

United Nations

Youth, Peace & Security Agenda

in Nepal

Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice



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Introduction

Affirming the important roles that youth can play in prevention and resolution of conflicts in any society, the United Nations Security Council in 2015 adopted Resolution 2250, a global policy framework that examines how conflict affects young people's lives, what must be done to minimize negative consequences of conflict on young people, and how youth may contribute significantly to the development of peaceful communities. The United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 includes five main pillars -- participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, and disengagement & reintegration -- which bring together a comprehensive agenda for action on youth, peace and security.

Several positive developments have occurred since UNSCR 2250 was adopted, such as the 2018 release of *Missing Peace*, an independent progress report which was mandated by the resolution. The UN Security Council has further adopted another resolution (2419) in 2018 which emphasizes the need for inclusive representation of youth in conflict prevention and resolution, including in the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements. UNSCR 2419 builds on the recommendations of UNSCR 2250 and addresses a particular subset of peace processes. The resolution specifically calls on relevant regional and sub-regional organizations to consider creating and carrying out policies and programs for young people in this regard, and to facilitate young people's positive engagement in them.

Two years later, in 2020, the UN Security Council passed yet another resolution related to Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) --Resolution 2535 -- which highlights the importance of youth in the prevention and resolution of conflict, and the establishment and preservation of peace. It calls on Member States to engage youth in peace and security-related decision-making processes.

Nepal's context

UNSCR 2250 recognizes that 'a large youth population presents a unique demographic dividend that can contribute to lasting peace and economic prosperity' if inclusive and effective policies are in place. In Nepal, the youths are defined as those between the ages of 16 and 40, and they make up 42.56 percent of the population, according to the national census of 2021. In local government, youth represent 42 percent of elected members, and in the House of Representatives, 25.66 percent. In this regard, the task ahead for Nepal is to translate this demographic dividend into material outcomes for peace, security, and development.

With UNSCR 2250, Nepal's National Youth Policy 2015 suggested several strategic policy measures related to youth empowerment and leadership development, youth engagement and mobilization in nation-building, diversion and rehabilitation of young people involved in crime and violence, and youth involvement in establishing sustainable peace and conflict resolution processes. It sets out a vision for implementation and monitoring through partnerships, collaboration, and coordination across government, non-government, and private sectors.

The five pillars of UNSCR 2250 (participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, and disengagement and reintegration) provide an analytical framework through which to assess Nepal's progress in engagement of young people in peace and security processes. In this regard, the Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice is concerned that across processes of building peace infrastructure, policy decision-making and implementation, and facilitation of peace dialogues, youth participation is starkly lacking.

Background to this report

Responding to this identified need to strategize towards youth engagement with peace and security in Nepal, the Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice (NFRJ), in collaboration with various partners including the Government of Nepal's National Youth Council organized a series of workshops between December 2023 and September 2024. Each workshop focused on a specific aspect of the YPS agenda:

The primary objectives of this workshop series were to:

- Examine the status of the YPS agenda in Nepal;
- Increase understanding of the five pillars of UNSCR 2250 among stakeholders;
- Explore ways to implement the YPS agenda effectively in the Nepalese context.
- Foster collaboration between government and non-government actors on YPS; and
- Identify challenges and opportunities for youth involvement in peace and security across Nepal.

The five-workshop series on Youth, Peace, and Security in Nepal yielded several key outcomes:

1. Increased awareness and understanding of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 and its five pillars among participants, including youth, government officials, and civil society organizations.
2. Identification of challenges facing Nepalese youth with regard to YPS, in the dimensions of participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, and reintegration.
3. Generation of actionable ideas and recommendations for implementation of the YPS agenda in Nepal, such as the creation of youth-sensitive policies, improving access to opportunities for young people in rural areas, and addressing structural inequalities that differentially produce and entrench disadvantage for young people.
4. Recognition of the need for meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes, peace initiatives, and policy formulation at all levels of government.
5. Emphasizing the importance of partnerships between youth organizations, government bodies, and civil society to effectively advance the YPS agenda in Nepal.
6. Highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach to the reintegration of youth affected by conflict, considering social, economic, and political factors.
7. Identification of gaps in current youth policies and practices, particularly in areas of protection, prevention of violence, and reintegration of conflict-affected youth.

Overall, the workshop series served as a platform for discussion, knowledge sharing, and collaborative problem-solving on YPS issues in Nepal, laying the necessary groundwork for collaborative, entrepreneurial and effective future action and policy development in this area.

I. A General Landscape of YPS in Nepal

Given the need to bring the issues of YPS into the fold of policy-making processes and programs in both governmental and non-governmental circles, Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice (NFRJ) organized the first workshop on YPS on 14 December 2023 in Kathmandu. The workshop examined the status of the YPS agenda in Nepal and sought to understand the differential positioning of various stakeholders with regard to the realization of the five pillars of the YPS agenda.

The five-workshop series was designed to progressively facilitate ideation on each of these five pillars in order. This first workshop of the series revealed the need to devise a coordinated national action plan for YPS in Nepal. 40 participants representing various organizations took part in the first workshop.

The workshop explored the UN Youth, Peace & Security agenda, highlighting the significant youth population in Nepal and the need to translate this demographic advantage into peace dividends. The session covered the five pillars of UNSCR 2250 (participation, protection, prevention, partnership, and disengagement & reintegration) and canvassed subsequent resolutions (UNSCR 2419 and UNSCR 2535), which further emphasize youth roles in prevention and security-related decision-making.

The session began with introductions and discussions on the importance of youth participation in peace efforts generally and also in Nepal. Participants emphasized that youth could bridge generational gaps to shape a better future and articulated the responsibility young people must take on for improving their nation.

Following that a presentation was made from NFRJ emphasizing the interconnection of the agendas for YPS and Women, Peace and Security, another UN Resolution on peace and security, Both women and young people's participation in peacemaking and decision-making processes in Nepal is critically lacking. and hence it requires more attention to the YPS Agenda and action by stakeholders and actors at all levels.

Group work

The next stage of the workshop sought to realize the potential of youth participation in shaping the YPS agenda in Nepal through group ideation. Participants were divided into five groups, each of which was allocated one pillar of UNSCR 2250. The groups were tasked with developing two potential programs or ideas for the effective implementation of their UNSCR 2250 pillar in Nepal. Each group's ideas were shared with the larger workshop.



A summary of outcomes and proposed programs arising from the group work is articulated below.

Group 1: Participation	Raising Awareness: Utilizing social media platforms by voicing popular representatives about the YPS agenda. Eg. podcast between a professor of Conflict and Peace Studies and Balen Shah. Policy: Separate quota for youth decision making space and inclusion budgeting and planning/taxation issues
Group 2: Protection	Pilot study regarding categorization of youth and their needs. Through internet security and capacity building we can create a database which can reduce duplication of work regarding YPS, curriculum development can be done and a safer space for youth can be created as a result of this study.
Group 3: Prevention	Need and necessity of youths should be contextualized with time and the participation and mobilization of youth in the mainstream and policy making level. (Implementation of the planning and processes that are adapted.) Social cohesion, respect and dignity of life of people regardless of any culture, race and caste. Awareness generation; Cultural orientation, exchange programs at local and national level (with bottom up approach); Respecting each other's practices and mobilization of youth (capacitated knowledge, fact base)
Group 4: Partnership	Reconciliation: (With governments and actors of conflict) To build and to restore broken ties and relationships. Interaction with concerned stakeholders through dialogues, storytelling, apologizing, trust building and compensation. Capacity Building: With related stakeholders (Government, I/NGOs, CSOs)
Group 5: Disengagement and Reintegration	Cross-party dialogues following events of violence. Skill development and activities for social integration to society in the government initiation.

