



# Final Report

## Survey on Youth

### Perceptions on Peace

#### in Albania

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Learn more about the project “Building Partnership for Youth, Peace and Security” at <https://youthpeacesecurity.al/>



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## Acronyms

RYCO	Regional Youth Cooperation Office
UN PBSO	United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office
UNAA	United Nations Association Albania
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNSCR 2250	United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security





## Context

Recognizing youth as a positive force in conflict prevention and resolution and the building of lasting peace has gained significant momentum since the adoption of **United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (UNSCR 2250)** on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) on December 9, 2015. This historic resolution marked a fundamental shift in highlighting the positive role that young people play in maintaining peace and security as well as the importance of enabling their meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels. It served as a turning point in underscoring that peace processes result to be more successful and inclusive when young people are involved. (Ekomo-Soignet and Ebenezer-Abiola, 2020)

Investing in the capacity, agency, and leadership of young peacebuilders has gained momentum as the pathway that strengthens young people’s ability to lead peace efforts. However, there is still a long way to go into empowering them with the right tools and mechanisms to address the challenges that affect them. A more holistic approach is required to navigate the uncertainties and complexities of our societies. (Alesia Oulkadi, 2020)

Albania aims to be an active country in the regional and international realms, thus fostering the **Youth, Peace and Security Agenda** through supporting regional cooperation, trust building and dialogue among key actors and stakeholders in the field. Since January 2022, Albania officially seats at the UN Security Council as a non-Permanent Member (2022-2023 Mandate).

The laid-out priorities of Albania for this mandate state that Albania is committed to the values of multilateral systems and institutions that aim to create a more peaceful and stable world. Taking into consideration that the youth mainstreaming in this context struggles to be prevalent, it becomes crucial to understand how young people perceive security and peace issues as well as to ensure that their agency is taken into account.

UNSCR 2250 (2015) identifies key areas<sup>1</sup> for action in this regard: *participation, protection, prevention, partnerships* and *disengagement*, and *reintegration*. It calls for the need to give youth a greater voice at decision-making in peace processes and enable their meaningful participation.

Guided by the vision of the UNSCR 2250 (2015) on YPS, the **United Nations Association Albania (UNAA)**, within the framework of its project “**Building Partnership for Youth,**

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<sup>1</sup> Youth4Peace: UNSCR 2250 (2015) Introduction <https://www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Introduction>





**Peace and Security**” finances by the Public Relations Office of the United States Embassy in Tirana, aiming to establish a **National Network on YPS**.<sup>2</sup>

As a first step, UNAA launched a nation-wide survey to explore youth perceptions on peace and ensure that their concerns and opinions are taken into consideration for the establishment of this National Network.

It aims to identify young people’s needs as well as hear their opinions and concerns on what they consider as key priorities for peace and security in their country and place of living. This information and insight is sought to pave the way towards establishing a National Network on YPS, which will strive to lay down a Roadmap on the Agenda localization and operationalization in Albania.

On that account, the survey’s key objectives addressed the mapping of youth perceptions on peace and security in Albania, exploring their perceived needs and priorities for peace, as well as the existing barriers for youth engagement in peace processes.

## Executive Summary

The survey, entitled “**National Survey on Youth Perceptions on Peace in Albania**” was designed to explore young people’s perceptions on peace and identify what they recognize as a priority in relation to it. The survey took place online and was accessible to the public. It was launched on 16 September 2021 and was concluded on 4 February 2022.

All answers generated from it were treated with the utmost anonymity and confidentiality, serving only to the survey objectives, with the data being aggregated in a collective manner. Furthermore, the report respected ethical considerations and carefully considered the terminology used by providing clear directions and definitions, where needed.

Throughout the time frame when the survey was open and accessible for data collection, particular effort was dedicated to reaching young people in workshops, consultations and on-site and online events organized by UNAA in order to ensure a wide involvement and participation of young people in this online national survey.

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<sup>2</sup> UNA Albania: Building Partnerships for Youth, Peace and Security <https://youthpeacesecurity.al/>





For the survey's and its final report's purpose and objectives, the term "youth" or "young person"<sup>3</sup> was derived from the context of the UNSCR 2250 (2015) that defines youth as those belonging to the age of 18 to 29 years old, also considering that variations exist at national and international levels.

To achieve the survey's objectives and grasp a detailed understanding on youth perceptions of peace in Albania, the overarching questions addressed throughout the survey design phase, as well as, in this final report are:

- What are the main peace and security challenges that young women and men face in Albania? What are the priorities?
- What prevents young people's active involvement in peacebuilding initiatives?
- What could promote and support young people's active involvement in peacebuilding initiatives?
- What do young people recommend for more youth-led peacebuilding processes in their community/country?

The following analysis in this report includes the opinions of a total of 153 respondents, out of which 77.1% identified as young women and 22.9% as young men. When it comes to the age groups, it resulted that the majority of the respondents that took the survey belonged to the age group of 18 to 29 years old with 70.7% (N=111), 25.5% belonged to the group of 15 to 18 years old and only 3% belonged to the age group of over 29 years old. Finally, in regard to the demographic component of where the respondents live, 76.4% of them indicated to be living in an urban place whereas 23.6% indicated to live in a rural area. For an overview of the respondent's profile (See Annex 2 - Table 1).

This report is divided into the following parts: the first part describes the main findings by highlighting key insights and messages derived from the survey; the second part provides an overview of the survey and methodology employed for it, the instruments used, the data collection stages, the characteristics of each section of the survey and the main variables used for the analysis.

The third part describes the data analysis and findings which are divided into two subparts: findings on youth perceptions on peace and findings on priorities for youth, peace and security

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<sup>3</sup>Given the complexities and variations of defining youth, this study uses the terms "youth" and "young people" interchangeably.





agenda. Throughout this section, the analysis provides a representation of the general responses of the whole categories and groups collectively, while they go further into more details by providing analysis on the findings based on key variables (age, gender, living situation, education).

In the fourth part, the findings are discussed and analyzed by answering the research questions raised in the report and the limitations of the analysis are given. The last part provides a conclusion and key recommendations made by this report which are mainly addressed to national and international actors working in the field of youth and peacebuilding in Albania.

## Main Findings

The main findings emerging from the final report are as follows:

The majority of young people in Albania define peace as a state of quiet and harmony, as well as one where there is no conflict, violence or war.

According to them, peace is threatened mostly by political conflicts followed by those of an economic nature. They are worried about the negative influences of media and political propaganda in inducing conflict and conflictual narratives in society.

Young people in Albania believe in strengthening democratic principles in society, by increasing trust in institutions, using referendums and polls as a form of measuring citizens' perceptions of public policies, will ensure that peacebuilding processes are more successful, sustainable and inclusive. According to their views, social inclusion, which can help strengthen the agency of youth, is also highly important.

Young people are highly interested to be involved in both civic initiatives and peacebuilding processes, however the findings show that only a majority of young women living in urban areas are enabled to do so. They indicate that they are not enabled to participate in peacebuilding processes due to lack of information, lack of access, and lack of trust in the system and its institutions.

Young people urge for peace education to be strengthened and consider cross-cultural and international exchanges as a means to advance their knowledge and skills on peacebuilding processes.





Young people believe that formal representation and youth engagement in peace processes is important because it increases the trust and legitimacy of the decision-making process. They perceive governments and themselves to be key actors in shaping peacebuilding processes.

## Introduction to the Survey and its Methodology

Survey research is defined as "the collection of information from a sample of individuals through their responses to questions"<sup>4</sup>. As it is often used to describe and explore human behavior, surveys are therefore used in social and psychological research<sup>5</sup>. As a research method, surveys allow insight gathering and investigation by direct observation of a phenomena or collection of data. In social science research, surveys allow for important data to be collected about various social aspects of a community's composition, activities and its perceptions.<sup>6</sup>

To that end, this survey collected data on young people's perceptions and priorities for peace by following a mixed method. Data was collected by using quantitative research strategies (questions with numerically rated items) and qualitative research strategies (alternatives and open-ended questions).

