



SCAN HERE
TO APPLY

12TH YOUTH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP ON GCED

TRANSLATING PEACE INTO ACTION:
LEVERAGING MEDIA AND THE ARTS
FOR YOUTH ADVOCACY



peace

collaboration
& creativity

8 - 12 JUNE
2026

SEOUL,
REPUBLIC
OF KOREA

respect
for
diversity

compassion

resilience

human
rights



12th Youth Leadership Workshop on GCED
Translating Peace into Action: Leveraging Media and the Arts for Youth Advocacy
8 - 12 June 2026 (KST) / Seoul, Republic of Korea

“Do we have the courage to face the realities of our time, and allow ourselves to feel deeply enough that it transforms us and our future?”

- *Albatross (documentary, 2017)*

Background

Today, we are living in a world that is deeply interconnected yet increasingly complex and divided. Deepening geopolitical tensions, rising exclusionary nationalism and growing distrust of multilateral institutions have strained shared responsibility across nations. Economic insecurity and cultural marginalisation have weakened social cohesion, while the escalating impacts of climate change have intensified inequalities and disproportionately affected vulnerable communities. At the same time, rapid digital and technological advances are reshaping how people live and engage, often amplifying existing divides.

In such contexts, it is essential that youth learn to navigate the complexities of our time, foster solidarity across divides and effectively co-create the future. In line with UNESCO's 2023 Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development and its call for transformative education, learning should move beyond cognitive understanding and toward transformative learning that empowers individuals as active agents of change, equipped with various skills, including socio-emotional skill, values and attitudes to advocate for a more peaceful, inclusive and sustainable society.

Global Citizenship Education (GCED), strengthened through Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), provides a comprehensive framework to cultivate these skills across cognitive, socio-emotional and behavioural domains of learning. Building on this foundation, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) and the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), in partnership with the GCED Youth Network, will co-host the 12th Youth Leadership Workshop on GCED in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

This year's workshop seeks to deepen participant's engagement with GCED and SEL, with a specific focus on leveraging media and the arts as tools for advocacy. The workshop will provide safe and inclusive spaces where youth come together to discuss pressing global and local challenges, experience the values of solidarity and diversity through interactive activities, learn from local best practices and acquire practical tools to take action in their own communities.

Key Theme for This Year's Workshop

Translating Peace into Action: Leveraging Media and the Arts for Youth Advocacy

Peace cannot be confined to declarations or policy texts. It must be realised and practiced in our everyday life. But to achieve this, greater effort is needed to translate these principles into messages and experiences that resonate deeply with individuals, engaging both the mind and the heart. To this end, this year's workshop seeks to provide participants with a space to reflect on how to operationalise the 2023 Recommendation within their own contexts and equip them with practical skills to translate its principles into action through media and the arts as tools for advocacy.

As recognised in UNESCO's Framework for Culture and Arts Education, the arts are integral to the holistic and inclusive development and overall well-being of individuals and societies. It plays a vital role in flourishing creativity, self-expression and in developing a broad range of cognitive, social and emotional and behavioural skills, as well as fostering intercultural dialogue and cooperation, which are critical to sustainably address global challenges. They hold a unique capacity to translate abstract principles such as peace, human rights and sustainability into stories and expressions that speak to lived experiences in our world. It is essential that youth are equipped with skills and opportunities to engage with the arts as powerful tools for reflection and advocacy.

Furthermore, in an era of rapid technological change, media – including digital media – have become a powerful yet complex space, requiring youth to engage critically, ethically and creatively as both consumers and producers of content. In this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to learn and actively engage in hands-on workshops that explore these key topics as subjects of critical reflection as well as creative practices.

Objectives

- To strengthen analytical and critical thinking to examine interconnected global challenges related to peace, human rights and sustainability.
- To enhance Media and Information Literacy (MIL) for responsible, ethical engagement in digital spaces, including countering misinformation and hate speech.
- To develop social and emotional competencies, such as self-awareness, empathy, respect for diversity and a sense of shared humanity.
- To strengthen capacity in leadership, collaboration and creative advocacy through practical tools using media and the arts.
- To explore creative initiatives that harness media and the arts as tools for advocacy, inspiring youth to broaden their perspectives and realise their ideas into meaningful action.

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened understanding of GCED and enhanced SEL skills as a framework for fostering peace and sustainability
- Improved capacity to critically and creatively use media and the arts as strategic tools for advocacy and social transformation
- Development of concrete, community-based action plans integrating GCED and SEL principles.
- Expanded global networks through exchange with youth leaders around the world

Methodology

- Lectures
- Case Study
- Group Discussions
- Interactive Sessions
- Case Sharing
- Study Visits
- Action Plan Designing

Dates & Time

- **Pre-Workshop:** 12 -14 May 2026 (Online)
- **Main Workshop:** 8 - 12 June 2026 (In-person / Seoul, Republic of Korea)
- **Mentorship:** July - September (6 weeks, Online)

Participants

40 youth leaders from Official Development Assistance (ODA) recipient countries who have been actively engaged in GCED activities. (*Applicants ONLY from ODA recipient countries are eligible for application. Please refer to the [DAC list of ODA recipients](#) to check eligibility*)

Workshop Cost

For the Main Workshop held in Republic of Korea, accommodations, meals, local transportation, round-trip international airfare to and from Seoul, Republic of Korea will be covered.

