



## Newsletter for August - September 2023

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# Local Youth Lead Program

**On Wednesday, September 20th, 2023**

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At Bayt Al-Hakim Restaurant in the presence of the organization's founder, Mr. Mahdi Yahya, and as part of the "Local Youth Lead" project, Peace of Art organized a townhall meeting among stakeholders and activists from the region with the support of ARK group. The session included Mr. Fadi Abi Allam, the former Minister of Displaced Persons, founder of the Permanent Peace Movement Permanent Peace Movement (PPM), and leader of the Green Party in Lebanon; Mr. Fayez Okasha, a social activist, human rights advocate, and founder of the Development Indicators Association; Colonel Mahboub Aoun, a lecturer at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies in Qatar; Ms. Rawan Yaghi, founder of the USPEaK organization;

Mr. Houssein Shouman , Executive Director of Nabad for Development; Mr. Malik Al-Arab, a founding member of the Jousour Al-Nour Association; and Dr. Mustafa Sukkariya, a social activist. The session began with a presentation of a video produced by the young people who participated in the project, followed by a dialogue and questions session on the role of youth and their active role in the development of their community. The speakers also shared some of their success stories and challenges. The session concluded with recommendations, a dinner, and the distribution of certificates of appreciation to the speakers for their valuable contributions in various humanitarian fields.

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**🌟 Happy International Youth Day! 🌍 🎉**

We celebrated the vibrant spirit of youth with boundless potential. At Peace of Art, we stand alongside the youth of the northern Bekaa region and Lebanese youth in general. We provide them with a safe space to express their talents and pursue their

hobbies, from sports and music to arts, technology, theater, and singing. 🧩🎨🎤



We are here to support your passion and ideas. Let's strive together towards a future filled with creativity and empowerment. ✨

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## UNOY Peacebuilders Forum

Peace of Art's president and UNOY MENA regional coordinator, Vera Mawla is joining the Young Peacebuilders Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. The 6th edition of the Young Peacebuilders Forum is organised by the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY)

for UNOY member organizations. This year's focus is on youth-led efforts to advance peacebuilding. The Forum will serve as a platform for young peacebuilders from around the world to exchange best practices, tools and lessons learned and set recommendations for youth-led peacebuilding and the resolution 2250. During the forum, young peacebuilders from across the world are engaging in discussions, peer-learning sessions, and networking. The forum will also include meeting with external stakeholders from the African Union, European Union, and government representatives to share the youth vision and discuss meaningful youth participation in decision-making. Vera implemented a session with leaders of organizations from the 6 regions worldwide titled: "Exploring the Power of Art & Non-Traditional Tools in Peacebuilding" highlighting the impactful and most effective methods and tools implemented by youth-led organizations worldwide, and sharing the experience of Peace of Art.

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**Basketball Sessions are Back!**

Recap of Last Week's Basketball Training Session at Peace of Art's Center!

Hey basketball enthusiasts!

We had an absolutely fantastic time last week at Peace of Art's Center during our basketball training session! It was a slam-dunk of an experience, and we can't wait to share some of the highlights with you.

Our dedicated coaches worked tirelessly to sharpen our skills, from dribbling to shooting, and everything in between. The atmosphere was electric, filled with the spirit of teamwork and competition.

A big shoutout to Peace of Art's Center for providing us with the perfect space to nurture our love for the game.

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## **Peace of Art at the Lebanese Independent Film Festival**

Dear friends, We are extremely excited to share with you that Peace of Art had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the The Lebanese Independent Film Festival (LIFF) on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

It was an unforgettable night filled with inspiration and thought-provoking discussions. One of the highlights of the evening was the screening of the film "Unveiled," directed by the talented artist Mustafa Kashvari.

The film addressed important topics and issues close to our hearts, such as freedom of religion and belief.

We were honored to have our Executive Director, Mr. Ebrahim Yahya, as a speaker on the post-screening panel. Mr. Ebrahim Yahya shared his valuable experiences in the field of religious freedom and beliefs, drawing from his comprehensive work on the National Report on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and his deep commitment to our mission here at "Peace of Art."

