

MUSIC FOR YOUTH



A peace building approach roadmap

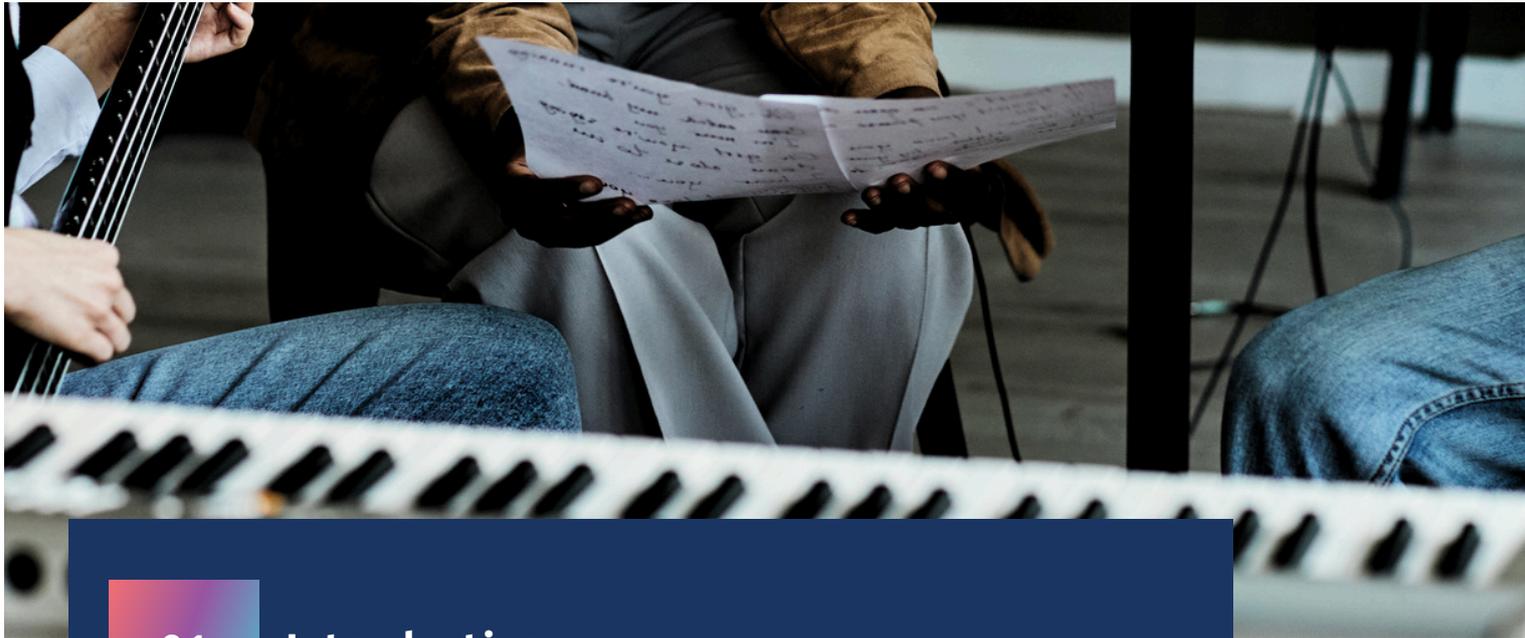


Co-funded by
the European Union

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CONTENT

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01

Introduction

02

**Méthodes / Axes d'amélioration :
*Travailleurs de jeunesse***

03

**Méthodes / Axes d'amélioration :
*Les acteurs de la musique***

04

**Méthodes / Axes d'amélioration : Acteurs
de la consolidation de la paix**

05

**Méthodes / Axes d'amélioration :
*Jeunes***

1 - INTRODUCTION



ABOUT

THE PROJECT

MUSIC for YOUTH - a PEACE building approach (MY PEACE) empowers youth to be engaged in the peacebuilding process in a way that is attractive and close to youth, through the vessel of music. Music is an important part of cultural identity and culture is one of the core elements around which understanding and empathy are needed, upon which peace can be accomplished. When we cherish and value each other's cultural heritage, we eliminate the need for conflict.

Youth are underestimated as positive agents of change and key actors in peacebuilding, both by policymakers and academics. Yet, they are often left out or manipulated by decision-making processes, especially in societies that have difficulties handling change in constructive ways. Young people have key roles to play in peacebuilding since they have a clear vision of what peace could look like in their countries and communities.

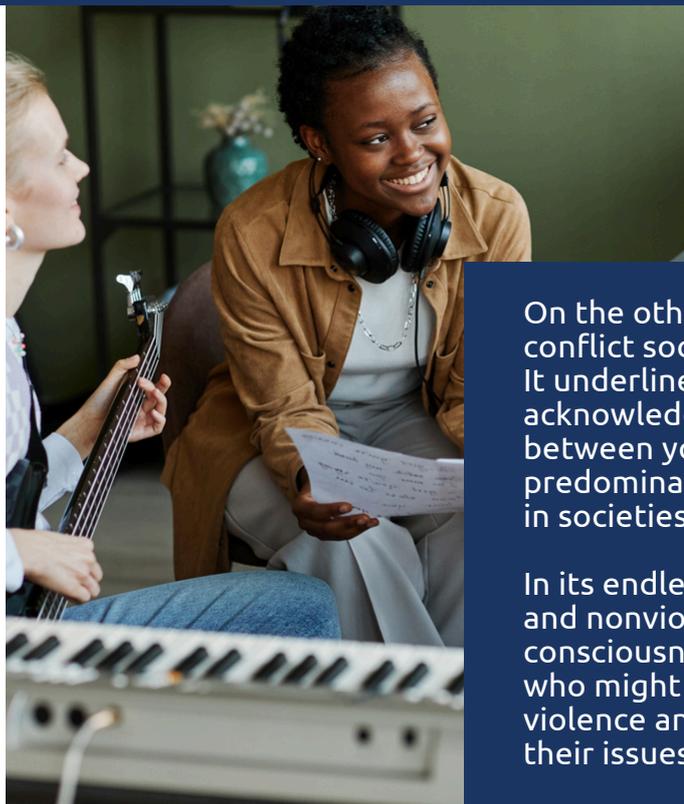


YOUTH AS

PEACEMAKERS

Undoubtedly, there is a need to generate a culture of peace and a conflict-free environment, particularly among the youth. The youth, products of our communities, are key agents of peacebuilding, especially those who have experienced conflict first-hand. These young people have key roles to play in peace processes since they have a clear vision of what peace could look like in their countries and communities and have the drive to work towards the realisation of these goals. Youth as a conceptual category are frequently 'othered' in the discourse on conflict.

They are seen as potentially dangerous 'subjects' and policy approaches often regard them as a problem. Often, male youths in the age group 16-30 have been observed as the main protagonists of criminal and political violence. In other words, much of contemporary thinking on youth and conflict tends to be overly negative. It focuses on the dangers posed by disaffected youths as is evident in the negative connotations of the 'youth bulge' or 'at risk youth' concepts.



On the other hand, recent literature on youth in post-conflict societies marks a shift in thinking about youth. It underlines the intermediate's perspective and acknowledges the importance of making the connection between youth and peacebuilding for transforming a predominantly negative discourse on the role of youths in societies recovering from conflict.

In its endlessly diverse forms MUSIC provides a creative and nonviolent avenue for inspiring social consciousness and affecting change. It can allow people who might otherwise respond to oppression with violence and aggression to have a voice and to expose their issues to a greater audience.

OBJECTIVES

Overall

MY PEACE aims to contribute to the peacebuilding process in Europe, by providing an innovative, forward-looking education approach to youth educators, enabling them to be the carriers of peacebuilding education including the youth.

Specific

01

Provide efficient project management and budget control, including quality management evaluation and risk management, time management, monitoring, full partners' participation, implementing of the effective footprint strategy and carbon control, as well as overall reporting, coordinating and communicating.

