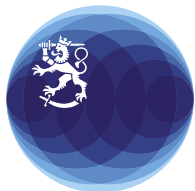


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Youth, Peace and Security

Finland's National Action Plan
2025–2028

Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland

Publications of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs 2025:6

Youth, Peace and Security

Finland's National Action Plan 2025–2028

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Youth, Peace and Security

Finland's National Action Plan 2025-2028

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Abstract

The UN Security Council Resolution 2250 Youth, Peace and Security, adopted in 2015, and the subsequent Resolutions 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020) recognize the positive and active role of youth in preventing and resolving conflicts, building peace, and preventing violent extremism. Member States must take the needs and perspectives of youth into consideration and encourage young people to take part in decision-making and all stages of peace processes.

Finland has prepared its second National Action Plan on the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security in collaboration with active youth and representatives of youth organisations, central government, research institutes and civil society. The Action Plan specifies five priorities: participation; prevention; partnerships; protection; and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration. The goals and actions apply to Finland's actions both at home and globally.

The Action Plan will be implemented by different branches of government and civil society representatives. The implementation of the Action Plan will be followed by a monitoring group, which will submit a mid-term report and a final report to Parliament.

Keywords UN, foreign and security policy, peace, youth, crisis management, development cooperation, nondiscrimination

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Nuoret, rauha ja turvallisuus Suomen kansallinen toimintaohjelma 2025–2028

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Kieli	englanti	Sivumäärä	62

Tiivistelmä

YK:n turvallisuusneuvoston vuonna 2015 hyväksymä päätöslauselma 2250 "Nuoret, rauha ja turvallisuus" ja sitä seuranneet päätöslauselmat 2419 (2018) ja 2535 (2020) tunnistavat nuorten myönteisen ja aktiivisen roolin konfliktien ehkäisyssä ja ratkaisemisessa, rauhanrakentamisessa sekä väkivaltaisen ekstremismin ehkäisemisessä. Jäsenmaiden tulee ottaa nuorten tarpeet ja näkökulmat huomioon sekä lisätä nuorten osallistumista päätöksentekoon ja rauhanprosessien kaikkiin vaiheisiin.

Suomen toinen kansallinen toimintaohjelma YK:n turvallisuusneuvoston Nuoret, rauha ja turvallisuus -pätöslauselman toimeenpanemiseksi on laadittu yhdessä aktiivisten nuorten ja nuorisojärjestöjen, valtionhallinnon, tutkimuslaitosten ja kansalaisyhteiskunnan kanssa. Toimintaohjelmassa on viisi painopistettä: osallistuminen, ennaltaehkäisy, kumppanuudet, suojelu sekä aseistariisunta, kotoutuminen ja integroituminen takaisin yhteiskuntaan. Tavoitteet ja toimet koskevat paitsi Suomen toimintaa kotimaassa, myös kansainvälisesti.

Toimintaohjelmaa toimeenpaneavat eri hallinnonalat sekä kansalaisyhteiskunnan toimijat. Toimintaohjelman toimeenpanoa seurataan seurantaryhmässä, ja toimeenpanosta raportoidaan eduskunnalle toimintakauden puolivälissä ja lopussa.

Asiasanat YK, ulko- ja turvallisuuspolitiikka, rauha, nuoret, kriisinhallinta, kehitysyhteistyö, yhdenvertaisuus

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Unga, fred och säkerhet

Finlands nationella handlingsplan 2025–2028

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Språk	engelska	Sidantal	62

Referat

FN:s säkerhetsråds resolution 2250 "Unga, fred och säkerhet" från 2015 och de därpå följande resolutionerna 2419 (2018) och 2535 (2020) identifierar de ungas positiva och aktiva roll när det gäller att förebygga och lösa konflikter, bygga upp fred och förebygga våldsbejakande extremism. Medlemsländerna bör beakta de ungas behov och synpunkter samt öka de ungas delaktighet i beslutsfattandet och i alla skeden av fredsprocesser.

Finlands andra nationella handlingsplan för genomförandet av FN:s säkerhetsråds resolution Unga, fred och säkerhet har utarbetats i samarbete mellan aktiva unga och ungdomsorganisationer, statsförvaltningen, forskningsinstitut och det civila samhället. Handlingsplanen har fem prioriteringar: delaktighet, förebyggande, partnerskap, skydd samt avväpning, återvändande och återintegrering i samhället. Målen och åtgärderna gäller inte bara Finlands verksamhet i hemlandet utan också internationellt.

Handlingsplanen genomförs av olika förvaltningsområden och det civila samhällets aktörer. En uppföljningsgrupp följer genomförandet av handlingsplanen, och det rapporteras till riksdagen om genomförandet i mitten och i slutet av verksamhetsperioden.

Nyckelord FN, utrikes- och säkerhetspolitik, fred, unga, krishantering, utvecklingssamarbete, jämlikhet

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INTRODUCTION

In December 2015, the United Nation's Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). It marked an important achievement and the first resolution focusing specifically on young people, peace and security. The resolution recognises the positive role of youth in preventing and resolving conflicts and building peace. The origins of the resolution lie in the efforts of youth organisations and civil society organisations (CSOs) to raise awareness of the role young people play in promoting peace and security, and the aim to establish an international framework for this topic. The subsequent Resolutions 2419 and 2535 adopted by the Security Council further complement the Youth, Peace and Security agenda by identifying practical means for engaging youth in peacebuilding.

Since the adoption of these resolutions, an increasing number of United Nation's (UN) Member States and regional organisations have committed to enhancing meaningful youth participation. However, challenges such as young people's distrust in governance, shrinking civic space and age-based discrimination continue to hinder meaningful youth participation in peacebuilding efforts.

Finland is a global pioneer in advancing the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. In 2021, Finland became the first country in the world to publish a national action plan for Youth, Peace and Security for the years 2021–2024. The action plan was the result of broad cooperation between active young people and youth organisations, the central government, research institutions, and civil society. It has been implemented in diverse ways both nationally and internationally. Its implementation has strengthened young people's opportunities for participation in peace and security issues, supported and offered tools to ministries and organisations working with young people, and contributed to Finland's international profile, including in the UN. Finland's inclusive approach to preparing the national action plan has attracted a lot of interest internationally.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has fundamentally changed the security environment in Finland and Europe. While Finland is not currently facing a direct military threat, national preparedness and defence capabilities must be built to allow an effective response to all types of threats – including hybrid and information influence operations. Finland must also be prepared for the use or threat of military force against it. Finland's NATO membership has anchored its security policy in the Western defence alliance, and the collective deterrence also strengthens national defence.

In this changed environment, young people play a vital role. The action plan on Youth, Peace and Security for 2025–2028 builds on UN Security Council Resolutions 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018) and 2535 (2020), which emphasise the importance of young people in preventing conflicts, advancing peace processes and building sustainable security. Young people are not merely a target group; instead, they are central actors in defending and rebuilding society.

This renewed action plan covers the years 2025–2028. It builds on the work started during the first plan and serves as a roadmap for promoting national objectives. The renewed plan has been developed in collaboration with Finnish civil society, the Finnish Youth, Peace and Security Network led by youth themselves and relevant ministries. The commitment to prepare the action plan is stated in the Finnish Government Report on Foreign and Security Policy and supports the Government Programme's goal of strengthening young people's inclusion, wellbeing and opportunities for a good life.

The Finnish National Youth Council and Youth Sector (FYCS) conducted a peace and security survey and a set of consultations with young people aged 15–29 in the autumn of 2024. They provided valuable insights for the update process of the National Action Plan. The results of the survey highlighted youth participation and agency as key themes. Young people have a broad understanding of peace and security. They see the support and empowerment of their own actions as essential to sustainable peace and peace processes. For them, peace means societal and democratic stability, equality and non-discrimination, and the ability to live a self-determined and non-violent everyday life. Factors that undermine young people's sense of security include international conflicts and the threat of war, extremism and political polarisation, rising discrimination and violence, and the impacts of climate change. In addition, social inequality, racism, discrimination and declining social trust further diminish their sense of safety. Finland's foreign and security policy environment is also shaped by global phenomena such as climate change, migration driven by poverty and lack of prospects, and technological development – both as separate phenomena and in increasingly interconnected ways. Young people's contributions are necessary in addressing these challenges.

In times of war and conflict, crisis management and peacekeeping play an increasingly important role as part of broader efforts for peace. Young people can participate in peacekeeping in many ways. In Finland, the conscription system and voluntary national defence offer young people an opportunity to participate in international crisis management operations through military service or reserve activities. Young people may also apply for international civilian crisis management roles such as election observation, support for the rule of law or police missions. In many crisis management operations, improving the situation of vulnerable young people – including by safeguarding access to education – is a key part of peacekeepers' work.

