



**Training Material Series**

**Third Handbook**



# **The Themes of UNSCR2250 on Youth, Peace and Security**

**Third Handbook**  
**Training Material Series**  
**Protecting Youth Rights as per UNSCR2250**



**The Themes of UNSCR2250 on**  
**Youth, Peace and Security**

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Researcher  
Lamyia Shalaldeh

## Introduction

Based on our core belief in the right of every young person in Palestine and the world at large to live in dignity and build a sustainable future with safety, stability, and equality, the YWCA of Palestine decided to adopt UNSCR 2250 (since its first launch) as a method and strategy for empowering youth. This resolution is especially pertinent for our work, as it affirms the active role of young people in achieving international peace, security, and sustainable development. It calls on the need to develop policies and programs that contribute to providing due protection for the youth who constitute the majority of societies. The resolution also assigns responsibility and holds governments and civil society institutions accountable for enabling youth with tools to contribute effectively in sustainable development efforts. This requires integrating young men and women in their societies, improving the levels of education, and providing employment opportunities that meet their needs. Moreover, it calls for translating the goals of sustainable development in a way that acknowledges young people as building cadres in their societies.



This UN resolution calls on governments, civil society institutions and all concerned parties to build young and effective leaders capable of leading change. It acknowledges the vital role of young people as key partners in international development and advocacy processes and considers them fully capable to build a better future of peace, security, and liberation.

In October 2018, the YWCA of Palestine held its first International Youth Conference, titled *Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Freedom and Justice*. The conference aimed to promote the awareness of young people around UNSCR 2250 and to give them the opportunity to discuss the resolution while supporting a process of building youth leadership in Palestine. The conference also highlighted the rights of young people to be actively engaged in decision-making. It urged the Palestinian Authority to build a common vision for a better future and to develop a national action plan in line with this resolution. It has become clear that young people need educational materials, practical mechanisms, and strategies for how to implement the resolution in the Palestinian context. Therefore, the YWCA of Palestine decided to take the second and strategic step to prepare a manual that would be accessible for young women and men, and to train groups and enable them with the tools and knowledge to train others on the use of this manual.

We dedicate this training manual to all young women and men in Palestine and the world at large. We affirm their fundamental, national, political, social, and economic rights. We greatly hope and fervently believe that the youth will benefit from this manual towards claiming their rights. Knowledge and awareness are the core foundations for liberation and peacebuilding.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the researcher, trainer and leading author of the manual (training material series), Ms. Lamya Shalaldeh. I also thank all of the YWCA team of staff and volunteers who largely contributed to the completion of this manual.

YWCA of Palestine National General Secretary,

Mira Rizeq

## Third Handbook

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## Opening Speech of Conference

The YWCA of Palestine held the first international youth conference in Palestine titled “Youth Participate, Youth Decide: Towards Freedom and Justice.” The National YWCA of Palestine held the conference in partnership with Al-Haq, Al-Marsad, the YMCA of Gaza, and the Joint Advocacy Initiative (JAI), and with the support of the YWCA/YMCAs of Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland, as well as Horyzon, the World YWCA, UNFPA, and the Global Ministries. This was the first conference of its kind in Palestine within the framework of UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security. It was held over three days from 12 and 14 October 2018 at the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Ramallah and the YMCA in Gaza.

More than 500 people, the majority of whom were young, attended the conference. Palestinians were from historic Palestine, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to international participants from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Japan, USA, Macedonia, India, Ukraine, Romania, Switzerland, and Finland.

The YWCA of Palestine and its partners within the global movement aimed, through this conference, to offer young men and women around the world an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas about their economic, social, and political rights. We were pleased to provide them with a platform for creative participation that allows them to discuss issues related to their rights within the framework of UNSCR 2250 in its local and international contexts.

The conference included a number of plenary sessions during which many working papers were presented. The speakers characterized inclusion and diversity, and offered a comprehensive interpretation and reading of UNSCR 2250 and the prospects for its implementation within the context of Palestinian youth under occupation. The papers shed light on the collective and individual rights of Palestinian youth, including political, civil, social and economic rights, and the challenges they face. The papers also dealt with criticism and analysis of the gaps between national plans and policies on the one hand,



and the reality of their implementation in line with the relevant international treaties and conventions on the other. In addition, vivid local and international models were presented that succeeded in strengthening international advocacy, as well building and deepening partnerships within the framework of implementing UNSCR 2250.

The youth participating in the conference organized fifteen workshops that focused on youth rights, public freedoms, and the forms of violence and systematic violations that youth are exposed to under occupation. The workshops also focused on the importance of the Palestinian government's endeavor to provide international protection in accordance with the conventions and treaties to which the State of Palestine has acceded. During the youth workshops, authentic and influential testimonies from Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Haifa, and the Beddawi refugee camp in Lebanon were presented - showcasing the violations that Palestinian youth are subjected to.

The importance of youth economic empowerment as an effective means of reducing poverty was also discussed; stressing the need to provide incentives as a strategy to support entrepreneurs, especially for young women, and to protect Palestinian products from competition with the Israeli products that dominate the Palestinian markets and threaten their viability.



**The YWCA of Palestine believes that young men and women are and can be leaders of change in their societies. It recognizes their crucial role in building a better future for all where freedom and justice prevail, and thereby provides young people them with opportunities, appropriate platforms, and support.**

## Preamble

The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2250 in 2015 as the first of its kind on youth, peace and security. UNSCR 2250 was adopted at a historic time that stood witness to crucial political developments in many countries around the world.

International reports revealed that the general direction of the conflicting parties in wars and conflicts essentially rely on young people - whether in terms of their integration into the ranks of militants, or by being targeted through killing, arrest and isolation. This also relates to the case of Palestine as a state under occupation. In this respect, UNSCR 2250 deals with the reality of youth in armed conflict through five pillars (to be examined further in the handbook).

The importance of this handbook is that it is one of the first documents that clarifies the tools and mechanisms for using UNSCR 2250, especially since the resolution has only recently been adopted. The Security Council had requested the United Nations Secretary-General to conduct a phased study regarding the positive contribution of youth to peace processes, conflict resolution, and formulating recommendations for effective responses at the local, national, regional and international levels.

**Youth groups, partners, friends and volunteers of the YWCA of Palestine expressed that the concept of peace (from their point of view) would guarantee the right to self-determination and the right of return for Palestinian people.**

UNSCR 2250 responds to the current political developments, and the high rates of youth involvement in extremist movements. It necessitates all parties to pay attention to the needs of the youth and integrate them in the process of building state institutions, peace-building, and the recognition of their role as effective partners (rather than perceive them as a problem that needs solutions).

## Contents of the Handbook

The method of preparing this handbook is similar in its importance to the results of working on the mechanism of using UNSCR 2250 at the local and international levels. This applies in the context of introducing and raising awareness of the resolution, as well as for using it as a tool to highlight the reality of Palestinian youth under occupation. It is also in line with the YWCA of Palestine's international youth conference held at the end of 2018 under the title "Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Freedom and Justice."

The researcher used the practical experience that she has gathered over a period of three years. The document is the first of its kind in Palestine; it brought together the YWCA of Palestine team and youth groups in the capacity-building process, and also included

international and regional partners and fellow activists. The handbook is a result of pure practical experience and presents the tools and applications that were developed through a holistic and participatory approach. Essentially, this handbook focuses on the theoretical part of the pillars of UNSCR 2250, and proceeds to the learning methodologies (practical applications). The steps are used in the context of analyzing and defining the meanings and concepts of UNSCR 2250 pertaining to youth, peace and security. UNSCR 2250 was actualized and developed in a way that is consistent with the reality of Palestinian youth under occupation. The handbook therefore illustrates a simple and understandable manner that enables users from different groups to use and adapt it to the needs of the target groups. The five pillars related to youth, peace and security are thereby presented, explained and analyzed - namely: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships building, and disengagement and reintegration.

We draw the attention of trainers and facilitators that this handbook on UNSCR 2250 on the protection of youth rights in situations of armed conflict and occupation, shall not be used until after reading and understanding the theoretical references available in the first and second handbooks. Therefore, good knowledge of the peace and security agenda is a must before starting the work on UNSCR 2250, given that international resolutions intersect widely in the protection system. The United Nations also considers that UNSCR 2250 is the most binding frame of reference for the rules of International Humanitarian Law, the General Recommendation on CEDAW, and the Women, Peace and Security resolution (UNSCR 3350).



## Section One

# Protecting Youth Rights as per UNSCR 2250



## First: The Historical Background of UNSCR 2250

### Resolution 2250, adopted by the Security Council at its 7573rd meeting on December 9, 2015

The United Nations strategy did not achieve its goals in spreading international peace and security to all human societies. Many countries are still, to this day, suffering from the scourge of wars and occupation, despite the utmost international interest in ending armed conflicts and wars by peaceful means, with the aim of spreading a culture of peace and security. The manifestations of conflicts, armed conflicts and occupation continue to increase and leave great hardships on civilians, while the scope of armed conflicts continue to expand. Internal and armed conflict, as well as military occupation and wars have been on the rise in the last century and have continued. This has led to the death of thousands of people and forced millions to flee from their homes and countries to other areas in search of peace and security. It was estimated in 2016 that nearly 408 million youth (aged between 15 and 29 years) lived in environments where armed conflict took place. This means that 23% of the world's population live in a state of province undergoing armed conflict, occupation, and other organized violence. In addition, at least 2.5 million adolescents (aged 12-17 years) were displaced in 2014, with cases constantly on the rise. The UNHCR statistics indicate that an estimated 3 million were displaced in 2015. This is not to mention areas under siege: In the Gaza Strip, the entire population has been under siege for more than 13 years. The Arab region, in fact, has witnessed the largest share of these losses and conflicts, which have undeniably had negative effects on all aspects of life and at all levels of society. The tangible and direct impact on the social aspect do not only influence the populations themselves, but also other peoples. Since 2016, as per UNESCO, nearly 1 in 4 youth (aged 15-29 years) are affected by violence or armed conflict in some way. Armed conflict and occupation have caused immense social and economic challenges, represented by high rates of unemployment and poverty among the youth. They have also restricted freedom of movement and access to quality education opportunities. These are essential factors in the recruitment of violence and extremism. We find, looking at the ILO estimates, that the global youth unemployment rate is on the rise. It was expected to reach 13.1% in 2016 and remained at that level through 2017 (after it was 12.9% in 2015). ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook 2006 Trends for Youth report shows that the global number of unemployed youth is expected to rise by half a million this year, to reach 71 million unemployed, which is the first increase recorded in three years. A greater concern is the share and number of young people, often in emerging and developing countries, who live in extreme or moderate poverty despite the fact they have jobs. In fact, 156 million (37.7%) of working youth live in extreme or moderate poverty (compared with 26% of adult workers). Deborah Greenfield, ILO Deputy Director-General for Policy, stated that: "The alarming rise in youth unemployment and the equally disturbing high levels of young people who work but still live in poverty show how difficult it will be to reach the global goal to end poverty by 2030 unless we redouble our efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth and decent work." This is one of the main factors in which violent extremism and

