

# Youth Engagement in Reconciliation Processes: Pathways to Sustainable Peace-Building in Somalia

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.70806/mke4d967>

## Abstract

Somalia's protracted conflict has disproportionately affected young people, who constitute over 70% of the population, yet their potential role as peacebuilders remains underutilized. This study examines youth engagement in reconciliation processes as a pathway to sustainable peace in Somalia. The research aims to explore how Somali youth contribute to reconciliation, the barriers they face, and the strategies needed to enhance their inclusion in peacebuilding. A qualitative methodology was employed, involving twelve semi-structured interviews with key informants, including youth leaders, government officials, academics, and civil society actors. Thematic analysis revealed four major themes: active youth participation in peace initiatives, structural barriers such as unemployment, clan-based exclusion, and political marginalization, the importance of intergenerational collaboration with elders, and significant policy gaps that limit institutional support for youth-led initiatives. Findings indicate that Somali youth are increasingly recognized as agents of reconciliation, organizing inter-clan dialogues, counter-extremism campaigns, and community projects that foster social cohesion. However, systemic exclusion, insecurity, and lack of resources continue to undermine their efforts. The study concludes that sustainable peace in Somalia requires institutionalizing youth engagement through inclusive policies, targeted capacity building, and stronger partnerships between youth organizations, elders, and state institutions. Empowering youth to actively shape reconciliation processes is not only essential for addressing the root causes of conflict but also for ensuring long-term stability and resilience.

## Keywords

Youth engagement, Reconciliation processes, Peacebuilding, Sustainable peace, Somalia

## INTRODUCTION

Building a lasting peace requires the involvement of young people in preventing and ending conflicts, violence, and extremism. Even though armed conflicts frequently have a negative impact on young people, they are important change agents and should be actively sought out, empowered, and involved in creating peaceful communities. However, there hasn't been much support or attention given to their potential inclusion and contribution to successful peacebuilding. In community-based youth development work, the idea of youth engagement—also referred to as civic engagement, experiential education, positive youth development, youth leadership, and service-learning—has drawn attention. (saito & Sullivan, 2011) Youth participation in reconciliation is crucial for sustainable peace and security. Growing demographic numbers and involvement in community-based peacebuilding initiatives highlight the importance of youth in fostering creative responses to violence. Inclusive youth-led initiatives are emphasized in reports and academic research.(habintwari 2021). Globally, the engagement of young people in the US has been actively interested in social change for a long time. The Vietnam War and the civil rights movement are two more recent examples. Youth volunteerism is increasing, with over 55% of young people volunteering. Furthermore, there is growing evidence that youth engagement is necessary for effective youth programming.(arnold, dolenc, and wells 2008) Globally, the engagement of young people in the US have been actively interested in social change for a long time. The Vietnam War and the civil rights movement are two more recent examples. Youth volunteerism is increasing, with over 55% of young people volunteering. Furthermore, there is growing evidence that youth engagement is necessary for effective youth programming (brounéus 2007) The United Nations

defines "youth" for statistical purposes as anyone who is between the ages of 15 and 24, regardless of different definitions of youth engagement by member states. Developed a study that included information from scientific research, practice-based literature, and the experiences of practitioners and teenagers to conceptualize, convey, and stimulate various perspectives on youth engagement.

Somalia has a significant portion of its population under the age of 30, with projections indicating that this group makes up over 70%. This demographic characteristic places Somalia among the youngest nations globally, despite the ongoing political instability that has led to various challenges. Young Somalis have been involved in some peace initiatives; however, they encounter systemic obstacles such as clan-based politics. Additionally, they face various difficulties, including high rates of unemployment, limited career prospects, and the enduring effects of conflict. The persistent issues of poverty and inadequate education further alienate young individuals from participating in formal peace processes. Without active youth participation, reconciliation efforts risk being incomplete and unsustainable. Active youth participation is crucial for the successful implementation and sustainability of reconciliation efforts. The study investigates the following questions: How does youth engagement contribute to reconciliation and sustainable peacebuilding in Somalia? What barriers prevent Somali youth from participating in reconciliation and decision-making processes? What role do youth-led initiatives and organizations play in promoting peace and countering extremism in Somalia? In order to address the underlying causes of violence and advance lasting peace, the study emphasizes the significance of young participation in reconciliation initiatives for long-term peacebuilding in Somalia. It also highlights the necessity of inclusive programming, education, and assistance.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Youth engagement contribute to reconciliation and sustainable peacebuilding in Somalia