02

Empower and motivate youth and peacebuilding stakeholders, to engage youth in the peacebuilding processes

03

Create 10 tangible peacebuilding through music productions, thus sending peacebuilding messages to the public across Europe

04

Develop a digital repository/portal the peacebuilding with youth through music method through direct activities of lectures and workshops, while ensuring prolonged effects due to producing attractive video material from these events

05

Ensuring widespread, international, cross-sectoral reach of the project results and impact, as well as ensuring the impact continues

PROJECT

PARTNERS

MUSIQUES DE NUIT DIFFUSION ASSOCIATION - France
le LABA – France
Okret – Bosnia and Herzegovina
musiclab Emmendingen – Germany
Outside Media & Knowledge UG – Germany
European E-learning Institute – Denmark
MOMENTUM MARKETING SERVICES LIMITED – Ireland
International European University - Ukraine

LE ROCHER
DE PALMER



momentum
[educate + innovate]



INTRODUCTION

The main target groups of the MY PEACE project are the following:

TG1 – YOUTH EDUCATORS

Youth educators involve any youth work practitioners and organizations dedicated to guiding and supporting young people and who are developing educational activities for young people. This group includes NGOs, youth centers, associations, music schools, and youth clubs. They work directly with young people to provide learning opportunities, mentorship, and development programs.

TG2 – MUSIC STAKEHOLDERS

Music stakeholders are a diverse group of people and organizations who are deeply involved in the music scene. This includes musicians and bands who bring their talents and creativity to the forefront, as well as studios where music is recorded and produced. Radios and festivals are also included as they play a big role in promoting music and connecting with wider audiences

TG3 – PEACEBUILDING STAKEHOLDERS

Peacebuilding stakeholders are a diverse group dedicated to creating and supporting efforts for a more peaceful world. This group includes government institutions, which set policies and provide funding for peacebuilding initiatives. It also includes media organisations who help by spreading awareness and informing the public about peacebuilding challenges, and peacebuilding advocates and activists who raise their voices to support and push for important changes

TG4 – YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people in this group, ages 18 to 30, represent a vibrant and diverse range of experiences and backgrounds. This includes Ukrainian refugees and other refugees who are navigating new environments and challenges. They also encompass NEETs (not in Education, Employment, or Training), who may be seeking new opportunities or support. This target group is also diverse in many ways, including gender, culture, and abilities. They bring a rich variety of perspectives and talents to the table

Between February and July 2024, each partner organization reached out to at least six representatives from each target group within their communities and countries. These representatives shared their experiences and challenges related to getting involved in peacebuilding initiatives. Based on these insights, we identified at least 20 areas where improvements could be made for each target group. These areas highlight specific skills and knowledge needed to make peacebuilding efforts more effective and relevant.

These findings represent the first steps for anyone interested in engaging in peacebuilding. They provide a roadmap for developing the necessary skills and addressing challenges. By focusing on these key areas, individuals and groups can start making meaningful contributions and overcoming obstacles in their peacebuilding efforts.

HOW CAN THIS MATERIAL BE USED BY DIFFERENT TARGET GROUPS?

This guidebook is designed to address the diverse needs of its target groups: youth workers/educators, music stakeholders, peacebuilding stakeholders, and young people. These resources empower each group to use music as a transformative tool for peacebuilding, through fostering collaboration, creativity, and social cohesion.

TG1 – YOUTH EDUCATORS

Youth workers play a crucial role in shaping the minds and attitudes of young people. This guidebook provides them with innovative tools and methods to integrate music into their educational activities. Through structured guidance, educators can design workshops and programs that not only teach but inspire. For example, the materials include frameworks for fostering empathy, cultural awareness, and emotional intelligence—skills that are critical in peacebuilding. By successfully integrating these resources into their regular youth work activities, youth workers can create safe and inclusive learning environments where young people feel encouraged to express themselves. Music becomes a medium through which complex social issues, such as discrimination or inequality, can be explored and addressed. The guidebook also offers strategies for mentorship, enabling practitioners to guide young people in their personal and social development.

TG2 – MUSIC STAKEHOLDERS

Music stakeholders, including musicians, producers, festival organisers, and studios, are uniquely positioned to influence society through their art. This guidebook offers them a roadmap to use the power of music for peacebuilding. These areas for improvement guide stakeholders in designing community projects, advocacy campaigns, and performances that emphasise social cohesion and cultural sensitivity. For example, musicians can use these materials to create songs that address social issues, challenge stereotypes or inspire action. Studios and producers can collaborate with artists to amplify these messages, ensuring they reach wider audiences. Festival organisers can incorporate peacebuilding themes into their events, creating spaces for dialogue and unity. Finally, identified areas for improvement enable them to engage with local communities authentically through fostering trust and collaboration.



HOW CAN THIS MATERIAL BE USED BY DIFFERENT TARGET GROUPS?

TG3 – PEACEBUILDING STAKEHOLDERS

Peacebuilding stakeholders, including NGOs, policymakers, and activists, can use the guidebook to design and implement strategies that incorporate music as a powerful tool for reconciliation and dialogue. These resources offer practical guidance on fostering collaboration between diverse groups, facilitating intercultural dialogues, and advocating for policy changes that support peacebuilding in local communities. For example, policymakers can use the materials to understand how music can be integrated into national or regional peacebuilding strategies. NGOs can develop community-based programs that use music to address conflict and promote healing. Activists can draw on the materials to amplify their advocacy efforts, using music to inspire and mobilise communities. The emphasis on creating inclusive narratives ensures that peacebuilding initiatives are representative and resonate with all segments and needs of society.

TG4 – YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people are at the heart of the MY PEACE project, representing a vibrant and diverse group with immense potential to drive change. This guidebook aims to empower young people to explore their identities, develop critical skills, and actively participate in peacebuilding initiatives. Music serves as a unifying and expressive medium through which they can connect with others, share their stories, and advocate for social change. The guidebook provides young people with opportunities to develop essential skills such as active listening, teamwork, and conflict resolution. It also encourages creativity, enabling young participants to use music to address social issues and inspire their peers. For instance, a young person might compose a song that reflects their experiences of conflict and resilience, using it to foster empathy and understanding within their community. By engaging with this guidebook, young people can transform their passion for music into a powerful force for social change.



2 - METHODS / AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT :

Youth Workers



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- **Developing cultural competences**

Cultural competence is the ability to understand, communicate, and work effectively with people from different cultures. For youth workers in peacebuilding, this skill is important as it helps them create more inclusive programs by engaging with young people from a variety of cultural, ethnic, and social backgrounds. Being culturally competent allows youth workers to appreciate diverse perspectives, reduce misunderstandings, and avoid stereotypes or unintentional offenses.

- **Developing facilitation skills**

Facilitation skills are an important segment for youth workers leading peacebuilding initiatives as it's not just about guiding a group, but about fostering an environment where participants can openly share, learn, and grow together. A good facilitator creates a safe, inclusive space where young people feel comfortable expressing themselves without fear of judgment or exclusion. They also guide constructive discussions, especially since peacebuilding often involves tough or sensitive topics, manage group dynamics, and handle any tensions that arise from differing opinions, personalities, or backgrounds.

- **Emotional intelligence**

Emotional intelligence is key to peacebuilding through music because it helps youth workers handle their own feelings and connect with others on a deeper level. In settings where conflict or trauma might be present, being emotionally aware helps navigate tricky situations and makes peacebuilding more effective. Music can tap into deep emotions, fostering understanding and healing. By building emotional intelligence, youth workers can guide young people to use music not just to express themselves, but to boost emotional awareness, resolve conflicts, and support community healing.

- **Mentorship**

Mentorship is incredibly important in peacebuilding through music because it provides young people with guidance, support, and inspiration. A mentor helps them navigate their emotions, develop key skills, and grow both personally and socially. In peacebuilding, mentors are especially valuable because they build strong relationships, encourage responsibility, and help shape future leaders who are dedicated to creating peaceful communities. Through music, mentors can show young people how to use their creativity to resolve conflicts, heal emotionally, and bring people together, reinforcing the core values of peacebuilding.

