



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

IPU's Empowerment Series for Young Parliamentarians

Building peaceful and inclusive societies: The role of young MPs and interfaith dialogue

Zoom, 25 June 2025, 13:00 to 15:00 CEST (Geneva time)

In recent years, the world is witnessing a backsliding for global peace. This is marked by rising conflict, deepening polarization and widespread anxiety about the future. Tensions are not only manifested in the physical world, but in digital spaces as well. In this environment, the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies takes on increased urgency. These trends especially impact young people, who must come of age amongst these tensions often with limited influence on decisions shaping their present and future.

While religions or beliefs can at times fuel conflict, they can also be powerful in advocating for peace, reconciliation and justice. For young people especially, religions and beliefs can profoundly influence identity, education choices, worldviews, social interactions and concepts of justice. Interfaith dialogue among young people can be a powerful tool towards cohesion, entente and peace.

For people from all generations, interfaith dialogue is also a valuable tool for peacebuilding and diplomacy. It acknowledges the role of religion and belief in many people's lives, and the influence it can have in shaping communities and providing spiritual and material support to peace, cohesion and entente, and this in addition to human rights values, principles and systems, which should be at the heart of societies.

Parliamentarians have a critical role in the crafting of laws and policies, and influencing narratives that can bridge divides. When it comes to decisions affecting young people, young MPs are uniquely positioned to serve as leading actors, by amplifying youth voices in the political process and translating their perspectives and solutions into public policy.

The Empowerment Series for Young MPs has provided platforms to focus on youth, peace and security and on the role of young MPs in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Young MPs continue to navigate the complex landscape of conflict prevention and peacebuilding and champion policies that address the root causes of conflict, including socioeconomic disparities, marginalization and lack of access to opportunities for youth. In follow up to these efforts, the briefing will offer the opportunity for young MPs to examine their role and that of interfaith dialogue in building peaceful and inclusive societies.

In recent years, the IPU launched an initiative to examine links between political institutions and decision makers, on the one hand, and religions and beliefs, on the other, through a series of reports, conferences, webinars and dialogues. It organized its first Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Morocco in June 2023, entitled *Working together for our common future*. The Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, entitled *Strengthening trust and embracing hope for our common future*, will be held from 19 to 21 June 2025 in Rome, Italy.

In follow up to these conferences, the briefing will help empower young MPs in:

- **Building knowledge** on the latest strategies on securing interfaith dialogue to promote more peaceful societies.
- **Identifying** the role of young MPs and interfaith dialogue in building peaceful and inclusive societies.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

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