Although young people are a major contributor to the constantly widening demographic gap, their

constructive contribution to the development of more inclusive and peaceful societies has only lately gained significant attention in the field of international policy. Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security, adopted in December 2015, marked the first official international acknowledgement of the need for youth involvement for enduring peace. SCR 2250, which was the outcome of collaborative efforts over a number of years by youth organizations, the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), emphasizes the importance of young participation in peace and decision-making processes as a priority. The significance of youth participation is further emphasized by parallel resolutions on the UN peacebuilding architecture (PBA) passed by the General Assembly (A/RES/70/262) and the UN Security Council (SCR 2282) in April 2016. These resolutions also reaffirm the role of the peacebuilding commission (PBC) in enhancing youth engagement in peacebuilding initiatives. In order to improve the participation of young people in decision-making processes, the resolutions also emphasize the importance of education, skill development, and employment. However, there is a dearth of systematic data regarding how youth have participated in and continue to participate in different peacebuilding contexts, as well as how to increase and enhance their involvement. (Bourhous 2017)

As key change agents, youth are essential in directing peacebuilding initiatives. Since young people make up a sizable section of the population in Asia, their influence extends beyond the future; they are also key players in today's advancement. Their potential as effective change agents is shown by the growing acknowledgement of their efforts to resolve conflicts, thwarting extremism, and promoting peace. (Yague and Berents 2025). Youth continue to demand that their views be heard as the nation continues its restoration process. Individuals in positions of authority must understand how important it is to involve the country's future leaders in the restoration effort. If young people are not included in decision-making, Liberia will not be able to achieve sustained growth and development. Without a doubt, young people in Liberia have

creative, forward-thinking ideas and potential that need to be investigated in a supportive setting. (woods 2011)

The election of the first female president of Liberia and Africa has opened up a new forum for talking about the predicament of women as a disenfranchised group. Women were marginalized before the Civil War, but since a female president was elected, they now have far better opportunities to succeed in all fields. it is critical to acknowledge that youth participation is a vital means of preserving and maintaining success as Liberia begins on a national reconstruction plan. It is necessary to examine the current situation of Liberia's youth to incorporate them into the national dialogue.(woods 2011). Somalia youth-led initiatives are projects, programs, and movements primarily led by young people, involving their active involvement in identifying issues, designing solutions, and implementing strategies. these initiatives are supported by adults and institutions as needed, providing young people with the opportunity to participate in experiences and skills, and have a voice in decision-making processes. In Somalia, numerous youth-led organizations are focusing on social affairs, education, business, and environmental and climate change issues. these multi-sector organizations symbolize the crucial role of youth in the reconstruction of the country.(ali et al., 2025)

Recently, Somali youth have taken the lead in organizing for peacebuilding and developing tools for social transformation. The three youth-focused initiatives for peacebuilding in Somalia are as follows: the Somali government institutions, civil society organizations, and youth organizations have partnered to create the Somali Youth for Peace (SYP) program to promote peace and reconciliation among young people. The program has successfully united young people from diverse backgrounds to participate in peacebuilding events like conflict resolution workshops, sporting competitions, and cultural exchanges. The Somali Youth Development Network (SYDN) empowers and engages youth in community projects to support peacebuilding efforts. Sydn has inspired young people to participate in advocacy campaigns, peace marches,

and dialogue forums, providing them with the tools and resources to become constructive change agents. The Somali Youth League (SYL) is also actively participating in peacebuilding initiatives, contributing to the development of a culture of peace and tolerance among Somalia's youth.(ahmed 2024)

