

WFP UN Vienna - Role of Youth and Civil Society to usher in a Peaceful Society

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Partner Organisation event with Permanent Mission -Philippines, Europe and Network of Filipino Diaspora, UNCAV- UN Correspondents Association, Vienna, Vienna City government (1 speaker)

YouTube: youtu.be/WJduOUUM7IU

The cooperation with UNODC-Ngo Unit, UNCAV, + a speaker of the Vienna City council was also a first time cooperation (in that setting!) From each organisation on speaker presented hr /his perspective on peace and especially the role of youth in this respect. To counter crime is also an important aspect when aspiring a society where peaceful development is possible- the words of UNODC Representative Mariana Gomez. She further explained the activities in Crime prevention and involvement of youth.

Ms. Atty Daryll Migano, Attache` of the Embassy of the Philippines, expresses her gratitude to be invited to speak at this meaningful occasion. She describes youth as agents for change, its inclusion being mandatory for a human civil society, following the human rights.

Mr. Herman Kroihner, Gen. Secretary of UNCAV+ Board Member of Austrian Police Ass., explained in his opening speech that certain requirements are necessary so that youth can thrive, e.g. Peacefull and supportive societies, where education is possible. Then young people will be enabled to contribute from their side through their talents and creativity!

Ms. Caroline Hungerlaender, councilor of the City of Vienna, describes her involvement in developing a college for young migrants, who are 85% young men from countries like Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Ukraine, and others. The priority is to learn German, but at the same time give them a structure to develop stability and supports in finding opportunities for job or further education. Mag. Hungerlaender together with colleagues founded an academy for young people to learn about political work, to encourage public engagement.



Sarah -Jozel Rojas represented the youth in, and explains multiple ways of young people to be advocates for peace: **ADVOCACY** and **AWARENESS** through social Media platforms, **EDUCATION** and **EMPOWERMENT**: Educating about democracy and possibilities of civic engagement, conveying an understanding of rights and responsibilities enables young people to become an active partner in society also for peace building. **DIALOG** and **MEDIATION**: in conflict areas it is often young people that can act for dialog and reconciliation. They have to be equipped with the right tools and platforms to engage.

Ms Merly Barlaan then explained the project of "Youth ambassador for peace"- an educational program that is developed in New York and will be supported by the NY. city government. The training aims to enable girls and young women from an early age on (High School level 9 to learn the tools to conduct "Bridges of Peace" among the different migrant groups and start constructive interaction. This should counter the problems and even violence occurring among the migrant / parallel societies.

For a better understanding 3 pairs crossed the "Bridge" in front of the audience:

- A Philippino/Austrian - Philippino Spanish origin
- Philippino /USA background- Egyptian/Austrian
- Philippino Austrian- Korean /Austrian

The words they had prepared for each other, why they felt to cross the bridge of forgiveness and reconciliation were moving and astonishing at the same time!

The song "Let there be Peace on Earth" presented by the Philippino singer Shirley Dimaano, concluded the event officially, after that personal talk and exchange of contact details took place!