive Peace Processes (2019)

[We Are Here](#) is a policy paper that evidences the positive results of meaningful youth inclusion in peace processes. It documents successful practices of youth inclusion and participation in peace processes. It also analyses young people's use of diverse and innovative approaches to influence peace processes - through social media advocacy, participation to address local conflicts, monitoring ceasefires, and shaping the drafting of peace agreements. It presents an evidence base for the substantive roles young people play in peacebuilding processes and underlines the need to reinforce these roles in sustaining peace.

[Read the full version of the policy paper here](#)



3 UNSCR 2250 PROGRESS: 5 YEARS

This chapter shares the progress of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in the last 5 years, covering 2016-2021. The international and regional commitments are shown in a timeline, followed by country-specific commitments.

3.1 INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL MILESTONES

OPPAP

2016

January

The Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth, Peace and Security publishes the [Practice Note: Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding](#), to inform policymakers and donors about key strategic and programming considerations for supporting young people's participation in peacebuilding. The working group consists of civil society organisations, including youth-led and youth-focused organisations, United Nations entities, donors, academia and intergovernmental bodies. It is co-chaired by the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, Search for Common Ground and UNOY Peacebuilders. This group was renamed the [Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security \(GCYPS\)](#).



May

The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund launches the [Youth Promotion Initiative](#) that supports innovative projects focused on youth empowerment and participation related to peacebuilding.

2017

March

The European Union's HR/VP Federica Mogherini expresses the EU's collaboration on UNSCR 2250, specifically by organising a consultation for the Progress Study in Brussels during 25-27 September. [Read the consultation report here.](#)



April

Heads of Government from 53 Commonwealth countries unanimously endorse UNSCR 2250. An official communiqué is released which recognises the role of young people in promoting peace. This endorses the principles and actions of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. The Commonwealth urges member states to consider supporting youth-led mechanisms that enable the meaningful participation of young people in peacebuilding and social cohesion processes in the community. [Read more about it here.](#)

October

The fourth Africa-Europe Youth Summit, part of the African Union-European Union Heads of State Summit, leads to the [Abidjan Youth Declaration](#) and [Youth Agenda](#) which both refer to UNSCR 2250. Another development at the African level is the African Union's Youth in Peacebuilding Initiative which reiterates the AU's commitment to issues of YPS and includes a focus on UNSCR 2250.



2018

May

The European Union provides policy guidance on UNSCR 2250 by adopting [Council Conclusions](#) on the role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society.

UNOY helps organise the first EU conference on youth, peace and security, bringing together 73 young peacebuilders from 27 EU member states and 29 partners, as well as decision-makers, policy experts, stakeholders, and practitioners.



June

The UN Security Council adopts [UNSCR 2419](#), reaffirming its commitment to the implementation of UNSCR 2250, calling for the meaningful inclusion of young people in negotiating and implementing peace agreements, recognising the role that youth could play in conflict prevention and resolution.

September

The full version of [The Missing Peace - Progress Study](#) is released and presented during the high-level week of the General Assembly.

The Youth for Peace Africa Programme is launched in Lagos, Nigeria, with the mandate to implement all relevant African Union (AU), regional and international instruments relating to the role of the youth in promoting peace and security in Africa including the [Africa Youth Charter](#).

July

[The Young Peacebuilders Forum in Colombia](#) brings together 60 young peacebuilders on the theme "Leaving No Youth Behind Through Resolution 2250 and Agenda 2030", providing a unique space to build concrete and meaningful partnerships beyond mere networking.

November

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU dedicates its 807th meeting to an open session on the theme: Youth, Peace and Security. During this session, the Council requests the Commission to undertake a study on the role and contributions of youth in promoting peace and security in Africa. Read more about the communique [here](#).

The United Nations adopts the [Youth2030 agenda](#) which acts as an umbrella framework to guide the entire UN as it steps up its work with and for young people in peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development. The agenda seeks to significantly strengthen the UN's capacity to engage young people and benefit from their views, insights and ideas. It wants to strengthen the foundation of the UN so that it delivers with and for young people.

December

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) adopt a declaration on the role of youth in contributing to peace and security efforts. The declaration refers to UNSCR 2250 and 2419 and outlines the OSCE's commitments to youth. Read more about the declaration [here](#).

2019

March

The first [International Symposium on Youth Participation in Peace Processes](#) takes place in Helsinki, Finland. The symposium explored strategies to ensure young women and men have space and opportunities to engage in and influence formal peace and mediation processes. It included the launch of a global policy paper on youth participation in peace processes, [We Are Here: An Integrated Approach to Youth-inclusive Peace Processes](#), which provided evidence of the impact young people have had in past and current peace processes.



May

UNDP launches [Frontlines](#), a global report putting forward and synthesising data from field case studies/focus group discussions. It maps youth-led actions in the five regions, has a global literature review, and a global survey on youth and countering and preventing violent extremism for practitioners. Frontlines aims towards a better understanding of young people's aspirations and perceptions and improving programming.



September

UNOY publishes an independent research report and policy brief, [Mapping the Progress of Youth, Peace and Security in the EU](#). Hosted by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office, several representatives of EU bodies, CSOs, and young peacebuilders gathered in Brussels for the launch of the report.