### **Barriers prevent Somali youth from participating in reconciliation and decision-making processes**

many argue that encouraging young people to participate in decision-making processes throughout their lives is the best way to prepare them for active citizenship. This will help them become more responsible, willing to work for others, and contribute to their community. Western governments now advocate for enhanced youth participation as part of modern citizenship discourse, making it a policy cliché to say that increased participation will empower young people, build communities, and address social problems. One answer to this question is civil society institutions, where democracy lessons can be learned through active participation and experience.(çamur, 2006)

political factors are inherent in a country's political organization that inhibit young people's participation in policy-making. In Ghana, political upheavals, violence, and a lack of understanding and influence in governance systems are the main barriers to young people's participation in policy-making. ghana has experienced numerous political upheavals since its independence and returned to democratic governance in 1992. Despite six successful elections, campaigning has been marked by violence and death. parents often discourage young people from participating in political activities due to the risk of death and the risk of violence. some parents do not agree to their children attending rallies or participating in youth advocacy assemblies, fearing their children will be involved in dirty politics. additionally, young people who express interest in political activities are often discouraged by their parents. this highlights the importance of parents in encouraging civic-mindedness and political activity in children and

young people. parents can play a facilitative or inhibitive role in children and young people's participation in politics.(adu-gyamfi, 2015)

Somalia, with 75% of its population under 30, faces significant challenges due to unrest, conflict, socio-economic and political exclusion. The country has one of the highest rates of youth joblessness globally, and opportunities for political, economic, and social engagement remain weak or non-existent. Young people's participation in decision-making is challenging due to clan-based alliances, age, lack of education, poverty, and the prominence of elders in the political system. Exclusion has led many Somalis to seek better lives across borders, often exposing them to crime, drugs, piracy, radicalism, and armed groups. (United Nations Somalia 2019) Some Somali youth have taken action to end the conflict. Organizations like Soyden, Soyal, SYPD, Soyco, sasyo, Soyl, and Benadir Youth Council have joined forces to fight against violence. They have launched peace-building campaigns, partnering with other civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations, to persuade their peers to stop fighting and change the hostile attitude of elder community members. This collective effort aims to end the ongoing conflict (Amir and Osman 2012)

Somalia's youth face numerous systemic challenges, including governance crisis, policy failure, resource mismanagement, tribalism, and corruption. These factors undermine state-society relations, disenfranchising significant portions of the population and perpetuating conflict. The constitution and its implementation are deficient, leading to systemic inequalities and fragmentary political participation. Youth are vulnerable to climate change and conflict due to a lack of social cohesion, government infrastructure, and economic burdens. Barriers to youth involvement in peace-building processes include a lack of support, political exclusion, stigmatization, funding for youth initiatives, discrimination based on clan identity, and security concerns. Despite efforts to promote youth, youth in Somalia struggle with social pressures, underemployment, low-quality education, insecurity, and citizenship difficulties. State action is lacking to address unemployment

and income inequality, contributing to youth disenfranchisement and crime.(warsame, 2024)

The voting system in elections presents challenges, but it can also increase political involvement and awareness. People who participate in politics are close to equality, but undemocratic participation in political activities can lead to unresolved problems. In Africa, youths are less likely to participate in voting than older people. In Somalia, unequal participation in political activities is limited by age, with only those over 30 years old entitled to hold senior positions in public offices. The current young generation faces limited access to political activities, including a lack of public services provisions, employment opportunities, conflict, and the absence of citizen participation. Despite Somalia's 48-year non-party political system, there is hope for the country with the establishment of the national independent electoral commission office. Seven emerging political parties have been temporarily registered, aligning with the Article 47 electoral system and provisional constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia. This will support the preparation for universal suffrage of "one person, one vote" elections by 2026, allowing young people to exercise their constitutional rights and participate in political activities. (bincof et al., 2018)

### **Role do youth-led initiatives and organizations play in promoting peace and countering extremism in Somalia**

Around the world Conflict, whether it is civil wars, acts of violence, or political upheaval, continues to leave profound scars all across the world. These conflicts are particularly prevalent in communities that are divided or varied. Entire communities have been ripped apart in places ranging from the capitals of Lebanon and Syria to the villages of South Sudan and Kenya. These wars are frequently stoked by differences, more especially the inability to achieve peace and togetherness because of the unique qualities of separate groups. The youth, however, are a vibrant force striving for peace amidst the tumult. (Younes & Younes, 2024)

Today, young people can be the architects of peace and the architects of a vision toward a better future, as they are stepping up as leaders and mediators



in their communities. In divided communities, young people are now a true asset for peacebuilding. These programs are creating the foundation for long-term reconciliation in addition to mending divisions. Youth participation in peacebuilding is essential to establishing enduring peace; it is not a temporary fix. Young people are demonstrating that they are not merely the inheritors of a broken world, but the creators of a peaceful one as more take charge of their futures, participate in discussions, and spearhead peace initiatives. (Ekpon, 2015)