Finland takes a broad approach to security. Economic competitiveness, technological capability, sustainable public finances, and social and ecological resilience will continue to be key prerequisites for safeguarding security in the future. Stable economic development creates security, and the economy is interconnected with security at all levels. Youth employment and income opportunities foster agency, participation and faith in the future. In turn, a balanced public economy helps ensure the sustainability of the welfare society for future generations. These elements are essential to maintaining social trust and resilience, and they also contribute to people's willingness to defend their country.

Social exclusion, distress and mental health challenges threaten the wellbeing of young people in Finland. Youth wellbeing is more polarised than before: while a higher number of young people are doing better than before, those who are struggling are doing worse. Preventing social exclusion and addressing mental health challenges are critical to creating opportunities for a good life for young people. Youth also hold substantial knowledge and expertise in these areas. No sustainable solutions or peace can be achieved without the participation of society as a whole, including young people.

Young people must have the opportunity to make independent choices based on their own views. This requires access to adequate information and other resources. Strengthening these elements is equally important in promoting youth inclusion and ability to influence in matters related to peace and security.

1 The resolutions on Youth, Peace and Security

The Youth, Peace and Security resolutions recognise young people as important partners in conflict prevention, global peacebuilding and the prevention of violent extremist movements. UN member States are encouraged to increase the participation of youth in decision-making at all levels to prevent and resolve conflicts. Youth should be included in both formal and informal peace processes, their human rights protected during armed conflicts, and their specific needs taken into account in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration. Young people should have access to quality education that promotes peaceful and equitable dialogue between different perspectives and supports constructive political participation.

Young people must be engaged in peace processes and in maintaining social peace. In particular, in post-conflict situations, it is crucial that young people participate in reintegration efforts such as disarmament and demobilisation in ways that strengthen social peace and promote the learning of societal practices.

Young people should be enabled to foster social cohesion and receive support in activities that prevent violence. These aims should be supported by investments in youth employment and capacity-building¹, as well as in youth-led and peace-promoting organisations.

1 Capacity refers to the opportunities and abilities of young people, which can be promoted through means such as equal education. Promoting young people's meaningful participation requires the identification and development of their capacity.



Photo 1. The Finnish UN Youth Delegates and the UN Youth of Finland hosted the Youth Future Summit at Hanasaari Cultural Centre in Espoo between 24th and 25th of August 2024. President of the Republic of Finland Alexander Stubb also visited the event.
Photo: Victoria Fofanova

Finland's foreign and security policy is built on the principle of value-based realism. It aims to safeguard Finland's independence and territorial integrity, prevent Finland becoming involved in a military conflict, and ensure the security and wellbeing of people in Finland. The foundations of Finland's activities are democracy, the rule of law, human rights, equality and non-discrimination. Our foreign and security policy is based on the rule of law, human rights, equality and democracy. This action plan promotes the realisation of these values, and the concepts of peace and security are understood in a broad sense. In addition to conflicts and peace processes, the action plan considers measures that enhance societal stability, wellbeing and resilience. Youth participation in peace processes can occur at various levels. It may be peacebuilding initiated by young people themselves or peace-promoting activities for young people supported by the central government. Equal access to education, economic stability, and both mental and physical wellbeing can help prevent conflicts, strengthen societal stability, and promote social cohesion. Young people's freedom of expression and action must be guaranteed, and they must be protected from harassment and violence.

What is the definition of young people?

The definition of young people varies between countries and international organisations. According to the Finnish Youth Act, young people include all individuals under the age of 29, while Resolution 2250 defines youth as those aged 18–29. In this National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security, young people are defined as individuals between the ages of 15 and 29. This definition is also used in the Youth Barometer published annually in Finland. Youth is often seen as a transitional phase between childhood and adulthood. However, this transition does not always follow the expected path, as conflicts, crises or significant changes in a young person's life may lead to premature adulthood or prevent the individual from achieving autonomy.

Young people are not a homogenous group. The connecting factor between them is mainly age and age-related experiences. Socially, young people are a heterogeneous group defined by a number of other factors. The preparation of this action plan has paid attention to the diversity of youth.

1.1 Implementation of the resolution worldwide

Resolution 2250, like other UN Security Council Resolutions, is a binding document for all UN Member States. Individual Member States are each responsible for their contribution to the implementation of the resolution. In addition to Finland, countries such as Burundi, the Philippines, the Gambia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria have published national action plans on Youth, Peace and Security. Several other countries are currently in the process of drafting such plans. Some, including Ireland and Canada, have integrated elements of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda into their national Women, Peace and Security (WPS) action plans.

National and regional Youth, Peace and Security networks have been established around the world. Finland also has an active YPS Network. In the autumn of 2023, a Nordic Youth, Peace and Security Coalition was established. The coalition organises events, training and workshops on peacebuilding-related issues. Another example of a regional coalition is the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, which served as a model for the Nordic coalition. These networks and coalitions are primarily led by young people and supported by governments.

Many international organisations have incorporated the 2250 agenda into their work. Youth, Peace and Security is part of the UN Security Council's agenda and is also considered in its country-specific deliberations. In 2023, the YPS agenda was mentioned in the mandates of seven UN political missions and one UN peacekeeping mission. The UN Youth Strategy emphasises youth participation in peace and security matters. The UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) has also published its own strategic YPS action plan and provides youth peacebuilders with platforms to share their work and recommendations. Various UN agencies, funds and programmes are actively advancing the 2250 agenda. The coordination responsibilities are shared between the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)², the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Youth Office (UNYO), established in 2022. The UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) also promote youth engagement in peace and security.

2 The PBSO is part of the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA). It is tasked with facilitating and strengthening cooperation between the UN system and its partners to garner international support for nationally owned peacebuilding efforts. <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/>

The role of the European Union (EU) in 2250 efforts has grown in recent years. In 2018, the EU adopted a Youth Strategy and set its objectives for 2019–2027, supported by Council conclusions in 2018 and 2021³. The EU’s first Youth Action Plan (2022–2027)⁴ aims to strengthen the role of young people more consistently in the Union’s external relations. Launched in 2021 by EU Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen, the EU Youth Sounding Board serves as an advisory group to the European Commission and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA). The Commission’s Solidarity Corps supports young people’s civic engagement and their involvement in assistance efforts. EU funding is also channelled through the Global Gateway initiatives. The EU and Finland support local projects that aim to prevent violent radicalisation of young people and recruitment to terrorist groups.⁵ In the year 2023 the European External Action Service published a mini-concept on implementing the 2250 agenda in civilian missions under the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).⁶



Photo 2. Finland organized a youth forum in Helsinki during its OSCE chairpersonship in 2025. 130 young people from 51 countries participated in the forum. Photo: Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Markku Pajunen

3 Council conclusions on the role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society in Europe (2018/C 195/05) and Council conclusions on the Youth Action Plan in EU external action (15322/22).

4 <https://www.coe-civ.eu/kh/youth-action-plan-yap-in-eu-external-action-2022-2027>

5 https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/eu-knowledge-hub-prevention-radicalisation/about-eu-knowledge-hub-prevention-radicalisation_en

6 The mini-concepts provided guidance and strategies for implementing the EU’s civilian CSDP compact. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/civilian-csdp-compact-towards-more-effective-civilian-missions_en

International cooperation

National Action Plans create opportunities for cooperation with other countries. Finland's experiences have attracted widespread international interest. In 2022, Finland hosted a Youth, Peace and Security workshop that brought together young people and public officials from different countries to share experiences of their own YPS work. The aim was to support national-level efforts to implement the YPS agenda, exchange good practices, and strengthen collaboration between youth and the authorities. The workshop was organised by Search for Common Ground and the UNYO, and it resulted in the establishment of an international YPS network, which remains active to this day.

Youth organisations from different countries are also engaged in extensive collaboration. The young people who participated in the drafting of Finland's first action plan have actively shared their experiences to support youth advocacy and participation in other countries. The Finnish Youth, Peace and Security Network, led by young people and youth organisations, has also shared its expertise internationally on building network structures and advocating for Resolution 2250. The Guides and Scouts of Finland have promoted the YPS agenda in Nepal through their Scouts, Peace and Security project. YMCA Finland has supported its development cooperation partners' YPS efforts and their participation in the preparation of national action plans, including in Kenya and The Gambia.

In cooperation with South Africa, Finland also implements a youth-focused peace mediation mentoring programme. The programme provides fifteen young participants with comprehensive peacebuilding training and opportunities to network with experienced peace mediators from South Africa and Finland, as well as technical experts from the African Union and the United Nations peacebuilding and mediation teams.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) highlights the importance of youth participation in its politico-military, economic, and environmental and human dimensions. However, as a consensus-based organisation, its political commitments have remained limited. At the operative level, youth participation is promoted primarily through project activities in field operations. Finland's cross-cutting priority in work done by the OSCE is equality and inclusion, including strengthening the engagement of civil society and young people in particular. Finland has supported the OSCE's 2250 efforts through project funding and by actively participating in the informal OSCE Group of Friends of Youth and Security. Holding the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in 2025, Finland has enhanced the visibility of youth-related themes and strengthened political commitment among participating States to advance the 2250 agenda. Minister for Foreign Affairs Elina Valtonen has appointed a Special Representative on Youth, Peace and Security for the chairpersonship term. As a tangible outcome of its chairpersonship, Finland is developing a roadmap to support the implementation of the 2250 agenda within the OSCE. In addition, a dedicated Youth Forum was held in Helsinki, bringing together youth from across the OSCE region.