involvement in sabotage acts are a major product. There are prevailing stereotypes linking youth with violence, whereby youth are depicted as perpetrators of violent crimes or saboteurs of peace. Although it may be true that youth are the majority of the perpetrators, yet this stereotype against them reinforces violent masculinity, given that young people's involvement in violent extremism comes within the systematic policies of rulers and senior officials and leaders. Such stereotyping limits youth as mere instruments and exploits their enthusiasm to support officials towards implementing agendas based on political interests. This also means that youth are not the only ones responsible for extremism and violence. Rather, there are major players who use youth as fuels for political agendas.

Another factor is the one related to the global level vis-à-vis the implementation of the International (UN) Human Rights System, and the extent of effective accountability for perpetrators of crimes against civilians and youth. Certainly, the weak endorsement and implementation of the International Human Rights System negatively affects young people's interest and confidence therein. This constitutes a grave danger to human rights, especially in the case of continued international crimes and violations, such as in armed conflict and occupation, when there are no concrete measures by which to hold perpetrators accountable. The International Human Rights System seems to have dual standards in the implementation of its resolutions as they are linked with the international balance of power and the primacy of political interests over human rights interests. Together, these factors create a sense of hostility among the youth, especially in the developing, poor and occupied countries, who find themselves in a state of anger and hopelessness in their surroundings. This forms the real threat to the future of peace.

The data and study results confirm this, indicating that the rate of youth involvement in violent acts, especially in recent years, has been high. There is a close connection between international circumstances pertaining to the surrounding political, social, economic and cultural environment and the exacerbation of violence. The exclusion and marginalization of youth from decision-making processes, in this respect, increases the rate of violence within internal and external societies. Accordingly, youth groups took the initiative to raise their issues at the international level, urging countries to obligate inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels and reshape awareness of youth energy while recognizing their active role in peacebuilding. Jordan submitted a recommendation to the Security Council on the necessity to adopt a resolution on youth, peace and security, and in 2015, the Security Council adopted UNSCR 2250 unanimously. The resolution is the first of its kind fully devoted to the important and positive role that young people have in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. UNSCR 2250 also requested the Secretary General to carry out a progress study on the youth's positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at the local, national, regional and international levels.



## Second: The Importance of UNSCR 2250

UNSCR 2250 was unanimously adopted during a period when many countries are suffering from the scourge of armed conflicts and occupation, while youth energies are exploited in wars and acts of extremism. These factors increase the importance of the resolution, which urges all member states of the United Nations to prevent armed conflicts and solve them peacefully - taking into account the challenges that youth face on all social, economic and political levels. It also stresses the need to remove obstacles by integrating youth in decision-making and peacemaking.

Palestinian youth are in the face of major obstacles that have culminated as a result of the long-term Israeli occupation. This requires more feasible solutions and practical steps, which requires state parties within the international conventions to take responsibility and take the necessary measures to end. UNSCR 2250 added a new dimension to the International (UN) Human Rights System, focusing on the importance of protecting youth rights in armed conflict and peacebuilding. Therefore, the importance of UNSCR 2250 lies in the resolution's organizational structures that are based on various approaches, including:

### A human rights approach:

This approach is based on international conventions, beginning with the United Nations Charter and the International Bill of Human Rights, and passing through contractual and non-contractual mechanisms for human rights protection. It also explicitly refers to the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Refugee Status Convention, and Security Council resolutions from which UNSCR 1325 and complementary resolutions emanated.

Another important issue the resolution highlights is to support the national and international judiciary in the fight against impunity so that perpetrators of crimes - from within the conflicting parties - are held accountable and punished. UNSCR 2250 clearly refers to the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court. In this respect, the resolution intersects with the strategies of the Palestinian youth to hold the perpetrators of crimes against the Palestinian people accountable and bring them to justice through the criminal court.

### The economic approach:

UNSCR 2250 considers that youth are the pioneers of the sustainable development process. Without including youth as organizers, leaders and promoters in economic activities, countries will not be able to proceed in the process of achieving sustainable development for their people.

### The sociocultural approach:

UNSCR 2250 delves into the existing stereotypical structures in dealing with youth. It refers to the importance of taking the necessary steps to integrate youth into public life,

and to open up dialogue that identifies youth potentials and needs. It also refers to the importance of taking measures to change the stereotypical image that considers youth as irresponsible or as components of the radicalization of violence.

### The political approach:

This approach links youth with public life. UNSCR 2250 refers and call on states to take all measures in order to integrate youth into the public sphere, and to remove the obstacles they face in the decision-making process.

The significance of UNSCR 2250 in the political approach intersects with the need of states to invest in human resources and youth energies, and engage them in a democratic and peaceful manner. This requires the implementation of programs targeting youth to empower them as decision-makers, politicians and local leaders.

**"No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline; it is condemned to bleed to death."**

Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations

### Third: The Contents and Themes of UNSCR 2250

UNSCR 2250 defines 'youth' as persons between the ages of 18 and 29 years. The Security Council indicates that this definition could have discrepancies at the international and national levels, including the terms in the General Assembly Resolutions 50/81 and 117/56.<sup>1</sup>

UNSCR 2250 is an important achievement at a time when an estimated 600 million young people live in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The draft resolution was submitted by Jordan, and the Security Council unanimously adopted it for the benefit of all Council Members.

UNSCR 2250 comes under the sixth chapter<sup>2</sup>, but the resolution is based on the principles of International Humanitarian Law, Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (August 1949), international agreements in force during the occurrence of armed conflicts, the 1951 Refugee Convention, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the World Program of Action for Youth, the Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding, the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security of August 2015, the Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism of September 2015, and the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and Promote Peacebuilding. UNSCR 2250 acknowledges the role of these conventions in laying the foundation that promotes young people's inclusive participation and positive contribution to building peace in conflict and post-conflict situations.<sup>3</sup>

The Security Council adopted UNSCR 2250 as a result of several factors including the deterioration of the security situation in many countries, the spread of high unemployment rates among youth, and the overall frustration amidst young people due to the deteriorating social, economic, cultural, political and security conditions. In addition, youth account for many of the civilians adversely affected by armed conflict and occupation. The Security Council referred to the relevant resolutions from which UNSCR 2250 emanated, namely:

UNSCR1325 on Women, Peace and Security; stressing the importance of the participation and protection of women and young girls. It also emanated from the key statement S/PRST/2015/11, and the two statements on Post-Conflict Peacebuilding S/PRST/2012/29 and S/PRST/2015/2. It also recalled resolutions 1265 (1999) and 1894 (2009) on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict.<sup>4</sup> In addition, the Resolution is based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the primary responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.

1 General Assembly of the United Nations. Resolutions. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/64/resolutions.shtml>

2 United Nations. Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet. Chapter VI. <https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-vi/index.html>

3 UNSCR2250. [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2250\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2250(2015))

4 Ibid.

UNSCR 2250 recognizes that "today's generation of youth is the largest the world has ever known, and that young people often form the majority of the population of countries affected by armed conflict," including as refugees and internally displaced persons, which poses a potential threat to the future of peace and security. The Resolution also recognizes that "the rise of radicalization to violence and violent extremism, especially amongst youth, threatens stability and development, and can often derail peacebuilding efforts and foment conflict." It thus calls for coming up with comprehensive strategies by which to address, intervene, and resolve those issues.

The Security Council also addresses the technological developments taking place, and expresses concern over the increased use and exploitation of the Internet by extremist groups and terrorists as a means of recruiting and inciting youth to organize and commit acts of violence. Such groups have taken advantage of the economic, political and cultural circumstances facing young people in many countries experiencing a state of instability in all aspects of life. With this in mind, the Council urges Member States to develop strategies to deal with these situations in a way that does not conflict with human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under International Law. As stated in the Resolution's themes:

### UNSCR 2250 Pillars

#### Participation

The Council refers to an important framework and approach, whereby it observes that young people are not a homogeneous group with which one can work as a single whole. It is thus critical to ensure diversity representation of youth towards real inclusion. This necessitates developing appropriate programs and tools in response to the needs and demands of each group. This will reinforce a framework that supports inclusive youth participation without discriminating against any sub-group.

To integrate youth, as they are a major human resource for development and essential actors in the process of social change, economic growth and technological innovation.

It is also necessary to consider youth as a positive force for democratic transformation.

Therefore, the Security Council urges member states to consider ways to increase inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms, including institutions and mechanisms to counter violent extremism.

