



November 2025

# 'TOGETHER TO CARE'

FOR OUR HUMAN FAMILY AND OUR COMMON HOME

A Commitment to the Pact of the Future

*Youth for a United World of the Focolare Movement*



Original photo by Alexander Grey





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New Humanity NGO  
Via Piave, 15 | 00046 Grottaferrata, (Roma) Italia  
[info@new-humanity.org](mailto:info@new-humanity.org)  
+39 06 945 407 215  
<https://www.new-humanity.org>

Focolare Movement  
Via Frascati 306 | 00040 Rocca di Papa (RM)  
Italia  
Tel. +39 06 947 989  
<https://www.focolare.org>

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## INTRODUCTION

In this first year following Genfest 2024, the Youth for a United World of the Focolare Movement are reaffirming their commitment to peace, universal fraternity, human dignity, and care for nature with the second publication of 'Together to Care: for our human family and our common home.'

As expressed in our letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres in October 2024, we are grateful for his tireless championing of youth causes and his leadership in addressing global challenges. Through this report, we demonstrate our continued commitment to the principles we outlined—working alongside the UN to build a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful world for all, in accordance with the visions set forth in the Pact for the Future (Resolution A/RES/79/1) and the Declaration on Future Generations.

Celebrating the 80th anniversary of the United Nations and rejoicing in its increasing attention to youth and future generations, as shown in the Pact for the Future, the Youth for a United World wishes to make its own, albeit humble, contribution to the life of the community of nations, in its belief that a United World is possible, now and tomorrow. Youth, in this sense, represent the present with a serious commitment toward their future and the future of the human family.

'Together to Care: for our human family and our common home' presents the life and commitment of both local communities around the world and a global, intergenerational network of people affiliated with the Focolare Movement in their efforts to make a contribution to a

'United World.' Many of these initiatives are the fruit of Genfest, a gathering of well over 6,000 Youth for a United World in July of last year. Other selected initiatives have had a firm impact within their communities for many years. In every area of life imaginable, they live and work for the flourishing of people and communities, finding inspiration in the 'golden rule': "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

This document, throughout its three sections (Work Together, Build Together, Dream Together), shows how people around the world are already committed to the realization of a united world in the most various ways. They are addressing concrete needs arising within their communities, building upon available talents and capabilities and the shared conviction that fraternal love is the answer to the challenges of today's world. Chiara Lubich, the founder of the Focolare Movement, affirmed that "it is by starting with small local problems that a moral conscience is formed that is capable of addressing problems on a global scale." In fact, she says: "what is missing aren't technical and economic resources but an extra soul, which means a new love for mankind, to make us all feel responsible towards everyone."

The Youth for a United World, New Humanity NGO and the global community of the Focolare Movement wish to continue bringing a meaningful and concrete contribution—in the words of Chiara, "a supplement of love"—to the life of the UN, its agencies and collaborators, and to the human family at large. We do this in our endeavor to be instruments, witnesses, and expressions of God's love in this world by being 'Together to Care.'



# 1. 'WORK TOGETHER TO CARE'

This section illustrates ongoing initiatives across various fields of action, hereafter named 'United World Communities.'

## UNITED WORLD COMMUNITIES

Launched at Genfest 2024, the United World Communities bring together members of Youth for a United World (Y4UW) and the NGO New Humanity, part of the Focolare Movement at the United Nations, reaffirming their commitment to peace, universal fraternity, human dignity, and care for nature.

The initiative is a global network present on all five continents, operating across eight essential areas of human life—Economy and Work, Interculturality and Dialogue, Peace and Human Rights, Health, Sport and Ecology, Art and Social Commitment, Education and Research, Communication and Media, and Active Citizenship and Politics—providing opportunities for each person to contribute using their passion, talent, and personal inclinations.

By uniting different cultures, beliefs, and generations, United World Communities promotes real change starting from local realities, building a more united, fraternal, and sustainable world.

### 1.1 Economy and Work

*The Community of Economy and Work promotes a just and sustainable economy that values people and the planet. It supports initiatives that foster dignified work, social inclusion, and businesses that create positive impact, empowering individuals to become agents of change in their communities.*

### Liberù dae sa Gherra – Italy

A group of Sardinians formed an association called '**Liberù dae sa Gherra**' (**War Free Association**) to create an initiative that would bring about a new kind of economy on their land, as they refuse to earn their livelihood by making bombs. After conducting a study in 2020-2021, in which they identified the main export products of Sardinia as petrol, chemical products, and weaponry, they formed an association of entrepreneurs, professionals, and traders working for peace and ecological transition. Starting with 30 SMEs in 2021, today the association unites more than 110 enterprises.

All of these associations have decided not to support the weapons industry in any way. This ranges from the choice of bank and financial products to making choices with respect for our environment, work, and workers. Not every enterprise entering the association is at the same point, but they work together to grow together. Associated professionals provide consultancy to the enterprises through a cooperative association called World Free Service, which provides marketing services. Meanwhile, the association is looking to spread the message, having gone to France and Belgium to share their experience.

### 'Si può fare' – Burundi

For more than two decades, **AMU** (**Azione per un Mondo Unito**) and its **local partner CASOBU** have worked together to improve the social and economic conditions of families in Burundi. Their innovative, auto-sustainable, and durable collaboration is rooted in a shared commitment to mutual care and collective empowerment,

expressed through an innovative approach to community microfinance. The activities take place in 5 provinces (Bujumbura, Bururi, Ruyigi, Kayanza, Cibitoke), benefiting over 10,000 people directly (6,434 in 2024) through 450 microcredit groups. Over 52,000 family members benefit indirectly.

The project promotes financial education and applies the SILC model—Savings and Internal Lending Communities—to strengthen solidarity and self-reliance among families. Instead of relying on external funds, the SILC system allows members to pool their savings and use them as a shared resource to offer small loans within the group. These loans support the creation of income-generating activities such as small-scale farming, local trade, bicycle-taxi services, catering, and sewing workshops.

Each group becomes a space of trust, where mutual confidence replaces traditional guarantees, and repayment is ensured by the strength of relationships. Through this collective effort, families not only gain access to credit but also rediscover the value of cooperation and shared responsibility, which helps them reinforce their economic capabilities. The initiative empowers participants to become active agents of their own development, cultivating a culture of saving, accountability, and solidarity.