The Council of Europe develops youth policy to promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy. Its Youth Department focuses on developing participatory youth policy and integrating youth perspectives. The Agenda 2020 youth strategy promotes coexistence, peace and inclusion. The 2030 strategy aims to further increase youth participation, strengthen pluralistic democracy and advance the rights of young people. Peacebuilding is a central priority, and particular attention is paid to the concerns of young refugees and Roma youth. Key actors include the European Youth Foundation and the Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest.

NATO has also recognised the role of young people in security issues. For several years, NATO has organised *Youth Summits* bringing young people aged 18–35 from member countries together to discuss the organization's work. In the spring of 2021, the NATO Secretary General consulted the *Young Leaders Group*, composed of youth experts, who recommended enhancing youth participation and education in different regions and in collaboration with international organisations such as the African Union. In 2025, NATO plans to establish a Youth Advisory Board tasked with advising the alliance on public diplomacy and youth engagement efforts.

The African Union (AU) has made the 2250 agenda a central part of its work. In 2020, the AU adopted a ten-year implementation plan for the resolution. Since 2018, the AU has appointed a Youth Envoy and subsequently five regional Youth Peace Ambassadors.⁷ The AU has also established the Wise Youth Network, a group of twenty young people working on conflict prevention and peace mediation. The League of Arab States launched its own 2250 strategy in the summer of 2024, and the MENA Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security has been closely involved in this effort.

Among international civil society organisations, the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), Search for Common Ground (SfCG), Interpeace, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), and the Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security (GCYPS) play key roles in advancing the YPS agenda in their operations.



Photo 3. Graduation celebration for young people who completed vocational education and training as care assistants through the YMCA in Ksara, Beqaa Valley, Lebanon, in 2023. Photo: Kevin Buy

7 [https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Updated%20Concept%20Note-YPS%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Updated%20Concept%20Note-YPS%20(2).pdf)

1.2 A changing security environment and global developments

Since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2250, both the global and Finnish operating environments have undergone significant changes. The global landscape is increasingly characterised by strategic competition and a shift in global power dynamics. The growing confrontation between democracies and authoritarian regimes is contributing to the fragmentation of multilateral cooperation. The number of wars and armed conflicts has increased, with civilians increasingly bearing the brunt of their consequences, leading to severe humanitarian crises. These growing tensions and increasing armed conflicts underscore the importance of efforts to strengthen the rules-based international order.

A key shift in Finland's and Europe's security environment has been Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, launched in February 2022, which has brought armed conflict back to Europe. This war, which violates international law, has resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of human lives and economic costs amounting to hundreds of billions of euros. The war has fundamentally affected the lives of young Ukrainians and diminished the sense of security among young people in Finland. In the youth consultations conducted to support the update of this action plan, more than 60% of respondents anticipated that the security situation would deteriorate over the next five years.⁸ A declining sense of faith in the future can have serious consequences for the wellbeing and active participation of young people, as well as their trust in societal decision-making.

The changes in Finland's security environment challenge us to act for peace by preparing for the threat of armed conflict and war. Finland's military preparedness is essential to maintaining peace, and national defence efforts require young people's active participation.

The consequences of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution have a direct and indirect effects also on Finland's security. Climate change and accelerating biodiversity loss are closely intertwined and affect food production and security, water availability, energy transitions, security of supply and the incidence of diseases – all of which shape the security environment. Climate-change-induced

8 Finnish National Youth Council and Youth Sector (2025). *Ei rauhaa ilman nuoria – Suomalaisten ja Suomessa asuvien nuorten näkemyksiä rauhasta, turvallisuudesta ja rauhantyöstä* [a survey report on young people's thoughts on peace, security and peace-promoting efforts].

natural disasters and changing living conditions can further exacerbate conflicts and radicalisation, including in Africa. The resulting migration pressures are most keenly felt within the continent but may increasingly affect Europe as well.

Indeed, the 2030 agenda must be seen as closely linked with climate action and the achievement of sustainable development goals. Young people play a significant role in the emergence of broad-based climate movements, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. They must be heard in climate-related decision-making processes. Climate and environmental crises have a negative impact on young people's sense of security. Young people's awareness must therefore be channelled into action that supports climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Another major development related to young people concerns emerging technologies and social media, which will be increasingly influenced by the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI). Technological progress has revolutionised access to information and significantly lowered the threshold for participation. At the same time, it has also intensified negative phenomena such as polarisation, hate speech and harassment. Young people must be considered in the development of AI and other emerging technologies to harness their knowledge and skills and mitigate the risks affecting them. Social media and digital platforms are key tools for civic engagement among youth, and their creative use of social media should be recognised as a serious form of societal activity.

Online safety

A safe online environment requires collaboration between multiple stakeholders and innovative solutions. Finland supports the rights of women and girls to safe digital environments through UN Women's Generation Equality campaign. In Finland, an active youth-led Generation Equality Group focuses on promoting gender equality through technology. The group has actively worked to combat gender-based online harassment and violence. New solutions for safer digital environments have also been developed through partnerships between municipalities, the private sector and young people. Since 2017, the Somebuddy has provided practical help in situations involving online harassment. The service was developed in cooperation with young people to ensure it met their real-life needs.

Digital platforms are also widely used in peacebuilding as tools for networking and enhancing youth participation. At the same time, it is essential to support young people's media literacy and ensure efforts to identify and counter information influence activities on social media (including hostile and often state-led activities), the spread of extremist ideologies online and digital violence. These actions help strengthen young people's resilience in the face of crises.

Social media channels also provide pathways for increasing the inclusiveness of decision-making and peace processes. However, challenges related to levels of education, poverty and access to technology – particularly affecting youth in fragile countries – must be addressed. To ensure that as many young people as possible can benefit from the opportunities social media provides, they must have affordable, reliable and unrestricted internet access. Equality considerations must already be taken into account in the early development stages of new technologies. International regulation on digital platforms and emerging technologies has advanced in recent years. The EU Artificial Intelligence Regulation aims to ensure that artificial intelligence systems introduced on the EU market do not endanger human health, safety or fundamental rights.

Digital peacebuilding and AI open new pathways of participation

Digital technologies present both new opportunities and challenges for peace efforts. AI can be misused to fuel conflicts through activities such as spreading disinformation, but it also offers novel tools for conflict prevention. AI-powered tools can analyse vast amounts of data – from academic research to social media conversations – to support more comprehensive conflict analysis and help anticipate societal tensions. Technology can expand avenues for youth participation and enhance collaboration between stakeholders through digital discussion platforms.

Responsible use of technology can strengthen youth engagement in peace processes. The benefit of digital inclusion is independence from time and location. However, disparities in access to technology and digital literacy remain, which requires careful risk and limitation assessments, including in the area of data protection. Various organisations are already using digital innovations as part of peacebuilding efforts. For example, CMI – the Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation – has used AI to identify youth priorities in the peace processes in Sudan and Yemen. Digital tools have enabled the rapid, wide-ranging and anonymous collection, analysis and visualisation of data.

2 Youth, peace and security in Finland and as part of Finland’s foreign and security policy

Finland has a strong legal framework and good practices for supporting youth participation. The Finnish Constitution guarantees the right to participate in societal affairs, including the right to vote, stand for election and participate in civic activities. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child also stipulates that all individuals under the age of 18 have the right to participate in and influence public affairs. Finland has special expertise in strengthening young people’s opportunities to participate: student union activities were enshrined in the General Upper Secondary Schools Act in 1983 and youth councils in the Local Government Act in 2015. In 2016, the Youth Act was also amended to provide for young people’s right to be heard, influence and participate in the preparation of national youth work and policy. Most recently, in 2021, young people’s opportunities for participation were increased by also making youth councils statutory in wellbeing services counties.

