

REPORT ON

EUROPEAN POLICY DIALOGUE FORUM EXPERT MEETING

Young People and Social Inclusion in European Cities



European
Policy
DIALOGUE
FORUM

EPDF EXPERT MEETING
28-29 MARCH 2023
LISBON

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KAICIID DIALOGUE CENTRE



European Council of Religious Leaders

Religions for Peace

SUMMARY

On 28–29 March 2023, the International Dialogue Centre – KAICIID gathered 25 participants, including nine young people under 30, for a two-day expert meeting in Lisbon. They explored ways to enhance the prospects for the social inclusion of young people in urban areas in Europe. The event benefited from the contribution and support of the European Council of Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP) and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The discussion focused on how to harness dialogue and partnerships between religious and secular actors to bridge social divisions and polarisations in European societies. The main insights from the meeting will feed into a series of briefing papers that will underpin the discussions at the 5th European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) – one of KAICIID’s signature annual events – to be held in Rotterdam in November 2023.

The meeting Agenda is annexed to the end of this report, while the points of discussion are provided below, clustered around three main areas: (1) bridging divisions in European cities; (2) empowering and supporting the participation of young people; and (3) creating spaces for intergenerational dialogue and collaborative action. The document reflects on ways to foster an enabling environment where policymakers, religious actors and young people can mutually engage in building peaceful, just and inclusive communities.

In providing a platform for dialogue where people from diverse religious, ethnic and generational backgrounds can come together to find shared solutions to social cohesion challenges, KAICIID acts as a trust-builder and a catalyser of partnerships and joint efforts across cultural, religious and political affiliations.



Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic, climate shocks, global conflicts and economic instability have posed immense challenges for young people. According to the International Labour Organization ‘Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022’, young people have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and are suffering from an unprecedented education and employment crisis. The European labour markets and social protection systems are experiencing increasing pressure, exacerbated by conflict-induced mass displacements of refugees.¹ The increasing feeling of being “left behind” triggers the rise of pernicious phenomena like hate speech, particularly online. Often perpetrated in the name of, or on the basis of religion, hate speech is both the symptom and the cause of deep societal challenges that hamper mutual recognition and respect across different social, ethnic, cultural and religious groups.²

In an increasingly diverse Europe, these intersecting challenges are particularly evident in cities. Capable of dealing with problems impacting the life of the citizenry swiftly and more pragmatically, cities have a greater potential to ensure that community members are actively engaged in solutions. Religious and cultural actors have a significant role to play in shaping resilient European communities, as well as making the urban agenda inclusive, needs-oriented and sustainable. To this end, it is essential to harness common values and understanding within different cultural, religious and humanist heritages.

1.

BRIDGING DIVISIONS IN EUROPEAN CITIES **According to young people, European cities should provide safe spaces to engage with one another and build stronger opportunities**

In the ever-changing urban spaces, identity and belonging are continually redefined, while individuals from the most fragile contexts – refugees, migrants and other vulnerable groups – are progressively pushed to the periphery. Young migrants and refugees, in particular, experience further marginalisation within their own communities, from other migrant and refugee groups as well as from host communities.

In the current context of increasing employment insecurity, higher costs of living and inflation, cities are the places where minorities often face limitations to their socio-economic mobility, furthering divisions and polarisations. Rising inequalities and perceived injustice fuel anger and resentment, particularly among young people, who are disproportionately affected by a persistent lack of social, cultural and financial capital, and are hampered in their ability to access quality education and employment.



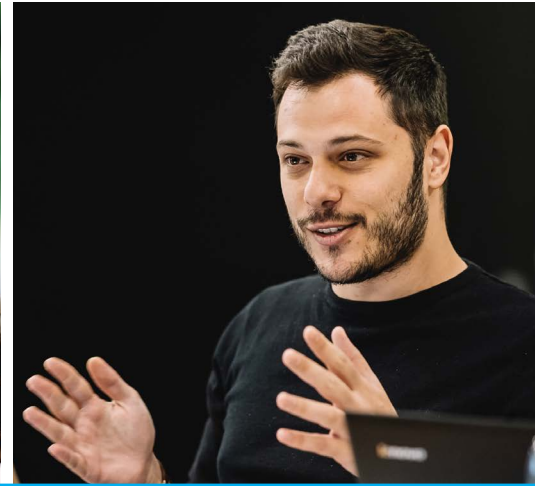
Stereotypes about generations, as well as host communities, migrants, refugees, religious and ethnic groups, shape an “us versus them” narrative, further exacerbating social inclusion challenges. Such narratives provide a fertile ground for hate speech and, in extreme cases, incitement to violence.³ Inter-class, interreligious and intercultural tensions impact the sense of belonging, feeding into and aggravating mistrust between urban communities, particularly among young people.

