



YOUTH AS PEACE BUILDERS

Speakers 2017

Maarit Feldt-- Ranta



Maarit is a Finnish politician, representing the Social Democratic Party of Finland. She has represented the electoral district of Uusimaa in the Parliament of Finland since 2007. In 2017, she was elected as the vice-chair of the party. Maarit is one of the most popular Finnish politicians.

Maarit is a board member at the Finnish Swedish Cultural Foundation.

She is passionate about social justice and youth participation.

Hussein Al Tae

Hussein works at the Finnish Peace Broker Crisis Management Initiative as Project Manager for Middle East.



He is a popular commentator and expert in Finnish. Hussein was born in Iraq but came to Finland as a refugee which for him is one of the reasons why he is working within peace meditation.

Achaleke Christian Leke

Achaleka is a youth civil society activist and peace advocate with over eight years of experience and a record of working with over one million young people in my execution/co-organisation of over 100 youth development and peace building projects.



Most recently he was named the Commonwealth Young Person of the Year 2016, thanks to his contribution to peace and the fight against violent extremism. He is 26 years old and was born in Fiango Kumba, Cameroon, a town renowned for youth involvement in violence such as jungle justice, kidnapping, and other socio-cultural issues. He says himself that "even though I was a victim of radicalisation and violence, today I have transformed from an agent of violence to an ambassador of peace and change."

Workshops 2017



From war to lasting peace – the role of girls and women

A workshop on the role of girls and women in the process from conflict to lasting peace. What is it like to be a girl or woman in conflict, why does the number of child marriages increase during conflict and what part does sexual violence play? In order to build lasting peace the voices and perspective of girls and women need to be included.

The world and the United Nations have developed tools such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security* to make sure that women's perspective are accounted for and that they are included in all parts of peace building. We have the tools and knowledge to create peaceful and inclusive societies but we still need support from all the people around the world to get there – what will your role be?

Join us, discuss and broaden your perspective on these themes and get the concrete tools to make a change!

*Don't worry if you have never heard about these – you will learn!

Linda Divkovic

Linda works as Peace, Security and Disarmament Officer at the United Nations Association of Sweden. Her work description includes advocacy, information and education on the United Nations peace operations, mass atrocity prevention and human security in armed conflicts.

Related to these areas, Linda has a special focus on the United Nations Responsibility to Protect principle, Sweden's troop contribution to the United Nations peace mission in Mali (Minusma), and girls in conflict. She is also involved in the advocacy work and awareness building of mine action and explosive remnants of war that the United Nations Association of Sweden conducts.

Noora Löfström



Noora Löfström works as an expert of international affairs at Alianssi, the umbrella organization for youth organizations in Finland since 2016. Before that she worked in Brussels for four years, at the Erasmus Student Network and the office of the European Liberals.

Peacework at grassroots

Rafi Rafouq

Rafi has worked with program and project design within youth inclusion in over 50 projects. He has 16 years experience of youth leaving extremist movements.



He has represented the Swedish government in the conference Call to Counter against violent extremism.

Miriam Attais

Miriam (M. Ed & M Soc Sc) is the leader of the Community Mediation Centre of the Finnish Refugee Council – that mediates conflicts in local communities and neighbourhoods. She is interested in the dynamics of polarisation and conflicts and in developing different ways to mediate and build peaceful local communities.



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