



G20 INTERFAITH FORUM 2021
Youth Policy Brief: Education, Employment, and Mental Health
(July 14, 2021)

Highlights

The IF20 policy brief on global priorities for youth is presented by “ACWAY,” A Common Word Among the Youth. ACWAY is the IF20’s global youth partner and chairs its Working Group on Youth. It is a global movement that brings together young people from many nations and backgrounds to increase understanding among different cultures and faiths and to promote peaceful coexistence by delivering local community activities. Since 2015, ACWAY fellows have engaged in over 200 interfaith and intercultural activities, participating in international forums in Morocco, Australia, Sudan, and Azerbaijan and an online forum for the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week.

The Youth Policy Brief highlights youth-centered recommendations that are integral to the key themes and topics of the 2021 G20 Summit. The United Nations Security Council has affirmed unanimously that “young people play an important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.” This role is recognized by the 2020 G20 Presidency Agenda which states that “the G20 should be forward – looking and adopt a long-term approach to pave the way for the future generations.”

The recommendations in the brief reflect inputs of young interfaith leaders from around the globe, gathered during the pandemic. The consultation process began with a global call for submissions, in which young interfaith leaders were asked to submit the most pressing challenges in their communities, along with potential solutions. At a second consultation during the ACWAY Youth Forum in February 2021, a youth-specific focus group of 75 young people, collected multiple perspectives on further recommendations.

The brief outlines the challenges facing young people around the world, and practical policy-centered recommendations to address them. Areas of policy focus include the following:

- (1) access to education,
- (2) stable employment,
- (3) mental health,
- (4) youth in conflict zones,
- (5) climate change, and
- (6) access to the decision-making processes.

ACWAY recommends that the Interfaith Development Goals be adopted by all G20 member states as a tool to monitor and measure interfaith impact in the sector.