



Worlds of Experience

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Practical experiences in Intercultural Learning and Human Rights

Dear Friends,

Intercultural learning forms the foundation of ICYE's volunteering programmes, on which all its trainings and activities are based, as intercultural learning encourages dialogue and cultural awareness and can help build more peaceful and sustainable societies based on human rights values. The 43rd issue of the ICYE Newsletter focuses on "Practical experiences in Intercultural Learning and Human Rights" and draws out experiences of young people volunteering around the world that are steeped in intercultural learning and on efforts to protect human rights.

In "Volunteers Voices", 5 volunteers narrate their experiences in their respective host communities related to intercultural learning and human rights, which encouraged them and others to rethink identity, diversity, values, styles of communication and negotiation, etc. We begin with the Kenya volunteer in Colombia who beautifully describes how there is something to learn from everyone, and which has helped break down some of her preconceived notions. A German volunteer in South Africa then explains that she learnt about the diversity and vibrancy of South Africa beyond stereotypical media images of the country, about privileges, structural discrimination and emphasizes the responsibility of the privileged in building a just and equal society. We move to Germany, where a Brazilian volunteer describes his experiences in the small German town of Wittenberg, where Martin Luther started the Reformation movement, and at the World Reformation Exhibition where he is currently volunteering. Former British volunteer calls Honduras his home away from home, urges us to take the security issues with a pinch of salt, look past its social problems and embrace the country and its people. For the Icelandic volunteer in Mozambique learning Portuguese was the key motivation for embarking on a journey that forever changed her perspective on life.

ICYE Programme News include: Visit to FIYE/ICYE Poland; New Publication: Youth Work Can Unite: Merging Parallel Realities in Europe; Youth and their Social Impact- UNESCO NGO Forum; New Publication: Non-Formal Learning Handbook for Volunteers and Volunteering Organisations; New Publication: Final Activity Report – Calling Youth to Action in a Global Visibility Drive. News from Int'l Organizations, amongst others feature: Int'l Youth Day 2017 - Youth Building Peace; UNDP: Fast Facts on Youth and Gender Equality; ILO: How Youth of Today See the Future of Work; the UN "SDGs: A Handbook for Youth"; UNEP: Faces4Change Project; UNESCO Publication: „Diversity, dialogue and sharing:“; and UNDP on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding. News from NGOs report on: CIVICUS' State of Civil Society 2017; Data-Shift: Civil society data and citizen-generated data on gender issues; How to use free Google Grants to advertise your NGO; and Relaunching CIVICUS Monitor.

Wishing you an interesting reading, we look forward to receiving articles and pictures for the next issue of "Worlds of Experience", dedicated to "Youth Volunteering against Racism". Please send your contributions to icye@icye.org, before 30 September 2017.

Warmest regards!

ICYE International Office

This and previous issues of "Worlds of Experience" can be viewed and downloaded from: www.icye.org.

The Other Side of the World

Vanessa Kirui (Kenya)
Volunteer in Colombia

If I had to describe my time in Colombia, the words challenge, opportunity and growth come to mind, in exactly that order, and without trying to sound too generic or vague. I chose to come to Colombia for 6 months, without any idea of what I was going to find 'hoping for the best but expecting the worst'. I must admit there is a certain anxiety that comes with travelling to a place that people consider to be almost forbidden. The truth is that I found a totally different Colombia when I arrived. I was greeted by incredibly warm and beautiful people (it reminded me a lot of home) and perhaps what surprised me the most was the landscape. It's not often that you find yourself in a hectic city with more than 9 million people and also have the opportunity to climb the surrounding mountains as and when you like. I personally had never been to a place that captured chaos and tranquillity so effortlessly. So as you can imagine it wasn't long before I felt incredibly ignorant because of how little I knew of its people and landscapes. I learned quickly to appreciate all the quirky traits that the country and Bogota in particular had and soon fell in love with different places, Salento being perhaps my favourite.



I personally felt incredibly blessed, living in a nice part of Bogota and getting along with my host mother. Learning, for example how to cook Arepas to learning new tricks to old things such as making a cup of hot chocolate using tools (molinillo) I had never seen before. I learnt a lot about myself in the 6 months but more so about community and cooperation; understanding the importance of participating and communicating with others, carrying your own weight and adjusting in order to be mindful of those around you, lessons that I believe are incredibly important and essentially are at the core of the ICYE mission.