The group work and presentation were completed with sharing of varieties of ideas motivating the participants and alarming them about the situation of YPS in Nepal and what can be the possible task that can be performed.



II. Participation

Meaningful participation of youth is needed in all phases of informal and formal peace, security and political transition processes, from pre-negotiation of peace processes to implementation, including in national and local level decision making, constitution-making, governance process and dialogues. Recognizing the participation of young people as an integral factor in building and sustaining peace, NFRJ and National Youth Council (NYC) collaborated to organize the second workshop of the YPS series on 25 January 2024 in Kathmandu, with a particular focus on the first pillar of UNSCR 2250 - participation. The workshop was attended by energetic participants representing various youth-led civil society organisations (CSOs) and government institutions, including the vice chairperson of the National Youth Council, Mr. Surendra Basnet. A total of 51 participants took part.

The second series of the workshop commenced with a welcoming address by Ms. Dichhya Shrestha (NFRJ), followed by a brief review of the previous workshop and an introduction round for participants. Participants expressed their belief that peace can be achieved through the efforts and participation of young people. The guest of honour, NYC vice chairperson, Mr. Surendra Basnet, emphasized the importance of youth participation in peace and security, highlighting the establishment of the National Youth Council and its efforts to involve youth in governance. He also discussed the challenges faced by young people and the need for more inclusive participation in national affairs.

Mr. Basnet highlighted the United Nations' decision to celebrate International Youth Day annually on the 12th of August in 1999, and Nepal's informal adoption of the day in 2004 by government and non-government organizations, who now regularly facilitate various events/programs focused on young people and their participation in public life on this day. It has been through such events that a discourse has emerged regarding youth participation and governance, and gradually, the need for separate policy governance mechanisms to engage and reflect the interests of young people became widely accepted. In response, the Ministry of Youth and Sports was established in 2065 BS (2008 AD), which opened a gate to the long road of engagement with young people in policy-making and peace-building.

Mr. Basnet further shared that the Ministry had prepared a draft of National Youth Policy for the first time in 2066 BS (2009 AD), acknowledging the status of young people, challenges faced and possible solutions in the context of Nepal. In 2072 BS (2015 AD), the revised National Youth Policy 2072 was released. In order to implement it effectively, that year, Youth Vision 2025 and a ten-year strategic plan were also released alongside the revised Youth Policy. These documents were approved by the Council of Ministers of the

Government of Nepal in 2072. Thus, Mr. Basnet emphasized, for the first time in Nepal, Youth Vision, a document with a concrete action plan, was prepared and endorsed at the federal government level for youth development. Through this process, the National Youth Council Act 2072 was established by the Government of Nepal as a central government agency for the development and mobilization of all Nepali youth, as reflected in the National Youth Policy 2072 and Youth Vision 2025 and the ten-year strategic plan. Along with the National Youth Council, there are 3 provincial youth councils; Bagmati Youth Council, Sudurpaschim Youth Council, and Lumbini Youth Council. Establishment of youth councils in the remaining 4 provinces is presently under way.

Mr. Basnet outlined that, as per Nepal's Constitution, people between the ages of 16 to 40 years are categorized as youth. That is further divided into two sub-categories: 16-24 years and 25-40 years. Young people between the ages of 16 to 24 have needs which are more focused on capacity development and learning, whereas the needs of young people between the ages of 25 to 40 are more focused on implementing those learnings and ideas into tangible actions and outcomes.

Youth participation is already manifest in governance in Nepal, Mr. Basnet outlined. Around 14,000 young people participated in the recent local-level election. 41% of representatives of local governments, such as Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or members, are young people (people below the age of 40). According to the census of 2068 BS (2011 AD), 40.35% of the population were young people, which has now risen to 42.56% as per the census of 2078 BS (2021 AD). Though the participation of young people at the local level of government (41%) is a positive indication, youth participation in politics at the national level is insufficient, at 12%. Mr. Basnet emphasized the need to highlight opportunities for young people's engagement in Nepali politics in a positive light, in order to facilitate effective participation. The National Youth Council is concerned about developing youth participation and has created a program called Namuna Yuwa Sansad Abhyas (Model Youth Parliament). Various activities have been conducted by NYC for the youths and to the youths, such as programs related to gender, environment, capacity development, and many more.

Following Mr. Basnet's presentation, Mr. Ram Tiwari from NFRJ presented on the topic of youth participation in peace and security, emphasizing the need for young people's meaningful involvement in peace processes and addressing structural conflicts. He highlighted the importance of youth perspectives and the need for a framework of "youth justice."

Mr. Tiwari highlighted that there are two main understandings of conflicts. One is if there is active physical violence, where people lose their lives and munitions are used. The other form of conflict is deeper, encompassing structural conflict, which occurs due to complex reasons, and which may not include physical violence. In Nepal, there are still deep structural conflicts - despite the physical armed conflict ending in 2006. UNSCR 2250 also aims to capture these structural conflicts. Mr. Tiwari explained that the cessation of physical violence does not necessarily bring an end to structural conflicts or bring about permanent peace or structural justice. Failure to address more underlying, structural conflicts can bring about other physical conflicts = many other conflicts arose after 2006, such as the Madhesh movements. The structural nature of the causes of these conflicts often obscures popular understandings of their origins and consequences, and problematizes attempts to secure a lasting peace.

Meaningful participation is critical in devising all mechanisms related to peace, right from their origins. Youth participation must be facilitated at various stages of the peace process, from pre-negotiation to implementation. Participation involves more than mere representation, which can be tokenistic.

As Mr. Tiwari describes, there is also a common misconception that the absence of guns, arms, and conflicts implies security. However, looking deeper, security must be seen as human security or structural security. In this regard, young people are considered to be the drivers and spoilers of peace. In order to secure a lasting peace, young people must be provided with the environment and capacities to secure peace and prevent its disruption. Mr. Tiwari noted that young people's perspectives are also often assumed by decision-makers rather than engaging with young people directly.

Group work

Following the presentations, a group exercise was conducted where the participants were divided into groups and were asked to draw a participation tree reflecting various aspects of youth participation in public affairs. Groups articulated some of the obstacles of weak youth participation, which were shown in the wall on the diagram, possible solutions to those obstacles, which were shown through roots, and the impacts of participation on youth and society, represented by the fruits of the tree.



