

Peace Starts With Me International Youth Assembly at Austria's Vienna Stadthalle

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Over nine hundred young youth students from forty-five different nations gathered at the hall to attend this wonderful event, organised by CARP. Welcoming remarks as well as a brief introduction to Peace starts with me were given by moderator Jonathan Makkonen. Many international guest felt most welcomed in Austria through introducing many nationalities from different countries. Special VIP guests were invited to give speeches on the topic of Peace starts with me.

The first speaker, Mr. Ali Can, a German author and activist, who is the founder of the Concerned Citizens Hotline, shared his experience with cultural differences, conflicts and immigration. Also, he established the first Diversity and Respect Center in Germany where people of different worldviews can work peacefully side by side.

The second speaker was Dr. Alma Zadic', who is an Austrian lawyer and politician. She shared her experience in her childhood with her parents during the war in the former Yugoslavia. In her speech she shared her strength in overcoming conflict as an immigrant. As an expert of international law, she could give a big impact about conflict resolution.

Mr. Matteo Bergamini, who is the CEO and Founder of youth news network, Shout Out UK, and an expert on politics & history, gave a speech of his vision and idea, how he developed a successful project and his promotion of political literacy amongst young people. His work in political education and entrepreneurship won a numerous awards.

After a short break the next program opened with a "World Cafè"- a discussion group on eleven topics related to peace. The group was split into various topics concerning peace: arts & culture, faith & philosophy, family, environment, education, sport, social engagement, youth engagement in politics, women, economics, mental health.

The young participants had the opportunity to join one of these peace topics and to discuss in a group with a discussion leader. This was a good chance to exchange opinions and share thoughts on the peace topics and to get to know people from different countries.

The launch of "YSP – Youth and Student for Peace" was given by the speaker Dr. Robert S. Kittel, who is the international president of "Youth and Students for Peace". He was appointed by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon 2017. He gave a short overview of his education work, specialized in family-values based education for teenagers. He has taken up many active roles to contribute an education program for young people.

The inaugurating speech was given by Dr. Sun Jin Moon, who is the International President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and international chairperson of the Universal Peace Federation. She has dedicated her life to the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, therefore she is an expert on peace education.



She shared her wisdom and her powerful faith with a loving heart. At the end she read the poem "the crown of glory" which was written by her father, Dr. Sun Myung Moon. As an additional treat and such a lovely gesture, a nice entertainment was prepared for the audience. Featuring a dance act from WAIT – UK, also performing artists from Eastern Europe. Austrian pianist Aseo Friesacher gave a beautiful musical performance.

The singer Lauren Serena Mobo and singer Victor Yugire were really powerful and inspired the audience during their performance.

This was also a part of the "Peace stars with me" Festival that WFWP co-sponsored for the International Youth Assembly.

Reported by
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