The online survey consisted of 39 questions divided into the following sections:

- *Section 1. Demographic Questions (Part A)*, including questions on sex, age, living situation.
- *Section 2. Your Perceptions on Peace*, included questions on youth perceptions on peace in general and on peace in Albania as well as concerns on most common conflicts and the possible means to resolve them.
- *Section 3. On Youth, Peace and Security*, explored youth perceptions and recommendations for a better alignment of the key pillars of the UNSCR 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security, relevant for the peacebuilding processes and YPS agenda in Albania.

<sup>4</sup> Check J., Schutt R. K. (2012) Survey research. In: J. Check, R. K. Schutt., editors. *Research methods in education*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

<sup>5</sup> Singleton R. A., Straits B. C. (2009) *Approaches to social research*. New York: Oxford University Press

<sup>6</sup> Baral N. U. (2017) Research Data in Social Science Matters. *Journal of Political Science*, Volume XVII



- *Section 4. Recommendations* offered the space for reflections and recommendations.
- *Section 5. Demographic Questions (Part B)* included questions on economic and educational background, political participation and voting behavior, political views, and self-identification with hard-to-reach communities.

Since the target population of interest was youth, of the age group of 18 to 29 years old individuals living in Albania, the survey was promoted and shared among the network of youth organizations and those working with youth in Albania. Out of the whole sample of respondents (N=153), 70.7% belonged to the age group of 18 to 29 years old (N=111).

The data analysis of the findings is based on looking into the following variables: age, gender, living situation (rural/urban), and education. These variables are studied to generate insights into: definitions of peace, civic and political participation, concerns on peace and security, participation in peace processes and priorities in relation to it.

The survey was prepared in Albanian, in a simplified and easy to understand language, and tried to provide additional explanation on those concepts that were perceived from the expert and the working team as important to clarify for the respondents and audience. For this report's purposes, the survey is translated into English. (See Annex 1)

It is important for the interpretation of the results to note that the survey included open-ended ones, to multiple-choice questions and questions to rating scale questions, Likert scale questions, demographic questions and ranking questions. (See Annex 1) Among the types of questions used, and the findings generated for them, it is important to note in this report that for those questions which provided the possibility of ranking choices and alternatives, the first choice selected from the respondent is given priority when data was aggregated in a collective manner. For example, when asked to rank the top three alternatives or select among top three alternatives, the data was aggregated based on the top first choices in order to identify the most common chosen alternative. In these cases, the number and percentages correspond to the top chosen alternative against the other/s.

Finally, when it comes to the limitations of the study, it is crucial to know that the population size of the respondents that took part in the survey was low in terms of the survey's ambitions. The fact that the survey was conducted online can be considered as an additional burden to generate more observations which could be compensated by further research through face-to-face interviews, focus-group interviews, etc. Further findings and observations can be ensured through a larger population size of respondents, too.





## Data Analysis

### On Youth Perceptions on Peace

While there is no single definition of peace, it is important to understand how young people define peace in their words. Young people have become vital actors in the building of sustainable and peaceful societies and their opinions, hopes and values for peace are as different as they are similar.<sup>7</sup> (UNDP, 2021)

When asked how they would define peace, the majority of the respondents of the survey were divided into two groups, whereby 26.8% stated that *“Peace means being free from persecution or discrimination because of ones’ nationality, immigration status, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, religious beliefs, or sexual preference”*, whereas another 26.8% stated that *“Peace is a quiet, stress-free state of security and calmness that comes when there’s perfect harmony and freedom in one’s life.”*

In addition, 24.2% of the respondents replied that according to them *“Peace means the absence of conflict and war as well as freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups.”* Observing these definitions shows that most of them identify peace with two concepts: freedom (individual/social), and the absence of conflict/war.

Out of all the respondents, the majority of those belonging to the age group of 18-29 years old 27.9% defined peace as: **“Peace is a quiet, stress-free state of security and calmness that comes when there’s perfect harmony and freedom in one’s life.”**

The main threat to the state of peace was considered by the respondents 66.6% to be the **political conflicts**<sup>8</sup>. The majority of those belonging to the age group 18-29, around 50%, also identified political conflicts to be the biggest threat to peace, followed by **economic conflicts**<sup>9</sup>. When data was disaggregated by (living situation: both rural and urban), educated young people (high level education) findings show that the same held true with political conflicts being the most chosen type of conflict for both women and men (See Annex 2 - Table 2).

In terms of how to address and approach these conflicts by ensuring that peace and stability are protected, the majority of respondents consisting of over 55 % answered that should be done

<sup>7</sup> UNDP, UNFPA and RYCO (2021) Shared Futures Study: Youth Perceptions on Peace in the Western Balkans

<sup>8</sup> In this study, the term “political conflicts” was described as a situation where the behavior of one actor (or several actors) is confrontational towards another actor depending on interests, ideologies, etc.

<sup>9</sup> In this study, the term “economic conflict” was described as a conflict over economic issues, resources, economic models, etc.





through “**Strengthening democratic principles: Increasing trust in institutions, using referendums, and polls as a form of measuring citizens’ perceptions of public policies.**” Around 54% perceived “**Social inclusion: strengthen political and social inclusion, strengthen agency of youth and civil society actors that can contribute to peacebuilding processes**” as the second top ranking tool to address political conflicts in society and ensure peace.

Data was aggregated for the following groups: young women (18-29 years old) living in urban area and young men (18-29 years old) living in urban area, educated (high level education), versus same age group and level of education but different living situation (now in the rural area) and the findings showed that strengthening democratic principles was perceived by the majority of both groups as the pathway to address and approach the conflicts (See Annex 2 - Table 3).

In addition, the majority of youth perceived that there are channels and tools which strengthen and induce further conflicts and conflictual narratives: **political propaganda** (69.2%), **media** (60.7%) and lastly the **community upbringing and inherited narratives in society** (40%).

However, when data was aggregated for the following groups: young women (18-29 years old) living in urban area and young men (18-29 years old) living in urban area, educated (high level education), versus same age group and level of education but different living situation (now in the rural area), both young men and women living in urban and rural areas perceived **media** to be the channel inducing more conflict and conflictual narratives, followed by political propaganda and social media (See Annex 2 - Table 4)

When asked about their relationship with groups of people belonging outside of their community or Albania, the majority of respondents (69.3%) indicated that interacting with people outside of their community or Albania has a positive impact in their social life. However, on the contrary, they were skeptical about allowing large numbers of **immigrants and/or refugees** moving to Albania, and they perceived it as a destabilizing factor and threat to peace and stability in their community. The majority of the respondents (60.7%) indicated to be worried about the immigrants coming into Albania. In addition to such a statement of what impacts their view of immigrants, the majority of the respondents indicated that it is their community itself (55.5%) and media (45.5%).

In addressing the survey objectives, it is relevant to point out that a majority of the respondents (88.2%) want to be actively involved in peacebuilding processes and initiatives in Albania. They identify **the government** (35.9%) and themselves (29.4%) as **key relevant actors** in shaping peace processes and initiatives in Albania. It is interesting to note that when data is aggregated for the following groups: young women (18-29 years old) living in urban area and young men (18-



29 years old) living in urban area, educated (high level education), versus same age group and level of education but different living situation (now in the rural area), both groups perceive **government** and **themselves** to be key actors in shaping peacebuilding processes. When it comes to their perceptions on **international organizations** as key actors in shaping peace, one insightful finding is that men living in urban areas have more trust in international organizations as key actors, compared to women living in urban areas (See Annex 2 - Table 5).

Finally, youth perceptions on peace also showed what they identify to be the top priorities for peace and security in Albania. The majority of the respondents (77.8%) stated that **any form of discrimination** (by age, disability, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, etc.) in the society needs to be tackled with priority. According to them, **physical violence or threat of violence outside of home** (64.7%) as well as **bullying and sexual harassment** at school and/or in the workplace (62.7%) shall be prioritized as phenomena disrupting peace in one's individual and collective life.

When data was aggregated for the following groups: young women (18-29 years old) living in urban area and young men (18-29 years old) living in urban area, educated (high level education), versus same age group and level of education, but different living situation (now in the rural area), the majority of representatives of both groups indicated that **physical violence or threat of violence outside of home** was the key priority to address, followed by domestic violence and any form of discrimination (See Annex 2 - Table 6).

### On the Priorities for the YPS Agenda

As the UNSCR 2250 (2015) asserts<sup>10</sup>, youth are a positive force in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and their engagement supports the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacebuilding efforts. However, some significant challenges remain to ensure that youth become a key active force and peacebuilders in the communities they form part of.