Major highlights from each group are contained in the table below:

	Obstacles	Solutions	Impacts
Group 1	Space for participation- Though we have youths from diverse backgrounds (gender, ethnicity), we lack space for the youths to get involved. Lack of coordination among parties- Coordination and collaboration among parties to work for youth is lacking. Will for participation- Youths are hopeless from the nation and youths themselves have lower will to participate in activities related to the nation.	Creation of youth friendly policy to meet youth needs which can guide the youths in the right track. Proper classification of resources focusing on youths' capacity development should be there which will motivate youths' participation. Government as well as youths themselves should create opportunities for their development. Curriculum development in terms of developing youths' participation and creating awareness is needed.	Meaningful engagement of youths Involvement of youths in decision making.
Group 2	Lack of trust- Government lacks trust upon youths thinking that they are incapable of taking the right decision and right stand. Also, these youths have very less faith in the government with a feeling of politics as a dirty game. This results in less participation of youths. Lack of opportunities- Structural and hierarchy is being a major barrier of opportunities. Youths are provided with very few opportunities to get involved in a country; to remain employed and this creates lack of trust among the youths and the nation. Curriculum- We don't have updated curricula in our education system. Lack of proper curriculum has been creating hindrance in motivating youths to involve them in activities related to the nation and develop patriotic feelings among them. Stereotypes- Thinking of youths as not being capable to take right decisions and involve them in the policy making process has been a huge obstacle for youths' participation. Use of youths during conflicts- Youths have been used only during war/conflicts for the protest, rallies but are neglected	Need of curriculum with reasons for conflicts with strong patriotism and not only to know dates for exams. Funding for youth initiatives organization is needed as many youths' organizations are not able to continue their projects due to lack of resources. Inclusion of youths from around the nation is needed. Youths of not only Kathmandu valley but from east to west of Nepal should be provided with awareness about their rights. Employment opportunities are crucial to motivate youths to get involved in their own country. Development of youth oriented innovative ideas.	Inclusiveness Good governance Fresh perspective Recognition of issues and development of innovative solution Active participation Faith in system No conflict of interest

	during the process of policy making and action plans.		
Group 3	Youth friendly policies- Lack of youth friendly policies around the nation. Though there are few policies, there are no proper guidelines or ideas of using it properly. Idea of SDGs is there but there is a lack of ideas in implementing them at the ground level. Impact of globalization and digitalization- Youths are more inclined and interested in going abroad rather than staying in the state and contributing. For example, a youth has invested in agriculture farming but failed in getting profit. He/she gets demotivated as the nation has no such motivating factor to support the youths, to give them employment opportunities. Lack of motivation and promotion- Government lacks anything that promotes motivation among youths. No equal opportunities- Youths are not provided with equal opportunities. Youths of rural areas are not getting equal opportunities to put their voice forward and they have lesser access to information.	Improvement in the rehabilitation process- Nepal's conflict scenario is different from other nations in the world. We are more into internal and structural conflict. To create and maintain peace in our state we need to work on the rehabilitation process of the juvenile system. Representation and participation of youths in all aspects is necessary. Though we have been saying that politics is a dirty game, youths need to be active on their own to clean the politics and take the dirt out of it. Art and culture are a medium which reflects prosperity. If youths get involved in art and culture, there comes peace. Awareness on use of social media. Social media can be used in a positive as well as negative way. We can involve many youths through online media, for example through zoom, we can organize different workshops through which youths from around the nation can participate to learn and share.	Promotion of peace and prosperity. Inclusive youth participation. Motivation on youth and societies. Commitment and action of youth in the peace building process.
Group 4	Excessive use of social media- Youths are highly on social media. They do not pay full attention to the activity they are involved in as they are so into social media everywhere and anywhere. Lack of youths' interest- Youths show very less interest to get involved or participate in any activities related to the state as they have already lost hope and motivation. Lack of youth friendly projects- Youths are provided with the same old kind of training like barista training, beautician training. Application of new youth friendly projects as per the change of time is minimum. City Centric Programs- Programs like capacity building, workshops are carried out mainly in city areas. Youths from rural	Programs for youths need to be accessible to all throughout the nation. Projects and programs for youths need to be designed in a way from which youths feel that they are getting benefits out of it and not only participate in one more basic event. Collaboration between stakeholders is crucial. Different governmental and nongovernmental organizations should collaborate and work together for the betterment of the youths which will minimize the duplication of projects. Youths should be provided with the opportunities to be there at policymaking, implementation and judiciary level. Youths are the one who knows what they really want and it is	Inclusivity Transparency Sustainability Capacity building Innovative

	areas get very few opportunities to get involved in any activities. Love for foreign countries- Youths are influenced by the western culture, and services they might get there. Most of the youths are interested in going abroad rather than investing their skills and time in their own state.	good for them so along with the adults to guide, youths themselves should have a platform in policy making processes. Local governments should establish youth clubs through which youths can have a platform to present themselves, groom their confidence and ideas to participate at a higher level.	
Group 5	Lack of policy implementation- Though there are policies we have been lacking in implementing them as most of us are unaware of those policies and have been neglecting them. Unemployment- Due to unemployment most of the youths are focused on going to foreign countries as soon as they complete their undergraduate studies. Lack of opportunities have been a crucial hindrance for youths' participation in Nepal. Not involved in policy making- Youths lose interest in participating in any political activities as they are not involved in the process of making any policies projects.	Opportunities based on expertise are needed as youths have very few opportunities to work in the field of their education background. Recognizing the youths, their capacity and hard work is necessary as it motivates them to participate and invest their time. Revising laws and policies is vital as per the need and change of time. Youths' perspectives, needs and the approach of youths need to be acknowledged before making any policies and programs for youths.	Inclusive system Feeling of ownership Ensure good governance Peace and Security among youths

III: Protection

Organized on 29 March 2024, the third workshop of the series had a particular focus on the second pillar of UNSCR 2250 - Protection. The workshop aimed to explore aspects of protection for young people in relation to peacebuilding in Nepal by engaging with relevant stakeholders. Mr. Surendra Basnet, vice chairperson of NYC, was the chief guest of the event, who delivered the keynote speech. UNSCR 2250's second pillar aims to create an environment that is inclusive, safe, enabling, and gender responsive – accordingly, participants discussed issues and possible solutions related to the protection of young people in conflict in the workshop. 42 participants attended the workshop, representing various non-government and government organizations.

The workshop began with a welcome address and a brief overview of the theme of protection. Mr. Ram Tiwari conducted the session, discussing the UN YPS Agenda and previous workshops. A survey of participants was taken, which revealed that despite experiencing violence and knowing about available legal frameworks for redress, many young people hesitate to seek justice due to fear of societal judgment and mistrust in the court system.

The chief guest, Mr. Surendra Basnet, emphasized the importance of youth involvement in various sectors and the ongoing revision of the National Youth Policy. He outlined the efforts of the Ministry of Youths and Sports in leading the way for engagement of young people and encouraging their participation across other sectors – such as in the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Education – acknowledging the unique cross-cutting dimension of young people's perspectives and needs across policy areas. Mr. Basnet described the ongoing process of revising the National Youth Policy 2072, including ongoing implementation of young people's aspirations for the future of the policy across political, economic, and social issues. Further, Mr. Basnet highlighted the Non-Aligned Movement's Youth Organization (NAMYO) as a forum for young Nepalis' participation in public affairs at the international level.

Mr. Ram Tiwari's presentation highlighted key points on ensuring protection, justice, and human rights in relation to protection of young people in conflict, including awareness-raising campaigns, engagement with human rights institutions, safe spaces for youth, gender equality, and youth leadership for natural resource management. Mr. Tiwari highlighted the need to promote and support awareness-raising campaigns relating to youth, peace, and security as a combined agenda for youth-led justice. He emphasized the

urgency of engaging with national human rights institutions to improve human rights and justice system processes for young people, including youth access to legal aid and the justice system. Other priorities included supporting safe spaces for young people and young human rights defenders, promoting gender equality and addressing the structural causes of gender-based violence (GBV), and promoting youth leadership on natural resource management, climate justice and security.

Group exercises:

Participants were divided into five groups on the basis of interest, and were tasked with each addressing a strategic policy priority area. Each group had to discuss and articulate challenges to implementing the requisite changes and potential solutions for embedding the policy priority into practice.

Major highlights from each group are contained in the table below.