As the groups gain stability, they are encouraged to achieve greater autonomy and manage larger credits. This ongoing journey shows that economic growth and human dignity can flourish when people work together, trust one another, and care for their communities—turning shared effort into lasting progress.

## Sunrise – Ecuador

The Province of Esmeraldas, located on Ecuador's Pacific coast, is among the poorest regions in the country. Although 44.8% of its territory is dedicated to agriculture, the area faces severe threats from unsustainable economic practices that are causing deforestation, the destruction of mangrove forests, and the contamination of land and water with waste and pesticides. In the canton of Muisne, these environmental problems have a direct impact on food security for local communities: floods reduce marine species such as crabs and shrimp, while soil degradation endangers agriculture—a vital source of both subsistence and income. Intensive fishing and monoculture crops for export further aggravate the problem, disrupting ecological balance and threatening traditional farming systems.

The Sunrise initiative was born out of a participatory process that involved young people from the affected communities right from the design phase. In addition to responding to an urgent ecological need, the project seeks to provide real and positive alternatives for youth, who are increasingly at risk of being recruited by organized crime networks and drug cartels.

The project aims to strengthen young people's skills to launch and manage environmentally sustainable businesses through entrepreneurial training and technical support, and to establish "ecological clubs" in ten locations within the canton of Muisne. Through these 'ecological clubs,' around 300 young people participated in human and ecological formation activities, and 60 young entrepreneurs from three different municipalities received entrepreneurial training sessions. Key activities include the reforestation of mangroves, the

restoration of vegetation along rivers, and the clean-up of coastal and inland areas. These actions, carried out by members of the ecological clubs, help repopulate local species, restoring essential resources for fishing and agriculture—activities that represent both employment opportunities for young people and sources of sustenance for families.

### **The Noche Buena Project – Philippines**

The Filipino Noche Buena, or "Christmas Eve Feast," is a cherished tradition that dates back to Spanish colonial times. Families gather after the Misa de Gallo (midnight mass) to enjoy a hearty meal together.

The **Noche Buena Project** was launched in 2009 by the Youth for a United World in the Philippines, providing essential Noche Buena food packs to 50 families affected by Typhoon Ondoy. Over the past fifteen years, that initial effort has expanded dramatically. They've distributed thousands of packs to over 1,300 families nationwide. The aim of the project is to bridge the gap within communities and reach out to those who are most in need, ensuring everyone can experience the love and happiness of the Christmas season. The youth and their communities raise funds through donor drives, benefit concerts, and Christmas carol letters.

### **RestarT – Syria**

The protracted Syrian crisis, now in its fifteenth year, continues to inflict profound economic, social, and humanitarian consequences on the population. Following years of armed conflict and the devastating earthquake of 2023, living conditions remain critical. The suspension of the World Food Programme's assistance in early 2024 has further exacerbated food insecurity for over five million Syrians. Hyperinflation and the

devaluation of the Syrian pound have eroded purchasing power, leaving essential goods beyond the reach of most households. Average monthly salaries, estimated at less than USD 30, are insufficient to meet the minimum cost of living, which exceeds USD 300. In this context of deepening vulnerability, AMU, through Seeds of Hope, has maintained a continuous presence in Syria since 2012. The organization provides multisectoral support, including emergency relief, healthcare, education, psychosocial assistance, and livelihood restoration.

The triennial program RestarT: "Ripartire per Restare" (Restart to Stay) represents a strategic response to unemployment and economic fragility. It aims to restore self-reliance and dignity by facilitating the creation of small, income-generating enterprises. Beneficiaries undergo a process of needs assessment, vocational and managerial training, and receive targeted material support to initiate their activities. A distinctive element of the program is its reciprocity mechanism: 50% of the microcredit is reimbursed financially, while the remaining 50% is repaid through acts of community solidarity, such as offering goods or services at reduced cost, providing training, or creating employment opportunities for others.

Following a 90% success rate in its pilot phase in Homs, RestarT expanded to Aleppo and Baniyas. In 2024, 33 new projects were launched, and 22 existing enterprises were upgraded with sustainable technologies, including photovoltaic systems. The program fosters resilience, social cohesion, and inclusive recovery within communities most affected by the Syrian crisis.



## Global School on Economics of Communion – Brazil

Organized by Anpecom, Economy of Communion International, Economy of Communion Argentina, Move Social, Asces, Economy of Francesco, and UWP/Community Economy and Work, the International School of Economy of Communion (EdC) is dedicated to spreading the culture of the Economy of Communion worldwide.

After several years without a global edition, the School returned in 2025 in Brazil, renewing its mission to form new generations and strengthen the movement. Following Genfest 2024, this edition served as a complementary space for young people to deepen their connection with the EdC and engage more actively in its vision. The School aimed to bring together young people for a formative and practical immersion in themes central to eradicating poverty and fostering a new, humane economy. Its focus was to help participants discover their vocation for dignified, transformative work and entrepreneurship, offering tools to integrate EdC principles into their professional and personal initiatives.

Held in July 2025, the event gathered 80 participants—including experienced entrepreneurs and young people from around the world, especially Latin America. It became a space of dialogue,

intergenerational exchange, and shared commitment to a just, regenerative, and fraternal economy. The results—from stronger youth leadership to expanded global connections—reflect the transformative impact of the School, which continues to inspire new initiatives and collaborations, reinforcing the vitality of the EdC movement in Latin America and beyond.

## 1.2 Interculturality and Dialogue

*The Dialogue and Interculture community aims to be a living space where various cultures in dialogue generate local and global cooperation projects focused on promoting interculturality and social engagement.*

### Young Peace Builders – Italy, Greece, Romania, Spain, Turkey

Starting from the intuition of one teacher, the project quickly gained strong participation from other schools in Greece, Romania, Spain, and Turkey. In total, around 550 students aged 5 to 14 took part. The project promotes concrete experiences of peacebuilding, encouraging mutual understanding through games and educational activities. As a final activity, the students created a flyer with a QR code linking to a *Petition for Peace*, which has already gathered more than 1,800 signatures, to be displayed at the entrances of schools and shops, inviting everyone to read and sign it. The initiative shows students that, despite their young age, they too can actively contribute to building universal peace. The participating students—from different countries, languages, and religions, including Islam, Catholic and Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, and Buddhism—learned through shared experience that diversity should not divide us but enrich us. Getting to know one another became, therefore, the first

step toward building bridges and nurturing genuine peace among students.

