

# BUILDING THE FOUNDATION: SHAPING THE FIRST REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

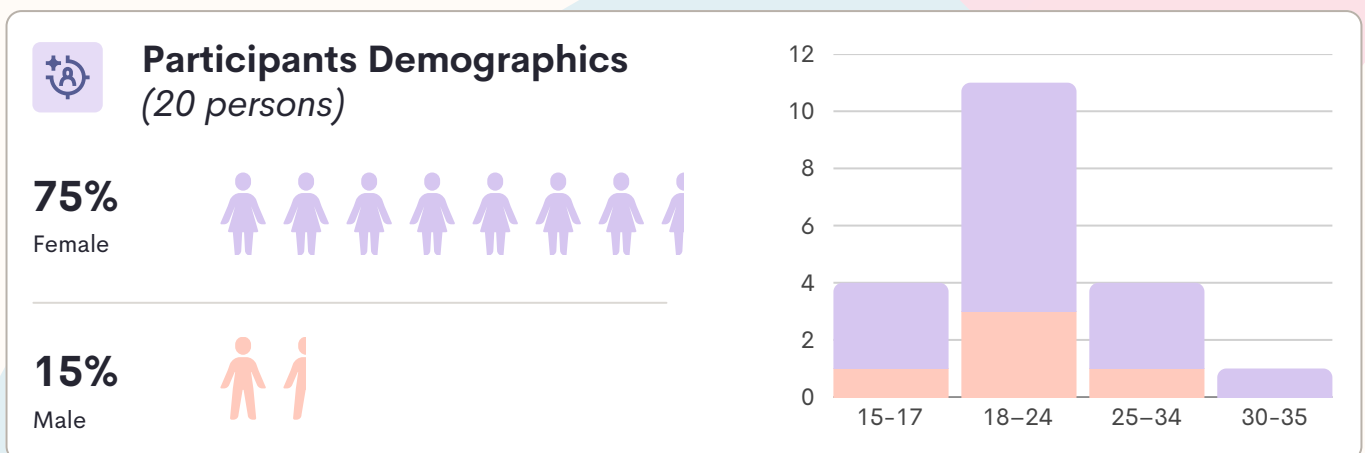
## Youth Shaping WPS Agenda – virtual consultation in Kyrgyzstan, 29 July 2025

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Kyrgyzstan has progressively strengthened its youth policy framework. The new Law **“On Youth”** (2023) expanded the legal youth age bracket to 14–35, complemented by the **Youth Policy Concept 2020–2030** and a **2021–2025 action plan**.

The country is a regional frontrunner on YPS/WPS: it has implemented successive **WPS National Action Plans** (latest: 2022–2024) and, in March 2025, adopted a **national Action Plan on UNSCR 2250 (YPS) for 2025–2027**. These measures sit alongside active youth civic platforms and NGOs that engage on peacebuilding, gender equality, and prevention in border regions (e.g., *Batken*), where community tensions and recovery needs have periodically arisen. Together, these frameworks and institutions create strong entry points to integrate youth perspectives into the Regional Action Plan on WPS.



### Awareness of WPS prior to the consultation:

- Well-familiar — 5 (25%)
- Somewhat familiar — 7 (35%)
- Heard of but not familiar — 6 (30%)
- Not familiar — 2 (10%).

**Background/affiliation (indicative mix):** youth NGOs and volunteer networks (e.g., *TEENS.KG*, *Bishkek Feminist Initiatives*, *Youth of Osh*, *New Rhythm*), students from national/international universities, and young professionals engaged in community projects in border districts and gender/rights work. Several participants referenced activism on GBV prevention and community dialogue, including in *Batken*.

# MAIN CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED



**Uneven awareness and technical language around WPS/YPS;** need for youth-friendly materials in Kyrgyz and Russian.



**GBV and harassment (online/offline);** barriers to survivor-centered, youth-friendly services and reporting.



**Local tension and recovery needs in border areas** (e.g., Batken), including psychosocial support and community trust-building.



**Short project cycles and fragmented funding** that limit scaling of successful youth initiatives.



**Limited continuity and feedback loops after activities on WPS/YPS;** young people rarely see how inputs shape decisions.







**Stigma and polarization in public discourse** around feminism/human rights, constraining safe civic participation.

# MAIN PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED

- **Institutionalize youth participation in WPS/YPS** (youth seats/quotas; routine consultation days; feedback reporting).
- **Make WPS practical and relatable** via school/university modules, clubs, and dialogue formats.
- **Safety and protection systems** (GBV response, legal aid, psychosocial support; digital safety pathways).
- **Border-community cohesion:** youth mediation, early-warning, and cross-community dialogues.
- **Inclusion and accessibility:** disability-inclusive design; rural outreach; safe spaces.
- **Volunteerism for resilience** (disaster preparedness, first aid, civic service).
- **Sustained micro-grants** for youth-led peace projects with light-touch procedures.
- **Mental-health and burnout prevention** for volunteers/activists (peer support, referrals).
- **Regional exchanges with CA peers on WPS/YPS** to share practice and build solidarity.