	Issues and Gaps	Possible Solutions
Group 1: Promote and support awareness-raising campaigns	Very few awareness raising documents are there in promoting prevention among youths. Lack of knowledge on recognizing violence. There is very little knowledge on what is youth violence and what causes violence among youths. Traditional stigma has been a hindrance.	Research on youth violence is necessary as it allows us to understand what is causing violence, how it is different from other violence and help to come up with solutions. Infusing youths' ideas while making strategies is needed. Documents such as flyers and brochures related to youth and security should be published to disseminate ideas among the masses.
Group 2: Engage with national and human rights institutions and enhance human rights processes on and with youth, and youth	Youths are missing in policy. No decentralization of institutions at local level. Presence of patriarchy prevalent in bureaucracy. Biasness on the basis of ageism.	Categorizing the youth population into different age groups to avoid overlapping of law and policies. Considering youth's active participation and inputs while establishing national and human rights institutions.

access to legal aid and the justice system.	Unacceptance of decision-making roles presented by youths.	Promote youth's participation based on qualification and experience. Introduce and implement moral education training on gender sensitivity to the ones who are involved in bureaucracy. Transparency in decision making.
Group 3: Support safe spaces for young people and young human rights defenders.	Safe space is a space where youths can share feelings and ideas without any hesitations, without being judged, which is inclusive, where their voice is not only heard but required actions are also taken. Lack of safe space for youths where they can share their feelings. No provision of safe space in our legislation.	Creating a space for youths where they can feel secure. Creation of clubs and forums where youths can share their inputs and ideas without any judgment. Promote youths and accept their sharing so that they can feel comfortable to share their ideas.
Group 4: Systematically promote gender equality and address GBV.	Discrimination on the basis of gender exists and females with disabilities have more challenges to face. Lack of knowledge about gender minorities (LGBTQI) creates hindrance to many youths as communities hesitate to accept their reality. Lack of understanding on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI). Existence of patriarchal thoughts doesn't provide equal opportunities among youths. Unequal opportunities among gender for the higher post in organizations. Lack of space to understand each other's background, where gender minorities lie and what they think about.	Awareness and campaigns are needed regarding GESI and its importance among the public. Policies should be strong to promote gender equality and its application should be proper. More training should be given to gender minorities groups to make them independent and enhance their capacity. Government, non-government and CSOs altogether must work on this matter as only one person cannot eliminate the existing discrimination and promote gender equality. Education, financial support should be given to female and other gender minorities. Media can play a vital role in promoting gender equality. Generalizing the task on the basis of gender should be discouraged by youths themselves. Creating a safe space among youths (intergenerational group) to discuss gender, their preferences and what they go through.
Group 5: Promote youth leadership for natural resource management, climate justice and security.	In the context of Nepal, it is seen that those with the power hold much more access to the resources. Youths are not allowed to access the resources. Education system has limited us to stay within the classroom but lacks to	Educating youths regarding resource management and climate justice is necessary from the beginning. Understanding and recognizing the leadership potential of youths is important.

	connect us with the natural resources and environment. Youths do not feel close and connected with the resources and feel obliged to maintain and protect the natural resources. Youths are encouraged to leave their indigenous land and move to the city for education purposes. They get very few opportunities to be connected with the natural resources found round them. Indigenous people are being moved to other locations away from where they have access to local resources. Activists involved in environment protection; climate protection are not encouraged but have threats.	State should take ownership in the field of security. State must understand the characteristics of the available resources for the proper use of it. Representation of youths in formal state mechanism. Conduction of dialogues among youths on natural resources management and climate justice in different areas like universities, rural areas, communities. Social media can be the best platform to talk about climate justice which can create awareness among a huge mass.
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IV: Prevention

The fourth workshop of the series was organized on 5 June 2024 at National Health Training Center, Teku. It focused on the third pillar of UNSCR 2250, Prevention, looking into aspects of prevention and youth in the context of Nepal. In addition, the work on a YPS milestone timeline, as well as a video screening on YPS prepared by NFRJ were shared in the workshop, and discussion on YPS was facilitated. A total of 25 participants took part in the workshop.

The session was opened by a discussion on personal experiences with violence, prompting participants to share their encounters and potential prevention strategies. The discussion emphasized the importance of creating inclusive environments for youth in promoting a culture of peace. Key points included the need for quality education for peace, platforms for youth media makers, equitable education, and addressing challenges faced by youth in Nepal.

A presentation by Ms. Dichhya Shrestha (NFRJ) highlighted the causes of youth radicalization and the importance of facilitating political socialization to prevent radicalisation. She also stressed the need for understanding different identity groups, accepting diversity, and collaborating with stakeholders to promote peacebuilding and violence prevention. The pillar 3 of UNSCR 2250 encourages inclusive and enabling environments where young people from diverse backgrounds are provided with the necessary support to implement conflict and violence prevention programs and efforts. This pillar also articulates the need to create policies for youth which positively contribute

to peacebuilding efforts by ensuring young people's social and economic development. Acknowledging that it takes coordinated, all-of-community action to prevent youth violence, this pillar encourages the establishment of mechanisms to promote a culture of peace and disincentivize the use of violence among young people.

The workshop emphasized the crucial nature of providing quality education for peace which equips young people with the ability to engage constructively in civic structures and inclusive political processes. In order to support and implement conflict and violence prevention campaigns, establishing opportunities/platforms for young media makers in both social media and traditional media will be beneficial. This should form part of a wider strategy of both formal and non-formal education on violence prevention. In the context of Nepal, youth face many barriers to involvement in peace building and violence prevention, including discrimination, mistrust from the community, and the intervention of politicians in inclusive participation processes.

Two major dynamics which contribute to youth radicalization and violence merit attention. On the one hand, young people may become involved in political violence due to unemployment, peer pressure, poverty, and frustration with status quo arrangements, all of which can be aggravated by the experiences of inequality and discrimination. On the other hand, the young people may become engaged in political violence to achieve access to a source of power, security and opportunity. It is therefore that stakeholders need to play proactive roles in minimizing such political violence by spreading awareness and understanding of political socialization amongst young people. Understanding political socialization within our circle (home, family, friends and community) is a key to determining how young people may be incentivised to value certain political ideologies. Rather than taking a narrow approach of encouraging young people to follow discrete political parties and ideologies, family and friends can facilitate a broader political understanding among young people, empowering them to take a critical approach to political ideologies and parties and make decisions based on their values and interests.

A presentation from NFRJ by Dichhya Shrestha further emphasized that, in order to promote peacebuilding and violence prevention among young people, understanding of different identity groups, acceptance of diversity, and promotion of collaboration are necessary. Addressing different forms of violence and spreading awareness in diverse

communities is important. Collaborating with related stakeholders and institutions can prevent violence and promote peacebuilding.

Subsequently, a group exercise was facilitated by Ms. Jyoti Mandal of the Youth Initiative. Four groups were formed and Ms. Mandal allocated each group to a topic. The topics were:

1. Youth and political violence
2. Youth and mental violence
3. Youth and gender-based violence
4. Youth unemployment and violence



Each group was requested to discuss, highlight, and share the causes, current status, and ways forward towards solutions on the mentioned topics.

