

# Women Peace and Security (WPS) & Youth Peace and Security (YPS) Complementarities of the two agendas

## THE WPS AGENDA

The women, peace and security (WPS) agenda was formally established in 2000 when the Security Council unanimously adopted SC resolution 1325 (2000). It consisted of four pillars: prevention, participation, protection, and relief and recovery. Since then, the Council has adopted nine additional resolutions. Resolutions [1889 \(2013\)](#), [2122 \(2013\)](#), [2242 \(2015\)](#) and [2493 \(2019\)](#) promote women's active and effective participation in peacemaking and peacebuilding, while resolutions [1820 \(2008\)](#), [1888 \(2009\)](#), [1960 \(2010\)](#), [2106 \(2013\)](#), and [2467 \(2019\)](#) aim to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence.

## THE YPS AGENDA

The UN Security Council recognized the role of young people in promoting and maintaining peace and security with the adoption of resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#), which identified five pillars for action: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, and disengagement and reintegration. While the initial impetus for development of the YPS agenda came from concerns around rapidly shifting demographics and potential peace and security concerns from "youth" – largely synonymous with young men, resolution [2419 \(2018\)](#) paid particular attention to meaningful inclusion of young women in formal and informal peace processes. Resolution [2535 \(2020\)](#) meanwhile provided concrete steps for the operationalization of the YPS agenda. In 2019, the first International Symposium on youth participation in peace processes presented [a global policy paper "We are here,"](#) calling for increased participation of young women and men "inside, outside, and around the room" where peace talks take place.

## SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

The WPS and YPS agendas are supported by the tireless efforts of civil society and a diverse group of Member States. The two agendas seek to increase inclusion in what are traditionally exclusive political and peace processes and encourage the international community to address conflicts through more comprehensive approaches.

WPS and YPS address different forms of exclusion. While young men and women can all be expected to age out of age-based discrimination, young women will continue to experience other forms of marginalization based on their gender. Treating women and young people as similar categories disregards the specifics of the discrimination faced by these demographic groups.

The WPS agenda has a robust global monitoring framework and many countries have adopted National Action Plans on WPS. By contrast, efforts are still on-going to develop YPS monitoring and reporting frameworks. Guidelines for the implementation of the YPS agenda by Member States, including specific guidance on the development of YPS national frameworks, are expected to be issued in early 2022.

## YPS AND WPS AGENDAS MUTUALLY REINFORCE EACH OTHER

Traditionally, young men were seen as potential security threats and young women as potential victims. The YPS agenda challenged this narrative, emphasizing that most young people are not involved in violence and can be agents of peace.

Applying a gender lens in YPS interventions can help prevent a new generation from replicating the same patterns and patriarchal power structures that limit gender equality but benefit young men. Initiatives benefiting young women can contribute to more equal and stable societies.

Similarly, the WPS agenda should address young women's age-specific needs and experiences and proactively address their priorities and concerns.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Avoid using language that lumps women and youth together ("women and youth"). Consider the two as distinct categories, with differentiated needs and agency and, where possible, refer to them separately.
- Address gendered experiences and challenges in YPS work and consider how specific interventions may impact young women, men and gender non-confirming persons differently.
- Consider age dynamics in WPS work and address the age-specific concerns of young women.
- Empower and support young women and their participation in peace and security initiatives and consider specific actions to support young women in leadership spaces.
- Engage young men in discussions around WPS and gender equality to raise awareness and to help challenge existing power structures.
- Support and partner with civil society led by women of all ages and ensure a safe environment for their peace work.