News From YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION BUILDING MOVEMENT OF INTERFAITH ACTIONS IN PAKISTAN

🔿 Meta CERITA **YDF Delegation Participated in CERITA Storytelling Training in Sousse, Tunisia**

Shahid Rehmat (Executive Director - YDF) and Gulbaz Ali Khan (Mentor - YDF) participated in training on storytelling to counter hate speech and promote social cohesion, which Meta and CERITA organized in Sousse, Tunisia. During the weeklong training on storytelling, multiple methodologies were part of the training that contributed to the deep learning and engagement of young storytellers, and they will impart knowledge and skills to young peacebuilders further in Pakistan.



ICCS VITERNATIONAL YDF Team Attended International Conference

Shahid Rehmat (Executive Director - YDF) along with the YDF team members, participated in the International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) 2022 in Singapore. Taking place from 6th to 8th September 2022, the conference addressed post-pandemic polarisation and social isolation. The International Conference on Cohesive Societies (ICCS) 2022 focused on faith, identity, and cohesion through the theme "Confident Identities, Connected Communities".



YDF Executive Director Shahid Rehmat participated in the United Nations Conference in New York. On the International Day of Peace 2022, this roundtable discussion brings together young climate activists and peacebuilders with development practitioners, partners and stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities for youth leadership and youth participation in processes and matters relating to peacebuilding and climate action.



YDF Team's Coordination Meetings with Valued Stakeholders

The Director of the Local Government & Community Development department was met to discuss YDF's upcoming activities, strengthening the synergies of a collaborative working relationship. As a result of the meeting, YDF's implementation strategy was improved to target the right communities and prevent duplication of civil society efforts.



YDF is an active member of the District Voter Education Committee and participates in meetings to discuss voter education-related matters as needed. YDF project team held a productive District with Election meeting Commissioner Mr Zahid Subhani and recorded his voice message for an political awareness campaign on participation.





YDF team members visited the Human Rights & Minority Affairs Department (HRMA) department for a coordination meeting with Muhammad Yousuf, Deputy Director of the department. Discussions were held on strengthening collaborations between HRMA and YDF to promote political inclusion and civic engagement among women, youth, and people from minorities.



The YDF team met with the Gohar Khan Team Lead of "Support to Local Governance" LoGo (an initiative of GIZ). During the meeting team shared YDF's initiatives of promoting civic engagement and political participation among women, youth and minorities and pursued to establish working relationship between YDF and GIZ.



Under its democracy initiative, YDF established six working groups, three each on women, youth and minorities in Districts Lahore and Faisalabad. YDF found it very interesting as the women come up with a considerable number across all three thematic working groups. YDF identified and established these working groups with the support of the Punjab Ministry of Human Rights, Minority Affairs and Interfaith Harmony. It showed a high level of ownership from the government in the province's political inclusion and civic education initiatives.



YDF built the capacity of six thematic working groups on local government, political inclusion, and civil education. Around 165 members of women, youth, and minorities attended the training sessions. They developed their respective constituency action plans to implement several outreach activities in the next couple of weeks.



CERITA Young Storytellers were Capacitated in a Meta **3-Day Storytelling Training**

YDF's Executive Director, Shahid Rehmat and Mentor, Gulbaz Ali Khan, participated in a week-long workshop on storytelling facilitated by CaravanSerai and Meta. It has been an incredible experience interacting with diverse people from Asian and African countries. One of the key deliverables was to transfer knowledge and skill to many young people from diverse backgrounds. Meta-trained facilitators led a holding of a three-day training workshop for a group of 18 young people from universities, civil society, religious seminaries, grassroots communities, and minorities, with a sizeable participation of women. Now, they all come up with an incredible, creative and impactful storyteller idea who will implement each in their respective social circle in the next couple of weeks.



А YDF Team Participated in ALLY Regional Meet at Bangkok

Regional policymakers heard directly from ALLY youth about their initiatives to PVE in South Asia during the ALLY Dissemination Event on June 27 in Bangkok. YDF delegation, including team members and ALLY fellows, participated in the event. To learn more about our vision of a world free from violence powered by the youth, you can visit our website at https://peacemakersnetwork.org/ally-project/. YDF has been a country partner for Pakistan in Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth (ALLY).



Youth Development Foundation has developed a new partnership with the Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) to implement the activities of the project "Strengthening Citizens' Engagement for Inclusive and Accountable Local Governance". The project aims to strengthen the ability of CSOs, media groups and citizens to promote efficient, transparent, responsive and accountable local governments in Pakistan.



Youth Development Foundation with close consultation of Department of Human Rights and Minority Affairs developed a training manual to capacitate members of Youth, Women and Minority Working Groups on civic education. This manual also provides the history and knowledge of local government systems to familiarize the WGs with their political and civic rights in Punjab. Youth Development Foundation will use this training manual in coming days to educate community leaders about political and civic topics. They will be enabled to play their essential role in engaging youth, women and minorities

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