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## ACWAY Global Youth Forum 2026

From intercultural & interfaith dialogue to action

Tashkent, Uzbekistan | 8 June - 10 June

### Background

A Common Word Among Youth ([ACWAY](#)) is an international youth network which brings together young people from diverse backgrounds to increase the understanding of different cultures and faiths and to promote peace and coexistence through delivering local community projects. Over the last decade, ACWAY has brought together over 1000 young people through 8 international training forums globally.

In 2026, with the [Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#) as our co-hosts, ACWAY will conduct its ninth forum in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan occupies a uniquely powerful position from which to host a forum of this nature because [60% of the population is younger than the age of 30](#). Uzbekistan also served as the centre of Islamic scholarship for over a thousand years, giving it a rich tradition of intercultural exchange and religious coexistence that predates the modern era.

### Objectives

- **Building skilled, action-ready youth leaders:** This ACWAY Forum will equip participants with targeted training in *advocacy, dialogue, and project design*, ensuring they leave with practical tools to drive interfaith and intercultural change in their own communities.
- **Strengthening a global network with a unified vision:** The forum will bring together 80+ youth leaders, including 50 from multiple countries, to collaborate, facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge sharing, and co-create a unified interfaith statement that serves as a collective legacy and blueprint for future action.
- **Turning ideas into lasting impact:** Through ACWAY's Interfaith Development Goals (IDGs) and structured cross-sector partnerships between grassroots and international organisations, participants will design and launch community-based initiatives built for long-term scalability and real-world results.

### Forum Details

- **Duration:** 8 June 2026 to 10 June 2026 (7 June arrival and 11 June departure)
- **Location:** Palace of Youth Creativity in Tashkent
- **Format:** In-person
- **Participants:** 40 international and 30-40 local Uzbek youth leaders

## Eligibility

- Active in the fields of interfaith/intercultural peacebuilding and/or Involvement in a relevant local or international project or organisation  
OR Active in university campus or local youth centres on intersectional issues affecting young people (desirable)
- First time participant in an ACWAY forum (does not apply to returning fellows)
- Good level of English (all the programmes will be in English - no translation service).
- Aged 18-30 (by 7 June 2026)
- Able to travel to Uzbekistan and stay throughout the programme from 7th-11th June, 2026.
- Commitment to:
  - Participate in the 2 pre-forum sessions to be conducted online (dates TBA)
  - Deliver at least one interfaith/intercultural project between June–December 2026
  - Actively engage in post-forum activities throughout 2026–2027

## Methodology

This forum is built around three pillars: Advocacy, Dialogue, and Action. Through advocacy, participants will build a shared foundation for inclusion, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence across cultures and faiths. Through dialogue, they share their experiences, lessons learned, and insights from their communities. And through action, they turn those conversations into real projects, leaving the forum with practical tools to create change where they live and work. Together, these three pillars form a participatory and practice-oriented methodology that is grounded, people-centred, and built for impact, ensuring both immediate learning and longer-term impact.

## Partnering organisations

- [Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#) (hosting partner)
- [The Stirling Foundation](#)
- [United Religions Initiative](#)
- [Dialogue Center Singapore](#)

## Overview of the Programme (Tentative)

### Pre-forum Engagement

- **Webinar 1** - Welcome & Orientation, *Getting to Know ACWAY and Your Cohort*
- **Webinar 2** - Foundations & Framework, *Understanding Interfaith Dialogue and ACWAY's Interfaith Development Goals (IDGs)*

### Day 0 - June 7: Arrival (Participant arrival)

- Arrival and Preparation (*Coordination Team*)
- Engagement: Getting to know each other (*Informal*)
- Dinner (*Informal*)

### Day 1 - June 8: Advocacy + Dialogue

AM	PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Arrival, Registration &amp; Welcome Tea</li> <li>● Opening Ceremony and Preliminaries</li> <li>● Who Are We? - Cohort re-Introductions</li> <li>● We Are in This Together - Community Agreements</li> <li>● Energiser - Crossing the Line</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● IDGs as Our North Star</li> <li>● Continuum - Where Do You Stand?</li> <li>● Practice Arena - Advocacy Through Dialogue</li> <li>● Mentor Circle - Reflections on Day 1</li> <li>● Cultural &amp; Faith Exchange Night (<i>Evening, Optional</i>)</li> </ul>

### Day 2 - June 9: Dialogue & Design - From Conversation to Creation

AM	PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Morning Energiser &amp; Check-In</li> <li>● Voices from the Field - Practitioner Panel</li> <li>● Dialogue in Practice - Facilitated Deep Dive</li> <li>● From Dialogue to Design - Bridging Session</li> <li>● Design Lab - Building for Impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● World Café - Ideas in Motion</li> <li>● Project Clinics - Peer &amp; Mentor Feedback</li> <li>● Synthesis Circle - What Are We Learning?</li> <li>● Informal Dinner &amp; Mentor Conversations (<i>Evening, Optional</i>)</li> </ul>

### Day 3 - June 10: Action - Leaving Ready to Lead

AM	PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Morning Circle - Arrivals &amp; Intentions</li> <li>● Project Finalisation - Last Mile</li> <li>● Showcase - Fellow Project Presentations</li> <li>● Excursion or Site Visit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pulling It All Together - Synthesis &amp; Sense-Making</li> <li>● What Comes Next? - Commitments &amp; Continuity</li> <li>● Mentor Tributes &amp; Cohort Appreciation</li> <li>● Closing Ceremony</li> </ul>

### June 11: Participant Departure

The programme is subject to change