UNSCR 2250 broadens the framework for youth participation in decision-making at various levels, including:

### At the national and local levels:

- Taking preventive measures to empower youth in peacebuilding and conflict and remove obstacles they face in accessing opportunities for quality education, decent work, housing, and their freedom of opinion and expression. Also, developing national policies and legislations that guarantee youth participation in public life in a manner appropriate to the age group defined by UNSCR 2250
- Engaging young people in the discussion process towards developing strategies, plans, and national mechanisms concerned with youth empowerment.
- Taking effective measures and procedures to ensure the integration of youth in the decision-making bodies of national and local institutions in proportions consistent with their demographic impact in society.
- Establishing integrated and comprehensive mechanisms for meaningful participation of youth in peacebuilding and dispute-resolution.
- Taking into account youth perspectives in the negotiation and peace agreement processes and the mechanism for their implementation, to ensure that they are effectively achieved on the ground, while recognizing that exclusion and marginalization are detrimental to building sustainable peace in all societies. As such, the following things must be taken into account:
  - Youth needs - during repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation, resettlement, reconstruction, and construction.
  - Measures that support local youth peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve youth in the implementation mechanisms of peace agreements.
  - Measures aimed at empowering youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

### At the international level:

- The missions of the Security Council and the United Nations shall take into account the needs of youth and consider the significance of their viewpoints for just peacebuilding.
- Involving youth amidst international delegations and missions to ensure the integration of youth orientations and needs within those agencies.
- Youth engagement in international activities carried out by states in order to ensure the role of youth and its importance in peacebuilding.
- 

### Protection

UNSCR 2250 broadens the concept of protection to be based on the various international covenants. Accordingly, the Security Council calls upon all parties to armed conflict to comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under international law relevant to the protection of all civilians. These include the obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977, as well as compliance with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol of 1967, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women of 1979, the Protocol of 1999, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The resolution reflects the principle of due protection for all civilians, and calls on all parties to armed conflict to take the necessary measures to protect civilians, including those who are youth, from all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.

It reaffirms that member states must comply with their respective obligations to end impunity. It thereby calls on them to:

Develop legislative frameworks in line with the needs of the youth whose rights are violated during armed conflict, in order to ensure that they reach to justice and equity.

Develop systems for monitoring and documenting violations against civilians, including youth, and disclose the systematic policies taken by the conflicting parties to undermine the opponent and steer away from complying with the rules of the relevant international conventions.

Integrate youth in the search and investigation processes to reveal the scale and nature of the crimes committed and to initiate intervention programs that ensure the provision of protection for survivors of violence.

Prepare quantitative and qualitative reports, taking into account the gender dimensions, to uncover the forms of violations, classify them in accordance with the rules of international humanitarian law and the relevant documents, and start the investigation process vis-à-vis perpetrators of crimes.



Disseminate information regarding the state's activities and programs by which to protect civilians, including youth, in order to expand the range of knowledge and make use of the largest possible number among the ranks of youth.

Provide psychosocial rehabilitation centers for youth to contribute to their reintegration in a natural way, provided that youth are an essential part in the management of these institutions.

Investigate and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes against civilians, including youth. In this respect, international litigation has gained widespread attention, especially with regard to the path of justice and prosecution of crimes through the International Criminal Court and other mixed tribunals and specialized chambers.

UNSCR 2250 affirms that states are the ones responsible for enforcing the rules of international law and human rights for all individuals (including youth) on their lands and subject to their jurisdiction and protection. Thus, each state must hold accountability and take measures and procedures to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

### Prevention

We note that the multi-dimensional United Nations operations to maintain international peace and security focus on effective prevention elements, whereby emphasis is placed on building preventive systems of a comprehensive nature, including effective prevention that prevents violence and extremism.

- UNSCR 2250 urges member states to implement activities aimed at simultaneously addressing the potential sources of danger and the causes of imminent violence. UNSCR 2250 indicates that states should not wait for the occurrence and spread of armed conflict before taking measures to suppress them.
- Countries must build early warning systems that provide the state with indicators and data that might predict the outbreak of armed conflict or violence. It is essential to integrate women and youth within these systems, to ensure the expansion of knowledge and information-gathering, and to address the crimes that may be committed. Civilians and youth can be protected from atrocious crimes expected, if early warning systems work effectively.
- UNSCR 2250 urges states to develop coordination networks and coalitions working in the field of protecting women and youth rights in armed conflict. This is in order to strengthen early warning systems that may limit the spread of armed conflict and to develop ways to prevent their occurrence.
- The resolution also urges member states to facilitate an inclusive and enabling environment in which youth actors, including youth from different backgrounds, receive

recognition and appropriate support for the implementation of violence prevention activities and support social cohesion.

### As for the structural protection element:

- UNSCR 2250 affirms the importance of creating national policies regarding the integration of youth in the development process, political engagement, and peacebuilding. UNSCR 2250 also highlights supporting local economic projects, providing youth with employment opportunities and vocational training, fostering their education, and promoting youth entrepreneurship. This increases the prevention of youth exploitation and incitement of terrorist acts. In this respect, the youth will be one of the groups most in need of peace and security in order to preserve their interests.
- Preventive activities include spreading knowledge and training based on social justice, building education programs related to peacemaking, and providing youth with the necessary information and enable them to constructively participate in inclusive civic structures and political processes.
- States must take measures and procedures to institute awareness of the principles and tools of international humanitarian law in operating during armed conflict, especially among security forces. This is in order to limit the commission of and fight serious crimes, wars, and crimes against humanity during the occurrence of armed conflict. In addition to adequate awareness of accountability, and the penalties related to the commission of some types of crimes, especially sexual violence crimes, while noting that they cannot be waived by the passing of time.
- Raising awareness of the means of international justice, the framework for the work of international courts and the Rome Statute on the ICC through awareness campaigns for youth, security forces, and the justice sector. This is done in anticipation of any of the armed conflicts, in addition to prevent youth from exploitation and incitement to join terrorist groups.

### Prevention before armed conflict:

- UNSCR 2250 focuses on the stage that precedes the outbreak of armed conflicts and wars, as preventive measures that contribute to defusing ignition of wars and armed conflicts. We note that the multi-dimensional United Nations operations to maintain international peace and security focus on effective prevention elements, whereby emphasis is placed on building comprehensive preventive systems. Accordingly, UNSCR 2250 urges the following:
- The Council recognizes that young people are not a homogeneous group but rather have differences and characteristics of each sub-group. It is thus crucial to take appropriate measures for their needs and demands. This is true at the level of national policies and legislative system, as well as plans and programs aimed at youth without discriminating against any sub-group.

- This indicates an official recognition of youth as pioneers of development and calls for taking the necessary measures to integrate them as a major human resource for development. After all, they are essential actors in the process of social change, economic growth and technological innovation. It is affirmed that they are a positive force for democratization.
- UNSCR 2250 affirms that the member states must find adequate means to ensure an increase in the comprehensive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international platforms. This includes the institutions and mechanisms for combating violence and developing national policies and legislations that will ensure youth participation in public life in a manner appropriate to the age group indicated by UNSCR 2250
- Accordingly, UNSCR 2250 expands the concept of youth participation in decision-making and their role in peacebuilding, so that it transcends the concept of military security and reaches collective security and civil peace. Therefore, it is crucial to research the environment surrounding youth as one of the safeguards for limiting violence.
- UNSCR 2250 demands member states, as part of the expansion of the concept of security, to take preventive measures to empower youth and remove obstacles they face in accessing opportunities for quality education, decent work, adequate housing, and the exercise of the freedom of opinion and expression. This goes along with ensuring their participation in public discussions in developing national strategies and plans concerned with youth empowerment.
- UNSCR 2250 indicates that member states must build early warning systems that provide the competent authorities with indicators and data that predict the outbreak of armed conflicts or violence. UNSCR 2250 also emphasizes the need to integrate women and youth in the process of building those systems, to ensure the expansion of knowledge and information gathering, and to address the crimes that may be committed and prevent their occurrence. Civilians and youth can be protected from atrocious crimes if early warning systems work effectively.
- UNSCR 2250 calls on states to activate preventive systems and address the causes of violence before the occurrence and eruption of armed conflicts, strengthen preventive measures, and change the prevailing patterns of states in dealing with issues of violence.
- UNSCR 2250 urges states to develop coordination networks and coalitions working in the field of protecting women and youth rights in armed conflict. This is in order to strengthen early warning systems that may limit the spread of armed conflict and to develop ways to prevent their occurrence.
- UNSCR 2250 urges the creation of an enabling environment in which youth actors, regardless of their differences, receive recognition and appropriate support to imple-

ment violence prevention activities and support social cohesion.

#### As for the structural protection element:

- UNSCR 2250 affirms the importance of creating national policies for the integration and participation of youth in the development process, state building and peacebuilding. UNSCR 2250 also highlights supporting local economic projects, providing employment opportunities and vocational training for youth, fostering youth education, and promoting youth entrepreneurship. This increases the prevention of youth exploitation and incitement of terrorist acts. In this respect, the youth will be one of the groups most in need of peace and security in order to preserve their interests.
- It is essential to spread knowledge and training based on social justice and develop, while making accessible to youth, education programs related to peacemaking so that they are enabled to constructively participate in inclusive civic structures and political processes that include all.
- States must take measures and procedures to institute awareness of the international humanitarian law principles and the tools of operating during armed conflict, especially among the security forces. This is in order to fight against the serious crimes, wars, and crimes against humanity during the occurrence of armed conflict. In addition to adequate awareness of accountability, and the penalties related to the commission of crimes, especially sexual violence crimes, while noting that they cannot be waived by the passing of time.
- Raising awareness of the means of international justice, the framework for the work of international courts and the Rome Statute on the ICC through awareness campaigns for youth and security forces.
- UNSCR 2250 calls on all parties to implement awareness programs on promoting a culture of tolerance and dialogue between cultures and religions while taking into consideration youth participation in managing and implementing those activities, and on the other hand engaging youth in awareness programs, to reduce their involvement in acts of extremist violence.
- States must also review and develop educational curricula in a manner consistent with promoting a culture of peace and security, accept diversity and pluralism in societies, and eliminate the manifestations of discrimination and inequality.