### **School of Interfaith Dialogue 2025 – Brazil**



Organized by the Focolare Movement and the Ali dell'Unità group, the School of Interfaith Dialogue for Young People took place in September 2025 at Mariapolis Ginetta in São Paulo. The initiative emerged from the desire of young people who, after the Genfest 2024 experience, wanted to deepen their journey of encounter with people of different faiths. With the theme "Unity of God and Unity in God: a path of encounter and listening," the event brought together around 50 participants—including young people, children, and adults—for three days of study, prayer, and community life. Among the speakers were Dr. Mohammad Ali Shomali, founder of the International Institute of Islamic Studies, and several experts from Christian and Muslim communities.

The School fostered dialogue, mutual understanding, and peacebuilding through reflections on unity, spirituality, and interreligious coexistence. By the end, participants expressed a shared commitment to write a manifesto for peace, especially in support of conflict-affected regions, and to continue living interfaith dialogue as a concrete path toward fraternity and social transformation.

### **DialogUE Project – European Union**

In October 2024, the European Parliament hosted the final conference of **the DialogUE project** ("Diverse Identities Allied, Open, to Generate a United Europe"), an initiative promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue across Europe. The event, hosted by MEP Catarina Martins, gathered about 50 representatives from EU institutions, project partners, religious communities, and civil society.

Between 2023 and 2024, four dialogue groups focused on Communication, Ecology, and Social Policy, fostering exchanges among: Christians of different denominations (Together for Europe), Christians and Muslims, Christians and non-believers (DIALOP), Western Europeans and Europeans from Middle and Eastern Europe (Multipolar Dialogue Group).

Promoted by New Humanity and a consortium of 14 civil society organizations from 9 EU countries, the project drew on decades of experience in interreligious and intercultural engagement. The project organized 12 international meetings, training for facilitators, and involved over 1,200 citizens directly and 10,000 indirectly.

The meeting at the European Parliament presented the project's policy

recommendations to the European Union, summarized in the DialogUE Kit brochure, which offers practical tools to strengthen dialogue and social cohesion. Francisco Canzani, General Counselor of the Focolare Movement, emphasized that dialogue depends on attitudes, tools, and method, noting the innovative approach of "differentiated consensus and qualified dissent" from the DIALOP platform.

### 1.3 Peace and Human Rights

*The Community of Peace and Human Rights focuses on educational and grassroots initiatives that promote peace and justice. At the center of these initiatives is the belief that all members of the human family are worthy of being treated with dignity.*

#### Falando Direito – Brazil

The "Speaking Law" course is an educational initiative run by the Brazilian Institute of Education on Rights and Fraternity (Instituto Brasileiro de Educação em Direitos e Fraternidade), with content clarifying the basic rights of Brazilian citizens: the right to life, health, housing, education, the right to be different, the right to work, consumer rights, the right to family protection, the right to retirement, and the right to democratic participation and protection of public affairs. The course also addresses basic duties: knowledge of and respect for criminal, labor, and environmental laws, as well as the political duties of citizens. The goal is to humanize and connect young people and their families with all systems, thus striving for a just, egalitarian, and plural society. Ready for all generations. Virtual access to the Falando Direito Project is provided in schools for high school students, and virtual classes are offered as a complementary subject. The content is produced by the "Falando

Direito" teachers, following the same program as the in-person classes.

#### 'Together We Connect' Project – Holy Land

A three-year initiative launched by the Focolare Movement in the Holy Land to bring hope amid the challenges facing the region. The project was inaugurated in October 2024 at Terra Sancta College in Bethlehem, marking the beginning of a journey that seeks to build bridges between young people and promote a culture of peace.



The initiative has brought together, during its first year, more than 300 students from five schools in the Bethlehem District and East Jerusalem with the goal of fostering mutual understanding, cultivating shared human values, and empowering youth to become leaders for active citizenship and agents of positive change in their communities. Three more schools in Haifa joined the program in 2025.

Formation focuses on topics like self-understanding and self-esteem, personal

development, conflict management, and intergenerational dialogue. It might seem like a drop in the ocean, but... it's a beginning. And the hope is that this drop will expand to reach more generations in the future and broaden the vision of the project through these students. **'Together We Connect'** represents a commitment to a future built by our young people, based on the values of peace, solidarity, and fraternity: a culture of encounter.

## **2nd International Congress of Young Ambassadors & Leaders of Peace 2025 – Portugal**

In April 2025, Portugal became the center of a global movement of dialogue, education, and concrete commitment for peace. Young leaders, ambassadors of peace, educators, and experts from all over the world gathered for the second International Congress of Young Ambassadors and Leaders of Peace, promoted by Living Peace International.

The event brought together about 180 people from 34 different countries. Young people and adults, schools, representatives of many partner associations... The congress proved to be a truly varied and very rich reality, also from the religious point of view: with the presence of a young Buddhist monk, Muslims, Christians, and non-believers...

The congress also featured the first international scientific day, an entire day dedicated to academic reflection on the theme of peace. University professors and researchers alternated in an interdisciplinary mosaic, in which the importance of the Dice of Peace in psychotherapy or pedagogy was illustrated.

## **1.4 Health, Sport & Ecology**

*The Community on Health, Sport, and Ecology emphasizes the crucial role of environmental stewardship in promoting peace and well-being. It explores the deep connection between people and nature, recognizing that true health—for both humanity and the planet—arises from balance, care, and respect. Through dialogue, reflection, and shared experiences, the community seeks to inspire responsible actions that allow Earth's resources and biodiversity to thrive for future generations.*

### **'World Padel Center' – Argentina**

In this academy, sport is only the beginning: 60 children (aged 3-15) experience sport with their body, heart, and mind. Yoga, laboratories on nutrition and sports psychology, physical education, and the use of the 'dice of love\*', inspired by the participation of the animators during Genfest 2024 in Aparecida, Brazil. Sport transforms itself into hope and an instrument for a United World. The children participating in the academy receive a bulletin every three months which doesn't just give them feedback from a motoric perspective, but also from a relational and attitudinal point of view. Both parents and the children are given a space to provide feedback to the academy, which makes dialogue a fundamental instrument in its pedagogical project, which wants to be welcoming and involving as a pedagogical community. The dice of love proposes an extra challenge during the training sessions, a challenge which the children adore.

