

James Flynn
August 11, 2026



Global Highlights

Where Youth Leadership Takes Root



Ubuntu Africa Youth Assembly Series II

BUILDING HOPE AT HOME:

Ubuntu, Ethical Leadership, and Creating an Africa Where Every Young Person Can Flourish



 **ONLINE**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19
10:00–11:30 AM EST

FEATURED SPEAKER

**H.E. AMB. ARIKANA
CHIHOMBORI, MD**
*Founder and President of the
African Diaspora Development
Institute (ADDI)*

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This International Youth Day, we reflect on “**Different Contexts, Common Aspirations**” and explore the experiences and opportunities that help young people develop into purposeful, engaged leaders.

First, join the **Ubuntu Africa Youth Assembly Series II** on August 19 for a timely conversation on Ubuntu, ethical leadership, and creating conditions for Africa’s young people to flourish.

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Skills Shaping Tomorrow’s Leaders



GPF equips emerging leaders with character, digital competence, creativity, entrepreneurship, and hands-on leadership skills, helping them address real challenges, strengthen social cohesion, and contribute lasting value to their communities worldwide.

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The Lessons That Stay



What begins as a day of service can shape a lifetime. Young volunteers return home with character, friendships, deeper empathy, and a clearer understanding of how everyday action builds peace.

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When Caring for Nature Builds Peace



Across India, Nepal, Uganda, and Malaysia, GPF youth are protecting rivers, promoting sustainable homes, restoring ecosystems, and strengthening food security—showing how

environmental action builds trust,
responsibility, resilience, and peace.

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Inside GPF’s Flagship Youth Programs



GPF’s flagship youth programs create structured pathways for leadership, service, peacebuilding, and global collaboration, empowering emerging leaders to strengthen communities today while building networks and experience for lasting worldwide impact.

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Youth Leadership Across Regions



From the Americas to Africa and Asia, GPF is creating locally relevant pathways for young people to learn, serve, innovate, and lead. Explore how these initiatives come together to advance a broader vision for youth leadership development.

Explore Regional Initiatives

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What Skills Will Define the Next Generation of Leaders?

Wairimu Mwangi

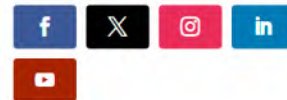
August 5, 2026

For decades, education focused on helping young people gain knowledge. Today, young leaders also need character, creativity, digital competence, entrepreneurial thinking, and the confidence to turn ideas into action.

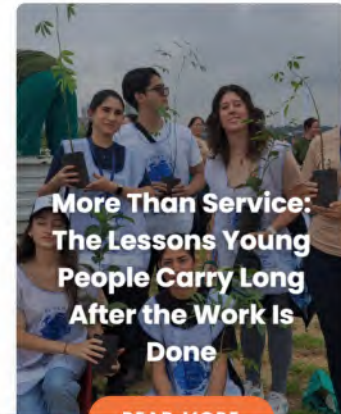
The Global Peace Foundation's (GPF) youth leadership initiatives are built around this reality. Across Asia, Africa, and beyond, programs such as the [Global Peace Leadership Corps \(GPCorps\)](#), the [Presidents' Fellowship](#) in Kenya, the [North Korean Young Leaders Assembly \(NKYLA\)](#), the [Global Youth Summit \(GYS\)](#) in the Philippines, and the [Global Youth Leaders Leadership Program \(GPLP\)](#) in Nepal equip young people with the skills and values needed

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innovation, and real-world experience.



Group photo from the GPLP community-level peacebuilding session led by Juan Camilo Mora Gonzalez

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Character: The Starting Point for Leadership

Every GPF youth program begins with character. Participants explore values such as integrity, responsibility, respect, and service while learning how these principles shape leadership decisions. Character education is not treated as a separate subject. It is woven into leadership training, community projects, mentorship, and teamwork.

This focus reflects GPF's model of Moral and Innovative Leadership, which encourages young people to pair ethical decision-making with creative problem-solving. The goal is to develop leaders who can earn trust, build relationships, and address challenges with both conviction and practical skill.

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Saksham Nari Proposal Writing Workshop

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Young people are often the first to identify challenges in their communities and the first to imagine solutions. GPF programs help participants transform those ideas into action.

