



YOUTH PEACE INITIATIVE
THE HAGUE • THE NETHERLANDS

Information Booklet

Young Leadership Experience 2020



What is Youth Peace Initiative?

Youth Peace Initiative (YPI) was founded to give youth in conflict areas a chance to participate in peace processes. While people across the world are divided, younger generations are often not included in the efforts to shape their shared future. Therefore, in 2014 Youth Peace Initiative was set up with the mission to bring together youth from conflict areas to discover their role in the peace process. The Israeli/Palestinian conflict has become the core focus of the organisation. Over the past years, YPI has organised several conferences in the Netherlands and facilitated meetings and trainings for its participants in the region.

Youth often makes up a large part of the population in conflict areas. However, when it comes to peace negotiations it is not the youth that are part of this conversation. Despite youth being excluded from peace negotiations, it is the youth that will implement possible agreements. Therefore, the time has now come for our generation of youth to take action and become the leaders and agents of the change that we need.

Youth Peace Initiative believes in the power of youth to be that new, young and positive voice to work its way towards a common future. YPI believes that youth should no longer be viewed as either the victim or perpetrator of violence in regions of conflict, rather, youth should be seen as positive and influential actors in the peace process. Therefore, it is YPI's objective to facilitate reconciliation and dialogue between young adults to ensure that they become involved in peace processes.

Our mission

Youth Peace Initiative is a youth-led, impartial, international organisation that aims to facilitate the creation of spaces for youth to share their voice in the peace process and to foster sustainable peace. YPI has taken up the role of creating these environments by making use of a wide variety of methods to build, train, and facilitate our delegations of young peacemakers.

We recognise the importance of creating a sustainable peace movement by also preparing youth to train new generations to continue fostering peace and



understanding. Based on this belief, it is our goal to create a new generation of future young leaders that have the capacity to inspire and motivate others. Within this group, YPI aims to establish an open and respectful dynamic for every participant to feel safe in sharing their story and to develop their own opinion.

The Israeli/Palestinian Programme

The main focus of YPI is the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. In 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2019, conferences were held in the Netherlands to bring together young Israeli and Palestinian leaders. Through meetings, dialogue sessions, workshops and debates, 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 one-year programme: **The Young Leadership Experience**.

The Young Leadership Experience

The Young Leadership Experience 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 trainings, dialogue sessions, and conferences. The year is structured according to three phases: (1) introduction and exploring; (2) the Middle East Peace Process Conference in the Netherlands; (3) deepening acquired knowledge and creating outreach.

- (1) In the first phase, you will start off by getting to know each other and yourself. You will be introduced to the other participants of the Young Leadership Experience in several meetings with your own delegation and with the entire team. During these first meetings, you will explore what your areas of development are, what you want to learn and what you hope to achieve from this unique year-programme. In addition, you will learn to receive feedback, 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.
- (2) The second phase of the programme is the MEPP conference, which will take



place in March 2020 in the Netherlands. The conference will be built further upon the lessons that you have learned in phase 1. The goal of the conference is to get to know each other on a deeper level and to start to understand each other's narratives, experiences and perspectives. At the end of the week, you will search for common grounds on which the programme for the rest of the year will be built.

(3) Following the conference period, the third phase of the programme will be developed together with the board of YPI and your team, based on the outcomes of the conference. This phase can include dialogue sessions on specific topics, the organization of events, or specific training sessions. YPI will be the organising and facilitating party to guide you and your team.

Who are we looking for?

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

- Between the ages of 18–29;
- Able to commit themselves to the programme for at least 1 year (January 2020 – December 2020) and living in the region;
- Comfortable with communicating clearly in English;
- Socially engaged: you have the ambition to make a difference in your society and to take on a leadership role in your community;
- Reflective and curious;
- Interested in developing their leadership skills and learning about different perspectives and narratives.

What's in it for you?

The Young Leadership Experience will give you the opportunity to develop yourself personally and professionally. It offers 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 trainings and workshops on many different topics, a week-long conference in the Netherlands and dialogue sessions amongst your team. You will develop your leadership skills, gain new insights and be introduced to many interesting professionals and experts throughout the year.



After one year you can expect to have learned to:

- Be open to new messages and ask open questions,
- Take multiple perspectives into account and analyse them objectively,
- Think critically and form a coherent opinion or argument,
- Understand who you are, how you respond to different settings and how to use this to your advantage,
- Work together closely with people from different backgrounds,
- What you can do to have a positive influence in your community,
- Learn about your own background and narrative and understand the differences with other narratives.

Practical information

In order to set up a successful programme YPI expects from its participants that they are committed to the programme for at least one full year. This year will take place from January 2020 until December 2020. You can find the further possibilities and opportunities with YPI after this year later in this document.

In short:

- One-year commitment to the programme and living in the region (at least).
- You should be available for trainings/meetings approximately 10 hours per month. This includes preparing yourself for sessions, organising meetings, and the meetings and activities themselves.
- We expect you to be present for 80% of the meetings and activities in the region.
- Be fully available for the conference in the Netherlands from February 29 – March 7, 2020.
- Your travel costs to meetings and the costs you will make during the conference in the Netherlands 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.*



What will your year look like?

In the table below you will find a short preliminary version of the agenda of the year. This programme will be adapted and constituted together with the group.

Date	Topic	Location
January – February 2020	Meetings that will touch upon topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting to know yourself and your team - Team building in the separate groups - Expectation management - Preparation for the conference in the Netherlands 	In the region
29 th of February – 7 th of March 2020	Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) Conference 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting to know each group - Trust Building - Develop your listening, communication, and dialogue skills - Dialogue sessions 	The Netherlands
April – September 2020	Follow up of the conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared and separate meetings to discuss topics decided upon during the conference - Implementing the action plans set up by the group during the conference - <i>This period includes a summer break</i> 	In the region
October – December 2020	Reflection and development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Looking back at the past year and reflect on experience gained and skills learned - Determining your plans for next year 	In the region



Develop further within YPI

After one year of developing your leadership capabilities you can choose to continue working with YPI in our Think Tank together with participants from older delegations of YPI. If you decide that you cannot be active for YPI any longer, you will become an alumni to YPI. More information about next steps will be offered and explained at the end of the year.

Application process

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

The application process works as follows:

(1) Application

- Send your application (motivation letter and CV) to info@youthpeaceinitiative.net by **Sunday 20 October 2019 23:59 CEST**
- Motivation letter (max 500 words) including at least:
 - Why are you applying?
 - What specific quality can you bring to the team?
 - What will the programme bring for your future?
- CV (2 pages max)

(2) 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 2019.

(3) Selection

- After all the interviews have been held in November, our final decision will be communicated to you in the first week of December 2019.

(4) Start Programme

- If you are selected after your interview, the programme kick-off takes place in December 2019. During this kick-off, all the necessary information and dates for the Young Leadership Experience will be communicated to you.
- In January 2020 you will start officially with the programme.





www.youthpeaceinitiative.net

