



Voices of SDG16+

Stories for Global Action

Civil Society leading the way on SDG16+

2022 Voices of SDG16 Video Campaign

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the recording



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Stories for Global Action

2022 Video Campaign & HLPF Event

ANGELA YUFEI ZHONG, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, USA
"YOUTH PEACE-BUILDING INFORMATION AND CURRICULUMS SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL, NOT JUST A SELECT FEW"

WE MUST HOLD OUR GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE!

WE HAVE WITNESSED THE IMPACT OF SUPPORT

DRAGANA BULIC, WORLD VISION, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
"WE MUST ADDRESS CHILD AND YOUTH RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING TO ACHIEVE SDG16+"

THE VOICES CAMPAIGN DEMONSTRATES

A SNAPSHOT OF OUR EFFORTS

SUPPORTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE

WORKING IN PEACE BUILDING

CITRA AYU KURNIAWATI, LRC KHAM, INDONESIA
"WOMEN STILL FACE EXTREME INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS AND POLICIES THAT DECREASE THEIR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING"

STILL COMBATTING DISCRIMINATION

TAKING SIMILAR APPROACHES TO VARYING NEEDS

VALUING WOMEN IN THE PEACE-MAKING PROCESS

ALSO A PROCESS WITHIN US

MABEL BIANCO, OGP/FOUNDATION FOR STUDIES & RESEARCH ON WOMEN, ARGENTINA
"VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HAS COME A LONG WAY, BUT ONLY THROUGH OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS ARE WE ABLE TO CONTINUE THAT WORK"

COVID-19 DEEPEDED OUR KNOWN & UNKNOWN

SECO SORI CAMARÁ, VOZ di Paz, GUINÉE-BISSAU
"LET'S CREATE SPACE AND TOOLS FOR CITIZEN INTERVENTIONS THAT WILL STRENGTHEN OUR JUSTICE SYSTEMS"

ELIMINATING THE STIGMA OF SUFFERING

TAP NETWORK Transparency, Accountability & Participation for 2030 Agenda

ARTICLE 19

NAMATI INNOVATIONS IN LEGAL EMPOWERMENT

peace direct

CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM FOR PEACEBUILDING AND STATEBUILDING

World Vision

ImageThink

Find out more about the Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action
<https://voicesofsdg16plus.org/>

Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action is supported by:



BACKGROUND

In the context of the 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), “Civil Society leading the charge for 2030 Agenda” was a virtual side-event following the fourth edition of the Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action video campaign. This side-event featured the campaign’s finalists’ videos and presentations of their work and context, focusing on the transformative and enabling power of SDG16+ in ensuring the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, environmental justice, gender equality and the overall 2030 Agenda. Both the campaign and the side-event intended to showcase how local civil society actors’ work on SDG16+ is contributing to building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action is an annual collaborative campaign started in 2019 to bring the work of local civil society on SDG16+ to the HLPF in New York. Every year, individuals, and partners from around the world are given the opportunity to submit short videos telling their “stories” of best practices and extraordinary efforts being undertaken towards SDG16+ at the national and local levels. The Voices of SDG16+ represents a unique and dynamic opportunity to call for accelerated action and increased awareness on the work of local civil society partners in this domain.

SUMMARY

The event started with a [compilation video for the 2022 SDG16+ Voices video campaign](#), after which Ms Asil Ibrahim, Communications Officer at the International Legal Foundation (ILF) in Palestine and Voices Campaign Alumni, and Mr Peter van Sluijs, Coordinator of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) welcomed participants and introduced this interactive virtual side-event, announcing video submissions, discussions among participants, and a live illustrator. They also provided a brief overview and background of the 2022 Voices Campaign and the selection process that led to the gathering of five finalists for the event.

Videos and Presentations by the 5 finalists of the 2022 Voices of SDG16+ Campaign

The 2022 Voices of SDG16+ campaign finalists were then able to see their videos displayed for the audience and had the opportunity to give a small presentation of their work and context:

1. Ms Angela Yufei Zhong, Rotary International, USA

Ms Angela Yufei Zhong told the story of how she organised the first Youth Peace Conference in the South of the United States. Focusing on gun violence, environmental degradation, homelessness and human trafficking among others, the conference made sure that all high school students who were interested would be able to participate and bring their ideas to life. Based upon the observation that a huge challenge with youth peacebuilding is the tokenisation of youth involvement in policy realms, Angela highlighted the need to equip all youth with the ability and confidence that they can make a difference in their society. Just as violence can take place in a myriad of forms, there are a multitude of ways to tackle it and not involving an important part of the global population - the youth - hinders the path to having strong institutions, peace and justice.

[Click here for the video](#) ↴



[Click here for the video](#) ↴

2. Ms Dragana Bulic, World Vision, Bosnia and Herzegovina

With the goal to improve the rights of children, World Vision joined forces with the association ‘Nasa djeca’ Sarajevo and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees to support sixteen groups of children and youth from Bosnia and Herzegovina in their research of the least respected rights in their local communities. As Ms Dragana Bulic underlined, one of the project goals was to improve the coordination between government institutions and civil society organisations, and to bring youth voices into the decision-making processes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where society is fragmented and there is a lack of collaboration, transparency, and accountability. This has been achieved through the creation of an online coordination platform that includes all relevant stakeholders and that enables useful data gathering to inform decision-makers, such as the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. As a result, institutions have been strengthened and capacitated to do their duties to protect the rights of children, and youth and children have been informed and empowered to engage in a direct and purposeful system level dialogue with decision-makers.