My project, taught me more things than I could have imagined. I worked at a foundation, with children aged between 4 and 15. A typical day for me consists of helping in the kitchen in the morning, drawing (murals on the walls), serving lunch to the children and giving English or French lessons. It was during these days that I was presented with an overwhelming opportunity; to exchange experiences, lessons and skills.

There is a negative connotation around charity and volunteering, where one assumes perhaps that they have more to offer than those they are helping. However, that is far from the reality of it. It is in Colombia where I realised that there is something to learn from everyone. It was great being able to educate and breakdown stigmas about my country and Africa in general. Being the first African most of the children had ever come across, I felt the responsibility to be a good example. I learned a variety of things from the children, from their help with Spanish, to how to overcome great adversity and to keep smiling through it all. I was able to understand more about the psychology of children and appreciate the ways in which they learn and what forms their personality by being able to watch how they developed and changed within the six months. They helped break down some of the preconceived notions I had about people by defying and breaking through constraints and limits that had been placed on them their whole lives in terms of education and achievement.

I also realized the importance of upbringing and education, that education is a fundamental part of life. I believe that education is something that every child should have a right to, regardless of their background or circumstance, for "education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom and opportunity". Through ICYE I have a greater understanding of what it means to be a global citizen and more so what it means to participate and not be passive throughout life. There is always something to be learnt and to be done.

The School that's called Life

Nele Range (Germany)
Volunteer in South Africa

Ever since high school was about to end, I dreamt about going abroad for a while. Soon, the decision was made and I applied and got accepted for a 12-months volunteer service programme in Cape Town, South Africa. Family members, friends, other people I know used to ask me why. And I said: „Why not? I'm young, I know little about life but school. I want to go places I've never been before. I want to talk to people I don't know and find out about their thoughts, worries, motivation, opinions and experiences. I want to support others who don't have similar opportunities. I want to expand my horizons and learn about myself and the world I was born into.”

So, here I am, living in Cape Town for almost eleven months already. Taking all the ups and downs I experienced so far into account, I am having an extraordinary time here. I loved my work at the Christine Revell Children's Home from day one. The children's home, situated in the Cape Flats, provides full-time care for 49 babies and children from birth to five years of age. The children are either neglected, abandoned, abused, orphaned and are accepted at the home irrespective of HIV status, race or gender. The staff members I am working with soon became friends and I had so many interesting conversations and discussions with them. Listening to their stories



Nele Range is third from the left.

about how they grew up in areas dominated by gang violence and come from socio-economic backgrounds that are so different from mine, changes my perspective on values and priorities in life. Assisting the staff with the children's day care and in the crèche, supporting the children according to their individual needs, being part of occupational therapy and speech therapy sessions are all part of my daily work. I find so much joy in teaching the children and learning even more from them. Each and every one of the children deserves a real chance in life and the children's home puts in so much effort to re-unite a child with its parents or the extended family, should circumstances permit. Considering how the children are growing up in the children's home makes me think a lot about my own childhood. I am so lucky to be born into a loving family that has made so many opportunities possible for me. I do not know what I would have done without them in so many situations. The children at Christine Revell Children's Home are for various reasons not growing up how a child should be: in a family that cares for them, supports them and shows them unconditional love and attention. Owing to the children's difficult start in life, it is of vital importance to be there for them when family is not, to offer them a place where they are safe and to defend their privacy and self-determination.

Working at a children's home and living in Cape Town where you can still witness consequences of the Apartheid era today, for example in social segregation, teaches me a lot. This experience is even more enriching than I expected it to be and I learn more than I possibly could ever do at school. I learnt that believing in only a western media presented single story is entirely wrong. South Africa is so much more than wild animals, the FIFA world cup 2010, HIV, people carrying things on their heads and the beautiful landscape. It is the diversity of 11 languages, vibrating cities like Johannesburg and Cape Town with an outstanding art scene, various markets and events, the unbeaten will to change and create, about 55 million people - each and every one with individual stories.

I learnt that I'm privileged just because of my skin colour. And I experienced that a white man is even more privileged than I am just because he's male. In the society we are living in now, you are born with those certain privileges. It is the responsibility of the more privileged people to not exploit the less-privileged, but to do their share toward building a society that doesn't favour a specific gender, religion, skin colour.

