



The Missing Peace: A Youth Take on the Progress Study

When	24 April 2018, 1-3pm EDT. Lunch will be provided.
Where	UNFPA Orange Cafe, 605 3rd Ave, New York
By	Organised by United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) on behalf of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth & Peacebuilding. Hosted by UNFPA and in collaboration with the UNFPA/PBSO Secretariat for the Progress Study, UN Major Group for Children and Youth, Cordaid.
RSVPs	Limited spaces available. Please register by writing to Gizem Kilinc gizem.kilinc@unoy.org by Thursday 19 April the latest, for access to the UNFPA Headquarters

*On Tuesday 24 April, UNOY Peacebuilders and partners will convene an interactive, intergenerational and open dialogue on the key conclusions and recommendations of **'The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth and Peace and Security'**, one day after its official presentation to the UN Security Council. Key inputs will be provided by the lead author of the Progress Study, Graeme Simpson, members of the Advisory Group of Experts for the Progress Study, and young peacebuilders from around the world. The event will feature: a presentation of the research findings, responses from young peacebuilders, interaction with parallel launch events across the globe, and lively discussions with the audience. This event is organised on behalf of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth & Peacebuilding, and in collaboration with the UNFPA/PBSO Secretariat for the Progress Study, UN Major Group for Children and Youth, and Cordaid.*

Why?

The Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security was mandated through the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 in December 2015, which requests the UN Secretary-General 'to carry out a Progress Study on the youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution.' The name "Progress Study" may be a slight misfit, as the study has built a base of knowledge rather than assessed progress on young people's positive contributions to peace and security.

Young people have been working to prevent violence, transforming conflict and building peace in their communities, even prior to the formal establishment of Youth, Peace, Security as a policy agenda. Yet very little consolidated evidence existed on the activities,

achievements and aspirations of young people working on peace and security at the time of the adoption of Resolution 2250. On the contrary, plenty of literature and research is available on how violence and armed conflict disproportionately affects young people, often reinforcing a dichotomous viewpoint of youth as either perpetrators or victims of violence.

The Progress Study has filled this critical gap in information by carrying out an independent, evidence-based and participatory research process, giving 4,230 young people across the world the opportunity to contribute to the discussions on the main peace and security issues facing their communities. This two-year process culminated into [The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth and Peace and Security](#). On 23 April 2018, key conclusions from *The Missing Peace* will be officially presented to the UN Security Council in an Open Debate organised by the Peruvian presidency of the SC.

What?

Young peacebuilders who have been actively involved in the shaping of the Progress Study and who have the greatest stakes in its outcomes, will share their candid responses to the *The Missing Peace* in this interactive event. The event will provide an open space to reflect on the findings of the Progress Study and its relevance for local contexts outside the policy bubble of New York, explore the Study's proposed areas of interventions to implement UNSCR 2250, and how the Progress Study can help us move forward in taking concrete action to strengthen youth participation in peace and security.

The following questions will guide our discussion:

- Does the Progress Study tell us anything unexpected about the activities, achievements and aspirations of young peacebuilders around the world?
- What are the most pressing recommendations that the UN system, governments and other relevant actors need to take up from the Progress Study, from the perspective of grassroots youth organisations?
- How can we reorient misguided policies and programmes that are fixated on countering issues of violent extremism, unemployment and lack of education as stand-alone solutions towards “investing in the upside” of youth-driven peacebuilding?
- How can the global community refrain from victimising young peacebuilders who are doing remarkable work in challenging contexts, yet at the same time address their pressing needs for protection and support to overcome the “violence of exclusion”?
- How can we, as young peacebuilders, use the Progress Study to play our part in moving the youth, peace and security agenda forward?

Who?

Not being bound by the “UN way of doing things” and its rules of procedure, this event will build on and complement the Open Debate held by the UN Security Council on the previous day. The voices of young peacebuilders and their views on the Progress Study will be at the heart of the event, with the input and responses from key stakeholders in the UN system, representatives of Member States, civil society and non-governmental organizations, inter-governmental organisations, and foundations.