- **Promotion of non-violent communication**

Non-violent communication provides practical tools for resolving conflicts in a peaceful and productive manner. As music is a powerful outlet for emotional expression, and when paired with non-violent communication, it helps individuals express their feelings in a constructive and non-harmful way. This helps prevent emotional buildup and reduces the likelihood of conflicts escalating into violence.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

AND STORYTELLING

- **Storytelling through music**

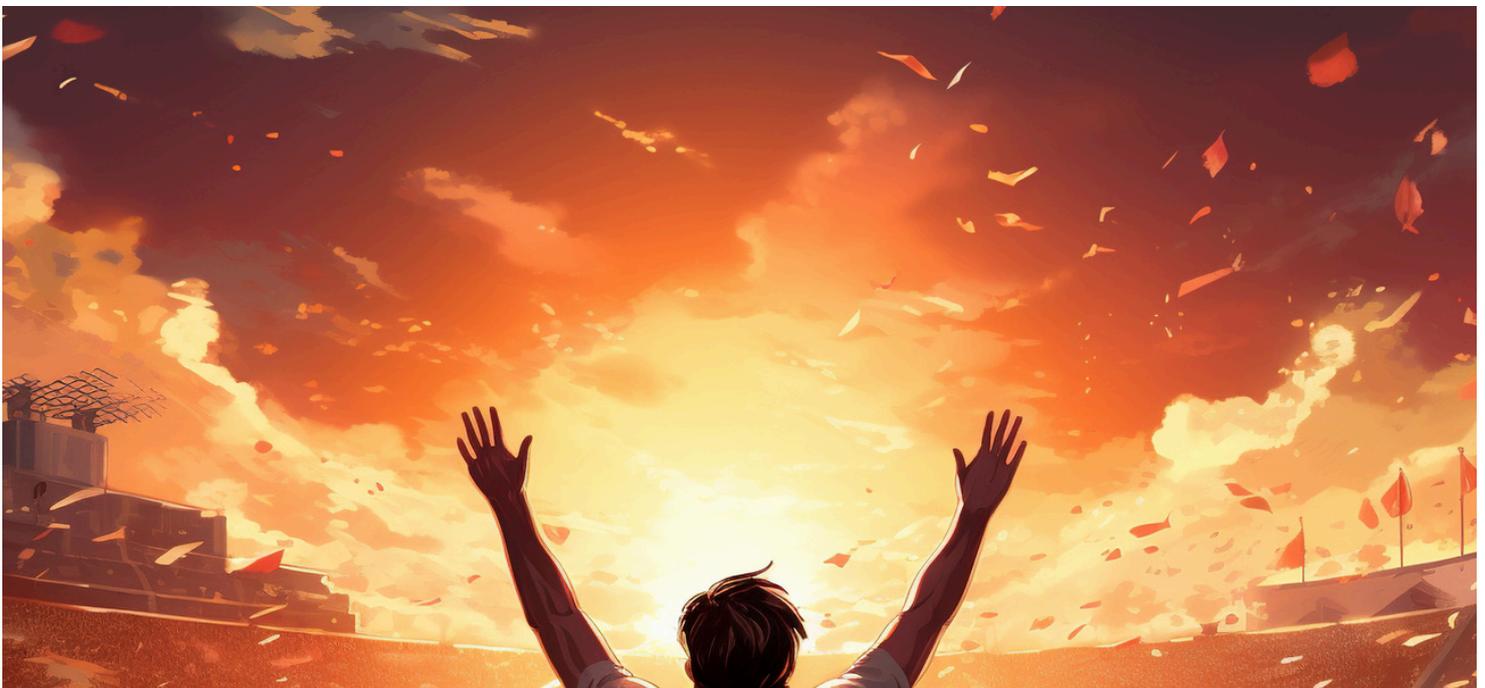
Storytelling through music is a powerful tool for youth workers in peacebuilding because it connects both the emotional and cognitive aspects of individuals. Music's universal appeal allows it to share deep messages, even to people who don't speak the same language. It can reflect the tensions of conflict, the barriers it creates, or the events that lead to peace. Youth workers can use music to express difficult emotions that young people might struggle to put into simple words. Storytelling through music can bridge cultural and ethnic divides, reach people from different backgrounds, and give oppressed youth a voice, allowing them to share their experiences.

- **Organizing peace festivals**

Organising a peace festival is a fantastic way to unite communities and promote peace, understanding, and unity through the universal language of music. These festivals offer a space for creative expression, open dialogue, and cultural exchange. They allow people to tackle social issues, celebrate diversity, and inspire collective action towards peace. With music at the heart of it, peace festivals build emotional connections, break down barriers, and create a shared purpose around promoting peace. For youth workers and peacebuilding organizations, it's a great chance to engage young people, local communities, musicians, and other stakeholders in a fun, collaborative, and meaningful way that supports long-term peacebuilding efforts.

- **Learning the basics of music therapy techniques**

Learning the basics of music therapy can really boost peacebuilding efforts, especially when working with communities dealing with conflict, trauma, and social divides. Music therapy uses the power of music to tackle emotional, psychological, and social challenges, making it a great tool for healing, building resilience, and resolving conflicts. For youth workers, adding music therapy techniques to their programs offers a structured way to help participants manage their emotions, heal from trauma, and connect more deeply with others. By understanding the basics of music therapy, youth workers can provide more focused support to individuals and groups striving for reconciliation and peace.



PROGRAM DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

- **Program design and implementation**

Designing and implementing effective programs is key for youth workers who want to use music as a tool for peacebuilding. A well-structured program ensures inclusivity and encourages young people to fully engage in the peacebuilding process. Proper planning also helps achieve the program's goals and desired outcomes, ensuring long-term success and sustainability. Youth workers should create educational programs with clear objectives, making sure that music activities are not just enjoyable, but also serve an educational purpose and are educational activities themselves. These programs should help participants develop skills and engage in meaningful conversations about peacebuilding, rather than being just one-off events.

- **Development of inclusive activities**

Inclusivity is especially important when working with diverse groups of young people. Inclusive activities ensure that all participants, regardless of their background, abilities, gender, or social status, can fully engage in and benefit from the program. In peacebuilding, exclusion or marginalization can increase existing tensions so youth workers should promote social cohesion ensuring that everyone can participate; building empathy and understanding.

- **Ensuring sustainability and creation of long-term educational programs**

Sustainability is crucial for peacebuilding efforts to create lasting change, and developing long-term music programs ensures that the impact continues beyond initial projects or events. Peacebuilding takes time, and music-based programs need to be sustained to foster deep cultural shifts, build lasting relationships, and strengthen community resilience. Long-term programs give participants ongoing opportunities to grow, learn, and engage in peacebuilding. They also help embed the values of peace, collaboration, and conflict resolution into the community's culture. By reinforcing peacebuilding messages over time and forming strong partnerships with local institutions, schools, and organizations, these programs can thrive even after external funding or support has ended.



