









Youth, Peace and Security: A Programming Handbook

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Youth, Peace and Security

A Programming Handbook



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Note: This handbook uses the terms "youth" and "young people" interchangeably.









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Executive summary

Youth, Peace and Security: A Programming Handbook, developed by the United Nations with the generous support of the Folke Bernadotte Academy – the Swedish Agency for Peace, Security and Development – seeks to contribute to the operational readiness and capacity of United Nations practitioners to implement the youth, peace and security (YPS) agenda.

For the United Nations, the development of the handbook was led by the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the Peacebuilding Support Office in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in consultation with a task force including various United Nations entities represented at global, regional and country levels, as well as Folke Bernadotte Academy partners.

The handbook is intended to be used by country, regional and global teams in the United Nations system, but it can also provide insights and guidance to field practitioners beyond the United Nations, including other international or regional organizations, national counterparts, youth-led and youth-focused organizations, movements and networks, and peacebuilding organizations.

The programming handbook builds on recent evidence and increasing momentum to prioritize vouth-inclusive and vouth-sensitive

Participation in Peacebuilding¹ and expands on the promising practices and limitations that the subsequent Practice Note on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding² identifies. The findings and recommendations from The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security³ also serve as a basis to guide youth-led and youth-focused peacebuilding programming. In addition, the handbook builds on a review of existing guidelines⁴ and lessons learned from previous youth-focused peacebuilding efforts, both by the United Nations system and by partner organizations. The objective of the handbook is therefore to complement existing guidance by filling the gaps and responding

- 1 United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding (2014). Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding. New York. Available at https://www.youth4peace.info/system/files/2016-10/Guiding%20 Principles%20on%20Young%20People's%20 Participation%20In%20Peacebuilding_1.pdf.
- 2 United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding (2016). Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding: A Practice Note. New York. Available at https://www. youth4peace.info/system/files/2016-10/PRACTICE%20 NOTE%20-%20Young%20People%27s%20Participation%20 in%20Peacebuilding%20%282016%29.pdf.
- 3 United Nations Population Fund and United Nations

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