

What Do Young Yemenis Want From the Peace Talks?

Find out in this report which raises the voices of
1075 Yemenis from all over the country.



— The Horizon of Peace in Yemen

According to a Yemen Youth Panel online survey conducted in September 2018, young Yemenis have no other desire than for the fighting in their country to come to an end. Yemen Youth Panel is a project of RNW Media, an organization based in The Netherlands that builds digital communities for social change.

Sixty three percent of the 1,075 respondents stress that negotiations are the only way to end the war. Those who encourage negotiations as a solution to end the war tend to be under 20 years old [61%]. Those who are less enthusiastic about a negotiations-focused approach are over thirty-five years old.

63% of young Yemenis say that disarming all the parties should be a top priority to achieve peace. **59%** say weapons should be left only in the hands of the Government, and 54% express that we need to find solutions for the humanitarian crisis in order to cease fighting. 51% say that it is necessary to construct the national economy. Last but not least, 40% say ensuring civilians safety comes first.

The respondents also suggested other issues to create peace, such as: give the young people the opportunity to lead the country; build the infrastructure; provide basic services; prioritise education, security; return to the law of Allah; return to the rule of law; and call for early presidential elections.

Fifty-four percent of the respondents in North and South Yemen are **confident they are capable to take part in politics**. Those under 20 years old are more enthusiastic than those who are above 35 years old.

Sixty-six percent request a reconsideration of the outcomes of the national dialogue. Answers on this topic show no significant or major differences between men and women or in age group. This may reflect an implicit agreement that reconsidering the outcomes of the national talks is useless under the current circumstances.

According to the survey, more than 70% of the respondents think that an exchange of prisoners could help to bring peace, and they call to for putting in place a system for justice and the rule of law [by 94%].

The most urgent issues are as follows.



The outcomes of the national dialogue need to be reconsidered



Prisoners swapping may help achieve peace



Ensure a system in place that works for justice and the rule of law



The formation of a competent government help to achieve peace



Yemenis who join the fighting parties the unemployed



Strongly Agree Disagree
Agree Strongly Disagree

The survey about peace in Yemen was conducted three times over the past 4 years the thing that allowed some changes in the mind-set of young Yemenis about the peace process and the future of the country to arise.

Most of the respondents sees that the responsibility lies with the conflicting leaders;

the former Ali Saleh, Mansour Hadi and Al-Houthi as well as by 47% of Sana'a respondents compared to only 12% of Aden.

In the second survey on peace in Yemen and as a result of the political developments, another result showed a clear consensus on ending the current war by 96% of respondents.

In the second survey, the breakdown of the peace process was also attributed to the local parties. Where the majority of the respondents by 59% of males and 88% of females put the responsibilities on the local parties. Most people in the north and south by 84%, believe that the current war is a proxy war. The Second survey also recognizes the right of the South to represent itself as an independent partner in the peace process. This was supported by 40% of the population of the North, which is considered as a large percentage for the first time, compared to 78% of the South who support the proposal.

For the first time, the majority also agreed on the disarmament process and confining the weapons to the hands of the state only. The proposal was supported by 91% of the participants from the north compared to 87% of the South, a high percentage that clearly indicates the need for a strong central state that sees up violence, and that people should be governed by law.

War in Yemen is a proxy war between regional actors



Disarming the fighting groups and keeping weapons in the hands of the government only is the way to achieve peace in Yemen



Legend:
Strongly Agree (blue)
Agree (yellow)
Disagree (black)
Strongly Disagree (red)

RNW Media works in Yemen to engage the middle ground – to create media that embraces inclusion and non-violence and inspires young people to think differently about marginalized groups in the country.

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