

**INVITATION**  
**10 DECEMBER 2019**  
**EXPERT MEETING &**  
**NETWORK RECEPTION**

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**YOUNG ACTIVISTS IN CONFLICT  
AREAS**  
THE POSITIVE ROLE OF YOUTH IN  
PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT  
PREVENTION

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# INVITATION

## YOUTH LEADERS, POWERFUL ACTORS OF CHANGE

*Invitation towards an expert meeting and network reception alongside the exhibition: 'Young Activists in Conflict Areas: The positive Role of Youth in Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention'*

**Date: 10 December 2019**

**Time: 14:30 – 17:30**

**Location: de Raadszaal, The Hague city hall**

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**All over the world, young people are challenging traditional power structures. They advocate for a new social contract between state and society. If established powers keep refusing to tackle injustice and inequality, young people revolt. Time and again, they prove to be powerful challengers of the status quo and inventive actors of change.**

In the year 2019, we saw a worldwide surge *in popular demonstrations*. Protests are led by young people who use social media to denounce corruption, high unemployment, poor governance, injustice and the unaffordability of basic necessities. We see and saw this in Iraq, Sudan, Lebanon, but also in Chile, Venezuela and Hong Kong. Often, protests started in a nonviolent way, but unfortunately, the state response in some countries is oppressive and violent, causing counter violence and resulting in many casualties. The role of young women and men as positive agents of conflict transformation and peacebuilding is often overlooked. Their participation and leadership in resolving conflict and building sustainable peace is essential. **Youth leaders around the globe build bridges between polarized communities:** between younger and older generations, men and women, rich and poor. They are going against the grain of conflict dynamics. By doing this, they create pockets of peace and human security in their universities, their cities, their countries.

### PURPOSE OF THE EXPERT MEETING 10 DECEMBER 2019

On the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN resolution 2250 and on international human rights day, **we invite policy decision makers, practitioners and representatives of organizations working with young people for an expert meeting** to engage with courageous youth leaders and to:

- receive contextual updates on the current conflict situation in **Libya, Afghanistan and Iraq** through the perspectives of young peace builders;
- discuss the kind of challenges young people face in their peace building work;
- discuss how policy decision makers and international organizations working with youth can support and include young people to increase the impact of their work.

### PROGRAM:

**14:30 – 14:45** Doors open, coffee

**14:45 – 14:55** Welcome, introduction of organizers and panellists

**14:55 – 15:50** Reflections and inspirational stories from the panellists.

**15:50 – 16:20** Open discussion and interaction with the audience

**16:20 – 16:30** Closing words and conclusions

**16:30 – 17:30** Drinks at the exhibition site

**REGISTRATION FOR THE EVENT:** Please register **before the 7<sup>th</sup> of December** via [this link](#) or by sending an email to [amber.bel@cordaid.org](mailto:amber.bel@cordaid.org)

## EXHIBITION:

From the 27<sup>th</sup> of November until the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, the exhibition “Youth leaders, as positive actors of change” is portraying 9 courageous youth leaders from Iraq, Syria, Libya and Afghanistan in the Hague city hall. The exhibition ties in with the fourth anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2250, which is adopted on 9 December 2015. That resolution recognizes and reinforces the role of young people as indispensable builders of peace and security. No perpetrators, no victims, but bridge builders who need to be involved in peace processes from start to finish.



## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS:

**Cordaid** has been fighting poverty and exclusion in the world's most fragile societies and conflict-stricken areas for a century. We engage local communities to rebuild trust and resilience and increase people's self reliance. Our professionals provide humanitarian assistance and create opportunities to improve security, health care and education and stimulate inclusive economic growth. Cordaid includes youth not just as beneficiaries, but as partners and leaders in the process of building peace, development and enhancing security within their community.

**The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)** is a member-led international network composed of civil society actors, practitioners, experts and academics from the Global South and Global North who work together on conflict and crisis prevention, peacebuilding and statebuilding in over 20 fragile and conflict-affected countries (FCAS). Our mission is to amplify the voice of civil society within the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) and to strengthen the voice and capacity of society to effectively engage in, and influence, peacebuilding and statebuilding as a critical contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all.