COMMUNITY AND PEER ENGAGEMENT

- **Community engagement**

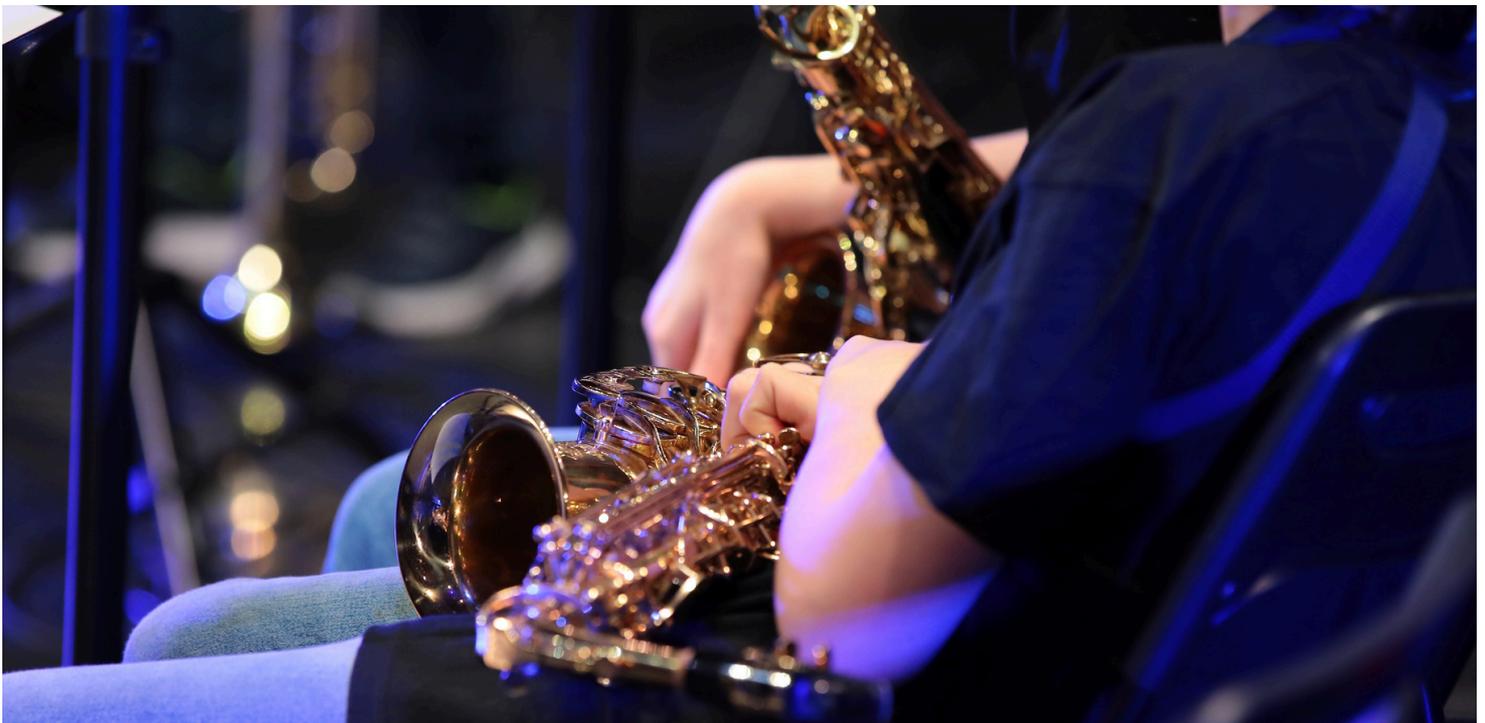
Community involvement is crucial for the success of any peacebuilding initiative, especially when music is used to promote understanding and reconciliation. When youth workers engage the wider community, it helps extend the impact of their programs beyond just the participants, fostering a greater sense of ownership, support, and long-term sustainability. Bringing the community into the process also ensures that peacebuilding efforts are rooted in local realities and cultures, making them more effective and meaningful.

- **Advocacy and raising awareness**

Advocacy is especially important for advancing existing peacebuilding initiatives through music. It involves promoting the value and impact of music-based peace initiatives to stakeholders like policymakers, funders, community leaders, and the general public. Strong advocacy can help secure resources, build partnerships, and raise awareness of music's role in fostering peace and social cohesion. By showcasing the success and impact of these programs, advocacy can attract funding and support from sponsors. Additionally, youth workers can use advocacy to influence policies that encourage the integration of music into peacebuilding strategies, leading to more institutional support and recognition of music's role in conflict resolution on a national or international level.

- **Peer-to-peer education**

Peer-to-peer education encourages young people to learn from and support each other, using the natural influence and relatability of their peers. When young people teach each other, it creates a more engaging and authentic environment where knowledge, experiences, and skills are shared more productively. In the context of music-based peacebuilding, this approach allows young people to share their musical talents and personal stories of peace. This exchange helps build stronger community bonds and promotes a culture of peace. That's why youth workers should focus on empowering young people to become leaders who can teach and mentor their peers.



CROSS-SECTORAL

AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- **Fostering cross-sectoral cooperation**

Cross-sectoral cooperation is all about bringing together different fields—like education, government, the arts, social services, and the private sector—to create a well-rounded approach to peacebuilding. When these sectors work together, combining their unique strengths and resources, the impact of peacebuilding efforts, especially those involving music, can be much broader and more lasting. For youth workers, musicians, and peacebuilding organizations, this kind of collaboration means more comprehensive programs that tackle various aspects of peace and conflict resolution. It also helps pool resources, boost visibility, and use wider networks to make a bigger difference with music-based peacebuilding.

- **Developing international projects**

Working on international peacebuilding projects through music opens up incredible opportunities for sharing ideas, cultures, and experiences across borders. Music, being a universal language, helps bridge cultural and language gaps, making it a powerful way to promote peace and understanding worldwide. For youth workers, musicians, and peacebuilding organizations, these global collaborations can expand their impact, bringing in diverse viewpoints to tackle conflicts and foster a worldwide culture of peace. International projects also let young people and communities connect with others from different backgrounds, building mutual respect, empathy, and a sense of global citizenship. They encourage cross-cultural learning, challenge stereotypes, and create spaces for shared creative expression that go beyond national borders.



RESSOURCES AND MEDIA UTILISATION

- **Access to resources**

For youth workers and young participants to fully engage in music-based peacebuilding, having access to the right resources is key. This includes things like musical instruments, technical equipment, training materials, financial support, and safe spaces for their activities. Without these, even the best-designed peacebuilding efforts might fall short. Resources allow participants to express themselves creatively and share their experiences. Making sure everyone has equal access to these resources is also crucial for fostering inclusion, especially for marginalized groups who might otherwise be left out.

- **Monitoring and evaluation**

Knowing how to properly do monitoring and evaluation, helps youth workers and stakeholders assess if the program is achieving its goals, understand its impact on participants and the community, and identify areas for improvement. Effective monitoring and evaluation make sure peacebuilding efforts remain adaptable, sustainable, and responsive to participants' needs. For music-based programs, these processes offer insights into how music shapes participants' views on peace and conflict resolution. They also ensure accountability to funders and partners, showing the program's value and informing about steps to be made in the future. By continuously gathering feedback and tracking progress, youth workers can identify areas that need adjustment and better align the program with participants' needs.

- **Continuous and life-long learning**

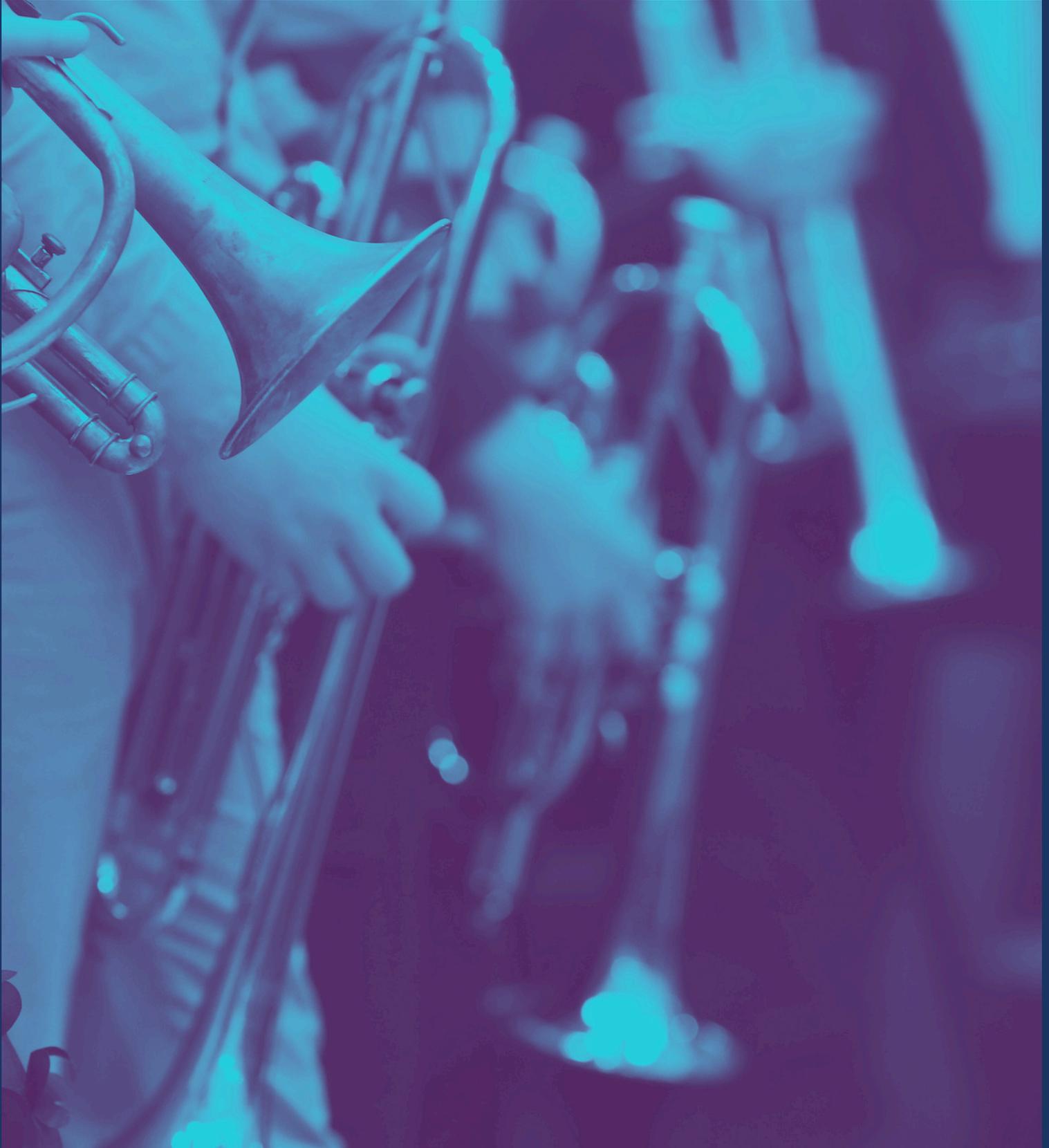
Continuous learning is important for youth workers involved in peacebuilding through music because it ensures their skills and knowledge stay current with ongoing social, cultural, and technological changes. In a rapidly changing world, staying adaptable and informed helps youth workers design and run programs that are relevant, engaging, and impactful. Embracing a mindset of continuous learning allows youth workers to better address the needs of young people. By staying up-to-date with new methods, trends, and technologies, they can keep their programs effective and interesting for young participants. This ongoing learning also enables them to innovate their music-based peacebuilding programs, incorporating new genres, digital tools, and collaborative platforms to engage youth in more innovative and creative ways.

