

# YOUTH PEACE INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



**YOUTH PEACE INITIATIVE**  
ISRAEL AND PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES



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*“Peace cannot be kept by force.  
It can only be achieved by  
understanding.”*

- Albert Einstein



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# 1 WORD OF WELCOME

Dear readers,

I proudly present to you the 2014 annual report of the Youth Peace Initiative Foundation (YPI). Our initiative had an exciting year, which peaked with our October 2014 conference. The following pages will give you an insight into what the YPI has been working on this past year.

## Vision

The YPI was founded in March 2014 and has its roots in a seemingly simple and yet inventive idea. At the end of 2013, it occurred to Michiel Hardon – now an advisor to the YPI – that in order to create sustainable peace, the next generation of Israelis and Palestinians needs to be involved: half of the population is below 25 years. This next generation has to live with the consequences of any peace agreement or with the absence of one. Until now, however, the input of the youth in the peace process has been limited. Over a number of months, Michiel Hardon inspired many people with this idea, including six Dutch students who committed themselves to this vision. We, the YPI Board, share Michiel Hardon's dream and trust that the answer to that conflict can lie only in the youth.

## Conference

The YPI started its first year by organising a conference in October 2014, with the goal of creating trust and mutual respect between the parties involved. From the 11th to the 18th of October, seventeen young adults came to The Hague from all over the world and discussed their ideas for solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

## 'Our Common Future'

'Our Common Future' is the document that resulted from the YPI's 2014 conference. It establishes the baseline for further efforts and reflects the issues that the participants have identified during their week in The Hague.

## Outreach to the Netherlands

The YPI 2014 conference placed a distinct emphasis on involving the youth of The Hague. As part of this effort, the YPI organised workshops with university and high school students from in and around The Hague throughout the week.

## Annual Report

As a foundation, the YPI endeavours to conduct all its activities with clarity and transparency. This report contains information about our foundation, results of the 2014 conference, the annual financial report and our vision of the future of the YPI.

The YPI is grateful for the support of our many donors and partners.

Questions regarding the report are most welcome at [info@youthpeaceinitiative.net](mailto:info@youthpeaceinitiative.net).

Yours sincerely,

*Theo Brouwer*  
Chairman



## 2 WHY YPI

**For as long as mankind can remember, conflicts have torn countries and communities apart. With every new conflict, the same horrors arise and scar the societies that must suffer through them. While all generations are affected by struggles, it often seems as if the effect of the conflict is particularly severe for the younger generations. When it comes to resolving the conflict, the older generation of leaders is perceived as wiser and more capable of handling negotiations. The youth, who must live with the decisions and must implement any peace plan, have little opportunity to voice their vision for the future. Therefore it is the YPI's mission to ensure that wherever parties negotiate to solve a conflict, young people are involved in the negotiations.**

Last year the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Territories again filled our TV screens. The the violence and destruction in the summer of 2014 mostly affected civilians. It increased distrust between the groups. Both Israeli and Palestinian citizens fear for their livelihoods, their security, and even the existence of their states.

Approximately 12 million people live in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Half are younger than 25. Over the course of the past year, under the leadership of US Secretary of State John Kerry (71), their leaders Abbas (79), Peres (91) and Netanyahu (65) negotiated to seek a peace settlement acceptable to all parties in the region. In spite of incessant shuttle diplomacy and a strong personal commitment, Kerry's mission failed.

The YPI sees two reasons for this failure:

- 1) Leaders from both sides are facing immense pressure from their constituents to find peace without giving up too much of the status quo.
- 2) The long-standing conflict has affected the

leaders, who lived through some of the most intense phases themselves, to such a strong degree that they cannot look to the future without framing it in the past.

The current generation of young adults has high regard for the efforts of their leaders, as well as for those of the international community. However, they see a need to take their own first step contributing to a peace plan for the region. Representing the generation that will spend most of their lives in whatever a future solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be, the YPI decided that this is the time for a new, young and positive voice to break free of the past and to find its inspiration for the future.

Seventeen young adults - five each from Israel and the Palestinian Territories and seven from the rest of the world (Cyprus, Korea, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland and the United States) - have committed themselves to making the impossible possible. Under the guidance of the YPI, they have worked on their own plan to contribute to a sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians.





# 3

## YPI IN THE HAGUE

*Jozias van Aartsen (Mayor of The Hague),  
member of the Advisory Committee*

Given on 17 October 2014 at the YPI reception  
in The Hague

“Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish you a very warm welcome to The Hague. The Hague – the city in which, over the past few days, young people from Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Cyprus, Korea, Northern Ireland, the United States and the Netherlands have worked hard to create a roadmap for permanent peace between Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

All at the invitation of the Youth Peace Initiative. A wonderful initiative, which I wholeheartedly support. And where better for this meeting to

be held than here in The Hague, the international city of peace and justice? Many people believe that the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Territories is unsolvable. The events of the past summer would once again seem to confirm that view.

However, you, the participants at this meeting of the Youth Peace Initiative, have had the courage to stand up and say: No, we don't accept this situation. We want to work to achieve a sustainable peace between our people. I commend your courage. You have chosen a difficult



path. But it is the only path that offers a real perspective for the future. And it is, after all, your future.