#### Prevention during conflict - The local level:

- Establishing integrated and comprehensive mechanisms for meaningful participation of youth in peacebuilding and dispute-resolution.
- Taking into account youth perspectives in the negotiation and peace agreement processes and the mechanism for their implementation, to ensure that they are effectively achieved on the ground, while recognizing that exclusion and marginalization

are detrimental to building sustainable peace in all societies.

- UNSCR 2250 urges member states to take measures that support local youth peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve youth in the implementation mechanisms of peace agreements.
- The decision indicates the importance of taking measures to empower youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.
- UNSCR 2250 also notes the need to develop legislative frameworks in line with the needs of the youth whose rights are violated during armed conflict, in order to ensure that they reach to justice and equity.
- UNSCR 2250 indicates the importance of developing systems for monitoring and documenting violations against civilians, including youth, and disclosing the systematic policies taken by the conflicting parties to undermine the opponent and steer away from complying with the rules of the relevant international conventions. The resolution also indicates the importance of integrating youth in the search and investigation processes to reveal the scale and nature of the crimes committed and to initiate intervention programs that ensure the provision of protection for survivors of violence.
- This also calls for preparing quantitative and qualitative reports that take into account the gender dimensions, to uncover the forms of violations and classify them in accordance with the rules of international humanitarian law and the relevant documents, and start the investigation process against perpetrators of crimes.
- It is also crucial to disseminating information related to the activities and programs that the state undertakes in order to protect civilians, including youth, in order to expand the range of knowledge and make use of these programs.
- UNSCR 2250 extends the concept of protecting youth rights beyond the national dimension of states, so as to ensure the protection of the individual rights and collective rights of all individuals, including youth. This is in accordance with Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977, as well as in compliance with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women of 1979, the Protocol of 1999, and Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Protection thus relates to the various international covenants. Accordingly, the Security Council calls upon all armed conflict parties to comply strictly with the obligations applicable to them under the international law.
- Countries should take measures and procedures to ensure holding perpetrators and those responsible accountable and bring them to the national and international judiciary.

- UNSCR 2250 addresses the missions of the Security Council and all member states of the United Nations, taking into account youth needs and their views on undertaking a just peacebuilding, and their participation within delegations and missions to ensure youth needs are integrated into the programs of these bodies. This is in addition to youth engagement within international activities carried out by countries to build and create peace.

### **Prevention post-conflict - the following must be observed:**

Involve youth in organizing relief and reconstruction work, taking into account the needs of youth, reintegration and rehabilitation, resettlement, reconstruction and construction.

- Provide psychosocial social rehabilitation centers for youth to contribute to their reintegration in a natural way, provided that youth are an essential part in the management of these institutions.
- Investigate and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes against civilians, including youth. Also, to promote national and international litigation, especially with regard to the path of justice and prosecution of crimes through the International Criminal Court and other mixed tribunals and specialized chambers.
- UNSCR 2250 affirms that it is the state that bears responsibility for enforcing the rules of international law and human rights rules for all individuals, including youth, and those on its lands and subject to its jurisdiction. Thus, each state must take measures and procedures to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.
- UNSCR 2250 urges member states to support youth networks and coordination committees (whether at the local or international levels) in the field of promoting and protecting a human rights culture, in order to strengthen effective youth frameworks. It also encourages building the capacities of youth coalitions towards a culture of peacebuilding and security and combating violence and extremism.

## Partnerships

UNSCR 2250 discusses the concept of partnerships and establishing them on the local, regional and international levels. This is to confront the politics of marginalization and exclusion of youth and form a pressing force able to enforce its agency on the decision-making table and be an influential force in society.

UNSCR 2250 considers that building and forming partnerships, whether at the level of coalitions or networks, will increase the chances of success in addressing the causes of conflicts, rebuilding social cohesion, and supporting local communities in their endeavor to establish durable peace. Effective partnerships and coalitions are also considered one of the most valuable preventive tools, as they share experiences and expertise in the peacebuilding process, whether with governments, non-governmental organizations, or the private sector.

UNSCR 2250 calls on all Member States, as appropriate, to take steps of support to gather and intensify youth efforts in line with a peacebuilding security culture. It also urges countries to support all youth trends that contribute to raising awareness about conflict prevention and building the foundations of development. Accordingly, countries should support building partnerships at different levels. The concept of partnerships is discussed in two different dimensions, the first of which is linked to the implementation and provision of support services, as follows:



## The National Domestic Level of Countries:

- UNSCR 2250 urges countries to expand the area of support for youth efforts, within the framework of building local networks and youth coalitions that contribute to raising awareness about the principles of human rights and the protection of youth and women rights. Moreover, they aim to increase coordination and networking processes among coalitions and youth networks and between official frameworks, especially the different related sectors, towards mainstreaming the needs of youth into cross-sectoral national strategies.
- UNSCR 2250 urges member states to support youth activities that contribute to processes of promoting a culture of peace.
- It also calls on member states to create cooperative and economic youth projects, and to encourage building a culture of social and economic resilience, by facilitating the process of registering and building the foundations of cooperative and productive work for youth.
- UNSCR 2250 calls on countries to develop the legislative system that contributes to expanding the circle of economic support for youth networks, activities and economic programs, thus contributing to removing economic and social obstacles, and open up access and participation of youth in the processes of development.

## At the International Level:

- UNSCR 2250 urges member states to increase, as appropriate, the [young people's] political, financial, technical and logistical support, "that takes account of the need and participation of youth in peace efforts, in conflict and post-conflict situations." This includes those being undertaken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Population Fund, UN-Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- UNSCR 2250 urges member states to take remedial steps towards meeting their duties, and stresses the vital role in addressing the conditions and factors leading to the rise of radicalization to violence and violent extremism among youth, which can be conducive to terrorism. This is by including the provision of advice and recommendations for peace-building strategies and ways to meaningfully engage youth during and in the aftermath of armed conflict.
- UNSCR 2250 also encourages member states to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts, and confront the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism that can lead to terrorism.
- In addition, the resolution encourages strengthening means of cooperation and co-

ordination among all concerned groups of civil society and from all political parties. It also supports adopting tailored approaches to countering recruitment of violent extremism and combating terrorism, and to promote the culture of peace, social inclusion and cohesion as an alternative to the other discourse.

### Disengagement and Reintegration

This pillar relates to post-conflict wherein the state returns to a state of relative calm and compatible working strategies are organized. This theme targets the state as well as young people; both those who participated in the military operations and those who did not. At this level, UNSCR 2250 states the following:

- Encourage all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to consider the needs of youth affected by armed conflict [among others] in several aspects.
- Coordinate between the three sectors: the private, public, and civil sectors, in developing national action plans towards increasing employment opportunities for youth. Each sector shall thus carry out its task within its specialization and design memorandums of understanding that reflect youth needs in terms of empowerment, training, and employment.
- Coordinate among sectors to train and educate youth in accordance with the needs of the local market. This requires organized work between the education sector, the private sector and the ministries of labor and planning. This is to align education and training with the needs, and also integrate concepts of development and peace within the educational curriculum.
- Support youth-led organizations concerned with instilling a culture of human rights and aid them in their projects in a way that contributes to raising the level of youth participation in the free labor market.
- Regarding this pillar and the local context, it is worth noting that Palestinian youth are still under occupation, and we have not yet reached a stage of post-conflict. Accordingly, the Palestinian youth demand that the state parties assume their responsibilities towards ending the Occupation and support youth to fulfill their right to self-determination; a right guaranteed in the universal declaration of human rights.

## Section Two

# Practical Manual on UNSCR 2250





## Preamble

We would like to present this practical part of the manual as reference documents for the implementation of international resolutions that focus on peace and security, namely UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 2250. The documents also consider both of these international resolutions' subsequent work and are based on the rules of International Humanitarian Law, the CEDAW Convention, and General Recommendation No. 30. Collectively, these documents form a coherent and reference package that includes a set of international mechanisms to protect human rights (particularly youth and women's rights) in armed conflict and occupation. We therefore recommend referring to them when examining UNSCR 2250

The YWCA of Palestine, much like its sister associations, aims to build the capacities of young leaders in different parts of the world. It acknowledges the importance of building specialized national teams of young community activists, who are equipped with the knowledge, skills and mechanisms for the protection of young people - particularly those affected by armed conflict and occupation.

This manual was developed specifically by focusing on UNSCR 2250 that relates to youth, peace, and security. Our hope is that young leaders, as well as many institutions that work with youth at the national and regional levels, will benefit from the valuable content provided in this manual. It is the first document of its kind that discusses the mechanisms for studying and using UNSCR 2250 by trained groups and young leaders.

The manual stresses the importance of embodying the principle of organized cooperation and coordination between youth groups from various effective public institutions and frameworks, and the integration of civil society institutions specialized in the various stages of implementing UNSCR 2250

## On Participation: Practical Activities

### Session #1

### Subject: The Important Role of Youth in Peacebuilding and Security

**Duration:** One hour.

**Training needs:** Papers, pens, flipchart, and colored paper.

**Training methods:** Brainstorming and discussion.

**Session objective:** Providing participants with key knowledge about the importance of youth participation in building peace and security.

*One of the following options for presentation - if available:*

- A speech of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake: <https://news.un.org/ar/story/2019/07/1036951>

- A working paper that includes statistics on the reality of youth participation in peacemaking. This paper must be prepared during the implementation of the session because the numbers change and the information needs to be continuously updated.

<https://www.un.org/ar/sections/issues-depth/youth-0/index.html>

**Session progress steps:**

#### First activity: Brainstorming

The trainer puts forth several questions on the flipchart and asks the participants to answer them:

- Do young people have a different role in armed conflict than other groups within society?
- What is this role?
- Do armed conflicts and occupation impact youth differently than other civilians?
- When did you feel the impact of armed conflict and occupation: before, during, or throughout the stages of conflict and negotiations, or is it post-conflict?
- The trainer takes notes on the flipchart.