Key learnings from each group are contained in the table below:

	Causes	Current Status	Ways Forward
Group 1: Youth and Political Violence	Socio-economic disparities: Unequal access to resources, opportunities (education, employment, economic opportunities). Huge gap between marginalized youth groups and a common youth group. Political instability and lack of representation of youth in the decision-making process.	Targeted attacks on political leaders, activists and governmental officials. Difficulty in balancing demands of youths. Protest (outbursts) between youth & security forces (eg. Balkumari incident) Lack of decision-making system and policy practices.	Practices of the democracy process. Responsible and responsive actions and decisions by the government for the youths. Accountability and transparency. Facilitating dialogue between youths and political parties. Providing opportunities and encouraging youth in the political & decision-making process. Educating youths about government systems.
Group 2: Youth and Mental Violence	Identity crisis Employment scarcity Unaware, lack of knowledge on gender identity/ sexual orientation Pay gap: Pay scales for youths are low and are expected to work voluntarily. Peer influence: Peer pressure motivates youth to follow the paths or take actions with pressure.	Identity crisis: Youth have to go through academic pressure and do not have a way of expression of self. They lack spaces where they can identify themselves and know their own identity. Employment scarcity: Low scope of job opportunities, more theory-based knowledge than practical knowledge. This creates frustration among youths. Gender Identity: Stereotypes, negative representation, homophobia Academics: High expectations from parents/ teachers to meet certain goals/ scores. Pay Gap: Gender inequality and patriarchal ideas.	Formation of clubs with safe space in schools to express oneself. Creation of opportunities and funding for youth entrepreneurs. Spreading awareness. Emphasizing on the practical knowledge so that youths can showcase their potential and knowledge on the field. Equal opportunities and equal pay. Respecting an individual's boundary and not judging due to their age.
Group 3: Youth and Gender based Violence	Lack of awareness Patriarchal ideologies Toxic masculinity Suppression of gender	Awareness, engagement & initiatives of youths against gender-based violence and to promote equity.	Change in perception and more acceptance in terms of differences in gender. Equal access to resources.

	Distinction of gender roles	Change in legislation/policies (The Constitution of Nepal is a significant milestone for promotion of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) to ensure equal rights for women, the poor, person with disabilities, gender and sexual minorities, people living in geographically remote areas and people from other excluded or vulnerable groups). Acceptance and recognition	Make people more aware about their rights. Positive masculinity/ coordination and cooperation among genders. Formation of nurturing/ empowering groups.
Group 4: Youth unemployment and Violence	Lack of practical knowledge and skills. Huge gap in education and relatable job market. Nepotism; Those with abilities are not getting job opportunities as they deserve due to nepotism. Manipulation; Manipulated by family, community youths hesitate to choose the field of their interest	Brain drain Political instability as youths are involved in political violence. Economic recession due to unemployment. Lead them towards committing violent activities, substance abuse. Mental disturbance among youth. Lack of support and promotion for youth startups	Intervention through teaching and raising awareness about practical based knowledge from the primary level. Creation of more skill based and vocational training for youths. Motivate youths to identify the better opportunities that are available in their local area which they can monetize such as agriculture, tourism etc. Understanding the available resources and the process of monetizing is necessary.



V: Partnership and Disengagement and Reintegration

The final workshop of the series was organized on 13 September 2024 at the National Youth Council, Bhaktapur. It focused on Partnership, and Disengagement and Reintegration, the fourth and fifth pillars of UNSCR 2250 respectively.

The program commenced with introductions, followed by a recap of the previous workshops in the series. Mr. Dinesh Ghimire, Administrative Head of NYC, shared his remarks on NYC's efforts in youth development and their support for the YPS agenda. He shared that NYC had been lobbying concerned authorities to work on youth development. They have been working towards enhancing young people's capacity through programs relating to providing startup funding for enterprising youth. The NYC had also been preparing skills-based training programs and contributing to the revision of the National Youth Policy 2072. He briefly shared his remarks and understanding on the UN Youth, Peace and Security agenda, appreciating the work on organizing these five continuous series of workshops on the YPS agenda. He further acknowledged the YPS agenda as a crucial tool to raise awareness among youth, youth-led organizations, government, and other relevant stakeholders to work towards young people's security and the maintenance of peace.

Next, Ms. Alisha Dhungana, Vice President of Youth Initiative, presented on the fourth pillar of UNSCR 2250, Partnership, emphasizing the importance of youth involvement in peace and security and the need for partnerships at various levels. She stated that although violent conflict ended years ago, there remains a critical lack of enduring peace, particularly for young people. She acknowledged that youth-led organizations and CSOs are proactively working and leading projects for the development of young people, creating opportunities for young people, and building a peaceful environment. Ms. Dhungana described the impact and role of young people in Nepal's people's movement and post-conflict processes, and related this to the role of young people in conflicts regionally and internationally. In the current day, she argues, youth engagement is greatly influenced by political



instability, which is presently unfavourable to productive youth participation. Studies have shown that unless there is economic stability and political stability, the number of migrating youths to foreign countries will continue to increase.

As many NGOs and development organizations are dependent on funds provided by international agencies, in Nepal, productive partnerships are very important to maintain economic stability and employment opportunities. Ms. Dhungana highlighted that the rural-urban gap is one of the key barriers to providing equal opportunities to young people across Nepal, and that facilitating partnerships across rural and urban areas is vital to overcoming this challenge.

Ms. Dhungana highlighted some key accomplishments and examples of positive engagements and partnerships between youth and governments. Multilateral cooperation, such as the climate-related Paris Agreement, shows how working in partnership can result in shared commitments and accomplishments. Resource sharing such as AI and other key technologies can facilitate parallel technological advancement in countries. Cooperation and partnerships can mutually enhance the effectiveness of solutions – such as the circulation of vaccinations between countries and the sharing of production and distribution roles. Ms. Dhungana emphasized the need for an effective collaborative framework prior to successful execution. She stated that a planned framework can be more effectively executed and produce better results if conducted with proper coordination and partnership among government and non-government actors. In this vein, she highlighted the importance of mutual accountability and transparency in the working relationships between youth and government, and of educating young people regarding shared responsibilities and chains of accountability to empower them to hold government to account.

Finally, on behalf of NFRJ, Ram Tiwari presented on the fifth pillar, Disengagement and Reintegration, highlighting the challenges faced in reintegrating youth affected by conflict and the need for a comprehensive approach that considers social, individual, economic, and political factors. Various programs related to young people are conducted in Nepal, but the matter of Youth, Peace and Security has been discussed much less as a main agenda item. Discussion on young people wanting peace and security is mainly done as a cross-cutting matter only. Youth and women are taken as cross-cutting issues in many of the projects or programs, but these should also be major agenda items that need to be discussed, worked on, and looked into actively.

Mr. Tiwari highlighted that UNSCR 2250 emphasizes the singularity of young people as stakeholders, and the need to address young people's needs with separate attention and

effort in policymaking. It was with this understanding that the need for a unique YPS agenda in Nepal was identified, and the genesis of this workshop series was created. In UNSCR 2250's first pillar, participation refers to inclusive and meaningful participation of young people in peace initiatives like peace agreements. Representation of young people by someone else cannot have a meaningful outcome if the youth themselves are not involved. In the second pillar, protection, young people's protection needs are framed in terms of human rights and justice. Protecting youths from discrimination, inequality were the major highlights because discrimination, inequality, and injustice are correlated with conflict and violence. In the third pillar, prevention, the focus turns to preventing young people from becoming engaged in conflict, addressing the root causes of young people's involvement in violence, and facilitating the participation of young people in social programs, decision-making processes, and planning that divert from conflict.

What remains as a key challenge for the YPS agenda in Nepal is that the young people are often patronized, representing an institutional failure to recognize the valuable insights and creative thinking that youth can offer. Reintegrating youths back into society after they are affected by conflict has been both a challenge as well as a crucial process of achieving lasting peace and security in the country. Young people turned to conflict during the high period of civil war in Nepal for a range of reasons - some sought freedom, others pursued economic reasons, while others sought recognition. Stakeholders, both government and non-government, need to recognize those causes first to reintegrate them into society. Assuming their needs and requirements and providing services accordingly will not provide a lasting solution. Finding the cause of their involvement in the conflict, violence, and understanding what they really want can bring sustainable peace and security to young people and society more broadly.