*\* The 'dice of love' is a tool used as a practice of peace education in numerous schools around the world promoted by the 'Living Peace' initiative of the Focolare Movement.*

## Decarbonize Program – Brazil

The project promotes environmental education and climate change awareness in schools, preparing students and educators to be conscious and active in sustainability. It is linked to the Decarbonize International Program at the Global Education Center in partnership with the University of Alberta, Canada. The activities foster climate leadership, climate justice, addressing environmental racism, and political participation, aligned with the SDGs, Agenda 2030, Earth Charter, and Human Rights. Key actions include research and presentations during the National Cerrado Week, mobilizing international support for the preservation of the biome, as well as student participation in COPs, the Brazilian National Congress, and state legislative assemblies.

## 'El Pelicano' – Uruguay

Young leaders from around the world promoting integral ecology: that's what the Seed Funding Program, promoted by New Humanity NGO and its partners, could achieve.

One of the projects, "El Pelicano: centro de recursos ecológicos para la educación en la primera infancia" (educational ecological resource center), created an educational ecological path with recycled materials at the Mariapolis El Pelicano. Through native tree paths, stream-wetland, an organic vegetable garden, and agro-ecological pecan production, they started to spread the values of integral ecology among children and families. Participating in this workshop for children and adults meant becoming new guardians of the environment through awareness and action.

## 1.5 Art & Social Commitment

*The Community of Art and Social Commitment uses all forms of art to address social issues and promote human rights and harmonious relationships.*

### Piazze di Pace – Italy

In the Italian city of Turin, students have taken an initiative to turn a street into a 'piazza,' a place of encounter and leisure. They did this by positively cooperating with a local school, the nearby church, and the city council and administration. They found a traffic-calmed space where they started organizing cultural and leisure initiatives with the local inhabitants. First, this happened on a temporary basis, after which the practice intensified and finally led to a feast at the new 'piazza' organized in cooperation with the city council. An excellent occasion to decide together for a permanent new square, with the local inhabitants and youth.

### LabArt – Spain

[LabArt 2025](#), organized by Clarté, brought together 30 artists from 10 countries—Brazil, Cuba, Spain, Romania, Italy, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Armenia, England, and Panama—for five intense days of creative exchange and collaboration. What made the gathering unique was the meeting of established professionals and emerging young talents. This intergenerational approach fostered a natural, organic exchange, encouraging participants to experiment freely, share their artistic vision, and open new horizons together.

At the heart of the encounter were the themes of vocation, spirituality, communion, and the social dimension of art. Moving beyond purely technical concerns, participants explored the existential questions that give creative

work its deeper meaning. Many described the experience as "intense" and marked by "profound exchange," confirming that just five days were enough to create the safe and inspiring space needed to confront the most authentic questions of artistic vocation. The interdisciplinary and intergenerational approach laid the foundation for an international community of artists committed to living creativity as a way of life—not merely as a dialogue with their social context.

A gathering that truly hit the mark, LabArt 2025 has planted the seeds for future collaborations and shared projects, promising a lasting impact well beyond its five days.

## 1.6 Education and Research

*The Community on Education and Research uses education as a tool to promote peace, intercultural dialogue, and social responsibility, encouraging critical thinking and collaborative learning to apply knowledge responsibly in addressing the world's greatest challenges.*

### Doposcuola Romero – Italy

In Prato, an industrial and multicultural city in central Italy, university students and recently retired teachers have joined forces to run a homework school for 8 years. The school is in a city characterized by a great number of people with different origins, with more than 120 ethnic groups present. In some high schools, over 70% of the pupils have migratory origins, which comes with unique challenges and opportunities. In a spirit of service, they give personalized lessons responding to the needs of around 60 students. The setup, with both university students and retired people running the school with attentive care, brings together three generations in a spirit of community with

respect for the individual needs and cultural background of each participant.

### 'La Universidad de la Calle' (Coricael) – Colombia [University of the Street]

'La Universidad de la Calle' (Unicalle) is a program by Coriceal. It came about in a context of 'participative relational democracy' in Latin America. The program, accessible to all, is based on a relational anthropology which finds its roots in the paradigm of unity of Chiara Lubich and the existential analysis of Viktor Frankl.

The program offers an accessible and inclusive model of formation to low-income individuals, based on collaborative learning in small groups that preferably meet in person in parks or open spaces, a truly unique educational proposal which aims to be a prophecy of universal fraternity. During these gatherings, one member takes on the role of facilitating communication and guiding the group's activities, fostering a participatory and relational atmosphere. 'La Universidad de la Calle' focuses on enabling individuals and communities through creating networks and fomenting new community initiatives. An example of one of the results of the program is a food bank in Colombia which was born out of one of the training sessions.

At the same time, the Unicalle team provides orientation and accompaniment to those who coordinate and animate the meetings, ensuring a spirit of shared growth and mutual support. The initiative began with two diploma courses and aims to expand its range of educational offerings, continuing to cultivate learning environments rooted in dialogue, community, and the shared pursuit of universal fraternity.

## 'Exploring Polarities', Summer Academy – Netherlands

Since 2015, a group of young adults has organized the [Summer Academy #LearningforUnity](#), a transdisciplinary and international program.

In August 2025, young adults and lecturers from across Europe, Asia, and South America gathered for an interdisciplinary journey on the theme "Exploring Polarities." The week fostered deep dialogue, mutual learning, and personal growth.

The lecturers, from the most various disciplines, accompanied the young adults through integrated disciplines such as history, psychology, politics, economics, and the arts. Participants explored through interactive workshops, panel discussions, a study visit to The Hague, and peer exchanges how polarities—within oneself, in society, and between cultures—can become opportunities for understanding rather than division.

The event demonstrated how caring for understanding—across disciplines, cultures, and personal experiences—can strengthen both academic collaboration and human connection.

