



## **‘One Humanity’**

***Invitation to a symposium on youth empowerment and cultural understanding***

***22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2016***

***Kloster Eberbach, 65346 Eltville am Rhein, Germany***

### **Introduction**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, 77 people were killed in a brutal attack at a youth camp in Utøya and Oslo, Norway. It was an unparalleled act of hatred and discrimination, an act against our shared humanity. On the same day, 180 youth from across Europe were gathered for AYUDH’s 8th Annual European Youth Summit in Brombachtal, Germany. This summit was a place to learn how to become active participants in a peaceful society. When we heard about the incident in Utøya, we were shocked. Our camp came to a standstill. In addition to sorrow for what had happened in Norway, we realized: It could have been Germany, it could have been us. We are Utøya.

Ever since, AYUDH has supported the **‘No Hate Speech Movement’** of the Council of Europe to maintain 22<sup>nd</sup> July as a day to honor the victims of hate crimes, highlight our shared humanity and cultivate core European values, such as understanding, tolerance and inclusion. <http://bit.ly/1LfbXeY>

### **‘One Humanity’ - a Symposium to empower young people to prevent Hate Crimes and Hate Speech**

*“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.”*

- UN Declaration on a Culture of Peace

-

On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, AYUDH is planning a large-scale event to raise public awareness about the origins and effects of hate crimes and hate speech. Under the title ‘One Humanity’, AYUDH will shift attention from personal and cultural identities to our fundamental human identity, and our shared need to be respected, understood and loved for who we are.

Focusing on our differences — nationality, religion, gender, etc. — leads to hatred, violence and crime. Focusing on our shared humanity — on our shared values and

needs — leads to solidarity, compassion and peace. The efforts of our political leaders and institutions to establish and ensure peace on national and global levels must coincide with local efforts to nurture a culture of peace in young people around the world. This is what ‘One Humanity’ aims for.

### Venue



We will explore the basis of our shared identity at a venue which reflects the personal and spiritual quest for identity, and the collective human endeavor for peace and harmony. The symposium will take place at **Kloster Eberbach in Eltville am Rhein**, a historic monastery which has hosted many large-scale events for the Federal Government of Germany, the State Government of Hessen and international institutions. <http://kloster-eberbach.de/kloster.html>

### Context

‘One Humanity’ is part of AYUDH’s 12th Annual European **Youth Summit ‘One World. One Home.’**, a weeklong youth conference which welcomes **250 youth, aged 15 - 30, from 20 Council of Europe countries**, as well as a small number of representatives from around the world. As the summit’s theme concerns cultural dialogue and inclusion, **youth groups from diverse cultural groups from Israel**, as well as **minority groups** (youth with disabilities and refugees) are also be invited take an active part in the summit.

The summit will take place July 17 – 24, 2016 at M.A. Center Germany in Brombachtal, near Frankfurt, Germany.

## **Agenda for the Symposium:**

### ***1. Speeches and Roundtable Discussion***

With representatives from various fields of politics, arts, sports and culture.

### ***2. Youth Resolution on 'One Humanity':***

During the summit, youth from across the world will take part in a political workshop, the goal of which is the formulation of concrete suggestions for political actions that foster cultural literacy and exchange, skill development in conflict resolution and the active inclusion of young people in Europe. Another workshop at the summit will focus on the philosophical and psychological dimensions of our shared identity as European citizens and human beings. This workshop will highlight the fundamental needs, values and qualities we share beyond our personal identities and cultural upbringing. Both workshops will combine their results in a joint declaration, which will be presented at the symposium by youth from different religions, cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. This resolution will subsequently be forwarded to our political leaders at the EU Parliament, the Council of Europe, and national governments throughout Europe.

### ***3. Cultural Performances:***

The youth summit will also include a variety of short performances by AYUDH members. These performances display cultural diversity and create a festive air at the event.

### ***4. Sharing Circles***

The symposium will give participants the chance to directly interact with, talk and discuss with high level institutional representatives, making sure that the voice of today's youth is heard and considered by those who shape the policies for peace, security and integration in our global community.