2020

March

The first report by the [Secretary-General on youth and peace and security](#) since the adoption of [UNSCR 2250 \(2015\)](#) is launched. The report demonstrates that, although there is a growing recognition of the essential role that young people play in peace and security, core challenges remain, including structural barriers limiting the participation of young people and their capacity to influence decision-making; violations of their human rights; and insufficient investment in facilitating their inclusion and empowerment.



December

The UN Security Council holds an "Arria Formula" meeting on YPS in celebration of the 5th anniversary of the resolution. An "Arria formula" meeting is an informal meeting of members of the United Nations Security Council which must be convened by a member of the UNSC in order for the meeting to take place. We can watch the meeting [here](#).



July

The UN Security Council adopts [UNSCR 2535](#) which emphasises the meaningful inclusion of youth in peace processes and humanitarian action, as well as the protection of young peacebuilders and the "civic and political spaces" in which they operate.



2021

February

The United Nations launches the [Youth, Peace and Security: A Programming Handbook](#) to build the capacity of practitioners in implementing the youth, peace and security (YPS) agenda. The handbook provides guidance to all United Nations entities on the implementation of the YPS agenda in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of context-specific interventions that are youth inclusive.



March

UNOY and Search for Common Ground launch the first [Youth, Peace and Security Fund](#) in order to transform traditional funding schemes and put financial power in the hands of young people who have been long excluded and overlooked.

UNOY Peacebuilders launches the [Youth, Peace and Security Research Network](#), publishing the first [Journal of Youth, Peace and Security](#). The journal is driven by 3 main goals: i) going beyond youth voices, it creates space for young people to participate in research as pen-holders shaping the narrative; ii) democratising knowledge creation on the global YPS agenda; and iii) ensuring youth ownership in knowledge creation. The first issue focuses on new frontiers in YPS at its 5th Anniversary: from youth voices to youth agency.

Launch of the [YPS Monitor](#) website - an independent and purely youth-led initiative to present data on assessing leadership, participation and inclusion of youth in the implementation of the YPS agenda at the national level.



3.2

NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

CANADA

[The Canadian Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security](#) was launched in 2020. It is a space where individuals and organisations working or interested in #YouthPeaceSecurity can uplift each other's work, advocacy & research. One of their core objectives is to lead the establishment of YPS institutionalisation and policy framework. Together with the US, they are supporting the [YPS fund](#).

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In 2018, the African Union established the Youth for Peace program, The main objective is to promote youth participation in peace and security activities at the continental level and build on UNSCR 2250. At the local level, it has implemented the organisation of online activities, including The Young Ambassadors of Peace, that led to the adoption of a [regional action plan](#).

COLOMBIA

In 2019, the Colombian Government participated in the [1st Global Symposium on the Role of Young People in Peace Processes](#). During the event, the Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs committed to launching a National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security. In July, UNOY Young Peacebuilders' Forum took place in Bogotá, Colombia, where different peacebuilders from Latin America, the Caribbean and the rest of the world got to know each other and planned ways of collaboration. In 2020, the network [Juventudes Por La Paz](#) was launched. This gave a Spanish-speaking and regional focus to the youth, peace and security agenda.

FINLAND

In 2016, [Network 2250](#) was established to support the national implementation of the resolution. In 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Finland would have a National Action Plan (NAP) on YPS, and up to 2019, the network carried nationwide consultations to nurture it. More information on the process can be found [here](#). In 2020, a 2250 task force was created, with youth organisations participating in workshops, planning and consulting the drafting of the NAP. The official launch of the NAP will take place in 2021. Some key learnings from the network 2250 advocacy efforts can be found [here](#).

JORDAN

In 2019, [The Jordan Youth, Peace and Security 2250 Coalition](#), operating under the umbrella of the [Ministry of Youth](#), [UNFPA](#), and the [Crown Prince Foundation](#) was launched. It comprises 22 youth organisations and 20 young people. Its main vision is to have an effective role in building and amplifying the momentum generated by Jordan's past and present leadership in actualising the 2250 agenda.

KOSOVO

The [Kosovo Roadmap on Youth, Peace & Security](#) culminated from a 2-month long consultation process reaching 940 youth across communities. [The United Nations Mission in Kosovo](#) has developed a six-fold framework strategy on YPS and supported the set-up of a [UN Youth Task Force](#) to build understanding and trust between youth from different communities in Kosovo and to raise awareness of local UN activities.

LIBERIA

In May 2016, UNSCR 2250 was officially launched in Liberia in an event held by UNOY member organisation Messengers of Peace (MOP). Before the senatorial elections in 2020, MOP organised the Youth Peace Talks titled Shaping Peace Together by Igniting Dialogue for Peaceful Elections, which brought together 500 young people in Monrovia, which was a first step to have a concrete partnership with the government.

MALDIVES

In August 2016, the United Nations in the Maldives, in close partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Maldives, [launched UNSCR 2250](#). This made the Maldives the first country in the Asia-Pacific region to honour this landmark resolution in an official ceremony. In October 2018, youth from all parts of the Maldives attended the National Youth Advocacy Summit held in Male. During the three-day event, they engaged in activities related to their aspirations, rights and opportunities.