I learnt that living in another country and getting to know its people is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, narrow mindedness. By talking to people who you don't know, you experience that all of us eat, sleep, laugh and cry, read and worry, it can introduce the idea that it is worth a try to maybe become friends.

I learnt that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" is an ideal concept but reality is different. Unfortunately, unequal power structures and asymmetries, structural exclusion, racism, discrimination based on gender and ethnicity are widely spread on our planet, hence people of certain religions, origins, professions, skin colours, gender, etc. are still being faced with discrimination daily, institutionally, at South African universities for example, and structurally.

And most of all, I learnt that distancing yourself from a problem that maybe doesn't entirely affect your personal daily life is utterly wrong and leads to the opposite direction of how everyone of us should try to create a discrimination and racism-free society. A society where „All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights“ is not only a utopian idea but a lived reality.

Volunteering and Reformation, is what I do for a better world



Daniel Felipe Jacobi (Brazil)
Volunteer in Germany

500 years ago, in a small German town, Wittenberg, Martin Luther started a movement called Reformation inside the Christian church. His intention was to show how God is present in our life without other mediations. Today, 5 centuries later we're here, in the same city, now called Lutherstadt Wittenberg, not only to celebrate a jubilee, but also to propel new reformation movements. So believing that "Reformation means question the world", the Reformationsjubiläum 2017 e.V. (Reformation Jubilee) invited 220 volunteers, German and

Volunteers Voices

international volunteers, to take part in this project and to start small reformations in our daily life . In the World Reformation Exhibition, a big event



happening between 20th May and 10th September 2017 with 7 Gates of Freedom and Exhibitors, I'm working in two exhibitions. The first is an exhibition called "From Martin Luther to Martin Luther King" and the second is an ecumenical room called "Thesis 62". So in my daily work and in the whole World Reformation Exhibition, our discussions go beyond religion because as human beings we're composed of different interconnected dimensions and religion is only one of them.

With different points of discussion every week, such as justice, ecumenism, creation, freedom, human rights and others, we as volunteer and co-workers in the World Reformation Exhibition try to question some paradigms that we have fixed in our world. We don't want to show only what Martin Luther and the other reformers did 500 year ago, but we want to be, and to invite every single human being to be a reformer in our time. We're convinced of this because we see bad living conditions, human rights not respected and different kinds of slavery in different situations, but our environment doesn't allow us anymore to see in a different way what we're already used to seeing, we are addicted to thinking that changes are impossible. Therefore, being a volunteer over 10 months in this project, Reformationsjubiläum 2017 e.V., have not only been a time I spent in another country, but also much more than this, it has been a time I changed my life with new experiences from different perspectives. Here, working with people from different parts of the world, as well as hosting and interacting with visitors from the World Reformation Exhibition have made me a new human being. It isn't enough for us to recognize what is wrong in our world, but it's the first step. It's necessary for a real reformation, something that makes us move ahead and do more for the people around us and for the whole world. This volunteer experience has made me question the world and look for possibilities to re-build our world with more equity.

Home away from Home

Nicholas Rogers (UK)
Volunteer in Honduras

My name is Nicholas Rogers; I'm from Birmingham, United Kingdom, and I participated as an ICYE volunteer in Honduras during one year in 2011-2012, during which I volunteered at Casa Alianza, an

organisation that supports street children and youth at social risk, in the capital city, Tegucigalpa.

I tried to come to Honduras with an open mind. It's never easy. We carry prejudices and presumptions wherever we go. I arrived in January 2011 and the UK had just been through a particularly cold winter. There were doubts as to whether the plane would take off at Heathrow due to an iced over runway. Stepping off the plane jet-lagged into 25 degree heat was of course flustering, but I had no idea how energetic and vibrant Tegucigalpa would be! The city consists of many rolling hills with rich and poor neighborhoods sitting right next to each other. I knew I would have to be careful, but I felt ready.

In my project I fulfilled a variety of roles, whether it be teaching English, setting up arts projects, teaching older children how to use PowerPoint to do presentations, assisting communications with their website and donor material, taking photos at events, going on to the streets to bring children in, counseling, accompanying children to HIV/STIs clinics, and writing a book about their experiences.