Not just well-known figures need to be involved in youth peacebuilding; grassroots initiatives in local communities or online can make a big difference in promoting peace. They can start contributing online or in their own community. They are stepping toward a better future by utilizing their voice to start discussions about human rights, peace, and non-violence. Every action has the capacity to bring about peace, regardless of how great or tiny. In CVE, youth associations can be quite important. By organizing other young people who choose not to join violent extremist organizations, Nigerian youths can actively combat violent extremism through the formation or membership of associations and non-governmental organizations. Because they provide vitality to their actions, young people can resist extremist organizations that try to attract CSO members. (Machina, 2020) Around the world, extremist organizations frequently establish and fund voluntary associations in an effort to increase their influence, obtain moral legitimacy, and attract adherents. Young people should improve their efforts to avoid radicalization, thwart the spread of bigotry and false information, and assist individuals who have been radicalized in successfully and peacefully reintegrating into society by joining or starting associations and non-governmental organizations. One such instance is The Tolerance Academy, a flagship initiative of the Youth Tolerance for Peace Development Initiative (YTFPDI), which was established by Nigerian youth activist Jonah Ayodele Oba Jeun

Somalia's youth, with over 70% of the population under 35, are largely excluded from decision-making processes due to structural barriers and

generational hierarchies. The Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda is a lifeline for the country's future, but many youths remain unable to access education, employment, and civic space. The Peacebuilding Fund's targeted support helps address this issue. One impactful initiative is YOU-ACT, a project implemented by Shaqadoon, a Somali-led NGO focused on youth and women's economic empowerment. The project equips young people with tools to resolve local disputes, particularly over land and water, through traditional dialogue and innovative digital solutions. The app, which is still in its testing phase, allows users to collect real-time data on resource-based disputes using GPS-based verification. The project also helps identify priority areas for infrastructure investment that can promote peace and unlock local development potential. Over 700 young people have been actively engaged in the YOU-ACT project, with over 70% actively engaged. They are now well-equipped to lead awareness campaigns and play.

The youth-led consultations in Somalia have created space for youth to participate in national decision-making processes, potentially affecting most households across the country. Nearly 100% of youth participants responded affirmatively to the AET's questionnaire, indicating a sense of inclusion in public decision-making processes. The majority of youth facilitators come from educated strata, making them less vulnerable to marginalization and alienation. Education officials have begun to incorporate the findings of youth-led consultations into the national education curriculum framework, demonstrating the value of youth participation. Clan elders and other community leaders believe that youth should assume more leadership roles, but this will likely be a gradual process due to entrenched systems. The initiative has been successful in creating space for youth participation in decision-making processes, with traditional leaders, clan elders, and religious leaders almost entirely supporting youth-led consultations. Community leaders, especially clan elders, actively participated in local consultations, resulting in a 99% level of support for youth-led consultations. The youth-led consultations have also prepared them for constructive leadership roles in society,

covering a range of leadership and management skills that are transferrable to other areas. The youth have applied soft skills effectively, such as patience, tolerance, commitment, and drive, and have reached 5863 community members (Smith, 2015)

Engagement in initiatives that challenge the extremist group Al Shabab has continued, with Somali youth playing an active role in recent years. They work together with different security agencies to report any suspicious activities that threaten safety, resulting in the capture of some Al Shabab members responsible for the deaths of innocent individuals, and they closely work with security agencies such as Police Force and the National Intelligence Security Agency, in addition to the Somali National Army. This effort has been ongoing for several years. Young people have faced challenges in participating in such activities, but now their significance is becoming increasingly clear. Many young individuals have successfully finished their education and graduated from different schools and universities to join the military. Additionally, some members of the diaspora are coming back to the country to enlist in the armed forces. This clearly shows that they are fulfilling their duties as young people. They have been crucial in this effort, acting as advocates who inspire their peers. The youth advocates encourage other young individuals to get involved and work together in an effort to strengthen the role of youth, which is anticipated to increase in the upcoming years, numerous Somali youth have also joined the parliament and the council of ministries.

