

UPF Balkans: Peace Ambassadors in the Balkans Renew Commitment

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Struga, North Macedonia – A three-day seminar for peace ambassadors on the theme “Love God, Love People, Love the Nation” took place in Struga, North Macedonia, on December 19-21, 2025. Held by UPF-Balkans, in partnership with the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), the meeting brought together around seventy leaders of Peace Councils, members of the Peace Federation Steering Committee, and ambassadors for peace from Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia.



Throughout the event, the atmosphere was warm and familiar; everyone felt at home, united by common values and the goal of contributing to building peace, starting from oneself and one’s family. The modern and quiet surroundings – and the kind and hospitable staff of the Embla Hotel, located on the lakeside – helped to generate an embracing and festive atmosphere.



An introduction of UPF’s philosophy, the Fundamental Principles of Peace, was presented, followed by discussions on the importance of applying these principles in the current times.

The symposium was much more than an educational activity, however; it was a beautiful human and spiritual experience, a space for reflection, collaboration and exchange of knowledge and values, where everyone felt appreciated, welcomed, and respected. The morning meditations were especially welcomed, as were the festive evenings with music, songs and dances, and beautiful surprises the organizers had

prepared for all participants.



An important part of the event was the awarding of an Ambassador for Peace certificate by UPF President **Mr. Defrim Methasani**, to **Mr. Mendi Qyra**, the mayor of Struga Municipality. He was honored for his work in serving the community and people in need; his devotion to sports, especially to a football team he founded, FC Struga, which won the North Macedonia Football League Championship twice; and other good deeds. On the second evening, nine additional seminar participants received Ambassador for Peace certificates.



For those who were not local inhabitants, a tour was organized to the picturesque city of Ohrid, where they enjoyed its natural and cultural beauty.

The meeting ended on a very positive note, with the acknowledgement that peace is a daily commitment, starting with oneself, one's family and community, and that including the love of God in all aspects of daily life makes it easy to love and care for people. On this foundation, a sense of responsibility for the nation emerges naturally.

In addition to the new friendships built among the participants, the seminar generated inspiration and motivation to continue the mission for peace with greater dedication.