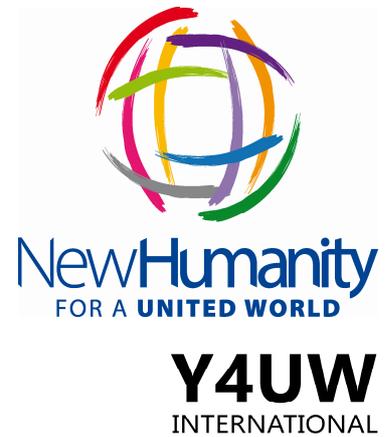


_GEN FEST

BEYOND ALL BORDERS

MANILA, PHILIPPINES 2018



6-7-8 July 2018 MANILA-PHILIPPINES

GENFEST 2018: BEYOND ALL BORDERS

<http://y4uw.org/genfest>

_WHO?

1_ORGANIZERS

New Humanity is an international NGO active in over 100 countries worldwide. It is the expression of the Focolare Movement and is composed by people of all ages, different beliefs, cultures and social backgrounds. Its goal is to contribute to the creation of the unity of the human family, respecting the identity of all and promoting the spirit of universal fraternity in every field of social, economic, political, and cultural life.

The **Youth for a United World (Y4UW)** are the youth of New Humanity NGO. They cross all possible ways to build a more united world, to heal existing divisions in families, between generations, among different social groups. That is why they get engaged in international campaigns to support peace, human rights, international solidarity, global citizenship, public, local, and world events, as well they want to testify that peace can be built with simple gestures of solidarity and dialogue with those who are passing by next us every day.

_WHAT? WHERE? WHEN?

The **Genfest 2018** is a meeting of thousands of youth from all over the world, from different ethnicities, cultures, and religions, driven by the idea that the construction of a more united world is already an experience of life and social action.

The Genfest 2018 is an occasion for exchanging ideas on economy, art, environment, social realities and intercultural dialogue. It is an invitation to build bridges of fraternity and contribute to breaking barriers of indifference, prejudice, egoism.

Born in 1973 as the brainchild of Chiara Lubich, foundress of the Focolare Movement, the **Genfest 2018** will reach its 11th edition **on July 6-8 2018 in Manila (the Philippines)**.

The **title** will be **"BEYOND ALL BORDERS"**. It wants to highlight some boundaries to be overcome, in order to achieve a more united and sympathetic world, which the young people themselves have identified:

- **On a personal level:** the boundaries of egoism, prejudices, fear of the future, superficiality and impatience.
- **On a social level:** indifference, consumerism, wars, disinformation, and inequalities.

This "going beyond" borders means inspiring young people, real actors of change, to open their minds and hearts to the great global challenges that they are called to face together, both locally and internationally. That's why the program wants to help overcome walls and barriers:

- Highlighting the importance of individual work on "oneself", empowered by sharing their limits and aspirations with others;
- Offering best practices, tools and projects in which groups and communities cooperate to provide young people with real perspectives of engagement for an incisive and sustainable change.

The logo of the Genfest 2018 - Less is more



In a world with too much information, it is important to valorise the simplicity and the power that each word brings to the world. Therefore, the Genfest's 2018 logo was made out of letters. The only symbol present is a clear, precise and an endless line that underlines the title "Beyond all Borders." The underscore reminds us to move forward beyond the borders and witness a united world. The absence of an image, "a brand" reflects the few essential elements in life, one symbol is enough to highlight the essential things. It reminds us to live our lives focusing only on the fundamental things: to go over the confinements, to reach everybody, to love in order to make universal fraternity possible. Ready to flood the world of simple, colorful, and fresh signs.

_WHY?

Nowadays we live in a '**global village**', a unique world without borders, where everything and everyone is always reachable, where you can have financial transactions across the world without any hindrance. A world that has all the tools and reasons to be **fairer, supportive**, to live in **peace, abundance and freedom**.

Yet reality tells us otherwise: in the last 20 years the **inequality gap** increased and the wealth held by 1% of the world's population has surpassed the remaining 99% in 2016 (Oxfam 2016). The fact that this inequality is constantly and steadily growing requires measures to reverse the trend. At the same time, while the poorest populations live in areas of the world most exposed to the effects of climate change, the poorest half of the world's population is responsible for just 10% of global emissions. In addition, poverty is increasing even within developed countries, creating social disadvantage and especially youth unemployment. The latest Eurostat statistics speak of 40 million people in the EU who live in a state of poverty.

In the ongoing great changes, **the need for a new cultural paradigm** is requested, not based on the individual, but on **social relationship**, not on instrumental rationality, but on **universal fraternity** capable of expressing complexity, enabling you to understand more deeply the history of the humankind and peoples, to accompany their project of coexistence.