The majority of the respondents of the survey indicated that they have never been involved in activities or initiatives that revolve around issues of peacebuilding and conflict resolution, in their local and national realm. Out of all respondents only a minority (37%) indicated to have been involved in such initiatives. They felt the same for the peers in their community, indicating that their friends are also not involved in similar activities. It was derived from their responses that reasons for doing so were lack of information and access, followed by lack of trust in bringing the desired change.

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<sup>10</sup> UNSCR 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security available at [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2250\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2250(2015))



The findings indicate the opposite when they were asked about **civic engagement** in general. The majority of the respondents (84.3%) stated to have been involved in civic activities that mostly correspond to the field of **education** (63.4%), **youth empowerment** (51.6%), **democracy and human rights** (45.8%). **Volunteering** (53%) and **sharing content on social media channels** (52.3%) were the two key tools through which the respondents indicated to exercise their civic activism on social causes of their own interest.

One of the reasons why such a big difference exists in data when young people were asked about civic engagement versus engagement in peace processes or initiatives might be the individual understanding and perception that young people have on peacebuilding initiatives, or even how familiar they are with the concept of a peace process/initiative itself. Some of the findings on the question related to civic education such as youth empowerment, democracy and human rights, are fields where themes and topics related to peace can become evident within the field, however, even though the majority of young people said to have been involved in such fields through civic engagement initiatives they indicated the opposite when asked about their engagement in peace processes and initiatives.

When data was aggregated for the following groups: young women (18-29 years old) living in urban area and young men (18-29 years old) living in urban area, educated (high level education), versus same age group and level of education but different living situation (now in the rural area), findings show that both **women and men living in urban areas, are more engaged in civic initiatives compared to their peers in rural communities** (See Annex 2 - Table 7) Similarly, in terms of their perceived engagement with peace processes, women indicated to have been more involved in such fields compared to men (See Annex 2 - Table 8).

Young people expressed dissatisfaction with efforts made in their community/country to address issues that are important for peace and security in Albania. Consequently, the respondents indicated that they were mainly **dissatisfied with the health system** (63%), **the economic system** including the lack of opportunities for employment (61%) and **the media** (54%). They also added that they are worried about young people leaving the country (55%), and the lack of spaces dedicated to youth for their empowerment and development (54%).

When asked about the importance and implications of the UNSC 2250 Resolution (2015), the respondents (58.5%) perceived the need that youth in Albania should be more proactive in youth-led peace processes and initiatives that support the pillars of the UNSCR 2250 (2015).

Young respondents indicated to trust themselves as key actors that should be empowered to take a more leading role in peace processes. The majority of respondents (93.4%) stated that the **formal representation of youth in peace and security issues** is a path to increase their





engagement and empowerment on peacebuilding processes and initiatives. They stated that **improving the school curricula with more content on peace education** and **creating a safe space for dialogue and discussion** on such topics (60.7%) as well as investing in regional and international exchanges (52.9%) can support the formal representation of youth in peace and security issues. For the respondents, such **formal representation and youth engagement** is important because it increases the **trust and legitimacy** of the decision-making process (45.7%).

Around 75.2% of the respondents<sup>11</sup> stated that they believe Albania's Youth Delegates to the United Nations (UN) can successfully amplify youth voices through their commitment and advancement of YPS Agenda. This strengthens the finding that trust and legitimacy can be increased by formal representation of young people in the decision-making processes.

In addition, when asked to rate the formal representation of young people in peacebuilding and security issues, through their opinion and perceptions on the youth quotas<sup>12</sup> in the National Parliament or other decision-making bodies in Albania, young respondents (55%<sup>13</sup>) indicated that increasing such quotas is the right way to improve the situation and the opportunities offered to young people in Albania.

When data was disaggregated by (living situation: both rural and urban), educated young people (high level education) findings show that (See Annex 2 – Table 9) out of 111 respondents (aged 18-29 years old), the majority (53.5%) agree with the statement that youth quotas in decision-making bodies offer opportunities for engagement. Mostly young women, as data shows, viewed this as an effective tool for meaningful political engagement.

Overall, these are important findings which indicate that at the local and national level young people experience barriers to their engagement in peace processes, they are faced with lack of information and lack of trust when it comes to the system in which they live. A successful YPS Agenda localization and operationalization in Albania would have to consider enabling young people to meaningfully participate, as well as, be represented and supported with more opportunities for concrete engagement.

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<sup>11</sup> Data aggregated considering answers "I agree" and "I totally agree".

<sup>12</sup> Youth quotas were defined in the Survey as the determination of a percentage or minimum number of young people in the National Parliament or other decision-making bodies, who are elected regardless of the number of votes received during the respective electoral process.

<sup>13</sup> Data aggregated considering answers "I agree" and "I totally agree".



## Brief Discussion on the Main Findings

The report's questions and methods sought to explore Albanian youth perceptions on peace and security issues and the findings assert that young people share common concerns and hopes.

In the Albanian context, young people define peace as a state of calmness followed by lack of conflict and war, and they perceive that they can play an active role in shaping peace processes. They also perceive governments as key actors in such processes but are worried about the political conflicts, media and political propaganda. Furthermore, young people express to have been engaged in civic initiatives that relate to education, volunteering, democracy and human rights, but do not indicate active involvement in peace processes that they are concerned about. They state that this result is due to lack of trust, lack of information, and lack of access to opportunities. Finally, they see a formal representation and recognition of youth in decision-making and peace processes as a boost to trust and legitimacy of national and international actions in this field.

These findings imply that Albania has a long way to go into empowering and engaging youth in peace processes and initiatives. There should be more spaces where young people are informed about peace, and ways they can contribute to shape and sustain it.

The results of this final report are important to feed the content and strategic direction of the National Network on Youth, Peace and Security, by ensuring that young people are involved at all stages, from its' designing process onwards. It is important to note that their contribution should also be recognized and awarded. This could be a possible mechanism to empower young people and reward their engagement, for example by recognizing them as "peace ambassadors" or through other titles and awards.

One limitation of this report was the inability to reach marginalized youth. Even though the expert and working team identified marginalized youth as a crucial group that can provide insights towards meeting the objectives of the survey, this was not met in a satisfactory way to provide enough analysis. This comes also due to the fact that the outreach strategy of this study was not dedicated or oriented to marginalized youth particularly, while everyone's views and opinions were welcomed. Self-identification and the right to privacy might also be possible reasons why not much data was given under the questions dedicated to marginalized groups (See Annex 1, Question 35). Further research initiatives can be shifted more into that direction and give more spaces for data collection on marginalized and hard to reach youth given the rising importance of shaping more inclusive peace processes and initiatives.

Another scientific action or direction of future research studies can also focus on the relationship between trust and legitimacy in correlation to formal representation of youth in peace processes.







When it comes to the practical actions forward and paving the way to establishing the National Network on YPS young people's recommendations indicate that this is a needed step that can provide them with more information and opportunities for direct engagement through various means.

## Recommendations and Conclusion

The following recommendations are based on the findings and youth observations in this final report. Their purpose is to provide suggestions to the government, policy makers, national and international actors working in the field of youth and peacebuilding in Albania, and other stakeholders to design policies and strategies that will create a supportive environment for the empowerment of young peacebuilders and leaders in society.

The below-stated recommendations were extracted from the section on recommendations where the respondents identified the key priorities:

- More specific youth programs for peace and security as well as capacity building and youth empowerment in these areas need to be developed locally and nationally. Governments, civil society, academia, youth councils, NGOs and other stakeholders need to build institutional and sustainable mechanisms of cooperation between them. National and international agencies need to increase their funding and donations to support youth-led peace and security processes.
- There should be more secure spaces for open civic and youth interaction and dialogue, where young people together identify priorities and needs for peace building in the country.
- Peace education needs to be strengthened both in formal and non-formal education.
- The voluntary work of young people who contribute to peacebuilding processes and/or activities in the community must be awarded and recognized. The positive commitment of young people working in peace and security to be recognized and appreciated through the awarding of prizes, grants, and various decorations.

Throughout the survey, young people also underlined that more efforts should be made to guarantee that youth programs for peace and security are designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated with and by young people themselves. Finally, more access to information and better promotion of outreach of opportunities that involve youth on peace processes should be ensured.

