



**Press Release**

***Inclusion of women and youth vital for sustainable peace processes: Senator Farooq Naek***

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In a statement at the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) event held at the United Nations headquarters, Senator Farooq Naek emphasized the critical need for the active participation of women and youth in peacebuilding efforts.

Senator Naek underscored that historically, formal peace negotiations have largely excluded these vital demographics, despite their significant contributions to informal processes.

"Peace processes must reflect the interests of the entire population to be sustainable," stated Senator Naek, stressing the logical and equitable inclusion of women, who constitute half of the global populace, in peace negotiations.

Highlighting the transformative role of women in leadership positions, Senator Naek emphasized that their involvement significantly enhances the prospects for peaceful conflict resolution.

Citing the exemplary leadership of Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's first woman Prime Minister, Senator Naek lamented her tragic assassination in 2007, underscoring the loss to women's empowerment and societal progress.

Similarly, Senator Naek advocated for the inclusion of youth in peace processes, recognizing their unique perspective and potential as agents of peace. He emphasized that involving young leaders in decision-making fosters innovation and ensures that youth-related issues are prioritized in peace agendas.

In conclusion, Senator Naek reiterated that the political participation of women and youth is indispensable for inclusive democracy and greater accountability in public decision-making.

During the panel discussion, Senator Naek posed a crucial question to fellow participants: "What efforts should be undertaken under the UN Charter to ensure the meaningful inclusion and representation of women and youth in peace processes, thereby enhancing their effectiveness?"