His insights, passion, and strong dedication left a lasting impact on everyone who attended the event, and we are proud to have him represent Peace of Art at such a prestigious event. This journey would not have been possible without the support of our amazing team and, of course, all of you who have stood by us in our mission for peace, unity, and cultural understanding.

Thank you, LIFF Team and managers, and everyone who made this unforgettable experience possible. We look forward to continuing our work and sharing more moments like these with all of you.

Stay tuned for more updates, as we continue to spread the message of peace through art!



# Where are They?

A video entitled "Where Are They?" written and directed by students from the "Local Youth Lead Program" at the Peace of Art's center, discusses the right of youth and women to make decisions in society and access information, accountability, transparency, as well as good governance. This film was premiered during the project's consultation session to the speakers and the participating group of youth.

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During his recent visit to Lebanon, Mr. Mahdi Yahya, the founder and chairman of Peace of Art, addressed young people during the town-hall meeting and emphasized the crucial role that organizations, stakeholders, influencers, and activists play in ensuring meaningful engagement and leadership opportunities for young people. Mr. Mahdi also highlighted the crucial role young people are playing today and the responsibilities they are carrying on their shoulders to face the many challenges in the



area.

Taking the time to visit Peace of Art's spaces, Mr. Mahdi walked through current programs, engaged with the team, and discussed strategic focuses and plans. His meetings with local leaders and activists delved into coordination, partnerships, and the essential responsibilities required to address the challenges and needs of local communities. Mr. Mahdi's visit underscored the commitment to empowering youth and fostering collaboration for positive social impact.

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# Youth Training Sessions

Free sessions

- Content Creation
- Photography
- Film Making
- Life skills

For inquiries and information, contact us:  
+96181950102

For registration, kindly fill in the form in  
the link below

[www.peaceofartinternational.org](http://www.peaceofartinternational.org)



# Free Youth Training Sessions

✨ Recap of an Inspiring Month for Youth at Peace of Art ✨

Last month was a whirlwind of creativity and growth as our youth immersed themselves in our free session. Here's a quick recap of the highlights:

**Content Creation:** 🧠 Our young artists unleashed their creativity, transforming ideas into captivating visuals.

**Photography:** 📷 They discovered the art of storytelling through their lenses, capturing beauty in every moment.

**Video Editing:** 🎬 Our budding filmmakers honed their skills, crafting videos that left us in awe.

**Life Skills:** 🗣️ Invaluable life skills were learned, from effective communication to resilience.

Thanks to all who supported this empowering journey. Stay tuned for more exciting events at Peace of Art! Together, we're shaping a brighter future.

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## Fostering Peace through Collaboration: Women, Youth, Peace & Security in Lebanon Partners (WYPS)

The National Women's Committee in Lebanon, in collaboration with Search for Common Ground launched Lebanon's National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (Resolution 1325), supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

Peace of Art has joined efforts with partner organizations from all over Lebanon to build on the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, as well as its intersection with the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. The program aims to discuss recommendations and strategies for WYPS, and enhance the capacities of organizations in the women's and youth rights networks.

The discussions covered adversarial versus cooperative approaches, insights into the UNSCR resolutions, and strategies for dealing with UNSCR 2250 and 1325. The program included evaluations, emphasizing the commitment to collaborative efforts for peace-building in Lebanon.



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## Free Volleyball Sessions for Girls



**Your Chance  
Now!**

**To join Peace of Art's  
girls Volleyball team**

**For girls aged from 14 till 18 years**

**Location: Peace of Art - Al Ain Center**

**For inquiries and registration  
contact us:**

**+961 81 950 102**

**[www.peaceofartinternational.org](http://www.peaceofartinternational.org)**

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## **Youth Empowerment in LYLP Project**

"Empower the youth of today, and they will shape a brighter tomorrow".

This was the atmosphere at Peace of Art's center, where youth were able to acquire the fundamentals of photography alongside effective communication skills, positioning today's

youth as tomorrow's leaders, in the "Local Youth Lead Program".



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