



October 2024

'TOGETHER TO CARE'

FOR OUR HUMAN FAMILY AND OUR COMMON HOME

A Commitment to the Pact of the Future

*by Youth for a United World
of the Focolare Movement*



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New Humanity NGO
Via Piave, 15 | 00046 Grottaferrata, (Roma) Italia
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>

Letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Dear Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

We, the Youth for a United World (Y4UW) of the Focolare Movement, representing youth from various religions, cultures, and ethnicities, extend our deepest gratitude for your tireless efforts in championing the causes of young generations. Your leadership in addressing global challenges, promoting peace, and fostering sustainable development has been a beacon of hope for youth worldwide.

We are a global movement transcending borders, cultures, and religions. Inspired by the spirituality of unity of Chiara Lubich, a UNESCO Peace Education Prize Awardee and recognized spiritual leader of the 20th century, we are committed to building a world where unity, fraternity, and human dignity are fundamental values. We do believe in the profound impact that spiritual values can have on promoting peace and unity worldwide, and our dedication to these principles compels us to engage actively with the UN in addressing global challenges.

In July 2024, we organized “Genfest 2024: Together to Care” in Aparecida, Brazil. The event attracted over 4,000 young people from around the globe, fostering collaboration on pressing issues such as human rights, climate justice, and intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Additionally, 30 parallel gatherings took place in different cities worldwide, amplifying the impact of our collective mission.

A key outcome of Genfest 2024 was the launch of 8 United World Communities, an initiative aimed at mobilizing individuals and organizations to contribute towards a more united and fraternal world. These communities focus on various aspects of society, from the economy to dialogue to peace and active citizenship.

Our initiatives and goals align closely with the principles enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and with the UN’s Pact for the Future, particularly in areas such as sustainable development and climate action, the promotion of peace and human rights, fostering intercultural dialogue and social cohesion, and youth empowerment and participation in decision-making.

To further support the goals of the Pact for the Future, we are globally committed to caring together for our planet and its inhabitants through several projects and initiatives that we will illustrate in this document.

Additionally, we propose the establishment of a High-Level Youth Forum to facilitate intergenerational dialogue between youth and policymakers; showcase youth-led solutions to global challenges; and integrate youth perspectives into UN decision-making processes.

We understand that this idea will require dedication, time, and negotiations, therefore we aim to start a campaign to mobilize other youth organizations and the youth departments of several governments worldwide to make this dream a real possibility and opportunity for present and future generations.

As we approach the UN’s 80th anniversary, our global network of young leaders reaffirms our engagement in spreading the values of unity, fraternity, and dialogue fostered by our spiritual commitments and choices. We look forward to working alongside the UN to build a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful world for all, according to the visions set forth in the Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations.

*With gratitude and appreciation,
The Youth for a United World of the Focolare Movement*



OUR GLOBAL COMMITMENT TO THE PACT OF THE FUTURE FOLLOWS 3 GUIDELINES:

1

WORK TOGETHER

This section will illustrate ongoing initiatives across various fields of action.

2

BUILD TOGETHER

This section will present concrete projects and events that are being planned for the next year.

3

DREAM TOGETHER

This section will introduce a global campaign to advocate for a UN Youth High-Level Forum

WORK 'TOGETHER TO CARE'

United World Communities

Launched at Genfest 2024, the United World Communities initiative unites members of Youth for a United World (Y4UW) and New Humanity, an NGO of the Focolare Movement, at the United Nations to reaffirm our commitment to peace, universal fraternity, human dignity, and care for nature. This initiative focuses on the harmonious integration of people, the environment, and spirituality, drawing on expertise across eight essential areas of human life: Economy and Work, Interculturality and Dialogue, Peace and Human Rights, Health, Sport & Ecology, Art and Social Commitment, Education and Research, Communication and Media, and Active Citizenship and Politics. This multidisciplinary approach envisions a new future for the human family and our common home, inspiring collective action for a more united and sustainable world.

Ongoing Initiatives in Each Community

Economy and Work

The Community of Economy and Work focuses on sustainable economic systems, supporting vulnerable populations, and promoting recovery in war-affected or impoverished areas. Among the many ongoing projects, we are working on:

- **Summer School for Youth** on economics in July 2025.
- **Building a Path to COP** through 30 initiatives for sustainable development in the Amazon.
- **Second Amazon Socio-Economic Environmental Forum** in 2025 in Belém, Brazil.

Interculturality and Dialogue

This 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. It is working on four international projects:

- **Birds, You Can Fly Too!** supports vulnerable people through food distribution and wellness activities.
- **Compassionate Listening** creates safe spaces for active listening.
- **VOAR** (Vedere, Ascoltare, Agire e Riconciliare - See, Listen, Act, and Reconcile): builds bridges of encounter among diverse Christian communities through participation in various ecumenical dialogue platforms and projects for the care of creation.
- **One People Project** addresses the challenges of migration.

Peace and Human Rights

The Community of Peace and Human Rights focuses on educational initiatives that promote peace and justice. In the upcoming year, it will implement two programs:

- **The Education to Rights Project** will provide training to Brazilian youth on legal rights and citizenship.
- **Living Peace Project** will expand its network of 2 million students, teens, and youth involved in peace-building activities and peace educational programs in schools, community centers, and religious institutions.