The children are like sponges, for education and attention. They are so curious about who you are, but are so eager to show you what they can do and who they are, as well as enjoy the rough and tumble. They have lived tough lives, but they carry on regardless, which is a great education to people who have more privileged backgrounds. No university can teach you this. They don't want sympathy, but they want to be understood or an ear to be listened to.

There were days of frustration, such as when children didn't want to concentrate, or the lack of resources, which the organisation didn't provide. There were also cultural shocks, such as when children told you



about their harsh experiences. They taught me other ways to work and appreciate the small and simple things of life. The memories you take away from it last with you. They have made me a far more understanding and open-minded person, and despite some days of hardship, I had a great deal of fun.

My favourite thing about Honduras is the people. They made me rethink identity. They can be charming and hilarious. It can be easy to be fooled by Honduras' reputation in the press. The guide books tell you to pass straight through and it is such an injustice to the people and the beauty of the country; you feel the world is really missing out. Honduras does have its social problems, but you should use that as a motivation to come here and change, and take the

security issues with a pinch of salt. Every developing country has similar issues. After my ICYE experience, I got married to a Honduran and I'm currently Settled down in Honduras. I consider the country has developed amazingly fast in my six years here, and it continues to do so, even though there is so much more to catch up on. Another aspect is that it is easy to see past the problems and embrace the country and the people. I know I have, and now it's home away from home.

The Colors of Mozambique

Hildur Sólmundsdóttir (Iceland)

Volunteer in Mozambique

I knew I wanted to go to Africa. It took me a while to find the right organization to help me get where I wanted but in the end, I am very thankful for having chosen AUS – ICYE Iceland. It had been a dream of mine for many years and then I decided after a long process of choosing, to go to Mozambique where I worked with orphaned girls in their home and where I stayed for 6 months. The reason I chose to go there was to learn a new language. For me to be able to communicate I had to learn Portuguese. That for me was a “deal breaker” in the selection progress since I enjoy learning new languages.

Before leaving for a completely different world, you try to prepare as much as you can and the organization helps you a lot. Nevertheless there is nothing that can really prepare you. No matter what, you can't escape the “culture shock” because you are about to see and discover things and behaviours you have never experienced. What I think helped me the most was that I just said to myself “be prepared for whatever comes”. I had to have my mind wide open, probably the widest it has ever been. The first moments after I arrived at the airport were very unreal. Life in Africa hit me right in the face in the first minutes: Woman in “capulanas” carrying buckets or boxes on their head, full of fruits, salads or laundry while holding their infants on their backs. Small markets on every corner, open trucks full of people going from one place to another, crazy traffic that seemed to have no rules whatsoever, and then on top of all of this, the unbearable heat.

In Mozambique, I lived with a host mother, a 78-year old lady named Claudina. She had been welcoming volunteers to her home for 15 years, so she was very used to the process. She welcomed me with open arms the very first day and saw me as her own. I immediately fell in love with her. She has a big house and a big garden where she grew vegetables and fruits as well as breeding chicken. Therefore, I fell asleep every night and woke up in the morning to the chicken quack, and ate chicken in almost every meal. My relationship with my mother was one of the things I value the most from this experience. After my Portuguese became good enough to have a proper conversation, we often sat outside until it got dark and talked about everything and nothing. She has a very open mind, and after knowing her for a while, I realized why. Because she had welcomed volunteers

from so many different countries to her home, she knew more about the world than the normal Mozambican. She had also travelled a bit when she was younger, to Europe and America and therefore her horizon was wider than most. Many people I got to know knew nothing about other cultures. That is what makes organizations like ICYE so important for the world in my opinion. Getting to know the culture and the people in the country was a process stretching over the whole stay, which is why we normally don't know much about a country's culture by visiting only for a week. What I noticed right away and probably the thing that bothered me the whole time was the fact that I was different. I stood out. In the end I got used to it. But first it was difficult. I only had to walk down my street to be pointed at or called “mulungo” (white person). After a while I just learnt to ignore it, especially when they were men calling, very often drunk. I quickly learnt how to reply using the word “molandi” (black person) and that made them laugh or left them speechless. Writing it like this maybe makes it sound like the experience was very bad, but it wasn't. The people there in general were very nice. There was always a ready smile, and in the area where I lived and where I went to work people started to get to know me. They greeted me every time I walked by and sometimes I stopped for a short conversation. I felt right at home in a few weeks. Of course, I had to learn the many new traditions so I would fit in and get used to some things. A kiss on each cheek when you would meet someone new, praying before eating, holding a strangers baby or a bag on the bus or just being very intimately close to the next person while standing or sitting.