Around half the people in Israel and the Palestinian Territories are younger than 25. Young people with their whole lives in front of them. Like you. Last year, to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Peace Palace, The Hague Institute for Global Justice commissioned a study into exactly which conditions are necessary for achieving sustainable peace. That resulted in the report entitled The Hague Approach. Your 'roadmap', which you presented today, is consistent with that approach. Sustainable peace demands a great effort from everybody involved. To begin with, a cautious approach. 'Caute', which is Latin for 'approach with cau-

tion', was the motto of the great philosopher Spinoza, who spent the last years of his life in this city. And this old City Hall is actually adorned with an image that typifies caution, together with an image that symbolises justice. May the Youth Peace Initiative continue to send out a clear signal. A signal to the world. That we will never, ever give in to cynicism. And will continue to work to achieve a peaceful and just society. For everyone.

I am intensely grateful that this signal is coming from this city, from The Hague. That is why, once again, I thank you, the participants of the Youth Peace Initiative, and everybody who made this possible."



# 4 OUR COMMON FUTURE

**‘Our Common Future’ – written among the delegates – is the basis of any further work to be done by the YPI and its representatives. While the complete document can be found in the appendix (p. 33), this short summary lists both the main points of agreement and points that require further attention.**

## **Points of consensus:**

- The only solution to the conflict is the two-state solution;
- There should be equal rights within each state.
- All persons within each sovereign state should have the right to live in freedom and dignity, without discrimination and with freedom to practice religion;
- The impact of societies’ actions on internal affairs should be recognized;
- Both delegations call for new official negotiations to advance peace; Grass roots initiatives, such as the YPI, should continue providing support to these ends;
- Education is a fundamental right. It must promote understanding about the religions, traditions and cultures of others. Safety is a basic need for both sides.

## **Unresolved points:**

The delegates have emphasized that they hold deep respect for one another and understand the opposing positions.

However, they have not agreed on the following issues:

### **On the Israeli side:**

- Recognition of the Jewish national, historical and religious bond to the Land of Israel;
- Security and the removal of any existential threats to the state.

### **On the Palestinian side:**

- Recognition of the independent state of Palestine based on the 1967 lines with East Jerusalem as its capital. There will be Palestinian sovereignty over the Muslim and Christian holy places in Jerusalem and Israeli sovereignty over the Jewish holy places;
- Right of return for the Palestinian refugees, based on international law;
- Safe passage between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank;
- Evacuation of all settlements.





# 5 VISION ON THE FUTURE

**Having established the basis for cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian participants during the 2014 conference, it is now time for further action. The following pages detail the envisioned plan of the Israeli and Palestinian YPI participants and the supportive role of the YPI itself.**

## **YPIPI - YPI of Palestinians and Israelis**

The ten Israeli and Palestinian participants intend to form a core group that will meet once a month. These meetings will include the negotiation of core issues that need further elaboration. Issues of capacity building, confidence building, and future projects will expand upon the work achieved in The Hague. In addition, this core group will also meet with their government officials to inform them about the objectives of the YPI and to seek their support and backing where and if needed. Once consensus has been established, the core group will present the agreements to their respective

governments in order to influence the political agendas and to encourage them to work towards a peaceful agreement. The participants of the core group have also expressed their willingness to talk to NGOs and inform them about projects of common interest.

The participants are committed to meet once a month for at least a year, regardless of the situation in the region. The first meeting has already taken place on the 28th of November, 2014.

## **YPII - YPI of Internationals**

The seven young adults from other parts of the world – mostly conflict-ridden countries – who also participated in the October conference feel a strong sense of responsibility to remain involved and to support the Israeli and Palestinian participants. They intend to disseminate the result of the 2014 conference within their own countries. In doing so, they



will spread awareness of the YPI's and YPIPI's work, stressing that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be solved with energetic and active youth participation and that there is a need for a peaceful and sustainable solution via the facilitation of cultural and social exchanges. This international 'peer group' further aspires to contribute constructively to the peace process and to build mutual trust with the international community.

## YPI – The Foundation

In the coming months, the YPI faces a variety of responsibilities. The YPI Board will be available upon request to help YPIPI to organise their meetings and activities in order to support YPIPI's goal. Because the YPI Board knows that the 2014 conference alone is not enough to expect a self-acting mechanism of meetings and intensive and sensitive discussions, it will continue to support the progress of the groups in their respective countries.

Examples of guidance provided by the YPI may include assistance in finding safe locations where YPIPI can meet, providing a mediator or helping set the agenda for meetings, as well as supporting the YPI in broadening their network. Furthermore, the YPI is willing to support YPIPI financially, especially during the first months. However, in order to ensure that YPIPI becomes a truly local initiative and not a foreign-sponsored instrument, YPIPI has agreed that in future the costs will be split between the YPI and YPIPI.

The YPI will remain in contact with YPII, as well as facilitating communication between YPII and YPIPI. The continuous involvement of the international peers who were part of the 2014 conference is dependent on each participant engaging proactively with the work that the YPI and YPIPI conduct. The YPI will continue to inform all YPII members about the ongoing activities of the YPI and YPIPI and will ask for their input. Any of the YPII members can approach the YPI with their own ideas to further the work of the YPI and YPIPI or propose that the YPI focuses on another conflict. Then it will be the responsibility of the YPI Board to evaluate both

the financial as well as administrative feasibility of the idea.

