



Youth Peace Week

Engaging young people and youth organisations in dialogue about peace and conflict transformation online

Our Code of Conduct

Why these rules?

Within the Youth Peace Week we are aiming to create a space to exchange ideas respectfully and openly, a space to share stories and to inspire each other, as well as engage in the dialogue towards building a culture of peace and conflict transformation. Therefore, we would like to draw your attention to our Code of Conduct - please read it carefully. We hope that by adhering to this coworking approach the Youth Peace Week participants can have a more fruitful dialogue and contribute to keeping the programme as an inclusive and safe space for everybody.



"A **code of conduct** is a set of rules outlining the **norms**, rules, and responsibilities or proper practices of an individual party or an organisation." /Wikipedia/

In the previous Youth Peace Camps, and the current Youth Peace Week, at the beginning of the programme participants have the space to discuss and to agree on a set of rules to follow through the time spent together. The rules are meant to define a *minimum common understanding* of how members of the group should behave and collaborate throughout the week and ensure a safe and motivating space for living and learning together.

Such an agreement is also needed for an online activity; therefore the present Code of Conduct are offered in order to:

- create a safe space for cooperation and dialogue, where the dignity of all participants is respected
- ensure that the basic principles of human rights education, with special regard to learning through human rights in a participative space
- encourage a sharing of critical opinions while avoiding fruitless and possibly provocative debates and clashes
- to recall that as a Council of Europe activity, the Youth Peace Week respects values of Human Rights as enshrined in the [European Convention on Human Rights](#) and in the [Charter on Education on Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education](#).

Think about the following quote:

'Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me'

Do you agree?

/From [Bookmarks - a manual for combating hate speech online through human rights education](#)/

Hereby we propose a list of ten DO's and DON'TS as guidance - it may be that by the end of the Youth Peace Week some of you will come up with suggestions for additions or changes - please feel welcome to share your opinion in your daily and final evaluations, or in the online debates if relevant.

DO'S and DON'Ts

| DOs | DON'Ts |
|--|---|
| Use your name for interactions (e.g. provide the name you wish to use in the video conference) | Do not attend as a "representative" of a country or community - but as ourselves as human beings |
| Listen respectfully to the contribution of others | Don't stay passive if you have things to share - speak up and take part! |
| Preferably refer to a place (settlement, community) when you want to present yourself instead of mentioning countries. | Don't mention countries when referring to your place of origin - it may lead to fruitless debates already at the beginning and hinder dialogue. |
| Express yourself in a non-hurting, non-judgemental way - do treat others as equal. | Don't be judgemental and do not make assumptions: during the Youth Peace Week the objective is not to prove who is right or wrong. |
| Bring curiosity, empathy, understanding and forgiveness... | ...while getting ready to share honestly and openly, leave behind confrontation, provocation and judgements. |
| Get ready for a dialogue... | ... instead of a heated debate! |
| Look for a deeper and complex understanding of the situation of your communities, share new perspectives with others. | We are not here to seek the truth or to demonstrate that we're right, but to learn from new perspectives and maybe ask ourselves new questions. |
| Bring your enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. | Do not expect that somebody else will contribute and learn instead of you - be active, use this opportunity fully and help others to learn. |
| Keep in mind - we are here to look at the future and build understanding... | ... as past events will stay there. |

The organisers of the Youth Peace Week will strive to create an environment for working and learning together in an online space in line with these values. We count on your cooperation and look forward to having you OUR activity - a space of shared values and respect for all participants.