

WFUNA
801 First Avenue
3rd Floor
New York, NY, 10017

Email: wimun@wfuna.org
Phone: +41 (0) 22 917 32 74
Instagram: @wimunsecretariat



WIMUN NY 2025

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

YOUTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Simulation: Human Rights Council

Welcome to WIMUN New York 2025,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the United Nations in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the Organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

Youth and Human Rights

Since the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the U.N. General Assembly in 1948, human rights have been recognized as the best guideline for guaranteeing that every human being can live a peaceful and prosperous life.

In the case of young people, they also provide the means for a safe passage from birth to adulthood. In reality, the youth as a whole has suffered from systemic violations of their rights and a diminished role as stakeholders in their promotion. Aware of this, the Human Rights Council has taken on the challenge of guaranteeing the rights of the largest youth population the world has ever seen.

Youth around the world face common challenges, accessing well-paying employment, quality education, health-care service, but also, exercising their political rights and an absence of freedom of conscience. While specific causes vary from country to country, overall, these challenges are a consequence of a lack of public policies centered around the youth, and of a lack of funding on basic institutions like health services or schools.

Though each of these issues by themselves is important to tackle, it is worth noting that they are interconnected, as the violation of one right can and will have a negative impact on other rights. For example, a lack of quality education could lead young people to be unaware of their political rights, making it more likely for them to have difficulties exercising them, and also also affect in various degrees according to gender, economic status, nationality, etc.

Aware of these problems, the UN has taken on addressing them across its numerous bodies. The Human Rights Council, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council, among others, have adopted resolutions in order to promote measures to guarantee the youth's human rights. However, experts have highlighted the Member State's need to enact legislation and implement long-term policies to strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of young people. But also, there is a growing need for the mainstreaming of a focus on youth human rights across the United Nations system.

Key Points and Main Issues

When discussing "Human Rights and Youth" in a Model UN setting, delegates should focus on the following main ideas and issues:

1. The Rights of Youth Under International Frameworks

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):** Understand how the UDHR applies to youth and their rights.
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):** Recognize that many youth are protected under the CRC until the age of 18 and how this intersects with broader human rights frameworks.
- **International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR):** Explore how education, healthcare, and work-related rights affect youth.
- **Youth-Specific Initiatives:** Be familiar with UN mechanisms, such as the World Programme of Action for Youth and the UN Youth Strategy.

2. Barriers to the Realization of Youth Rights

- **Economic Inequality:** Many youth face poverty, unemployment, and limited access to education and healthcare, hindering their ability to exercise their rights.
- **Gender Discrimination:** Young women and girls often experience systemic barriers, including limited access to education, early marriage, and gender-based violence.
- **Conflict and Displacement:** Refugee and displaced youth often face violations of their rights, including access to education, protection, and safety.
- **Access to Participation:** Youth are often excluded from meaningful participation in political, social, and economic decision-making processes.

3. Rights to Participation and Empowerment

- **Youth in Governance:** Advocate for mechanisms to ensure meaningful youth representation in policymaking at local, national, and international levels.
- **Freedom of Expression and Assembly:** Recognize the importance of safeguarding these rights for youth to participate in activism, advocacy, and civic engagement.
- **Access to Technology and Information:** Support digital rights and access to the internet as tools for education, activism, and participation in global conversations.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

4. Education as a Human Right

- **Access to Quality Education:** Discuss the right to free, inclusive, and equitable education as enshrined in international agreements.
- **Education for Empowerment:** Understand how education empowers youth to advocate for themselves and others, fostering a generation aware of their rights and responsibilities.

5. Addressing Youth-Specific Vulnerabilities

- **Youth in Conflict Zones:** Advocate for the protection of youth from recruitment by armed groups.
- **Mental Health:** Understand the intersection of mental health rights and youth and emphasize the need for accessible and stigma-free healthcare services.
- **Child Labor and Exploitation:** Combat forced labor, trafficking, and exploitation of youth.

6. Intersectionality of Youth Rights

- **Marginalized Groups:** Understand how factors like race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status compound the challenges youth face in realizing their rights.
- **Climate Justice and Youth:** Understand the impact of climate change on youth rights and the role of young people in driving sustainable solutions.

7. Role of International and Regional Bodies

- **United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC):** Understand the role of the HRC in promoting youth-related human rights issues.
- **Regional Bodies:** Research the contribution of organizations like the African Union, European Union, and ASEAN in advancing youth rights.