In addition, the YPI will stay in contact with the main donors, organizations, government body, and advisory committee which supported the 2014 conference, and will seek to intensify cooperation with them. Furthermore, the YPI will inform all supporters of the YPI as well as the general public about all new and ongoing activities of the YPI, YPIPI and YPII through its newsletter, Facebook and website. The YPI will continue to seek public support for its cause, which includes political, social and financial support.

The YPI will continue facilitating and organising programmes that aim to involve young adults in peace processes.

# 6

## PROGRAMME 2014

### Saturday, 11 October 2014

After months of preparations, the seventeen participants of the YPI 2014 conference arrived in The Hague. In order to get acquainted with one another, the YPI held a welcome dinner at the boulevard of Scheveningen.

### Sunday, 12 October 2014

#### Theatre Workshop Formaat Rotterdam

After the morning briefing, the participants of the YPI 2014 conference made their way from The Hague to Rotterdam to take part in a workshop that was intended to break down the communication barriers between the different groups present. Within the local theatre in Rotterdam, each YPI participant was part of the participatory drama exercises.

#### Dinner with the Ambassadors

On Sunday evening, the participants had dinner with the Israeli ambassador Mr. Divon, the head of the Palestinian Mission to the Netherlands, Mr. Abuznaid, and their wives. In addition, Mr. Ten Broeke (VVD), member of the Dutch Parliament, was present. In the cosy atmosphere of a private lounge on the 40th floor of the building, stimulated lively talks .

During the dinner, Mr. Divon, Mr. Abuznaid and Mr. Ten Broeke briefly addressed the participants. They stressed the importance of youth involvement in conflict resolution and emphasized that they had enjoyed talking to the participants.





**Monday, 13 October 2014**

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

On Monday, the YPI wished to thank the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its embassies in Tel Aviv and Washington D.C. and its Delegation in Ramallah for their support. The foundation greatly appreciated that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Frans Timmermans, was willing to receive the participants at the beginning of their week. Unfortunately, the Minister had to cancel his engagement due to being urgently needed in Brussels. Instead, the participants were welcomed by Ms. Tazelaar (Director of the Middle East and North Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), who was willing to share her experience of serving in the Israel-Palestine region.

After short introductions by the participants, Ms. Tazelaar elaborated on the role of the Dutch government and the European Union in bringing the Israeli and Palestinian parties together to find a just solution to the conflict.

Following this explanation, Ms. Tazelaar introduced the participants to an interesting experiment. One participant each from the Israeli and Palestinian delegates was asked to take a moment and put him or herself into the situation of the other. Then both participants were asked to give their introductory statements again, not as themselves but rather as a member of the opposite group. This thought experiment led the participants to a passionate discussion, which revealed the personal aspects of the conflict to participants present.

### **Boat tour through the Canals of Amsterdam**

The Municipality of Amsterdam was kind enough to host a boat tour through the city's canals. In the idyllic atmosphere of the narrow streets, brick houses and busy bikers, the YPI participants had a chance to talk to each other outside the workshops and dialogues.



## **Meeting with members of the Dutch Parliament**

The special meeting with the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs was chaired by Mr. Van Bommel (SP) and was also attended by Mr. Van der Linden (PvdA), Mr. Sjoerdsma (D66), Mr. Servaes (PvdA) and Ms. De Caluwé (VVD). All members stressed the importance of dialogue and negotiations within conflict regions as well as the outstanding and sometimes unrecognised role of the youth in this process. By taking the initiative, the new generation shows not only their willingness and motivation to take responsibility for their shared future, but their capability to work in cooperation towards the realisation of sustainable peace.

The need for inter-societal dialogue and the way in which both nations should respect each other in order to restart the dialogue were both brought to the table. The session closed with a concluding statement by the chair to encourage the delegates to remain motivated and hopeful.

## **The Hague Institute for Global Justice**

On Monday evening, the YPI and the JASON Institute (Institute of Peace and Security Studies) hosted a discussion evening for university students in co-operation with The Hague Institute for Global Justice. Over 140 students and professionals from all over the world attended and participated in the discussions on finding solutions for conflicts in the world's conflict regions while learning lessons from various historical and modern-day conflicts. The evening was enriched by contributions from prominent figures such as Dr. Abiodun Williams (President of The Hague Institute for Global Justice) and Prof. Nico Schrijver (Academic Director of the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies and member of the Dutch Senate). The evening's chair, Prof. Schrijver, opened this evening by sharing his personal involvement with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a legal point of view.

Dr. Williams, who has been an aide to the UN Secretary Generals Kofi Annan and Ban Ki Moon, spoke about his personal experiences in the UN peacekeeping missions to Macedonia,

Bosnia, and Haiti. "Some countries have more history than they can digest. They and us need to remember the past but should not be held captive by it," he stated, and continued that "progress is not inevitable in the field of international politics, as it is in the field of science and technology. Each generation has to carry on in building a world of order and justice." A more detailed summary of Prof. Williams's speech can be found in the appendix (p.36).

