FFWPU International: Balkan International Youth Summit for Peace 2026

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Youth as Peace Practitioners, from Dialogue to Action

MITROVICA, Kosovo — As four days of intensive dialogue and cross-border collaboration draw to a close, the **Balkan International Youth Summit for Peace 2026** convened in Mitrovica from October 1 to 4, 2026, brought together more than 130 young leaders and delegates representing 51 nations worldwide.

Young activists, peacebuilding practitioners, and community delegates joined high-level statesmen to confront regional challenges and outline a shared vision for sustainable peace. Organized under the auspices of Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) Balkan—led by **Executive Director Dr. Ejona Icka**—the summit placed the emerging generation at the center of peacebuilding and democratic resilience.

The gathering carried significant political resonance and patronage, anchored by the involvement of Kosovo's key leadership. **Prime Minister Albin Kurti** delivered a keynote opening address emphasizing the critical role young citizens play in safeguarding democratic institutions, fostering social cohesion, and steering the region toward sustainable development. Joining the platform was former President of Kosovo, **Hon. Fatmir Sejdiu**, who offered historical perspectives on state-building, underscoring how inter-generational dialogue and diplomatic wisdom remain indispensable for overcoming longstanding divisions.

Throughout the four-day event, delegates participated in interactive workshops, policy roundtables, and "Stories from the Field" sessions designed to showcase grassroots peace initiatives. Core discussions focused on advancing the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda, facilitating cross-community youth

exchanges, combating hate speech and polarization, and opening economic avenues that empower young leaders to build their futures within the region.



The choice of Mitrovica as host city provided a poignant backdrop for conversations on unity and shared purpose. Emerging youth leaders collaborated alongside international observers, civil society advocates, and institutional coordinators to draft concrete recommendations aimed at fostering trust and cross-border cooperation.

As the International Youth Summit for Peace 2026 concludes, delegates leave Mitrovica with strengthened cross-border networks and a clear mandate: demonstrating that youth leadership is not merely an earnest hope for the future of the Balkans, but an active force shaping its present.