- **Media engagement**

Media engagement is a great way to boost peacebuilding through music, helping to spread messages, reach a wide range of people, and get the community more involved. By using different media platforms, peacebuilding efforts can gain more visibility, attract support, and spark conversations about peace and social justice. Effective media use makes sure that the positive effects of music-based peacebuilding are seen and understood by a larger audience, helping to build a broader culture of peace. When youth workers tap into social media and other platforms, they can more easily share their messages and showcase the impact of their work, raising awareness and connecting with more people.

3 - METHODS / AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT :

Music stakeholders



BUILDING TRUST

AND CULTURAL CONNECTION

- **Cultural sensitivity**

Cultural sensitivity is really important for musicians and everyone involved in peacebuilding because it helps ensure that their work is respectful, inclusive, and effective. In peacebuilding, being culturally sensitive means avoiding misunderstandings, making genuine connections, and fostering harmony among diverse groups. It allows musicians and other stakeholders to interact with communities in ways that honor their cultural backgrounds and traditions, which is key to building trust and achieving real, lasting peace. By showing cultural sensitivity, musicians and stakeholders earn the trust of diverse communities, which is essential for open dialogue and successful collaboration.

- **Collaboration with the local community**

Engaging with local communities ensures that peacebuilding initiatives are relevant and make an impact with designated target groups. It helps build trust and mutual understanding in order to create solutions that are tailored to the specific needs and contexts of the community. Collaboration helps identify and address the specific needs and issues faced by local communities and ensures that peacebuilding efforts are culturally relevant, enhancing their effectiveness and acceptance.

- **Ethical representation**

Ethical representation ensures that cultural and personal identities are portrayed accurately and with respect. This respectful portrayal helps avoid stereotypes and misinterpretations that can perpetuate conflict. Musicians who practice ethical representation build trust with the communities they work with and allow marginalised voices to be heard and valued, contributing to more equitable peacebuilding efforts.

- **Using music to foster empathy**

Using music to foster empathy involves leveraging the emotional and communicative power of music to help individuals understand and share the feelings of others. In the context of peacebuilding, music can be a transformative tool for building empathy across different cultures, experiences, and perspectives. Music often tells stories through lyrics and melody. Songs that address personal or communal struggles can help listeners relate to the experiences of others, fostering a sense of empathy and connection.



EMPOWERING AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- **Mentoring young musicians**

Effective mentorship can provide young musicians with the guidance, support, and resources they need to develop their skills, understand the role of music in advocacy, and make meaningful contributions to peacebuilding efforts. Mentoring helps young musicians understand how they can use their music to advocate for peace and social justice. By instilling these values early on, mentors can help shape a generation of artists committed to positive change. Another huge advantage of mentoring is that mentors can introduce young musicians to networks of professionals, organizations, and collaborators in the music and peacebuilding sectors.

- **Engaging in community-based projects**

These projects bring together local residents, musicians, and organizations to address social issues, foster unity, and promote positive change within the community. By integrating music into these initiatives, stakeholders can create meaningful and impactful experiences that contribute to the broader goal of peacebuilding. Engaging in community projects empowers local residents to take an active role in addressing social issues and musicians can facilitate this empowerment by providing platforms for local voices and perspectives through their music.

- **Encouraging grassroots music movements**

By getting involved, musicians can help lift up local talents. It's about supporting and collaborating with artists who are passionate about making a difference right where they live. These grassroots efforts can bring people together, spark important conversations, and create a sense of belonging and empowerment. Musicians who back these movements help ensure that music stays a powerful tool for positive change, connecting with people on a personal level and making a real difference in their communities.

- **Music therapy for conflict-affected communities**

Music therapy offers valuable support for conflict-affected communities by addressing emotional and psychological needs, fostering social connections, and promoting healing and resilience. By implementing music therapy programs thoughtfully and sensitively, stakeholders can contribute to the broader peacebuilding efforts and support individuals in their recovery and growth. Music therapy provides a non-verbal outlet for individuals to express complex emotions and engaging in music therapy can help alleviate symptoms of trauma and stress.

- **Sharing resources**

Resource sharing is a powerful way musicians can contribute to peacebuilding. By providing access to their studios, instruments or other resources musicians can support community groups and initiatives working toward peace. Sharing these resources helps make music more accessible to those who may not have the means to create or perform. This kind of support can enable more people to participate in peacebuilding activities through music, fostering a sense of collaboration and community. By opening up their resources, musicians also create opportunities for new voices and ideas to emerge, which can lead to innovative approaches to addressing conflict and promoting understanding.

ADVOCACY AND RAISING AWARENESS

- **Using music as advocacy for peace**

Music can inspire individuals to take action for peace. Through powerful lyrics, compelling performances, and engaging campaigns, musicians can motivate audiences to get involved in advocacy, volunteer work, or support peacebuilding initiative. Music can also create spaces for dialogue and discussion about peacebuilding topics. Events such as concerts, workshops, and community gatherings provide opportunities for people to come together and talk about ways to address social issues

- **Advocating for policy changes through music**

By using their platforms and creativity, musicians can shine a light on important issues and influence public opinion. When they craft songs or perform pieces that address social and political concerns, they can draw attention to causes that need support and encourage people to take action. Music has a unique way of resonating with people, making complex issues more relatable and urgent. By integrating advocacy into their work, musicians can help shape policies and drive meaningful change, all while engaging and inspiring their audiences.

- **Promoting dialogue through the lyrics**

Lyrics can be a powerful tool for engaging listeners, sparking discussions, and fostering understanding across different perspectives. Lyrics that address peace and social justice issues can prompt listeners to think critically and engage in discussions about these topics. This initiation of conversation is the first step toward greater understanding and action. Thought-provoking lyrics can encourage individuals to reflect on their own beliefs, values, and experiences, leading to empathy and open-mindedness in the communities.



INNOVATION AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY

- **Innovative use of technologies**

Using technology in new and creative ways can really boost peacebuilding efforts for musicians and everyone involved. Technology opens up fresh opportunities to spread music-based peace initiatives far and wide, allowing them to reach a diverse range of people and make meaningful connections across different places and social groups. With tools like social media, streaming platforms, and virtual reality, musicians can connect with a global audience and share their peacebuilding messages with people who might not be able to attend events in person. Plus, technology lets musicians explore new forms of creative expression, using digital tools, software, and multimedia to craft innovative and impactful peacebuilding content.