The evening continued with passionate discussions between the audience and selected representatives of the YPI delegates. The questions posed by the audience focused on leadership, education, legal agreements and the power of words. Throughout the lively back and forth, the notion was sustained that although parallels between former and ongoing conflicts could be drawn, each on-going conflict was still very unique in its character. This realisation itself recognised the complexity of finding possible solutions for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One recurring theme was noticeable throughout the evening: the effect of solutions brought forth by those who can show true leadership.

The evening concluded with one certainty among all the discussion and exchange of ideas: peace is a process that grows from trust and understanding.

**Tuesday, 14 October 2014**

## **Peace Palace**

Early on Tuesday morning, the YPI participants gathered at the Peace Palace to meet with high school students from in and around The Hague. The well-received opening speech by Mr. Steven van Hoogstraten (Managing Director of the Carnegie Foundation) was followed by an inspiring speech by Mr. Jan Pronk (former Minister in several Dutch cabinets and former Deputy Secretary General of UNCTAD).

Mr. Pronk emphasised the need to recognise the failure of his own generation in the peace-making process. He then encouraged the present generation to engage their leaders in acknowledging the importance and interests of the young stakeholders. He shared 11 valuable lessons he learned from working many years in conflict regions. A more detailed summary of Mr. Pronk's speech can be found in the appendix (p.37).

The YPI Board was delighted to introduce their 17 international participants to over 230 enthusiastic students from 11 different high schools. The high schools that represented the youth of The Hague included the Rijswijks Lyceum, Wolfert van Borselen School Aloysius College, Zandvliet College, The Hague International School, the British School, the American School of The Hague, Gymnasium Novum, the Johan de Witt School, the Edith Stein College and the Erasmus College. The high school students had been preparing possible solutions for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since the beginning of this academic year, and they shared them here in the form of poster presentations.

The representing students from each high school formed working groups and presented their proposals, ideas on the history of the conflict, and most importantly their thoughts on its future and its possible solutions. The Israeli and Palestinian participants gave feedback on the poster presentations, which led to meaningful dialogue and discussion with the high school students. Serious yet informal discussions reached their climax at a plenary

session in the Academy Hall next to the library, in which the most creative and inspiring solutions were brought together. Here all high school students had a chance to comment on, argue with and question the proposed solutions with the presenters. Notable were the common ideas on grassroots politics, mutual understanding, the need for dialogue in even the direst of circumstances and especially the participation of young people in the peace process.

The discussions culminated in the symbolic release of hundreds of white balloons from the terrace in front of the Peace Palace, with the YPI logo and a personal peace message from all participants. Perhaps one balloon will find its way to Jerusalem and bring its message of peace to both nations.

## **Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy**

The workshop, which revolved around the question of dialogue and trust building between parties, was led by Mr. Scheltens and Mr. Dol, both of whom are Programme Managers at the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy. Reconciliation, negotiation and dialogue were the core approaches on which the workshop focused in the first half. In the second half, the workshop explored what conditions are needed in order to have a productive dialogue.

Both of these lessons were later applied by the participants to two different case studies. In both cases, the participants had to develop recommendations that the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy could have given for each situation. While one group focused on the implications of the anti-LGBT policies in Uganda, the other group was confronted with the complicated and unstable situation that Sudan and South Sudan faced in the recent past. The exercise did not only concentrate on the recommendations the participants had to give, but also on the task of achieving this within the group (without anybody greatly opposing it).

With the structured approach provided by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, the participants were slowly transitioning in their approach to conflict resolution. It is crucial



that they do understand the techniques of a constructive dialogue before they can begin with the negotiations for their own peace plan.

The workshop itself fit neatly into the structure of the week, since the group had already experienced several discussions with university and high school students and were now engaging in the technical and theoretical aspects of conflict resolution. The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy did not only expand the YPI participants' existing perspective on conflict resolution, but also stressed the importance of a constructive dialogue.

In this regard, the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy marked the turning point of the week. While the first few days focused on expressing oneself in workshops, discussions and storytelling, the workshop at the Humanity House concentrated on a structured approach to conflict resolution. It therefore paved the way for the coming days at the Clingendael Institute, where the YPI participants fully engaged in negotiations.

## Wednesday and Thursday, 15-16 October 2014

### Clingendael Institute

The negotiations were guided by a skilful team of the Netherlands Institute for International Relations Clingendael, as well as a team of Result ADR, a conflict management company. Wednesday morning began with an introduction lecture about negotiation methods and a constructive attitude during discussions. Then

each of the YPI participants had a chance to describe his or her personal motivation for taking part in this dialogue. The common interest for peace was emphasized, as well as the willingness of personal involvement in actively contributing to the peace process. Before the break, a useful simulation game engaged the participants in their first real negotiation. The fictive ethical subject of the negotiation simulation game made clear how negotiation technicalities work in practice, but also how difficult it is to convince others of one's personal motivation and to arrive at a common position.

After the lunch break, the participants split into smaller groups and thought about the formulation of a priority list of basic needs to focus on in the shared future perspective for 2025. After presenting lists of needs and requirements to the group, these needs were passionately discussed. The environment of trust and confidence created during the first few days ensured that the delegates worked in a setting characterised by willingness to understand each other needs and interests.

