

# Students' Peace Declaration

**Sarajevo**

**17 September 2025**

**STC General meeting 14-19/09/2025**



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## Initiative

Student Association of the EUPeace Alliance is organizing the signing of the Students' Peace Declaration in September 2025 in Sarajevo. This event is an integral part of the EUPeace Alliance initiative, aiming to bring together representatives from at least 20 universities in the Western Balkans and 30 universities from the European Union. EUPeace Alliance stands for the European University for Peace, Justice, and Inclusive Societies, evolves out of nine core member universities (Germany: Marburg University, Justus Liebig University Giessen; France: University of Limoges; Italy: University of Calabria; Spain: Comillas Pontifical University; Czechia: University of West Bohemia; Bosnia and Herzegovina: University of Mostar, University of Sarajevo; Türkiye: Çukurova University) that have committed their strategic international outlook in teaching, research and administration in higher education to the core ideas and values expressed in the jointly created Alliance.

## Strategic Importance and Policy Relevance

The EUPeace's Student Peace Declaration Signing is a high-profile international event, bringing together key EU and domestic decision-makers, including:

- High-ranking representatives of the European Union,
- The Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- EUPeace Alliance leadership,
- Around 40 Universities/student leaders from across Europe and the Western Balkans.

The event could have significant policy implications, serving as a platform for:

- Youth-driven advocacy for peace, democratic governance, and regional cooperation,
- Engagement with EU institutions, national governments, and international organizations,
- Reinforcing the strategic role of universities, university alliances and students as agents of democratic resilience and peacebuilding in the face of current threats.

The Declaration will be promoted as a tool for shaping civic participation, influencing public discourse, and enhancing regional ties, especially in fragile and post-conflict societies.

## Context and Symbolic Significance

This initiative also carries enormous symbolic value, as it takes place on the 30th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement, the last functional peace accord in Europe. At a moment when war is once again raging on the European continent, and when Bosnia and Herzegovina is experiencing its most serious political crisis in the past three decades, the Declaration represents a bold and unified message from the region's youth.

The act of young people standing together in Sarajevo, a city historically marked by both conflict and coexistence, sends a powerful reminder that peace must be continuously defended and reimagined. Through this Declaration, students are asserting that peace is not only a memory of the past, but a responsibility for the future.

## The signing ceremony (17 September, 2025)

The EUPeace Alliance is dedicated to fostering a European university network that promotes peace, dialogue, civic engagement, and academic cooperation across borders. Our mission is to empower students as active agents of democratic transformation and long-term peacebuilding.

Held in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Declaration Signing Ceremony will formally unite the voices of students, decision-makers, and institutional partners around a shared vision for democratic values, inter-university solidarity, and long-term peacebuilding.

## Official Program of the Signing ceremony

### EUPeace Alliance Event

**Date:** 17 September

**Venue:** Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

09:00	<b>Registration and Welcome to the Event of Declaration Signing</b> (Venue: Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina)
–	
10:30	<i>Arrival and registration of participants at the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</i>
10:30	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>
–	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Anthem of Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>• Anthem of the European Union</li> <li>• Academic anthem – Gaudeamus Igitur</li> </ul>
11:15	<b>Welcome Addresses:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elmedin Konaković; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>• Speaker from EU - TBC</li> <li>• Prof. dr. Tarik Zaimović, rector of the University of Sarajevo</li> <li>• Prof. dr. Evelyn Korn, Chair of the EUPeace Governing Board</li> <li>• Representative of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) - TBC</li> <li>• Representative of the Student Council of the EUPeace Alliance, Sibel Alara Tasa, chairwomen of the EUPeace Student Council</li> <li>• Imran Pašalić; President of the Students's Parliament of the University of Sarajevo and Initiator of the Declaration</li> </ul>
11.15	<b>Formal signing of the EUPeace Declaration by key stakeholders</b>
–	
12:00	
13:00	<b>EUPeace Branded Tram Ride</b>
–	<i>Departure from the Parliamentary Assembly for a commemorative ride on the EUPeace-branded tram.</i>
13:30	
18:30	<b>European Dialogue</b>
–	Participation in the joint event "European Dialogue" +
22:00	EUPeace Alliance organized by the French Embassy and the garden of National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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## STUDENTS PEACE DECLARATION 2025

*The 'Students Peace Declaration 2025' has been adopted by the General Assembly of the Students Association of the EUPeace Alliance in September 2025 in Sarajevo with the goal to establish and maintain peace in the world.*

We invite the students of the world to share our commitment to progressive values, while deeply appreciating, respecting and valuing the language, culture and traditions of Europe and every country that signatories hail from.