## 1.7 Communication and Media

*The Community of Communication and Media emphasizes the significant role of information and communication in promoting care and justice for underserved and marginalized communities. They are committed to exploring the potential of new technologies, including AI, in fostering peace and integral development.*

**Teens Magazine – Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Panama, USA, Portugal, Italy, Spain, Hungary, Philippines, India, Kenya**

The Teens Magazine is a project developed by Teens for Unity\*, which organizes journalism workshops for young people in various countries, accompanied by a professional journalist. Young people who love writing learn the method of writing and communicating, understanding not only how to develop their own ideas but also what it means to engage with other teens and evaluate their proposals together, so that the information becomes more universal and accessible to readers.

The goal of the project is to give voice to the opinions of young people on current topics that concern them, as well as to share the experiences they have in building a united world. The project allows participants to write, communicate, and collaborate, evaluating and refining their ideas to make communication more effective and inclusive. In addition to the printed magazine in Italian, each editorial team publishes content in its own language on a dedicated website, promoting cultural exchange and communication among young people from different countries.

*\* The adolescents of the Focolare Movement.*

## 1.8 Active Citizenship and Politics

*The Community on Active Citizenship and Politics empowers participants to engage in a more human, fraternal, and aware form of politics. It enables them to become changemakers, shape their communities, collaborate on policy solutions, and contribute to initiatives.*

## Ecoforleaders School – Democratic Republic of Congo

The 'École Supérieure de Formations des Leaders de l'Unité' (Superior School of Formation of Leaders for Unity) is a private post-university institute founded in

2016. It is promoted by several Congolese university professors who collaborate with universities in Italy and is recognized by Congo's Ministry of Higher and University Education. Its aim is to form multidisciplinary and resilient leaders who are attentive to the protection of human rights and of the Constitution, standing firm against corruption and transcending existing tribalist tendencies. By creating an incubator of Congolese thought and a network of resilient actors, the school is preparing a new, resilient elite committed to democratic values.

The program is inspired by the general approach and pedagogical strategy as proposed by "Together for a New Africa"\*, and offers 3 Master Programs. The program has led to a great number of concrete initiatives on the ground across a great variety of topics such as: the rights of women, children, and the elderly; ecological actions (reforestation, sensitization, ...); formation of journalists in preparation before the elections; the inclusion of indigenous and other marginalized communities; help for families in difficulties and an orphanage; the cohesion of civil society in the DRC.

*\* A pan-African initiative launched by New Humanity NGO and the MPPU in 2014.*

### **'Empowered to Care' (E2C) – Kenya**

Empowered2Care aims to sensitize and empower young people to serve and take care of their communities. It's a peer-education initiative that has transformed the lives of young people in Mathare, Juja, and other Kenyan communities through holistic training, mentorship, and community leadership. In 2024–2025, the program trained more than 70 youth from vulnerable contexts, many of whom became peer educators, mentors, and community builders.

The initiatives include after-school mentorship programs, drug-prevention awareness, chapel and library renovation projects, and interreligious peacebuilding efforts. E2C's participatory approach has inspired youth across Africa and beyond, with partnerships now extending to Tanzania, Burundi, Ivory Coast, and Congo, fostering a continental network of young people empowered to care, lead, and transform their communities.

### **Centro Integral del Cuidado Comunitario (CINCO) – Colombia**

The Centro Integral del Cuidado Comunitario (Integral Center for Community Care) is a care home established in the San Bernardo neighborhood, downtown Bogotá, based on the promotion of collective well-being. The CINCO project is developed by 'Asimetría Cero,' a Colombian foundation promoting democracy, citizen participation, and collective awareness.

This initiative emerged as a response to the economic, social, and environmental needs of the city center, placing people—and their capacity for organization—at the core of building resilient communities. The group of vulnerable people who are



served includes street dwellers, indigenous communities, victims of armed conflict, psychoactive substance users, street vendors, waste pickers, sex workers, and other population groups.

CINCO proposes a space where networks of mutual support and solidarity can be strengthened, guided by food security initiatives such as the establishment of a community dining hall open to the general public, as well as training for formalization and entrepreneurship, the development of ancestral knowledge and practices, intercultural encounters, neighborhood dialogues to discuss local issues, and the provision of care services related to personal hygiene, early childhood care and education, and the reduction of gender gaps through the redistribution of caregiving tasks.

The Center manages to welcome and serve around 200 people per week for activities at the community dining hall, intercultural gatherings, leisure and recreational activities, the appropriation of public space through play, and early childhood stimulation.





## 2. 'BUILD TOGETHER TO CARE'

*This section highlights conferences, programs, and events showing significant contributions to the realization of a 'culture of care,' with unity, peace, and the commitment to universal fraternity as its core pillars.*

### **"Relational Sustainability" International Congress: A Historic Step Toward a New Way of Inhabiting the Earth – Rome, Italy & Córdoba, Argentina**

From October 18 to 20, 2024, the [international congress "Relational Sustainability: the contribution of the natural and human sciences to a new synthesis of the personal, environmental, social and economic dimensions"](#) was held, promoted by EcoOne together with New Humanity and the other cultural agencies of the Focolare Movement. It was a one-of-a-kind event, held simultaneously in Castel Gandolfo (Italy) and Córdoba (Argentina), with the participation of scholars and communities from the five continents.

Already during the preparation phase, researchers, professors, students, and practitioners from different disciplines and contexts experienced a real path of communion, in which collaboration proved to be the most authentic form of knowledge. The experiment of holding one single conference in two venues, the fruit of months of shared work, became in itself a concrete sign of relational

sustainability: building unity in diversity, beyond geographical and cultural borders.

The congress gathered the support of universities, associations, and international networks, giving rise to a transdisciplinary dialogue between the natural and human sciences: ecology, economics, law, medicine, psychology, art, communication, sport, and many other disciplines were interwoven into a single symphony of knowledge and perspectives. Luca Fiorani, one of the organizers, highlighted the event's transdisciplinary spirit, stating, "We witnessed an authentic cross-pollination between various disciplines... transdisciplinarity in action," adding that collaboration with international scholars enriched the program and enabled participants to contribute meaningfully to each session.