On Thursday, the negotiations continued with intense discussions about main points of (dis) agreement. The afternoon was used to discuss the future of the YPI and to put forth practical ideas that could help the Israeli and Palestinian delegates in implementing the points of agreement in their respective regions. In the meantime, the delegates from (post-)conflict areas discussed what their future contribution to the process could possibly be. During their final hours at Clingendael, the group started with the negotiations on the final document 'Our Common Future'.





In the evening, a small group with members from the Israeli, Palestinian and international delegates continued the final negotiations. Intensive discussions about the exact formulation of the document took place in a constructive atmosphere. At around 2:30 a.m. on Friday, 17 October 2014, the small group of negotiators announced with satisfaction the final document to the group.

### Friday, 17 October 2014

#### Press Conference

After an intense week of workshops, dialogues and negotiations, the participants presented 'Our Common Future' to the Israeli Ambassador to The Hague, Mr. Divon, and the Palestinian Representative to The Hague, Mr. Abuznaid.

#### Reception by the Municipality of The Hague

The final event of the week was a well-attended reception for the YPI participants, offered by the Municipality of The Hague. The many guests had a chance to discuss the conference and its final document with the participants. The speech given by Mayor van Aartsen can be found in the beginning of this report. The YPI is very grateful to the Municipality for hosting the event and thus concluding the conference.





# 7

## WRITING 'OUR COMMON FUTURE'

In this account of the 2014 conference's programme and the encouraging words of keynote speakers and workshop leaders, the YPI finds it crucial to present the views of some individual participants as well. Many of the participants have taken the time to write down their experience of the 2014 conference and reflect on the substance of the work they have done. In order to truly offer an insight into what our participants have gone through, the YPI wishes to share two of these reports in its annual report.

### Israeli participant

I came to the YPI 2014 conference with a lot of interest and wide knowledge about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but without much experience, as I have never formally sat at a negotiation table or regularly attended a dialogue group. During the negotiations, we have made actual progress and I think that the whole process was unique. We were negotiating in a polite way, while respecting each other, and the most important: we trusted each other. I know that the word "trust" is a bit of a cliché, but everything we did was really based on mutual trust.

I want to emphasize that the paper called 'Our Common Future', which is the visible outcome of this week, is a great achievement for us and I'm proud of it. In the paper we addressed the core issues from a different point of view. We talked about reconciliation and agreed to keep on meeting. We discussed creative and brave ideas and we expressed understanding towards one another's narratives, which was often hard to hear because it contradicted our own narratives. The trust we have built between the participants and everything that happened here in The Hague are even bigger than the paper we have worked so hard to publish.

### Palestinian participant

In this week, we have understood the differences between negotiations, reconciliation and dialogue. What I realised is that we disagree on a lot of things, more than we agree on. But disagreeing does not necessarily mean refusing: we are respecting, understanding and discussing our differences, perspectives, and our narratives as well. Surely, that's the most important thing we have learned here. We have put assumptions and scenarios into proposals for solutions based on the basic needs and core issues for both nations of Palestine and Israel.

Imagining the conflict as a pyramid, the political decision makers represent the top of it. But we as youth represent the base of this pyramid and we know that we can surely influence the communities, societies and the social level that is the core of this conflict. Indeed, without having the social peace we would never have a political peace settlement or agreement. "We are not decision makers, but we are the peace makers".

# 8 Organisation

## Members of the YPI Board

**Thed Brouwer (2014-Present)**

Chairman

**Paul Derikx (2014)**

Secretary

**Stan Mencke (2015-Present)**

Secretary

**Margrit Frequin (2014-Present)**

Treasurer and Press Officer

**Jasper van der Kist (2014)**

Communications Officer

**Laura van der Zande (2014)**

Recruitment Officer

**Esther Grisnich (2014-Present)**

Programme Officer



## Members of the Advisory Board

### **Jozias van Aartsen**

Mayor of The Hague, International City of Peace and Justice

### **Nico Schrijver**

Professor of International Law at Leiden University and member of the Senate of the Dutch parliament

### **Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**

Professor of International Politics and Diplomatic Practice at Leiden University and former Secretary-General of NATO

### **Karin van den Broeke**

Moderator of the general synod of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands

### **Inger van Nes**

Spokesman for the generation of 20-30

### **Kim Putters**

Director of the Social and Cultural Planning Office of the Netherlands

## Special Advisor to the YPI Board

### **Michiel Hardon**

# 9

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## 2014 Income

Donor	Amount in Euros
Result ADR	2.000
Stichting De Initiatieven	2.500
Fonds 1818	4.000
Remonstranten	5.000
Stichting Rotterdam	2.000
Anonymous Funds	28.000
Crowdfunding	2.672
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>46.172</b>

The donors listed in the 2014 Income table are limited to financial contributions. Aside from these financial contributions, the YPI also received the following material contributions:

- Municipality of Amsterdam - boat tour through canals including lunch
- The Netherlands Institute of Multiparty Democracy - workshop at the Humanity House and the subsequent dinner
- Municipality of The Hague - Reception at Town Hall

### *Anonymous Funds:*

Four donors preferred to remain anonymous. Their contributions were:

- € 15 000
- € 10 000
- € 2 000
- € 1 000

An additional amount of 5000 € has been pledged. This amount has not been added to the income/expenses summary, because the Youth Peace Initiative Foundation firstly has to prove that it fulfilled all necessary requirements. As soon as these requirements have been fulfilled, the complete amount will be added to the YPI income.