MYANMAR

In March 2017, the Myanmar national consultative workshop was held in Yangon as part of a series of national and regional consultations for the Progress Study following UNSCR 2250. The consultation was jointly organised by UNDP, UN Volunteers, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UN-PBSO and the Peace Support Fund.

NIGERIA

In October 2016, an [official launch of UNSCR 2250](#) was organised in Nigeria by the [Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding \(CSPPS\)](#). In December 2019, the [Building Blocks for Peace Foundation](#), together with other 50 like-minded organisations, launched the Nigeria Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (NCYPS). Since its creation, NCYPS has provided momentum to the development of Nigeria's National Action Plan (NAP) on Youth, Peace and Security as well as state-level domestication plans by leading consultations and validation workshops with government agencies, civil society and community stakeholders and providing technical assistance to the drafting of the NAP which is due by March 2021.



PHILIPPINES

In 2018, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) developed a draft roadmap based on conversations with 117 young leaders of the [Youth Peace Tables Summit](#) - representing 76 youth organisations and networks. In June 2019, more than 100 youth leaders from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) came together to craft their five-point Youth, Peace and Security agenda. This is the first [Regional Consultation on Youth Peace and Security](#) where BARMM youth leaders were given a space to discuss key concerns and submit recommendations to ensure their interests are well-reflected in the policies of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority. The regional inputs will also feed into the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (NAP YPS) in the Philippines.

In April 2021, OPAPP organised an orientation meeting on UNSCR 2250 for all government agencies. On May 6-7, 2021, a Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Meeting was held virtually, bringing together representatives from government agencies, civil society organisations, academia, and youth-led organisations. Two very important outputs of this meeting were 1) the creation of a cooperation structure for the development of the NAP YPS and its implementation and 2) the review and refinement of the process towards the NAP YPS.

SIERRA LEONE

In February 2017, Sierra Leone made the official launch of UNSCR 2250. The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) has been a key partner in this effort and at a local level they proposed the “New Deal”, which includes key peacebuilding and statebuilding goals (PSGs) as an important foundation for accelerated national development. By connecting 2250 to other policies, they hope to be more impactful.

SRI LANKA

From April to July 2017, a [national youth consultation](#) took place to generate an understanding of the meaning of peace and security to youth in Sri Lanka, identify the obstacles and challenges faced by youth in peacebuilding efforts and recommend measures at the community, national, and international levels to create an optimal environment in which youth can thrive in peacebuilding. In December 2018, the 2250 coalition, composed of 29 organisations, organised a policy dialogue on a national strategy to implement UNSCR 2250.

SUDAN

In October 2017, [UNSCR 2250 was officially launched in the region of Darfur](#), under the auspices of its youth flagship project – The Youth Volunteers Supporting Peace and Recovery in Darfur Project (YoVoReD). It included consultations in five states of Darfur aimed to establish consensus on the key priorities and agree on a common approach and strategies for addressing the challenges identified in youth peacebuilding.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In 2020, the [United States Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security](#) was launched, with the main purpose of coordinating the launch of the [Youth, Peace and Security Act 2020](#). Its main objective is to mobilise American youth for the global YPS movement through advocacy & activism, having hosted several webinars and virtual spaces so far. Together with the Canadian Coalitions for YPS, they are supporting the [YPS fund](#).

YEMEN

UN Women and UNFPA have been leading the Furthering YPS Agenda Project, which focuses on youth empowerment and effective participation at all levels, including negotiation, conflict-resolution, and peacebuilding with a gender focus. The [Youth, Peace and Security Pact](#) was launched in Yemen, including a gender-balanced group of 30 young males and females who want to enhance the role of youth in peacebuilding at a national level.

ZIMBABWE

The youth-led organisation, Youth for Peace and Development, has been leading capacity building workshops and trainings for major stakeholders, youth activists and leaders. They have worked to localise UNSCR 2250, nonviolent strategies and peacebuilding processes for communities. In February 2019, it carried out a training with 17 institutions to [localise UNSCR 2250](#). The Youth Peace Barometer is also a youth-led initiative launched to monitor and evaluate the implementation of peace processes.

You can track the most recent updates in [YPS Monitor](#).
If there is an update that hasn't been shared please contact us <advocacy@unoy.org>

4 NEW YPS FOCUS AREAS

This chapter provides key information, resources and developments in three focus areas that have been identified as currently of special relevance for Youth, Peace and Security:

- **Security and protection** of young people as an urgent priority for youth peace activists across the globe
- **The COVID-19 pandemic** as a global crisis and its effects on youth peacebuilding
- **Youth engagement** as a key topic for any youth peacebuilder

4.1

SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF YOUNG PEACEBUILDERS

UNSCR 2250 acknowledges the importance of youth in peacebuilding and has launched an ongoing global process to increase youth participation in peace processes. The adoption of UNSCR 2535 reinforced the protection of young peacebuilders in response to the globally shrinking spaces for civil society and the increased exposure of youth peace activists to threats and violence.

To respond to the increasing relevance of security and protection for youth activists, UNOY Peacebuilders has made protection a [strategic priority for 2021-2025](#).