Instructor Language: English

Participant Selection

1. **Application:** All applications must be filled out via the application link with the names and contact details by **23:59, 26 March 2026 (Korea Standard Time)**.

* **Application Link:** <https://forms.gle/wAJnM5bj5J9isMNdA>
(Please note that the confirmation email is not sent)

Eligible Participants must fulfill ALL the following requirements:

1. Born between 1998 and 2007
2. Be proficient in spoken and written English
3. Have minimum 2 years of active experience in youth activities
4. Have commitment and capacity to implement GCED training programmes within three months after participating in the main workshop
5. Be from one of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) recipient countries (Please refer to the [DAC list of ODA recipients](#) to check eligibility)
6. **Have completed the designated prerequisite online course on the GCED Online Campus** (https://www.gcedonlinecampus.org/HTML/closed_course_view.php?id=196)

*We encourage applications from youth regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, disabilities. Reasonable accommodation for applicants with disabilities may be provided to support participation in the workshop when requested and indicated in the application.

2. **Notification:** The successful applicants will receive an email notification of selection in the form of invitation letters by **23:59, 8 April 2026 (KST)**.
3. **Registration:** Upon receiving the invitation letter, all selected participants must register by **23:59, 12 April 2026 (KST)** at the latest. The registration link will be provided in the invitation letter. Late registration cannot be accepted and will be considered a cancellation of participation. In case of cancellation, the participation invitation will be forwarded to the next applicant on the waiting list.
4. For additional workshop-related inquiries, please contact training@unescoapceiu.org copying youth.mgiep@unesco.org

Overall Workshop Structure

Date	Key Components	Remark
Pre-Workshop		
12 - 14 May (3 days)	Day 1. Introduction, workshop orientation and Q&A Day 2. Small Groups Activities & Discussions on the Prerequisite course Day 3. Small Groups Activities & Discussions on the Prerequisite course	Mandatory (Online)
Main Workshop		
8 - 12 June (5 days)	Module 1. Learning to Live Together through Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEL to cultivate self-awareness, empathy and intercultural communication • Creative art lab 	Mandatory (Seoul, Republic of Korea)
	Module 2. Navigating Complexity through Critical Thinking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep dive into global and trending key issues • Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and addressing hate speech workshop 	
	Module 3. Leading Creative Change through Media and the Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Peacemakers Leadership Workshop • Group Lab - Translating Peace into Action • Strategic and Sustainable Action Planning 	
	Module 4. Exploring Local Initiatives Leveraging Media and the Arts for Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting local actors and visiting local initiatives for best practices 	
Mentorship		
July - August (6 weeks)	Individual mentorship for implementation of the local project	Exclusively for selected participants (Online)

Tentative Programme for the Main Workshop

DAY 1 - Connecting & Grounding	
Time	Content
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Welcoming Remarks
9:15:10:15	Keynote Lecture
10:15-10:30	BREAK & GROUP PHOTO
10:30-12:30	Introduction, setting ground rules & connecting
12:30-14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00-15:30	[Plenary Session] Exploring the UNESCO 2023 Recommendations through youth perspectives
15:30-15:45	BREAK
15:45-17:30	[Workshop] Young Peacemakers Leadership Lab
DAY 2 - Learning to Live Together through Social and Emotional Learning	
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Recap of day 1
9:15-10:45	[Workshop] Navigating Self: cultivating self-awareness and self-regulation
10:45-11:00	BREAK
11:00-12:30	[Workshop] SEL to foster mutual understanding and intercultural communication skills

12:30-14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00-15:30	[Workshop] Creative art workshop
15:30-15:45	BREAK
15:45-17:30	[Group Lab] Translating peace into action I
DAY 3 - Navigating Complexity through Critical Thinking	
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Recap of day 2
9:15-10:45	[Plenary session] Deep dive into global and trending key issues I
10:45-11:00	BREAK
11:00-12:30	[Plenary session] Deep dive into global and trending key issues II
12:30-14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00-15:30	[Workshop] Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and addressing hate speech
15:30-15:45	BREAK
15:45-16:45	[Case Sharing] 2025 UNESCO GCED Prize Winner
16:45-18:00	[Group Lab] Translating peace into action II
18:00-20:30	Dinner & Cultural Night
DAY 4 - Exploring Local Initiatives Leveraging Media and Arts for Advocacy	
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Recap of day 3

9:15-11:30	[Plenary Session] Action plans sharing and feedback
11:30-13:30	LUNCH & RELOCATE
13:30-17:00	[Case study/Site visit] Visiting local initiatives and meeting the local actors
17:00-17:30	Reflection & Sharing
DAY 5 - Leading Creative Change through Media and the Arts	
8:30-9:00	Registration
9:00-10:15	Recap of day 4
10:15-11:30	[Group Lab Presentation] Translating peace into action III
11:30-12:30	[Workshop] Strategic and sustainable action planning I
12:30-13:30	LUNCH BREAK
13:30-15:00	[Workshop] Strategic and sustainable action planning II
15:00-16:00	Wrap-up & Reflection
16:00-17:00	Closing & Certificate ceremony