Looking at the Nepali context, in some circumstances, 'reintegration' into society may in fact be integration for the first time for marginalized and excluded youth. In this regard, it is necessary to look to social, familial, economic and political aspects, both individually and collectively, in order to facilitate effective reintegration and achieve sustainable peace and security. The matter of YPS has been rarely invested in Nepal, and that study, research, and implementation of the agenda is a future priority of the associated CSOs.

Group Work

To facilitate discussion and share ideas, questions related to partnership and reintegration pillars were shared among the participants and they were given a meta card to scribe their ideas and thoughts on this matter.

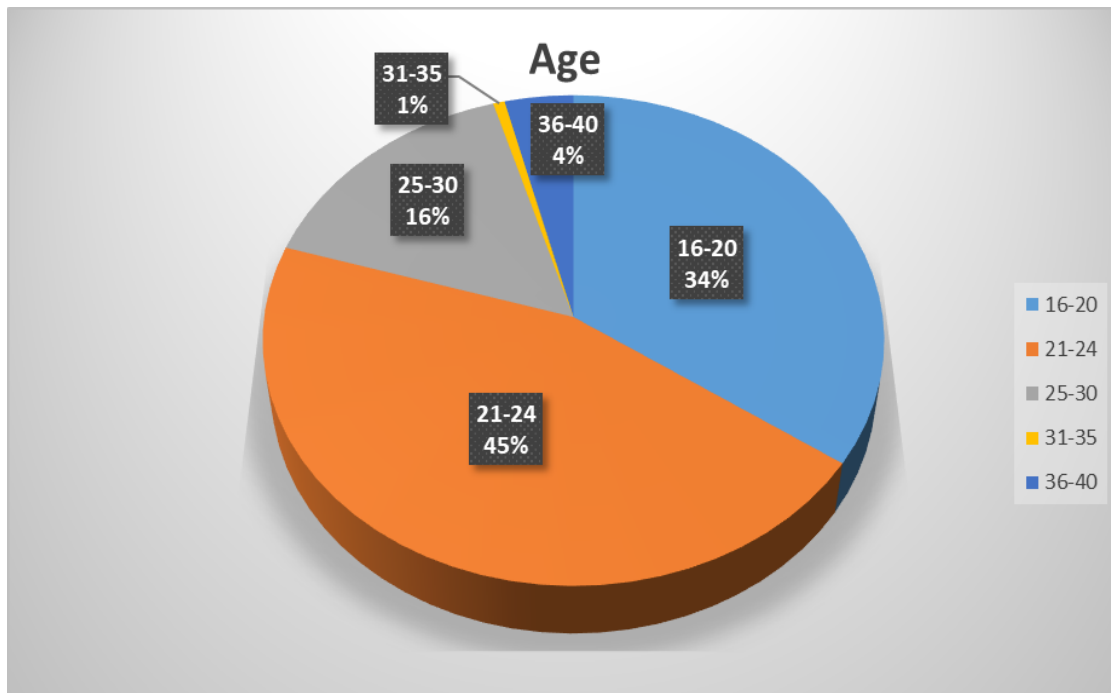
Questions posed to participants, and their responses, are contained in the table below:

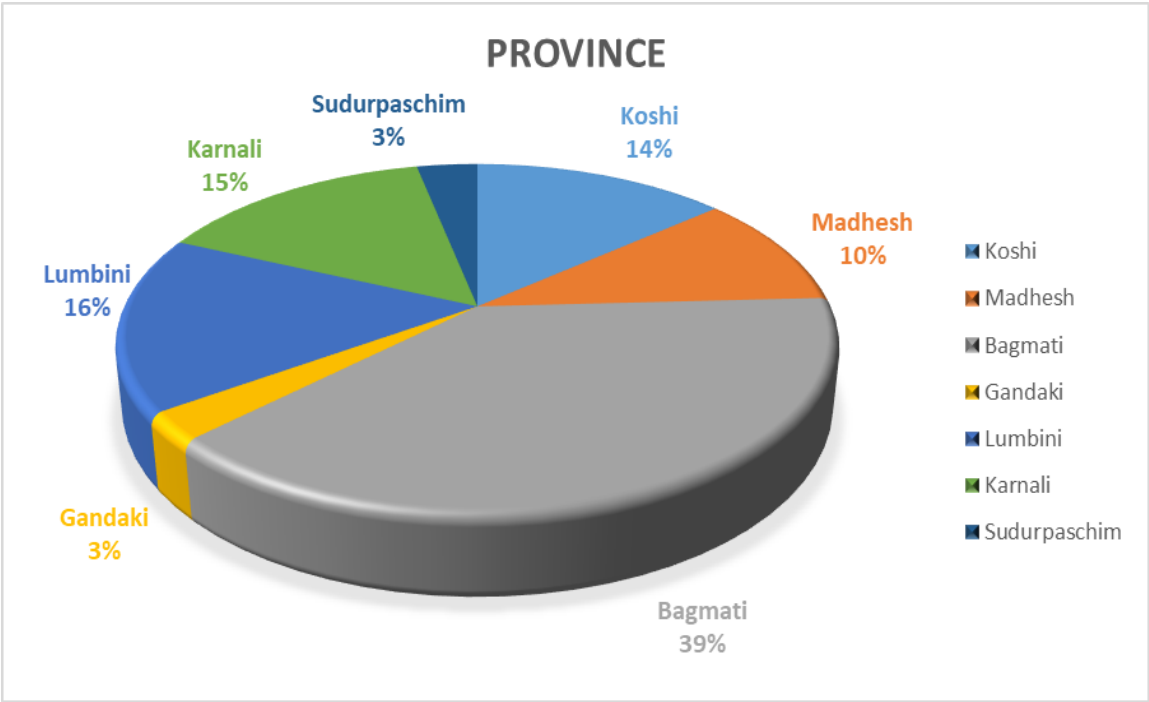
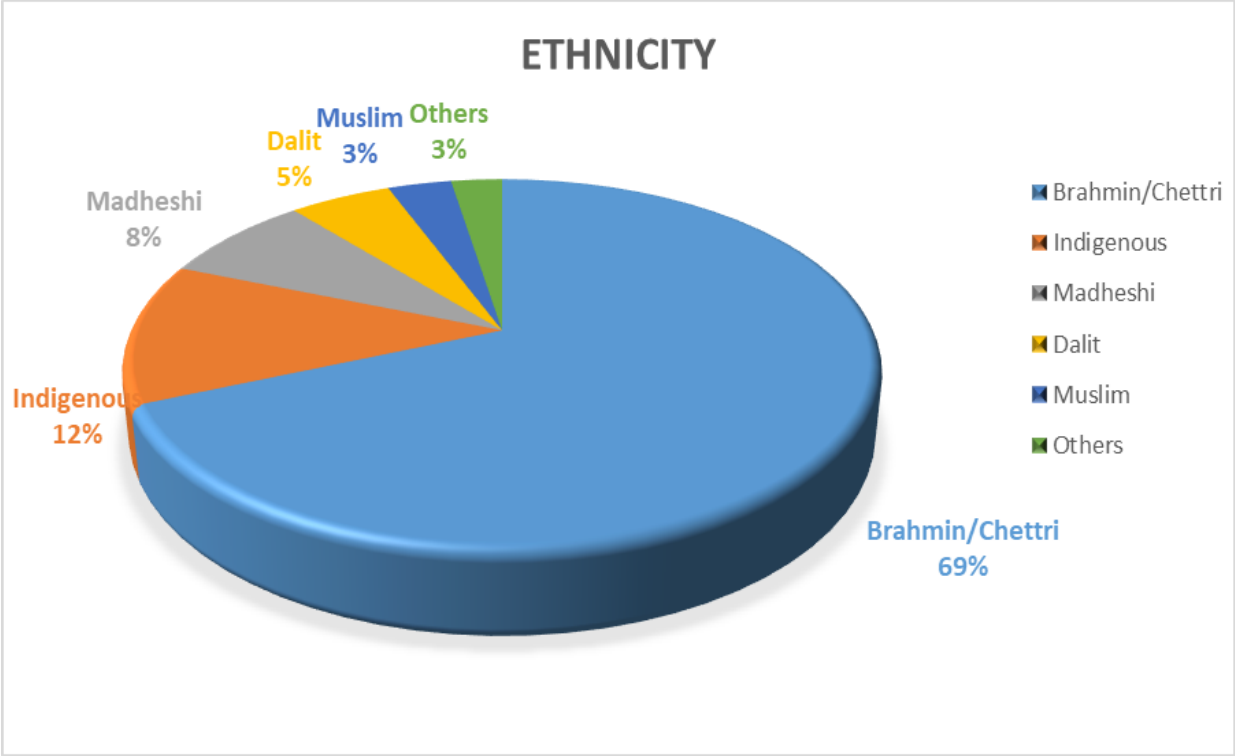
Pillar 4: Partnership	<i>Given Nepal's political instability, how can we ensure continuity in youth-related policies and partnerships across different governments?</i> ● Innovative ways of advocacy by youths to deliver needs of youths to government, build partnership with government in a non-violent way. ● Have a proper structure where youths can go and put their ideas forwards, share their thoughts where their voices will be heard. ● Having proper dialogues can contribute to meaningful partnership. ● We need to understand our own needs before raising a voice against the government. ● Availability of safe space for youths where they can discuss their ideas and create a common understanding and common ground can build a strong partnership. ● Strategizing our plans on the basis of laws and policies.	<i>How can we leverage the civil society sector to strengthen partnerships for youth, peace, and security initiatives?</i> ● Building a common understanding of Youth, Peace and Security Agenda among all CSOs. ● Public awareness ● Resources and knowledge are required ● Proper resource allocation
Pillar 5: Disengagement and Reintegration	<i>How can we reinforce the role of youth, in order to contribute effectively in the post-conflict phase?</i> ● Need assessment is necessary. Needs of youth should be understood before to reinforce them rather than forcing them to attain services that we like or what is convenient for us. ● Identification of issues can help in reinforcement as it allows to eliminate the main cause of violence from the root. ● Having proper and clear communication in a safe space with youths who need reintegration.	<i>Youth who took part in the conflict feel that they gave up a lot for little in exchange for their sacrifices during the conflict, losing out on possibilities for education, work and other aspects of life. How can we reintegrate those youths back into society?</i> ● Provision of skill development training to the youths. ● Creating employment opportunities for those youths. ● Continuous effort is crucial for sustainable results. ● Learning from history, identifying youths whose parents were involved in conflicts in the past and are now