## Second activity: Bilateral Working Groups

Participants are divided into two groups and start group work for 15 minutes. The trainer asks each of the two groups to analyze the information that was taken during the first activity, in terms of causes, results, effects, levels of difference in impact, and types of violations that Palestinian youth are exposed to under Israeli Occupation.

An in-depth discussion follows regarding the concepts and written information, all the while linking them to the important role of youth in decision-making according to UNSCR 2250

After the prescribed time expires, the trainer asks both groups to disperse and observe the other groups. Participants then gather themselves in large groups as per the compatibility of the answers - meaning that the groups which have similar answers form one large group.

The presentation of the results and a general discussion follows.

At this point, the trainer gives time for questions, clarifications and comments.

### Outcomes of Session #1:

Participants will have deep understanding of the importance of youth participation in decision-making.

Participants will possess the mechanisms by which to analyze the impact of armed conflict on the lives of young people.

Youth will have the key proficiency to use international tools for protecting their rights and confronting the violations that youth are exposed to under occupation.

### Main focus points:

The trainer should be familiar with the pre-training readings that relate to the reality of youth under occupation.

The trainer has to take into account that the designated topic will be challenging to discuss. Therefore, the trainer's task is to facilitate the topic by presenting examples from the actual situation on the ground.

UNSCR 2250 addresses the reality of youth in armed conflict and urges states to recognize the important role of youth in peacebuilding.

Youth constitute the largest percentage in societies (they make up 30% of the Palestinian society). Therefore, it is crucial to integrate them in the decision-making process and ensure that they are represented fairly.

Youth are the most targeted group in armed conflicts and occupation. They face all forms of violations and are being systematically targeted.

Organized youth work is the means to protect their rights during and post armed conflict.

**Duration: 90 minutes.**

## Session #2

## Subject: Introduction to UNSCR 2250

**Training needs:** Pens, papers, flipchart.

**Training methods:** Discussion and brainstorming.

**Session objective:** Knowing the historical background of the unanimous adoption and scope of UNSCR 2250.

*There is a link to a film in the supporting films page.*

**Session progress steps:**

### First activity: Brainstorming

The trainer opens the session with a key question:

- Who has knowledge about UNSCR 2250?
- What are your comments on UNSCR 2250?
- What is the Resolution about?
- Who is the target group for UNSCR 2250?
- Do young people, especially those who live in situations of armed conflict and war, need a resolution of their own?

The trainer provides an extensive summary and focuses on the main points - as based on the group's answers and analyses.

### Second activity: Working groups

- The trainer divides the participants into four working groups. Each group has a number. (Numbers are from 1 to 4).
- The trainer distributes copies of UNSCR 2250 and UNSCR 1325 and asks the groups to work on clarifying the difference between them. Each group will work on a theme:
- Group No. 1 works on the participation theme.
- Group No. 2 works on the protection theme.
- Group No. 3 works on the prevention theme.
- Group No. 4 works on the disengagement, reintegration, relief and recovery.
- The groups are asked to outline the differences on colored papers and place them on the wall. They will then present the work results through a group representative.

- The trainer concludes with a general discussion about UNSCR 2250, as well as an intensive presentation on the resolution's themes, and the difference between them.

#### Session Outputs:

- Participants will become adept with UNSCR 2250 and its historical background.
- Participants will have knowledge of the legal frameworks of reference and international covenants related to UNSCR 2250.
- Participants will gain understanding about the complementary work between UNSCR 2250 and UNSCR 1325 and the relationship between them.

#### Instructor directions and focus points:

- The trainer should give all participants an equal opportunity to raise their questions and inquiries, and to express their points of view.
- In the event that participants do not have sufficient knowledge about the contents of the international resolution and its references, the trainer will present a summary of the rules of International Humanitarian Law, the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights, General Recommendation No. 30 of CEDAW, and the Security Council resolutions (such as 1325 and others) emanating from the peace and security agenda.
- The trainer can perform another additional activity to help participants deepen their understanding and knowledge.
- It is important to emphasize that the UNSCR 2250 relates to the protection of youth rights in armed conflict, and to point out the significance of the Resolution's date of launching.
- Highlight the international resolution's themes, namely participation in decision-making, protection, prevention, partnerships, relief, recovery and reintegration.
- Focus on the foundation of participation, which is the pillar of youth engagement in decision-making and peacebuilding. Also focus on the relationship of the Resolution with UNSCR 1325.

### Session #3

## Subject: Youth Participation in Political Decision-Making

**Duration:** 90 minutes.

**Training needs:** Pens, papers, flipchart, and worksheet

**Training methods:** Presentation, brainstorming, working groups, and discussion.

**Session objective:** Learning about the ways and mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making as per UNSCR 2250.

**Session implementation steps:**

#### First activity: Youth participation in decision-making.

- The trainer presents a theoretical introduction on the importance of youth participation in decision-making, and the impact of this on achieving sustainable development.
- The trainer hears from the participants about the importance of youth participation in decision-making. After this, the trainer asks the participants about the obstacles and challenges that prevent youth integration in decision-making.
- What follows is a general discussion and a summary of the observations made by the groups during the presentation.

#### Second activity: Working groups

- The trainer divides the participants into four groups. (Groups are numbered 1 to 4).
- The trainer distributes work papers to groups. The papers include statistics related to the percentage of youth representation in political decision-making, on the Palestinian level. These papers must be prepared and updated by the trainer, as approved by the polls of the Central Bureau of Statistics.
- Groups are asked to read, discuss and analyze their paper, and present the main points to the large group.

#### Third Activity: General discussion

The trainer asks one of the volunteers participating in the training to read the notes that were written on the flipchart by the groups. The trainer asks the large group to assist the volunteer in classifying the information according to specific headings, the level of participation in decision-making, challenges, opportunities, and means to reach decision-making.

The trainer gives space for questions and discussion.

### Session Outputs:

- Participants will become knowledgeable about the methods and mechanisms for youth participation in decision-making, in accordance with UNSCR 2250.
- Participants can prioritize the work to increase the rate of youth participation in decision-making.

### :Guidance to key points

- Look into the reasons for the weak participation of youth in decision-making, such as the societies' culture and the stereotypical view of youth.
- Consider the challenges facing youth participation in decision-making.
- Analyze the relationship between youth participation in decision-making and achieving sustainable development.
- Highlight the importance of youth's presence in decision-making and public life, and the impact of this on pressing youth needs on the decision-making table.
- Understand the role of UNSCR 2250 in protecting youth rights to participate in public life.

### Session #4

### Subject: The Reality of Youth Representation

More information: Analyzing the reality of youth representation within the national committees formed by the prime minister (such as the committees for: reconciliation and ending the division; negotiation; human rights; violations' documentation; legislation harmonization with agreements; enforcement of UNSCR 1325, CEDAW, and others).

**Duration: 60 minutes.**

**Training needs: Pens, papers, flipchart, and worksheet.**

**Training methods: Presentation, discussion, and statistics worksheet.**

**Session objective: Becoming adept in analyzing the reality of youth in the creation of public life according to UNSCR 2250, and its implications for civil and social peace.**

**Session implementation steps:**

#### First Activity: Role-playing

- The trainer asks the participants to divide into four groups. Every two groups form a team: one of them represents the official side, and the second represents the civil society or youth groups. They are asked to select a general societal issue and to prepare information and statistics about it.
- The trainer asks the groups to play roles, so that each team negotiates about the societal issue and tries to influence as much as possible. Meanwhile, the large group writes observations on both the official team and the community team.
- The trainer writes all notes on the flipchart.
- A general discussion follows around the main points.

#### Second Activity: Brainstorming

- The trainer asks the participants about their opinion on: *What are the reasons behind the low rate of youth participation in decision-making?*
- The trainer then expands this question to future prospects: *What is required to be done in order to overcome this problem (in your opinion)?*

**Session outputs:**

The participants will have objective and accurate knowledge about the results of analyzing the reality of youth in the public sphere in accordance with UNSCR 2250, and its impact on civil and social peace.

### Main focus points:

- Equality and non-discrimination, which are foundational in discussing human rights issues, based on Article 9 of the amended Palestinian Basic Law.
- The right to political representation, which is guaranteed by international covenants to which the state of Palestine has joined (the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights).
- The commitment of the Palestinian state under the accession process to international conventions.
- Young people are an integral group and are not a problem; they have the right for fair representation and access to decision-making.

### Session #5

### Subject: Obstacles and challenges facing youth participation in decision-making

**Duration:** 60 minutes.

**Training needs:** Pens, paper, flipchart, and worksheet.

**Training methods:** Brainstorming, working groups, and worksheets (as per the number of participants).

**The session's objective:** Identifying the obstacles and challenges facing youth participation in decision-making and public life.

**Session progress steps:**

#### First Activity: Brainstorming

- The trainer raises an interrogative sentence and urges participants to understand its contents: "The Palestinian youth are not able to participate in public life, as they do not have enough experience to go through the experience!" What do you think about it?
- The trainer listens to the group's comments and answers, and records all answers on the flipchart.
- While taking answers, the trainer can intervene and provide some observations to facilitate the group's task.
- The trainer urges participants to express their full opinions on the subject.
- The trainer begins with an extensive summary of the aforementioned notes, while modifying some of the observations in order to organize the discussion.

#### Second Activity: Working groups

Participants will be divided into small working groups. The following worksheet will be distributed. Allotted time: 20 minutes.

Problem	Main reason	Obstacles/Challenge	Effects	Proposed solutions

The groups will identify the major problem and analyze the main reason behind this obstacle or challenge. What are the implications of this persisting problem on the lives of youth? Groups will come up with suggestions for solutions from the young people's point of view. The trainer will explain that each group is to select a spokesperson to present on behalf of the group.

- The trainer asks the participants to return to their places after the scheduled time ends to start the presentation and discussion process.
- Third Activity: Presentation and discussion
- The trainer asks the groups to present their results and discuss the notes.
- The trainer opens a general discussion on the main identified issues.
- The trainer conducts a general summary and discussion.

