

IYCPF Hiroshima Appeal 2019

Dearest readers,

We are writing this appeal together as the International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future 2019 hosted in Hiroshima. This year, 43 young participants from 13 cities all around the world gathered between the 5th and the 11th of August in order to deepen our understanding among all participants, to discuss issues concerning the topic of peace and to come up with ways to secure lasting peace worldwide.

Throughout the last 7 days, we have connected and made friends regardless of borders, exchanged opinions and established an environment where a culture of dialogue is evident enabling us to open up about international political and social topics.

We, the members of IYCPF 2019, noticed that now young people feel a lot of pressure from their surroundings to enter university and graduate because they expect us to have a secure future. Moreover, the youth are facing issues of aging societies that drive them to work harder to provide for their elders and have good jobs.

Besides facing this demographic change, younger people also need to be more aware of environmental challenges because they are the next generation who will have to deal with the consequences of today's decisions. However, these challenges are just one part of the political difficulties that the young generation is facing. Another important problem is the existence of weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons and therefore it is the wish of all generations to abolish them.

Environmental issues are common for most of the countries. Global warming, pollution, lack of resources and lack of education are the problems we consider important. The solution starts with ourselves to make the situation better. We should be environmentally friendly; reduce, reuse, and recycle; raise awareness among the young generation using educational programs and social media; and finally, we should stop deforestation and renew natural resources.

Next, due to a high birth rate, population in developing regions is rapidly increasing. However, most developed countries are facing declining birth rates and aging populations. Political problems also affect world peace; wars and violation to human and civil rights arise from it. Incapable and incompetent leaders, who are encouraging injustice and corruption, are what we think is the problem. This causes the people to receive lack of benefits, needs and

opportunities. Providing education to youth, as the future nation builders, about effective and good leadership with peace and inculcation of peace education to the younger generation is highly needed. In addition to that, we think that the youth and the adults have to work together in order to create a better world for all of us.

We, the youth, as we grow into this world, are left with limited possibilities to change the problems that got handed down during these times. As we aim for world peace, we must educate ourselves and others with these ideas: to abolish radicalism and hateful ideologies, so as to flatten a path to our goal. Therefore, we go forth and volunteer ourselves to these ideas: by joining peace projects, by creating networks for peace in social media, and by participating in peace programs, all in order to attain a mutual understanding of our different cultures and to elaborate together ways to obtain world peace. We call on the youth of this world: “Start with yourself! Participate in the IYCPF and strive for global peace. If you won’t change the world, then who will?”

We would like to ask the IYCPF to expand their network, invite more people all over the world and acquire more members, so that the upcoming conferences will be even better than this one was. For this, we need a sustainable and lasting network, so that the people who participated can continue to share their ideas to the following attendants and never stop the flowing process of creating a peaceful world for the youth of the future. We ask them to implement the ideas of the previous years, so that the new members can keep our spirit, our ideas, alive and foster our mutual idea of peace and carry it out to the world.

Due to these experiences and results we gathered during the last few days, it is evident that our mission as the young generation is to create intercultural networks that combat environmental, social, political and educational deficiencies in order for the world to become a more peaceful and livable planet.

These goals will not be forgotten after the participants return to their home countries. It is clear to us that we all need to stay in contact with the people we have met, to be ready to take action by participating in programs following our purpose as well as to encourage, motivate and inspire others to follow similar goals and keep an open mind. We firmly believe that by doing so, we can create a peaceful world by spreading our own experiences and encouraging other people of our generation.

August 11th, 2019