		struggling should be given a chance to reintegrate in the society.
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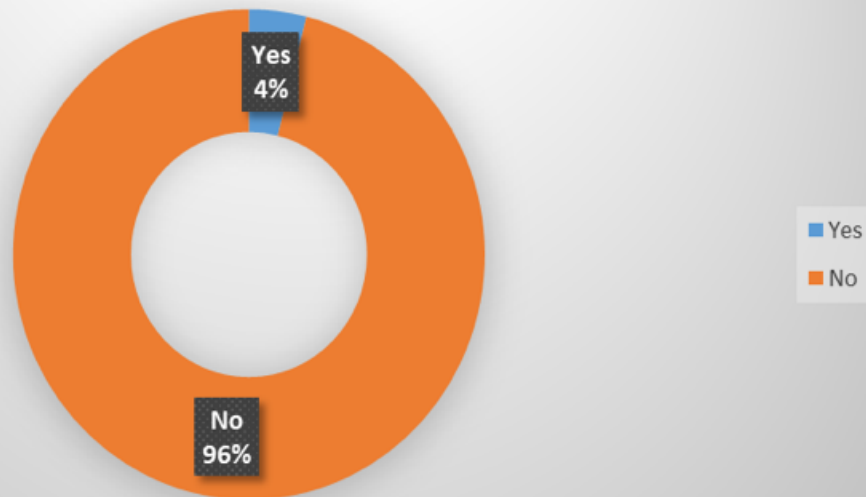
Results from online surveys

Focusing on the topic of youth, peace, and security, Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice, YUWA Nepal, Youth Initiative, Blind Youth Association Nepal and Youth Advocacy Nepal prepared a survey form, incorporating the suggestions of the National Youth Council to understand the views of youth on conflict, violence, peace and security. The online survey form was circulated among various youth-led organizations, college students, and other youth fora. The main motive of this online survey was to collect and understand young people's perspectives and understanding of YPS from all provinces of Nepal. The survey covered youths of various age groups and ethnic backgrounds from seven provinces of Nepal. Graphical representation of survey outcomes is contained in this section.

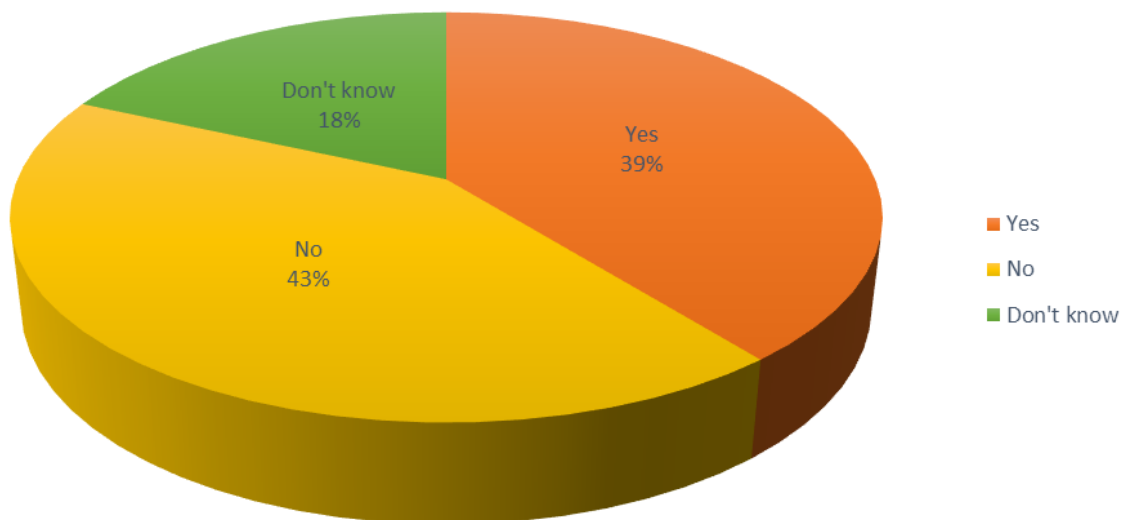




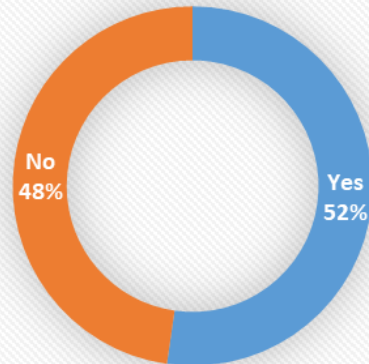
Do you have any form of disability?