#### Session outputs:

- Participants will have the ability to identify the obstacles and challenges facing youth participation in decision-making and public life.
- Participants will have the necessary skills to present practical proposals, in order to increase the percentage of youth representation in decision-making.

#### Main focus points

- Participation in decision-making is a guaranteed right in all international conventions that the state of Palestine has joined.
- Participation in decision-making is an essential pillar of UNSCR 2250, and the state of Palestine must take the necessary measures to increase the proportion of youth in public life.
- The Palestinian Amended Basic Law guarantees this right, and thus the Palestinian state must change and develop the election law to pave the way for youth to take on high positions.
- The Palestinian youth population constitutes 30% in society, and they have the right to represent this percentage at the top decision-making positions.
- Among the challenges facing youth are social, economic and legal challenges, and thus the concerned authorities must contribute to overcoming these obstacles and ensure youth participation in the public sphere.

## On Protection: Training sessions

### Session #1

**Subject: Protection according to UNSCR 2250**

**Duration:** Two hours.

**Training needs:** Pens, paper, flipchart, and colored papers.

**Training methods:** Brainstorming and working groups.

**The session's objective:** Knowing the means of protection under international conventions and UNSCR 2250.

**There is a film link in the supporting films page.**

#### First Activity: Brainstorming

- The trainer begins with a general discussion on the UNSCR 2250 theme of protection, and its relationship in limiting the effects of armed conflict on the lives of youth.
- The trainer presents the protection's objectives during armed conflict, and then asks the participants the following:
  - What are the expected means of protection during armed conflict?
  - What means of protection must the state take during armed conflict?
  - What means of protection must civil society organizations take during armed conflict?
- Do youth, women and girls need special protection during armed conflict and occupation? If so, what could this be?
- The trainer writes notes on the flipchart using clear font.
- The trainer asks all participants to provide their comments and opinions about the questions raised for discussion.
- After completing the notes, the trainer conducts an intensive session summarizing what has been presented, while adding the significant notes which have not been raised.

#### Second Activity: Role-playing

- The trainer asks participants to divide themselves into two groups: One group represents the active youth non-governmental organizations, while the second group represents governmental organizations (specifically relating to justice).
- The trainer asks both groups to present a particular human rights violation that Palestinian youth face in their society.
- The trainer records the violation presented by the groups on the flipchart.

- The trainer requests the group focusing on non-governmental organizations to build an argument for protecting and defending young people whose rights were violated. Furthermore, the trainer requests the governmental organization (justice-related) group to make their claim against the violator.
- After completing the preparation, participants will arrange the hall in the form of a court and a courtroom. This will give them the space to taking the role of defendant advocate, and initiate litigation before the large group. Each will select members from their groups to play the roles.
- The trainer will supervise and take notes on what is happening in the hall of allegations and defense. The large group will also be requested to take notes on the accuracy of the information, monitor the violation, and observe the methods of defense and claim, as well as the style of building arguments.
- After the litigation is finalized, the trainer opens the room for discussion and then summarizes the discussion.

#### Session outputs:

- Participants will have accurate information about the means of due protection as per the international resolutions and relevant conventions.
- Participants will have a clear vision on the responsibility of the concerned parties (non-governmental as well as governmental organizations).
- Participants will be equipped with knowledge about the relationship between UNSCR 2250 and the provisions of humanitarian law, and the mechanisms by which to protect youth, women and girls during armed conflict.

#### Main focus points

- The trainer explains the legislative obligations imposed on the member states within the framework of international law.
- The trainer explains the specific situation of women, girls and youth during armed conflict and occupation, as well as the extent of violations they have been exposed to - whether sexual, physical or other.
- To highlight that states must take appropriate measures and means to protect civilians, women and children, youth, and work towards reducing the commission of crimes during conflicts.
- That the state must also rehabilitate shelter centers prior to the conflict and to provide psychosocial and health services with specialized staff in case of an armed conflict.
- Integrating youth in the search and investigation processes to reveal the scale and nature of the committed crimes, in order to initiate intervention programs that ensure protection for survivors of violence.
- Developing legislative frameworks to meet the needs of youth whose rights are violated during armed conflicts to ensure the protection of their rights, and to facilitate access to justice and fairness.
- Developing the legislative and penal system that criminalizes all forms of violence, and to raise awareness among security forces and police.

## Session #2

### Subject: Protection from Violence and Extremism

**Duration:** 60 minutes.

**Training needs:** Pens, papers, flipchart, and copies of UNSCR 2250.

**Training methods:** Discussion, theoretical introduction, working groups, and copies of UNSCR 2250 (as per the number of participants).

**The session's objectives:** Possessing knowledge of policies and mechanisms to enable youth to participate effectively in peacebuilding, and fostering a culture of tolerance and respect for pluralism.

**Session progress steps:**

#### First Activity: Discussion and theoretical presentation

- The trainer starts by asking: *What do extremism and violence mean to you? What are the policies and methods that may empower youth to contribute to peacebuilding? Do education advancement and providing needs-based job opportunities make young people a cadre of construction rather than destruction?*
- The trainer will listen to all of the participants' comments and answers while taking notes, and will intervene if he/she notices errors or lack of information.
- The trainer will urge all participants to participate in the discussion.
- The trainer will summarize the discussion, focusing on issues related to protecting the needs of youth, and creating a safe environment for them.

#### Second Activity: Working groups (for 30 minutes)

- The trainer divides the participants into five small groups and distributes copies of UNSCR 2250 to these groups.
- The trainer asks each small group to take one theme of UNSCR 2250 and discuss it collectively.
- The groups are to write down the main points and information for each theme.
- The groups will choose a representative to present on their behalf, while they record the information on a flipchart using clear handwriting.
- The trainer asks the groups to be prepared. They will put up their papers in the designated places, and the representatives will stand in front of the large group to begin the presentation.
- The trainer asks the group working on a certain theme (such as protection) to showcase their conclusions, and their representative will identify and present the intersections between their theme (protection) and the other themes. (For example, the in-

tersection between participation and protection; prevention and protection, building partnerships and protection; reconstruction and protection.)

- The trainer thanks the groups for their efforts and opens the room for discussion and questions to the rest of the groups. The trainer will also summarize the discussion, focusing on the points that should be known about the theme of protection.

#### Session outputs:

- Participants will have in-depth knowledge about the theme of protection from extremism and violence.
- Participants will develop their understanding about the intersection between the theme of protection and the resolution's other themes, as well as gain understanding about protection's broad concept.
- Participants will become acquainted with stakeholders' liability.

#### Main focus points:

- The emergence of extremism and violence due to the failure in meeting the needs of youth.
- Quality education, adequate job opportunities, and freedom of opinion and expression are the foundations for actualizing the principle of protection from extremism.
- Equality, non-discrimination, fair access to and ownership of opportunities, rational judgment, and transparency are considered key factors that embody the principle of protecting societies from armed conflict, violence and extremism.
- The importance of reviewing the theme of protection in UNSCR 1325 and relevant resolutions. It is crucial to review the articles pertaining to protection in the Geneva conventions and International Humanitarian Law provisions, particularly in what relates to special protection for women, girls and children during armed conflict.

#### Supporting papers - Attachments:

- A copy of UNSCR 2250.
- A copy of UNSCR 1325.

### Session #3

#### Subject: Protection Indicators as per UNSCR 2250 and the UN General Protection Indicators

**Duration:** 60 minutes.

**Training needs:** Pens, papers, and flipchart.

**Training methods:** Discussion and brainstorming.

**The session's objective:** Participants' acquisition of knowledge about the UN general protection indicators, identifying their applicability to the situation of youth in their countries, and becoming aware of the procedures and measures that must be taken by states to reduce the occurrence of violations during armed conflict.

**Sessions progress steps:**

#### First Activity: General discussion and summary

- The trainer explains the importance of knowing the existing protection indicators (whether quantitative or qualitative) as essentials tool for measurement.
- The trainer clarifies that having quantitative and qualitative indicators is instrumental in evaluating the intervention process to be undertaken by the state, towards implementing the protection measures in UNSCR 2250
- The trainer concentrates on recognizing the poverty indicators, especially if the state declared its adoption of UNSCR 2250 and developed its national plan.

#### Second activity: Brainstorming

- The trainer makes a quick presentation about the UN's theme of protection and its general indicators.
- The trainer then opens the room for discussion about the nature of the presented indicators and takes notes on the flipchart.
- The trainer summarizes the discussion and concentrates on the points related to taking the necessary measures to reduce violations against young men, women and girls.

**Session Outputs:**

- Participants will have ample knowledge about the UN's general protection indicators and identify their applicability on the situation of youth in their countries. They will also be equipped with knowledge about the procedures and measures that must be taken by states to reduce the occurrence of violations during armed conflicts.



### Main focus points:

- Concentrating on the steps to be taken by official bodies to activate the protection systems according to UNSCR 2250.
- Clarifying indicators and principal guidelines for the protection of human rights. The trainer may circulate copies to the participants during the session.
- Referring to the importance of setting indicators for each theme of the resolution (whether qualitative or quantitative), towards assessing the achieved progress in its implementation.
- Linking the protection-based themes and indicators of the resolution with the UN's general protection indicators towards ensuring the compliance of members states.

### Supporting papers - Attachments:

The general indicators and principles of the United Nations relating to protection can be reviewed along with the resolution's protection theme or using worksheet No.1.