- **Cross-genre collaboration**

Cross-genre collaboration involves musicians and artists from different musical styles and traditions working together on creative projects. This type of collaboration can be especially powerful in peacebuilding efforts, as it brings together diverse perspectives, fosters mutual respect, and creates innovative expressions of unity and solidarity. Combining elements from various genres can lead to the creation of unique and innovative music that resonates with a broad audience. This innovation can capture attention and inspire action towards peace.

- **Recording and producing peace-oriented music**

Music can be a compelling medium for conveying messages of peace and reconciliation. Well-produced recordings can reach a wide audience and effectively communicate the values and goals of peacebuilding. Peace-oriented music can also raise awareness about social issues, conflicts, and human rights abuses. By highlighting these issues through music, artists can engage listeners and inspire their actions in the local communities.



TO EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- **Social responsibility**

Social responsibility is crucial for musicians and everyone involved in peacebuilding. It means being aware of how their work affects society and making a positive impact on their communities. When musicians and stakeholders embrace social responsibility, they actively address social issues, promote fairness, and drive positive change through their music. Showing this commitment helps build trust within communities, which is essential for successful peacebuilding.

- **Educational outreach**

It involves using music as a tool to educate and engage individuals and communities about topics such as peace and conflict resolution. Educational outreach helps raise awareness about peacebuilding issues, and musicians can use their platforms to inform and engage audiences on these important topics and can inspire individuals to participate in community initiatives and contribute to positive social change.

- **Music festivals for peace**

Music festivals are a powerful way to bring people together and boost awareness about peacebuilding. They use music to create a sense of community and explore peacebuilding topics through live performances, talks, and activities. Festivals often showcase diverse musical styles and cultural traditions. By including local communities in the planning and execution, they strengthen community ties and encourage active participation in peacebuilding.

- **Creating space for artistic freedom**

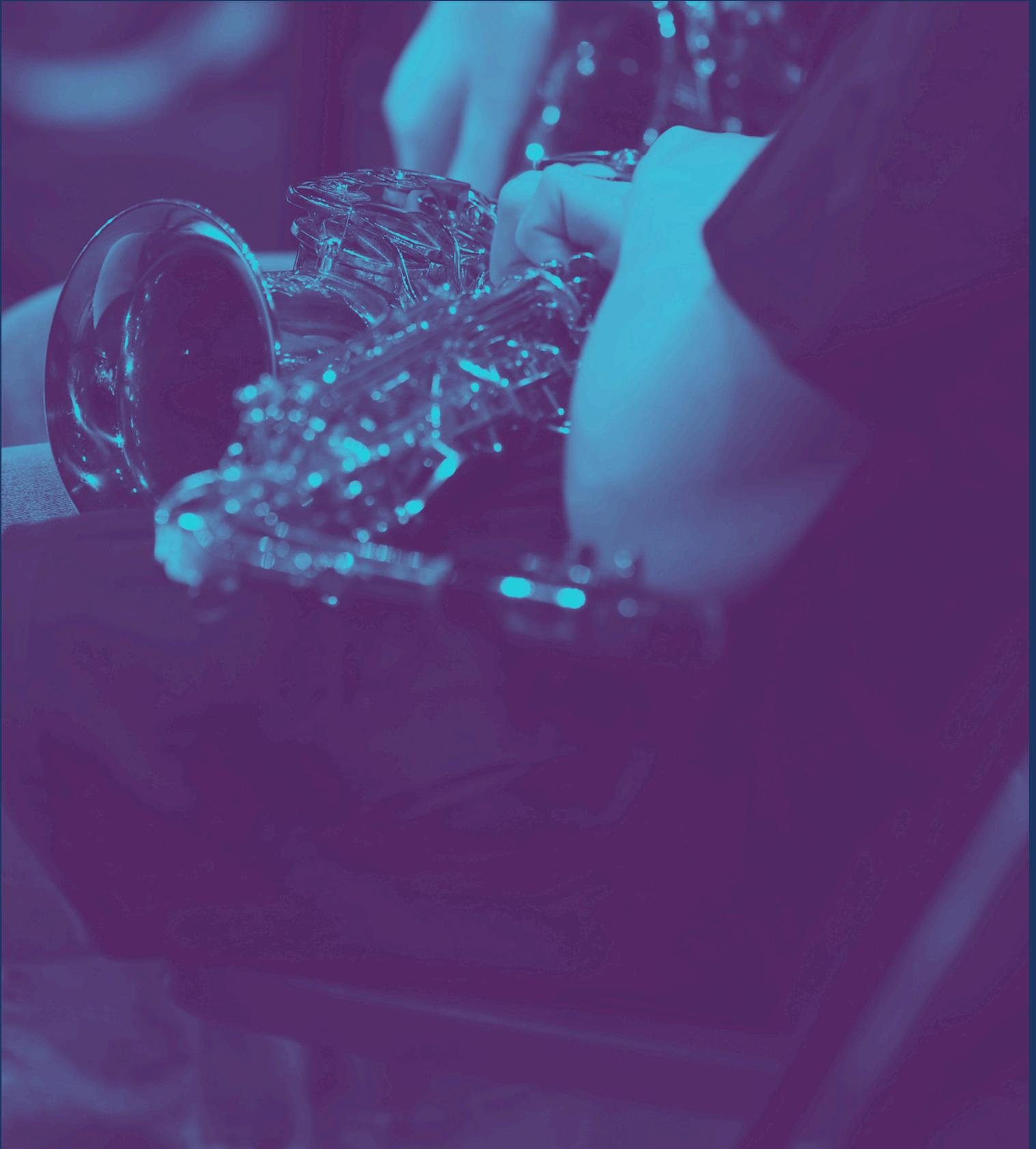
Allowing artists the freedom to explore and express their ideas can lead to more genuine and impactful music. Authentic expression resonates deeply with audiences and can convey peacebuilding messages more effectively. This innovation can lead to the development of new musical styles, genres, and approaches that can engage audiences in novel ways and enhance the impact of peacebuilding efforts.

- **Engaging in educational music projects**

Music-based education is a hands-on way to dive into peacebuilding concepts. When people get involved in these projects, they don't just learn about conflict resolution, empathy, and teamwork—they experience them. For musicians, working closely with youth workers and peacebuilding experts can be a game-changer. It gives them new insights into how music can address social issues and opens up creative ways to teach these important topics. By collaborating, they can create educational experiences that truly resonate, making the lessons more engaging and meaningful for everyone involved.

4 - METHODS / AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Peacebuilding stakeholders



BUILDING INCLUSIVE

AND EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

- **Promoting inclusive narratives**

Inclusive narratives ensure that historically marginalized or underrepresented groups are heard. Additionally, by including diverse musical traditions and stories in peacebuilding efforts, stakeholders can challenge stereotypes and promote mutual respect. Music that reflects multiple identities fosters empathy and understanding across different social, ethnic, and cultural lines. For communities affected by conflict, music that includes diverse voices can be a tool for reconciliation.

- **Engaging communities in peace initiatives**

Engaging communities directly in peace initiatives helps build local ownership and responsibility for peacebuilding. When communities are actively involved, they are more likely to feel invested in the process, leading to more lasting and meaningful outcomes. On the other side, collaborative music-making activities, such as singing, drumming, or performing, can help strengthen social bonds between individuals and groups. This sense of unity can help to bridge divides and reduce tensions in conflict-affected communities

- **Facilitating public participation in advocacy for peace**

Engaging the public in advocacy efforts helps build a larger and more diverse coalition of supporters. A broad base of support can increase the impact and visibility of peace advocacy campaigns. Public participation also adds legitimacy and credibility to advocacy efforts as when advocacy campaigns are driven by the voices of community members, they are seen as more representative and genuine.

- **Creating safe spaces for intercultural dialogues**

These safe spaces enable open and honest conversations about cultural differences, shared experiences, and common goals, which are critical for building inclusive and peaceful communities. Safe spaces facilitate constructive dialogue by providing a respectful and non-judgmental environment. This encourages participants to discuss sensitive issues and work towards mutual solutions.

