



TOGETHER IN PEACE

YOUTH DECLARATION

Brussels, 15 March 2015

We, men and women of various religious and philosophical traditions, walked the streets of Brussels this afternoon. We stopped at places exemplifying the pluralism of our society. We listened respectfully to the top representatives of Islam, Christianity, secular humanism and Judaism of our country.

This is the first initiative on such a scale in Belgium. This is an important symbol. Chaos and violence at the borders of Europe have repercussions on our society. The strategy of terror aims at fuelling fear and pitting one group against another.

Today we want to say clearly, here, at the heart of Europe: we do not want to surrender to this strategy of terror.

With conviction, we say YES to living together in peace, YES to freedom of expression, conscience and religion. We say YES to respect for every human being, regardless of his or her philosophical or religious convictions. Only freedom and mutual respect make for a free and democratic society. We want to work on it.

As youth from a new generation, the generation of globalisation, we want to work for peaceful coexistence in Europe, where there is no place for any form of racism or exclusion whatsoever.

We say to the youth of our generation: do not be pessimistic! Do not believe in the path of violence! Violence can be stopped. You discredit your cause by using violence.

Today we want to take seriously our responsibility to build peace. The 21st century needs a new form of humanism: a humanism built by believers and humanists. This is made possible by respectful encounter and dialogue.

Today we have taken an important step towards this new future. A future where we live together in peace. In freedom and respect.

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