For a first orientation to the wide areas of security and protection in youth peacebuilding, the [Youth, Peace and Security - A Programming Handbook](#) is a good read under Chapter 7, pillar two. The publication [Young People's Right to Assemble Peacefully. A Mapping Study, in Preparation of The First Review of The Recommendation CM/Rec\(2016\)7](#) gives an exemplary account of threats and human rights violations to which youth organisations and activists are exposed in Europe. Examples are threats and intimidations, tracking and wiretapping of activists, attacks by militant groups, and public discrediting including negative labelling as foreign agents or elitists structures.

Unfortunately, no comprehensive security and protection guidebook exists yet that advises youth peace activists and organisations to deal with threats to their operations. Against this background, this chapter provides a short introduction to relevant security resources for youth peacebuilders. This includes training manuals, guidelines and resources on security and protection issues, and links to key security stakeholders and human rights defenders.

TRAINING MANUALS ON SECURITY AND PROTECTION

The [Holistic Security Trainers' Manual](#) shares best practices in the facilitation of security training courses, presents stand-alone examples of sessions for security training courses and offers an 11-session programme based on the Holistic Security Manual (see below). This content is a key resource for any youth security training.



The [Gendersec Curricula](#) approaches security from a holistic, feminist perspective to privacy and digital security. It offers complete workshops and stand-alone sessions ready to use or inspire facilitators.

The [Integrated Security Manual](#), developed in the women rights context, is a hands-on training manual not only detailing the approach of integrated security but also providing a full security training programme. Facilitators will find key elements for workshop facilitation, information on key security topics and educational exercises.

[Security in a Box](#) is a resource helping individuals at risk to learn basic principles for digital security. Additionally, it offers step-by-step instructions to effectively and securely use software and services.

The [Security Toolkit for Young Defenders](#) is a material complementing a comprehensive training of trainers for young defenders on integral security and human rights education. It was developed with and for young territory, land, and environmental defenders in Guatemala and Honduras but provides applicable content for similar contexts around the globe.



RESOURCES AND GUIDELINES ON SECURITY AND PROTECTION

[Holistic Security](#) is an online resource developed for human rights defenders but is also applicable for youth activists. This new innovative approach “integrates self-care, well-being, digital security, and information security into traditional security management practices.”

[Workbook on Security: Practical Steps for Human Rights Defenders at Risk](#) is perhaps the most read security manual for human rights defenders. Any youth activist or young peacebuilder can find guidance for the development of personal and organisational security plans.

[Security Culture for Activists](#) is a short and practical read giving advice and tips on how to create a security culture for movements to protect against attacks. Besides general security advice, it explores people and data as key security aspects.

The [Directory of Mechanisms for Civil Society](#) is a list of different organisations both at the regional and global level that can provide support to different activists and peacebuilders, especially when they are facing a restriction of their civic space.

[Shelter City](#) together with 17 Dutch and international cities, offer at-risk human rights defenders a three-month temporary stay so that they can continue their work safely and effectively in the long term. They also provide security trainings. The current Shelter Cities are: Den Haag , Middelburg, Nijmegen, Maastricht, Utrecht, Amsterdam , Tilburg, Groningen, Zwolle, Haarlem, Deventer, and Rotterdam along with San José (Costa Rica), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Cotonou (Benin), and Tbilisi and Batumi (Georgia).

[International Center for Nonviolent Conflict Resource Library](#) is a list with the latest resources on strategic nonviolence, so movements and activists can learn and implement some protection practices from the inside.

[Protest Resilience Toolkit](#) is a guide on how to have more effective and secure strategies for protesting.

[Human Right Defenders Resources](#) is a guide including grants, scholarships, programs and different support mechanisms for human right defenders, especially those at risk.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS

[Frontline Defenders](#) has the specific aim of protecting human rights defenders at risk (HRDs), people who work, non-violently, for any or all of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It offers international advocacy, grants, trainings and an emergency 24-hour phone line operating in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

[Vuka Coalition](#) is a central coordination platform for civil society responses to emerging civic space situations.

[Peacebrigades International](#) provides protection, support and recognition to local human rights defenders who work in areas of repression and conflict.

[Protect Defenders](#) offers a 24/7 helpline, emergency grants and a temporary relocation program for human rights defenders at risk.

[Defend Defenders](#) is an initiative focused in the East and the Horn of Africa regions, that offers 24/7 helpline and emergency grants for human rights defenders at risk.



4.2

YPS IN TIMES OF GLOBAL CRISIS: COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the way we interact, work and build peace. Young peacebuilders are facing new forms of participation in peacebuilding, and have to rethink the way we implement UNSCR 2250 and become resilient leaders in an unforeseeable future where more crises are at risk.

Measures to control the pandemic have left young peacebuilders exposed to an increased level of violence. A [Peace Direct](#) report that consulted over 400 peacebuilders observes increases in gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, rates of female genital mutilation and early child marriage, heightened police violence/brutality and more youth involvement in organised crime and potential recruitment to violent extremist organisations.

The impact of COVID-19 [has already shown to be deeply traumatic](#), bringing mental health issues, stress and anxiety to young people, especially to those in conflict-ridden areas.

