

Report on The National Forum 2000 and National Forum Youth during and after the Conference on War-Affected Children

Youth Delegate Recommendations from the Youth Meeting of the International Conference on War-Affected Children

What is working?

- YMCA/CIDA is working
- Youth are working very hard to let their voices be heard - we are interested in knowing about the conflicts and we are ready to jump up with solutions
- Palestinian youth are still in the camps and didn't forget their issue and the right of return
- Youth are planning, executing and taking role as neutral party to manage, resolve conflict
- Youth have reached their own place to say a word on peace in Colombia
- Youth from segregated communities brought together in Northern Ireland through cross-community organizations.
- Grassroots conflict resolution, interfaith and interethnic, dialogue and workshops
- Doing programs and workshops through churches
- Peace building through creativity: art, dance, music etc.
- Awareness programs

The Role of Youth in Conflict Situations and Peace Building

What isn't working?

- The ideas of youth are not being considered. So, the role of youth is not there.
- Youth still don't have enough to say.
- Youth are not taken seriously by government.
- Media is having a very negative effect on our people and their culture. People become desensitized and stereotypes are portrayed.

What actions can youth take?

- Youth should think as one and strive together to achieve our common goal. Together and only together we can make a difference.
- Youth can self-organize in associations and foras to try to achieve common goals of peace.
- Youth must have the courage to say NO to being used by authorities in fighting.
- Refusing (categorically) the abuses.
- Take action and be given more chances to help in peace building.
- Youth should become actively involved (take interest) in peace building projects.
- Youth should be active and cooperative for their bright future.
- Form peace initiative groups.
- Become leaders and autonomous youth people in order to say stop the war.
- The fact that we are youth and full of energy can be used to send us to spread the word and raise awareness.
- Ask questions, wait for us to answer, and ensure that adults (with authority) are listening.
- Hold regular group discussion among youth.
- Help organizations like Human Rights International and Amnesty International.
- Encourage peers to join in the causes and help!
- Try to get as many people as possible to help youth organizations and support us.
- Civil disobedience to help (not solve) and raise awareness.
- Talk about our problems without fighting to make the world to hear our voice.
- First of all remove conflicts amongst one another, also teach discipline to one another.
- We can take actions on human rights that people have to be treated equally everywhere.
- Countries and regions need to have accurate and positive forms of media that are strongly influenced by youth.