In conclusion, it is important to note that young people perceive themselves as key relevant actors in shaping peace processes and initiatives in Albania. They urge for more formal representation





of youth in peace and security issues as a path to increase their engagement and empowerment on peacebuilding processes but also to strengthen trust and legitimacy in society. More networks, opportunities and spaces for engagement will lead to more satisfied and actively involved youth.

## **Annexes**

### **Annex 1 - The Survey**

#### **SECTION I - DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS(A) [single choice questions]**

1. I identify as:
  - Female
  - Male
  - Other
  
2. I am:
  - 15–18 years old
  - 18–29 years old





- > 29 years old
3. I live in a: (please choose the option that best fits your place of residence)
- Rural environment (village, small city/town)
  - Urban environment (capital, city, town)

## SECTION II - YOUR PERCEPTIONS ON PEACE

In this section, we would like to know more about your perceptions on peace in general and on peace in Albania, as well as your concerns on present conflicts in society and the possible ways to resolve and/or address them. Please answer honestly and in your own words and judgment.

4. Based on your knowledge and judgment, which of the following best describes your definition of peace? [*Single Choice Question*]
- Peace is a quiet, stress-free state of security and calmness that comes when there's perfect harmony and freedom in one's life.
  - Peace means the absence of conflict and war as well as freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups.
  - Peace means being free from persecution or discrimination because of one's nationality, immigration status, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, religious beliefs, or sexual preference.
  - Peace means access to education, health, and essential services as well as developing sustainably and protecting the planet's environment and biodiversity.
  - Peace is a radical call for freedom from oppression, and a bold challenge to rethink how we live together in ways that honor each other's dignity.
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
5. According to your perceptions on peace, which are key actors you identify as relevant and important to shaping peace processes and initiatives in Albania? Please select three out of the following. [*Multiple Choice Question*]
- Myself
  - Youth
  - Government (local, national, ministries and agencies)





- International organizations and bodies
- Civil Society
- Academia
- Media
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Would you be interested to be actively involved in peacebuilding processes and initiatives in Albania? *[Single choice question]*
- Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

7. Based on your knowledge and judgment, what are some of the most common types of global conflicts that are present in the world? *[Top three choices - Ranked Choices]*

*If you would like to consult the definitions of the following types of conflicts included in questions 7 and 8 please visit this document: [shorturl.at/chzA3](http://shorturl.at/chzA3)*

- Religious conflicts
- Ethnic conflicts
- Socio-cultural conflicts
- Political conflicts
- Economics
- Military/armed conflicts
- Cyber attacks
- Conflict of values
- Other
- I do not know

8. Based on your knowledge and judgment, what are some of the most common types of conflict that destabilize peace and are present in your society/community in Albania? *[Select your top three choices - Ranked Choices]*

*If you would like to consult the definitions of the following types of conflicts included in questions 7 and 8 please visit this document: [shorturl.at/chzA3](http://shorturl.at/chzA3)*

- Religious conflicts
- Political conflicts
- Economical conflicts
- Ethnic conflicts





- Socio-cultural conflicts
  - Military/armed conflicts
  - Cyber attacks
  - Conflict of values
  - Other
  - I do not know
9. Considering the above, please name a concrete example of conflict within the first-choice category you have chosen. *[Open ended question]*
10. In your opinion, which of the following can help to resolve these conflicts? *[Multiple Choice question]*
- Strengthening democratic principles: Increasing trust in institutions, using referendums, and increasing the frequency of polls as a form of measuring citizens' perceptions of public policy.
  - Social inclusion: strengthen political and social inclusion, strengthen agency of youth and civil society actors that can contribute to peacebuilding processes.
  - Security and defense: establish and strengthen people's security in a community.
  - Justice: address injustices and increase people's access to justice.
  - Economic development: generate employment, growth and improve livelihoods.
  - Diplomatic interventions: negotiate peace agreements with political leaders, support societies to resolve conflicts peacefully.
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Considering your perceptions on the existence of conflicts in your society, do you believe that narratives share and influence conflict incitement, and if yes, how? *[Open ended question]*

*Please note that the term "narrative" here means the story or stories that are created and propagated regarding a state's, a people's or other population group's history, including their relations with others.*





12. In your opinion, what are some of the sources or mediums that influence conflictual narratives in Albania? Select all that apply. *[Multiple choice question]*

- Mass media
- Social media
- Educational system
- Family
- Political propaganda and statements
- Distorted historical writings and texts
- Radical groups
- Community upbringing and inherited narratives in society
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Which of the following do you think represent the most concerning security issues which should be addressed with priority in Albania? *[Multiple choice question]*

- Physical violence or threat of physical violence outside the home
- Physical violence or threat of physical violence inside the home
- Any form of discrimination (by age, disability, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, etc.)
- Bullying and intimidation at school or work
- Online bullying or intimidation on the internet or social media
- Sexual harassment or gender-based violence online or offline
- Hate speech
- Cyber attacks
- Social justice and inequality
- Religious or ethnic conflict
- Environmental issues and climate change
- Interference by foreign country/ies
- Terrorism and/or violent armed groups
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_





### SECTION III - ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

The UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) adopted by the UN Security Council addresses Youth, Peace and Security and has five key pillars that urge for greater youth voices and engagement in peace efforts: <https://www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Introduction>

- Participation: Involvement of young people in conflict resolution, violence prevention and in the promotion of social cohesion. Representation of youth in decision-making at all levels.
- Protection: Protecting civilians, including young people, during armed conflict and in post-conflict times, as well as ensuring protection against all forms of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Prevention: Ensuring socio-economic development and quality education for youth, and promoting a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue.
- Partnership: Working with UN entities, international organizations, national and local authorities and civil society to increase support for young people's participation in peacebuilding.
- Disengagement and Reintegration: Supporting the meaningful reintegration of youth in conflict resolution processes and peacebuilding.

This section aims to explore your perceptions and recommendations for better alignment of these key pillars in peacebuilding processes in Albania, as well as to identify the existing challenges and barriers you perceive on issues of peace and security for youth.

14. Based on your judgment and knowledge, please evaluate the following statements:  
*[Standard Likert scale: (1) Strongly disagree; (2) Disagree; (3) Neither agree nor disagree; (4) Agree; (5) Strongly agree.]*

- I think the government in Albania works to ensure that the UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) key pillars are met.
- I think that youth and youth-led organizations/institutions in Albania work to ensure that the UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) key pillars are met.



- I think that the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in Albania is working to promote Resolution 2250 among young people in the country.
  - I think that the civil society in Albania works to ensure that the UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) key pillars are met.
  - I think that there are enough local and national initiatives that ensure youth are engaged and included in peace processes in Albania.
  - I think that national mechanisms do not focus on prevention of conflicts by ensuring a better promotion of peace, diversity and social inclusion.
  - I think that partnerships among national, regional and international organizations are key in ensuring that the UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015) key pillars for youth, peace and security are met.
  - I think youth in Albania should be more proactive in youth-led peace processes and initiatives that support the pillars of the UNSC Resolution 2250 (2015).
  - I am informed about Albania's Mandate as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, for the period 2022–2023.
15. Have you ever been involved in activities or initiatives that revolve around issues of peacebuilding and conflict resolution in your local or national community? *[Single choice question]*
- Yes
  - No
  - Unsure
16. If yes, what was the initiative/activity about and what was your personal or professional drive for it? If not, why? *[Open ended question]*
17. Do you think friends and companions around you are actively involved in processes of peace and security in Albania? *[Single choice question]*





- Yes
- No
- Unsure

18. If yes, how? If not, why? *[Open ended question]*

19. Below are statements related to your community and interaction among you and your peers. Please choose to what extent you agree or disagree with the statements? *[Standard Likert scale: (1) Strongly disagree; (2) Disagree; (3) Neither agree nor disagree; (4) Agree; (5) Strongly agree.]*

- There are a limited number of socio-cultural events in my community and few opportunities for engaging in them.
- There is a lack of youth clubs/centers/agencies where I live.
- My friends and I are not interested in being active in society.
- Young people of diverse backgrounds in my community rarely spend time together.
- Young people are leaving my community.
- Our opinion is valued by decision-makers (state and local authorities/institutions, schools, etc.)
- There are plenty of opportunities in my community for young people to engage in bringing social action.
- My community celebrates diversity.

