SUPPORT THE YOUTH, PEACE & SECURITY ACT

The world youth population is at 1.85 billion, eclipsing the adult population of developing countries. It is estimated that 1 in 4 young people today are living in or are affected by armed conflict and violence. Youth populations have long been at the forefront of building peace in their communities - creating youth led movements, organizations, and networks - to mitigate negative effects of conflict and take up roles of preventing recurring cycles of violence. However, youth voices are often excluded from peace and security processes and youth are often on the bottom end of aid distribution. By establishing a policy for supporting youth peacebuilders, the United States can play an increasingly positive role in reducing and preventing conflict and promoting sustainable and inter-generational peace.

THE YOUTH, PEACE & SECURITY ACT WILL:

- Recognize the agency of youth in peace and security while protecting their physical safety, economic security, and dignity.
- Ensure U.S. peace and security efforts abroad last inter-generationally and break cycles of violence through meaningfully partnering with youth populations.
- Create a dedicated funding stream with global authority to support young people’s contributions to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and sustainable peace through a Youth, Peace and Security Fund.
- Establish a Youth Coordinator based in USAID to oversee USG inter-agency strategy, youth funding, and activities.
- Create an Advisory Group of Experts to ensure that the perspectives and interests of young people are integrated into the design and execution of U.S.-funded peace and security activities and strategies.

Pass the Youth, Peace and Security Act (H.R. 6174) in the U.S. House of Representatives to develop a government wide approach to support young people around the world to be leaders of building inter-generational and endurable peace.

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