Although “youth” is a heterogeneous category – encompassing a wide spectrum of experiences, backgrounds and trajectories – the combination of youth, poverty and cultural diversity is perceived to equal criminality and disorder. Therefore, young people can be quickly stigmatised as “troublemakers”⁴ or passive “passengers” in communities.⁵ Offering safe spaces where youth and other social groups can enhance mutual understanding and solidarity is therefore crucial for tackling distrust and re-building a common sense of belonging. This is where joint efforts of religious leaders, faith-based actors, civil society and local policymakers can make a difference. The coherent combination of policy frameworks, enforcement practices and need-based services as well as emotional support and spiritual guidance, is crucial to foster mutual acceptance based on the recognition of the intrinsic value of each individual.



For further reflection:

1. **Youth diversity** – Though often lumped together, young people are not a homogenous group. Their identities are complex – including whether or not they have a refugee or migrant background or are native to host communities. Youth are also not uniformly “progressive”, with many holding conservative, exclusionary and/or discriminatory attitudes. When engaging with youth from diverse cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds, it is not only important to avoid generalisations about young people, but to offer spaces and opportunities, in which young people can meet other members of society, including other young people from different cultural, religious and socio-economic backgrounds;
2. **Increasing marginalisation of young people** – Young people are impacted by a pervasive sense of insecurity due to long-standing and multi-layered forms of exclusion, in the socio-cultural, political, legal, financial, digital, educational and health sectors;
3. **Urban planning and housing policies** – Urban planning and housing policies are usually framed around adults’ understanding of space, which often clashes with young people’s needs.⁶ At times stigmatised in public narratives as “anti-social” for being in the wrong place at the wrong time, youth’s spaces are progressively reduced through urban “regeneration” projects that are often driven by the attempt to remove them from public spaces;⁷
4. **Social and welfare policies** – The shrinking of social and welfare policies further reduces access to education, training, apprenticeships and employment opportunities, increasing the rigidity of the social ladder and the sense of disengagement. Social mobility is, in fact, linked to equality of opportunity: the extent to which people have the same chances to do well in life regardless of the socio-economic background of their parents, their gender, age, ethnicity, birthplace or other circumstances beyond their control;⁸
5. **Migrant integration policies** – Although there is no universally accepted definition of “integration”, the European Union describes it as a two-way process that involves mutual adaptation of migrants and the host society.⁹ This implies a dynamic relationship whereby host and migrant communities are mutually transformed, generating superdiversity – a new social and cultural environment compared to the respective original ones.¹⁰ Young refugees and migrants face unique limitations and stress, particularly those who are alone or unaccompanied by family members. Growing discomfort is felt by second and third generation young migrants regarding their identity and belonging, including in relation to their citizenship rights. These are still curtailed in countries whose legislation still applies the *jus sanguinis* principle – where the nationality of children is the same as that of their parents, irrespective of their place of birth;
6. **Addressing root causes of xenophobia and hate speech** – The sense of injustice, exclusion and discrimination represents a key driver of hate speech among young people. Renewed attention and care by religious and secular actors are needed to address the feelings of fear and mistrust towards “the Other” – individuals from different religious or cultural backgrounds – which are often grounded in harmful stereotypes rooted in cultural, religious and family environments. Religious and secular actors are in a crucial position to offer safe online and offline spaces where critical thinking is nurtured, which is essential for preventing hate speech and discriminatory behaviours. Values and skills-based education is key for increasing awareness about personal biases, developing active listening skills and empathy, as well as overcoming discrimination and violent behaviours;
7. **Mitigating online misinformation and hate speech** – In a post-truth¹¹ environment, young people are increasingly at risk of falling prey to misinformation and conspiracy theories, as well as biased or extreme narratives. This growing trend undermines the values of mutual respect and understanding that are key to promoting social cohesion. Exploring ways to engage with the tech sector may offer opportunities to enhance accountability of social media platforms for hateful content disseminated without proper oversight, therefore tackling misinformation, particularly online.