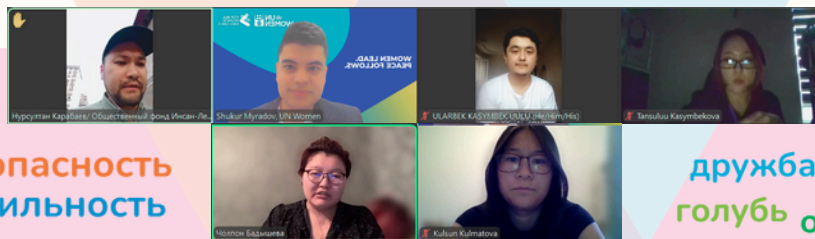
**WOMEN LEAD.  
PEACE FOLLOWS.**

# SOLUTIONS

<p><b>1. Participation</b></p> 	<p><b>2. Prevention</b></p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a <b>Youth–WPS Advisory Platform</b> (national + provincial) with rotating seats incl. rural youth and youth with disabilities.</li> <li>• Introduce <b>quarterly Youth Consultation Days</b> with ministries/local councils, with published responses/decisions.</li> <li>• Create <b>Girls’ Leadership &amp; Public Service Fellowships</b> (Batken, Osh, Jalal-Abad pilots) pairing fellows with LSGs/CSOs.</li> <li>• Support <b>youth ombudsperson/rapporteur functions</b> within public councils to track youth recommendations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate <b>peace/WPS, mediation, and digital/media literacy</b> into school/university co-curricula and youth centers.</li> <li>• Launch <b>community dialogue circles</b> in border districts (women/youth, elders, faith and civic leaders) to reduce rumors and stereotyping.</li> <li>• Support <b>youth early-warning micro-networks</b> (simple incident logging, referral to authorities/mediators).</li> <li>• Fund <b>girls-in-STEM &amp; climate security labs</b> (water/air monitoring, safe mobility, crisis info).</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Protection</b></p> 	<p><b>4. Relief &amp; Recovery</b></p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up <b>youth-friendly GBV/digital-safety pathways</b>: confidential hotlines, rapid reporting, pro-bono legal aid.</li> <li>• Establish <b>safe spaces</b> in schools/youth centers (counseling, peer mentors, legal advice).</li> <li>• Provide <b>online harassment response hubs</b> (takedown support, evidence preservation, safety kits).</li> <li>• Ensure <b>accessibility</b> (sign-language, captions, transport stipends) in all RAP actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train a <b>Youth Resilience Corps</b> in PFA (psychological first aid), inclusive emergency response, and GBV-safe referrals.</li> <li>• Create <b>community healing hubs</b> offering mental-health support, legal advice, and civic activities post-incident.</li> <li>• Deploy <b>mobile outreach teams</b> (youth + professionals) to remote villages for information, referrals, and catch-up learning.</li> <li>• Provide <b>cash-plus micro-grants</b> for young women’s livelihoods in affected districts, coupled with mentorship.</li> </ul>

## SHORT TERM ACTIONS (YEAR 1 OF RAP WPS)

- **Digital Peace Ambassadors** – Train 30 young activists and bloggers to counter misinformation, hate speech, and online harassment with positive narratives.
- **Community Radio & Podcasts for WPS** – Youth groups produce local-language radio/podcast episodes in rural areas on equality, safety, and women’s leadership.
- **Youth–Police Dialogue Clubs** – Regular safe-space discussions between youth and local law enforcement to improve trust, discuss GBV reporting, and safety issues.
- **“Safe Campus” Initiative** – Students co-develop anti-harassment codes and peer-support networks in universities, with admin endorsement.
- **Border Dialogue Micro-Grants** – USD 1–2k rapid support for youth groups in Batken/Osh to organize rumor-busting sessions, art exhibitions, and joint youth–elder dialogues.



*Photo from the Consultation and Wordcloud of “definitions” of peace by participants*

## LONG TERM ACTIONS (2–3 YEARS OF RAP WPS)

- **Institutionalized Border Youth Mediation Network** – Formalize youth mediator groups in Batken and Osh, linked to local self-government councils and national prevention mechanisms.
- **Youth Peace & Security Resource Hub (Bishkek & Osh)** – Establish physical hubs with training rooms, digital labs, and counseling services as permanent youth centers for WPS/YPS learning.
- **National “Youth in Decision-Making” Quotas** – Reserve youth seats (50% women) in local councils and thematic committees tied to peace, security, and social policy.
- **Cross-Border Exchange Programs** – Regular CA-wide exchanges of youth peacebuilders from border regions (Batken–Fergana Valley–Sughd) to foster solidarity across borders.
- **Sustainable Volunteer Corps for Resilience** – Long-term program with Red Crescent and EMERCOM – trained youth deploy for disaster response, psychosocial support, and conflict prevention.
- **Mental Health & Inclusion Policy Reform** – Mainstream peer-support, disability inclusion, and psychosocial services into national youth and education policies.

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