8. Current Global Challenges

- **Digital Divide:** Research the digital divide and its impacts on education, youth employment, and youth activism.
- **Misinformation and Censorship:** Understand the challenges youth face in accessing accurate information in an increasingly polarized and censored digital space.
- **Youth Migration:** Understand the rights of migrant, refugee, and stateless youth, including access to documentation, education, and safety.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

9. Advocacy and Youth Leadership

- **Youth as Agents of Change:** Highlight examples of youth-led movements advocating for climate action, social justice, and human rights.
- **UN Youth Delegates Programme:** Support expanding youth engagement with the UN mechanisms to influence global policy through the UN Youth Delegate Programme.

10. Potential Solutions

- **Youth-Friendly Policies:** Advocate for legal frameworks that specifically address youth needs.
- **Capacity Building:** Advocate for the training, funding, and mentorship of youth to enhance their ability to engage in human rights advocacy.
- **Global Partnerships:** Call for the collaboration between governments, NGOs, and international organizations to protect and promote youth rights.

By focusing on these ideas, delegates will better understand the complexities of youth and human rights, enabling them to engage meaningfully in debates when drafting a resolution.

["We are not just the future": challenges faced by child and youth human rights defenders](#) **2024**

Summary: This report analyses the situation of child and youth human rights defenders, with a particular focus on structural and societal barriers to their activism, and the human rights violations that they face as a result of promoting human rights.

[About the human rights of youth](#) **2024**

Summary: In this website, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights provides an overview of the challenges youth face when exercising their rights as well as the actions Member States can take to promote the rights of young people at the international level.

[UN Youth Strategy 2030](#) **2024**

Summary: The UN Youth Strategy 2030 is a comprehensive framework launched by the United Nations to enhance its engagement with youth globally. The strategy aims to empower young people, ensure their rights, and strengthen their participation in addressing global challenges. It focuses on five key priority areas:

1. Engagement, Participation, and Advocacy: Amplifying youth voices and ensuring their meaningful participation in decision-making processes.
2. Informed and Healthy Foundations: Supporting youth access to education, health services, and skills development for their holistic growth.
3. Economic Empowerment through Decent Work: Promoting access to job opportunities, entrepreneurship, and economic inclusion for youth.
4. Youth and Human Rights: Protecting the rights of young people and addressing systemic barriers to their full participation in society.
5. Peace and Resilience-Building: Supporting young people's contributions to conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and climate action.

The strategy serves as a unifying framework for all UN entities, promoting collaboration to address youth-specific challenges while empowering them as agents of change in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It underscores the UN's commitment to ensuring no young person is left behind.

[Biennial panel discussion of the Human Rights Council on youth and human rights](#) **2023**

Summary: This panel discussion hosts experts' opinions on the current challenges of youth human rights, with a great focus on how climate change and environmental challenges impact on the development of youth.

[Youth Rights Advocacy Toolkit](#) **2022**

Summary: This toolkit was developed to encourage youth rights advocacy. It lays out the procedures in which youth can engage with human rights stakeholders, as well as guidelines for effective design of youth rights campaigns.

[Intersessional seminar on the challenges and opportunities of young people in the field of human rights](#) **2021**

Summary: This seminar discussed the challenges that youth face when exercising their rights. It also includes proposals on how to mainstream youth human rights at the international level.

[Realization of the right to work - Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) **2018**

Summary: This report provides an overview of the challenges that youth face when accessing the labor market. It also highlights how this issue is interrelated to other rights, like social security, education, and participation in public affairs.

[Youth and human rights](#) **2017**

Summary: The Human Rights Council held a session titled Youth and Human Rights, its resolution highlights relevant documents and facts on the preambulatory section, and relevant decisions taken by the Council to address the challenges that youth face.

[Youth Leap Into Gender Equality](#)

2017

Summary: This document published by UN Women details a proposed strategy for achieving gender equality with a focus on young people. It provides blueprints for the development of programmes that empower young men and women into working towards gender equality.

[First session of the United Nations Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of law](#)

2016

The first session of the Forum focused on the role of youth in public decision-making. The site provides various resources on youth political rights, as well as statements made by human rights experts.

[UNESCO operational strategy on youth 2014-2021](#)

2014

Summary: This guideline was designed by UNESCO to facilitate the development of youth focused strategies. The guideline is based around three axis, with a special focus on civil engagement and transition to adulthood.

[Advancing Youth Civic Engagement And Human Rights With Young Women And Young Men](#)

2013

Summary: This document by UN Habitat focuses on the different dimensions related to youth political rights, particularly related to citizenship, like access to information, influence in public decisions and establishing organizations.

[Adolescence An Age of Opportunity](#)

2011

Summary: This document is the 2011 edition of the State of the World's Children by UNICEF. It focuses on adolescents, having dedicated chapters for describing the challenges youth face, guidelines for investing in youth, and comprehensive descriptions of the state of youth rights around the world.

World Programme of Action for Youth

2010

Summary: This document is a policy framework that provides a comprehensive explanation of the challenges that youth around the world face, as well as strategies and means of implementation at a national, regional and international level.