Other policies that support the objectives of Resolution 2250 in Finland include the National Youth Work and Policy Programme (VANUPO) for 2024–2027, and the National Democracy Programme to be adopted in 2025, which aims to strengthen the participation of children and young people. The National Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Violent Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2024–2027⁹ and the Government Report on Internal Security also include important measures in terms of the YSP agenda. It is essential to maintain up-to-date knowledge about young people’s views. Young people’s values in foreign and security policy were studied in a behavioural overview commissioned by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.¹⁰ The Youth Barometer, published annually, measures the values and attitudes of Finnish youth aged 15–29.¹¹ It is produced by the Finnish Youth Research Network in cooperation with the State Youth Council. Meanwhile, Sitra’s Futures Barometer 2025 surveyed the views of Finns aged 15–84 on the future.¹²

9 National Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Violent Radicalisation and Violent Extremism 2024–2027. <https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-324-985-1>

10 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-383-121-6>

11 <https://tietoanuorista.fi/nuorisobarometri/>

12 <https://www.sitra.fi/julkaisut/tulevaisuusbarometri-2025/>

Conflict prevention, peace mediation and the promotion of sustainable development are long-standing priorities of Finland's foreign and development policy. Finland is committed to advancing the global implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals. Supporting peace, stability, democracy and development is important for the wellbeing and living conditions of people living in developing countries, and these measures also enhance security in Europe and Finland. In its foreign policy, Finland promotes multistakeholder cooperation among governments, businesses, CSOs and private funders. It also supports intergenerational dialogue and youth participation. Finland's development cooperation strengthens the foundations of sustainable societal development, which include a viable democracy, the rule of law, human rights and a vibrant civil society. CSOs play an important role in this work.



Photo 4. Since 2014, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has organised National Dialogues Conferences in collaboration with CMI, the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission and Finn Church Aid to bring together peace mediation professionals, from politicians and international experts to local actors promoting dialogue. The sixth conference, held between 11 and 12 June 2024, featured a panel on young people's role in peace processes with Minister for Foreign Affairs Elina Valtonen, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs Felipe Paullier, Zane Dangor, Director-General of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in South Africa, and Pauliina Pättikangas from Finland's 2250 Network. The panel was moderated by Bilal Hussein from the East Africa 2250 Network. Photo: CMI/Maria Santto

In peace processes, Finland emphasises an inclusive approach, underlining the importance of ownership, participation and agency of youth and women. Finland provides young peacebuilders with training and networking opportunities to support their involvement in international peace mediation efforts. Finnish CSOs and networks play a central role in advancing the implementation of Resolution 2250 and supporting youth participation, protection and conflict prevention, both in Finland and in fragile and conflict-affected areas.

Finland's UN Youth Delegate Programme has been running since 1997, and the first climate delegate was appointed in 2011. The youth delegate system was expanded in the 2010s to include EU, UNESCO, environmental and working life delegates.



Photo 5. The Finnish UN Youth Delegate Programme has been active since 1997. Photo: Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN

3 Finland's national 2250 action plan

The objective of Finland's renewed national action plan for Youth, Peace and Security is to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the 2250 agenda and bring relevant stakeholders together. The first action plan was designed and written in collaboration with Finnish youth, and the renewed plan seeks to honour this work. Youth ownership remains the core priority. Each actor contributes to YPS efforts based on their own strengths, resources and priorities.

The revision process was discussed within the national Youth, Peace and Security monitoring Group, coordinated by Ministry for Foreign Affairs. To support the process, around 320 young people across Finland were consulted and recent research data concerning young people was utilized. All organisations working on YPS in Finland were invited to participate in the update process. The process involved ministries, CSOs, the Finnish Youth, Peace and Security Network, and the Finnish National Youth Council and Youth Sector, an umbrella organisation for youth CSOs.

A key component of the plan's implementation is ongoing monitoring, which will continue to be the responsibility of the monitoring group composed of representatives from ministries, research institutions, youth organisations and civil society. It is also important to ensure that youth who are not members of any organisations can participate in the implementation and follow-up.

The action plan focuses on young people's participation in conflict prevention, peace processes, the building of peaceful societies and Finland's national defence efforts. At the national level, the main objectives are to expand the opportunities for young people to participate and to improve their safety and wellbeing. In countries affected by conflicts, the focus is on engaging youth in peace processes and peace building and enabling them to live a good life.

The plan's priority areas are structured around the five pillars of Resolution 2250: (i) participation; (ii) protection; (iii) prevention; (iv) disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration into society; and (v) partnerships. A crosscutting theme is the prevention of intersectional discrimination and the promotion of equality.

This section describes the crosscutting theme, followed by the objectives, measures and responsible actors for each measure. The objectives are categorised under the action plan's five priority areas. The preparation of the action plan has ensured that its objectives and actions include effective and proved measures from both the government and civil society perspectives – particularly those of youth organisations, young people and research institutions – to comprehensively promote youth inclusion in matters related to peace and security.

Youth consultations in the preparation of the action plan

As part of the preparation of the new action plan, young people were consulted on their views regarding peace, security and peacebuilding. The consultations were coordinated by the Finnish National Youth Council and Youth Sector in the autumn of 2024 and planned in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Finnish Youth, Peace and Security Network. The consultation events were organised by the Union of Local Youth Councils, YMCA Finland, the East African Youth Peace Network, and the Youth, Peace and Security Network – all of which have expertise in peace and security and reach young people from diverse backgrounds. A total of 20 events were held, with approximately 140 young people participating.

An online survey was also conducted in the autumn of 2024, which gathered responses from 177 young people in 44 municipalities. The survey explored youth perspectives on peace and security, changes in the security situation, and their own opportunities to influence decision-making.

The consultations revealed that young people had a very broad understanding of peace and security. In addition to traditional security concerns, youth associate these themes with issues related to everyday life and the welfare state – such as employment, education and social policy – which affect their sense of safety. Young people also emphasised their agency and role in building sustainable peace and security, and expressed a desire for broader and more tangible opportunities to influence decisions at all levels. Young people and youth organisations were seen as important partners in successful peacebuilding. The consultations also highlighted the importance of supporting a pluralistic society through the prevention of exclusion and racism and the promotion of equality. Young people drew attention to the many links between a diverse equitable society and peace, security and effective peacebuilding.

3.1 Crosscutting theme: Preventing multiple discrimination and promoting equality

This action plan emphasises the equal right of all young people to participate in societal decision-making and economic life. Its effective implementation requires that the effects of structural discrimination are addressed to ensure that no young people are excluded from decision-making processes. It is equally important to foster a supportive atmosphere for youth participation and to establish structures that make it possible.

Equal youth participation and the prevention of multiple discrimination are embedded as crosscutting principles in the action plan. To identify multiple discrimination, attention is paid to intersecting individual differences and their interrelations. These include gender, socioeconomic background, age, ethnic origin, functional capacity and sexual orientation¹³, as well as religion, educational background and social status. These factors may influence a person's identity, position of power in society and opportunities for participation. Together, they also affect social privilege, the experience of discrimination and the ways in which young people engage in peace processes and political decision-making.

Globally, ethnic and religious minorities face significant challenges in achieving equal participation and influence.. Young people from indigenous populations or linguistic and cultural minorities – such as the Sámi and Roma in Finland – are also often in a vulnerable position. Monitoring bodies under the Council of Europe and UN human rights treaties have highlighted the need to strengthen the Sámi's self-determination and equality. The Sámi Youth Council, under the Sámi Parliament, promotes the linguistic and cultural rights of Sámi youth. Roma people continue to face discrimination in Finland, which has been noted by international human rights monitoring bodies. In addition, gender and sexual minorities are especially vulnerable. When a person belongs to both an ethnic minority and a sexual minority, their perceived insecurity and risk of exclusion may be significantly heightened. For persons with disabilities access to education, experiences of violence, and the realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights vary greatly depending on the nature of the disability.

13 Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, Gender equality [website].

While some minority groups experience more discrimination, the action plan seeks to avoid simplifications that portray any group or individual as one-dimensionally vulnerable. Intersectional discrimination often affects individuals in complex ways. For example, the status of a woman from an ethnic minority may be more disadvantaged than that of a woman from the majority population.



Photo 6. Young people with disabilities participate in meaningful daily activities organised by the Finnish Settlement Movement, which emphasises community, equality and inclusion in its activities. Photo: Minna Jerrman

Gender equality

Gender has become an increasingly important theme in peace processes since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Youth-related peace and security efforts often take gender into account and actively aim to promote gender equality. Youth, Peace and Security Resolutions 2419 and 2535 specifically recognise the position of young women.

The political and economic participation, activity and opportunities of young people of different genders vary greatly around the world. Internationally, young women's political participation is low, whereas in Finland, young women are

politically more active than young men.¹⁴ Young women and people belonging to ethnic minorities are more likely to face hate and threats of violence in Finland, while social exclusion affects boys and young men in particular.¹⁵ Many young people are at greater risk of exclusion, and early intervention is essential to address school dropout rates. The narrow and traditionally “tough” masculine role models among boys are often harmful to boys themselves and hinder progress towards gender equality in society.

Young women and girls experience inequality and violence both globally and in Finland. In particular, sexual violence, harassment and hate speech threaten their safety. According to the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare’s (THL) School Health Promotion study, girls report significantly more experiences of sexual harassment than boys. LGBTQ+ youth report the highest levels of harassment overall. Online sexual harassment and hate speech have increased in recent years. Globally, there has also been a marked regression in women’s rights, and violence against women is on the rise.¹⁶

The action plan combats multiple discrimination by ensuring the equal involvement of diverse youth and youth organisations in all priority areas. It also provides opportunities for these groups to participate in the plan’s monitoring and evaluation. At the same time, it seeks to avoid reinforcing harmful stereotypes. The parties responsible for the implementation of the action plan are expected to actively promote equality. In planning and resourcing their activities, they must pay attention to accessibility and inclusion, recognising that some young people may require additional support to participate meaningfully in decision-making.