2.

EMPOWERING AND SUPPORTING THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people call for equal treatment and opportunities as well as spaces where they can turn ideas into action

For many young people, exclusion is a daily occurrence. The exclusion is long-standing and multi-layered, across socio-cultural, political, legal, economic, digital, educational and health sectors. Young people are particularly excluded from shaping local policies, which often have a disproportionate impact on them. Civil society organizations and faith-based entities are crucially positioned to engage young people in a genuine spirit of trust, offering capacity-building and opportunities to turn their ideas into action.¹²

Lessons learned from key initiatives such as the Council of Europe's 'No Hate Speech Movement', as well as the Big 6 'Global Youth Mobilization Program'¹³ show that by involving marginalised youth in decision-making, cities' authorities, religious actors, civil and faith-based organizations help young people to develop their agency, lean into their changemaking potential, and build horizontal and vertical ties within their own communities. Above all there must be meaningful, safe spaces and opportunities where young people can develop their own solutions.





For further reflection:

1. **Volunteering** – Community service is one of the most powerful ways to establish social connections and develop a sense of belonging. It provides personal fulfilment and a sense of self-esteem, while connecting people from different backgrounds, cultures and religions. Volunteering strengthens mutual support in communities, increases resilience to stereotypes and prejudices while reducing the incidence of violent behaviours.¹⁴ Faith-based organizations and religious actors are often at the forefront of community services to vulnerable groups. Involving young people in these activities can nurture a culture of giving across generations, cultures and ethnicities;
2. **No more tokenism** – Very often young people are invited to attend conferences and join youth committees or youth advisory councils. However, they are often put in formal and informal positions without substance, purpose or power. Young people want meaningful and long-term engagement, not tokenism. The failure of policymakers, faith-based and civil society organizations to view young people as valuable partners can foster disillusionment and mistrust. More needs to be done to develop co-designed and co-led programmes and approaches;
3. **Leadership approaches** – Young people tend to embrace a horizontal leadership model, whereas older generations generally embrace a vertical model.¹⁵ While young people are best engaged through a balanced combination of the two approaches, religious and secular actors at the local level, including policymakers, are in the ideal position to explore new forms of leadership, which include young women and other marginalised groups;
4. **Economic empowerment** – In times of intersecting crises, young people struggle to complete their education and find quality employment, training and apprenticeships. This is especially challenging for young migrants – particularly those who are alone, without families – whose permission of stay in the host country is linked to their being in education, employment or apprenticeship, according to national and European Union integration norms. Expanding access to quality and affordable upskilling – both hard and soft skills – is critical to empowering young people, preventing school dropout and possible involvement in illicit activities. Engaging the private sector, including faith-based universities and associations of entrepreneurs as well as social economy actors,¹⁶ can improve prospects for youth education and labour market integration;¹⁷
5. **Political agency** – Cities are critically placed to pilot forms of political engagement of young people in local elections as well as consultative bodies and mechanisms. Young people elected to local government are in a critical position to inspire and support religious and secular leaders on how to involve youth from diverse social, economic, religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, preventing disengagement and mistrust in politics. While beneficial for everyone, actions promoting fundamental democratic values of coexistence, mutual respect and recognition could be particularly relevant for young migrants and refugees, including second generation, who still suffer disproportionate political marginalisation, particularly in countries where citizenship rights are based on the *jus sanguinis* principle.



3.

CREATING SPACES FOR INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION

Religious and secular actors need to work together to foster an enabling environment for youth empowerment

Faith groups often hold great influence in communities and are well-placed to engage with and promote the contributions of young people, provided they strive for horizontal leadership and avoid patronising and paternalistic attitudes. Further reflection is needed regarding role models that can inspire young people, as well as leadership approaches that can effectively mobilise them.