In Kenya, the President's Fellowship provides mentorship, leadership development, entrepreneurship training, and community engagement opportunities. Fellows gain practical experience while working alongside mentors and peers who challenge them to develop solutions that create positive impact.

The Global Youth Summit in the Philippines also encourages innovation through collaborative learning, sustainable development discussions, and youth-led solutions. Participants engage with issues ranging from education and technology to climate action and community development, developing ideas that can create measurable change.





Raksha Adhikari presenting on the topic of "digital literacy" for fellow Global Peacebuilders.

Preparing Youth for a Digital Future

Digital skills have become essential leadership tools. Communication, collaboration, information management, and responsible technology use all influence how young people learn, work, and lead.

GPF's leadership initiatives encourage participants to engage thoughtfully with technology while strengthening critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills. Digital competence is paired with ethical leadership, helping young people use technology to advance education, social impact, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement.



North Korean Young Leaders Assembly 2025

Learning Leadership Through Experience

GPF's programs also emphasize learning through action.

The Global Peace Leadership Corps brings young people together

around peacebuilding, service, and leadership development. Participants gain practical skills in dialogue, conflict resolution, project implementation, and cross-cultural collaboration while contributing to initiatives that address local and global challenges.

In Nepal, the Global Peacebuilders Leadership Program helps participants strengthen communication, teamwork, self-awareness, and community engagement through workshops, dialogue, and service activities. Fellows gain practical leadership experience while exploring approaches to peacebuilding and social cohesion.

Programs such as the North Korean Young Leaders Assembly create vital opportunities for young people to strengthen civic responsibility, leadership capacity, and a commitment to the common good. As the first and only global leadership platform where young

North Korean escapees raise their voices on the international stage, help shape policy, educate the world, and lead the journey toward a peacefully unified Korea, NKYLA shows how youth leadership can advance freedom, dignity, and peace across borders.

A Generation Ready to Lead

The future will be shaped by people who can combine strong character with practical skills, embrace innovation without losing sight of values, and work across differences to solve shared challenges.

Across its youth leadership initiatives, the Global Peace Foundation is helping young people develop those capacities. Character education, entrepreneurship, digital skills, innovation, and leadership training are not separate goals. They are interconnected competencies that prepare young people to serve, create, collaborate, and lead. The result is a generation of young leaders equipped to solve problems, drive innovation, build bridges across differences, and contribute to the well-being of their communities.

Learn more: [Global Peace Foundation | Youth Leadership Development](#)

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Give to Youth Leadership Development



As emerging leaders, young people can play a critical role in peacebuilding, starting in their local communities. GPF youth programs, including the International Young Leaders Assembly, Global Peacebuilders Practicum, Global Peace Youth Forum, and Global Peace Volunteers, provide platforms for youth peacebuilding, cross-community, and intergenerational dialogue, leadership development, and capacity-building.

By showcasing practical peacebuilding models and GPF's unique values-based approach, these programs empower youth leaders to play an active role in their local communities, as well as make significant contributions to peacebuilding, security in conflict zones, and policymaking.

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More Than Service: The Lessons Young People Carry Long After the Work Is Done

Anu Lama

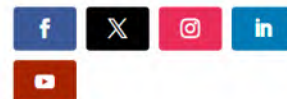
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"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." — Mahatma Gandhi

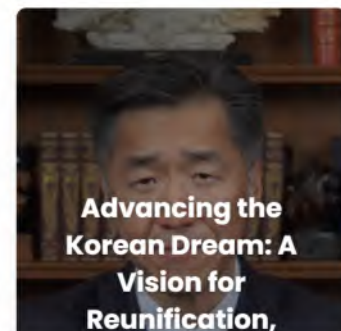
Community service has a way of changing the people who serve just as much as the communities they support. Ask a young volunteer what they accomplished after a week of service, and they will likely tell you about the water system they helped build, the bags of litter they collected, or the trees they planted. But ask them what they took home, and

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nurtures a lifelong commitment to serving others. Whether working in remote villages, planting trees, or mobilizing communities for environmental action, they learn that peacebuilding is not limited to extraordinary moments. It is also found in everyday acts of service and kindness.

As we celebrate International Youth Day 2026, we reflect on the intangible lessons of volunteerism that remain long after projects end and everyone returns home. These lessons continue to shape the next generation of peacebuilders.