Have you ever faced any form of violence specifically being youth?

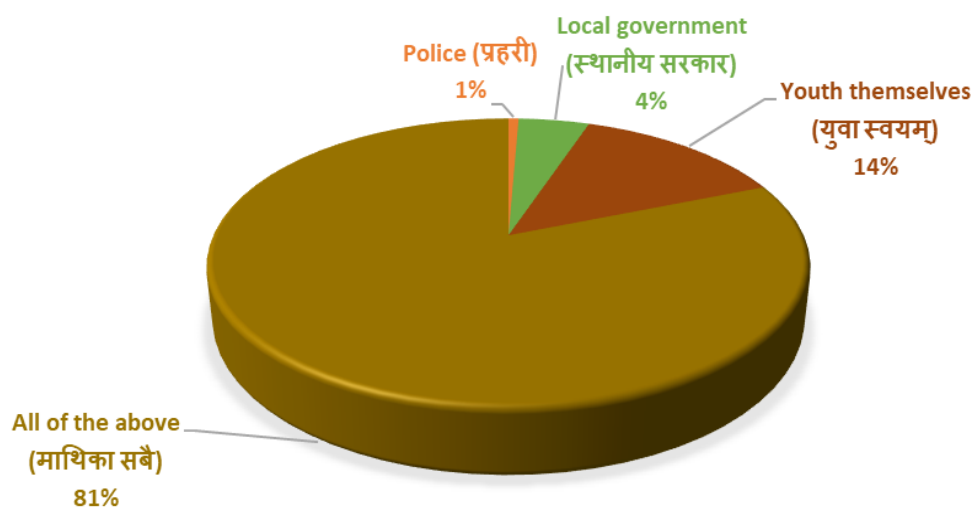


Do you know about youth, peace and security (UNSCR 2250) as an unique agenda?

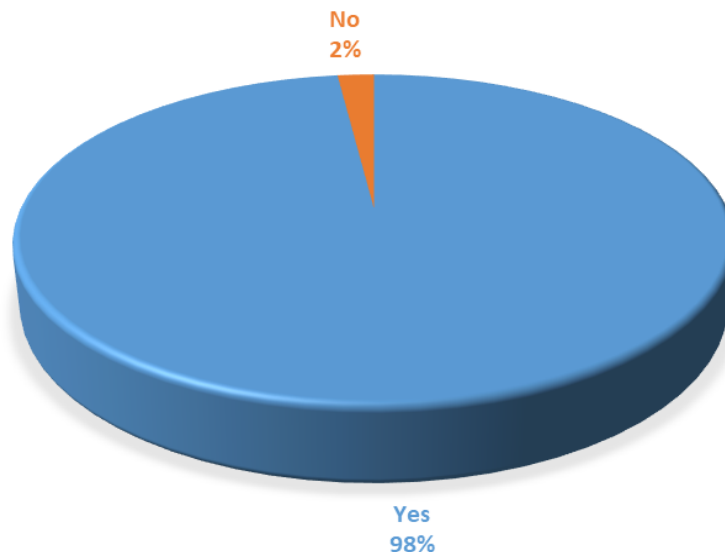


■ Yes ■ No

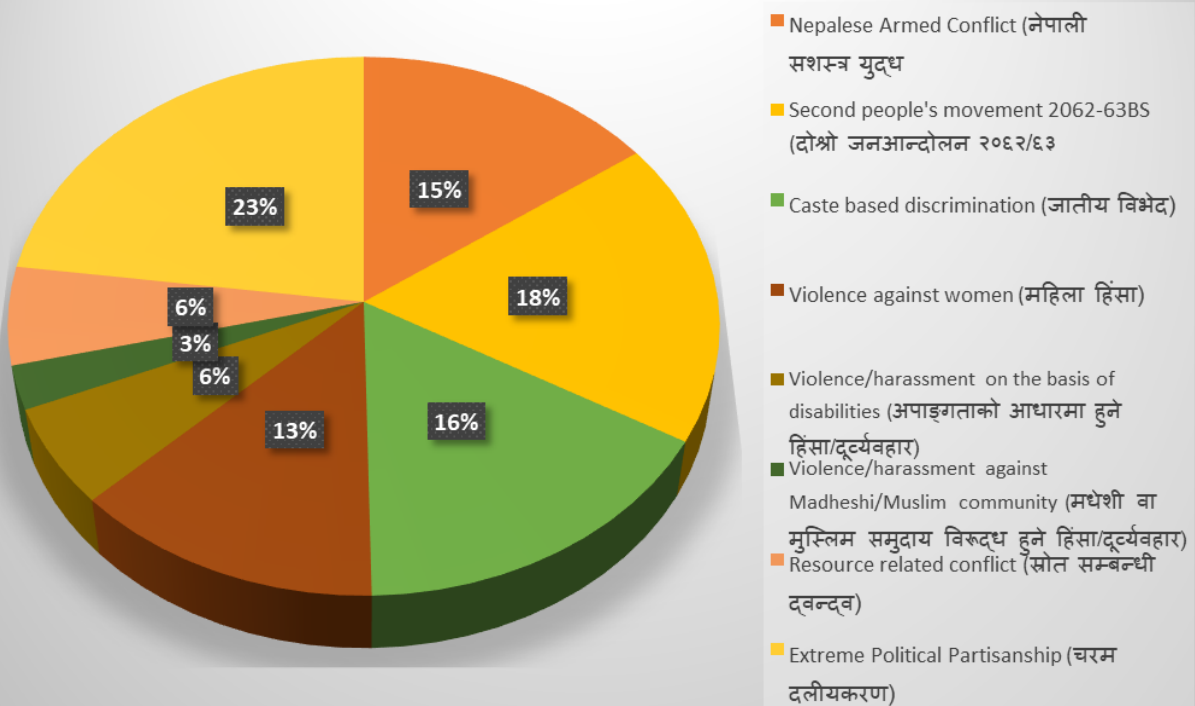
WHO DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY OF YOUTH?



DO YOU THINK YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED SPECIFICALLY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF YOUTH?



What do you think is the most intense conflict in Nepal?



Through this survey we can see that the majority of young people in Nepal agree that YPS should be discussed specifically from the point of view of youth.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this report highlights the significant efforts made to promote the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda in Nepal through a series of five workshops conducted between December 2023 and September 2024. These workshops, organized by Nepal Forum for Restorative Justice in collaboration with the Government of Nepal's National Youth Council explored the five pillars of UN Security Council Resolution 2250: participation, protection, prevention, partnership, and disengagement and reintegration. The series raised awareness about the YPS agenda among stakeholders, identified challenges facing Nepalese youth, and generated actionable recommendations for implementing the YPS agenda. Key outcomes included greater shared recognition of the need for meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes, laying the groundwork for successful partnerships between youth organizations and government bodies, and highlighting the importance of a comprehensive approach to reintegrating conflict-affected youth. The workshops and accompanying online survey revealed a strong consensus among Nepalese youth on the necessity of discussing peace and security issues from their perspective. This initiative has laid a foundation for future policy development and action to advance the YPS agenda in Nepal, addressing the unique needs and potential of the country's significant youth population in fostering peace and security.