

Youth-Engagement and empowerment activities in disarmament and non-proliferation

Executive Summary:

The Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC) was established in 2021 at Uppsala University to provide teaching, research and policy support on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. AMC has launched several initiatives to empower youth within the field in four main areas: 1) The AMC Summer School which offers a course for the next generation of professionals in the field, 2) Participation in the Swedish Institute of Foreign Affairs “High school days” and seminars at the yearly Gothenburg Book Fair, 3) Hiring students within AMC to offer work life experience and training, 4) Inviting young researcher amongst experienced senior researchers to our annual AMC Conference. From this year onwards, we provide professional development opportunities for high school teachers, allowing them to incorporate what they learn into the current curriculum. AMC together with the Peace and Conflict department at the University, are producing podcasts, and our representatives make frequent media appearances to spread their insights to a wide audience, which also often make its way to the younger generation.

Full submission:

Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC) was established in 2021 at Uppsala University to provide teaching, research and policy support on nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. AMC views nuclear disarmament in a broad sense, encompassing both non-proliferation and arms control as integral components. AMC studies the entire process through which nuclear disarmament occurs —examining preconditions and obstacles, negotiations and decision-making, implementation and verification mechanisms. It aims to bridge the gap between academic knowledge, public understanding and policy engagement.

AMC has launched four main initiatives to empower youth within the field of nuclear disarmament:

1. The Armament & Disarmament Summer School is offered by AMC, SIPRI and OdCNP. The School serves as a training course and a networking platform for the next generation of disarmament professionals. The course consists of a 5-day programme of lectures, seminars and workshops designed to develop core competencies and practical skills. It aims to inspire and equip emerging specialists to deepen their expertise and take active roles in addressing global security challenges. Participants are selected from a global pool, ensuring diverse perspectives and cross-cultural exchange.
2. AMC actively participates in the Swedish Institute of Foreign Affairs's "High School Days" and in hosting seminars at Gothenburg Book Fair. At the Fair, approximately 1500 students engage with pressing global issues, offering a large platform for outreach and awareness among young audiences. These events are designed to inform and to spark long-term interest in peace and security among students.
3. AMC hires students to support its daily operations and the AMC Conference. The roles offered range from administrative assistance and research support to acting as conference aides. This hands-on experience enables students to engage with complex international security topics while building valuable networks among both junior and senior researchers. It offers students a practical understanding of how academic institutions function in policy-relevant fields, allowing them to build meaningful careers in peace and security.
4. The diverse academic environment at the AMC Conference allows youth to learn from experienced professionals, challenge prevailing views and contribute their own perspectives to ongoing debates. The exchange of ideas across generations creates a vibrant setting for critical discussion and intellectual growth. The conference fosters mentorship, collaboration and a spirit of innovation, making it a cornerstone event for those interested in shaping the future of disarmament policy.

We also aim to offer further education for high school teachers, enabling them to use that knowledge in the curriculum. AMC co-produces a podcast and our representatives make frequent media appearances to spread the word to a wide audience, often making its way to the younger generation.