

Y O U N G L E A D E R S H I P E X P E R I E N C E 2 0 2 1

INFORMATION BOOKLET

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YOUTH PEACE INITIATIVE
THE HAGUE • THE NETHERLANDS

WHAT IS THE YOUTH PEACE INITIATIVE?

The Youth Peace Initiative (YPI) is a youth-led organisation that promotes the inclusion of youth in peace and reconciliation processes. Established in 2014, YPI empowers youth to be partners in peace and to be recognised as such.

Young people are often the majority of the population in countries with ongoing peace processes. In the Israeli and Palestinian society, respectively **43%** and **63%** of the population is under 25 years of age. Yet, these young people's leadership and roles in transforming conflict, promoting peace and preventing violence are not adequately emphasised upon. YPI seeks to bring change to this, as it believes **youth participation is essential to create sustainable peace**. It is our goal to create a generation of future young leaders that have the capacity to inspire and motivate others. Within this group of selected young leaders, YPI aims to establish an **open and respectful environment** where every participant feels safe in sharing their story and to engage in open dialogue. This happens through professional guidance and a variety of dialogue methods.

Since its establishment in 2014, YPI coordinates and facilitates an initiative for young Israelis and Palestinians: the **Young Leadership Experience**. This year-long programme aims to empower you by offering safe spaces for dialogue and practical leadership development activities.



OUR VISION

YPI envisions a world in which youth is recognised and included as a partner, and engages in peace and reconciliation processes, contributing to achieving and maintaining sustainable peace.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to facilitate dialogue, knowledge, and capacity building initiatives that connect and empower youth to be positive change makers who advance sustainable peace. It is YPI's objective to facilitate this process through leadership development, dialogue and reconciliation between youth.

THE ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN PROGRAMME

YPI has been active with Israeli and Palestinian youth for numerous years through conferences, meetings and workshops during which the participants were able to express and exchange their visions, to share their stories and to develop their ideas. Throughout the years, our conferences and further meetings in the region have developed into the **Young Leadership Experience (YLE)** programme. After a year full of activities, participants can become mentors to new participants, join the YPI Alumni Network, and YPI Think Tank activities

THE YOUNG LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE 2021: WHAT TO EXPECT?

The Young Leadership Experience (YLE) is a great way to develop yourself on a personal and professional level. Throughout the year, you will have the opportunity to be part of a team of young leaders and participate in training, dialogue sessions, and conferences. The year is structured in four phases:

PHASE 1 - INTRODUCTION AND EXPLORATION



You will start off by getting to know each other and yourself. Over the course of five meetings you will be introduced to your respective group, the Young Leadership Experience and YPI's programme coordinators. During these meetings, you will explore what your areas of development are, what you want to learn and what you hope to achieve from this unique programme. In addition, you will learn to listen to each other, and to be open to opinions and ideas that you might not experience in the same way or agree with. Furthermore, you will take part in some critical individual and group reflection.

PHASE 2 - DIVING INTO DIALOGUE



During two weekend conferences that will be held in the region, you will engage in dialogue about a wide range of topics (to be decided by the group) through several dialogue methods. These conferences will build further upon the lessons that you have learned in phase 1. The goal of these conferences is to get to know each other on a deeper level and to develop an understanding of each other's narratives, experiences, and perspectives.

PHASE 3 - WORKSHOPS AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Following the two weekend-conferences, the YLE's third phase will primarily be focused on receiving relevant capacity-development training and workshops. Furthermore, you will have the chance to meet relevant stakeholders such as officials, international diplomats and NGOs. You will also be able to connect with other young peacebuilders from around the world, with whom you'll be able to exchange ideas.

PHASE 4 - REGIONAL CONFERENCE



In this last phase, everything will come together. The final project to round up the YLE 2021 will be a multi-day conference in the region filled with dialogue, discussions (potentially open for public), individual projects and lots of fun. The conference will be prepared by YPI. Together with your fellow participants, you will have the opportunity to combine everything you have learned throughout the YLE programme by setting the agenda and co-facilitating parts of the YLE conference.



ADAPTING TO THE COVID PANDEMIC

At YPI, we highly value in-person meetings and we will do everything in our reach to make them happen. However, due to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation remains unpredictable. Therefore we have created an online format for 40% of the meetings that are scheduled in the YLE 2021. On top of that, we have an online alternative for every meeting in case COVID restrictions do not allow the participants to meet up in person. These online meetings have been professionally developed, and may vary from lectures and exercises in small groups to one-on-one dialogue sessions.

So please be aware that the programme is partly online and partly in person and that flexibility is held in high regard.

WHAT WILL THE YEAR LOOK LIKE?



WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

The Young Leadership Experience will give you the opportunity to develop yourself personally and professionally. It offers you the unique opportunity to get to know a group of young Palestinians and Israelis on a deeper level - to exchange ideas, experiences and narratives. The Young Leadership Experience offers you training and workshops on many different topics, dialogue sessions, and conferences. You will develop your leadership skills, gain new insights and be introduced to a variety of professionals and experts throughout the year. Furthermore, you will have the unique opportunity to co-facilitate a conference.

After completing the YLE programme, you'll have learned to:



Know yourself (personal development goals, your own narrative, being open to new perspectives)



Learn from others (different narratives and perspectives, thinking critically, working with people from varying backgrounds)



Use your leadership skills in your community (how to have a positive influence in your community, spreading your message)



Besides these incredibly important learnings, you will have **a lot of fun** and have the opportunity to **meet many ambitious and interesting people**.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for **young ambitious Israelis and Palestinians** who are:

Open-minded, reflective and curious to learn

Between the ages of **18-29**

Comfortable with expressing their perspective and engaging in conversations in **English**

Interested in developing **leadership skills** and learning about different **perspectives and narratives**

Socially engaged, ambition to make a difference in their society, taking on a **leadership role in their community**

Committed to the programme from **January 2021 - September 2021** (applicants should therefore live in the region for this entire period)

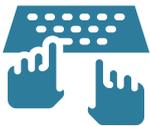
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- You should be available for training/meetings approximately **10 hours per month** (this includes preparing yourself for the sessions, but excludes travel time);
- We expect you to be **present at all of the (online) meetings and activities**;
- All your travel costs to meetings will be covered by YPI;
- *Please keep in mind that for the meetings in the region, YPI will ask you to travel to Israel as well as to area C. **YPI makes use of locations that we are familiar with, trust and that are safe for everyone.** Traveling permits will be taken care of by YPI.*

APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION

Send in your full application to info@youthpeaceinitiative.net by **Sunday 8th November 2021 23:59 CEST**. This includes:



1. Motivation letter (max. 500 words) covering:
 - a. Why are you applying for this programme?
 - b. What specific quality can you bring to the team?
 - c. What will the programme bring for your future?
2. CV (2 pages max)

INTERVIEW

After the deadline you will receive a reply of our assessment. If you are invited for an interview, this will take place in November.



SELECTION

After all the interviews have been held in November, our final decision will be communicated to you in the first week of December.



START PROGRAMME

If you are selected to take part in the programme, you will be informed about the kick-off which will take place in January. During this kick-off, all the necessary information and dates for the Young Leadership Experience will be communicated to you. In January 2021 you will officially start with the programme.



Have we caught your interest, and do you want to know more?
Please send us a message at info@youthpeaceinitiative.net.





*PREVIOUS YLE
PARTICIPANTS*

