



Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

Youth-Led Briefing: 1 + 4 = 16, Targeting Poverty and Education for Peace

The purpose of this briefing was for participating youth to identify the top three priorities as Education, Poverty, and Peace (Sustainable Development Goals #1, #4, and #16). This event provided the opportunity for youth to create dialogue about these issues and highlight the work youth are currently doing on these goals.

The briefing was held on 3 November 2016, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, New York, United States.

Report submitted by Aden Hamza, STTI United Nations Youth Representative

Sering Fal Njie – Overview of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs go beyond MDGs — they are more ambitious, inter-linked goals hoping to address the world's problems in a holistic manner. One of the most important principles of the SDGs is that no one gets left behind; they promote the overall upliftment of all people's lives and focus not only on development but peace as well.

Another important principle stressed by the UN Secretary General is to increase the willingness of governments to adopt the SDGs; therefore, the SDGs need to be incorporated on the national level, accompanied by policies and implementation.

Each of the 17 SDGs has targets that can be used to help create action plans toward specific goals for governments.

Goals for the SDGs now:

- Increase awareness: In the first two years, at least 30 percent of citizens per country need to be aware of the SDGs.
- Increase engagement.
- Provide voice to people/citizens, especially young people — people need to be involved in the decisions being made about them.

Francis Simpson Allen – Youth working in the SDG Youth Envoy

The initiation of the Youth Envoy came out of seeing the Arab Spring and how youth mobilize to create change. With the SDGs, UN Young Leaders were selected from over 18,000 applications, which shows there is a need and want for youth to be involved in achieving the SDGs. The UN Young Leaders (www.sdgyoungleaders.org) will have nominations for the class of 2017 opening early next year.

Pilar Harris – NYU Student, Urban Practice Fellow

- Created a volunteer group that brings programming to young people in New York prisons.
- Most of those incarcerated are persons of color and are for nonviolent crimes.
- Prisons have high schools; therefore, work with young women through this established education.
- This programming focuses on a) self- reflection, b) self-advocacy, and c) critical thinking.
- It also addresses the “school to prison pipeline,” which addresses issues such as education policies that lead to higher dropout rates and greater chance for youth to be involved in negative aspects in their communities.
- How do we address why young people are going to prison? Need to address education and poverty.

Austin Schiano – Give Me 5 Campaign

- Campaign advocates for 5 percent of military spending to solve poverty and transition to energy sustainability.
- Build around and by youth advocates.
- Hoping to expand, build national chapters.
- Get involved by call to actions and contributing to their blog.

(<http://giveme-5.org>)

Umazi Mvurya – African Leadership Foundation

- Break the stereotypes of African countries — the continent has eight of the world’s fastest growing economies.
- Work with grassroots to find youth with potential and participate in two-year program.
- Thoughts on education:
 - a) Need *quality* education, i.e., how do we teach about the effects of colonialism?
 - b) What messaging is being promoted? Are we encouraging hope, and what pathways are being provided?
 - c) What type of support is available for education institutions and teachers?
- We need to move beyond simply encouraging attendance; we need to give support outside of school and promote hope.

Q&A

Arms development is twofold: It takes funding away from social issues and has negative consequences.

Potential strategies to address inequity in schools via policies:

- Need increased social protection/scholarships for people that have families in incarceration.
- To encourage youth development, focus on play-related activities, collaborate with youth, and incorporate a culminating activity that allows for reflection on the program/journey.

A networking opportunity was then provided to learn more about each member of the DPI/NGO Youth Committee.