



Youth, Peace and Security Act (H.R.6174)

The Problem: About **50 percent of the 1.4 billion people in conflict-affected areas** are under **the age of 20**. Despite the large population, **youth lack adequate representation** at the decision-making level, which undermines the impact of their community-level peacebuilding involvement. Moreover, as Rep. Grace Meng emphasizes, “it will be the young people who bear the burden of sustaining the peace...leading their society from reconciliation to prosperity.”

- As demonstrated in conflict-affected areas such as South Sudan and Somalia, **youth participation in community-based peacebuilding has been instrumental** in mitigating conflict, mobilizing support for peace agreements and distributing emergency relief within their communities
- In 2015, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2250 as it was deemed necessary for **Member States to implement measures** to promote youth participation in decision-making.

The Solution: The bipartisan Youth, Peace and Security Act will implement measures to **increase youth participation in post-conflict decision-making** in the following ways:

- Designate an employee of the United State Agency for International Development (USAID) as **Youth Coordinator**, tasked with **managing and overseeing youth-related activities in conflict prevention, resolution and recovery efforts**.
- Require the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator to develop and implement a comprehensive U.S. strategy to **integrate youth consultation, support youth peace builders** and create standards for analyzing age and gender data.
- Ensure that specific **implementation plans are included in the strategies** of relevant federal agencies (USAID, DoS, DoD). While also **encouraging partnered private sector entities and nongovernmental organizations** to carry out the strategy.
- **Establish the Youth, Peace and Security Fund** which will provide grants, emergency and technical assistance to youth-led civil society organizations and peace building implementers.

Supporters: The Youth, Peace and Security Act was introduced by Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), Rep. Susan Brooks (R-IN) and Rep. John Curtis (R-UT) as original co-sponsors of the bill.