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Global Peace Volunteers in Kuala Lipis

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The Humility in Service

“One of the most powerful lessons came from water itself. In the city, we take it for granted, but here, it’s survival. Building the dam from scratch helped me understand the effort and struggle behind every drop of clean water.” — Luqman, volunteer, Malaysia

In a world that moves quickly, where success is often measured by personal achievement and instant gratification, service invites young people to pause and see life through a different lens.

This lesson came to life in Malaysia when GPF Malaysia volunteers spent a week with an Orang Asli community to build a gravity-fed water system. The project demanded physical endurance as volunteers carried pipes through muddy forest trails and worked in challenging terrain. Yet the greatest transformation was not only the infrastructure they helped build; it was the perspective they gained.

Living simply without reliable electricity challenged volunteers to think more deeply about comfort, privilege, and necessity. They discovered that meaningful service is less about what we give and more about the relationships we build.

Read more about [building the gravity-fed water system in Ulu Semul](#).



GPF Paraguay plants trees at Plantatón, held at the Linear Park of Asunción's Costanera Norte

Leadership Begins with Stewardship

“As my first experience with the volunteer team, it was very fulfilling because I felt that I was contributing to both society and the environment. It

*a lot of fun!" — Francisco, volunteer,
Paraguay*

When we talk about leadership, we often associate it with influence or authority. Volunteering teaches something different: leadership begins with taking responsibility.

At Plantatón 2026 in Paraguay, GPF volunteers joined citizens in restoring green spaces through community-led tree planting. Rather than simply raising awareness about environmental conservation, participants took direct action by planting trees, restoring public spaces, and contributing to a healthier future for their communities.

For many young volunteers, each tree represented more than an environmental contribution. It became a lesson in stewardship. Like leadership itself, nurturing a tree requires patience, consistency, and long-term commitment to something greater than oneself. By working alongside neighbors and local partners, volunteers discovered that meaningful leadership is measured not by recognition, but by the willingness to serve.

Environmental stewardship, in this sense, became an expression of shared responsibility—one that strengthened both communities and the young people helping to shape them.

Read more about [Plantatón 2026](#)



Connections Across Differences

"Since coming to Korea, I have often heard the word 'unification,' but it always felt vague. Today, by taking part in this activity alongside both South and North Korean youth, I realized that unification is not some distant idea." — youth volunteer, Korea

Perhaps one of the greatest lessons of volunteering is that working toward a common goal can dissolve barriers that conversation alone cannot.

This was illustrated in South Korea when...

This was illustrated in South Korea, where young people from diverse backgrounds, including South Korean youth, North Korean escapees, Koryo-jin, overseas Koreans, and international students, participated in a plogging activity along the Han River. Organized by Global Peace Youth and the Korean Dream Crew, the event combined jogging with collecting litter, creating opportunities for participants to connect through shared action rather than shared background.

The initiative supported the broader vision of the One Korea Global Campaign by demonstrating that unity is built not only through dialogue, but also through shared experiences. Picking up litter together may seem like a simple act, yet it created space for trust, friendship, and mutual understanding to grow naturally. It reminded participants that peace is often built through ordinary moments of cooperation.

Read more about [Youth Plogging at Han River](#)

While every volunteer program is unique, the lessons they leave behind are remarkably similar.

Service teaches humility by reminding young people that every community has wisdom to share. It develops resilience by pushing them beyond their comfort zones. It cultivates leadership by showing that influence begins with action. It nurtures empathy by helping them see the world through the experiences of others.

Most importantly, service transforms the way young people understand peace. It shows them that peace is built through relationships, shared responsibility, and the willingness to serve something greater than oneself. Every cleanup campaign, every tree planted, every water system built, and every hour spent working alongside a community becomes an opportunity to strengthen the trust and cooperation that peaceful societies depend on.

The projects eventually end. Volunteers return home. The tools are packed away. But the lessons remain.

Across the Global Peace Foundation network, young people are carrying those lessons into their schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and future careers. They leave with more than memories of what they accomplished. They leave with a renewed understanding that leadership begins with service, character is shaped through action, and peace is built one act of compassion at a time.

As we celebrate International Youth Day, we recommit to supporting young people as partners in peacebuilding and leadership.