Fostering respect for diversity requires a long-term commitment as well as social norm change. Both religious and secular actors have an important role to play in empowering young people. However, they also have much to learn from one another, and from actively listening to the experiences and concerns of young people. For example, religious communities may feel conflicted between preserving traditional values and encouraging openness and pluralism. They may also struggle to engage young non-believers and those who, although “spiritual”, do not adhere to any official religious denomination. At the same time, secular actors like policymakers may fail to understand the importance that religious traditions play in the lives of many young people, particularly refugees and migrants.



Joining forces can expand opportunities for engaging young believers and non-believers, offering a values-based environment that can foster mutual understanding and respect. By working together, and complimenting short-term, innovative projects with long-standing services and programmes, religious and secular actors can create a more enabling environment for youth empowerment, thereby fostering more inclusive and cohesive communities.



For further reflection:

- 1. Inclusion is a process and an outcome** – Young people desire an open and critical discussion about pressing political issues such as structural injustice and violence in cities, as well as other crucial issues related to identity and behaviours. By joining forces, religious and secular actors can help to engage young people in a frank exchange of plural views, benefitting all involved;
- 2. Spaces for exchange** – Enhanced collaboration between religious and secular actors can expand the availability of spaces where community interactions take place. Synergies between formal and informal settings should be further enhanced. Individual outreach is an area where religious actors have added value, thanks to their proximity and opportunities to regularly interact with community members. School, sport, food, religious ceremonies, music and cultural events offer further opportunities for interreligious and intercultural exchange. Yet, to make these spaces meaningful for young people, they need to be involved in the design and implementation process;
- 3. Nurturing hope and wellbeing** – Religious leaders and actors can make a difference in promoting affective skills,¹⁸ which are the emotional side of interpersonal relations, related to individual values, motivation, attitudes, stereotyping and feelings. This emotional component is as critical for enhancing social inclusion as the actions of policymakers in implementing normative frameworks, as well as regulating access to employment, education, upskilling and support services. Together, religious and secular actors can work towards a comprehensive enabling environment for youth empowerment and cohesive communities;
- 4. Long-term efforts** – According to the 2022 Save the Children report ‘Children caught in crises’,¹⁹ in addition to the many other challenges they face, young people are disproportionately impacted by the worst global cost of living crisis in a generation. Supporting young people in these challenging circumstances requires long-term commitment from political and religious leaders.

CONCLUSION

Fostering diversity and ensuring inclusion is a complex task that requires balancing interventions at individual and collective, as well as systemic and institutional levels. Without a willingness to address ethnic, religious and social inequity, cities will be unable to respond to the crucial emerging challenges in increasingly diverse local communities. In doing so, it is essential to meaningfully engage young people in decision-making. Building a genuine culture of belonging is not only the right thing to do, but is critical for providing effective, sustainable solutions. By bringing together policymakers, religious actors, civil society and international organizations, the EPDF offers a space to build trust, engage in unexpected exchanges and networking, and expand visions and opportunities for action. The intention is to build bridges between cultures, religions, generations, and social groups towards a more inclusive, cohesive and resilient Europe.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report is the result of the collaborative contributions of KAICIID staff: Teresa Albano, Europe Region Programme Officer, Margarita Fourer, Publications Consultant, Vera Ferreira, Chief, Regional Programmes and Oversight, Johannes Langer, Senior Programme Manager, Renata Nelson, Programme Analyst and Researcher, as well as the following participants in the expert meeting: Kishan Manocha, Head, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Saji Prelis, Director of Children & Youth Programmes, Search for Common Ground, Co-Chair, Global Coalition on Youth, Peace & Security, Amjad Mohamed Saleem, Manager of Volunteering, Youth and Education Development, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Reverend Thomas Wipf, President European Council of Religious Leaders ECRL.

The EPDF Expert Meeting is part of the European Policy Dialogue Forum, which has convened religious leaders, policymakers and other experts since 2019. Multiple documents have been produced in that framework:

Network for Dialogue Policy Brief #1: Supporting teachers in the use of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and inclusive education for refugees and migrants; **Policy Brief #2:** Building trust through dialogue in local communities: a key component for the social cohesion of refugees and migrants in Europe; **Policy Brief #3:** Reshaping narratives on migration through intercultural and interreligious dialogue; **Policy Brief #4:** Helping migrants and refugees volunteer; **Policy Brief #5:** Engaging migrant and refugee-led organizations in policymaking in Europe; **Policy Brief #6:** Ensuring migrant and refugee children's access to formal education in Europe.