Health, Sport & Ecology

The Community on Health, Sport, and Ecology emphasizes the crucial role of environmental stewardship in promoting peace and well-being. Among the ongoing projects they are working on:

- **Reforest Your Experience:** a campaign Together to Care for the Planet, which works to calculate carbon emissions, plant trees to offset CO₂, and minimize emissions.

- **Youth delegation preparation for COP 30** in Brazil in 2025.

Art and 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. Among the projects to implement:

- **Within and Through Beauty (DAB)** project in Cuba, established in 2022, values local culture through artistic workshops.
- Collaborative art projects, workshops, and performances by the musical bands **Gen Verde and Gen Rosso**, who empower people in refugee camps, prisons, and marginalized communities by providing creative outlets for healing and reconciliation.

Education and Research

The Community on Education and Research is working on education as a tool to promote peace, intercultural dialogue, and social responsibility in a hyper-digitalized world. Among the many projects, two will be developed worldwide through a network of teachers, educators, schools, and universities inspired by the values of the spirituality of unity:

- **FormaT**, a global program for educators working with young people aged 18 to 30.
- **EduXedu**, an international training program for educators working with children and young people.

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. This community is already working on:

- **Social media campaigns**
- **Podcasts**
- **United World Project** website to collect testimonies and projects in advancing fraternity.

Active Citizenship and Politics

The Community on Active Citizenship and Politics empowers young people as changemakers, enabling them to shape their communities and collaborate on policy solutions. Among the projects, this community aims to implement:

- **Young Policy Makers and Politicians Network**, a platform that brings together young leaders to collaborate on policies and solutions beneficial for local communities.
- **Together for a New Africa**, an educational program for young African leaders.
- **Youth and Cities**, a week-long summer in Nairobi on the occasion of the 80th UN Anniversary.
- **COP 30 workshops and side events** with social and political institutions in Brazil.

BUILD ‘TOGETHER TO CARE’

We are planning several initiatives with international (European Union, UNESCO, FAO, ECOSOC) and local governments and institutions to advance fraternity and the goals of the Pact for the Future in the next five years. Three of these initiatives were presented at Genfest:

One Humanity, One Planet: Synodical Leadership Project

From January to September 2025, 600 young leaders from five continents will collaborate virtually in the “One Humanity, One Planet” initiative. This project works to foster leadership skills and promote synodical approaches to global governance. The culmination of these efforts will take place in October 2025 during a Political Hackathon in Rome, where participants will develop innovative strategies to address shared global challenges, reinforcing the importance of collective action in shaping the future.

80th Anniversary of the United Nations Event

From November 10 to 12, 2025, an event will be held in Nairobi to celebrate the UN’s 80th Anniversary. This event will connect five cities across different continents. In collaboration with UN Habitat and UNESCO, the theme will be “Youth, Cities, and Peace,” emphasizing the critical role young people play in developing inclusive and sustainable urban spaces. The gathering will highlight youth-led initiatives that are fostering peace and creating more sustainable urban environments in various neighborhoods.the

COP 30

In preparation for COP 30, the various communities of the Genfest and New Humanity NGO of the Focolare Movement are working together to bridge local environmental activities with international advocacy. This initiative works to empower local efforts in addressing climate change while amplifying their impact at global forums. By connecting grassroots actions to high-level discussions, these communities strive to ensure that voices are heard, fostering a united front in the global fight for climate justice.

DREAM 'TOGETHER TO CARE'

Recent years have seen a significant rise in youth activism, driven by the recognition of global issues such as climate change, inequality, and conflict. Consequently, international organizations and conferences focused on youth engagement have been established within the UN system. Several platforms and initiatives have been developed to amplify youth voices in international discussions. The ECOSOC Youth Forum (est. 2012) provides a space for young people to influence global policy. The UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) offers a structured channel for youth participation across UN processes. UNICEF's Voices of Youth platform, the UNESCO Youth Forum, UNESCO's Youth Climate Action Network, and the UNFCCC's Climate Champions Team also engage youth in dialogue and advocacy on key global issues.

Youth engagement in these initiatives aligns with several key UN policies, including United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015), which recognizes the importance of young people in peace and security, providing a framework for their involvement in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts.

However, a crucial need remains: a greater youth participation in global policy-making to ensure their voices are heard and considered in shaping our future, as emphasized in the Pact of the Future. For this reason, we dream of a

UN High-Level Youth Forum

The forum will establish specific areas where young people connected with NGOs and academic institutions can interact directly with senior UN officials and global leaders.

It will seek to enable meaningful discussions on important topics such as employment, mental health, technology, environment, faith, and gender equality, with the goal of ensuring that youth-driven initiatives result in tangible and impactful changes. This forum will host thematic sessions on critical global challenges, honest roundtable discussions for more in-depth exchanges, and concrete action tracks designed to deliver implementable outcomes.

A High-Level Forum sponsored by the UN would increase the visibility of youth in the global decision-making process, promote stronger intergenerational collaboration, and strengthen the knowledge and appreciation of the values and principles that inspire the work of various UN agencies among current and future generations.

CONCLUSION

As the United Nations approaches its 80th anniversary, the Youth for a United World and the New Humanity NGO reaffirm their unwavering commitment to the values of unity, fraternity, and care that have guided their work.

Through continued partnership and co-creation with the UN system, our global youth movement aspires to contribute meaningfully to the fulfillment of the Pact for the Future and the realization of a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful world for present and future generations, also advocating for a future UN High-Level Youth Forum.



WHO WE ARE

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 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 Cup of Couple



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