14 <https://stat.fi/julkaisu/cl8mvt1xt143o0cvzel1m7esx>

15 Government Action Plan for Gender Equality 2024–2027 [in Finnish, abstract available in English]. <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-00-8669-5>

16 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/press-release/2025/03/one-in-four-countries-report-backlash-on-womens-rights-in-2024>

3.2 Priority 1: Participation

A key objective of Finland's 2250 activities is to increase young people's participation at all levels of decision-making to prevent and resolve conflicts and to promote sustainable peace and security. This strengthens young people's trust in their own future and in the functioning of society's institutions and structures. A sense of belonging to society that stems from opportunities to participate and influence also helps prevent social exclusion, radicalisation and the spread of extremist ideologies. In Finland, youth participation in public debate has progressed over the years. For example, voter turnout among young people has increased.¹⁷ However, meaningful participation¹⁸ – particularly in matters related to peace and security – remains a challenge both nationally and globally.

The current security situation requires that youth participation is considered a practical component of national preparedness. As Finnish citizens have a duty to contribute to national defence, every young person must be offered an opportunity to participate in a way that strengthens the willingness to defend the country, society's security of supply and national resilience in general. Young people must have genuine opportunities to participate in the defence of their country, efforts to ensure societal security, international peacekeeping missions and peace-promoting activities.

17 In the spring 2023 parliamentary elections, voter turnout among those aged 18–24 was 58%, representing an increase of 11 percentage points from the 2015 parliamentary elections. <https://nuorisola.fi/18-24-vuotiaiden-aanestysaktiivisuus-nousi-jalleen-eduskuntavaaleissa-2023/>

18 Meaningful participation is defined in the action plan as participation that is meaningful for young people themselves and for society as a whole and allows them to influence society in a concrete way.



Photo 7. Finland's second action plan for Youth, Peace and Security was prepared through cooperation between young people and the authorities. The photo is from the validation event at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on 13 March 2025. Photo: Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Meaningful participation requires that all young people have the opportunity to engage not only in decision-making that affects them but also in the planning, implementation and monitoring of such decisions. Participation must be safe and accessible for all youth, and methods must be developed to reach young people from diverse backgrounds. In this action plan, young people's participation is understood to function at two interconnected levels: 1) influence and participation in democratic decision-making; and 2) informal influence through channels such as social media and demonstrations. The aim is to safeguard young people's right to participate safely at both levels without fear of harassment and violence. Their participation must also be supported during emergencies and in exceptional circumstances. To ensure equal participation, and in line with the Government Action Plan for Gender Equality, Finland will examine equality issues affecting men and boys, and their link to the exclusion of young men.

Cooperation with young people and youth organisations, positive examples, capacity-building, the strengthening of civic competence – that is, people’s sense of understanding politics, being able to influence decision-making and participate in society – as well as mentoring and supporting young people help increase their willingness to participate and enhance the impact of their engagement.

Special attention must be paid to the active agency of young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds and those belonging to minority groups, including Sámi young people and linguistic and cultural minorities. Young people are creating new cultures of influence through social media, sports and the arts. It is important to identify innovative ways for youth to influence society and participate while recognising the existing expertise and best practices developed by youth work professionals and youth organisations.

Accessibility must be ensured so that young people from various backgrounds can influence and participate equally. The language used must be accessible and understandable to all young people, and the safety of participation and influencing opportunities must be guaranteed, including through efforts to prevent online harassment and gender-based violence.

Finland will place particular emphasis on inclusiveness and local ownership in peace processes. It aims to strengthen the role of young people at the local levels and their meaningful participation in conflict prevention, resolution and post-conflict recovery. According to studies, broad-based participation that also includes young people is essential for the effectiveness and sustainability of peace processes. Finland will promote awareness of young people’s positive role in peacebuilding and enhance the capacities of young peacebuilders and mediators. The engagement of local young people in peace processes will also be supported. Cooperation between authorities and CSOs must be strengthened to advance the role of young people.

Youth perspectives must also be integrated into peacebuilding, humanitarian efforts and development cooperation, as well as into the implementation of the triple nexus approach that links these fields.¹⁹ The YPS agenda should also be promoted across the board in crisis management, and youth participation in these activities should be supported.

19 The aim of the triple nexus approach is to strengthen the coherence, complementarity and effectiveness of development cooperation, humanitarian aid and peacebuilding. Ministry for Foreign Affairs Guidance Note: The triple nexus and cooperation with fragile states and regions.

The Finnish Youth, Peace and Security Network

The Finnish Youth, Peace and Security Network was established in 2016, only one year after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2250. The network played a significant role in the process that led to the publication of Finland's first national YPS action plan in 2021. It has since actively supported the implementation of the action plan and the resolution in Finland. The network is open to all individuals and organisations interested in peace and security issues. Its aim is to strengthen youth-led peace work both in Finland and internationally. Its members include a significant number of Finnish peace organisations, as well as individual volunteers. The network is led by a steering group of young elected representatives. In 2025, its operations were coordinated by the Finnish National Youth Council and Youth Sector, and UN Youth of Finland. The network engages with decision-makers, organises events, conducts expert visits and communicates the importance of the YPS agenda. Its members serve as experts in various contexts. The network also promotes the YPS agenda internationally. Its partners include the UN Youth Office, the EU, NATO, the OSCE and bilateral partners in various countries. The Nordic Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, established in 2023, further strengthens Nordic cooperation in implementing the YPS agenda.

OBJECTIVE 1: Young people’s opportunities to participate in decision-making have improved, and their meaningful participation in peace and security issues has strengthened

Target 1: Barriers to young people’s meaningful participation have been identified and removed

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland offers training in youth participation for those working on peace and security issues.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Defence, CMC
Finland prevents youth exclusion and examines equality issues affecting young people. It pays special attention to the link between equality issues affecting boys and the social exclusion of young men.	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of the Interior, CSOs
National and international level	Lead responsibility
Finland supports research and studies that enhance knowledge and understanding of the factors that promote youth participation and its effectiveness in peace and security issues.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland strengthens authorities’ capacity by organising training courses on the 2250 agenda in cooperation with CSO partners.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs
Finland increases awareness among young people from diverse backgrounds of participation opportunities and makes efforts to strengthen their capacity to engage in societal decision-making, with special attention paid to women and girls at the international level.	All
Finland pays particular attention to ensuring that youth participation – including that of young people with disabilities – is accessible, safe, inclusive and free of barriers.	All

Target 2: Young people's meaningful participation in peace and security issues has been enhanced

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland supports the participation of youth delegates from diverse backgrounds, including Sámi young people, in key meetings and the planning of such meetings as part of official delegations.	All responsible ministries, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs
Finland enhances the representativeness and inclusiveness of youth delegate programmes.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Environment, CSOs
Finland supports young people's participation in positions offered by international organisations (e.g. JPO, UNV, EU civilian crisis management missions).	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, CMC
Finland will create low-threshold pathways for young people who do not complete military service but wish to contribute to national crisis preparedness. It will also increase awareness of voluntary national defence opportunities among young people who do not perform military service.	Ministry of Defence
National and international level	Lead responsibility
Finland promotes youth participation in public debate and decision-making processes by developing participation structures and channels, and by enhancing the capacity of the public authorities to involve and consult young people.	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs
Finland increases awareness of the positive impacts of youth participation in peace and security matters.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Defence, CSOs

National and international level	Lead responsibility
Finland promotes the 2250 perspective and young people's participation and influence opportunities in international treaties, resolutions and commitments across the preparation, negotiation, implementation and monitoring stages.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland supports youth engagement in peace work and promote youth-led peace organisations and networks at different levels of society, including at the local level.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs

Target 3: Awareness of young people's positive role and the numbers of young people in peace processes, mediation, transition processes and peacekeeping have increased at international level

Measures

National and international level	Lead responsibility
Finland strengthens young peacebuilders' capacity through training and intergenerational mentoring.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs
Finland increases young people's training and awareness of participation opportunities in military operations and civilian missions under the UN, the EU and NATO.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior, CMC

International level	Lead responsibility
Finland fosters dialogue and the exchange of experiences among young people and between generations in the context of peacebuilding.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs
Finland provides training for the public authorities and other actors on incorporating youth perspectives into different phases of peace processes.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
In assessing peace mediation initiatives, Finland seeks to consider their alignment with the 2250 agenda pays particular attention to projects that advance the goals of Resolution 2250.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Target 4: The 2250 perspective has strengthened in development cooperation, humanitarian aid activities and peacebuilding

Measures

National and international level	Lead responsibility
Finland promotes the integration of the 2250 perspective into the mandates of crisis management operations and missions.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior, CMC
Finland promotes the integration of the 2250 perspective in crisis management training and exercises and related international discussions.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior, CMC, Ministry of Defence, Defence Command, FINCENT
Finland supports projects that offer young people opportunities to enhance security and social peace in developing countries in line with Finland's foreign policy objectives.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs
Finland increases young people's knowledge of peacebuilding, crisis management, humanitarian action, sustainable development and security of supply.	All
Finland pays particular attention to the position of people with disabilities, as well as to the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls in crises and emergencies.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs
Finland pays attention to the 2250 perspective in development cooperation and peacebuilding.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs

3.3 Priority area 2: Prevention

The prevention of conflicts and violence saves not only lives but also important resources. Attention should be directed to addressing the structural factors underlying violence and conflicts, including poverty, inequality, injustice and human rights violations, by promoting sustainable development and inclusive institutions.²⁰

Finland's security is built on a stable society in which young people are not left behind but are an integral part of society. Youth inclusion is essential in efforts to prevent marginalisation, violence and insecurity. Preventive action must focus on tangible measures that reduce exclusion, strengthen young people's mental resilience, and prevent violent behaviour and crime.



