

Dossier - June 26, 2018

YOUTH FOR A UNITED WORLD

Youth for a United World are young people, aged 18 to 30 years that live in 180 countries in the five continents. They come from different ethnic origins, cultures, religions and backgrounds, and they have made the personal decision to live for the unity of the whole human family. Since 1985 they have joined in a movement that embraces the world.

— Their aim is to promote **unity** at all latitudes through respect and esteem among people of different ethnicity, nationality, culture, religious beliefs and political ideals. Thus all may feel and behave as brethren, members of the same human family.

To achieve this goal, among themselves and with others, they put into practice the so-called “Golden rule”: **“Do to others what you want them to do unto you; don’t do to others what you do not want them to do unto you”**. This is “common ground” on which people of different cultures, traditions and beliefs, or those who have no form of religious conviction, can work together for the common good.

First and foremost, this style of life calls for a “personal” renewal. One needs to be aware that a united world starts from oneself, when one takes the plunge to pull down the walls of division, to build bridges and not barriers, to overcome fences and borders and when one looks out for that which unites.

Youth for a United World get their inspiration from the **Ideal of Unity** of Chiara Lubich, the founder of the Focolare Movement, who was fully committed to dialogue among Christian Churches, with great religions and in various areas of culture as a whole.

In fact, unity in diversity is already being achieved by Youth for a United World among themselves, and they are committed to “export” this kind of relationship to their respective environments: family, friends, school, workplace and so many other places in society. They want to influence others so that unity of the human family becomes the ultimate goal for all human thought and activity: from politics to economy, from science to art, from work to sport, from environmental protection to healthcare, from education to communication.

— Youth for a United World organize activities to achieve these objectives. Through initiatives, both on a **local and a global level**, they aim at encouraging dialogue, participation and sharing with other groups, associations and movements. They are engaged in local projects, to support the poor and the marginalized that live in their neighborhoods and in their cities and also people they know and family members. They also promote or participate in international campaigns for peace and fraternity, and launch initiatives in aid of war or natural calamity victims.

They have been promoting **United World Week** since 1996. This annual event brings along with it further initiatives aimed at involving the mass media and the civil and religious institutions and at

influencing public opinion. Then, every five years there comes the **Genfest**, a worldwide event that brings together thousands of young people. Through this event the Focolare Youth would like to show that universal fraternity is a dream that can become true. In 2012 the **United World Project** was launched to give life to a global network of fraternity through actions in various fields.