- **Empowering refugee and migrant voices**

Empowering refugees and migrants is essential for peacebuilding because it makes sure their voices are heard and valued. When these individuals share their stories and perspectives, it brings real-life experiences into the conversation and helps everyone understand their challenges better. This inclusion not only makes peacebuilding efforts more relevant but also builds trust and shows genuine respect for their experiences. Giving refugees and migrants a platform to speak up ensures that solutions are not just top-down but truly address the needs of those most affected. It's about making sure everyone has a seat at the table and that their voices help shape a more inclusive and effective path to peace.

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION

AND PARTNERSHIPS

- **Engaging established peacebuilders**

Local peacebuilders often work directly within communities that are affected by conflict or violence. Amplifying their efforts highlights the tangible impact of grassroots peacebuilding, showcasing real-world examples of how peace can be fostered at the community level. Also highlighting the work of local peacebuilders can serve as an inspiration to other communities, organizations, and individuals working on peacebuilding initiatives.

- **Collaborating with local artists**

Local artists have a deep understanding of the cultural nuances, history, and challenges faced by their communities. Collaborating with them ensures that peacebuilding efforts are rooted in the local context and resonate with the lived experiences of the community. Local artists also serve as authentic voices for their communities. Collaborating with them allows peacebuilding initiatives to be communicated in a way that feels genuine and relatable to the audience, making the message more impactful.

- **Building long-term peace partnerships**

Building long-term peace partnerships is essential for creating sustainable, meaningful change in communities affected by conflict or division. Long-term partnerships help sustain peacebuilding efforts over time, providing continuous support, resources, and collaboration. They allow peace initiatives, especially those using music, to evolve and adapt, ensuring that they remain relevant and impactful. These partnerships also foster trust and collaboration between different stakeholders, such as local communities, artists, NGOs, and government institutions, and can be crucial for the success of peacebuilding efforts, as trust is often a key factor in conflict resolution and prevention.

- **Strengthening collaboration between different stakeholders**

Strengthening collaboration between different stakeholders is crucial for the success of peacebuilding efforts through music. Collaboration enhances the effectiveness and reach of peace initiatives by leveraging the unique strengths and resources of various entities. Different stakeholders bring diverse expertise to the table. Musicians, youth workers, NGOs, policymakers, and community leaders each have unique perspectives and skills that, when combined, can create more robust and effective peacebuilding strategies. This collaboration also allows stakeholders to pool financial, technical, and human resources.

- **Creating youth advisory boards**

Creating youth advisory boards is a powerful way for peacebuilding stakeholders to boost the impact of their efforts and truly connect with young people. These boards are made up of young people who provide fresh perspectives, voice their unique experiences, and help shape peacebuilding strategies. By involving youth directly in decision-making, peacebuilding stakeholders can ensure that the initiatives are relevant and resonate with the very people they aim to support.

USING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

AND MEDIA

- **Using digital platforms for peace education**

Digital platforms allow peace education to reach a global audience. They remove geographical barriers, enabling participants from different countries and backgrounds to engage in peacebuilding efforts and access music-based educational content. As young people are already highly engaged in digital spaces through social media, music streaming services, and online learning platforms. Using these digital tools for peace education makes it easier to reach youth where they are, fostering their involvement in peace initiatives through music.

- **Enhancing media literacy**

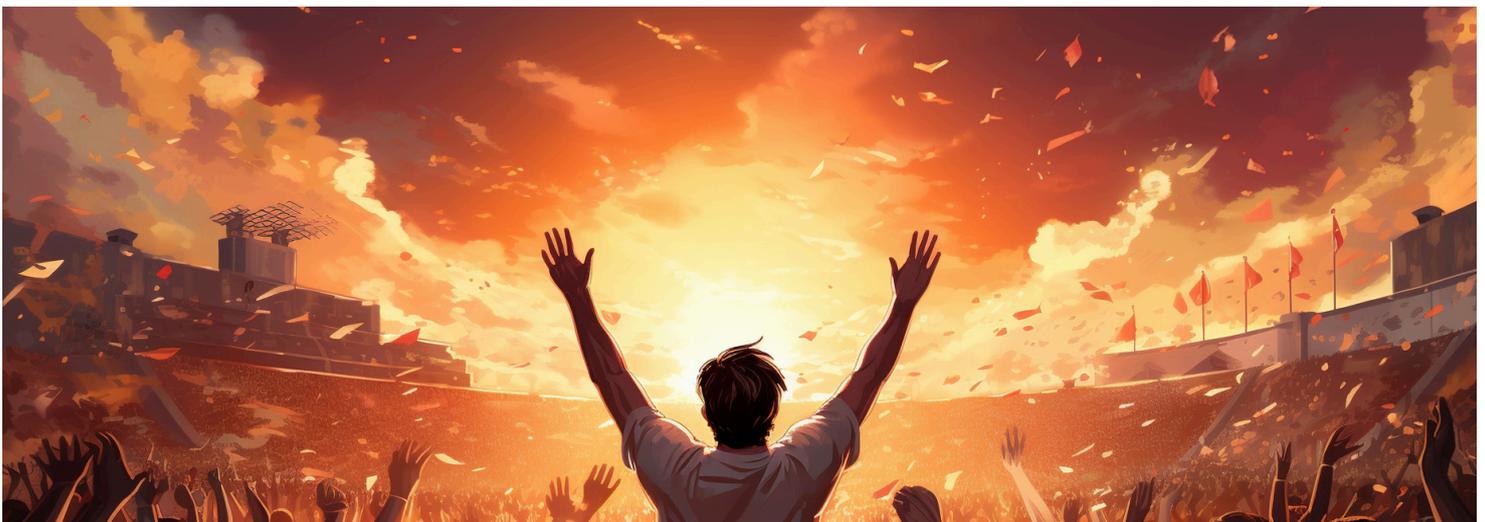
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- **Building resilience against misinformation**

Misinformation can inflame tensions and escalate conflicts by spreading false narratives or exaggerated claims and can be used to manipulate public opinion and influence behavior. Building resilience reduces vulnerability to such manipulation and supports critical thinking and ensures that individuals and communities base their actions on factual information.

- **Developing campaigns**

Developing campaigns is key in peacebuilding because it helps spread important messages and rally support for change. Well-developed campaigns can raise awareness, engage communities, and drive action around issues of peace and conflict. By creating compelling stories and clear calls to action, peacebuilders can inspire people to get involved and make a difference. Effective campaigns also help build a sense of solidarity and purpose and encourage others to contribute to the cause. It's all about using creative strategies to reach and resonate with people while making sure to make the cause of peace more visible and impactful.



FOSTERING DIALOGUE

AND UNDERSTANDING

- **Facilitating dialogue between divided communities**

Facilitating dialogue between divided communities is a crucial step in peacebuilding, helping to break down barriers, heal wounds, and foster understanding. Open communication is vital to resolving conflicts and addressing grievances. Music can serve as a neutral ground for initiating these conversations, providing a non-verbal outlet for emotions and frustrations while also opening the door for verbal exchanges. However, it is important to keep in mind that facilitating dialogue is not a one-time event but a process that must be sustained over time to be effective.

- **Advocating for policy changes**

By integrating music into advocacy efforts, peacebuilders can inspire, unify, and amplify their calls for policy changes that support peace and social justice. Music can give a platform to those whose voices are often unheard in policy discussions. It can highlight the experiences of communities affected by conflict and advocate for policies that address their specific needs.

- **Creating networks of youth peace ambassadors**

Networks of youth peace ambassadors empower young people by giving them a platform to lead and influence their peers. This empowerment helps develop their leadership skills, enhances their sense of agency, and motivates them to actively contribute to peacebuilding efforts. Youth-led networks can drive long-term peacebuilding efforts by fostering a sense of ownership and commitment among young people and can support grassroots initiatives and local projects that address specific community needs.

- **Promoting historical understanding for peace**

Understanding the historical context of conflicts helps to address and acknowledge past grievances. Recognizing historical injustices can be a step toward reconciliation and healing. Educating communities about history helps to challenge and correct stereotypes and misconceptions that may perpetuate conflict or discrimination and can foster empathy and mutual respect.

