

**INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY : 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**  
**YOUTH BUILDING PEACE**



International Youth Day is observed annually on 12 August. It is meant as an opportunity for governments and others to draw attention to youth issues worldwide. During IYD, concerts, workshops, cultural events, and meetings involving national and local government officials and youth organizations take place around the world.

The current generation of youth are the largest in history and young people often comprise the majority in countries marked by armed conflict or unrest, therefore considering the needs and aspirations of youth in matters of peace and security is a demographic imperative. Thoughts were shared about how one can do in community and how one can effectively spread the message. Plans were such to make this event a fun filled one make it fun using all channels to spread the message. Think Facebook, Twitter, university newsletters, local newspapers. Plans ( though not all fulfilled )were to do :

- **Educational radio show.** Contact popular local/national radio stations to request a slot to have a discussion with distinguished individuals and youth.
- **Organize a public meeting or debate** to discuss young people's contributions to global issues.
- Initiate round table discussions among adults and young people to promote **intergenerational understanding**.
- **Organize a youth forum to exchange ideas** and discuss cultural backgrounds in order to help young people accept others and popularize a culture of non-violence.
- **Organize a concert** to promote International Youth Day and the launch of the Year. Invite your local musicians and combine it with a panel discussion or invite a politician or policy maker to hold the key note speech.
- **Create an "info point"** about youth-related issues in the centre of town/village, at high schools, or at university centres.
- **Organize an exhibition.** Get permission to use a public space for an arts exhibit, which showcases the challenges of young people today or how young people are contributing to development. Try to involve young people in the domains of culture, arts and music, to raise awareness on youth-related issues.