### *Crowdfunding:*

16 individuals contributed privately (amounts differing from 50 € to 1000 €) in the time span from 28 March 2014-16 October 2014.

## 2014 Expenses

Activity	Amount in Euros
Organisational expenses	
1. Office supplies	2.526
2. Accounting and advisory fees	1.512
3. Travel and accommodation	1.830
4. Advertising	2.399
Activity expenses	
1. Advertising	2.222
2. Representation	4.889
3. Travel and accommodation	17.817
4. Workshops	7.920
Remaining	
1. Notary fees	230
2. Bank fees	3
3. Other general expenses	-6
Not spend income	4.909
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>46.172</b>

*Accommodation:*

The participants and the YPI Board (a total of 23 people) stayed together in the Hostel StayOkay. The hostel included breakfast and one dinner.

evening at The Hague Institute for Global Justice. This section also includes the use of the Clingendael facilities for two days, lunch and the guidance of the workshop leader.

*Workshops:*

This includes all costs related to the workshop in Rotterdam, the workshop with the high school students in the Peace Palace as well as all costs of the discussion

*Not spend income:*

Income that not has been spend in 2014 will be used for future projects that promote the goal of the YPI Foundation.

## Balance – Assets and Liabilities

Assets	Start of Term	End of Term
	March 18, 2014 (Date of establishment)	December 31, 2014
Current assets	€	€
1. Cash and cash equivalents	0	2.104
2. Accounts receivable	0	157
3. Prepaid expenses for future services	0	0
Investments	0	-
Inventory	0	-
Savings Account	0	10.000
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12.261</b>

Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	€	€
1. Accountables Payable	0	7.352
2. Short/Current Long Term Debt	0	-
3. Other current Liabilities	0	-
Long Term Debt	0	-
Deferred Long Term Liability Charges	0	-
Minority Interest	0	-
Reserves	0	4.909
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12.261</b>

## Compilation Report



To the Board of  
Stichting Youth Peace Initiative  
Touwslagersgang 36  
2312 EN LEIDEN

### COMPILATION REPORT

#### Introduction

In accordance with your instructions we have compiled the financial statements 2014 of Stichting Youth Peace Initiative, Leiden, which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2014, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes.

#### Responsibility of the Board

The distinctive feature of a compilation engagement is that we compile financial information based on information provided by the Board of the Foundation. The Board is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information provided and the financial statements based thereon.

#### Accountant's responsibility

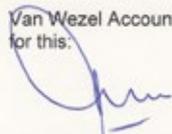
Our responsibility as accountant is to perform our engagement in accordance with Dutch law, including the professional and ethical requirements applying to accountants. In accordance with the professional standard applicable to compilation engagements, our procedures were limited primarily to gathering, processing, classifying and summarizing financial information. Furthermore we have evaluated the appropriateness of the accounting policies which are used to compile the financial statements, based on the information provided by the Board. The nature of our procedures does not enable us to express any assurance on the true and fair view of the financial statements.

#### Confirmation

Based on the information provided to us, we have compiled the financial statements using the accounting policies as included in the Guidelines for Annual Reporting C1 "Small Not-for-profit organisations".

Rijnsburg, March 4, 2015

Van Wezel Accountants B.V.  
for this:

  
A.C. Balkenende  
Accountant-Administratieconsulent

Belongs to audit dated February 9, 2015

Van Wezel Accountants BV

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Op onze opdrachten en overeenkomsten zijn de NVA Algemene Voorwaarden van toepassing, zoals gepubliceerd bij de Griffie van de Aankondigingsrechtbank te Amsterdam onder nummer 4/2013



# 10 Summary of Bylaws

The foundation is named: “Stichting Youth Peace Initiative” (YPI). It was founded on March 18th, 2014 by Thed A. Brouwer, Paul C. W. Derikx and Margrit R. Frequin, and is seated in Leiden, the Netherlands.

The foundation aims to involve young people in international peace issues and to do anything that is directly or indirectly related thereto and conducive to that cause in its broadest sense. YPI seeks to achieve its objective, inter alia, by organising (international) meetings.

The expenses of the foundation are covered by grants and donations, gifts, inheritances, legacies and other acquisitions and benefits.

Board members and other workers enjoy no remuneration for their work.

The YPI Foundation has an ANBI status, which means that it is recognized by the Dutch government as a Public Benefit Organisation.

# 11 Appendix

## Our Common Future:

### Paving the road for sustainable peace

We, youth of the world's regions in conflict, have come to The Hague to put our differences behind us and pursue a better future. We remember the past, but choose not to remain captive to it. Instead, we seek to move past the mistakes of previous generations and to achieve peace together.

