GUIDING PRINCIPLES
On Young People's Participation In Peacebuilding

Lead to programmes and strategies that ensure youth are engaged as partners and agents of change in peacebuilding for political stability and economic prosperity

Participation
- Prioritize young people’s participation for peacebuilding.
- Promote that the majority of youth strive for peace; only a minority engages in violence.
- Link youth participation to all sectors (social, economic, cultural and political) and to all levels.

Diversity
- Value young people’s diversity and marginalized voices.
- Develop targeted strategies to involve young people from different backgrounds.
- Respect the experiences of all, including those associated with conflict.

Gender
- Be sensitive to gender dynamics.
- Avoid stereotypical assumptions about the roles and aspirations of girls, boys, young women, men and transgender people.
- Identify strategies to seek young women’s engagement.

Leadership
- Enable young people’s ownership, leadership, and accountability.
- Find them, Learn from them, and Support them.
- Facilitate mechanisms for communication to enable young leaders to be accountable to their peers and communities.

Safety
- Always aim to “Do No Harm” and provide a safe environment for young people to participate.
- Ensure that facilitators are trained to handle difficult situations.
- Be cautious not to incentivize violence.
- Be sensitive to inequalities.

Involvement
- Involve young people in all stages of programming.
- Have decision makers, institutions and organizations commit to accountability to youth.
- Offer alternative sources of power to youth who have attained power using violent means.

Competence
- Enhance the knowledge, attitudes, skills and competencies of youth.
- Identify young people who can serve as positive role models.
- Develop violence-prevention strategies beyond security responses that nurture skills in mediation and conflict resolution.

Partnership
- Invest in intergenerational partnerships in young people’s communities.
- Increase dialogue and opportunities for cooperation among children, young people, parents and elders, in order to resolve violence.

Policy
- Support policies that address the full needs of young people.
- Contribute to the establishment of local, regional and national forums that can enhance young people’s participation in the development of public policies.

For more information about Guiding Principles, please visit www.sfcg.org/guidingprinciples
Brought to you by the Inter-agency Working Group on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding, co-chaired by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office and Search for Common Ground.
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