20. This question is about your relationship with groups of people belonging outside of your community or Albania. Is your community in Albania made better or worse by people coming from other countries? *[Single choice question]*

- Better
- Worse
- Neither better, not worse
- I do not know

21. Considering the above, to what extent do you think Albania should allow migrants to come and live here? *[Single choice question]*



- Allow many – I do not think there should be security concerns from migrants.
- Allow some – I think there are some security concerns related to migrants.
- Allow none – I think there are plenty of security concerns related to migrants.

22. Which of the following do you think shapes your relationship with migrants, or people belonging outside of your community in Albania? *[Multiple choice question]*

- My community itself
- My family
- My school
- My work and professional surroundings
- Media
- Politics
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

23. The following questions are about civil society and civic engagement. Civil society means any kind of initiative in which people come together linked by common interests and collective activity outside of the government or a business. Have you been engaged in, participated in, or led social processes or activities that have the potential to influence the social environment (e.g., sports activities, art, music, volunteering, entrepreneurship, etc.)? *[Single choice question]*

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

24. If yes, which of the following areas have you been engaged with through those activities? Choose all that apply: *[Multiple choice question]*

- Education (formal and/or non-formal)
- Politics
- Democracy and Human Rights
- Helping marginalized and socially excluded groups
- Intercultural issues, peace, and cultural diversity





- Youth empowerment
- Environment and climate change
- Religious activities
- Sports and a healthy lifestyle
- Arts and culture
- Animal rights
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- None

25. If not, which of the following areas are of interest for you to promote if you are provided with the necessary space and means? Choose all that apply: *[Multiple choice question]*

- Education (formal and/or non-formal)
- Politics
- Democracy and Human Rights
- Helping marginalized and socially excluded groups
- Intercultural issues, peace, and cultural diversity
- Youth empowerment
- Environment and climate change
- Religious activities
- Sports and a healthy lifestyle
- Arts and culture
- Animal rights
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- None

26. In the past 12 months, have you participated in any of the following activities? Choose all that apply: *[Multiple choice question]*

- Posted or published something on social media about an important political or social issue.
- Signed a petition on paper or online.
- Took part in a campaign for a cause important to you.
- Volunteer for a cause important to you.
- Participated in youth camps.





- Participated in cultural exchanges bringing people of different backgrounds together
- Attended or organized a protest/demonstration.
- Called, written to, or met with elected officials.
- Participated in a political campaign.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- None

27. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following in Albania in terms of their efforts on peacebuilding processes and initiatives in Albania? [Scale: Completely dissatisfied – mostly not satisfied – not satisfied or dissatisfied – mostly satisfied – completely satisfied]

- The government
- The media
- The educational system
- The economic system and employment opportunities for youth
- Health care
- Environmental protection
- Civil society, including youth organizations/centers and agencies
- International institutions' support and mechanisms

28. Considering your opinion on the above, do you think that formal representation of youth in peace and security issues is a path to increase their engagement and empowerment on peacebuilding processes and initiatives? [Single choice question]

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

29. Thinking of formal representation of youth in peace and security issues, please evaluate the following sentences according to your opinion and judgment. [Standard Likert scale: (1) Strongly disagree; (2) Disagree; (3) Neither agree nor disagree; (4) Agree; (5) Strongly agree.]

- "Youth quotas" of youth representation in Parliament, are the right way to improve the situation and opportunities offered to young people in Albania. ("Youth quotas" means the determination of a



- percentage or minimum number of young people in Parliament or other decision-making bodies, who are elected regardless of the number of votes received during the respective electoral process).
- Improving school curricula, as well as increasing the discussion of social topics in schools (pre-university education) would help increase the knowledge and skills of young people in involvement in decision-making processes in Albania.
  - Cross-cultural exchange programs, as well as providing international experiences for Albanian youth, would increase their knowledge of peace, as well as practical skills in conflict resolution and community coexistence.
  - Youth processes that involve and are youth-led can increase trust and legitimacy in peace initiatives and security issues.
  - I believe that Albania's Youth Delegates to the United Nations (UN) can successfully amplify youth voices through their commitment and advancement of the "Youth, Peace and Security" Agenda. (to learn more about the Youth who will represent Albania at the UN, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/UNYDALbania>)

#### SECTION IV - RECOMMENDATIONS

30. What would you value as an emergent need for strengthening youth's role and engagement in peacebuilding processes in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015)? *[Multiple choice question]*
- More youth-specific programs for peace and security take place at both local and national levels as well as capacity-building activities for youth empowerment in these fields.
  - There should be more safe community spaces for civic dialogue, where young people collectively identify peacebuilding and development priorities for action.
  - Marginalized young people and groups are reached out more proactively.
  - Governments, civil society, academia, youth councils, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders cooperate and join forces for working





- towards ensuring that agency and leadership of young peacebuilders is addressed at both local and national levels.
- International agencies should increase their funding to support the youth of Albania in youth-led peace and security initiatives.
  - Efforts should be made to ensure that programs related to youth and peace and security are designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated with and by young people themselves.
  - Research and development should be prioritized by ensuring there is qualitative and quantitative research and data collection on youth and peace and security in Albania.
  - Peace education should be strengthened.
  - The positive work of youth working on peace and security should be acknowledged and recognized through the allocation of awards, grants, and honors.
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_

31. If you could provide a suggestion for key issues that were not explored in this survey but are important for Youth, Peace, and Security in Albania, please type it below. *[Open ended Question]*

#### SECTION V - DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS (B)

32. Which of the following best describes the highest level of education you have completed? *[Single Choice Question]*
- Pre High School Studies
  - High School Studies
  - Bachelor Degree
  - Master Degree
  - Ph.D.
  - Professional training
  - None of the above
33. Which of the following describes your employment status and/or professional engagement? *[Single Choice Question]*
- Student (still studying)
  - Employed full time with contract





- Employed full-time informally (e.g. working for relatives, family business, etc.)
- Employed part-time
- Conducting an internship
- Self-employed (e.g. owner of a business)
- Freelancer
- Taking care of home and family
- Unemployed and looking
- Unemployed and not looking
- Unable to work
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

34. If employed and/or currently working, which of the following describes the industry you work in? *[Single Choice Question]*

- Government and public administration
- NGO sector
- Academia
- Media
- Diplomatic Missions and/or international organizations
- Private Company (Business Sector)
- Not related to a specific industry (Self-Employed Entrepreneur)
- None of the above
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

35. Do you identify with any of the following groups? Please select all that apply: *[Multiple Choice Question]*

- Persons with physical disabilities
- Persons with developmental challenges
- Gender minority
- Ethnic minority
- Religious minority
- Roma
- LGBTQ+
- Living in poverty





- Living in a remote area with limited or no access to social structures, youth services, or internet connections
- Immigrants or refugees
- Youth not in employment, education, and training
- Youth without parental care
- Youth exposed to conflict, violence, and/or bullying
- Youth discriminated on basis of race or ethnicity
- Youth involved in conflict with the law
- None of the above
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

36. Do you consider yourself as belonging to a particular religion? *[Single Choice Question]*

- Yes, and I follow religious practices of the religion I consider myself belonging to.
- Yes, but I do not follow religious practices or teachings.
- No, I do not consider myself as belonging to a particular religion.
- Prefer not to say

37. Political Participation: Are you politically active and engaged in processes such as petitions, campaigns, elections, political statements, and meetings with political representatives in your community? *[Single Choice Question]*

- Yes, often. I participate in various political processes.
- Yes, occasionally. Sometimes, I participate in various political processes.
- No, never.
- Prefer not to say.