EPDF Policy Brief #1: Religious actors and countering hate speech in Europe; **EPDF Policy Paper #1:** Engaging culture and media to counter hate speech in big European cities; **EPDF Policy Paper #2:** The role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in enhancing social cohesion in European Cities; **EPDF Research Paper #1:** Using education to counter anti-refugee and migrant hate speech in Europe; **EPDF Research Paper #2:** Religious actors and countering hate speech in Europe.

END NOTES

1. ILO, [Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022: Investing in transforming futures for young people](#), 2022; Emma Dorn, Bryan Hancock, Jimmy Sarakatsannis and Ellen Viruleg, [COVID-19 and education: The lingering effects of unfinished learning](#), McKinsey & Company, 27 July 2021
2. Friederike Mieth, EPDF Research paper #2: [Religious Actors and Countering Hate Speech in Europe](#), KAICIID, 2022
3. Ibid
4. Jo Deakin, Claire Fox and Raquel Matos, [Labelled as 'risky' in an era of control: How young people experience and respond to the stigma of criminalized identities](#), 2020, *European Journal of Criminology* 19(4), pages 653-673
5. UNICEF, [Voices of Youth](#)
6. For inspiration about urban planning and social inclusion of young people and other groups in vulnerable situation: Melissa Butcher, [Gentrification through young people's eyes](#), LSE, 27 July 2015; Pablo Navarrete-Hernandez, [Unsafe in the city? How urban planners can build more inclusive spaces for women](#), LSE, 2022
7. The 'Future of the City Centre Network' has been addressing topics such as spatial equity and inclusiveness as well as increasing tensions between tourists and residents, particularly in cities' central areas; The 'Youth Friendly City' label is a Europe-wide effort to make cities more inclusive for young people and offers some inspiring experiences throughout Europe: see 100% Youth City Consortium, [100% Youth City Book](#), 2021
8. For information on the social ladder and social mobility, see: OECD, [Understanding social mobility](#)
9. For the EU conceptualisation of integration, see: Council of the European Union, [Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy in the European Union](#), Press Release 14615/04 (Presse 321), 19 November 2004, Annex pages 19-25; as well as European Commission, [Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027](#), COM(2020) 758 final
10. For the "two-way process", see: Lea M. Klarenbeek, [Reconceptualising 'integration as a two-way process'](#), 2021, *Migration Studies* 9(3), pages 902-921; Juan Camilo, [Integration: a two-way process](#), Open Democracy, 27 October 2010. A category in the domain of integration and migration studies is "superdiversity": Diggitt magazine, [Superdiversity](#); Fran Meissner, Nando Sigona and Steven Vertovec (eds.), [The Oxford Handbook of Superdiversity](#), Oxford University Press, 2022
11. The term post-truth was coined in 2004 by the North-American author Ralph Keyes to conceptualise the emerging, and today consolidated, phenomenon of intentional manipulation of information and facts, presented as true in spirit and truer than truth itself: Ralph Keyes, [The post-truth era: dishonesty and deception in contemporary life](#), St. Martin's Press, 2004
12. OECD Development Policy Tools, [Evidence-based Policy Making for Youth Well-being](#), 2017
13. Jayhan Makina, [Youth and volunteerism](#), World Youth Alliance. Additional insights can be found on the United Nations Volunteers, [Knowledge Portal on Volunteerism](#). For an inspirational experience on child volunteering, see: CLEF, [Importance of Children Serving as Volunteers](#)
14. Council of Europe, [No Hate Speech Youth Campaign](#); Big 6, [Global Youth Mobilization](#)
15. On youth leadership, see: Natalia Balitska, [What role can young people play in civil society? What does it take to be an effective young leader?](#), EU NeighboursEast, 25 May 2023. About responsible leadership, see: Nuno Moreira da Cruz, [The five key Responsible Leadership characteristics: Ethics, Honesty, Authenticity, Being a source of inspiration, and Humility](#), Edition 166, 28 November 2022, Center for Responsible Business and Leadership, Universidade Católica Portuguesa. About leading with kindness and compassion, see: Eva Ritvo, [Leading with Kindness](#), Psychology Today, 20 May 2021
16. Social economy actors are usually understood organizations such as cooperatives, mutuals, associations, foundations and social enterprises that are united around the values of primacy of people and the social objective over capital, democratic governance, solidarity and the reinvestment of most profits to carry out sustainable development objectives. See, for instance, [Social Economy Europe](#)
17. One of the most relevant challenges for young migrants and refugees is to attest their academic achievements and professional skills, often in the absence of certificates or based on supporting documentation, which is either not recognised in the host country or is based primarily on self-declaration, similar to a CV. Digitalisation can offer unexpected solutions to address these challenges. Examples include the app [Mygrants](#) as well as [Talent Beyond Boundaries](#)
18. Kelly Browse, [Understanding the Affective Domain of Learning](#), Graduate Programmes for Educators, 13 May 2021; London School of Management Education, [The Three \(3\) Domains of Learning – Cognitive; Affective; And Psychomotor \(Caps\) – It's Application in Teaching and Learning](#), 21 January 2019
19. Save the Children, [Save the Children Humanitarian Plan 2023: Children caught in crisis](#), 2022