Photo 8. Finnish and Kosovan young people engage in multiparty dialogue as part of project planning by Demo Finland and the Pristina Institute for Political Studies (PIPS), which led to a project promoting young people's political participation in Kosovo. Photo: PIPS

20 UN and the World Bank (2018). Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/publication/pathways-for-peace-inclusive-approaches-to-preventing-violent-conflict>

The social exclusion of youth is a significant societal and security concern both nationally and globally. Poverty, lack of future prospects, and limited access to education and income opportunities increase vulnerability to conflicts and violent radicalisation. High-quality education and economic empowerment are key to preventing social exclusion, radicalisation and crime. They also enable young people to promote social cohesion and inclusive, multicultural, interfaith and cross-political dialogue.

Globally, girls and women have poorer opportunities for education than boys and men. In Finland, men are more likely to drop out of education than women. For decades, the intergenerational transmission of education decreased in Finland, but this positive development has stalled in recent years. Young people's opportunities are also restricted by the gender segregation of labour markets. The Finnish National STEM Strategy 2030 concerning natural science, technology and mathematics education aims to reduce gendered segregation in educational pathways.

High-quality education is a key priority in Finland's development policy. Based on its strengths and the needs of developing countries, Finland focuses particularly on girls' education, teacher training, vocational education and training, and education for persons with disabilities. School meals and digital learning are an important part of Finland's work in the field of education.

The economic empowerment of young people also requires special attention. Young people, both in Finland and in fragile circumstances, must be offered opportunities by supporting vocational education and training, employment, entrepreneurship and transitions from school to work. Strong financial and civic skills support young people's independence. As a preventive measure, it is also important to promote youth resilience more broadly.

The potential of youth in preventing terrorism and violent extremism has gained greater recognition in recent years. The UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and UN General Assembly Resolution 77/298 on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy highlight the need for a comprehensive approach to these threats and recognise young people's potential as key peacebuilders.²¹ The active implementation of Finland's National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism 2024–2027²² forms part of Finland's 2250 efforts. The plan makes use of the expertise and insights of youth

21 <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/189/01/pdf/n2318901.pdf>

22 <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-324-977-6>

from diverse backgrounds and involves them at all levels of prevention work. The EU Preparedness Union Strategy also recognises young people as a special group in society's collective preparedness.

In Finland, key security challenges facing youth include school violence and bullying, as well as discrimination and social exclusion. Insecurity may also stem from financial uncertainty, unemployment, precarious work, or dependence on parents or state support systems. In addition, mental health issues and substance abuse are the most common causes of young people's health problems, social exclusion and long-term inability to work. Suicide is a common cause of death among youth in Finland, particularly among young men.²³

Bullying and threats of physical violence disproportionately affect first-generation immigrant youth, people with disabilities, and youth belonging to sexual and gender minorities.²⁴ Violence and bullying occur in schools, online and during leisure activities. Young people must also be protected from violence at home. Early intervention is especially important in these problems. Finland promotes youth work in schools and education institutions and facilitates the presence of safe adults in schools. The legal protection of pupils who have been bullied, including their right to continue in their own school, is being strengthened. In 2024, Finland adopted legislation prohibiting forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Young people experience physical violence more frequently than older age groups. In Finland, young men are statistically overrepresented both as perpetrators and victims of violence.²⁵ The threat of violence was also highlighted as a factor that undermined young people's sense of security in a recent youth survey on peace and peacebuilding.²⁶ In recent years, statistics have shown a worrying increase in violence among minors. It is essential to address the root causes of youth distress and to seek comprehensive solutions. In line with the Government Programme, Finland has prepared a broad-based action plan to prevent youth exclusion and address their wellbeing gaps and mental health issues. Finland will invest in preventive measures such as outreach youth work, youth workshops and the

23 National Action Plan for Safety Promotion among Children and Youth – Target and Action Plan 2018–2025.

24 Eid, Mona, & Castaneda, Anu (2023). Ulkomaalaistaustaisten nuorten hyvinvointi tutkimusten ja tilastojen valossa [The wellbeing of young people with a foreign background in the light of research and statistics]. Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare. Publications of the State Youth Council 73.

25 <https://rikoksentorjunta.fi/naisiin-ja-miehiin-kohdistuva-vakivalta>

26 Finnish National Youth Council and Youth Sector (2025). Ei rauhaa ilman nuoria – Suomalaisten ja Suomessa asuvien nuorten näkemyksiä rauhasta, turvallisuudesta ja rauhantyöstä [a survey report on young people's thoughts on peace, security and peace-promoting efforts].

prevention of social exclusion in both national languages and Sámi languages. Special attention will be paid to young people in particularly vulnerable situations for various reasons. Multiprofessional cooperation to promote youth wellbeing will be strengthened.

Youth violence is a growing concern. While most young people in Finland do not commit crimes, offences committed by those under the age of 15 – particularly violent crimes – have increased significantly in recent years. It is important to address emerging threats such as the formation of street gangs early on. Cooperation between the police and social welfare authorities must be further strengthened. In particular, youth violence and the growing sense of insecurity among young people must be taken seriously. Young people's related expertise must be recognised and used in efforts to combat violence. The forthcoming Government Report on Internal Security acknowledges the need for a multi-professional approach to prevent young people becoming involved in criminal activity or street gangs. The Finnish Government and authorities are also implementing a broad action plan to prevent and combat the rise in youth and gang-related crime in Finland. In addition, the forthcoming EU Internal Security Strategy will address the need to protect children and youth from evolving threats.



Photo 9. At the Youth Future Summit between 24 and 25 August 2024, young people discussed the rights of future generations and youth participation in the UN.

Photo: Victoria Fofanova

In education and youth work, it is important to strengthen the role of peace, human rights, democracy and comprehensive sexuality education. Proven peace education tools and projects should also be disseminated internationally.

The online environment hosts significant amounts of fake news and other harmful content. It is crucial to strengthen young people's media literacy, critical thinking and digital skills, and to ensure that these skills are up to date. Everyone should have equal access to the digital environment and the ability to act legally, responsibly and critically in its services. This also supports societal resilience.

In Finland, many stakeholders – including CSOs, youth organisations, municipalities, youth councils, sports clubs, parishes, mental health and substance abuse organisations, and various networks – promote youth participation and equality and work to prevent discrimination. These organisations often reach groups that are otherwise difficult to engage. It is important to ensure the continuity of these stakeholders' work and the development of cooperation. Every young person, regardless of socioeconomic background, should have the opportunity to engage in at least one meaningful hobby. Hobbies foster empowering experiences of belonging, build social capital and strengthen the development of self-esteem.