[Support GPF's youth leadership and service efforts](#)

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Growing Peace Through Shared Stewardship: How GPF Youth Are Transforming Communities Through Environmental Action

Anu Lama

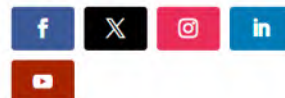
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One of the most enduring foundations for peace is a shared commitment to the common good. Whether standing up for a social cause or caring for the environment, peace takes root when people take shared ownership. Across the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) family, young people are putting this principle into action through environmental stewardship.

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Environmental stewardship and peacebuilding are

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ground, and environmental action cultivates trust, cooperation, and civic leadership.

From riverbanks and forests to homes and public spaces, GPF youth are working with communities to care for the environment we all share. In doing so, they help build bonds across differences, strengthen trust and cooperation, and nurture a sense of collective responsibility rooted in the vision of One Family under God.

Here are some environmental initiatives led by or engaging GPF youth around the world.

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Volunteers during a cleanup drive on India's Yamuna River.

1. From Restoring Rivers to Restoring Relationships

In India, GPF youth are helping revive the Yamuna River, one of the country's most significant rivers. Voicing the Yamuna 3.0, a campaign by GPF India, aims not only to clean and restore the river, but also to raise awareness about river conservation and encourage shared ownership among communities. The initiative shows how collective environmental action can bring people together for long-term stewardship.

Read more: <https://globalpeace.org/article/voicing-the-yamuna-gpf-india-calls-for-river-revival/>



Green Homes: Green Kathmandu Training on Making Soaps, Liquid Soaps, and Sanitizers

2. Environmental Peace Starts at Home

In Nepal, environmental action is taking root in homes and neighborhoods through small, everyday practices. Through initiatives such as Project Sparsha, Green Homes: Green Kathmandu, and WASH programs, youth, women, and local communities are learning about sanitation, sustainable household practices, and caring for their neighborhoods. These efforts show that stronger, more peaceful, and more resilient communities are built not only through infrastructure, but also through grassroots action.

Read more: <https://globalpeace.org/article/community-care-and-climate-gpf-nepals-march-for-environmental-stewardship-and-peace/>

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GPF Uganda in partnership with Waste Plus

3. Environmental Peacebuilding as a Model for National Transformation

In Uganda, young people are advancing environmental stewardship through values-based leadership, youth empowerment, and cross-sector collaboration. Through initiatives such as Waste Plus and Good Forests, GPF Uganda is bringing youth to the forefront of environmental peacebuilding. These efforts demonstrate how environmental action can support broader goals for community resilience and national transformation.

Read more: <https://globalpeace.org/article/gpf-uganda-advances-a-scalable-model-for-environmental-peacebuilding-and-national-transformation/>



Orang Asli farmers learning about syntropic farming at A Little Wild, Kota Tinggi

4. Nurturing Communities Through Food Security

In Malaysia, initiatives such as The Lost Food Project are helping revitalize land, livelihoods, and local communities. With goals to restore ecosystems, equip communities with regenerative practices, support food security, and improve market access, youth are helping advance practical solutions that strengthen resilience and community well-being.

Read more: <https://globalpeace.org/article/tackling-the-food-insecurity-crisis/>

Across these initiatives, young people are at the center. Whether restoring a river in India, promoting sustainable practices in Nepal, advancing environmental leadership in Uganda, or supporting food security in Malaysia, GPF youth are showing how environmental action can strengthen communities.

Environmental peacebuilding is not only about protecting nature. It is also about bringing people together through shared responsibility, cooperation, and service. As environmental challenges continue to grow, the world needs young people who are ready to take responsibility and lead with purpose. GPF and its chapters remain committed to providing youth with the space to learn, grow, and become leaders for peace.

Support GPF's Youth Leadership Development efforts:
<https://globalpeace.info/youth-leadership-development>

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Investing in the Next Generation: Global Peace Foundation's Flagship Youth Leadership Programs

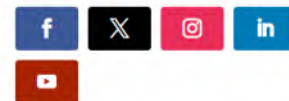
Wairimu Mwangi

July 31, 2026

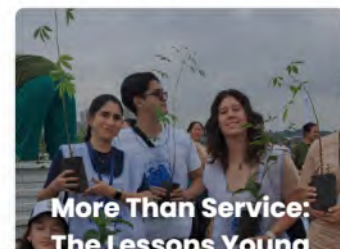
Young people represent both the greatest opportunity and one of the most urgent development priorities of our time. Across regions facing unemployment, social division, weak civic participation, and limited leadership pathways, the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) equips youth with the skills, values, and practical experience needed to become responsible leaders and active contributors to their communities.