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European Council of Religious Leaders



**EXPERT MEETING AHEAD OF 5TH EUROPEAN POLICY
DIALOGUE FORUM**
“YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN CITIES”

Location: Lisbon, Portugal

Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton Lisbon - Fontana Park

Date: 28-29 March 2023

AGENDA

Ahead of the 5th edition of the European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) in early November 2023 in Ghent, Belgium (TBC), the Expert Meeting “*Young People and Social Inclusion in Cities*” is called to discuss the untapped potential for action-oriented cooperation between religious actors and policymakers at the local level towards more inclusive cities for young people. In doing so, this expert meeting builds upon the policy briefs developed for and finalised at the 4th EPDF in autumn 2022, and which highlighted cities as critical in social inclusion of refugees and migrants: 1) Engaging Culture and Media Institutions to Counter Hate Speech in Big European Cities; and 2) the Role of Multi-stakeholder Partnerships in Enhancing Social Cohesion in European Cities.

In narrowing focus on youth specifically within the context of European cities, and by sharing key challenges and promising experiences, the aim is to provide relevant grounds to develop a set of policy recommendations and action points to improve city strategies, policies and practices that promote the role of young people in interreligious and intercultural dialogue processes towards effective social inclusion, defined by the Council of Europe as “*the process which ensures [...] opportunities and resources necessary to participate fully in the economic, social and cultural life, [...] thanks to [...] greater participation in decision making*”. The meeting also looks to identify pathways towards steering the policy recommendations to action and change beyond the EPDF.

The Expert meeting is organised by KAICIID in partnership with the European Council of Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP Europe) and the Network for Dialogue and with the support of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

ARRIVAL DAY: MONDAY, 27 MARCH 2023

Informal dinner at 19:00 at the hotel

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2023

TIME	SESSION / DESCRIPTION
09:00-09:30	<p>OPENING: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</p> <p>WORDS OF WELCOME</p> <p>Introductory remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Amb. António de Almeida-Ribeiro, Deputy Secretary General of KAICIID • Dr. Kishan Manocha, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department at OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) <p>FRAMING by Mr. Johannes Langer and Dr. Aleksandra Djuric Milovanovic, KAICIID</p>
09:30-10:30	<p>SESSION 1: CHALLENGES OF SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CITIES</p> <p>Youth unemployment, access to affordable and quality education, disengagement from political and cultural life are some of the many challenges that affect young people in Europe today. This session explores challenges to young people that hinder their access to resources, opportunities, and rights, paying special attention to how the concerns and aspirations of young people are voiced and considered, and which opportunities are available to them. The intention is to identify key areas for action where religious and cultural actors can join forces with youth organizations and local policymakers towards the promotion of an enabling environment for enhanced participation of young people in shaping inclusive and cohesive communities.</p> <p>SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the main challenges at the local level which affect social inclusion of young people? How do young people voice their concerns about these challenges? How are they being addressed? By whom? 2. What opportunities are there for young people to establish meaningful relations with their peers, play an active role in civil society and the labour market? Who creates these opportunities? How can they be expanded/strengthened? 3. What opportunities are there for multi-stakeholder action in addressing those challenges? What are the priority areas? Who needs to be involved? What needs to happen to catalyse joint action in addressing these challenges? 4. How dialogue between local policy makers and young people, especially youth organisations, be strengthened? 5. How can recommendations/change be brought into effect? <p>MODERATOR: Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe, Executive Director, Arigatou International, Geneva Office/ Network for Dialogue</p> <p>INPUT SPEAKER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Davide Capecchi, Director of Programmes Department, KAICIID • Mr. Saji Prelis, Director, Children & Youth Programs, Search for Common Ground (SFCG) • Discussion <p>SESSION SUMMARY: Ms. Emina Frljak, Educational Youth Educator, Religions for Peace Europe</p>
10:30-11:00	<p>BREAK</p>