Panel Discussion on Youth and Human Rights - 23rd Meeting, 54th Regular Session of Human Rights Council

2023

Summary: The biennial panel discussion on youth and human rights gathered youth environmental human rights defenders and youth-led organizations, representatives of United Nations agencies and funds, Member and observer States and other stakeholders to explore the barriers young people face when engaging with climate and global environmental decision-making processes, lessons learned and good practices, and opportunities for effective, active and meaningful youth participation. The Member States that made statements during the panel discussion include: Bahamas (on behalf of CARICOM), Maldives (on behalf of SIDS), El Salvador (on behalf of the group of countries that sponsored the resolution on youth and human rights - El Salvador, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Tunisia, Uzbekistan), Oman (on behalf of Gulf Cooperation Council - GCC), Libya (on behalf of the Arab Group), Timor-Leste (on behalf of Community of Portuguese Language Countries - CPLP), European Union, United Arab Emirates, Lithuania, Portugal, Germany, Qatar, Finland, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Samoa, Iraq, Bahrain, Italy, Croatia, Ireland, Malawi, Belgium, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Saudi Arabia, United Republic of Tanzania, Nepal, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Greece, Ecuador, Egypt, Ukraine, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Romania, Angola, Cuba, Togo, Philippines, Senegal, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Niger, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Botswana, Costa Rica, France, United States of America, Israel, Armenia, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Namibia, India, Azerbaijan, Cabo Verde, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Poland, China, South Africa, Cameroon, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Kenya, Albania.

Statements

WHO statement at the Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights

2021

Summary: Dr. Vânia de la Fuente-Núñez, Technical Officer at WHO, highlights the dangers of ageism for the exercise of young people's rights and comments on the need to put an end to ageism through policy and education.

UNFPA statement at the Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights

2021

Summary: Alfonso Barragues, Deputy Director of UNFPA, encourages Member States to pay attention to youth participation in human rights mechanisms. He also promotes an intersectional perspective between gender and age, and invites for the inclusion of empowerment in the discussion of youth rights.

UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) statement at the Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights

2021

Summary: Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, rapporteur at the CERD, proposes the institutionalization of youth participation across decision-making structures, and makes recommendations for the inclusion of youth on the treaty body system.

UNESCO statement at the First session of the United Nations Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of law

2016

Summary: The UNESCO representative showcases success stories on the implementation of youth empowerment initiatives by UNESCO. They also give recommendations based on the organization's experience.

Statements (cont.)

UNHCR statement at the First session of the United Nations Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of law

2016

Summary: The UNHCR representative provides an insight of the additional challenges that migrant and stateless youth face, with recommendations based on security and participation in the decision making-process.

Political Groups

THE G20 INITIATIVE FOR RURAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

2023

Summary: This document provides an assessment of the G20's Initiative for Rural Youth Employment. It follows different projects that were developed under this initiative and details on their outcomes and experiences.

Y7 Summit 2023 Japan Communiqué

2023

Summary: This document is the outcome of the Y7 Summit 2023, where young people from G7 countries agreed on a series of proposals directed towards G7 States. The thematic areas, ranging from employment to peace and security, have a focus on the needs of young people around the world.

Regional Groups

[European Parliament Fact Sheet on Youth](#)

2024

Summary: This website published by the European Parliament highlights European Union initiatives to promote youth development and rights. It also explains the role that the European Union and the European Parliament play in this topic.

[Young Americas Forum Declaration of Commitment and Action Plan](#)

2022

Summary: This document is the outcome of the VI Young Americas Forum hosted by the Organization of American States. It describes strategies to promote youth rights across different human rights dimensions like environment, corruption, etc.

[ASEAN Work Plan on Youth 2021-2025](#)

2021

Summary: This work plan serves as a guide for ASEAN Member States for the implementation of youth focused policies and programs based on five priority areas that have desired outcomes.

[The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027](#)

2018

Summary: This resolution adopted by the European Council provides guiding principles on youth human rights cooperation, and establishes the European Youth Goals to be implemented by Member States.

[The CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan \(CYDAP\) 2012-2017](#)

2012

Summary: This document makes a diagnostic of the state of youth rights across CARICOM Member States, and provides policy proposals across different dimensions of youth development.

Regional Groups (cont.)

African Youth Decade 2009-2018 Plan of Action

2011

Summary: This document summarizes the policy framework implemented from 2009 to 2018 by the African Union to implement the African Youth Charter across the continent.

African Youth Charter

2006

Summary: The African Youth Charter is the African Union's guiding framework on the rights of the youth. It states the rights and duties of young people, as well as their responsibilities towards their family and society.

Ibero-American Convention on Young People's Rights

2005

Summary: The Convention was adopted by Ibero-American states as an effort to fully implement international human rights instruments with a focus on young people across the region.