OBJECTIVE 2: Young people’s role in preventing exclusion and violence and promoting a culture of equality and peace has grown

Target 1: Young people’s potential has been put to use in efforts to prevent violent radicalisation and extremism

Measures

National and international level	Lead responsibility
Finland promotes youth participation in the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism (PVE), including in the planning and implementation of these efforts.	Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs
Finland promotes youth participation in the prevention of violence.	Ministry of Justice, CSOs

Target 2: Quality education as a tool for promoting peace has been emphasised, and the civic mission of schools and youth work organisations has been strengthened

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland supports the strengthening of resilience in schools and youth work, including as part of the implementation of the EU Preparedness Union Strategy.	Ministry of Education and Culture, CSOs
Finland works to prevent the spread of misinformation by promoting media literacy and critical thinking, including in teacher training, schools and youth work.	Ministry of Education and Culture, CSOs
Finland promotes the development of young people’s emotional, dialogue and interaction skills.	Ministry of Education and Culture, CSOs
Finland promotes cooperation between schools, youth work and CSOs in peace education.	Ministry of Education and Culture, CSOs

National and international level	Lead responsibility
Finland supports the role of conflict resolution skills and peace education in education, extracurricular activities (such as hobbies) and youth work.	Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, CSOs
Finland raises awareness and communicates the importance of high-quality education and meaningful leisure activities in preventing social exclusion, violence and conflict.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, CSOs
Finland pays particular attention to the role of education in preventing sexual harassment and gender-based violence.	Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs

Target 3: Young people's economic, professional and social opportunities have been strengthened

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland promotes the inclusion of young people in the planning, implementation and monitoring of initiatives relating to young people's economic, professional and social opportunities	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Justice
Finland prevents discrimination in education and the labour market and dismantles structural discrimination	Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, CSOs

National and international level	Lead responsibility
Finland supports the development of young people's skills and vocational competence in line with labour market needs and promotes youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.	Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs



Photo 10. Eunice Ngunyo completed a two-year vocational degree at the Kenya YMCA College of Agriculture and Technology in Limuru, Kenya, in 2021. Photo: Martiina Woodson

3.4 Priority 3: Protection

Young people's meaningful participation in building and maintaining sustainable peace requires a safe environment and the fulfilment of their rights. Young people need safe spaces to assemble, express themselves and participate in decision-making. They must be protected from psychological, physical, sexual and gender-based violence, and their rights must be ensured even in times of crisis or emergency. At the national level, preventing and addressing violence and bullying that targets young people are one of the cornerstones of protection.

Finland can only be a safe country if society can protect its citizens in all circumstances – including exceptional ones. Protecting young people means strengthening structures and capacities that help them cope, take action and support one another. Young people are builders of society, and their skills for improving their own safety and the safety of those around them must be developed and supported.

International humanitarian law aims to limit the human suffering caused by armed conflicts and to protect civilians. Finland is committed to the full implementation of humanitarian law. Young civilians and children must be protected from violence in fragile and conflict-affected countries. In particular, they must be protected from sexual and gender-based violence used as a method of warfare. One of Finland's priorities in the field of international law is to enforce criminal justice on the most serious international crimes, such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Finland actively contributes to the fight against impunity, the development of international criminal justice and the promotion of its implementation. Finland continues to support victims of the most serious international crimes, especially those who have experienced sexual and gender-based violence. Finland promotes the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and emphasises the importance of preventing such crimes before they occur.

The specific needs of young people must be taken into account in humanitarian action. Finland pays particular attention to the situation of people with disabilities, as well as to the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls in humanitarian crises and emergencies. Individuals who have experienced sexual violence must be supported in a manner that respects their backgrounds.

Efforts to prevent human trafficking are being intensified across sectors and through a holistic approach. The Ministry of Justice is preparing a new national action plan against human trafficking. The Government will also draft a victim policy programme, which aims to secure funding for victim support services and improve the position of victims in criminal proceedings.

Young people arriving in Finland need access to social and financial support, education opportunities, and information about their rights in a language and format they can understand. Special attention must be paid to young people in vulnerable situations. In August 2023, the Finnish Government issued a Statement on Equality and committed to promoting equality and non-discrimination and combating racism. The Government aims to engage all sectors of Finnish society in this work. Finnish municipalities play a key role in refugee reception, and many have organised summer camps for Ukrainian youth, for example.

The work of young peacebuilders and human rights defenders is central to achieving sustainable peace and development. Their right to participate, assemble and express their opinions must be safeguarded. According to the Finnish Foreign Service's guidelines on supporting and protecting human rights defenders (2022), Finland places special emphasis on supporting the participation rights and operating capacity of defenders in the most vulnerable positions and those advocating for their rights. Supporting the work of women human rights defenders is one of Finland's priorities. Finland continues its long-standing support for strengthening the operating space of civil society and human rights defenders.

²⁷ As part of these efforts, it is important to raise awareness – nationally and internationally – about the work of young activists and their need for protection. Networks that provide safety and visibility for young human rights defenders should be supported. It is also essential to guarantee the safety and ability to act for young politicians, CSO leaders, educators, journalists and volunteers, both in physical environments and on digital platforms.

Experiences of sexual violence and harassment are common among children and young people, particularly among girls and women, sexual and gender minorities, and racial minorities. Boys and men can also be victims of sexual violence. A high number of rape victims in Finland are under the age of 30. Sexual offences committed online are on the rise. Victims often refrain from reporting due to fear and shame, and their vulnerability may be further increased by factors such as oppressed status, culture or religion. The revised Finnish legislation on sexual

27 https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/164416/UM_2022_6.pdf

offences entered into force on 1 January 2023, strengthening every individual's sexual autonomy and protection of bodily integrity. Key elements of the reform include the shift to a consent-based definition of rape and the expanded recognition of different forms of sexual harassment. The authorities' capacity must be enhanced to ensure that victims receive the best possible support, and that criminal procedures are expedited. It is important to lower the threshold for reporting crimes and to ensure victims are offered protection from perpetrators when necessary.



Photo 11. In January 2025, Palestinian youth in Gaza discussed ways to reduce internal tension and foster social cohesion within their community. The workshop was part of a broader CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation workshop series on the role young people play in promoting social cohesion. Photo: Yasser Hattab

OBJECTIVE 3: The protection of young people and the realisation of their rights in conflicts and conflict prevention have been strengthened

Target 1: Compliance with human rights and the obligations of humanitarian and international criminal law has been enhanced

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland supports young people's understanding of the core principles of international human rights and humanitarian law.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence (conscript training), Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (non-military service training), CSOs
International level	Lead responsibility
Finland promotes compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law and works to ensure accountability for the most serious international crimes.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland continues to support victims of the most serious international crimes, especially those who have experienced sexual and gender-based violence.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland contributes to the strengthening of international law and consistently advocates for adherence to international legal obligations in all appropriate forums.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Target 2: The protection of young people and consideration of special needs in humanitarian aid activities and migration response measures have been strengthened

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland strengthens the capacity of actors involved in the reception, asylum procedures and integration of asylum seekers to recognise the specific needs of young people.	Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, CSOs
Finland promotes victim support services for young asylum seekers and refugees in Finland who are victims of crime, paying special attention to the support needs of victims of sexual offences.	Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
International level	Lead responsibility
In international forums, Finland pays special attention to young people with disabilities, the sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and young women, and the right to inclusive education during emergencies, as well as working to eliminate barriers to accessing assistance.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland provides support to youth in conflict areas – especially girls and young women – through safer spaces, legal aid and education.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs

Target 3: The protection and realisation of the rights of young peacebuilders, human rights defenders and activists have strengthened

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland provides education concerning hate speech, freedom of expression and the legal limits of this freedom.	Ministry of the Interior, CSOs
Finland raises awareness of the legal remedies available to victims of online violence.	Ministry of the Interior, CSOs

National and international level	Lead responsibility
Finland recognises the role of young people in national guidelines and reports concerning human rights defenders	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland raises awareness of young human rights defenders', peacebuilders' and activists' work, rights and need for protection	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs

Target 4: The protection of young people and the prevention of their exclusion have been strengthened nationally

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland will strengthen efforts to combat violence and bullying targeted at youth and improve the support available to victims.	Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, CSOs
Finland strengthens the prevention of racism and other forms of discrimination.	All
Finland increases efforts to combat sexual crime and harassment and pays special attention to making reporting easier and to supporting victims.	Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, CSOs
Finland promotes the authorities' ability to identify and intervene in human trafficking and supports victims in recovery.	Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

3.5 Priority 4: Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration

Sustainable peace requires post-conflict measures such as disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR). The specific needs of young people must be taken into account both nationally and internationally in post-conflict measures, and they should be involved in the planning and implementation of related programmes. At the national level, reintegration aims and efforts also encompass the return and reintegration of individuals from extremist movements, prison or a situation of social exclusion.

Although a large proportion of former combatants around the world are young people, their role, perspectives and specific needs have often been overlooked in DDR activities. Finland supports DDR efforts through multilateral cooperation and civil society organisations. It is essential to strengthen international DDR measures that take the specific needs of youth – particularly young women – into account and to pay attention to their inclusiveness by engaging local young people in planning and implementation. Awareness of youth roles in disarmament and in preventing the spread of illicit weapons should be increased.

Ensuring young people's access to education and employment is a fundamental part of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration into society. In fragile states, Finland focuses on youth and women's employment and supports entrepreneurship and the livelihoods of returning refugees and former combatants. Fragile states' investment and economic opportunities are promoted through measures such as trade-related development cooperation initiatives.

Strengthening internal security and maintaining social cohesion require active integration of immigrants into Finnish society. Integration must take place within the framework of Finnish legislation and values while also supporting the receiving society's capacity to promote the inclusion of immigrants, including in the labour market. Failure in integration may lead to social exclusion, the emergence of parallel societies, gang-related crime and social tensions. Integration measures must therefore be more closely linked with cooperation between the authorities and clear obligations. Language acquisition, employment and understanding of the norms of Finnish society must be primary objectives, but it is also important to promote dialogue and mutual understanding between people from different backgrounds. Finland supports individuals returning from conflict zones who hold a residence permit in Finland and provides them with opportunities to safely rebuild their lives as part of society. National integration policies must address young people's specific needs in education, training, civic participation, social inclusion,

employment and health promotion. Psychosocial needs must also be considered. The expertise and peer support of youth with refugee, migrant and diaspora backgrounds are valuable.