Among the most significant contributions, the voice of indigenous communities stood out, bearers of an age-old wisdom founded on harmony with nature and on the value of relationships as a principle of balance and justice. Their contribution enriched the collective reflection, offering concrete examples of sustainable coexistence and respect for life in all its forms.

At the center was the idea that sustainability does not concern only environmental protection or technological innovation but springs from the quality of relationships—between people, peoples, and nature—and from the way we inhabit the world.

During the congress, the drafting of the [Manifesto on Relational Sustainability](#) began, in a climate of open and harmonious dialogue between experts and participants. The document, which will be enriched over time by contributions from Africa, Latin America, Oceania, and Asia, intends to become the shared expression of the experience of every social and cultural reality on the planet, and it will be published by the end of the year.

The experience showed that relational sustainability is not only a subject of study but a path of personal and collective transformation, a call to live universal fraternity as the foundation of every ecological, social, and economic action. The congress was a real turning point: a laboratory of unity and cooperation, where knowledge became relationship and science was woven together with life.

The commitment now is to safeguard what has been born and to continue weaving networks of collaboration and hope, because care for the planet always begins with care for relationships.

### **"Cities, Communities, Care. Youth in Action for Sustaining Peace" – Nairobi, Kenya**

Intended to be a meaningful contribution to the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations, the international event "Cities, Communities, Care. Youth in Action for Sustaining Peace," held from November 10th to 12th, brought together 200 young agents of change from Africa and other

continents in Nairobi, Kenya, one of the vibrant capitals of the Global South and home to the United Nations' Office in Africa. Conceived as a living platform for dialogue, exchange, and collective reflection, the conference aimed at working together across sectors and countries to promote a new vision based on inclusion, solidarity, and hope, inspired by the spirit of service and unity.

The program—promoted by the NGO New Humanity of the Focolare Movement in partnership with the UNESCO National Commission of Kenya, the University of Nairobi, and many others—was enriched by live connections with several other "testimonial" cities worldwide\*. It strived to create a global network of voices engaged in building lasting peace and reinventing our common future, with a specific focus on youth engagement, community care, and local action.

Youths, policymakers, diplomats, civil and religious leaders, joined by various actors committed to a fairer and more peaceful world, gathered in the "Green City in the Sun" to renew their pledge as global citizens and peacebuilders. They reflected upon the strategic role of cities in rapid urbanization—notably complex ecosystems which constitute both drivers of innovation and breeding grounds for inequality and conflicts—and brought their vision and skills to drive environmental and social change, advocating sustainable development, social cohesion, and shared responsibility in governance. Being at the forefront,

they championed the reinforcement of community and value-based models in urban development plans, pursuing a new international institutional architecture suited to face today's challenges.

The event followed a two-day summer school organized by the "[Together for a New Africa](#)" network, titled "Building Sustainable Peace in Africa: Our Contribution" and envisioned as the conclusion of a three-year leadership training program. In its framework, youth groups based in 14 African capitals presented five community-oriented projects aimed at sowing peace in their own countries.

*\* Beirut (Lebanon), Bethlehem (Holy Land), Capodistria (Slovenia), Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo), Manila (Philippines), Medellín (Colombia), Pajule (Uganda), Trento (Italy).*

### **'Raising Hope': Shared Hope for Climate Justice – Castel Gandolfo, Italy**

From October 1 to 3, 2025, Castel Gandolfo became a crossroads of hope with the international conference "Raising Hope—for Climate Justice," organized to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. The conference was promoted by the *Laudato Si'* Movement, together with an international network of partners: ecclesial and civil movements—including the Focolare Movement—as well as institutions, experts, activists, political leaders, and scientists. This plurality of voices showed clearly that responding to

the climate crisis means setting in motion collaboration, dialogue, and synergy among different worlds: from young people to local communities, from micro-initiatives to global strategies.

The opening of the conference offered an unforgettable moment: **Pope Leo XIV** officially opened the conference, inviting all participants to turn knowledge into concrete care, to move from the collection of data to responsibility toward the Earth and the most vulnerable, and stressing that hope is not an abstract concept but shows itself in shared action and in the responsible participation of each person.

One of the most moving gestures came when the Pope blessed a multi-millennial block of ice from Greenland, together with water collected from different continents: a powerful act that embodied the interconnectedness among peoples, ecosystems, and future generations, while at the same time highlighting the fragility of our planet. Moments of prayer, testimonies, and artistic performances showed that hope is nourished by concrete commitment, by small and great gestures that unite and strengthen the community.

Over the three days of the event, the conference alternated highly symbolic moments—such as water from the different continents poured together into a common basin—with moments of deep reflection: round tables on scenarios of climate and social justice, sessions dedicated to resilient and sustainable communities, musical performances by

international artists. The contributions underlined that climate justice cannot be separated from social and economic justice: it is not enough to reduce emissions; models must be transformed, the poor must be cared for, the voice of environmental peripheries must be heard.

**Margaret Karram**, president of the Focolare Movement, enriched the discussion by emphasizing that love is the guiding principle of lasting ecological action. In *Laudato Si'* it is recalled no fewer than seventy times: a powerful invitation to build an authentic fraternity among human beings and, more generally, with the whole of creation. Integral ecology, she affirmed, is born by walking together, placing relationships, care, and responsibility at the center of every choice: a cosmic fraternity that unites people and planet in a single breath of life.

Raising Hope thus confirmed that hope is collective and concrete: it is born from the encounter between values, relationships, and shared responsibilities, and it is translated into daily gestures capable of changing the world. The event also launched a push toward COP30, showing that care for creation and commitment to the most vulnerable can become a global, inclusive, and tangible movement, where everyone can feel like a protagonist in building a fairer and more sustainable future.

## 'Amazonia Viva Project': A Journey Toward COP30 in Belém, Brazil

The journey toward COP 30 unfolds within the Amazonia Viva Project, uniting initiatives and partners committed to climate and social justice. It is a collaborative process that strengthens connections, inspires concrete actions, and amplifies the voices of Amazonian territories in building a just, regenerative, and fraternal future.

The Amazonia Viva Project promotes regenerative economic practices and supports productive initiatives in the Amazon through partnerships with business, religious, and community leaders. In response to environmental destruction and violations of human and Indigenous rights, it fosters sustainable and inclusive models while empowering local leaders.