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young people translate potential into action while creating measurable benefits for communities.

Global Peace Leadership Corps: Developing Values-Based Leaders



The [Global Peace Leadership Corps](#) (GPCorps) is GPF's primary youth leadership program. It is designed to equip young people with the skills, values, and practical experience needed to become responsible leaders and active contributors to their communities.

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leadership
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The

program equips young people with leadership competencies grounded in integrity, personal responsibility, service, and innovation.

Participants receive leadership training, mentorship, and opportunities to design and implement community-based projects addressing local challenges. Programs have been implemented across Africa, Asia, and the Americas, engaging students, young professionals, and emerging community leaders in areas such as peacebuilding, environmental stewardship, entrepreneurship, education, and civic engagement.

By combining leadership development with practical application, GPCorps helps youth build the confidence and skills needed to lead initiatives that create positive community impact.

Global Peace Volunteers: Mobilizing Youth for Community Service

The [Global Peace Volunteers \(GPV\)](#)

program engages youth and community members in service projects that

address local needs while strengthening social cohesion.



Global Peace Volunteers held service projects right before the Global Peace Festival 2010 Southeast Asia.

Volunteers participate in activities including educational support, environmental conservation, community improvement projects, mentorship programs, and disaster response initiatives. These experiences provide practical opportunities for young people to develop teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills while contributing to community development.

The program also promotes collaboration across ethnic, religious, and social differences, helping build trust and shared responsibility among diverse groups.

International Young Leaders Assembly: Building Global Leadership Networks



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Participants at the International Young Leaders Assembly forum on Capitol Hill.

International Young Leaders Assembly (IYLA)

brings together emerging leaders from around the world to

strengthen leadership capacity and foster international collaboration.

Participants engage in training, dialogue, and networking focused on sustainable development, peacebuilding, entrepreneurship, and civic leadership. Through interactions with policymakers, educators, development practitioners, and fellow youth leaders, participants gain exposure to global challenges and practical approaches for addressing them.

The program also creates lasting international networks that enable young leaders to share knowledge, collaborate across borders, and scale the impact of their work.

Global Peacebuilders Practicum: Experiential Learning for Peacebuilding

The [Global Peacebuilders Practicum](#) provides university students and young professionals with hands-on experience in leadership and peacebuilding.

Through field visits, community engagement

workshops, and collaborative projects, participants examine how

communities address

social challenges and strengthen cohesion. The practicum bridges theory and practice, helping participants develop a deeper understanding of effective leadership, community development, and peacebuilding strategies.

Many participants go on to apply these lessons in careers and initiatives focused on education, development, public service, and social impact.

Expanding Opportunities for Youth Leadership



Two participants of the seven-month peacebuilding practicum with certificates of completion.

Expanding Opportunities for Youth Leadership

GPF's flagship youth programs address a common challenge facing many young people: limited access to leadership development opportunities and practical experience. By combining training, mentorship, volunteer service, and real-world application, these initiatives help participants build the skills needed to contribute to their communities and societies.

For donors and partners, investing in youth leadership is an investment in long-term social resilience. The young people engaged through GPF programs are not only beneficiaries; they are emerging leaders, volunteers, entrepreneurs, educators, and peacebuilders who are helping address community challenges today while preparing to lead tomorrow.

Learn how GPF's youth leadership initiatives are equipping young people to become responsible leaders and changemakers, and support efforts to expand opportunities for the next generation worldwide.

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Building Moral and Innovative Leaders: Global Peace Foundation's Youth Leadership Initiatives Across the Americas, Africa, and Asia

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Young people are among the most powerful drivers of social transformation.

potential, the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) has made youth leadership development a core pillar of its work, equipping young people with the values, skills, and opportunities needed to become effective leaders and peacebuilders. Through leadership training, mentorship, volunteer service, entrepreneurship programs, intercultural dialogue, and global exchanges, GPF is developing a new generation of moral and innovative leaders across the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

GPF's youth programs are grounded in its Moral and Innovative Leadership framework, which combines character development, service,

After the Work Is Done

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personal responsibility, and problem-solving skills. Through initiatives such as the [Global Peace Volunteers](#), [Global Peace Leadership Corps \(GPCorps\)](#), [International Young Leaders Assembly](#), and [Global Peacebuilders Practicum](#), young people gain practical experience in leadership while addressing challenges in their communities.