### METHODOLOGY

The study utilized a qualitative research method, interviewing twelve key informants, including politicians, government officials, academics, youth leaders, and women representatives. These leaders had at least ten years of experience in governance, peacebuilding, or community mobilization. Purposive sampling was used to include knowledgeable individuals who could offer comprehensive perspectives on the challenges, possibilities, and results of adolescent involvement. The research included a range of age groups, gender,

age groups, clan affiliation, and regional administration. A presentation was also included to understand the youth's efforts and provide a meaningful conclusion.

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings from our interviews with young people about their reconciliation will be presented in this section, along with their perspectives and contributions. We will also discuss how young people are involved in the process of reconciliation in Somalia, their obstacles, their initiative, youth-led organizations, and what drives and challenges them. Finally, we will discuss the policies that young people require in order to strengthen their role and become active participants in peacebuilding, reconciliation, and decision-making.

#### **Can you tell me about your involvement in youth-led peacebuilding or reconciliation initiatives in Somalia**

Some respondents describe their direct participation in initiatives for peacebuilding in schools and on social media platforms to raise awareness and organize inter-clan dialogues.

Somali youth are increasingly recognized as active agents of peace and reconciliation, not just passive victims of violence. They actively participate in peacebuilding initiatives in schools and on social media platforms, raising awareness and organizing inter-clan dialogues. This includes setting up forums for clan discussions and spreading the word about the dangers of joining extremist groups. Social worker students also participate in school visits, awareness-raising, and campaigns that strengthen youth partnerships and associations, fostering social cohesion and a safety net. They also give people recognition and encourage them to believe in their activism.

*This growing recognition of Somali youth's role in peacebuilding is consistent with Ali et al. (2025) and Brounéus (2007), who highlight youth participation in community dialogues as critical for post-conflict healing. Similar roles have been observed in Liberia and Rwanda, where youth initiatives have facilitated cross-community trust. This highlights the*

*importance of youth participation in community dialogues for post-conflict healing and the need for peacebuilding initiatives to prevent young people from joining extremist groups.*

### **What motivated you to become active in these activities**

The majority of respondents were given an explanation of the reasons behind these activities, and they also mentioned that they were interested in sharing their experiences, which revealed their personal trauma related to the conflict. They also stressed the importance of these initiatives to foster trust and encourage forgiveness amongst individuals. One respondent also shared his own experience, saying as follows:

*"Everybody has been affected by the civil war since it began. In my case, I lost my father in clan warfare. He was killed in retaliation for the death of a member of our clan. That clan is the reason my father was killed. My motivation to strive for peace and the loss of our father so that others do not face the same loss stems from the personal experience we went through in life. I believe that the young should fulfill their role and take the responsibility of our country."*

In order to create lasting agreements that end these conflicts, some scholars contend that this trauma leads to activism. As one respondent points out, they work to promote social cohesion, reconciliation, and peacebuilding. Others, however, appear to have engaged in violence and harbored grievances as a result of this trauma healing. There are radical groups among them.

In the Somali context, we observe that certain groups have engaged in activism and incubation, while others are joining extremism in an effort to shield young people from these problems. We must encourage young people to engage in youth-led events, give to and associate with the government, and organize in order to develop their capacity and trust, learn about their clan, and promote social cohesion and solidarity.

### **In your opinion, how have youth contributed to peacebuilding and reconciliation in your community or Somalia more broadly**

Youth in Somalia have been actively involved in peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives, such as organizing inter-clan dialogues, raising awareness about violence and extremist groups, and creating forums and campaigns to promote unity and discourage recruitment. Their motivation stems from personal experiences with conflict, such as losing family members or witnessing clan warfare. However, they face challenges such as structural issues like exclusion based on clan affiliation, political marginalization, and high youth unemployment.

Youth-led organizations and networks like the Somali Youth for Peace, Somali Youth Development Network, and the Somali Youth League have provided platforms and tools for change. They have organized peace events, advocacy campaigns, and community projects, and teamed up with local authorities and security agencies to report threats and combat extremist activities. Early progress is being made, with elders and traditional leaders beginning to support their involvement. They have also started gaining leadership skills through youth consultations and training sessions, preparing them to take on greater roles in governance and peacebuilding. Young people in Somalia see themselves as crucial actors in healing divisions and creating a peaceful future. Their experiences, willingness, and organized efforts demonstrate their ability to contribute meaningfully to reconciliation. However, more inclusion, support, and opportunities from both the government and society are needed to strengthen their role and ensure a sustainable peace.

