



Youth, Peace, and Security Act (HR 4838)

Young people have always played an important role in driving change and progress. From the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Civil Rights Movement to the young people fighting for climate justice right now, we have seen the power of young organizers countless times in the US. Youth around the world are currently fighting for their communities and their beliefs as well. That's more challenging in some places than in others. For example, about 1 in 4 youth are currently living in or otherwise affected by armed conflict.



Despite the important role that youth play in determining the future of their communities, the US currently lacks any comprehensive strategy to address youth in areas where conflicts are occurring. It is in desperate need of one. The Youth, Peace, and Security Act (H. R. 4838) would address that in several different ways:

- It would require that a Youth Coordinator be appointed within USAID to manage the distribution of resources related to youth, create a Youth Advisory Council, and more
- It would require the creation of a whole-of-government strategy to promote the meaningful participation of youth in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and recovery efforts
- It would authorize the Coordinator to provide grants, emergency assistance, and technical assistance to youth-led civil society organizations and youth peacebuilding implementers

This would be an important way to reduce conflict, as young people drive the future of their communities. If they are not included in peacebuilding efforts, are not included in determining what peace looks like, and cannot make their needs heard, conflict is likely to re-emerge in the future. Moreover, shutting youth out of access to aid limits the important work that many are already doing to promote peace and support people currently affected by conflict. The Youth, Peace, and Security Act would not only ensure that the role of youth is respected but also that more young people have opportunities to be civically engaged and actively involved in maintaining peace. These types of efforts have been successful in the past. For example, a six-year education and civic engagement program in Somalia contributed to a near 50% reduction in willingness to participate in or support political violence. The world could look a lot different if policies like these were implemented on a global scale.



The Youth, Peace, and Security Act is crucial to formally recognize the role of youth and provide more consistent support than has been seen in the past. It is a bipartisan effort led by Representative Grace Meng (D-NY) and Representative John Curtis (R-UT). If you want to get involved, please follow along on our social media ([@standnow](#)), check out our website ([www.standnow.org](#)), or reach out to us directly (via DM or our email, [info@standnow.org](#)). We would love to work with you!