At the same time, young peacebuilders have been at the forefront of addressing the increased violence and other challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic from the beginning. We have found creative and resilient solutions to maintain or adapt our peacebuilding work while supporting our communities' recovery.

Unfortunately, this pandemic will probably not be the last (global) crisis we will have to face. Therefore, we collected some lessons learned and reflections of young peacebuilders that could help in building a more resilient recovery and navigate future crises.



YOUTH-LED PEACEBUILDING IS DYNAMIC AND ADAPTIVE

While the COVID-19 crisis is a global health emergency at its core, it has severe implications in almost all areas of human life including peacebuilding processes. Young peacebuilders name structural factors such as inequality, poverty, youth unemployment, lack of access to education as potential sources of violent conflict during this time of crisis, further increasing the 'violence of exclusion' that many young people face across the world.

Yet, with this backdrop, we learn that youth-led peacebuilding activities are quick, innovative and flexible enough to adapt to emerging community needs in times of crisis. From the beginning, young peacebuilders carried out awareness-raising campaigns to inform communities about the threat of the virus, distributed masks, food and sanitisers, fought against disinformation, built support groups against gender-based violence during the lockdown and led many more community-driven activities to stop the spread of the virus.

The strengths of youth-led peacebuilding lie in being flexible, transformative and adaptive to new emerging crises. We would like to highlight the positive contributions young peacebuilders have made to tackling the virus and other pressing issues of our time. Let's all share our stories and help change the narrative: [Young people are valuable leaders that help communities manage and recover from crises.](#)



YOUNG PEACEBUILDERS' MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING NEEDS ATTENTION

The challenges that youth are facing related to the pandemic or other crisis create a lot of anxiety and worry. Shifted resources and priorities of local governments in response to COVID-19 have left youth without access to psychosocial support. Many young people who are part of marginalised communities or live in conflict/war zones are already suffering from trauma and severe anxieties.

As young peacebuilders, we must remember that mental health is a human right and that the pillar of protection of the UNSCR 2250 affirms that states must respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals, including youth, within their territory.

Be Aware and Raise Awareness: Being aware that every crisis can affect our own mental health and/or that of our fellow community members is the first and most crucial step. There is no shame in not being able to cope with stress and anxiety. *Remember, we are not alone.*

Reach Out: We should not be afraid to ask for help from our friends, family members, fellow peacebuilders or anyone we trust. If we feel we have the resources, let's reach out to community members who we think might need support. This [WHO guidance](#) can be useful if we are looking to develop very basic psychological skills when reaching out to community members. This is a [great book](#) if we are working with children in the context of Covid-19.

Support mechanisms exist: If we want to support ourselves or members of our community during a crisis it might be important to map out resources and contacts in our country. We could look for mental health support hotlines that exist in many countries or start by exploring other [digital alternatives](#) if we have the possibility. This [Amnesty Handbook](#) is another great resource on well-being for young activists.



NEW WAYS OF DOING PEACEBUILDING DIGITALLY MAY STILL EXCLUDE

While many young peacebuilders found innovative solutions to carry on with our peacebuilding work despite lockdowns and mobility restrictions, the access to the internet still poses one of the biggest challenges. This is specifically important for vulnerable groups who cannot be reached at all.

As young peacebuilders, let's keep in mind that while the digital nature of our peacebuilding activities opens up to 'more' participation, it might also exclude others. While many international organisations are already [advocating for Universal Internet Access](#) it is important to analyse the local reality and use technology that is accessible.



RESPOND TO HOW THE CRISIS IMPACTS YPS FUNDING

Crisis often comes with the re-allocation of national and international funds. Resources that might have been allocated for peacebuilding could be shifted to crisis response. Young peacebuilders might be forgotten in the process and there are big [risks to the financial security of many peacebuilding organisations](#). It is crucial to constantly advocate for the importance of youth-led peacebuilding in these times of crisis. This also means more flexible and youth-responsive funding mechanisms that can adapt better to future crises. Some organisations have already started this work by creating crisis-responsive funds: [The Youth, Peace and Security Fund](#) of SfCG and UNOY provides funding to youth organisations in crisis as well as the [Civics Crisis Response Fund](#) and the [Digital Defenders Fund](#).



4.3

YPS AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Meaningful youth engagement is at the heart of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda. Therefore, the toolkit provides a record of the progress made since UNSCR 2250 and details how a young person can actively engage on a community level to contribute to peace.

Two great introductory resources to understand the current state of youth engagement and participation are [The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth and Peace and Security](#) and the policy paper [We Are Here: An Integrated Approach to Youth-inclusive Peace Processes](#).