### **In your opinion, what policies or support systems could enhance youth engagement in reconciliation?**

The government should establish dedicated youth funds and comprehensive training programs focused on peacebuilding skills to enhance youth engagement in reconciliation. These programs should offer education on conflict resolution,

leadership development, and civic participation. International partners should recognize the value of youth-led organizations and directly support them, empowering young people to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes and peace initiatives. This perspective aligns with international frameworks such as United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250 and 2282 (2016), which emphasize the necessity for inclusive policies that invest in education, skill development, and leadership opportunities for youth in peace and security contexts. Youth face systemic barriers such as political marginalization, clan-based discrimination, and inadequate social services, which hinder their full participation. Studies have shown that youth-led initiatives significantly contribute to reconciliation and social cohesion when backed by institutional support. Effective youth engagement programs promote resilience against violent extremism by equipping young people with tools for dialogue and community organizing. In Somalia, empowering youth through targeted education, economic opportunities, and inclusive governance platforms is essential to prevent structural exclusion, disenfranchisement, and increased risks of violence or radicalization. Policy efforts should prioritize creating accessible education, sustainable funding mechanisms for youth projects, and spaces that allow young people to lead and influence reconciliation processes, echoing the calls in SCR 2250 and SCR 2282 for youth inclusion to achieve sustainable peace.

### **What are the biggest challenges or barriers you and other youth face when participating in reconciliation or peace initiatives**

Several of the participants stated Despite the advancements, there are still issues with the structure, such as exclusion and clannism, which hinder young involvement and have an adverse effect on youth leaders

*“Unemployment is the biggest issue. Many young people want to contribute, but without jobs or education, they feel hopeless. Clan politics also make it difficult—sometimes elders do not take us seriously”*

This inline with the literature review that the Somali youth unemployment exceeds 67% leaving many vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups. Clan-based hierarchies and gerontocratic politics further marginalize youth voices(Bincof et al., 2018)

Youth initiatives play a crucial role in countering extremist influences by organizing awareness campaigns that debunk Al-Shabaab propaganda, especially online, where many young people are vulnerable. They also promote engagement in positive activities such as sports, vocational training, and educational programs to offer constructive alternatives to joining militias or extremist groups. These programs foster a sense of belonging, build skills, and provide hope for livelihoods, steering youth away from radicalization.

This approach reflects findings in the literature on youth efforts in Nigeria and Somalia, where youth-led initiatives are key in combating violent extremism by creating safe spaces and positive identities for young people. These initiatives focus on empowerment, resilience-building, and community cohesion, addressing the root causes that drive youth towards extremist groups. In Somalia, youth organizations collaborate with local authorities to report suspicious activities and provide early warning, while also leading peacebuilding and dialogue forums that promote tolerance and non-violence. In Nigeria, youth associations work to counter extremism by fostering community engagement, strengthening social bonds, and providing meaningful opportunities that reduce the allure of radical ideologies. The combination of awareness-raising, skill development, and constructive social alternatives presented by youth initiatives is pivotal in reducing youth vulnerability to extremist recruitment and radicalization, contributing to long-term peace and security.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The research suggests several recommendations to enhance the role of Somali youth in reconciliation and sustainable peacebuilding. These include institutional and policy support, economic



empowerment and education, strengthening youth-led initiatives, enhancing security and inclusion, partnerships and international support, and research and monitoring.

- The Federal Government of Somalia should mainstream youth engagement in reconciliation processes by establishing formal youth quotas in local peace committees, reconciliation councils, and national policy forums. Prioritizing the adoption and implementation of the UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security, Somalia should develop a National Action Plan on youth, peace, and security
- Investing in vocational training, entrepreneurship programs, and job creation can provide alternatives to militancy and equip young people with dialogue, negotiation, and conflict-resolution skills. Integrating peace education and civic studies into school and university curricula can equip young people with dialogue, negotiation, and conflict-resolution skills.
- Developing community policing initiatives involving trained youth volunteers and creating safe civic spaces for youth, especially young women and marginalized groups, can enhance security and inclusion. International partners, UN agencies, and NGOs should prioritize capacity-building programs for Somali youth-led peace organizations and support digital platforms and innovation projects

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