RiseUp4Peace
Empowering Educators and Young People: Creating a Culture of Peace, Integrity and The Rule of Law with Education
In a world fraught with conflicts, crises and inequalities, the impact on young lives is profound. The vulnerabilities and risks related to drugs, crime, risky behaviors, violence, and mental health challenges are issues that cannot be ignored. Mainstreaming education on SDG-16—peace, justice and strong institutions—is crucial to tackling such vulnerabilities. At the same time, young people should be enabled and empowered to understand their rights, make ethical decisions, promote the rule of law and strengthen peaceful communities.

Recognizing this, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has spearheaded the RiseUp4Peace educational initiative, in collaboration with the Kamla Nehru Public School Phagwara and education partners from India and beyond. Launched in February 2024, RiseUp4Peace is a vibrant community dedicated to strengthening education on peace, integrity, and the rule of law—all essential elements of SDG16.

Led by prominent education leaders and UNODC experts, the initiative focuses on building educator capacities, engaging young minds with interactive activity-based dialogues, promoting cross-learning, and co-creating impactful classroom interventions. Also promotes UNODC’s educational and youth empowerment tools and the Youth Empowerment Accelerator (YEA!) Framework. This initiative aligns with key global, regional and national policy frameworks, including the Kyoto Declaration, Agenda 2030, India’s National Education Policy 2020, UNODC Global Strategy (2021-2025) and UNODC Regional Programme for South Asia (2024-2028).

Focus Areas:

1. Educator and Student Training and Sensitisation on SDG 16-related Themes:
   - Build the capacities of educators and students to better comprehend and address threats to peace, justice, and the rule of law with thematic activity-based learning.
   - Supporting innovative classroom interventions to educate, engage and empower young learners on peace, the rule of law and integrity.
   - Create a cadre of education leaders and student champions with mentorship and knowledge support.
   - Showcase good practices across multiple fora.

2. National/Regional Collaboration:
   - Establish a strong network of young people, educators and policymakers in India, South Asia and beyond, with better awareness and commitment on SDG 16 education.
   - Foster cross-learning and collaboration among educators.
   - Creating a platform for sharing experiences, good practices and knowledge.

3. Engagement with policymakers
   - Invite policymakers to join educators/students’ dialogues and share knowledge and expertise.
   - Regular briefings/information sharing with key policymakers.

4. Advocacy:
   - Regular dialogues to promote education on SDG 16 and various thematic mandates of UNODC relevant for young people.
   - Develop and showcase student-led interventions on SDG 16 themes.

To join the RiseUp4Peace initiative

QR Code
visit: t.ly/dmkXQ
Key Themes:
- SDGs and SDG 16: An Overview
- Innovative Teaching Methods for SDG 16
- Young People and Mental Health
- Cybersecurity and Online Safety
- Corruption Prevention and Ethics
- Addressing Drugs and Organized Crime
- Anti-Discrimination, Inclusion and Gender Equality
- Access to Justice and Legal Awareness
- Technology and Innovation for Justice
- Arts and Sports for Social Change

Educators’ Roundtable Dialogues:
A series of Educators’ Roundtable dialogues are also envisaged in collaboration with select partner institutions in different states. These will foster an open discussion on good practices, knowledge sharing, and collaborative initiatives to create a culture of peace, the rule of law and ethical behaviours among young people with education. These dialogues will:

- Equip educators/policymakers/students with a comprehensive understanding of SDG 16 and related themes and policy linkages.
- Advocate for integrating education on SDG 16 and the rule of law in classrooms.
- Provide knowledge support on conducting interventions in schools.
- Foster cross-learning and cooperation among educators and policymakers for schools-focused initiatives.
- Discuss policy/programmatic recommendations to strengthen education and students’ engagement on aforementioned themes.

Objectives:
- Enhancing capacities of educators in promoting a culture of peace, integrity and the rule of law with education
- Fostering student leadership and empowerment
- Enabling schools to initiate and replicate own initiatives
- Increasing visibility of school-focused efforts

Action Model:
- Join the RiseUp4Peace network
- Series of interactive activity-based thematic dialogues with students
- Capacity building workshops with educators
- Dissemination of knowledge products and tools
- Monthly ‘Partners4Peace’ dialogues to foster cross-learning
- Co-creation of school-led initiatives

Key Stakeholders:
- K-12 students from public/private schools and students from colleges/university
- Educators and educational leaders from schools/colleges/university
- Education-focused stakeholders

Visibility:
- Social media promotion on UNODC forums
- Monthly newsletter/virtual art gallery
- Webcasts
- Amplifying good practices in education
- Special features in UNODC South Asia platforms
- Outreach in national/global networks