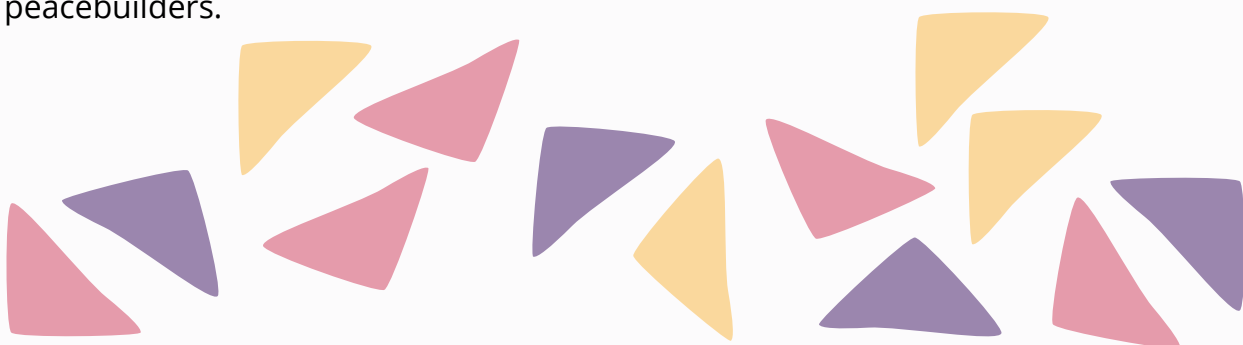
Going beyond simply understanding the current state of affairs, this chapter highlights interesting and useful resources for young peacebuilders on education for peacebuilding, peacebuilding practices and tools, and youth participation in peacebuilding.

RESOURCES ON EDUCATION FOR YOUTH PEACEBUILDING

The [Youth4Peace Toolkit](#) is a hands-on training guide for youth peace educators. It guides you through the theory and practice of delivering training programmes on youth-led conflict transformation and peacebuilding.

The [Youth Peace Ambassador Training Guide](#) is a guidebook introducing youth peace educators to essentials for the practical preparation and the delivery of trainings for youth peacebuilders on collaborative peace action for community cohesion and peacebuilding.

The [Training Kit - A Collection of Tools to Create Engaging Courses and Workshops](#) is a comprehensive introduction to the didactics and the methodology of non-formal education. Drawing from many courses in peace education the training kit is a rich source of inspiration for educational tools useful for the work with young peacebuilders.



RESOURCES ON YOUTH PEACEBUILDING PRACTICES AND TOOLS

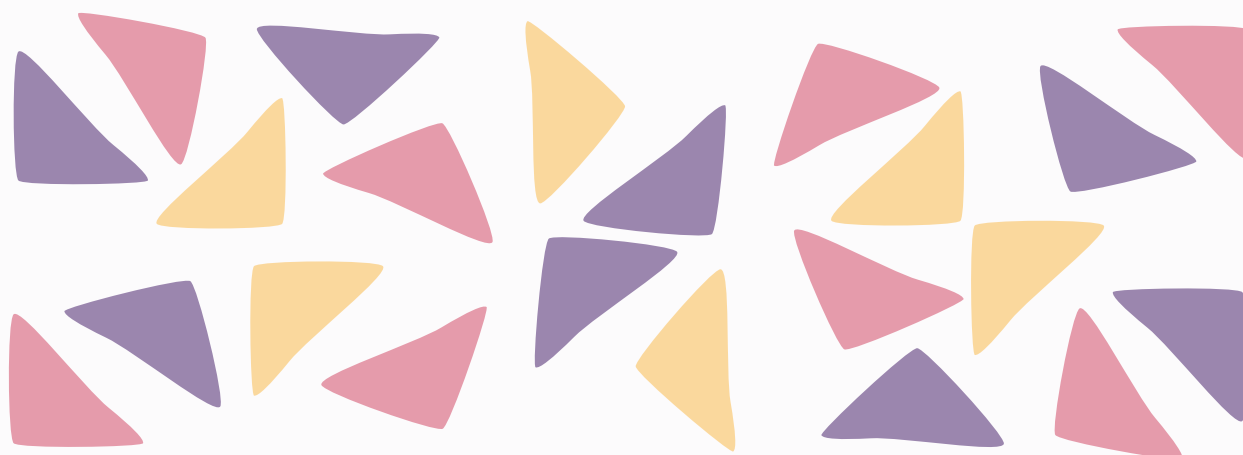
[Beautiful Trouble](#) is a multilingual online toolbox providing access to stories, tactics, theories, principles and methodologies of nonviolent community-driven change-making. While not directly targeting young people, it is a useful resource for any young peacebuilders mobilising and organising communities for peace.

The [Youth Advocacy Guide](#) was created through extensive consultations with young people from various parts of Africa. The guide combines inspirational stories of youth-led change-making with clear how-to guidelines for youth advocates. It explains how to fact-find, plan, engage with policy, building momentum, and make individual lifestyle choices.

The [Climate Resistance Handbook: Or, I Was Part of A Climate Action. Now What?](#) compiles campaign tools and frameworks, explores techniques for community mobilising and the use of creative, impactful actions and tactics. While it draws its examples from the climate justice movement, its content can be applied to any other field of youth activism.

The publication [Youth and Peacebuilding. Key Insights and Lessons from a Global Online Consultation](#) is an interesting account of lessons learned from over 140 young peacebuilders from 56 countries. Its insights and recommendations on the current state of youth-led peacebuilding highlight key considerations for youth peacebuilders when working on community peace.

The [Youth, Peace and Security - A Programming Handbook](#) is a key resource for capacity development on the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda. While developed for the UN system, it is also a good read for youth peacebuilders and youth organisations willing to improve their understanding, practices and approaches to meaningful youth inclusion throughout the analysis, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their peacebuilding projects.