Over two cycles, the project has built a network of over 1,100 participants—business, community, and religious leaders, as well as Indigenous, Black, and young people—working to transform their territories. Cycle III (2025) is organized around three main axes:

### 1. Fostering Human Flourishing

Focused on leadership and capacity building, especially for youth and women, this axis includes the Leadership Training Program "Paths of Leadership in the Living Amazon." The program trains riverine and Indigenous leaders in self-awareness, collaboration, and community development, inspired by the Economy of Communion. In its first cycle (May

2025), 23 leaders—74% women—completed the program, generating tangible community impacts such as stronger crafts networks and environmental initiatives. An in-person meeting in Manaus (November 2025) will further promote integration and territorial action.

## 2. Promoting Community-Based Entrepreneurship

This axis maps territories, strengthens local entrepreneurship, and identifies institutional development levels. Communities show promise in crafts and tourism but need support in management, organization, and economic planning. Business Modeling Workshops (June–July 2025) with women from the Ouro Verde neighborhood in Manaus led to the creation of the collective enterprise "Mães de Ouro" (Mothers of Gold), focused on event services and income generation. A Community Associativism Course also reinforced collective organization and sustainable development.

## 3. Amplifying Amazonian Voices and Building Network Synergies

Through forums and network mobilization, this axis promotes dialogue on economy, justice, and spirituality. One key initiative was the Banzeiro in the Ecumenical Maloca: Amazonian Good Living, held with partners including the Economy of Communion, Amazonizar Network, and Another Economy. Inspired by *Laudato Si'*, the gathering fostered interreligious dialogue, cultural

exchange, and reflection on economic resilience and climate justice. Highlights included a prayer vigil and the Paneiro Workshop, which compiled collective ideas on spirituality and sustainability.

Across all its dimensions, spirituality and climate justice guide the Amazonia Viva Project, reaffirming its commitment to regeneration, cooperation, and socio-environmental justice in the Amazon.

## "One Humanity, One Planet: Synodal Leadership" – Worldwide Program

Designed as a workshop on life and political thought of global reach, the international program "One Humanity, One Planet: Synodal Leadership" intends to promote a political culture capable of addressing today's challenges with a spirit of solidarity, care for the planet, and attention to humanity. The strengthening of youth participation in transnational advocacy processes as well as the enhancement of the quality of political action and its impact on social transformation processes constitute the primary objective of the program—promoted by the NGO New Humanity and the [Politics for Unity Movement](#) in collaboration with the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, and implemented with the support of the [Porticus Foundation](#).

Aware of the complexity and interdependence that characterize today's world, the participants have embarked on a two-year journey of reflection and shared action, with the purpose of rethinking global governance in light of

synodal leadership and the "Charism of Unity": in this perspective, fraternity is not just a value but rises to a global paradigm of political development.

With these premises, in May 2025, following a selection process of 270 candidates, the 142 chosen young leaders from 56 countries committed to putting at the service of the community the political experience they had already gained in government, social movements, or international agencies, thus taking part in 16 "co-creation communities" to formulate local and global advocacy proposals fit to face the urgent social, economic, and environmental challenges we are witnessing: not indifference, but co-leadership and collaboration for the common good.

Conscious of the necessity of being competent in order to act (and react) with responsibility and professionalism, during the first year the young participants took part in the training provided by the program in a hybrid format, consisting of 5 asynchronous modules and as many virtual sessions focused on the following topics: integral ecology, civil economy, collaborative governance, generative communication, and synodal leadership.

They have done so engaging and collaborating with prestigious academic institutions, NGOs, political leaders, consultants, and university professors, while benefiting from personalized mentorship sessions and access to professional design tools.

To further nurture a light of hope and to foster the emergence of a new generation of politicians, the participants will have the opportunity to take part in an international "hackathon"-style event to be held in Rome from January 26th to February 1st, 2026.

This in-person gathering aims to build on the developed proposals of political advocacy in collaboration with experts, while empowering, strengthening, and broadening the communities of youths who have embraced the synodal style of leadership.

The initiative will feature distinguished international guests, visits to various institutional offices, and includes, among other highlights, an audience with the Holy Father.

In the second year, the program will expand its reach to 500 young people, integrated into national and continental networks, to share reflections, experiences, implementation strategies, and actions with a global impact.

### 3. 'DREAM TOGETHER TO CARE'

*This section reiterates advocacy for a UN Youth High-Level Forum and advocates for the recognition of the principle of 'relational sustainability' as a cornerstone for the common good.*

#### **Looking Forward: Toward 'Relational Sustainability'**

In acknowledging, before the urgent challenges of our time, the shortcomings of the existing international institutional order, we simultaneously reaffirm with heightened conviction its indispensable role in fostering transnational forums for debate and the necessity of concerted action. Confronted with the failure of diplomatic efforts aimed at the resolution of conflicts, with wars, famines, climate change, as well as the systematic violation of human rights, we reiterate the fundamental importance of dialogue, of a spirit of care and responsibility toward all humanity and our planet, and of the commitment of each individual to contribute in their personal and professional capacity—wherever they are called to serve, and with the means available to them.

For this reason, we refuse to turn away; rather, we seek to offer our proactive contribution to the realization of a world that is more just, more united, and more sustainable. We do not resign ourselves to be victims of today's crises but strive to be champions of peace and compassionate leaders, as Mr. Felipe

Paullier encouraged us to be through his address to the participants of the international conference "Cities, Communities, Care. Youth in Action for Sustaining Peace," held in November in Nairobi, Kenya. We accept his invitation to resist hatred, reject indifference, and choose peace as a daily commitment, believing in the feasibility of a better world, whose realization begins with healing and with the upholding of the dignity of every individual.

Therefore, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/251, we acknowledge the responsibility entrusted to us as actors of civil society—that of fostering positive change within our societies at the local, national, and international levels. We, the Youth for a United World and New Humanity NGO of the Focolare Movement, reaffirm our pledge to fulfill this duty with responsibility and professionalism, placing care at the center of our vision and as our guiding principle. Striving to cultivate constructive relationships between humanity and nature, and endorsing a worldview founded on the intrinsic interconnectedness of all things, we are guided by the [principle of relational sustainability](#)—an ongoing, co-creative process emerging from the harmonious interplay between people and the natural environment, committed to the pursuit of the common good.

