

NEWSLETTER



MAKING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS INCLUSIVE

- YDF conducted 96 awareness and mock voting sessions in Faisalabad and Lahore to tackle low voter participation among marginalized communities.
- YDF's collaborative efforts with stakeholders reached 10,389 individuals, including 62% young girls and women, increasing awareness of the local government system and promoting civic engagement among marginalized communities.



Empowering Marginalized Communities in Punjab

YDF collaborated with the Department of Human Rights & Minority Affairs, Local Government & Community Development, and Provincial Election Commission to promote political participation of women, youth, and religious minorities in Punjab.



YDF's Consultative and Participatory Approach to Political Inclusion

In a consultative and participatory manner, YDF empowered marginalized segments to engage in the political process through the knowledge of local government systems and the wisdom of civic engagement.



Using Storytelling to Promote Peace, Empathy, and social Cohesion

The CERITA Jamii & Meta Fellows' social action programs empower diverse youth to promote social cohesion, peace, and counter violence through storytelling. By learning storytelling skills, youth from different parts of Punjab, including madrassah girls in Lahore, build positive intercultural and intercommunity relations and resilience against disruptive narratives. The CERITA Fellowship's efforts create a peaceful, inclusive society where everyone can live in harmony.

Accessibility Audit of Government Buildings in Lahore

We believe everyone deserves equal access to public spaces, and YDF is committed to advocating for inclusive infrastructure across the board. Our team conducted an accessibility audit of government buildings to ensure they are accessible to persons with disabilities. Unfortunately, most government departments lack basic accessibility facilities like ramps, handrails, and accessible washrooms. Even those with these facilities are not up to defined standards, making it difficult for persons with disabilities to visit government offices for personal rights.



Celebrating World Social Work Day 2023 in Collaboration with Social Work Department, University of the Punjab



We are thrilled to announce that the Youth Development Foundation collaborated with the Department of Social Work at the University of Punjab to celebrate World Social Work Day 2023! The event featured a walk and a seminar with the participation of renowned Journalists, Academia, Professional Social Workers, Representatives of Civil Society, the Deputy Inspector General of Police, and students of the social work department. The seminar highlighted that social work supports needy people, respects humanity, and accepts diversity. This year's theme was "Respecting Diversity through Joint Social Actions".



Partnering with CERITA JAMII & META to Promote peace



We are proud to partner with Cerita Caravan in our shared goal of empowering youth and promoting peace and social cohesion. By leveraging most modern approaches and innovative ideas, we are confident that we can make a real difference in the lives of young people in Pakistan.

Storytelling for Peacebuilding Festival-University of the Punjab

Youth Development Foundation in collaboration with CERITA Jammi and Meta/Facebook launched a storytelling training program for youth. In this program, 18 young peacebuilders were trained to utilize storytelling techniques for countering hate speech and promoting social cohesion. As a culmination of this program, the Storytelling for Peacebuilding Festival was organized at the Gender Studies Department, University of Punjab, which was attended by students from different disciplines and backgrounds. The festival was a day-long event that brought together different stakeholders, including academia, journalists, civil society representatives, and the Human Rights and Minorities Affairs department. Participants participated and shared their valuable inputs.

Young Storytellers/Peacemakers shared their inspiring stories that despite facing discrimination and hatred, these young peacebuilders found their voice and represent themselves through the 3-day storytelling training. Now equipped with powerful storytelling techniques, they're ready to inspire and encourage other young people to take action for peace and social cohesion in society.



YDF Executive Director Shared His Viewpoint with Members of Pakistan Community Resilience Research Network (CRRN)

YDF Executive Director Shahid Rehmat inspired the audience with his deep understanding of the factors of intolerance in society and the civil society and government efforts towards peacebuilding and future strategies. His thought-provoking presentation during the Policy discourse organized by SDPI at Ramada Lahore was well-received by policy experts, civil society representatives, and academia.



International Women's Day Celebration 2023

During last decade #YDFPK have inspired, trained and activated more than 15000 women and young girls from across Pakistan to stand for their rights, inclusion in peacebuilding and participation in decision making process. Their efforts have contributed to empowering women and girls in Pakistan, paving the way for a more equitable and just society.



Honor to be a member of the British Council Task Force

We are delighted to share that Shahid Rehmat - Executive Director has been appointed to the prestigious British Council Task Force. As part of this esteemed group, he has contributed to the #NextGenPakistan report. This report examines the perceptions of Pakistan's young population with a specific focus on their views, values, beliefs, and actions in key areas such as education, climate change, and more. We urge you to download the report and gain valuable insights into our young generation's perspectives. To download the report, please visit bit.ly/3L11QE2.



Program of Women Empowerment and Reform (POWER)



A group of 50 women domestic workers received training in basic reading, writing, arithmetic and small-scale business skills by YDF. They are members of underprivileged minorities and have never had the opportunity to develop their capacities and initiate self-reliant initiatives. Youth Development Foundation has connected these trained women with microfinance organizations to seek funding for small-scale businesses to support their families and increase their capital for well-being.

Meet with YDF's Honored Alumni and Team Member

Wajid Zahid (Young Peacemaker, Alumni of YDF, 22 Year) from Lahore

Wajid Zahid is a young peacemaker with a master's degree in Development Studies. He was selected as an ALLY Fellow and active volunteer of the Youth Development Foundation. He recently participated in the Asia Youth Festival on Innovations for SRHR 2022 in Malaysia, where he presented his plan for preventing violent extremism against transgender communities. Wajid was also chosen for the International Fellowship on the Role of Civil Society Leaders, which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and represented Pakistan, emphasizing the importance of youth



inclusion in creating a peaceful and developed environment. Along with a team of similar-minded individuals, Wajid founded the Proud Pakistani Foundation, which promotes sexual and reproductive health as a fundamental human right.

Urooj Sindhu (Young Peacemaker, National Coordinator of YDF)



Urooj Sindhu is a dedicated activist who began her journey with YDF through attending a Diversity Tour. Since then, she has become the National Coordinator for YDF and led efforts to create the first-ever Interfaith Harmony Policy for Punjab province. Her work focuses on bringing together diverse youth to counter the growing trend of extremism through non-violent conflict resolution skills. Urooj is also committed to promoting gender equality and mainstreaming minorities in development initiatives. She has a wealth of experience in training and empowering

youth to become leaders in peacebuilding and social cohesion. Through her advocacy campaigns, she has played a key role in changing behaviors and attitudes within society.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

109, L-BLOCK, PHASE-5, DHA, LAHORE. PH: +92 423 2183639 WEB: WWW.YDFPK.ORG

 YDFPakistan  Ydf_pakistan  Ydfpk1  YDFPakistan  YDFPakistan  Ydfpk