This experience was the best time I have had in my life yet. It was indeed hard and sometimes not as much fun as one would think but that is all part of the plan. I made so many new friends, some I know I will have for life. The stay definitely changed my perspective on life forever and learning more about the African story is something everyone should take time to do. It makes you see the world a little bit different. You should go to see for yourself, I highly recommend doing so!



Visit to ICYE's New Member FIYE, Poland



The international Board of Managers and ICYE International Office staff met in Warsaw, Poland from 16 – 19 May 2017. It was the perfect occasion to get to know more about ICYE's new member organisation, FIYE Poland and the city of Warsaw. *FIYE*, which in English stands for *International Youth Exchange and Voluntary Service Centre*, was founded in 2008 to enable young people to participate in international voluntary service and support initiatives that promote solidarity and intercultural understanding. The office of FIYE Poland is located in Pultusk, a small town in Northern Masovia, located 60 km from the capital Warsaw, where it also has an office. The staff and most of the members of FIYE Poland have been involved in international voluntary service for many years. FIYE's host projects include providing care to the mentally and physically challenged, schools, kindergarten, special education centre, a specialist after-school centre and a graduate club. The small group of six was able to visit to one of FIYE's host projects, the *Education, Rehabilitation and Welfare Centre „Helenow”*, and speak to volunteers from Mexico, Italy and Germany. Helenow is a large complex of facilities that provide education, treatment and welfare for children and young people with physical and learning disabilities. The facilities include the Hippotherapy Centre, Sue Ryder Special Kindergarten, Special Education and Treatment Centre, etc. At the start of their service period, the volunteers at Helenow have the opportunity to try out the different facilities and work at those they felt best suited for. The volunteers we met reported positive feelings and enriching learning experiences. We welcome FIYE Poland to the ICYE Federation and look forward to developing our cooperation.

New Publication: Final Activity Report - Youth Work Can Unite: Merging Parallel Realities in Europe

An Erasmus+ training project entitled “Youth Work Can Unite: Merging Parallel Realities in Europe” took place from 22 – 26 February 2017 in Graz, Austria. Organised by Grenzenlos – ICYE Austria and the ICYE International Office, it brought together 25 youth workers from 13 countries and volunteering

organisations in Europe: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. The training focused on anti-racism, sharing knowledge on the situation of refugees in the participating countries, and developing action plans to tackle racism and hate speech and provide direct or indirect support to refugees in Europe.



The Final Activity Report presents the programme and descriptions of the day-to-day activities of the training, as well as activities and action plans developed by the participants. It serves as a first step to address racism and promote inclusion among ICYE members and partners across Europe over the years to come. The Activity Report can be downloaded [here](#) or learn more about the project [here](#).

Youth and their Social Impact UNESCO NGO Forum,

**Laura Vega Sanchez (Colombia) and Anne Lea
Nørholm (Denmark)**

ICYE International Office

On 2nd and 3rd of May 2017 the Seventh UNESCO NGO Forum, organised in partnership the MiSK Foundation, took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The theme of the event was “*Youth and their Social Impact*”. During the forum more than 2.000 people attended and over 70 % of these were under the age of 35 in keeping with the theme of the conference. The participants represented over 400 NGOs from more than 70 countries around the world.

We, as the volunteers in the ICYE international Office, had the pleasure of being a part of this unique event. During the two days, speakers from various NGOs took the stage to share their private stories, professional experiences and their hopes for the future. Amongst the many great speakers were Sara Minkara and Khalida Brohi, two young and inspiring entrepreneurs.

Minkara is the CEO and Founder of “Empowerment through Integration”, who became blind when she was 7 years old. Growing up in the U.S., she experienced a net of support for her disability through the government and private institutions. However, Minkara realised when she visited her family in Lebanon that these privileges were not afforded to blind children in many other countries. Minkara then decided to take action, and started an organisation working with disability, inclusion and social entrepreneurship.