This declaration originates from engaged and determined students, inspired by the energy within student and youth communities. Responding to the need for peace and a more dynamic transformation of the educational process, our goal is to encourage European society to recognise the value of students and improve higher education as a whole.

Peace is central to the European ideal. While we work hard to improve the conditions of students' across the globe, we have to remember that without peace there cannot exist any kind of education.

**Accordingly, WE, the signatories of this declaration, solemnly affirm the following:**

### **Article 1 – Commitment to Peace**

WE AFFIRM THAT PEACE IS THE FUNDAMENTAL CONDITION FOR THE SUSTAINED HUMAN DIGNITY, FREEDOM, AND COOPERATIVE PROGRESS NECESSARY FOR INCLUSIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

WE COMMIT TO BE UNWAVERING ADVOCATES FOR PEACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES, INSTITUTIONS, AND GLOBAL SOCIETY.

### **Article 2 - Respect for Human Dignity and Rights**

WE UPHOLD THE INTRINSIC DIGNITY AND EQUAL RIGHTS OF EVERY HUMAN BEING. WE COMMIT TO PROMOTING AND DEFENDING ACADEMIC FREEDOM, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND THE RIGHTS OF STUDENTS TO LEARN, QUESTION, AND PARTICIPATE FULLY IN SHAPING THEIR EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS.

### **Article 3 – Unity in Diversity**

WE RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE RICHNESS OF LINGUISTIC, CULTURAL, AND HISTORICAL DIVERSITY AMONG STUDENTS IN EUROPE AND ACROSS THE WORLD. WE AFFIRM THAT SUCH DIVERSITY IS A STRENGTH AND SOURCE OF MUTUAL ENRICHMENT. WE WILL WORK TO FOSTER INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS THAT RESPECT AND UPLIFT ALL IDENTITIES.

#### **Article 4 – Rejection of Violence and Discrimination**

WE UNEQUIVOCALLY REJECT ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE, HATRED, RACISM, SEXISM, XENOPHOBIA, AND DISCRIMINATION. WE STAND AGAINST THE USE OF FORCE TO RESOLVE CONFLICT. WE CALL FOR PEACEFUL, INCLUSIVE, AND JUST SOLUTIONS IN ALL SPHERES OF LIFE.

#### **Article 5 – Right to study**

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE IDEA THAT ALL STUDENTS HAVE A SACRED RIGHT TO PEACE, TO STUDY, DEBATE, EXPRESS THEIR OPINION WITHOUT ANY FEAR OF REVENGE. WE CLAIM AN UNOBTAINED ACCESS TO OUR RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AS WELL AS NATIONAL LAWS WITHOUT LIMITATIONS ON ANY BASIS.

#### **Article 6 – Role of Students as Agents of Change**

WE AFFIRM THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF STUDENTS AS ACTIVE AGENTS OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION. WE WILL ENGAGE IN CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIVISM, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND DIALOGUE TO PROMOTE PEACE, JUSTICE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY WITHIN AND BEYOND OUR UNIVERSITIES.

#### **Article 7 – Final remark**

THE SIGNATORIES SHALL TAKE ALL MEASURES THAT ARE ATTAINABLE TO THEM IN ORDER TO FULFILL EACH AND EVERY ARTICLE IN THIS DECLARATION

## STC General meeting Agenda 14-19/09/2025

EUPeace participants only	Day	Time	Activity
	Day 0 - 14 September (recommended arrival)		<b>Arrival of EUPeace Participants</b> Participants from EUPeace Alliance partner universities (EUPeace STC members and student representatives) arrive in Sarajevo. Transport from the airport to accommodation will be organized.
		17:00 – 19:00	<b>EUPeace STC Preparatory Meeting</b> Location: University of Sarajevo, Rectorate Building (TBC) A working session for members of the EUPeace Student Taskforce Committee (STC) to finalize key agenda items, review roles and responsibilities, and prepare for the upcoming sessions of the Students' Peace Declaration program.
		20:00 – 22:00	<b>Evening (optional) - Informal Dinner &amp; Networking for EUPeace participants</b> An optional informal dinner will be organized for early-arriving participants to get to know each other and begin informal exchanges in a relaxed setting.