Opportunities for reintegrating youth to gain employment, become entrepreneurs and participate in the economy must be improved. The physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of returnees must be supported. They must have access to and be able to remain in quality education and benefit from socioeconomic support. Demobilisation and reintegration policies must be gender-sensitive and inclusive. Alongside the public authorities, migrant and refugee organisations and those bringing together youth from different cultural backgrounds provide integration services and develop integration practices. Finnish organisations have high-quality expertise in working with former child soldiers, for example.

OBJECTIVE 4: Young people’s special needs in post-conflict measures have been considered, and their positive role has been strengthened

Target 1: Young people’s special needs have been taken into account in support measures for demobilisation and reintegration

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland supports youth participation in the planning and implementation of measures that support demobilisation and reintegration.	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of the Interior
Finland supports the physical and psychological recovery of young people who are in the process of demobilisation and reintegration.	Civil society organisations
Finland promotes disengagement from youth crime by supporting exit programmes, with a focus on organised crime, violent extremism and serious cybercrime.	Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, CSOs
Finland strengthens the conditions for language learning, employment and understanding of societal norms through integration services as defined in the Act on the Promotion of Immigrant Integration.	Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, CSOs
Finland increases the production and use of research knowledge to support the recovery and successful integration of individuals returning from areas of armed conflict.	Ministry of the Interior, CSOs

Target 2: Young people's role in DDR efforts has been strengthened

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland will raise young people's awareness of DDR efforts.	Ministry of the Interior, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
International level	Lead responsibility
Finland promotes the youth perspective in DDR processes and young people's participation in their planning and implementation	Ministry for Foreign Affairs

3.6 Priority 5: Partnerships

Finland emphasises the importance of diverse partnerships in achieving peace and development. Collaboration among different stakeholders is key in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and strengthening democracy and the rules-based international order. Multistakeholder partnerships are a particular strength of Finland and are also used in the implementation of the YPS agenda. At national level, the most important actors and partners include ministries, agencies, the academic community and CSOs, especially youth organisations. The private sector, which offers employment opportunities to young people, and trade unions, with their expertise in young workers' rights and wellbeing, can also serve as partners. Since the 2019–2023 parliamentary term, a Youth, Peace and Security Working Group has been active in Parliament and was formalised in the autumn of 2024. Its goal is to raise awareness of the YPS agenda in Parliament and to strengthen cooperation between civil society and political decision-makers.



Photo 12. A Youth, Peace and Security workshop organised in Finland brought young people and public officials together from different countries. Photo: Anu Apo

Partnerships are central to Finland's multilateral cooperation. It is essential to strengthen partnerships with regional and international organisations that recognise the positive role of youth in peace and security issues. Key partners in this work include the UN, the EU, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the Nordic Council of Ministers, NATO, the African Union and regional organisations such as the League of Arab States. Due to their large youth populations, African countries have an increased interest in the 2250 agenda. Partnerships should also be explored and strengthened in Asia and South America.

At the UN Headquarters in New York, Finland and Jordan co-chair the Group of Champions of Youth, Peace and Security. The group includes UN Member States and observer missions and works to strengthen and develop cooperation and coordination between Member States and the UN to implement the YPS agenda, share good practices and support Member States in implementing the agenda. The Group of Champions and Finland and Jordan as its co-chairs have played a central role in advancing the YPS agenda and its visibility within the UN.

Building partnerships requires a change in attitudes and creativity. Youth must be recognised as equal and essential partners for sustainable peace. Meaningful youth participation creates opportunities for developing new approaches to fostering peace and security. Equal cooperation across generations and sectors is especially important. Investing in youth capacity and leadership, knowledge exchange, support and active listening makes participation more effective. Mentorship is vital to ensure the transfer of knowledge and experience from established peace organisations to young people.

The public authorities' partnerships with youth organisations and CSOs working with youth must be strengthened. Investing in these organisations and, through them, in young people is part of sustainable peacebuilding. Numerous Finnish CSOs and their partners contribute to peace and social cohesion both nationally and internationally, including through development cooperation. Partnerships and cooperation with governments increase the effectiveness and impact of youth organisations. For example, young people's diaspora organisations play a special role in fragile countries, as people who live in diaspora tend to have close contacts with their country of origin and good knowledge of local conditions and development needs. One example is the East African Youth Peace Network, launched in Finland in 2024, which brings together youth from the Horn of Africa, particularly from Somalia.

Cooperation with informal youth groups and movements is also important. As the youth climate movement has shown, young people do not always need a CSO or another organisation behind them. Engaging with youth outside established organisations is essential for ensuring diverse and inclusive voices.

Partnerships with civil society and youth are also reflected in the integration of youth into Finland's foreign and security policy. Youth play a central role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Established in 2017 under the Commission on Sustainable Development led by the prime minister, the Youth Agenda2030 Group contributes to promoting the Sustainable Development Goals in Finland. The NUOLI group (youth nature and climate group), launched in 2023, supports ministries in the planning, implementation and evaluation of youth participation. The Finnish Youth, Peace and Security Network led by young people and organisations is a key partner in foreign and security policy.



Photo 13. Scouts, Peace and Security is a joint development cooperation project by the Scouts of Nepal and Finland. Based on Resolution 2250 the project focuses on peace education, youth empowerment and the promotion of social peace. The project's dialogue events bring young Nepalis and local decision-makers together. The project runs from 2023 to 2025 with funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Photo: Nepal Scouts

OBJECTIVE 5: Cooperation with youth and partners that promote peace and focus on the positive role of young people has increased

Target 1: Young people's role as key partners in peace efforts has been strengthened

Measures

National level	Lead responsibility
Finland promotes strategic cooperation between youth organisations, CSOs and public bodies and ensures young people's inclusion in the planning, implementation and monitoring of Resolution 2250.	All
Finland recognises young people's role as active users of social media and emerging technologies, and supports the use of youth expertise in peace and security efforts.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of the Interior, CSOs
Finland develops cooperation and partnerships between the central government and young people's civic initiatives.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Justice Civil society organisations
Finland increases partnerships with the private sector to increase youth employment	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

National and international level	Lead responsibility
Finland supports youth and peace organisations as partners in youth employment and entrepreneurship.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
Finland promotes intergenerational and intersectoral mentoring and the sharing of information and experiences about peace and security topics.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, CSOs
Finland fosters intercultural, interfaith and cross-political dialogue among young people and supports youth organisations working to promote dialogue and peace.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Culture, CSOs

Target 2: International and regional partners that recognise and promote the positive role of young people in peace and security matters are supported

Measures

International level	Lead responsibility
Finland systematically promotes the 2250 agenda and related goals in dialogue with its partner countries in all relevant contexts, including the EU, the OSCE and NATO.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland strengthens and develops collaboration with the UN and its Member States to enhance the implementation and visibility of the YPS agenda in UN forums.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland supports international and regional organisations that promote youth participation in peace and security.	Ministry for Foreign Affairs

4 Implementation and monitoring of the action plan

The ministries, research institutes and civil and youth organisations mentioned in the action plan participate in the plan's implementation and monitoring. The Finnish Youth, Peace and Security Network plays an important role in the plan's monitoring and evaluation, as the participation of young people is central to the Action Plan.

In addition to its own activities and areas of responsibility, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs coordinates the plan's implementation. The implementation of the action plan is monitored and evaluated by the 2250 National Monitoring Group, which includes the parties mentioned above. The group meets two to three times a year.

The parties involved in the implementation will report to the National Monitoring Group on their own progress in the implementation of Resolution 2250. Mid-term and final evaluation reports will be produced during the implementation period. The evaluation reports will be submitted to Parliament and presented to the Foreign Affairs Committee. The responsible parties are encouraged to prepare sector- and actor-specific annual plans to promote the implementation of the action plan. Finland will also respond to reporting requests from international organisations regarding the implementation of Resolution 2250.

Based on their capabilities and resources, ministries and other relevant actors aim to take Youth, Peace and Security-related work into account in general and project funding. The parties responsible for the implementation should engage young people in a concrete, systematic and planned manner.

5 Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
AU	African Union
CMC	Crisis Management Centre
CMI	CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration
DOP	UN Department of Peace Operations
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
GCYPS	Global Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security
GPPAC	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
YMCA	Young Men’s Christian Association
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PBC	UN Peacebuilding Commission
PBSO	UN Peacebuilding Support Office
SfCG	Search for Common Ground
THL	Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	UN Population Fund
UNODA	UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNOY	United Network of Young Peacebuilders
VANUPO	National Youth Work and Policy Programme
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security



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