[Youth in Africa: a demographic imperative for peace and security](#)

2023

Summary: This report documents the challenges that youth face in armed-conflict scenarios or in contexts of peace-keeping missions. It gives examples of cases when youth was included in the peace-keeping efforts and how it was made.

[The Arab Strategy for Youth, Peace and Security 2023-2028](#)

2023

Summary: This document provides an effective roadmap for the implementation of youth focused strategies for Arab League Member States. It also includes a summary of the state of youth rights across the region.

[United Nations Committee On The Rights Of The Child Follow-Up Visit To The Pacific](#)

2023

Summary: This document is a collaboration between UNICEF, the Humans Rights Council, and the Pacific Community. In it, Member States of the Pacific Community state their commitments regarding children rights.

[UNICEF Youth in Europe Bulletin](#)

2022

Summary: This website hosts various editions of the UNICEF Youth in Europe Bulletin, which highlights the key results of programmes and initiatives UNICEF is carrying out with youth organizations in humanitarian action.

[Latin American and Caribbean youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: an examination from within the United Nations system](#)

2021

Summary: This document published by various United Nations entities highlights the current state of the sustainable development goals with a focus on youth in Latin America and the Caribbean. It goes on to propose changes to meet specific targets.

Regional Overview: Youth in Asia and the Pacific

2013

Summary: This regional overview details the state of youth rights in Asia, identifying four main challenges: education, employment, health, and participation in the decision making process. It also explains the United Nations System's Approach to Youth in the region.

Regional Overview: Latin America and the Caribbean

2013

Summary: This regional overview focuses on describing the six main challenges that youth face in Latin America and the Caribbean: poverty, employment, education, health, violence and migration. It also showcases the interconnection between the different challenges faced in the region.

[Involving Youth in Positive Youth Development](#)

2024

Summary: This resource provides a pragmatic guideline on how to effectively involve youth in organizations. It also gives considerations so that youths participation is meaningful inside of their organization.

[Youth participation in national parliaments: 2023](#)

2023

Summary: This document describes trends regarding youth participation in national parliaments, identifying trends of increased youth representation. It also describes challenges, like unequal representation between young men and young women. Finally, it provides recommendations to increase youth representation in national parliaments.

[Human Rights And Development: The Rights Of Youth](#)

2022

Summary: This factsheet developed by the French Development Agency showcases success stories on the implementation of youth focused initiatives, as well as a series of good practices for projects on specific areas.

[Youth, Power, Action! Global Children and Youth Strategy \(2022-2025\)](#)

2022

Summary: This document published by Amnesty International showcases the organization's action plan in order to promote youth rights and participation in two specific areas, freedom of expression and equality.

[Why the next generation is key to protecting human rights](#)

2021

Summary: This article connects a number of statistics focused on youths' awareness of a globalized world to showcase the youths potential as human rights advocates.

[Human rights: The voice of youth](#)

2017

Summary: This article provides an expert's comment on the 35th session of the UN Human Rights Council, which focused on youth human rights. The author also makes a comment on why youth human rights should be of interest to the international community.

[Policy Paper On Youth Rights](#)

2012

Summary: This document provides a guideline for a rights-based approach to youth policy. It also details strategies to promote youth rights across the European Union, with support of EU institutions and legislation.

[Top 20 Issues Children Are Facing Today](#)

N/A

Summary: This article lists 20 challenges that children face, with a comprehensive description as well as additional resources of each challenge.

[Pushing Boundaries: The case of East and Horn of Africa's youth human rights defenders](#)

2022

Summary: This report presents a comprehensive summary of the working environment, the drivers that influence, and emerging trends among young human rights defenders, making concrete recommendations to protect their rights.

[Mainstreaming youth rights in the UN human rights mechanisms](#)

2022

Summary: This guideline adopted by the European Youth Forum provides a series of recommendations to UN Member States and entities to achieve its title. It also explains UN mechanisms that could be used to promote youth rights.

[Youth Activism and Climate Change in Latin America: Indigenous and Peasant Youth in Defence of their Human Rights and Territories](#)

2021

Summary: This policy brief makes recommendations to guarantee human rights of indigenous youth in Latin America. It also explains the important role that indigenous groups have in addressing environmental challenges.

[MENA's growing young population is a huge opportunity – if we get it right](#)

2019

Summary: This article describes the current state of youth employment across the Middle East and North Africa region. It also gives policy proposals to promote employment across its large youth population.

[South-east Asia: Bravery punished: repression of young human rights defenders in Southeast Asia](#)

2017

Summary: This document published by Amnesty International highlights cases of violent oppression of young human rights defenders in Southeast Asia, highlighting specific cases where young people have been charged for protesting human rights violations.