TIME	SESSION / DESCRIPTION
11:00– 12:30	<p>SESSION 2: CURRENT POLICIES ON SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN CITIES</p> <p>Young migrants and refugees are particularly at risk of social exclusion risking isolation and clustering in closed circles. Contextual and personal factors, including religious affiliation, present challenges to social inclusion. Those who are separated from their families experience further challenges, while young women are particularly at risk of marginalisation both as women and foreigners. ‘Emotional attitude’ allows young people to feel welcome and be considered as ‘persons of value’. Positive emotional attitudes can be fostered using dialogue and are further strengthened with policies that enable dialogues to take place. This session explores existing examples and how positive outcomes can be replicated and enhanced to ensure that young migrants and refugees are not left behind and can participate meaningfully in the socioeconomic and cultural life of hosting communities.</p> <p>SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What examples are there of existing projects that include interreligious and intercultural dialogue as a tool for the inclusion and empowerment of young people in European cities? 2. Where are young people positioned in the current refugee and migrant policies? Are there policies that support/strengthen existing interreligious and intercultural projects that involve young people? 3. What are the gaps/opportunities for interreligious and intercultural dialogue to enhance the social inclusion young people in cities? 4. How can interreligious and intercultural dialogue contribute to more effective social inclusion policies of young refugees and migrants? Who needs to be involved? 5. How can recommendations/change be brought into effect? <p>MODERATOR: Dr. Kishan Manocha, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department, ODIHR</p> <p>INPUT SPEAKER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Marcin Bubicz, City Councillor of Lublin, Poland – European Youth Capital 2023 • Discussion <p>SESSION SUMMARY: Dr. Amjad Saleem, Project Manager – Volunteering, Youth and Educational Development, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)/ Network for Dialogue</p>
12:30– 14:00	<p>LUNCH</p>
14:00– 15:30	<p>SESSION 3: EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE AGENTS OF CHANGE</p> <p>Interreligious and intercultural dialogue can foster emotional, physical, and political spaces for the participation of young people. This session delves into how interreligious and intercultural dialogue is being used to create an environment enabling young people to become changemakers building inclusive and cohesive societies and where there are gaps/opportunities for policies that support interreligious and intercultural dialogue to do so. The session discusses relevant areas for enhanced participation of young people so to make the concept of inclusion an everyday experience.</p> <p>SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the main directWions of social inclusion policies for young people across Europe? How do these include young people? How can they be better integrated in the process? 2. What are the gaps/opportunities for interreligious and intercultural dialogue to empower young people in cities? How can policies help fill the gaps and create an environment for actors in the field to fill these gaps? Who is/needs to be involved? 3. How are young people participating in policy processes at the local level? Are there key policy areas at the local level where young people are significantly contributing? Which ones? 4. What legislative and policy frameworks, enforcement practices and needs-tailored services allow young people to access opportunities for livelihood and participation in the social, economic, cultural and religious aspects of life? Which ones are the most effective? What is missing/needed? 5. How can policy recommendations/change be brought into effect? <p>MODERATOR: Ms. Teresa Albano, Programme Officer, Europe Region Programme, KAICIID</p> <p>INPUT SPEAKER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Howard Williamson, Professor of European Youth Policy, University of South Wales • Discussion <p>SESSION SUMMARY: Ms. Alice Cardoso, Youth Forum Delegate, Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union, COMECE</p>

