

# **ROLE OF YOUTH DIPLOMACY IN SUSTAINING GLOBAL PEACE**

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Including youth in peace initiatives not only addresses current conflicts but also ensures long-term societal stability and growth. Youth contribute significantly by actively participating in decisionmaking processes; their perspectives help create more inclusive and effective peace strategies; they also drive social cohesion by promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue, helping to heal divisions and foster tolerance and, as upcoming leaders, they bring new ideas, energy, creativity, and open-mindedness to the table.

An excellent illustration of this is the **2018 Kenya Youth Empowerment Project**, which taught youth life skills and leadership, encouraged social inclusion, and improved ties within the community. Such initiatives demonstrate how empowering young people can create societies that are more resilient and peaceful. Long-term stability and the resolution of current disputes depend on the involvement of young people. Young people are less likely to be susceptible to violent extremism and are more likely to make constructive contributions to society when they feel appreciated and involved. By promoting intergenerational communication, where younger and older generations exchange viewpoints and experiences, more understanding and the healing of past scars can also be accomplished. They are frequently left out of decision-making processes, which restricts their capacity to participate completely.

Implementing successful programs is hampered by a lack of financing and resources, another issue that many youth-led projects deal with. Preconceived ideas about young people being uninterested or disruptive make it even harder for them to participate in crucial peace initiatives. Setting up spaces where youth can actively participate is essential to assisting them in becoming peacebuilders. It is imperative that communities, groups, and lawmakers provide funding, safe spaces for expression, mentorship opportunities, and training programs. Young peacebuilders must be shielded from dangers like violence and discrimination. Mentoring programs, legal assistance, and psychological support services can all help people keep working safely. Every young person has different perspectives and experiences that could inspire original solutions to challenging issues. Not only does inclusivity ensure that all opinions are heard, but it also enhances peacebuilding initiatives.

For youthful peacebuilders, technology provides yet another potent instrument. Young people have the opportunity to collaborate, exchange ideas, and share their experiences with people worldwide.

Thanks to digital resources, youth may now advocate for peace and communicate in previously unachievable ways. **Mother Teresa** once said, *“Peace begins with a smile.”* Young people can start little but meaningful improvements that can make a big difference. Youth can create a more sustainable, just, and peaceful future for everyone if society empowers, invests in, and has faith in them.

In conclusion, youth are leaders in peacebuilding, not just participants. Recognizing their potential and addressing the issues they encounter will make communities stronger and more resilient everywhere.