[Click here for the video](#)

3. Mr Seco Sori Camará, Voz di Paz, Guinée-Bissau

As Mr Seco Sori Camará explained, the work of Voz di Paz is driven by the need to contribute to an active and responsible citizenship of governance in the justice sector in Guinea-Bissau. Voz di Paz has thus created a participatory barometer, a survey process in which citizens are involved from the design of research questions and indicators to the realisation of the survey. With this approach, it was intended to identify the real problems affecting the population regarding the issue of justice in Guinea-Bissau and to work on possible solutions. The quantitative data found with the survey, were complemented with qualitative results obtained through field research, and led to the production of a barometer report. The document will serve as a basis for dissemination in the dialogue and interpellation sessions in the African Union and ECOWAS Spaces of Citizen Intervention. Showcasing people's thoughts of the projects on national and local radio was also key to building trust in the justice sector and involving local citizens in their own justice institutions.



[Click here for the video](#)

4. Ms Citra Ayu Kurniawati, LRC KIJHAM, Indonesia

While Ms Citra Ayu Kurniawati was unfortunately unable to join this side-event, KIJHAM's rich video showed the organisation's work with poor, marginalised and vulnerable women in fighting for gender justice and women's human rights. In Indonesia, women are often asked to provide evidence themselves on the case they are bringing to justice, which makes the process particularly stressful and difficult to them. The social stigma that also comes with sexual violence - victims are expelled from school and work, blamed for what happened and isolated - is also something that KIJHAM attempts to mitigate by strengthening new strategies and innovations whilst facilitating access to justice for women with complaints services. KIJHAM tries to enhance community's participation in efforts to eliminate violence against women, with women's education strategies, policy advocacy and working groups.

[Click here for the video](#)

5. Ms Mabel Bianco, Foundation for Studies & Research on Women, Argentina

Throughout her career, Ms Mabel Bianco has worked tirelessly to counter discrimination and advocate for women's rights to health and equality in Argentina and worldwide. Recently, she has helped Argentina to commit to combating gender violence and promoting equal opportunities through the Open Government Partnership (OGP). Showcasing gender as cross-cutting and informing other policies, OGP has aspired to empower citizens to monitor the implementation of anti-violence initiatives. Mabel stressed the need for the population to have ownership over the policies that tackle their needs in order for those policies to be successful.



News from our 2019 SDG16+ Voices Campaign Alumni – Ms Sikha Bhattarai from Nagarik Aawaz, Nepal

After a brief intermission in which the work of the live ImageThink illustrator was introduced, the meeting continued with an update from one of the Voices Alumni. Ever since the first campaign the Voices of SDG16+ finalists have remained in close contact with each other, forming the SDG16+ Voices Alumni Group. For this event, Ms. Sikha Bhattarai was invited to share an update video of her work following her earlier engagement with the Voices campaign.

Nagarik Aawaz works with women who have been affected by the 10-year armed conflict in Nepal as they have faced intense gender-based violence, especially because torture and rape were used as weapons of war. The state still has not recognised its involvement in this violence and no compensation has been provided to the victims, adding financial pressure to the social stigma they continuously suffer from. With the aim of ensuring the social and cultural establishment of women who have faced sexual violence, Nagarik Aawaz has designed programmes to involve all groups of society in their own education upon sexual violence. The organisation also gives women space to share their suffering and demands for justice, as well as opportunities to build their leadership and build long-lasting change in Nepal. Sikha reiterated the need to support grassroots peacebuilding initiatives, especially as current geopolitical developments and crises in the world have diverted funding from such initiatives.

Click here for
the video



Q&A – Interactive Session with Participants

Participants in the audience then had the opportunity to engage with finalists and ask questions about their work. Participants acknowledged how the Voices of SDG16+ video campaign and the side-event represent an important opportunity for cross-fertilisation and shared learning between local practitioners who implement SDG16+. Following up on this point, moderator Mr Peter van Sluijs gave the final word and mentioned that the 2022 finalists - and speakers at the side-event - were now invited to join the Voices of SDG16+ Alumni group in order to take part in a space of sharing of good practices for the achievement of SDG16+ and 2030 Agenda. Peter concluded the event by saying that the partners look forward to support the 5th edition during the 2023 UN High Level Political Forum.

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action is a unique collaborative campaign that brings the work of civil society on SDG16+ to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York. Individuals and partners from around the world are given the opportunity to submit short videos telling their “stories” of best practices and extraordinary efforts being undertaken towards SDG16+ at the national and local levels. The event organised in context of HLPF2022 is staged to showcase and popularize the work of local peacebuilding actors in their own environment and amplify their voices, views and perspectives in policy circles.

The partner organisations supporting the campaign hope to reconvene for this event annually. It is hoped that for the 5th Voices of SDG16+ campaign in 2023 it will be possible to bring the winning peacebuilders to the HLPF in New York to interact with policy makers in a deeper way.

Find out more about the Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action
<https://voicesofsdg16plus.org/>

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