

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON YOUTH (CCJ)****21 September 2025***English only***Statement on the occasion of the International Day of Peace**

On this International Day of Peace, under the global theme “Act Now for a Peaceful World”, the Advisory Council on Youth reaffirms that peace is not only an end to conflict, but also the presence of justice, participation, respect for human rights, and dignity for all. At a time when armed violence, polarisation, and hate are shaking the foundations of our societies, building a culture of peace is both urgent and essential.

The Council of Europe has long recognised that peace must be nurtured through education, cooperation, and the protection of human rights. From the European Convention on Human Rights to the Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (CM/Rec(2010)7), the Organisation has consistently underlined that sustainable peace depends on values embedded in actions of everyday life.

In this tradition, we also warmly welcome the draft recommendation on peace education by, with and for young people that is currently in the works. This initiative has the potential to strengthen member States’ capacity to equip young people with the skills to resolve conflicts peacefully, resist harmful narratives and hate speech, and foster democratic resilience, enabling all young people to live together in peaceful and inclusive societies. It is a reminder that education is not only about knowledge, but also about shaping societies where peace becomes the norm rather than the exception.

Peace cannot exist without meaningful youth participation. Through mechanisms such as co-management in the youth sector and activities like the Youth Peace Camp and Euro-Arab Youth Forum, young people are already showing that they can bridge divides, transform dialogue into action, and reimagine more just societies. Their engagement is not supplementary – it is indispensable for a peaceful future.

Today, we call on member States to uphold their commitments under existing Council of Europe standards, to support the future adoption of the new recommendation on peace education, and to allocate resources for youth-led initiatives that build trust and dialogue. Only by combining education, participation, protection of rights and youth participation can we cultivate the conditions for lasting peace.

The International Day of Peace is not a symbolic observance. It is a call to action – to governments, institutions, and communities – to invest in peace as a living practice. The Advisory Council on Youth stands ready to continue its work alongside the Council of Europe and its member States in advancing this vision.

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