TIME	SESSION / DESCRIPTION
15:30– 16:00	BREAK
16:00– 17:30	<p>SESSION 4: YOUNG PEOPLE AS AGENTS OF CHANGE IN COUNTERING HATE SPEECH IN CITIES</p> <p>Factors such as gender, ethnicity, and religious affiliation act as catalysts of narratives of hatred that crystallise and amplify negative stereotypes, representing a growing challenge towards an enabling environment where young migrants and refugees can grow and thrive. Xenophobia and hate speech influence attitudes toward migrants and integration policies. Building on the previous session, this session examines how empowered young people can challenge polarised narratives and their detrimental consequences on social cohesion. Relevant experiences will offer the grounds to explore ways to enhance the role of religious actors, policymakers, media, and other stakeholders in supporting young people as storytellers of alternative messages while offering a suitable space to overcome prejudices and build mutual understanding between “us” and “them”.</p> <p>SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where are young people actively contributing to countering hate speech? What policies support this work? Which stakeholders have served to empower youth in countering hate speech and in strengthening their efforts? What obstacles do these efforts face? Where are there gaps/needs? 2. How can we enhance the work being done and empower/involve more young people, especially young migrants and refugees? Who needs to be involved? 3. How can we raise awareness on positive examples and projects and support creation of new initiatives? 4. What needs to be done at the policy-level to strengthen these efforts? 5. How can policy recommendations/change be brought into effect? <p>MODERATOR: Mr. Mustafa Field, Director, Faiths Forum London</p> <p>INPUT SPEAKER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Spyros Papadatos, Chairperson, Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe • Discussion <p>SESSION SUMMARY: Ms. Angeline Green, Project Manager, New Women Connectors</p>
17:30– 18:00	AFTERNOON BREAK
18:00– 21:00	<p>JOINT DINNER</p> <p>Bus transfer to Inspira Liberdade Hotel. Film screening of “Justine” and the transformative journey of Ms. Justine Auma, an interreligious leader from Uganda. Followed by reception.</p>

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2023

TIME	SESSION / DESCRIPTION
09:00-10:30	<p>SESSION 5: THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS ACTORS IN SUPPORTING SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN CITIES</p> <p>Increased religious, cultural, and ethnic diversity require constant attention and renewed efforts towards shaping communities where everyone feels recognised and valued. Cities and local governance levels are ideally placed to explore new solutions and approaches as well as track what works to allow young people to act as changemakers for the benefit of the community. This session discusses the critical role that faith-based actors can play in building an inclusive space for dialogue, participation, and relational significance for and with young people, in collaboration with local policymakers and stakeholders.</p> <p>SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are religious leaders and faith-based organisations supporting social inclusion processes of young people at the local level? How can this be enhanced? 2. What are the key areas for enhanced cooperation with religious actors? How can multi-stakeholder efforts be strengthened to better provide emotional and spiritual support and education for social inclusion? 3. How can religious actors particularly strengthen youth empowerment enabling self-expression and representation, access to the labour market, as well as active participation in the city cultural and social life? 4. How can recommendations/change be brought into effect? <p>GREETINGS: Rev. Dr. Thomas Wipf, President, European Council of Religious Leaders / Religions for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP)</p> <p>MODERATOR: Ms. Madalena Simões de Carvalho, Legal Advisor and Policy Officer, JRS Portugal/ Network for Dialogue</p> <p>INPUT SPEAKER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. João Matela, Senior Officer at the Choice's Programme, Portuguese High Commission for Migration (ACM) • Discussion <p>CONCLUDING REMARKS & WAY FORWARD: Mr. Johannes Langer and Dr. Aleksandra Djuric Milovanovic, KAICIID</p>
10:30-11:00	BREAK
18:00-21:00	<p>SESSION 6: EXAMPLES FROM PRACTICE</p> <p>Bus transfer to visit to Leigos para o Desenvolvimento, a youth initiative with faith-based background in Lisbon</p>
10:30-11:00	LUNCH
18:00-21:00	DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS

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