Laura, Khalida Brohi and Anne Lea

Khalida Brohi, 27 is the founder and executive director of “Sughar Foundation USA”, an organisation empowering rural and tribal women in Pakistan to play a leadership role and create opportunities for themselves. Her experiences began early in life as her family was affected by tribal laws that can create violence and discrimination towards women in her country. To address this, Brohi started providing education and practical training to women in different fields so that they could start their own enterprises and transform their societies from the inside. Simultaneously, she approached men to show a different perspective of traditional roles and gender.

The Forum had many speakers with inspiring stories like Sara Minkara’s and Khalida Brohi. People encouraged each other to talk about their problems and discuss how to unite across borders and learn from each other. During the Forum, there were many times when we realised that there are still many things we do not know about other countries, the difficulties they are facing and how to approach the problems in our own contexts. This experience helped us widen our perspective and gain a deeper understanding of how different life is around the world.

New Publication: Non-Formal Learning Handbook for Volunteers and Volunteering Organisations



Authors of the handbook

Produced within the scope of the Erasmus+ project “Volunteers at the Interface between Formal and Information Education”, the Non-Formal Learning Handbook for Volunteers and Volunteering Organisations offers a wide selection of non-formal learning methods to enhance academic achievement, intercultural learning, physical and emotional development of children and young people. The handbook is targeted at staff, youth workers, trainers and facilitators of volunteering organisations, who prepare, train and support volunteers for their voluntary service in formal and non-formal educational host organisations, in order to transfer to volunteers the necessary non-formal learning tools and skills to be used in different kinds of educational institutions, contexts and settings. The handbook is meant also for volunteers, offering them 40 different non-formal methods that can be used in their educational host organisations. The handbook can be downloaded [here](#) or Learn more about the project [here](#).

New Publication: Final Activity Report – Calling Youth to Action in a Global Visibility Drive



Calling Youth to Action in a Global Visibility Drive is an international Erasmus+ project on visibility and promotion of volunteering and non-formal learning involving 21 ICYE member countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. From January to July 2017, ICYE members worldwide are running local campaigns to promote volunteering and create greater visibility and recognition for ICYE’s long-term volunteering programme. This was facilitated by an international training organised by ICYE Ghana and the ICYE International Office in Accra, Ghana from 16 – 20 November 2016, which brought together 25 communication multipliers from 20 countries around the world, provided an introduction to promotion work and the necessary know-how and tools for effective communication, promotion and dissemination. The training enabled participants to develop a global visibility strategy for ICYE and individual strategies and campaigns for each organisation.

The Activity Report provides theory, methods, ideas and loads of creativity to create greater visibility of volunteering and to benefit from the wider outreach and recognition. The Activity Report can be downloaded [here](#) or learn more about the project and country campaigns [here](#).

"Youth Building Peace"



International Youth Day 2017 is dedicated to celebrating young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace. A variety of activities will take place across the world, organized by different partners and youth stakeholders. The official commemorative event will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 11 August 2017.

The [World Programme of Action for Youth](#), which provides a policy framework and practical guidelines to improve the situation of young people, also encourages "promoting the active involvement of youth in maintaining peace and security". [Read more](#)

UNDP: Fast Facts on Youth and Gender Equality



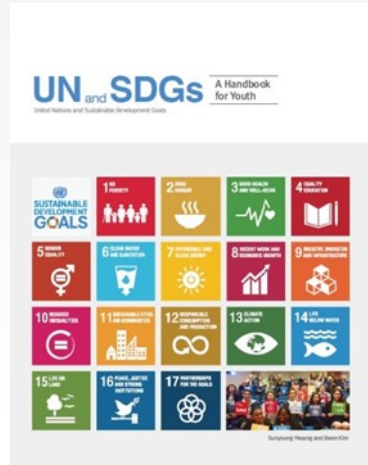
Gender equality, centred in human rights, is recognized both as a development goal on its own and as vital to accelerating sustainable development. In its latest Fast Facts, UNDP looks at how the entity works to unleash the potential of girls and young women, accelerate efforts to promote young women's participation and leadership in public life, empower young women economically, and support the inclusion of young women's voices, needs and contributions, including in the Women, Peace and Security agenda. [More](#)

ILO: How Youth of Today See the Future of Work and How They Will Contribute to Ensuring the Future We Want (VIDEO)