## Sustainability of the Project:

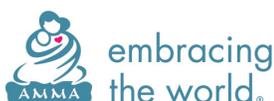
‘One Humanity’ is more than the symposium on 22 July or the Youth Summit ‘One World. One Home.’ Our project intends to have a sustained impact through:

- 1) An e-learning platform, focused on the themes of cultural understanding, personal development and peace-building, with regular live talks for young people by renowned personalities. This platform is intended to be a digital tool for intercultural dialogue and youth debates which bridges the physical barriers of geography and nationality.
- 2) Collaboration with schools across Europe to facilitate workshops focused on the same themes, following the model of the workshops offered during AYUDH’s Youth Summit. To facilitate and implement these workshops, an action kit will be provided to students and teachers at partner schools.

## Partners:

The youth summit and symposium are supported by the European Youth Foundation of the **Council of Europe**, the **Kloster Eberbach Foundation**, the Lebenshilfe e.V. Offenburg, ‘Die Kuemmerer Beerfelden’ (association for refugee youth), the municipalities of Brombachtal and Michelstadt. It promotes the No-Hate-Speech-Movement of the Council of Europe.

AYUDH’s annual youth summits have been supported eight times by the ‘Youth in Action’ Programme administered by the European Commission. Twice the Commission selected us as ‘Best Practice’ Projects, for “Reaching New Heights’ and ‘Our World. Our Vision. Our Future.’



## What is AYUDH?



AYUDH is an international youth movement which is dedicated to empowering young people to contribute to a peaceful and sustainable world and become compassionate leaders with a sense of tolerance, solidarity and global responsibility.

At AYUDH, we are driven by the desire to be catalysts for positive change. *Ayudh* is a Sanskrit word meaning *peace*; this is symbolized by the dove in our logo. AYUDH also stands for Amma’s Youth for Unity, Diversity and Humanity — thus, like the CoE, we strive to live and act by principles which acknowledge our shared needs as global citizens and human beings.

The movement is inspired by the life and work of world-renowned spiritual and humanitarian leader Amma (Mata Amritanandamayi). AYUDH is the youth branch of Embracing the World, [www.embracingtheworld.org](http://www.embracingtheworld.org), a global network of charitable activities guided by Amma, which is active in over 40 countries around the world.

Founded in 2001, AYUDH has branches across the world — in Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia. Our members include youth between 15 and 30 years of age, regardless of nationality, religion, gender, sexuality, or social and cultural background.

Youth attending the Summits are usually very sincere in their efforts to actively contribute to society and publicly address important issues affecting themselves and other youth, whether in the global or European context. At the Summits, youth from around the world participate in workshops which foster personal growth while cultivating personal, environmental and global responsibilities. In addition, they receive practical training in yoga, mindfulness and community service. Together, these activities create a foundation from which youth can actively contribute to a peaceful and sustainable world.

## **Statements on AYUDH:**

### **Martine Reicherts, EU Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship**

*In relation to the youth conference 'Strengthening Europe through Youth Empowerment' which was jointly organized by AYUDH and the EU parliament in Strasbourg on 17 July 2014.*

“For me, this youth experience has been absolutely unbelievable. All the young people I met in Strasbourg were amazingly convincing. I think it’s great, and an example the younger generation would probably want to follow – and that is great...More projects like this one should exist.”

### **Kirty Matabadal, UN Ambassador for Youth, The Netherlands:**

“Youngsters nowadays are not really interested in what is happening in society, but AYUDH showed me the difference. It showed me that youth are capable of making a change and they are willing to make a change.”

### **Jani Toivola, Member of Parliament, Finland:**

“I think the AYUDH summit is a one of a kind opportunity for young people to reflect on their life, values and the choices that they want to make. This is especially important in the modern world, where young people are still too often left outside and are not heard. It is important to give every young person support and opportunities for dialoge with each other and the community. Being present, willing to share and able to love is a great vision that I will take with me on my political journey. I am inspired by all the young voices I met at AYUDH.”

www.ayudh.eu • <http://www.embracingtheworld.org/ayudh> • [info@ayudh.eu](mailto:info@ayudh.eu)