



United voices:
Future choices

May 8, 2025



Romance Bassingha

20, Germany

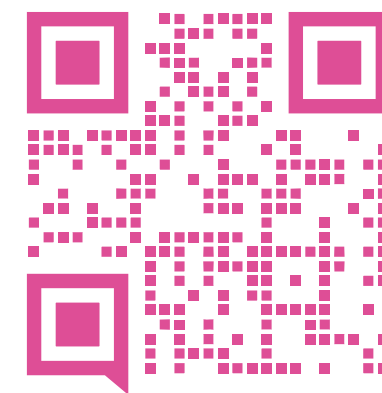
YOUTH4PEACE-AGENDA

PERSPECTIVES AND OBJECTIVES.

How fast can we achieve peace? To answer the question, eighty young voices from twenty-six nations met in Berlin, driven by one shared dream. From different backgrounds and histories, we came together to listen, to learn and to build.

Peace begins with communication, with dignity and with unity. The future depends on those brave enough to think, speak, and act for humanity.

This is our moment – stand up, speak out, and advocate for peace before it's too late.



Scan this QR code
and point your phone at the portraits.
They'll come to life and speak to you



Patricie Kyslikova

22, Czech Republic



Nichina Matsuzaki

25, Japan

1

PEACE NEEDS EQUITABLE YOUTH PARTICIPATION, INCLUDING YOUTH ENCOUNTERS AND EXCHANGES.

Peace can only grow if we look around and ask who is not part of the process.

We must move beyond tokenism towards meaningful participation, where young people have a real voice, take action, and change is not shaped through distant systems, but through their lived experiences.

**Only through the co-creation of participation
can we build a sustainable society
where every voice matters.**





Georgia Kapsali

20, Greece



Stanisław Krzos

19, Poland

2

PEACE REQUIRES INTEGRITY-BASED DEMOCRACY.

This implies a political system built on formal structures, honesty and truth.

Without these values, democracy risks becoming a tool of division, not unity, undermining the main premises of peace.

**Peace grows where democracy is guided
by integrity.**





Antoine Obtel

21, France



Milan Gál

18, Slovakia

3

PEACE NEEDS REFLECTIVE COMMEMORATION.

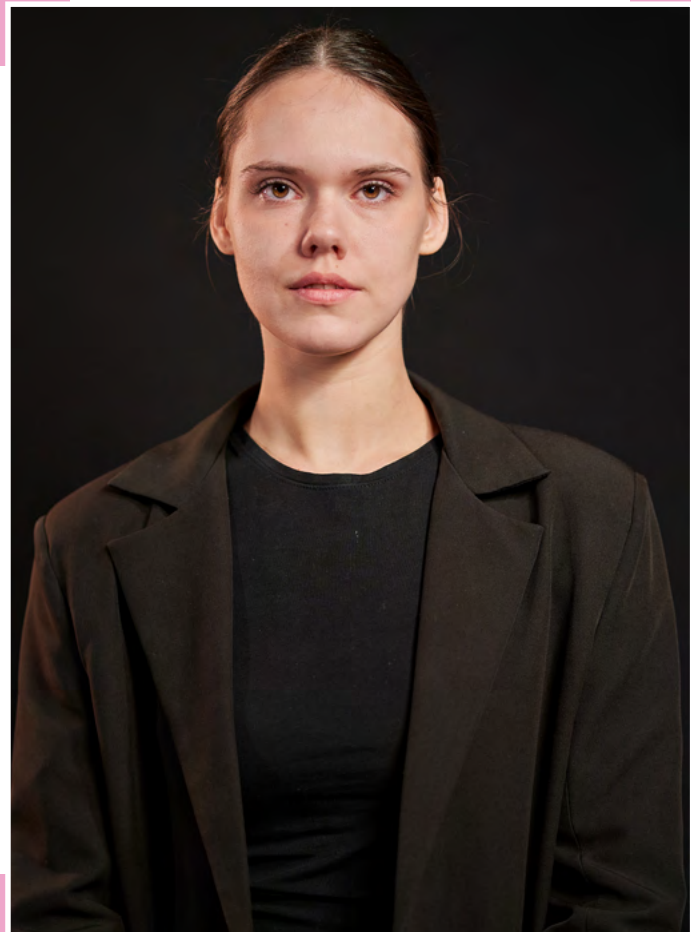
We should not forget about those who died for our future and freedom.

Honoring the past encourages us not to repeat the same mistakes.

Besides that, commemoration unifies people against tyranny and promotes democratic values.

**Commemoration helps us remember history
and prevent future conflicts.**





Kateryna Tymoshenko

19, Ukraine



Loli Chibko

26, France

4

PEACE NEEDS TRANSPARENT INFORMATION.

Transparent information implies access to diversified sources, freedom of press, and the absence of censorship. On the receiving end, fact-checked information ensures that political discourse and societies as a whole remain resilient to misinformation and disinformation.

Transparent, accessible and reliable information are necessary components for a lasting peace.