Today young people (1.8 billion, aged between 10 and 24 years) are **the largest youth group in history**, a huge opportunity for world development and peace. They have common needs and aspirations between different cultures and backgrounds, which they feel indispensable to feel fully realized, such as:

- Future (work), happiness and values
- **Have an ideal to live for**
- Cultural innovation
- **Education to dialogue**
- Reverse consumer trends
- **Be protagonists in their reality (family, work, society, etc ...)**
- Be listened to
- **Break down the barriers of culture, religion, and gender**
- Communicate truly what they live
- **Acquire a sense of belonging in a group**
- Spirituality that respects diversity

Y4UW want to contribute to **developing and expressing the potential of young people**, to empower their leadership capacity for change, offering areas of reflection, sharing and commitment in promoting sustainable development goals, peace. One of these spaces will be the **Genfest 2018**, which also responds to the need of young people to find a megaphone to make their voices heard, to make visible the change already underway and to identify strategies of social commitment in the medium and long term. All this through artistic, musical, dances, exhibitions, forums, etc. in order to think differently and turn life into something more beautiful.

_GOALS

The overall goal of the Genfest 2018 is: to spread worldwide a culture oriented to unity through the lives of thousands of young people who made the choice to become active peace builders

Specific goals:

1. To tell the Universal Fraternity in the history and in the today of the humanity to all the latitudes.
2. **Become aware of new life styles oriented to a more equitable and sustainable society.**
3. To exchange ideas, create new projects, share experiences.
4. **To strengthen and expand a global network of peace builders, also through the development of the Youth for United World's network.**
5. To facilitate actions and exchange of best practices at local, national and regional levels which participants can use to support peace building efforts in their communities.
6. **To create contents for social networks to raise awareness about the importance of the United World.**
7. To contribute to raise the active citizenship attitude of the participants and the awareness about their capability to influence decision makers.

The **Genfest 2018** also contributes to develop the following skills/attitudes in young participants:

Soft skills will be empowered:

- Critical and multi-perspective mindset.
- Self-esteem, autonomy, empathy and listening attitude.
- Teambuilding, networking, conflict resolution processes.
- Social Responsibility, Solidarity, and Fraternity.
- Intercultural and interreligious dialogue.
- Proactive problem solving approach.
- Chiara Lubich's method in building a united world.
- Knowledge of the Filipino culture and the traditions of Asian peoples.

Technical skills will be provided

- Skills in the field of communications, in particular direct streaming and social networks.
- Skills in the management of workshops, work groups, participatory and non-formal dynamics.
- Ability to synthesize and to present to the public.
- Capacity to plan and manage projects.

_TARGET

Young people aged between 18 and 34, 60% woman, individuals of different faiths, cultures and social backgrounds representing all the countries of the world with a special focus on those who come from communities affected by conflicts, poverty and natural disasters. Curious young

people who want to discover themselves, understand global dynamics and to demonstrate their commitment to building peace, protecting the environment, express their potential to make differences and face the challenges of their communities.

_HOW?

_PROGRAM

WHAT TO EXPECT:

PRE GENFEST	GENFEST - Manila (JULY 6-8, 2018)	POST GENFEST
EXPERIENCES ASIAN CULTURE IMMERSION: - SOCIAL - INTERCULTURAL - INTERRELIGIOUS	EXPERIENCES ASIAN CULTURE IMMERSION: - SOCIAL - INTERCULTURAL - INTERRELIGIOUS	YOUTH FOR A UNITED WORLD SCHOOL (Tagaytay) DIFFERENT PROGRAMS IN THE ZONES AROUND THE WORLD

3-DAY PROGRAM (tentative)

1° DAY - JULY 6	2° DAY - JULY 7	3° DAY - JULY 8
MORNING EXPO ON UNIVERSAL FRATERNITY (WORLD TRADE CENTER) AFTERNOON OPENING OF GENFEST (WTC) NIGHT ASIAN CONCERT (WTC)	MORNING WORKSHOPS & FORUMS (DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY) AFTERNOON INTERRELIGIOUS EVENT (CCP OPEN GROUND) FLASHMOB NIGHT INTERNATIONAL CONCERT (WTC)	MORNING PRAYER TIME AND REFLECTION, CONCLUSION OF GENFEST (WTC)

MAIN THEMES:

- **Diversity and interculturality.**
- Interreligious dialogue.
- **Harmony amongst people and peoples.**
- The Golden Rule.
- **Social responsibility and active participation in society.**
- Education on human rights and peace.
- **Culture of fraternity: relationship, sharing and of solidarity.**
- Environment event: tropical, warm, summer, colorful.
- **Music: the soundtrack of life.**
- Connected with the United World Project (UWP) as an important step towards a united world.

