



Global Forum on
Youth, Peace and Security

PRESS RELEASE

Jordan's Crown Prince Al Hussein Kicks Off Global Youth Forum Highlighting Young Peacebuilders' Potential

Madaba, Jordan | 21 August 2015 | Young peacebuilders from 100 countries are meeting at the [Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security](#). In stark contrast with the humanitarian crisis in neighbouring countries, over 500 participants are gathering at [King's Academy](#) in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to urge the international community to recognise and use their full potential to build peace.

The first-of-its-kind Global Forum is held under the Patronage of [His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II](#) in partnership with the United Nations and civil society organisations. At the opening ceremony, HRH Crown Prince Al Hussein spelled out his vision for young people to be meaningfully included in the global framework for peace and security. Jordan's Crown Prince announced that "Jordan will work through its membership in the United Nations Security Council for the Council's adoption of an agenda on youth, peace and security to ensure the inclusion of youth in efforts towards building sustainable peace and security."

"When youth believe in a mission, they will dedicate their lives to fulfill it," the 21-year old Crown Prince Al Hussein said, highlighting how Jordan is playing a major role in countering extremism and radicalisation, and this Forum is a vital part of finding a long-term solution and prevention strategy. "Youth are the strategic asset. They are the real wealth. This is what I see every day in the youth of my country, Jordan, and in my peers around the world," HRH Crown Prince told participants.

"Young people are essential to the establishment of lasting security," said Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, Dr Babatunde Osotimehin, who was speaking on behalf of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "While media reports may portray youth, especially young men, as a threat, this is a gross distortion." Osotimehin added that young people "are often among conflicts' first victims – and they can lead as champions of peace."

Other speakers at the opening included Victor Ochen, Ugandan peace activist, who was also nominated for the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize, and inspirational young peacemakers from Colombia and Syria. "Do not underestimate the importance of our youth in Syria, who are working tirelessly to build a future free of hate and violence. They deserve to be believed in," said Alaa Toutounji, the youth peacebuilder from Syria.

"Young people have not been traditionally represented when it comes to forming the global peace and security agenda," said Ahmad Ahlendawi, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, who moderated the opening session. "This Forum marks a new global agenda on youth, peace and security and supports the role of young people as peace builders."

The event will conclude tomorrow with the adoption of the "Amman Youth Declaration", which will present young people's vision of their role in preventing conflict, countering violent extremism and building peace. In the coming months, the Declaration will be used to engage high-level decision makers to adopt a new international framework.

The Forum is bringing together a unique mix of young peacebuilders with high-level officials and technical experts. Youth participating in the Forum will contribute as speakers, moderators and rapporteurs.

The Forum is being hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and co-organised, on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Search for Common Ground and the United Network of Young Peacebuilders.

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