RESOURCES ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING

The [Youth Toolkit](#) of the UN is an online search tool for information, resources, activities and more on youth participation. It is organised alongside the domains of innovation, knowledge exchange and advocacy and communication. Young peacebuilders might find useful inspirations, new practices, manuals, or events when navigating the search engine.

The [YouthPower](#) webpage is an information platform on a range of youth issues. As such, it provides plenty of resources on youth participation, disengagement and reintegration of youth, information on issues faced by refugees and IDPs, prevention of gendered violence, information on countering and preventing youth recruitment into violent groups and trauma and mental health.

The [Youth4Peace](#) platform is an online space for supporting young people's participation in peacebuilding. As an online space, it provides information about UN resolutions, studies, research papers, peace initiatives and more.

The [Youth, Peace and Security Fund](#) is the world's first youth-owned fund supporting youth peace initiatives. Unlike any of the classical donor organisations and grant programmes, the fund is innovative, community-centred, collaborative, farsighted, locally-driven and empowering through the embedded youth leadership as co-investors and co-shapers.



5 IMPLEMENTING UNSCR 2250¹

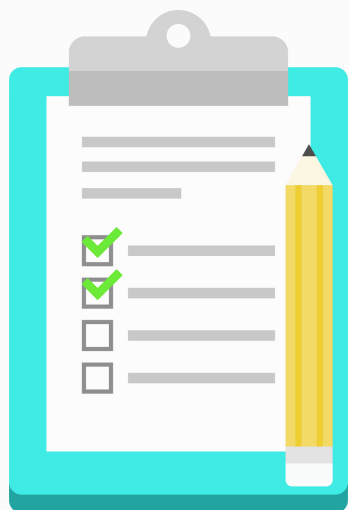
LET'S SET UP A YPS COALITION IN OUR COMMUNITY!

UNSCR 2250 is important, but it is only a tool. The real impact will come from its implementation at the local and national levels around the world. In this section, we will share a step-by-step guide to support the advancement of the YPS agenda in our community through coalition building.

Regardless of the level at which we work or whether we are representing government, civil society, business, or other sectors, this section is applicable to all of us. Implementing resolution 2250 is a shared responsibility among all actors of society, but someone should take the initiative—it should be us!

In the spirit of collaboration that the resolution embodies, this section proposes setting up alliances, partnerships, or cooperation systems to implement the resolution at all levels. These alliances should be cross-sectoral and intergenerational. We must bring together youth and non-youth actors from different parts of society so that we can all collaborate for a more inclusive peace and security field.

We suggest a 4-step approach to set up a YPS coalition in our community:



- ✓ **Step 1:**
analyse your context;
- ✓ **Step 2:**
build alliances on YPS;
- ✓ **Step 3:**
activate the partnership to bring about change;
- ✓ **Step 4:**
ensure the sustainability of your work and connect it with national and global conversations on YPS.

¹ Chapter 5 is sourced from "[Translating Youth, Peace & Security Policy into Practice: A Guide to Building Coalitions](#)" developed by United Network of Young Peacebuilders and Search for Common Ground.

Step 1

LET'S ANALYSE OUR CONTEXT

Context analysis is a way to understand the context where you work: the actors, the power dynamics, the drivers of conflict, and the dividers and connectors in a community. This is essential not only to be effective and impactful, but also to prevent taking actions that might cause harm.

Different tools have been developed in order to support us, including conflict and gender analysis that inform us in every step of the way, from planning to implementation, from monitoring to evaluation.

Be Aware



- Peacebuilding is a political field and, as such, can be tricky and sensitive. Some young peacebuilders might face challenges bringing institutional actors together, as they are not often seen as legitimate stakeholders. In this case, finding a larger and/or more established partner is even more strategic.
- Another risk is bringing in actors that are not trusted by community members, creating tensions and putting the legitimacy and sustainability of your efforts at risk. In those cases, discuss the topic with trusted partners to find the best way forward.
- Building a coalition might be a longer and more complex process than the one described below, and it can demand time, resources, effort, and strategic thinking and action. Focus on leading a positive process through openness and transparency, building trust and awareness among potential partners. The outputs, such as a campaign or an action plan, will come as a consequence and should not be the first priority.



Step 2

BUILD AN ALLIANCE ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

While UN Security Council resolutions, such as resolution 2250, are directed primarily at governments, as mentioned earlier, the resolution requires a wide range of actors to work together to be successfully implemented. Young people, youth-led civil society, governments, NGOs, the private sector, and media all have important roles to play, among others.



Getting People on Board

- Map stakeholders: Identify who the key stakeholders are that influence peace and security.
- Introduce the YPS agenda: Share the key reading documents with them and ask them to familiarise themselves with the content first.
- Mobilise: Invite every organisation or institution identified to organise a discussion among their constituents/members and unpack the five core pillars of resolution 2250.
- Monitor and report: Ask key contact persons from each organisation or institution to report on some of the key findings.
- Follow up: Decide on a date and agenda for a launch workshop with all the key organisations you have identified, to be carried out after each organisation has held their own internal discussion.

