

FFWPU UK: British Participation In The Annual IAYSP Autumn Assembly Vienna, Austria

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Last weekend, from the 14-17th of September the IAYSP (International Association of Youth and Students for Peace) Autumn assembly was held in Vienna, Austria. The Event gathered YSP leaders and members from across Europe. The countries represented were: Austria, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Lithuania, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom and Ukraine. Alma G. (YSP UK Secretary General), Rueben J. (Greenwich CARP) and Sophia N. (London Chapter Lead) participated as representatives from the UK.



The highly-organised schedule included many sharing activities for members from different countries to be able to connect and share. There were many engaging talks from guests such as Prof. Ille Gebeshuber and one of the Austrian Youth Representatives for the UN. Participants also got to visit the United Nations Headquarters where they had a guided tour of the buildings. This was followed up by a meeting in one of the conference rooms with Billy Batware, the Programme Officer at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), who, to everyone's delight, brought 3 other colleagues with Him to share their experiences and advice. This session had everyone every engaged and asking a lot of questions. Throughout the weekend there were numerous brainstorming sessions where new ideas and projects were discussed and planned, including events to spark international collaboration between different YSP chapters. IAYSP has a busy and exciting year ahead!

Here is some testimonies from the UK members who participated:



Sophia N.- "For me it was really an incredible experience to meet the YSP chapters from other countries and see all the initiatives that they are involved in, it was inspiring to say the least, and makes me very excited for the potential here in London/ the UK. The schedule was very packed so not a moment of precious time was wasted. We all really appreciated the space that was provided to form new international bonds and brainstorm new creative ideas to implement back in our home countries. I think that the highlight for all of us was getting the opportunity to visit and have a meeting in the Vienna UN Headquarters. We were all able to develop new friendships and created great memories as a IAYSP Team, which is something I am very grateful for . I feel like I was able to gain the tools and skills needed to help build the YSP base here in London, we have some great plans that I am excited to be able to share with everyone. "



Alma G.- "Going to the IAYSP Autumn Assembly was inspiring and I feel like it helped strengthen each chapter from the different countries that attended but also create bonds and partnerships between the different IAYSP chapters. I'm grateful for the opportunity and for the team that put the assembly together. I hope we can all work on building new projects, advancing current projects and bringing change to our communities and wherever we go. Thank you!"