Young people of today are the future drivers of our economy, our society and are the next generation to serve as stewards of our planet. What do they see as the path forward to achieve sustainable inclusive growth for future generations? A panel discussion at the ILO Symposium on [The Future of Work We Want: A Global Dialogue](#), held in Geneva on 6-7 April 2017, provided an opportunity to develop a better understanding of the youth perspective. [More](#)

"SDGs: A Handbook for Youth"



"United Nations and Sustainable Development Goals: A Handbook for Youth" is an outcome of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) East and North-East Asia's internship program that brings young people closer to the work of the United Nations, as well as to the achievement of the ambitious set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This Handbook ([download](#)) explores SDGs and the 2030 Agenda from a youth perspective. [Read more](#)

UNEP: Are You a Change Maker? Join the Faces4Change Project!



We often make lifestyle decisions by a set of needs and desires that individuals strive to fulfil. At present, consumption-driven lifestyles are putting enormous pressure on nature's ability to provide the resources that we need. Faces4Change is a collection of profiles of people who provide 'a face' for UN Environment's work on sustainable lifestyles and youth. The initiative shares stories from youth around the world who are integrating sustainability into their thinking and who are leading efforts to address climate change and protect the environment. [More](#)

UNESCO Publication

"Diversity, dialogue and sharing: online resources for a more



resourceful world"

Today's societies are searching for models and practices that will permit them to live together in harmony. The newly launched book *Diversity, dialogue and sharing: online resources for a more resourceful world* examines efforts made in this direction and shared by a diversity of organizations from all spheres of society working to develop rapprochement, dialogue and social justice within a context of affirmed pluralism. The book is available in English only under [this link](#).

UNDP: Launch of Youth4Peace Global Knowledge Portal on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding



The Youth4Peace Global Portal has been relaunched to support the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. Join the Youth4Peace Community to take part in online consultations (or start your own!), showcase best practices and lessons learned, generate new knowledge, trigger new initiatives, collaborate on common projects and much more! [More](#)

CIVICUS' State of Civil Society 2017 Report



The world is facing a democratic crisis through unprecedented restrictions on the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly which constitute a global emergency, says global civil society alliance, CIVICUS' 2017 State of Civil Society report. The [2017 State of Civil Society Report](#) highlights that around the world it is becoming increasingly dangerous to challenge power, and to do so risks reprisals. In several countries, right-wing populist and neo-fascist leaders have gained prominence by winning elections or commanding enough support to push their ideas into the mainstream. Their politics and worldview are fundamentally opposed to civil society seeking to promote human rights, social cohesion and progressive internationalism. [Read more.](#)

Civil society data and citizen-generated data on gender issues



Most global data about girls and women is incomplete, or is subject to inherent gender biases that reflect traditional societal gender roles. There is a need for a "gender data revolution" – a wholesale shift in how data collection and use accurately depict girls' and women's lives and realities. This publication is based on a series of national dialogues on the state of gender data in each of the DataShift pilot countries (Kenya, Argentina, Nepal and Tanzania). [Download.](#) [Read more.](#)

How to use free Google Grants to advertise your NGO



Every day, 3 billion people search for information, products and services on Google. What if you could put your NGO in front of the people looking for exactly what you have to offer? Whether it's the chance to support your cause, buy your services, add their name to your campaign, attend your event or just share your story, many NGOs are already successfully using Google Grants to increase their visibility, their volunteers and their donations. **What is a Google Grant?** Google Grants offer eligible NGOs free advertising space on Google, allowing you to strategically display your charity's chosen message to people who are actively searching for NGOs like yours. **What can you use a Google Grant for?** **1. Raise awareness** about your cause by choosing relevant keywords. **2. Find volunteer support** for your office or your next fundraising event. [Read more.](#)

Relaunching CIVICUS Monitor



The CIVICUS Monitor has been relaunched, now with global coverage. According to these more extensive findings, just 3% of people live in countries where space for civic activism - or civic space - is truly open. The first ever analysis of civic space covering all UN Member States shows that people in 106 countries face serious threats when organising, speaking out and taking peaceful action to improve their societies. Of the 195 countries rated on the CIVICUS Monitor, civic space is closed in 20 countries, repressed in 35, obstructed in 51, narrowed in 63 and open in 26. Almost six billion people live in countries where civic space is either closed, repressed or obstructed. Watch the introductory video [here.](#)