## On Prevention: Training Sessions

### Session #1

**Subject: Prevention of the impact of armed conflict on the lives of youth as per UNSCR 2250**

**Duration: 60 minutes.**

**Training needs: Pens, flipchart, and papers.**

**Training methods: Brainstorming and presentation.**

**The session's objective: Knowledge about the effects of armed conflict and occupation on the lives of young people.**

**Session progress steps:**

#### First Activity: Brainstorming

- The trainer asks the participants to express their opinion on the effects of armed conflict and occupation on youth's life.
- The trainer begins by taking notes on the flipchart.
- The trainer asks the group to answer the following question: *Are youth under armed conflict and occupation affected more than other groups?*
- The trainer listens to all answers and writes them on the flipchart.
- The trainer then provokes the group with this question: *The youth are the ones who initiate violence and extremism, so it is justifiable for the conflicting parties to defend themselves and put an end to this extremism. What do you think?*
- The trainer gives everyone the chance to express themselves, and intervenes if necessary. The trainer then analyzes the comments presented by the group.

#### Second Activity: Theoretical presentation and summary

- The trainer starts by giving a theoretical presentation about the effects of armed conflict on youth, by using some of the youth's recorded comments.
- The trainer clarifies the theoretical dimension addressed by UNSCR 2250 regarding the impact of armed conflict and occupation on the lives of young people.
- The trainer conducts an extensive session summary, and then gives the chance for inquiries or comments.

### Session Outputs:

- Participants will have good knowledge about the impact of armed conflict and occupation on youth's lives.
- Participants will be able to analyze the situation of youth living under occupation, as well as gain insight about their guaranteed rights as per the relevant international resolutions.

### Main focus points:

- Youth are directly targeted in armed conflict, and they are subjected to all forms of violations.
- Resistance is a legitimate right under the International Humanitarian Law, and protection is guaranteed under the Fourth Geneva Convention.
- Wars, occupations and armed conflicts leave long-term impacts on the lives of youth.
- Young people are suffering more than others during armed conflicts and occupation, and they are subjected to intentional homicide, arrest, detention, enforced disappearance, wounds and abuse, limitation of freedom, and others.
- Young people have the right to defend their right to live a safe life with dignity.

## Session #2

### Subject: Prevention of Violence according to UNSCR 2250

**Duration:** Two hours.

**Training methods:** Brainstorming, theoretical presentation, and worksheets. **Training needs:** Pens, flipchart, and colored paper.

**Session's objectives:** Knowledge of the methods and means in preventing violence during armed conflict, as well as early warning methods in the stages preceding the armed conflict.

**Session progress steps:**

#### First Activity: Brainstorming

- The trainer presents a quick introduction about the ways to prevent violence during armed conflicts and occupation, and sheds light on responsibilities of the concerned parties to take protective procedures during armed conflict.
- The trainer opening the room for discussion so that participants express their point of view regarding the preventive measures and procedures stipulated by UNSCR 2250.
- *What is the role of the state in manifesting procedures to prevent violence?*
- *Is it possible to take preventive measures that would contribute to reducing violence during conflict?*
- The trainer will record the information and then summarize what was mentioned during the discussion.

#### Second Activity: Worksheet

The trainer presents a large (flipchart) worksheet with a set of sentences written on it, namely:

- *The impact of armed conflict on youth.*
- *Training armed forces on the rules of international humanitarian law is considered a preventive measure.*
- *Training justice and security sectors on the rules of international law with special protection for women, girls and children, reduces the prevalence of violence during armed conflict.*
- *Raising awareness and training of law enforcement officials is an important step that contributes to reducing violence during and post armed conflict.*
- *The inclusion of women, girls and youth within the justice and security sector reduces the intensity of armed conflict.*

- *Training cadres from the police, health and social sectors on psychosocial services for battered women and girls, will help reduce the impact of violence during armed conflicts.*
- *Developing monitoring and early warning systems helps predict the occurrence of violence, armed conflict or occupation.*

### Third Activity: Form small groups

- The trainer asks the participants to form working groups and review the worksheet recorded on the flipchart. It is also possible to distribute paper copies to the groups.
- Participants discuss the proposed points and make notes regarding the possibilities of activating and applying them in the local Palestinian context. They will express the difficulties they face during implementing them in Palestine (and mention the reasons behind those difficulties).
- The trainer records the words expressed in the discussion (in a clear manner).
- The trainer notes any observations that the participants have not made regarding the theme of protection.
- The trainer makes an extensive summary of the UNSCR 2250 theme of prevention.

### Session outputs:

- Participants will get to know the prevention methods under UNSCR 2250.
- Participants will be able to distinguish between due protection according to the International Humanitarian Law, and what is considered a violation under legal liability.
- Participants will identify the responsibilities of the conflicting parties for maintaining human dignity through following the methods and mechanisms that mitigate the impact of armed conflicts and wars.

### Main focus points:

- Review the theoretical part related to the Geneva Conventions.
- Member States of the Geneva Conventions shall take all measures prior to the occurrence of conflict at both levels of awareness and training armed forces.
- Member states shall take preventive measures before conflict or occupation occurs through training security and judicial sectors on the rules of International Humanitarian Law and special protection for women, children and civilians.
- The governmental institutions are responsible for training the cadres specialized in providing and privately handling psychosocial support services in the event of armed conflict.
- UNSCR 2250 guarantees protection of youth rights during armed conflict. Therefore, member states shall take measures for integrating youth into peacebuilding processes and maintaining civil peace. The state is also responsible to address all problems that may lead to chaos or conflict, such as equitable distribution of opportunities, reducing the unemployment rate, transparency and good governance, and other prevention measures.

## Session #3

### Subject: Prevention of Armed Conflict

**Duration:** 45 minutes.

**Training needs:** Papers, pens, flipchart and worksheet.

**Training methods:** Working groups and general discussion.

**The session's objective:** Identifying what can be done to avoid armed conflict, and to share experiences and knowledge with the group members.

**Session progress steps:**

### First activity: Working groups

The trainer divides the participants into small working groups and distributes the following worksheet:

Steps to avoid conflict	Responsible Entity/Entities
3-4 proactive steps	
Steps related to early warning	

The trainer asks the groups to work according to Figure 1.

After 20 minutes of work, the trainer asks the groups to present the results of their work for the large group.

- The trainer mentions that participants must take into account gender sensitivity while analyzing armed conflicts.
- After presentations are done, the trainer summarizes what was mentioned and confirms the indications that were put forward, while referring to those which were not presented by the groups.

### Session outputs:

- Participants will be informed about the stakeholders' responsibility to take preventive and proactive action prior to the occurrence of conflict and abuse.
- Participants will have knowledge about the specific indicators of armed conflicts.

### Main focus points:

- The government is responsible for taking preventive measures, and non-governmental organizations are not exempt from these measures, especially in the field of raising awareness and training.

- It is necessary for states to fulfill their obligations and respecting the rule of International Law and International Humanitarian Law.
- The state shall develop early warning systems and take proactive steps before the occurrence of the violation or conflict.
- Prevention is a stage that precedes the occurrence of armed conflict and all states are to take preventive measures - whether in situations of conflict or peace.
- Civil society institutions are responsible for the theme of prevention, including monitoring and documenting violations so as to restrict their widespread presence.

#### Supporting papers - Attachments:

The figure from UNSCR 1325 and the ESCWA guidebook.

## On Partnerships: Training sessions

### Session #1

**Subject: Building local, regional and international partnerships**

**Duration: Two hours.**

**Objectives: Knowledge of building partnerships at different levels and supplying groups with information about the importance of building partnerships and teamwork.**

**Training methods: Theoretical introduction, group work, and general discussion.**

**Training needs: Flipchart, papers, pens, and copies of UNSCR 2250.**

**Session progress steps:**

#### First Activity: Theoretical introduction

- The trainer presents the theoretical section related the importance of building partnerships between youth groups to form a pressure power in society, and thus contribute to influencing decision-makers to develop the legislative system to meet the needs of youth.
- The trainer points out that teamwork is one of the most important ways to highlight youth issues.
- The trainer demonstrates the importance of coordination and linking between local and international youth groups towards transforming public opinion in what pertains to the accountability system for perpetrators of crimes against youth during armed conflict, and putting an end to impunity.
- The trainer highlights that the theme of building partnerships, addressed in UNSCR 2250, is helpful in fundraising for youth institutions and coalitions that are active in defending the rights of youth and protecting them from violent extremism.
- The trainer opens the room for discussion while clarifying the concept of building partnerships stipulated in UNSCR 2250.
- The trainer summarizes the discussion in a way that helps the participants understand the concept clearly.

### Second activity: Group work

- The trainer divides participants into three small working groups and gives them the space to sit comfortably to discuss and exchange ideas.
- The trainer distributes copies of UNSCR 2250 and requests the group to review its introduction, and move on to the theme of building partnerships.
- The trainer requests the groups to answer the following questions:
  1. What is the form of partnerships required in UNSCR 2250? Give examples from the youth in your context.
  2. Who are the concerned parties with whom we can coordinate in order to build successful partnerships?
  3. What are the needs and requirements for building partnerships?
  4. What are the required support resources?
  5. The trainer asks Group number 1 to discuss the introduction and the concept of building partnerships on the local level.
- The trainer asks Group number 2 to discuss building partnerships at the regional level.
- The trainer asks Group number 3 to discuss building partnerships at the international level.
- The trainer points out that the groups will record their notes on large paper, and to appoint a representative for each group to present on their behalf.

### Third Activity: Presenting and discussing the results of the groups' work

- The trainer invites the groups to return to their places and prepare for the presentation, while drawing their attention on the importance of taking notes for discussion after completing the presentation.
- The trainer listens and takes notes about the groups' presentations.
- After completing the presentation, the trainer asks the groups to share comments and ask questions.
- The trainer answers the raised questions and clarifies the provided notes.
- The trainer summarizes what has been discussed, focusing on the main points stipulated in UNSCR 2250 in the theme of building partnerships.

### Session outputs:

- By the end of the session, participants will have knowledge about the theme of building partnerships as per UNSCR 2250.

- Participants will become acquainted with building partnership mechanisms, and to identify concerned parties and support sources specialized in supporting youth partnerships and coalitions.