Africa: Developing Leaders for Community Transformation

Africa is home to the world's youngest population, making youth leadership development critical to the continent's future. GPF Africa programs focus on mentorship, entrepreneurship, civic engagement, peacebuilding, and environmental stewardship.

In Kenya, the [President's Fellowship Program](#) has become one of GPF's flagship youth leadership

initiatives. The program brings together young leaders from all 47 counties for leadership training, mentorship, community service, internships, and national dialogue. Participants receive training in governance, entrepreneurship, peacebuilding, and environmental responsibility while working with mentors who guide their personal and professional growth.

GPF Kenya also operates [LEAP Hubs](#), a leadership and entrepreneurship initiative that helps students and young innovators identify community challenges and develop practical business and social enterprise solutions. Since its launch, the program has provided incubation and acceleration opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs across secondary schools, colleges, and universities.

Beyond leadership training, youth are actively engaged in environmental peacebuilding initiatives. In 2026, GPF Kenya partnered with the Rotary Club of Nairobi and Chandaria Foundation to expand youth leadership pathways while involving young people in environmental restoration and community service projects.

In Tanzania, GPF has engaged young people in volunteerism, peacebuilding activities, and community service initiatives that encourage

\$100	\$50
\$25	\$10
USD ▾	Other

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More than 700 students receive training on preventing youth radicalization by GPF Kenya as part of the 4th President's Fellowship Summit

youth participation in local development efforts while promoting social cohesion and responsible citizenship.



GPYC and university student volunteers from the Technological Institute of the Philippines-Quezon City, Polytechnic University of the Philippines, and the Philippine School of Business worked together to package the supplies gathered in the school supply drive.

Asia: Nurturing Values- Based Leaders for Peace and Development

Across Asia, GPF youth programs focus on character formation, volunteer service, intercultural understanding, and leadership

development. In the Philippines, GPF works through Global Peace Youth and the [Global Peace Youth Corps \(GPYC\)](#), bringing together young people from diverse faiths, cultures, and backgrounds under shared values and a vision of peace. Programs include leadership camps, volunteer service activities, and values-based education designed to cultivate moral and innovative leadership among students and young professionals.

The Global Peace Leadership Corps has also gained significant momentum in the Philippines, engaging thousands of young people in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and community service projects. Participants receive training in leadership and peacebuilding while implementing initiatives that address local community needs.

In Malaysia, GPF has invested in indigenous youth leadership development through specialized leadership camps. One recent program brought together Orang Asli youth for three days of leadership workshops, team-building exercises, reflection sessions, and personal development activities designed to build confidence, strengthen leadership skills, and encourage community engagement.

In Nepal, youth leadership initiatives focus on volunteerism, peacebuilding, and service-learning. Young leaders participate in programs that strengthen leadership capacity while encouraging

them to contribute practical solutions to local challenges. These initiatives align with GPF's broader goal of empowering youth to become active contributors to peace and social change.

The Americas: Building Youth Capacity for Democratic and Social Leadership

Across the Americas, GPF supports youth as agents of civic engagement, democratic participation, and community development.

In Guatemala, GPF has supported youth digital leadership initiatives aimed at strengthening democratic resilience. These programs equip young people with skills to address online violence, promote responsible digital engagement, and contribute positively to democratic processes. The initiative has been implemented in partnership with regional and international organizations committed to strengthening youth participation in public life.

GPF also works with partners throughout Latin America to connect young leaders with

opportunities for leadership development, dialogue, and social innovation. Collaborations with regional organizations have helped create platforms where youth can engage in discussions on governance, community development, and peacebuilding while developing practical leadership skills.

Through regional and global initiatives such as the International Young Leaders Assembly, Global Peacebuilders Practicum, and Global Peace Leadership Corps, young leaders from across the Americas gain access to international networks, leadership training, and opportunities to collaborate with peers from around the world. These experiences help cultivate leaders capable of addressing local challenges while contributing to global peacebuilding efforts.

Discover more and support GPF's commitment to developing values-based youth leaders who are addressing community challenges and building stronger, more resilient societies: [Global Peace Foundation](#) | [Youth Leadership Development](#)



IYLA at the United Nations

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