
International Youth Day 2018

Safe Spaces for Youth

Informational Packet

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INTERNATIONAL
YOUTH DAY

2018
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SPACES
FOR YOUTH



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UN DESA/DISD Programme on Youth & UN-Habitat

2018 International Youth Day

The 2018 International Youth Day will aim to promote youth engagement and empowerment by exploring **the role of safe spaces** in contributing to freedom of expression, mutual respect and constructive dialogue.

The event will reflect on the significance of safe spaces in providing **opportunities for sport, innovation empowerment and leisure time activities**, while deconstructing barriers of judgment, hate speech, harassment or violence.

Overall, participants will consider ways in which safe spaces can **promote an inclusive youth** development towards the the 2030 Agenda.

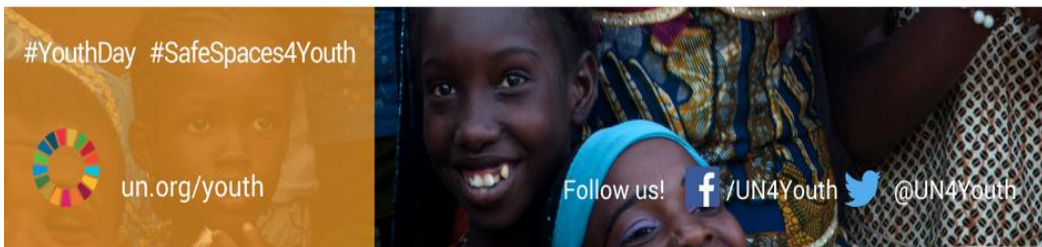


Safe Spaces for Youth

This year's theme celebrates the contributions of safe spaces to youth freedom of expression, mutual respect and constructive dialogue.

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What are Safe Spaces for Youth?

Safe Spaces can be defined as platforms where youth can **come together, freely express themselves, engage in activities** related to their diverse needs and interests and **participate in decision-making processes**.

Available and accessible physical or virtual spaces can help youth feel valued and advance their **cognitive, emotional** and **social** skills as they transition into adulthood.

Accessible Spaces

Available and accessible physical and virtual spaces can help youth feel valued and advance their cognitive, emotional and social skills as they transition into adulthood.

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Youth & Slums

Providing youth living in slums with safe spaces can enable them to engage in community life through events and activities, as well as leisure activities like sports.

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Why do youth need safe spaces?

Having a space that feels safe can **empower both rural and urban youth** by providing them with the opportunity to gather and participate in diverse activities or to talk and engage in meaningful dialogues.

The rise of social media and other forms of online communication has helped youth explore **new opportunities for engagement** and use their innovations to further create virtual and physical safe spaces.

Youth in Humanitarian & Conflict Settings

Safe spaces for youth in humanitarian and conflict settings can help them contribute to development, peace, and social cohesion

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Civic Spaces

Youth-led and youth focused organizations can utilize safe spaces to meaningfully engage with local, national and global decision makers



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Civic Spaces

Youth-led and youth focused organizations can utilize safe spaces to meaningfully **engage with local, national and global decision-makers** on various issues, including youth civil rights, voting, volunteering, democracy and governance based on the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion.

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Public Spaces

Research indicates that the **availability and accessibility of public spaces** to youth such as parks, sporting facilities, cafés and community gardens can deter them from behavior which negatively impacts their development.

Public Spaces

Young people are more likely than any other demographic group to use public spaces, however, they often lack public spaces to call their own.



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Digital Spaces

The digital space allows youth to communicate instantly and permits access to information, networks and opportunities regardless of physical accessibility or location

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Digital Spaces

Open digital spaces can provide **youth the ability to instantly interact with each other** on topics ranging from pop culture, religion and politics irrespective of their age, race, sexual orientation, gender, disability, geographical location or time differences. Sometimes these lead to tangible **global online campaigns and virtual mobilizations**.

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Physical Spaces

Ensuring that physical spaces appeal to youth from diverse backgrounds, the planning of such spaces should be **inclusive** and accommodate their various needs, interests and activities. The physical space should be designed in a way to **deter gender-based violence, harassment or marginalization.**

Physical Spaces

Inclusive physical spaces that allow youth to meet and bond with their communities contribute to civil cohesion and advance youth cognitive, emotional and social skills.

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International Frameworks



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and specifically **Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities)** and targets (iii) and (vii) provide a strong basis for **safe urban spaces towards inclusive and sustainable urbanization**.

Furthermore, a youth inclusive urbanization is articulated in the [New Urban Agenda \(NUA\)](#).

Recently the United Nations hosted a forum in **Asia**, the region with the largest number of youth, to stress the importance of providing inclusive safe spaces to fulfil the needs of young people, as well as for them to be **partners, leaders and innovators to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Join the global community and create safe spaces for youth! #SafeSpaces4Youth

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国际
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提供
安全的空间

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