### Main focus points:

- Building and forming partnerships, whether at the level of coalitions or networks, increases the success opportunities in addressing conflicts and rebuilding peace.
- Effective partnerships and coalitions are considered valuable preventive tools, as they share expertise and experience in the peacebuilding process (whether through governmental/non-governmental organizations or the private sector).
- UNSCR 2250 urges countries to support all youth trends that contribute to raising awareness about conflict prevention and establishing the foundations for development. As such, states shall support building partnerships at different levels.
- The concept of partnerships delves into the implementation and provision of support and assistance services, and is structured (on the internal national level) as follows: Increasing the space of support and assistance for youth efforts within the framework of building local networks and youth coalitions that contribute to raising awareness about the principles of human rights and the protection of youth and women's rights. In addition, increasing the percentage of supporting coordination and networking between coalitions and youth networks, and between official frameworks, especially the different relevant sectors, in order to integrate the needs of youth within the national cross-sectoral strategies.

## Session #2

### Subject: Building partnerships to shed light on youth victims of armed conflict and occupation

**Duration:** 60 minutes.

**Training needs:** Pens, papers, and flipchart.

**Training methods:** Discussion.

**The session's objective:** Identifying the mechanism of building partnerships.

**There is a film link in the supporting films page (A tale of three refugees).**

**Session progress steps:**

#### First Activity: Brainstorming

- The trainer draws a sun on the flipchart.
- The trainer asks: *What does the concept of building partnerships mean to you?*
- The trainer writes all answers on the flipchart and prompts everyone to participate.
- The trainer raises another question: *Who among you has participated in forming a youth team or group at your local community?*
- The trainer recording all answers on the flipchart. Other questions include:
- In your opinion, are there difficulties or challenges facing the formation of the team or group? What are the most prominent challenges?
- How can we overcome the challenges we face while building a team?
- What is the additional value that working within a team or partnership adds?
- As Palestinian youth, do you need to build local, regional and international partnerships?
- *Can we influence international and regional public opinion through building partnerships?*
- The trainer summarizes the discussion and provides relevant examples.

#### Session outputs:

- Acquiring knowledge about the mechanism of building local and international networks.
- The ability to link the role of networks with the theme of protection mentioned in UNSCR 2250.

#### Main focus points:

- The importance of supporting youth activities that contribute to the process of spreading the culture of peace.
- The necessity to support youth cooperative and economic projects, and to encourage building a social, economic and resilient culture. This by facilitating the process of registering and building the foundations of youth cooperative and productive work.
- Building partnerships is considered a remedial step related to the responsibility of states regarding their vital role in addressing the conditions and factors that increase militant conflicts that may lead to violence and violent extremism among youth, and could cause terrorism. It is thus crucial to include counseling and recommendations regarding peace-building strategies, as well as methods to meaningfully involve youth during and post armed conflict.

## On Relief, Recovery, and Reintegration: Practical Activities

### Session #1

**Subject: Youth integration in relief and recovery planning**

**Duration: 60 minutes.**

**Training needs: Papers, pens, and flipchart.**

**Training methods: Working groups, general discussion and role-play.**

**The session's objective: Empowering youth with tangible tools and practical means for the implementation of the relief and recovery phase.**

**Session progress steps:**

#### First Activity: Role-playing

- The trainer explains that participants will play different roles in preparation for the relief and recovery session. Each team will take one of the following roles at the national level:
  - An advisory team: This pertains to the importance of youth participation in the planning process. The team will illustrate the key reasons and suggest at least one mechanism for youth participation, in addition to the means for its optimal application and optional benefits.
  - A political team: Includes delegations participating in the relief and recovery process and providing aid. This team is opposed to youth participation in the planning process - they only participate in the distribution process. The team will demonstrate the reasons for its opposition of the participation of youth in the planning process.
  - The delegation leadership team: This has to prepare the discussion questions for both teams. It will also manage the discussion between both teams, having in mind the different viewpoints and depending on the arguments presented and justifications made, as well as review the factors that affect the level of women's participation.
- Each time begins the process of role-playing and discussion - presenting arguments and answers to the raised questions.
- The large group is asked to make notes on the performance of the competing teams.
- The trainer will record notes and discuss them.

#### Session outputs:

- Participants will have knowledge about the reasons hindering youth participation in the planning process for the relief and recovery phase.
- Participants will have the key information and due reasons in accordance with international resolutions on the importance of the role of youth in the post-conflict planning process.

#### Focus points:

- Reference to the points mentioned in UNSCR 2250 regarding relief and recovery.
- Focus on the key basic standards and main principles of the importance of youth participation in the relief and recovery process.

## Session #2

### Subject: Post-conflict, demobilization and reconstruction

Duration: 60 minutes.

Training needs: Pens, papers, flipcharts, and copies of background information on UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW.

Training methods: Practicing brainstorming on using international law as an advocacy tool.

The session's objective: Emphasizing the importance of relying on the international resolutions for advocacy at the local level, and achieving practical suggestions applicable to the participants' own context.

Session execution planning:

#### First Activity:

- Executing the exercise on an individual level. The trainer asks all participants to think about advocacy activities related to one or more international resolutions that support women's participation in the relief and peacebuilding processes. Individual participants are requested to make a presentation.
- The trainer chooses the idea according to the available time.

#### Second activity:

- This is a teamwork activity. Participants are divided into small groups. Each small group will propose a detailed advocacy activity, based on one or more of the international resolutions that support the participation of youth in the peacebuilding process. Each group will present their idea at the end of the session.
- The trainer will provide a summary of the discussion and concentrate on the related information.

#### Focus points:

- Emphasizing the importance of international laws and legislations in regard of obtaining work legitimacy even at the local level.
- Re-clarifying the international legislation status according to the different legal schools. A guide question could be: *Is the legislation degree higher than local laws, in case the state approved them, or are they at the same level?*
- Highlighting the ways to "translate" these laws and legislations into discernable messages to reach all societies and social groups.

#### Supporting films page during the training sessions:

- Second section/practical activities/Session #2/Subject: Introduction to UNSCR 2250.
- Film presentation.
- The trainer presents a documentary film.
- <http://ywbod.org/arabic/2015-01-13-20-00-14/2017-11-27-57-35/2250>
- A film is accessed from the page of the Youth Without Borders Association. The trainer will ask participants to provide their feedback on the film and to identify its main points. The trainer then asks one of the participants to provide a general summary of the documentary film.
- Second section/practical activities/Session #2/Subject: Introduction to UNSCR 2250.

#### Third Activity: Video presentation

- The trainer presents a short video about protection of a jurist within the international human law: <https://www.you-tube.com/wath?v=fYCG5pde81A>.
- The trainer asks the participants to take notes on the documentary.
- After finishing the video presentation, the trainer asks the group: What do you think about the video? What are your comments and observations regarding the offered information? Is there anything unclear?
- The trainer opens the room for discussion about the information related to protection during armed conflict and occupation.
- Participants will compare the information with the implication of UNSCR 2250, and the trainer will clarify the relationship between the rules of International Humanitarian Law and UNSCR 2250.



## On Partnerships: Practical Activities

### Session #1

**Subject: Building partnerships to shed light on young victims of armed conflict and occupation**

#### First Activity:

- Present a video with the story of three young refugees. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DmVLNYIKgPw/>
- The trainer asks the participants to take notes regarding the documentary film.
- After finishing the video presentation, the trainer asks: *What did you think of the youth story in the video? What is the relationship between the video's issues and building partnerships as stipulated in UNSCR 2250? What are your suggestions for active youth groups? What are your proposals to build an active youth network at different levels?*
- The trainer begins recording the information, opens the room for discussion and takes questions from the large group, who are asked to submit proposals for building a partnership mechanism.
- The trainer demonstrates how building partnerships as stipulated in UNSCR 2250 is an instrument to shed light on the reality of youth victims of armed conflict and occupation.
- The trainer summarizes the discussion and concentrates on the main points.

#### Supporting papers - Attachments:

- A copy of the background information on UNSCR 1325.
- Copies of UNSCR 2250.
- A copy of the CEDAW convention.

#### Worksheet No. 1 on Protection Guidelines

- The protection cluster adheres to the following minimum standards of protection in humanitarian work and guidelines:
- Respecting the basic humanitarian principles, which represent humanity, neutrality, integrity, independence, and doing no harm.
- Affected populations are the primary and main focus. They shall be actively involved in assessments and strategic design.
- Ensuring the complementarity of different needs according to age and gender, as well as asserting diversity at all levels of the interventions and protection activities process.
- Establishing adequate accountability mechanisms for the affected population, enabling them to measure the nature of the interventions, and addressing concerns and complaints.
- Empowering the affected population by developing self-protection capacities and facilitating access to the resources and information needed to claim their rights.
- Supporting the human rights initiative by actively participating in registering, analyzing and reporting violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as reporting national authorities and the UN concerned agencies about these violations (Source: Syria Protection Block).

For further information, please check: EU Council, The Guiding Principles on Human Rights, Brussels 6 / March 2016: <https://ec.europa.eu>

## About the YWCA of Palestine

The YWCA of Palestine is a membership-based non-governmental national women's association. It is affiliated with the World YWCA, which has a special consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Accordingly, the world movement and all its members abide by the United Nations resolutions and the sustainable development goals related to youth and women.

The YWCA of Palestine initiated in 1893 by informal groups of Christian women in Jaffa and was formally established in Jerusalem in 1918.

The YWCA of Palestine consists of four local associations located in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Jericho, and Bethlehem, in addition to the two multi-activity centers at the refugee camps of Jalazoune and Aqbat Jaber.



### **Vision:**

Women, especially young women as decision-makers, are agents of change and leaders in a society where equality, freedom, tolerance, justice, peace and dignity are promoted.



### **Mission**

The YWCA of Palestine empowers women and youth to demand, exercise and protect their economic, social and political rights.



### **The Thematic Areas of Work:**

- Leadership Development and Civic Engagement.
- Economic Justice.
- Just Peace, as instilled in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**YWCA of Palestine**