Bring your alliance together!
[see the full guide for a proposed workshop structure here](#)

Step 3

TAKE ACTION AS AN ALLIANCE

It is not the aim of this brief action guide to elaborate on all of the individual actions that need to be taken in order to implement resolution 2250, given the different national and local contexts around the world. However, there are several actions that you can take within your new alliance as initial steps towards an established YPS agenda in your community.



1. **Translate the resolution** into local languages and produce a children and youth-friendly infographic that is also culturally relevant.



2. **Discuss the resolution in local media**, for example on the radio or in the newspaper (depending on your context). Alternative media also offers great avenues, such as blogs and podcasts. Make sure you join the global movement by sharing content using the hashtag #Youth4Peace.



3. **Contribute to the global youth mapping process**. This is an opportunity to map out the different youth organisations active in peace and security efforts, understand their impact, and create opportunities to amplify their efforts nationally, regionally, and globally.





4. Joint policy analysis in collaboration with youth, non-youth, government, and nongovernment actors: It is useful to review public policies, programmes, and decision-making structures that relate to peace and security. Based on your review, ask the following questions:

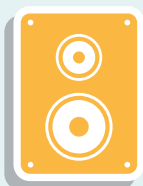
- a. What opportunities are there for young people to engage in the field of peace and security? What support do they receive? Which communications channels already exist?
- b. What are the key obstacles young people face when engaging in peace and security? Are any of them hindering youth participation in unintended ways?
- c. Are young people able to participate in decision-making around peace and security? If so, which approaches have proven successful? If not, how might youth participation be enabled?
- d. How can you ensure that the impact of the obstacles identified is decreased, and how can you amplify the opportunities you have identified?



5. Consider setting up a scheme to support youth-led peacebuilding initiatives, for example, through youth-friendly granting schemes or youth peace innovation labs. This can be done on a small scale to begin with, using whatever resources the members of the partnership have available—being effective doesn't always have to be expensive!



6. Map out the most marginalised youth groups in your country or community. Then, look for ways they can contribute to this process where they are, but also nationally and globally.



7. Support a series of social or traditional media efforts to amplify the constructive roles young people are playing to promote peace in their communities. Make them the champions of peace that they are.

Step 4

PLAN THE SUSTAINABILITY OF YOUR EFFORTS

Finally, we should strive to ensure that our efforts are sustainable instead of one-off interventions. We can do that by fostering certain values, procedures, approaches, and more.

It is important to **cultivate values** such as inclusivity and equality throughout the process: when selecting partners, reaching out to youth groups, making decisions, and implementing actions. This will promote trust, collaboration, and legitimacy among partners. It is vital that these values are not just words on paper, but that they truly guide your actions. We can do this by embracing a culture of collaboration and using the [Guiding Principles in Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding](#) to engage young people in your efforts.

The **practices and procedures** we adopt will also have a direct impact on the sustainability of your interventions. For this reason, reserving time and resources for thoughtful and informed planning and strategising is essential. Moreover, creating monitoring and evaluation frameworks for your action plan, and setting moments for reflection and learning will ensure that you are able to measure progress and adapt to unforeseen scenarios.

Finally, **securing resources** and **ensuring good management** of those resources is key—that includes time, technical capacities, and financial resources. You don't need to have access to large sums of money to make an impactful intervention; however, having access to space, technical equipment, and support from experts will make a big difference. A large portion of those resources can come through the partnerships you foster, such as a meeting space. Moreover, many donors will require you to have a track record before funding you, so being creative in the beginning while you build such a track record might be crucial.



For more on translating
Youth, Peace and Security policy into practice
[check out the full guide here!](#)

6 WHAT'S NEXT?

We have reached the end of the UNSCR 2250 and Beyond Toolkit. Thank you for taking the time to read through it and taking in all the information. We truly hope they can be useful for you, your activism and your community.

Let's be honest: Youth-led peacebuilding is extremely important and exciting but can at times be confusing, painful and frustrating. This toolkit captures only a tiny part of what young peacebuilders are actually achieving on a daily basis on the ground in all corners of the world. As young peacebuilders, we are working on the grassroots, adapting to local contexts in real-time, using methods and technologies that are approachable in our communities. This makes our work so meaningful and sustainable, but also hard to track and categorise.

We hope the resources and ideas presented in this toolkit will help you on this journey. We hope you can find inspiration and contacts to support your work. But we are also aware that sometimes they might not be enough. Local realities and struggles are often more complex than what is written in reports, literature and handbooks.

We encourage you to please reach out to us and our network if you need advice or support that goes beyond this toolkit. We want to learn from you! Together, let's make the Youth, Peace and Security agenda a reality all over the world!

**YOUTH
PEACE AND
SECURITY**

A decorative graphic consisting of several colorful triangles in shades of pink, purple, and yellow, scattered around the bottom of the text.

7 RESOURCES

7.1 INTRODUCTION

- Facebook, Youth, Peace and Security Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1681163268778459/>
- Facebook, Juventudes por la Paz Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/juventudesporlapaz/>
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7.3

UNSCR 2250 PROGRESS: 5 YEARS

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7.4

NEW YPS FOCUS AREAS

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