Half of the joint population of Israelis and Palestinians is below the age of 25. Their futures are, and will remain, captive to the errors of the past unless they are involved in creating a sustainable peace. This leads us to believe that a grass roots, youth-led initiative has the power to build hope among young Israelis and Palestinians. In the following pages, we seek to provide a first step on this road to peace.

#### 1. Experience

a. Throughout this process, a deep belief has grown among the delegates of the Youth Peace Initiative (YPI) that peace between Israelis and Palestinians is possible. The mutual respect and willingness of the delegates to engage was remarkable, and all are returning home from The Hague with a cautious optimism. They will continue their efforts towards a peace agreement and rapprochement on the basis of the mutual trust that they have built over the course of this week.

b. As future leaders, the delegates of the YPI believe that peace and reconciliation can come to the region. This, however, will require leadership and understanding from all sides.

#### 2. Consensus

a. The members of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to the YPI have agreed that the only solution to the conflict is the two state solution.

b. Both delegations have agreed that any future agreement should confer upon Palestinians and Israelis, respectively, equal rights within their own states.

c. Both delegations have agreed that any future agreement shall guarantee the right to live in freedom, dignity, and without discrimination within each state. Furthermore, both parties shall reciprocally provide for all persons to practise religion freely within their sovereign states.

d. Both delegations recognise the impact of their societies' actions on the internal affairs of the other society, and will seek not to harm them.

e. Both delegations call for official negotiations to advance peace. These negotiations should be based on trust, respect, and understanding. Grass roots initiatives, such as the YPI, should continue providing support to these ends.

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g. Both delegations agree that education is a fundamental right. Furthermore, they stress that education in the eventual Israeli and Palestinian states must serve to promote understanding about the religions, traditions, and cultures of others.

h. Both delegations recognise safety as a basic need for both sides.

### **3. Unresolved issues:**

The delegations express their gratitude for the honest and substantive discussion of the following issues. They emphasize that they hold deep respect for one another, and understand the opposing positions although they have not agreed. These issues include:

#### **On the Israeli side**

- a. Recognition of the Jewish national, historical, and religious bond to the Land of Israel;
- b. Security and the removal of any existential threats to the state.

#### **On the Palestinian side**

- a. Recognition of the independent state of Palestine on the 1967 lines with East Jerusalem as its capital. There will be Palestinian sovereignty over the Muslim and Christian holy places in Jerusalem and Israeli sovereignty over the Jewish holy places;
- b. Right of return for the Palestinian refugees based on international law;
- c. Safe passage between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank;
- d. The evacuation of all settlements.

### **4. The Youth Peace Initiative**

The Youth Peace Initiative Steering Group in the Netherlands will continue to be available to support, on request, any activity by the participants.

#### **The Youth Peace Initiative**

agrees to create the Youth Peace Initiative of Palestinians and Israelis (YPIPI)

a. A Core Group is to be formed of the five Palestinian and five Israeli YPI 2014 participants. This group will meet once a month, alternatingly in Palestinian and Israeli territory. On the agenda will be the negotiation of the core issues and addressing our conflicting narratives, as well as issues of capacity building, confidence building, and future projects.

b. In addition, two groups, respectively composed of Israelis and Palestinians, will be formed to discuss similar issues to those discussed in The Hague. Each group will provide a base to explore acceptable options on each side, and will meet once a month. Each Core group will meet with its respective national group.

c. The members of the Core group will also meet with their government officials to inform them about the objectives of YPI and to get their support and backing where and if needed. Any product of the Core group will also be presented to their respective governments to influence the

political agendas and to encourage them to work towards a peaceful agreement.

d. The Core group will be in touch with local NGOs that are interested in peacebuilding to look at projects of common interest, once agreed upon by all members of the Core group.

e. Confidentiality will be ensured.

f. The participants express a strong intention to meet for at least a year, no matter the situation in the region, while communicating through social media.

#### **The International Peer Group of the Youth Peace Initiative**

shall be composed of persons living in conflict and post-conflict areas. The Group feels, out of a deep admiration for its peers from around the world, a responsibility to remain involved with the Israelis and Palestinians present this week. The participants reaffirm their commitment to sustainable peace and reconciliation in their own countries.

The following concrete steps have been considered, and the Peer Group has agreed:

a. To spread the understanding in their own countries that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not intractable, but can instead be solved with energetic and active youth participation.

b. To raise awareness of the need for a peaceful and sustainable solution between Israelis and Palestinians by facilitating cultural and social exchange.

c. To aspire to contribute constructively to the peace process, and pursue steps to build mutual trust with the international community.

# Lessons Learned From Conflicts

*Dr. A. Williams (President of The Hague Institute for Global Justice)*

Summary of his keynote on 13 October 2014 at The Hague Institute for Global Justice

“Each generation has the opportunity to take history in its own hands. With the commitment of those in this group there is room for optimism, however daunting the challenge may be. If you think of the domain of diplomacy and peacemaking, progress is not inevitable and progress is not linear, unlike in the fields of science and technology. So each generation must make the world anew. We can correct the mistakes of our forbearers, but we should be under no illusion that inherited improvements in global peace and security are permanent. They can be reversed and they can be reversed very quickly. In fact, it takes years, sometimes decades to build the symbols of peace and these can be erased and toppled overnight.” With these words, Dr. Abiodun Williams opened the discussion evening at The Hague Institute for Global Justice.

