



Youth,  
Peace &  
Security

## Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security *mandated by Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015)*

### BACKGROUND

In 2015, one out of every 6 people worldwide was 15 to 24 years old. Yet, across the globe, the vast majority of young people are excluded from – or on the margins of – mainstream political, economic and social activities, platforms and processes. This exclusion is amplified by the prevailing stereotypes that linger around the perception of young men and women. Young men in conflict-affected societies have predominantly been viewed as perpetrators of violence or potential “spoilers” of peace processes. For their part, young women are primarily seen as passive victims.

In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted [resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security \(YPS\)](#). This resolution is the first fully dedicated to the important and positive role young women and men play in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. Resolution 2250 requests the Secretary-General “to carry out a progress study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels”, and to present the results of the Study to United Nations Member States.

### BEYOND A STUDY – A STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 2250

The Study is being conducted as an independent, evidence-based and participatory research process, and will produce an operational report proposing a forward-looking agenda for the international community. It provides a chance for unique contributions to the prevention of violence and violent extremism, and to building sustainable peace for and by young people themselves, drawing on their innovation and resilience.

### A SYSTEM-WIDE APPROACH — CONTRIBUTING TO LARGER POLICY DISCUSSIONS

The YPS agenda is an age-responsive approach to Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the two are inextricably linked, with the YPS agenda re-emphasizing the pivotal role women of all ages have, and must continue to have in conflict management, conflict resolution and sustaining peace. The Progress Study is also an essential contribution to “sustaining peace” (as defined by recent UN resolutions) and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the advancement of “peaceful, just and inclusive societies”.

### A CAMPAIGN TO LIFT UP YOUNG PEOPLE’S VOICES

A key goal of UNSCR 2250 is the fuller inclusion of young people in peace and security. The Progress Study models this intent through an inclusive and participatory methodology. Young people must be given an opportunity to substantively contribute to the discussions on key peace and security issues in their communities, and to identify solutions for – and indicators of – progress for the YPS agenda. The participatory nature of the Study reflects the value, importance and practice of consulting young people as a way to redress their marginalization.

Consultations and focus group discussions with young people are intended to ensure that the Progress Study fully reflects young people’s perspectives. Regional consultations are being organized in all regions with selected young men and women. Focus group discussions with various “hard to reach” youth are being commissioned to peacebuilding organizations in 20 countries. These organizations offer unique access to young men and women who may otherwise not be included in global-level processes and studies, such as young former combatants, young forced migrants, young men and women in security institutions, young prisoners, rural and indigenous youth, out-of-school youth, etc. A Global Survey of Youth-Lead Peacebuilding Organizations is being completed by the United Network of Young Peacebuilders and Search for Common Ground.



## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RESEARCH & THEMATIC STUDIES

A series of country case studies are being commissioned to organizations and individual experts. These country case-studies will document young women and men's involvement in peace and security issues in a specific country context, through desk research, review of available country-level data and key informant interviews. The Progress Study is also drawing on the thematic expertise of scholars and practitioners to analyze key areas related to the Youth, Peace & Security agenda. Numerous partner organizations are developing thematic background papers, which will provide background research, specific evidence, analytical thinking and recommendations on specific themes and topics related to the YPS agenda.

## ENGAGING EXPERTISE

The Study also draws on the expertise of various civil society partners, UN agencies and members of the Advisory Group of Experts to provide evidence on thematic issues of vital importance to young people. The Advisory Group of Experts is composed of 21 scholars, practitioners and young leaders from around the world, specializing on a wide range of issues, including youth empowerment, violence prevention, gender equality and youth development. The Lead Author for the Study, Graeme Simpson, has more than 25 years of experience as a global specialist on peacebuilding, conflict and violence, working with civil society, government and multilateral agencies, and is the current Director of Interpeace USA.

## SECURING THE SUPPORT OF UN AGENCIES AND MEMBER STATES AND CAPTURING INNOVATION

The Study will reflect inputs from Member States and UN entities, not only to secure commitment to the implementation of SCR 2250, but also to monitor and document practice and innovation that may have wider relevance and value. Key to this process is the Steering Committee, composed of 35 partners from the UN system, civil society and non-governmental organizations, inter-governmental organizations and foundations, which was established to steer the overall development of the Progress Study. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) have established a joint secretariat to support the Study, working in close collaboration with the Office of the Envoy on Youth.

## FUNDING & TIMELINE

December 2015	Adoption of Resolution 2250 by the UN Security Council
February-July 2016	Establishment of Steering Committee, identification of Lead Author and Advisory Group, first scoping of the Study
August 2016	Appointment of Lead Author and Advisory Group of Experts by the Secretary-General
September 2016-September 2017	Regional, sub-regional, national and on-line consultations Focus group discussions and country case-studies
Fall 2017	Validation of Study's key findings and recommendations Drafting of Study
Early 2018	Production and translation
<b>Date tbc - 2018</b>	<b>Presentation of Progress Study to the Security Council</b>

For more information, please contact the Secretariat for the Progress Study: [mazzacurati@un.org](mailto:mazzacurati@un.org).

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