

## EU CONFERENCE ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

### - STATEMENT BY PEACEBUILDING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS -

The European Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding (EYPB) welcomes the European Union's (EU) increased commitment to children and youth in peace and security, in line with the [UN Security Council resolution 2250 \(2015\)](#) and the UN Global Progress Study report. The peacebuilding community appreciates the EU's leadership in championing the Youth, Peace and Security agenda (YPS) as a global actor which reflects the existing vision of the EU as a peace project.

In May 2018, the EU took important steps to ensure the implementation of UNSCR 2250 in Europe and beyond by adopting the [Council Conclusions on the role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society](#) and by organising the [EU Conference on Youth, Peace and Security](#) in a joint partnership between EU institutions, UN agencies, civil society and young peacebuilders. Now more than ever, it is high time that the political commitments are reflected throughout EU's cross-cutting policies while resources need to be allocated for addressing the needs of young peacebuilders both within the EU and in its partner countries. This is much needed to ensure the EU lives up to and increases support for the peacebuilding community.

As civil society partners and experts with long standing experience in engaging children and youth, EYPB considers it vital for the EU to:

- **Mandate adequate human resources to ensure cross-cutting and coordinated implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda at EU Delegation level and Headquarters.** This will support internal efforts to promote coordination and accountability on the YPS agenda within the EU. YPS is a cross-cutting endeavour and requires input from representatives from different EU institutions working on both internal and external action, including EEAS, DG DEVCO, DG EAC and the European Parliament;
- **Translate the EU's support for the YPS agenda into accessible and flexible funding for children and youth in peacebuilding,** including opportunities for small-scale projects and initiatives. The YPS agenda would also benefit from opportunities showing an appetite for risk necessary to ensure innovative and impactful programmatic approaches. Initiatives championed, implemented and funded by the EU, such as the Erasmus+ and the African Union – European Union (AU-EU) "Youth Plug-in Initiative", are welcomed, but often do not reach grassroots peacebuilders. Funding should prioritize building organisational capacities to increase the financial sustainability and the impact of local peacebuilding work;
- **Develop inclusive and participatory approaches to systematically engage with young people, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable.** Peacebuilding civil society organisations and networks are strategically positioned to contribute to EU's efforts - they have been at the forefront of the global YPS agenda and have traditionally worked with and supported young peacebuilders' voices at the grassroots levels. Creating **inclusive and meaningful partnerships** is a crucial element for the success of this endeavour and civil society organizations lead on this approach.



## About the EYPB:

The [European Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding \(EYPB\)](#) is a coalition of Europe-based international peacebuilding and development organisations and independent experts. EYPB works towards achieving the meaningful participation of young people's voices at the EU-level, and ensuring their needs, capabilities and challenges are being taken into account in the EU's security and development policies. The Partnership's founding members are [Save the Children](#), [Search for Common Ground](#), [United Network of Young Peacebuilders \(UNOY Peacebuilders\)](#), [World Vision](#) and [PeaceMatters](#).

## About UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015)

The resolution is the first to recognise the important and positive role of young women and men in the promotion and maintenance of peace and security. The resolution asks for the recognition of the weight local voices carry in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. It is an opportunity to build on young people's capacity and provide the structures for ongoing participation at the regional and national level. It is also an opportunity to guide the mapping of actors among children and youth at the local and regional level to scale up our mutual effort to build an evidence base on youth, peace and security

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