38. How would you describe your political views? *[Single Choice Question]*

- Very liberal
- Liberal
- Moderate
- Conservative
- Very conservative





- None of the above
- I do not know
- Prefer not to say

39. Voting Behavior: Did you vote in the last national election? [Single Choice Question]

- Yes
- No

## Annex 2 - List of Tables

Table 1. Overall Survey Respondents' Profile

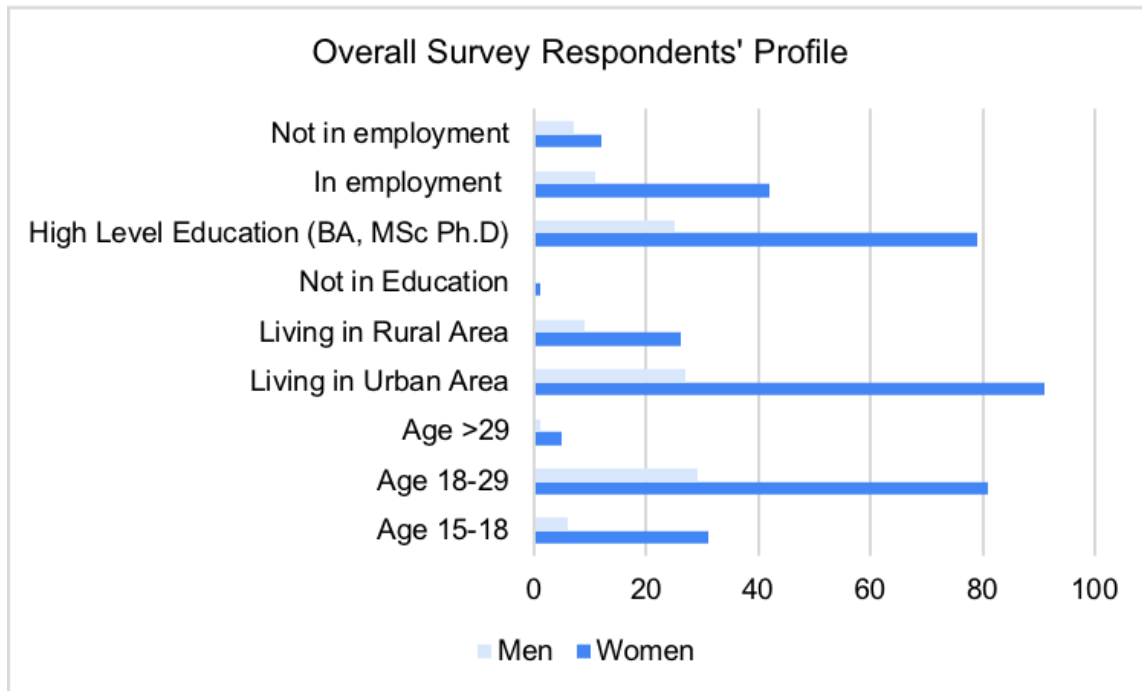




Table 2. Perceptions on Most Common Type of Conflict