8 Workshops topics (tentative):

1	PEACE & HUMAN RIGHTS	5	SOCIOLOGY & DIALOGUES
2	ECONOMY	6	ECOLOGY & SPORT
3	ART & ARCHITECTURE	7	CULTURE OF FRATERNITY
4	COMMUNICATION	8	POLITICS

INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS OF GENFEST 2018

An approach of **global interdependence**, highlighting the contribution that each continent can bring in terms of values, strategies and skills for the diffusion of a culture of peace. For this reason, the choice of the venue for the event is significant and strategic for the following reasons:

Asia is composed of various religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and others. At this historical stage where the **religious element** has reacquired a fundamental importance for the construction of peace, it is strategic to reaffirm the common values of all faiths and to indicate concrete ways of mutual respect, coexistence and collaboration.

Fifty years after the arrival of the first focolare members in the Philippines, the Focolare Movement became so widespread in the Asian continent, bringing to those who met it the spirit of unity that characterizes it, despite the huge diversity of cultures, religions and languages opening up a fruitful path of dialogue between religions.

The economic conditions and political systems of all Asian states are different, as well the backgrounds of the young participants. There are some countries in Asia that are known among the richest of the world. However, there are also other countries in Asia where there is extreme poverty. This allows us to have **an actual "mirror" of global reality** and to start an authentic confrontation between young people living in so different contexts and who usually struggle to dialogue.

Strategic Position: Asia is in a position of proximity to different critical contexts at a global level for which it can better relate and show more empathy for the problems of these countries than the Western countries. It is the largest continent in the world: its extension is over 5 times that of Oceania and 4 times that of Europe. Asia is also the world's most populous continent with more than 4 billion people, more than 60% of the world's population. From the point of view of peace building, Asian culture also shows some approaches that can be integrated as a contribution to identifying best practices in conflict resolution and addressing global challenges such as:

Avoiding Conflict: Actors are trying to avoid at an early stage to stimulate those aspects that have caused the conflict, striving to reduce the most sensitive issues and focus instead on positive relationships that, once established, allow them to face the causes of the tensions with a more opened and less prejudicial approach.

Consent building: generally they refuse "legalism" (executive agreements in a court - bureaucratic negotiations) and emphasize instead the socialization and consolidation of consensus through informality and personal relationships, the construction of mutual esteem, the value of word given

EXPECTED RESULT

A collaboration of all those involved to create an elevated culture composed of the following:

- **Young people becoming more confident in the future, open to dialogue, oriented to build the unity of the humankind.**
- A more aware public opinion of the positive potential of young people and a more influenced public opinion by the commitment to a more united world.
- **A more informed public opinion on the positive role of the religions for peace.**
- Spreading of lifestyles inspired by sobriety, dialogue and environment respect.
- **An increased commitment of youth in civil society.**
- An increased access of individuals/ groups to the United World Project's platform www.unitedworldproject.org.
- **Increased participation of young people in the Milonga international volunteering program www.milongaproject.org, which offers the opportunity to carry out service periods across the continents in contact with local communities.**
- Increased number of young people performing internships at organizations /companies geared towards the values of fraternity in the world of education, economics, communication and politics.
- **Increased thesis production, research work and academic contributions on sustainable development and peace education.**
- Through the network of relationships and the exchange of good practices, the ability of young people to find reliable partners and submit project proposals on the issues mentioned has increased.
- **Improving the quality of future projects and the sustainability of those already launched that is offered as a tool for gathering good practices oriented towards the value of fraternity worldwide.**
- Greater knowledge of the Philippines and the contribution of Asian culture to the peace and unity of the human family.
- **A Contribution to the Synod of the Catholic Church on Youth.**
- Strengthening the image and identity of the Y4UW and further growth of their projects.
- **Relaunching of the Focolare Movement's projects in Asia and greater expertise in the preparation and management of major events.**

_DISSEMINATION

As for the visibility of the event and its results, the planned strategy envisages using the following channels:

<http://y4uw.org/genfest>



Official



Official



Official



Official



Official

_POST-EVENT

Young participants will then have a video summary of the event and various multimedia contents useful for presenting the event in the classrooms, institutes, meetings of associations and local communities, parishes so as to disseminate the results and offer opportunities of civil and social commitment to their peers.

The **United World Project platform** will then be updated with contributions from experiences and projects carried out by young people across the continents, enabling:

- Maintain the started relationships and offering a meeting space.
- Provide visibility to individual local initiatives that would otherwise have more difficulties in obtaining media coverage.
- To show the interdependence between the different initiatives in the fields of politics, education, economy and the environment.

Through the international NGO New Humanity, promoter of the event, young people will have the opportunity to:

- Present the experiences and projects exposed during the event at international contexts such as forums and side events dedicated to global citizenship, peace education and sustainable development (Geneva, New York, Paris).
- Provide contributions to the materials of the Working Group on the Right to International Solidarity and the Right to Peace at the United Nations (Geneva Office).
- Perform internships at their international headquarters for young graduates in political science and international relations, thus contributing to a positive lobbying work at the International Institutions.