



# Role of Youth in Building a Sustainable Global Culture of Peace

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# Youth population (15-29) on the rise

- In the US: 11million more millennials than the baby boomers
- Globally: 1.2 billion youth; 18% of the world's population
- 72 million more youth by 2025

# Youth in Conflict Contexts

- More than 600 million youth living in contexts impacted by conflict
- Impact of conflict on youth
  - Personal trauma
  - Break in education
  - Loss of financial support
  - Collapse of social system
  - Actively recruited by states and terrorist groups

# Contribution by youth to peacebuilding

- Peace movements
- Demanding democracy
- Expanding the rule of law
- Holding governments accountable
- Actively shaping the course of conflict and peace





# Qasim Aslam





# Teju Jhaveri



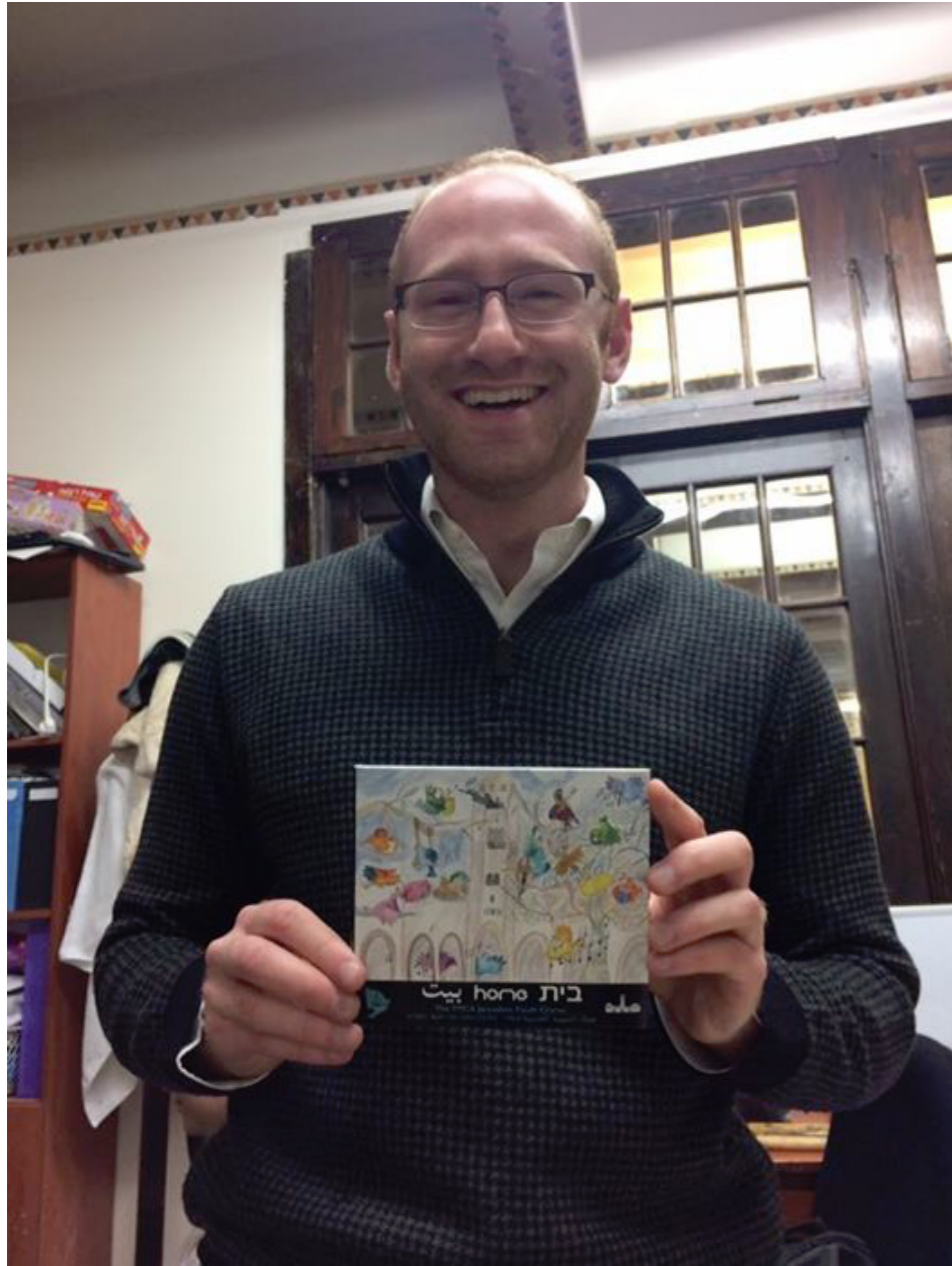


# Yousef Bashir





# Micah Hendler





# Challenges to youth engagement

The problem is that many of the young people are discouraged from participating in peace and development activities because they feel that they are looked down upon by the experts and older people in the field so they either become apathetic towards it or they choose extreme manners to convey their concern and desire to engage. Thus, it is of utmost importance to guide their passion and energy through appropriate channels towards peace and development

I feel the generations before us don't want to give us the space to take leadership. They continue to hold on to positions and don't create spaces for the next generation. Sometimes I feel we will never get a chance to prove that we can do things, we can make things happen. I wish they would believe in us

# Challenges to youth engagement

“You need to be over 30 to be “considered seriously in society. I am 18 and I can vote so I should also have the power to change things. But in practice we are not being heard.”

When you feel part of the decision-making process, you feel wanted, you feel listened to (...) This will help young people to become better adults. Young people have the energy, the spark, and want to do something (...) I am eager to volunteer even during my holidays. We want to help, we want to do things. The issue is that we do not know how to proceed



# Recommendations on a systemic level

- UN Resolution 2250 for youth, peace and security
- Recommendations
  - Invite young people's participation as an essential condition for successful peacebuilding in all stages of the process
  - Enhance knowledge, attitudes, skills and competencies of young people for peacebuilding
  - Validate and draw upon young people's diversity and experiences
  - Encourage young people's ownership, leadership and accountability in peacebuilding
  - Invest time and resources in intergenerational partnerships
  - Introduce and support policies that address youth needs

# Recommendations on an individual level

- Introduce a new discourse about the millennials.
  - Notice and acknowledge
  - Reach out
  - Listen deeply
  - Encourage and support