Milana Kandic

22, Serbia



Jan Barva

19, Czech Republic

5

PEACE NEEDS AN **EDUCATION** ROOTED IN COMPASSION, CRITICAL THINKING, AND SHARED HUMANITY.

This type of education develops not only intellect but also moral values. An education that helps individuals understand others, question those in power, and resist manipulation. Without empathy and democratic values at its core, education can be misused to justify division or violence. True learning nurtures a resilient society where people care, reflect, and stand up for what is right.

An educational system grounded in ethics and human dignity is essential for lasting peace.





Yuval Halperin

19, Israel



Anna Kalenichenko

22, Ukraine

6

PEACE NEEDS JUST AND UNCONDITIONAL **EQUALITY.**

By birth, people are entitled to receive equal rights and opportunities regardless of race, gender, ethnicity and other characteristics without discrimination.

Furthermore, peace is only possible with equal justice and individual accountability, which are essential rights but not privileges.

We should become aware of what inhibits equality and work to achieve equity, addressing the diverse needs in society.

Ultimately, equality and its unconditional and just implementation is vital for maintaining peace.





Teodora Mihaylova

23, Bulgaria



Laura Enzmann

21, Germany



PEACE NEEDS EXTENSIVE INCLUSION.

This means striving for integration and authentic advocacy on all levels.

Advocacy that takes inclusion beyond established structures and rules and is immune to distortion, manipulation and political instrumentalisation.

Authentic and extensive inclusion are crucial to building a peaceful future.





Seweryn Nowak

20, Poland



Alla Altshuler

21, Israel

8

LASTING PEACE NEEDS STRENGTH IN **STABILITY.**

Peace requires upkeep and concentrated effort.
In order to prevent wars, we must be prepared for them.
Dialogue is our primary tool of action.
However, it cannot be our only one.

**Unless we fight for stability during peace,
we will die for it during war.**





Ryoya Sato

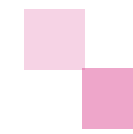
22, Japan

YOUTH4PEACE: THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH ENCOUNTERS.

Peace is a commitment which goes beyond any other desire. We know that peace doesn't last forever. It can be achieved through respecting human rights, promoting critical thinking and sharing a vision for a stable future.

Your political and financial support makes sure these exchanges take place and gives a space for peace to be on the agenda for the future.

We are ready for Peace.



INVESTING IN YOUTH, PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

May 8, 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and the liberation of Europe from the Nazi Regime. This mile-stone compels us to reflect on the lessons of history – and to act with renewed urgency in the face of rising right-wing extremism and aggression around the world. Today, the question of how young people can meaningfully contribute to peace and democracy is more pressing than ever.

Youth4Peace is a pan-European initiative rooted in dialogue, exchange, and mutual understanding. It offers a platform to 80 young people from 26 countries to come together, share experiences, and collaboratively develop concrete steps to shape a peaceful and democratic future based on their unique perspectives.

After World War II, youth exchanges across countries helped foster a new spirit of understanding and cooperation in Europe. They promoted values like human rights, empathy, and peace. Since then, countless committed people – many of them volunteers – have been working to give millions of young people the chance to meet, learn from each other, and build lasting friendships across borders and crises.

Today, youth work, education and civil society form a strong network across Europe. This network supports solidarity and a shared European identity. It allows young people to experience intercultural learning, international cooperation, and to develop their own skills and confidence in new environments.

A majority of young people would like to take part in an international youth exchange during their youth, be it in school or in the field of non-formal education. But still, only a minority of young people take part in such a shaping experience. Youth exchanges must be open to all young people. They should be more inclusive, accessible, and truly available to everyone – because Europe's peaceful and democratic future depends on the partnership with its young generation.

The incoming German government promised in the coalition treaty to increase the budget for youth exchange significantly, the bilateral youth offices and expert centers for international exchange in Germany. This is great news for young people. Strong youth work needs strong support and long-term planning, both of which will be guaranteed by the further development of the Federal Child and Youth Plan. Not only in Germany, all over Europe young people and youth organizations are in need of greater support. Therefore, we call on the European Commission, the EU member states and the European Parliament to considerably increase the EU funding for youth exchanges in the next Multiannual Financial Framework starting in 2028.

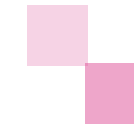
In times of aggression and war, young people's cross-border learning and long-term friendships are more than ever needed to contribute to building a more peaceful and secure world. We look forward to working together on the details of these plans – to help build a stronger, more inclusive system for international youth exchanges as part of a broad educational strategy.

Let's invest in youth, in peace, and in democracy – across borders and for future generations.









Youth4Peace is a joint project by the specialist and funding agencies for European and international youth work:

ConAct – Coordination Center for German-Israeli Youth Exchange
Franco-German Youth Office (DFJW)
German Federal Youth Council (DBJR)
German-Greek Youth Office (DGJW)
German-Polish Youth Office (DPJW)
IJAB – International Youth Office of the Federal Republic of Germany
JUGEND für Europa
Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)
Tandem – Czech-German Youth Exchange Coordination Centre

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Women and Youth

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