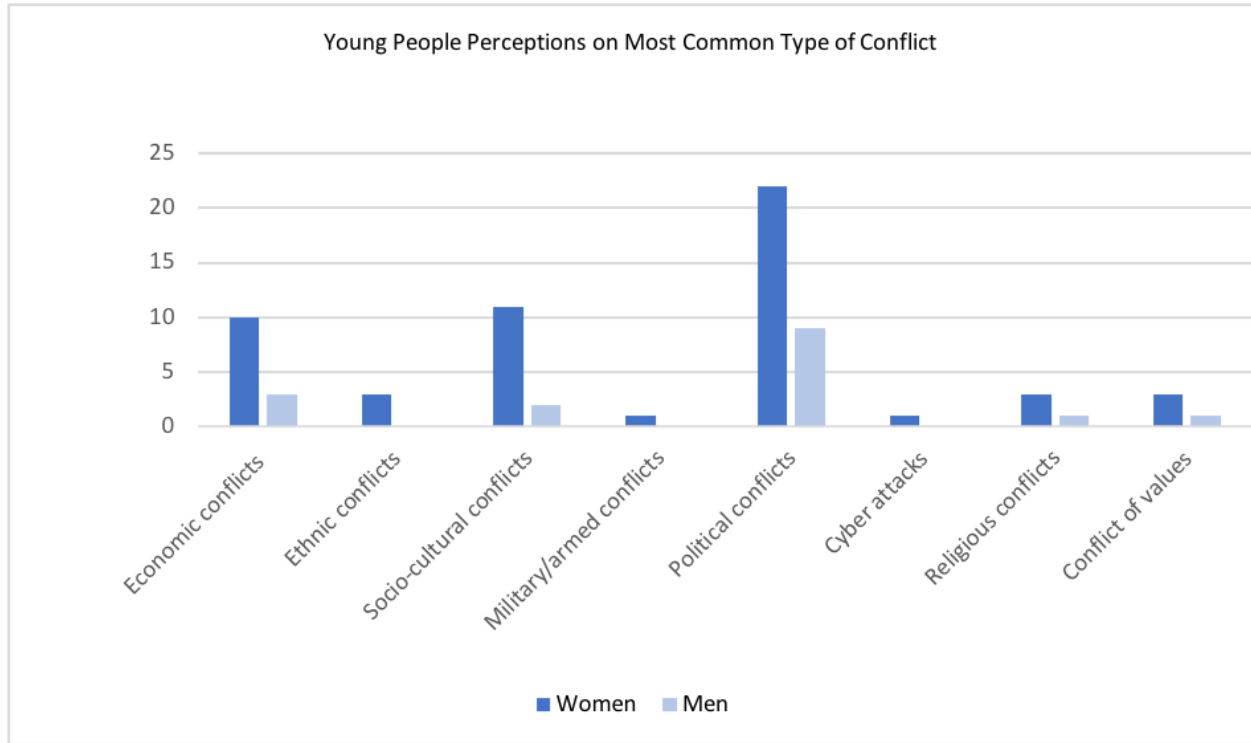


Table 3. Perceptions on Means to Addressing Conflicts



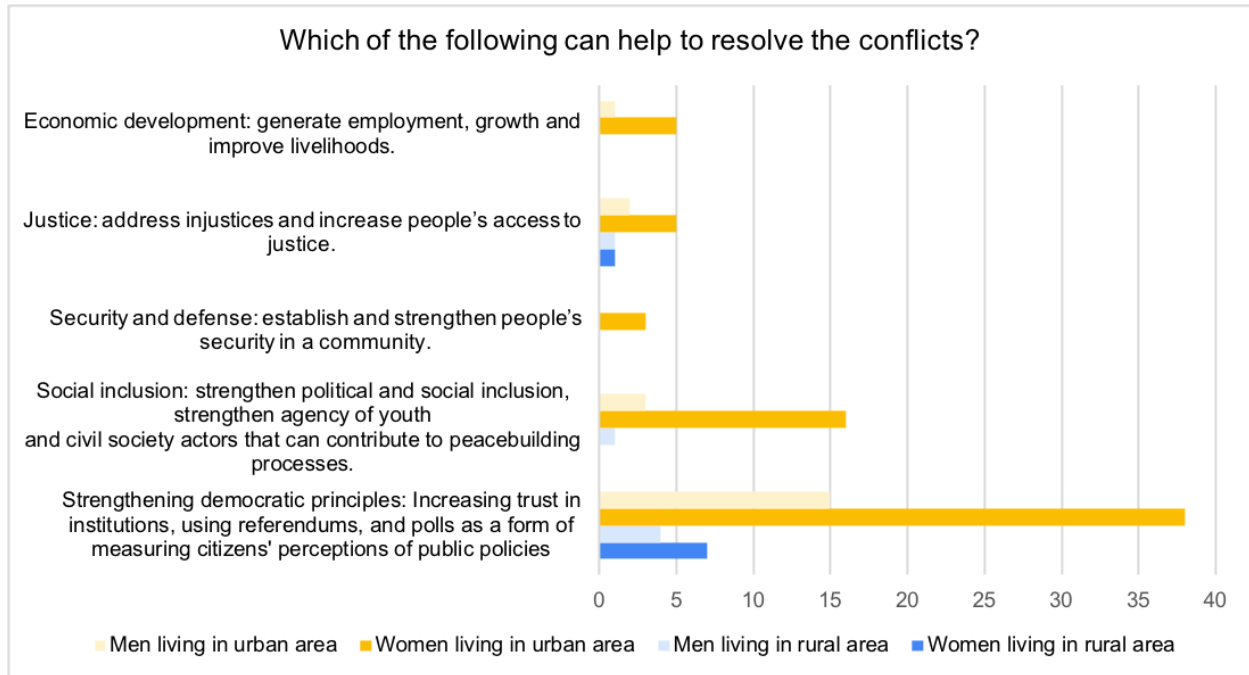


Table 4. Perceptions on factors that influence and induce conflicts

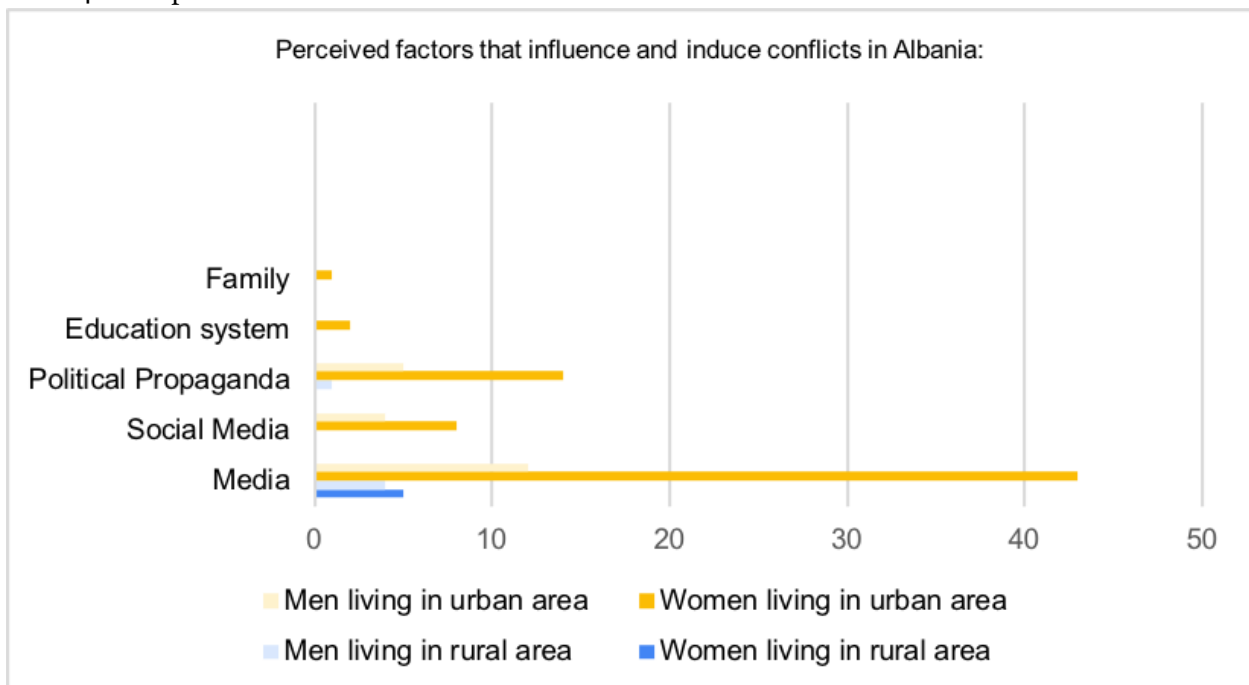




Table 5. Perceived Key Actors that can Shape Peacebuilding Processes

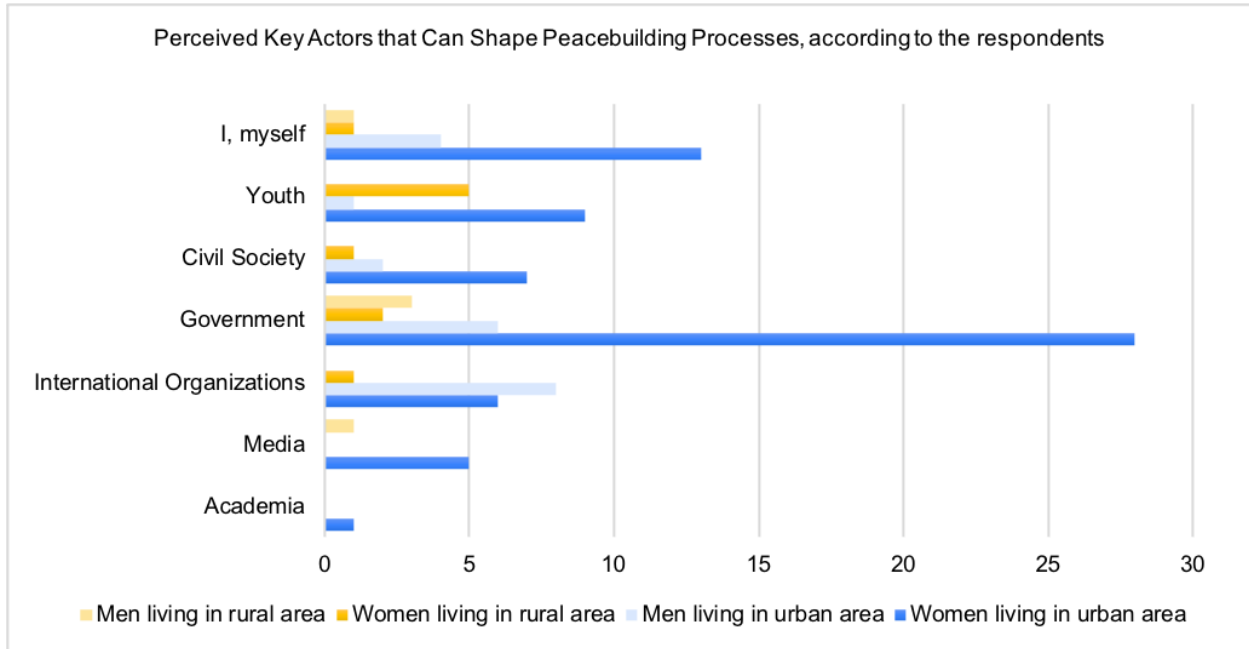


Table 6. Key Priorities to Address



Which of the following do you consider as a key priority to be address:

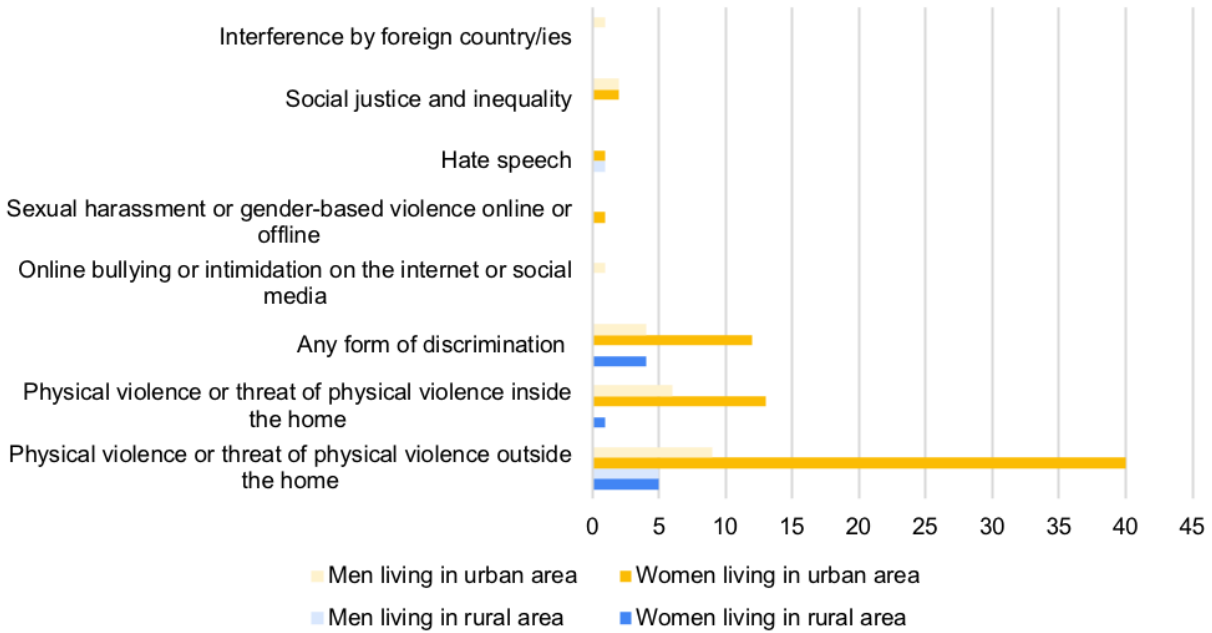


Table 7. Youth Engagement in Civic Initiatives

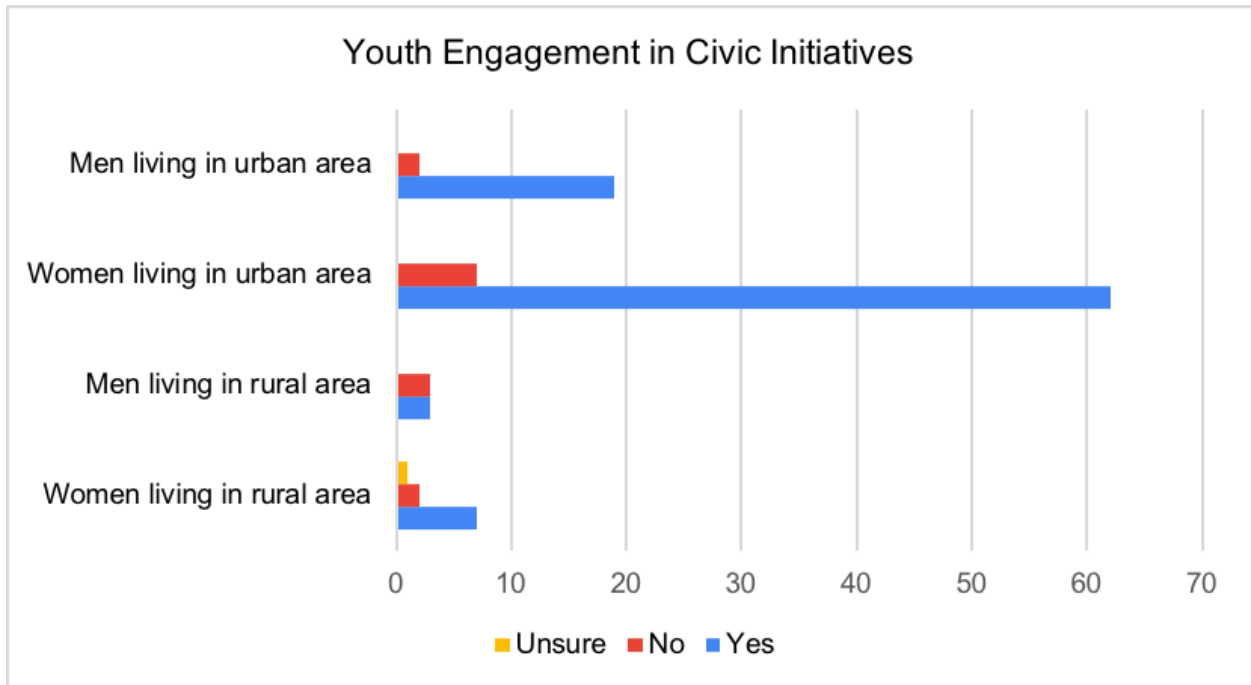


Table 8. Youth Involvement in Peace Processes and Initiatives

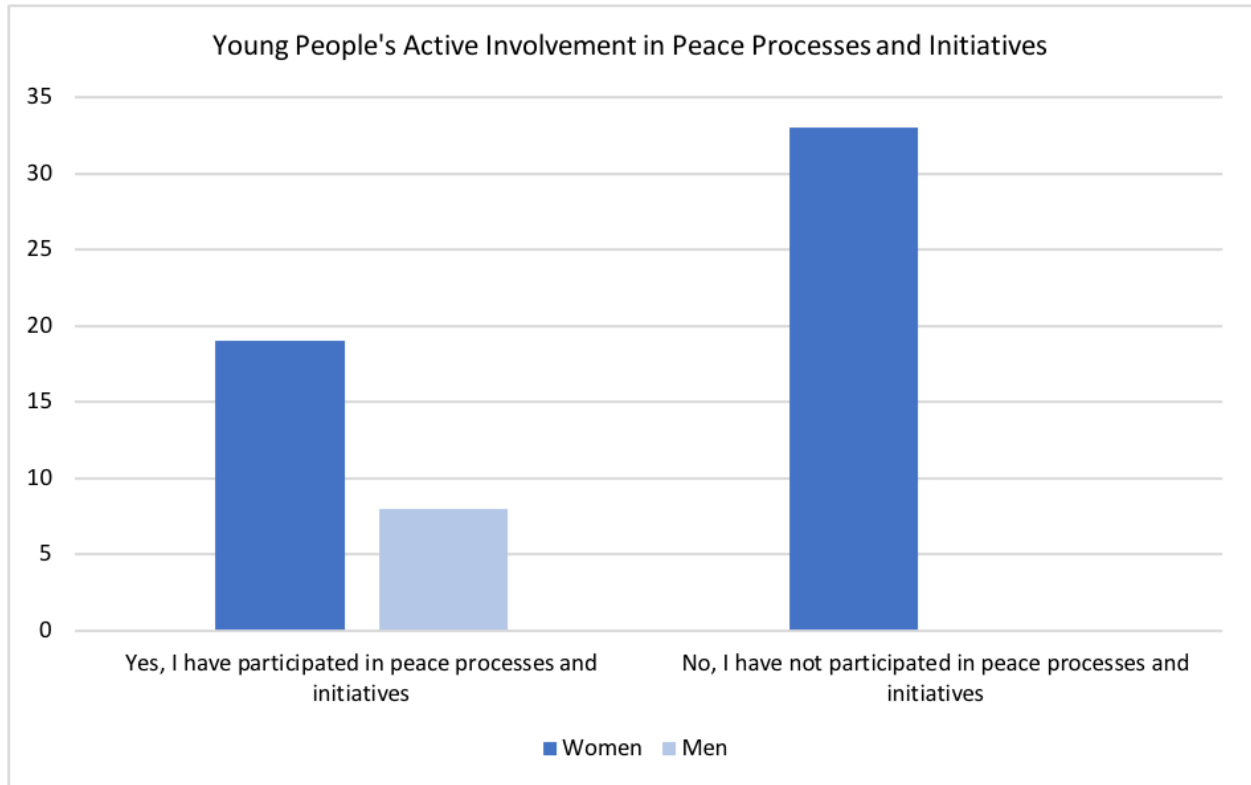
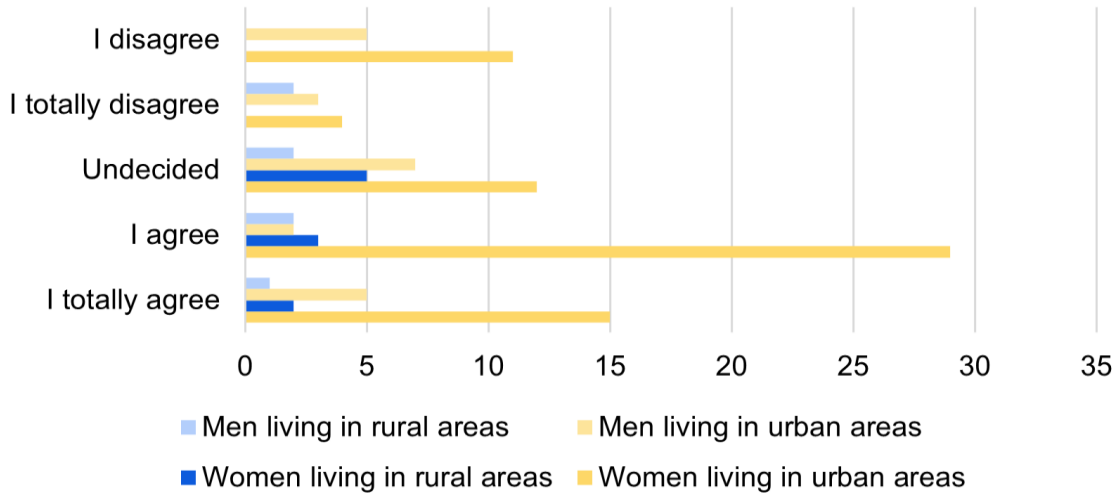


Table 9. Perceptions on "Youth quotas" in Parliament as a means to ensure youth representation and improve the situation and opportunities offered to young people in Albania



"Youth quotas" of youth representation in Parliament are the right way to improve the situation and opportunities offered to young people in Albania.





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