- **Mediation skills**

Mediation skills are essential for peacebuilding activities and advocates because they help navigate conflicts and find common ground between differing viewpoints. Being able to mediate effectively means you can facilitate constructive conversations, help parties understand each other's perspectives, and guide them towards mutually acceptable solutions. This skill is crucial in peacebuilding, where creating understanding and fostering cooperation among diverse groups is key. Mediators can defuse tensions, address misunderstandings, and build trust, which are all vital for successful peace initiatives. With strong mediation skills, peacebuilders and advocates can more effectively promote dialogue, resolve disputes, and support lasting, positive change.

- **Innovative funding models**

Innovative funding models are super important for peacebuilding activities and advocates because they open up new ways to raise money and keep projects going. Instead of relying on just a few traditional sources, these creative approaches (such as crowdfunding or teaming up with tech companies) can bring in support from a wide range of places. This means peacebuilders can get the resources they need to make a bigger impact and reach more people. By thinking outside the box with funding, they can keep their projects thriving and push for change in their local communities.

5 - METHODS / AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Young People



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Active listening**

Active listening is a key skill that makes a big difference in personal growth, effective communication, and resolving conflicts. For young people involved in peacebuilding through music, being good at active listening can really improve how they connect with others and create a more empathetic, collaborative atmosphere. It helps them truly engage with their peers, appreciate different viewpoints, and contribute to smooth and productive interactions.

- **Developing empathy**

Empathy—the ability to truly understand and feel what others are going through—is key for young people involved in peacebuilding through music. It helps them form real, meaningful connections, create spaces where everyone feels included, and approach conflicts with care and understanding. In peacebuilding, empathy allows them to see things from another person’s perspective, which makes working together and resolving issues so much easier. Plus, developing empathy helps them manage their own emotions and respond to others with compassion. This kind of emotional awareness boosts their overall well-being and helps create a positive, supportive atmosphere for everyone.

- **Self-awareness**

Understanding one’s own strengths and weaknesses helps in interacting more effectively with others. Self-aware individuals can communicate better, build stronger relationships, and work collaboratively towards common goals. Self-awareness aids in recognizing one’s role in conflicts and understanding how personal behaviors and attitudes impact interactions. This awareness enables young people to address conflicts more constructively and seek resolution.

- **Emotional expression**

Emotional expression is vital for young people involved in peacebuilding through music. It gives them a way to share their feelings, experiences, and views openly and meaningfully. Music is an amazing tool for this because it lets them express deep emotions and connect with others on a personal level. When they get good at expressing their emotions, it not only helps them feel better but also builds empathy and makes teamwork in peacebuilding projects stronger. It encourages them to have honest conversations and share what’s on their minds.

- **Critical thinking**

Critical thinking allows young people to break down complex problems and understand the underlying causes of conflicts. Critical thinking also enhances problem-solving abilities by encouraging young people to explore various solutions, compare their pros and cons, and choose the most effective approach. They can as well improve their decision-making by providing a structured approach to evaluating options and predicting potential outcomes.

- **Open-mindedness**

Open-mindedness helps young people embrace and appreciate diverse perspectives and experiences. This inclusivity ensures that peacebuilding initiatives are respectful of different cultural backgrounds and viewpoints. Open-minded individuals are more adaptable to change and open to trying new approaches. This adaptability is valuable in peacebuilding, where flexible and innovative solutions are often required to address challenges and obstacles.

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

- **Collaboration and teamwork**

Collaboration and teamwork help young people come together to reach common goals, use their unique talents and perspectives, and achieve better results. When they work together, they can tackle problems from different angles and come up with more effective solutions by combining their knowledge and ideas. This is especially important in peacebuilding, where addressing challenges often requires a range of viewpoints and skills. Teamwork also means working with people from various backgrounds, which fosters inclusion and gives opportunities to those who might otherwise be left out.

- **Conflict resolution**

Conflict resolution is really important for young people involved in peacebuilding through music because it helps them handle disagreements in a positive way. When you bring together people with different backgrounds and viewpoints, conflicts can come up. Having strong conflict resolution skills means they can work through these issues smoothly, helping to create a more cooperative and friendly atmosphere. By managing conflicts effectively, they not only make peacebuilding projects more successful but also foster a culture of understanding and teamwork.

- **Communication skills**

Communication skills are really important for young people because they help them share their ideas clearly, work well with others, and build strong, supportive relationships. In peacebuilding, good communication is essential for spreading messages of peace, resolving conflicts, and understanding different perspectives. When young people get better at communicating, they can express their thoughts and feelings more clearly. This helps them share their vision, have meaningful conversations, and make a real difference in their peacebuilding efforts.

- **Public speaking skills**

Mastery of public speaking enhances the ability to convey messages clearly, inspire action, and build support for peacebuilding initiatives. By developing strong public speaking skills, young people can effectively share their vision, mobilize communities, and contribute to the success of peacebuilding efforts. Public speaking is a powerful tool for advocating peacebuilding causes and engaging with stakeholders. For this reason, young people can use public speaking to raise awareness, garner support, and influence decision-makers.

- **Building peer networks for collaboration**

Peer networks allow young people to share resources, including knowledge, tools, and contacts. This sharing helps optimize the use of available resources and supports collaborative projects. Networking with peers provides opportunities to exchange ideas and best practices and provides opportunities to learn new skills and gain insights from others. Finally, peer networks can help expand outreach by connecting young people with diverse groups and communities. Increased outreach leads to greater impact and visibility for peacebuilding initiatives.

LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY

- **Leadership**

Leadership helps young people guide, inspire, and motivate others toward common goals. When they lead effectively, they can drive projects, encourage teamwork, and bring about positive changes in their communities. Developing leadership skills means they can step up, build strong teams, and handle the challenges of peacebuilding with confidence. Good leaders not only set a great example but also energize and encourage their peers to get involved and give their best.

- **Advocacy skills**

Advocacy skills enable young people to effectively promote peacebuilding causes and goals. They can articulate the importance of their initiatives, engage supporters, and influence public opinion. Effective advocacy can shape policies and decisions by presenting compelling arguments and evidence to decision-makers, and help young people to raise awareness about peacebuilding issues and initiatives.

- **Fundraising**

Fundraising skills are vital for young people who want to get involved in peacebuilding through music because they provide the resources needed to bring their ideas to life. Whether it's organizing community music events, creating peace-focused projects, or recording impactful songs, funding plays a key role in making these initiatives possible. Learning how to fundraise teaches young people how to communicate their vision, build partnerships, and gather support from various sources. It also helps them develop important skills like networking, project management, and financial planning. By mastering fundraising, young people can sustain their peacebuilding efforts, reach larger audiences, and create meaningful change through music. It's more than just raising money—it's about building a foundation to make lasting contributions to peace.

- **Intergenerational dialogues**

Intergenerational dialogues are crucial for young people involved in peacebuilding through music because they bring together different age groups to share stories, wisdom, and experiences. These conversations help bridge gaps between generations, fostering understanding and respect. By connecting with older generations, young people can learn from past experiences and find new ways to tackle current issues. Music can make these dialogues more engaging and meaningful, helping everyone involved to see things from different perspectives and work together towards a shared vision of peace.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AWARENESS

- **Cultural awareness**

Cultural awareness is all about understanding and valuing the different backgrounds, traditions, and values of various cultures. For young people working on peacebuilding through music, building this awareness is crucial for creating inclusive and respectful connections. It helps them navigate and bridge cultural differences, making it easier to work together and promote peace globally. Music, being a universal language, provides a great way to explore and celebrate cultural diversity while working towards shared goals.

- **Exploring identity through music**

Music allows young people to express their personal experiences, emotions, and cultural backgrounds. This self-expression helps them understand and articulate their identity more clearly.

- **Understanding of social issues**

Understanding social issues is crucial for young people in peacebuilding through music because it helps them address the real challenges communities face. When they grasp the root causes of conflict, inequality, or injustice, they can create music that speaks to these problems and promotes positive change. This awareness allows them to be more effective in using music to bring people together, spark conversations, and inspire action for a better, more peaceful world.



THANK YOU



Music of Youth - A Peace Building Approach



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