In this endeavor, we are ready to work with all civil society actors who share the vision of a united world, where 'a spirit

of brotherhood' animates the relations within our human family, and where all human and natural life is treated according to its inherent dignity. In this way, we wish to contribute to a global multilateralism "from below": international cooperation driven by civil society, grassroots movements, and non-governmental organizations. This should lead to a democratization of global politics and a cultural shift where politics serves the common good, rather than partial interests.

To achieve this more efficiently, we keep dreaming of platforms and initiatives that foster broader youth engagement and amplify our voices in international debates, enabling us to participate in global policy-making processes aimed at shaping our common future, as foreseen in the 2024 [Pact of the Future](#). We envision a UN High-Level Youth Forum in the framework of which young people, in partnership with NGOs and academic institutions, can engage directly with senior UN officials and global leaders. The forum will facilitate meaningful discussions on key issues and promote concrete, youth-driven solutions. By enhancing youth visibility in decision-making and encouraging intergenerational collaboration, it will empower current and future generations to create meaningful global impact, united in a collective call for solidarity, fraternity, and hope.





*Portrait of Felipe Paullier, ASG for Youth Affairs.  
Photo: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe*

## ADDRESS BY FELIPE PAULLIER

**Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs at the United Nations, to the participants of the 'Cities, Communities, Care. Youth in Action for Sustaining Peace' conference on November 10, 2025, Nairobi, Kenya**

Dear young leaders and friends from around the world, Civil and religious authorities, Madam President of the Focolare Movement, Margaret Karram, Mr. President of New Humanity NGO,

It is an honor to join you with this message from the United Nations on the occasion of this extraordinary gathering in Nairobi. We are here to mark a

milestone—the 80th anniversary of the United Nations. Eight decades of hope, of struggle, of diplomacy, and, above all, of a shared dream: a world united in peace, justice, and dignity for all.

It is no coincidence that you gather here in Nairobi. This city is not only one of the UN's three main headquarters but also a living symbol of transformation. From the heart of Africa, the United Nations works every day to advance sustainable development, protect the environment, promote equality, and build peace.

Nairobi itself tells a powerful story: a young, diverse, and dynamic city where the great challenges of our time—urbanization, climate change, inequality—are real and urgent, but where innovation, creativity, and solidarity are equally alive.

This event reminds us that cities are on the front lines of peace and sustainability. It is in neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, and local communities where cooperation becomes tangible—and where healing begins.

Yet we must be honest: our time is marked by too many conflicts, too much displacement, and growing division. Every war is a defeat for humanity—a failure of dialogue and compassion. Millions of young people are being left behind by crises, poverty, and exclusion.

But there is hope. I see 2.3 billion young people ready to be equal partners in building our shared future—a generation that resists hatred, rejects indifference, and chooses peace as a daily responsibility.

This is why we must rediscover care—as a political, personal, and global principle: care for people, for relationships, and for our planet.

Young people are not just victims of today's crises. You are creators, leaders, and peacebuilders.

So, thank you—for believing in a better world. May our collective voice become a song of youth, compassion, and peace—echoing from Nairobi across the world. Thank you.

## CONCLUSION

The Youth for a United World of the Focolare Movement, with the support of the NGO New Humanity and the Politics for Unity Movement, reaffirms its commitment through the United World Project to continue inspiring, engaging, and connecting people who work to build a more united, fraternal, and just world.

In a society full of complex challenges, theory alone is not enough: real change happens when people, communities, and institutions act together, connecting local and global efforts. The intergenerational experiences, projects, and partnerships presented in this report demonstrate that a united world is not only possible — it is already being built.

Each initiative within the United World Community network, one of the pillars of the UWP, contributes to the creation of resilient, inclusive, and thriving societies, showing how passion, concrete action, and collaboration can transform realities and generate lasting impact, both locally and globally.

Looking ahead, the United World Project will continue to bring together people, communities, and organizations around the world, strengthening bonds of solidarity and collaboration that foster personal, social, and spiritual growth through the global campaign Choose to Dialogue — a two-year initiative supported by New Humanity and the various expressions of the Focolare Movement.



## WHO ARE WE

**The Focolare Movement** is an international movement rooted in the Catholic Church, with members from different churches, religions, or with no religious affiliation. It was founded by Chiara Lubich, an Italian spiritual leader who was awarded the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education and several other international recognitions. The Focolare Movement is present in more than 180 countries and has around two million members.

**Youth for a United World (Y4UW)** is a movement of young people of different races, cultures, and beliefs committed to living for a United World. Inspired by the spirituality of unity of Chiara Lubich, it began at the 1985 Genfest, a Focolare global youth event. Since 1996, the Y4UW have organized an annual worldwide United World Week to promote projects and initiatives that advance the unity of the human family and care for the environment.

**New Humanity NGO of the Focolare Movement** is a faith-based, intergenerational NGO inspired by the spirituality of unity from the Focolare Movement. Its aim is to contribute to the unity of the human family by promoting dialogue and cooperation, in accordance with the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," and Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. New Humanity is active in advancing international solidarity, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, intergenerational collaboration, equitable distribution of the earth's resources, formation in human rights, respect for and safeguarding of the environment, global citizenship, peace education, and co-responsibility in local and international governance.

It holds General Consultative Status with the United Nations Social and Economic Council (ECOSOC) and has been recognized as an NGO partner of UNESCO, the FAO, and UNEP. New Humanity is also a member of the UN Multifaith Advisory Council. Representatives of the NGO are engaged in active dialogue with the UN in New York, Geneva, Paris, Nairobi, Rome, Vienna, and Brussels.



*Photo by Alexander Grey*

New Humanity NGO  
Via Piave, 15 | 00046 Grottaferrata, (Roma) Italia  
[info@new-humanity.org](mailto:info@new-humanity.org)  
+39 06 945 407 215  
<https://www.new-humanity.org>

Focolare Movement  
Via Frascati 306 | 00040 Rocca di Papa (RM)  
Italia  
Tel. +39 06 947 989  
<https://www.focolare.org>