



**Virtual youth-led dialogue leads to recommendations
for the UN Security Council Youth, Peace and Security Resolution**

- 23 April 2020 -

On 23 April 2020, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the EU Delegation for the United Nations, co-organised the first in a series of Virtual Dialogues, on Peace, Security and the position of Euro-Med youth (UNSCR 2250, 2419), in collaboration with the European Parliament’s Young Political Leaders (YPL) and EU-supported Programmes: Young Mediterranean Voices and Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange. The Virtual Dialogue surfaced young leader's views from 7 different countries on both sides of the Mediterranean. Their recommendations were integrated in the [EU Statement to the Security Council on 27 April, 2020](#), linked to the Security Council Open Debate on “Maintenance of international peace and security: Youth, Peace and Security”.

Young leaders highlighted their commitment to broadening their participation in the prevention and resolution of conflict, and underscored the necessity to incorporate their voices in bottom-up decision-making processes related to the Security Council’s youth peace and security agenda.

Scene-setters for the dialogue included: H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog, Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations and the Deputy Permanent Representative for France to the UN, Ms Anne Gueguen. Mr. Olof called for “*international solidarity and intercultural dialogue to counter Coronavirus effects*” and highlighted “*the need to find digital ways to engage young people in decision-making.*” Mr. Olof also expressed his will to “*support the Foundation’s work in the Mediterranean towards a better understanding of the region, to fight growing mistrust and polarisation*”. Ms Gueguen underlined the risks of “*insufficient investment in education*” and agreed with the demand for “*support to youth-led dialogue initiatives*”.

During the discussion, insights were provided on EU-supported Programmes for youth-led dialogue: “Young Mediterranean Voices” (co-funded by DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and “Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange” (funded by the DG Education and Culture). Marjus Cevoli, Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange alumni from Italy, highlighted how this platform could strengthen the network of youth peacebuilders by facilitating a “*safe digital space for intercultural exchange*”.

Coordinated by:



Co-founded by:



In partnership with:



Co-funded by
the European Union





The Virtual Dialogue provided the opportunity for young leaders to exchange their views with EU high-level representatives on how to be advocates for direct solutions, as well as to unlock incentives in youth work. Madame Elisabeth Guigou, and Mr. Nabil Al-Sharif, President and Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation (respectively), underlined the Foundation’s support to empower youth as *“drivers of peace and mutual understanding”*.

“Young people are invited to fight war, but not to peace talks” said Hitham El Himmali from Libya, stressing UN's crucial role to inclusively engage youth in the peace-making process. Fatma Zahra from Morocco, highlighted: *“African peace initiatives are driven by youth who believe they are drivers not subjects. There remains a need to overcome structural barriers and intergenerational gaps”*. Ammon Morag, European Parliament’s [Young Political Leaders](#)’ alumni, underlined the need to invest in unexplored *“digital spaces and platforms”* to engage hard to reach communities of young people. →

□ Please see the EU statement: https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/78041/eu-statement-%E2%80%93-united-nations-security-council-open-debate-youth-peace-and-security_en



Coordinated by:



Co-founded by:



In partnership with:



Co-funded by the European Union





Coordinated by:



Co-founded by:



In partnership with:



Co-funded by
the European Union