The mission of the YPI was of particular interest to Dr. Williams, as he could “vividly recall the vantage point of a committed young person [Dr. Williams himself] who is determined to leave his own mark on the world and to work in the service of international peace and justice.” Dr. Williams spoke about his personal experiences in a few of the conflict zones he had visited and related one important lesson about fostering peace to each of them. “First in Macedonia, which showed how conflict prevention measures, when properly conceived, can actually make a difference and can achieve impressive results. Second is Bosnia, where the lessons are not so salutary, and where the UN experienced that much can go wrong when political will is not mentioned in the challenge of combating a deteriorating security situation. Finally I want to talk about Haiti, where I also served in a UN peace mission, which remains an unstable country. Haiti illustrates the complexities of conflict prevention and peace building.”

Dr. Williams also elaborated on the efforts of The Hague Institute: “I commend you on The Hague approach, which comprises six principles for achieving sustainable peace in post-conflict situations. It emphasizes the importance of conflict prevention, developing a rule of law culture, a network approach and the role of the private sector, and also underscores the importance of strategic communication, and ultimately the responsibility to learn. I hope that this will be a contribution that can help policy makers. Thus with these three cases – Macedonia, Bosnia, Haiti – you’ve three examples of challenges confronting peace makers and peace builders.” The challenges of fostering peace were of central concern in the evening’s discussions. Though Dr. Williams concluded that “despite this mixed record of peace keeping and peace building, I remain an optimist, and I remain an optimist precisely because I always come in contact with many inspirational young people like yourselves. And I have faith that we as an international community will be equal in the challenges that we face and each generation has to carry on in this important work in building a world of order and a world of justice.”

# Conflict and Conflict Resolution

*Prof. Dr. J.P. Pronk (Former Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation and UN representative)*

Summary of his keynote on 14 October 2014 at the Peace Palace

“We might have less peace today than fifty years ago. The number of violent conflicts is steadily increasing. My generation has failed to achieve peace and it is up to you, the new generation of young leaders, to change this.” With those critical words of wisdom, Jan Pronk opened his speech at the Peace Palace in honour of the YPI 2014 conference. In encouraging the high school students present in the room to take action, and to fight for a more peaceful world themselves, Jan Pronk shared many personal anecdotes as well as eleven valuable lessons he learned during his working years and involvement with international peace processes.

## **The eleven lessons of Jan Pronk:**

1. Conflicts become more complex, more difficult to resolve and contain the longer they last – look at the Israel-Palestine conflict. Therefore, it is important that a conflict gets solved the minute it emerges.

2. Conflicts are no longer nationally contained by territorial boundaries: conflicts spread across borders and continents. In trying to solve a conflict, one has to take into account not only the local situation within the country itself, but also the regional and international dimensions which affect the conflict.

3. Each conflict situation is unique and should be approached and resolved differently – taking into account the local cultural, historical, economic, geographic, demographic factors that affect and contribute to each conflict. There is not – and should not be – a model approach to solving conflicts.

4. Learn from experience. Peoples in conflict can learn from other peoples in conflict. For instance, in trying to solve the conflict in Sudan, the Sudanese people asked advice from the people in Zimbabwe in dealing with the disarmament and reintegration of former soldiers. After all, Zimbabwe had experienced similar issues in the past, with guerrillas fighting the colonial power. In this case, Sudan learned from the experience in Zimbabwe. Nevertheless, the fact that people in conflict can “learn from others” does not mean that outsiders to the conflict can “teach” others how to solve their conflict.

5. Outsiders to a conflict should never take sides, for one risks becoming a party to the conflict rather than an external mediator and participant in a peace initiative.

6. Conflicts have to be solved from within. Peace cannot be imported in a country; neither can peace be exported to conflict regions by foreign powers.

7. Conflicts have to be solved politically. All parties should be part of the political negotiations – no party should be excluded. It is not up to outsiders to decide who can participate in peace talks, and who cannot.

8. Outsiders can contribute to the peace process in providing people in the conflict with the room and opportunity to solve their own conflict. You can do so, for example, by studying the conflict, in order to be a good partner in discussions about the conflict, and to help the people within the conflict to do the “right thing”.

9. Define who the victims in a conflict are. Despite the initial advice not to take sides, people should choose to take sides with the victims – the underdogs in a conflict who do not have the power to voice their opinion and interests.

10. Use non-violence to solve a conflict. You can use non-violent means to contain violence, and to address violence – as the protesters in the Balkans did by the end of the 1980s, who sang for freedom from the Russian occupants.

11. Finally: Never give up!

“Maybe there are more conflicts, and more violence, than when I was participating in such conferences when I was of your age: if that is the case, then you can easily get pessimistic or cynical – but it does not help, whatever you try.” Mr Jan Pronk stated. “My only advice, which I have also given to myself, and have had to learn myself, is never give up – never give up! Do not become a cynic. Do not become pessimistic. Because there is always a new chance: there is always a new generation, which can take over. Just go out and do it!”



[WWW.YOUTHPEACEINITIATIVE.NET](http://WWW.YOUTHPEACEINITIATIVE.NET)

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