EUPeace participants only	Day	Time	Activity
	Day 1 - 15 September	09:00 – 09:45	Welcoming addresses
		10:00 – 12:30	<b>EUPeace STC General meeting – Sarajevo City Hall (SCH)</b>
		12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch - SCH</b>
		14:00 – 17:00	<b>Cable car ride</b>
		18:00 – 20:00	<b>Dinner - Baščaršija</b>

EUPeace participants only	Day	Time	Activity
	Day 2 - 16 September	08:00 – 20:00	<b>Arrival of the participants for the main event – Declaration Signing</b>
		09:00 – 11:00	<b>Workshop: Strengthening the Student Dimension of EUPeace</b> <i>Facilitated planning session focused on institutionalizing student participation within the Alliance.</i>
		11:15 – 11:30	<b>Coffee break – FPN (Faculty of Political Science)</b>
		11:30 – 13:00	<b>STC Meeting</b>
		13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch (self funded)</b>
		14:00 – 19:00	<b>Free time*</b>
		19.00 -	<b>Welcoming and grand opening of the event</b> (all participants welcome Zemljaski muzej – botanical garden)

All participants	Day	Time	Activity
	Day 3 - 17 September	09:00 – 10:30	<b>Registration and Welcome to the Event of Declaration Signing</b> (Venue: Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina) <i>Arrival and registration of participants at the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</i>
		10:30 – 11:15	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Anthem of Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>Anthem of the European Union</li> <li>Academic anthem – Gaudeamus Igitur</li> </ul> <b>Welcome Addresses:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elmedin Konaković; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>Speaker from EU - TBC</li> <li>Prof. dr. Tarik Zaimović, rector of the University of Sarajevo</li> <li>Prof. dr. Evelyn Korn, Chair of the EUPeace Governing Board</li> <li>Representative of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) - TBC</li> <li>Representative of the Student Council of the EUPeace Alliance, Sibel Alara Tasa, chairwomen of the EUPeace Student Council</li> <li>Imran Pašalić; President of the Students's Parliament of the University of Sarajevo and Initiator of Declaration</li> </ul>
		11.15 – 12:00	<b>Formal signing of the EUPeace Declaration by key stakeholders</b>
		13:00 – 13:30	<b>EUPeace Branded Tram Ride</b> <i>Departure from the Parliamentary Assembly for a commemorative ride on the EUPeace-branded tram.</i>
		18:30 – 22:00	<b>European Dialogue</b>

Participation in the joint event "European Dialogue" + EUPeace Alliance organized by the French Embassy and the French Institute (Horizon project) – Botanical garden of National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

All participants	Day	Time	Activity
	Day 4 - 18 September	09:30 – 11:00	<b>Workshop: "From Declaration to Action: Next Steps"</b> <i>Facilitated by EUPeace Secretariat or selected student leaders</i>
		11:30 – 13:00	<b>Creative Lab: "Peace Messages to the World"</b> Closing Circle: Reflections and Goodbyes <i>Everyone shares a takeaway from the week</i> <i>Short video message from students to future generations or next year's participants</i>
		13:45 – 13:30	<b>Lunch - FPN</b>
		14:00 – 15:30	<b>Panel 1 – How to ensure trust between individuals in Europe?</b> ("European Dialogue" + EUPeace Alliance organized by the French Embassy and the French Institute (Horizon project) <b>Claudia Senik</b> (Paris School of Economics, co-auteur du chapitre sur la confiance et le populisme dans le dernier World Happiness Report), <b>Monica Brezzi</b> (directrice de division Governance Indicators and Performance, qui publie le rapport de l'OCDE sur la confiance dans les institutions), <b>Nataša Vučković</b> (présidente d'ALDA et secrétaire générale du Centre for Democracy Foundation de Serbie), une personnalité choisie par les bénéficiaires du projet Horizons partagés
		16:00 – 17:30	<b>Panel 2 – Trust and transitional Justice?</b> ("European Dialogue" + EUPeace Alliance organized by the French Embassy and the French Institute (Horizon project) <b>Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse</b> (option A), OU <b>Gael Faye</b> (option B), <b>Lamija Muftić</b> (groupe chercheurs-chercheuses émergents, thèse sur justice transitionnelle, Bosnie Herzégovine), <b>Celine Bardet</b> (juriste, membre TPIY), <b>Oleksandra Matviitchuk</b> (Nobel price Ukraine)
		18:00 – 19:30	<b>Panel 3 – Media and Information, a central stake for trust</b> ("European Dialogue" + EUPeace Alliance organized by the French Embassy and the French Institute (Horizon project) <b>Denis Dzidic</b> , directeur général du BIRN (Balkan Investigative Report Network), et/ou <b>Besa Luc</b> , rédactrice en chef de Kosovo 2.0, <b>Paolo Cesarini</b> (Italie), directeur de programme
		20:00 – 22:00	<b>Joint informal dinner (self funded)</b>

