



embracing
the world.



A  UDH

Generation of Peace

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*Y*OUNG PEOPLE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF LIFE. THEY NEED COURAGE AND WISDOM TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE. WITH THAT UNDERSTANDING THEY BECOME THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. IF WE CARE FOR THEM RESPONSIBLY, MOULDING THEIR WHOLE CHARACTER WITH LOVE, THEN THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD WILL BE SAFE.

- AMMA

OUR FOUNDER

Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi—spiritual leader, humanitarian and visionary—has served the world-community for decades. Known throughout the world simply as Amma, which means mother in her birth language, she imparts wisdom, strength and inspiration to the people who come to see her.

Through her extraordinary acts of love, inner strength and self-sacrifice, Amma has endeared herself to millions and inspired thousands to follow in her path of selfless service.

As a little girl, Amma witnessed firsthand the stark inequality in the world and wondered about the meaning of suffering. Her search culminated in a decision to dedicate her life to giving love to as many people as she could.



TAP TO GET THE eBook ABOUT AMMA'S GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN WORK. OR FIND IT LATER AT:

bit.ly/ETW-eBook

Truly a citizen of the world, Amma holds free public programs throughout India, Europe, the United States and Australia, as well as Japan, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Canada, Africa and South America. In her talks, she offers words of wisdom and guidance on both personal fulfillment as well as the most pressing matters of our time.

From climate change to terrorism, cross-cultural tensions to gender equity, poverty to online sexual exploitation, Amma's observations invite each of us to get involved in the process of rebuilding a concerned and caring society.

SOME OF AMMA'S AWARDS AND CONFERENCES

- 2019 Signs Letter of Intent for partnership between the University of Arizona and Amrita University in multidisciplinary education and research
- 2019 Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Mysore for contributions to spiritual education and social work
- 2018 Addresses Abu Dhabi Interfaith Summit to Protect Children Online
- 2017 Receives the Soldiers of Peace International Commemorative Gold Medal
- 2015 Addresses United Nations Academic Impact Conference in New York
- 2014 Signs a declaration against human trafficking and slavery at the Vatican
- 2012 Addresses United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in Shanghai
- 2010 Receives Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from University at Buffalo, New York
- 2009 Inaugurates Vivekananda International Foundation in Delhi
- 2008 Is keynote speaker at Global Peace Initiative of Women in Jaipur, Rajasthan

SOME OF AMMA'S AWARDS AND CONFERENCES

- 2007 Is awarded Prix Cinéma Vérité in Paris for her humanitarian activities and work for peace
- 2006 Receives the James Parks Morton Interfaith Award in New York
- 2005 Receives the Mahavir Mahatma Award
Receives Centenary Legendary Award of the Rotary Club International
- 2004 Delivers a keynote address at the Parliament of the World's Religions
- 2002 Receives the Gandhi-King Award for Nonviolence at the UN in Geneva
Is the keynote speaker at the Global Peace Initiative of Women Religious & Spiritual Leaders at the UN, Geneva
- 2000 Is a keynote speaker at the Millennium World Peace Summit, UN General Assembly
- 1995 Addresses the Interfaith Celebrations at the 50th anniversary of the UN
- 1993 Addresses the Parliament of the World's Religions' 100th Anniversary, where she is named President of the Hindu Faith



AYUDH'S VISION FOR OUR WORLD

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IF OUR YOUTH ARISE AND ACT,
THEY HAVE THE STRENGTH AND
DYNAMISM TO GENERATE A HUGE
TRANSFORMATION IN SOCIETY.

- Amma

*F*ounded in India in 1985, AYUDH empowers young people to integrate universal values into their daily lives. Starting with themselves, the goal is to establish a future of hope, peace and social engagement. Today, our international youth movement is active in more than 40 countries across Asia, Europe, North America, South America, Australia and Africa.

It is based on Amma's teaching that we are not isolated islands, but are linked to each other like the rings of a chain; that our lives are not meant to be lived only for ourselves. Amma says that instead, we need to set aside some time to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.

AYUDH projects help young people to express creative potential, gain self-confidence, and implement ideas for how to make the world a better place. The focus is on four areas: social service, sustainable initiatives, personal development and intercultural exchange.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are AYUDH's blueprint for action. Ultimately, the goal is to reach a more sustainable and equitable society that will bring a future of peace and unity for our fragile planet.



A YUDH IS CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN MORE THAN 40 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING:

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Belgium
Botswana
Brazil
Canada
Colombia
Costa Rica
Denmark
Dubai
Finland
France

Germany
Hong Kong
Hungary
India
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lebanon
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Mauritius

Mexico
Netherlands
Oman
Peru
Singapore
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
UK
USA
Venezuela

FIND OUT MORE AT EMBRACINGTHEWORLD.ORG/AYUDH



The Sustainable Development Goals are AYUDH's blueprint for action.



AYUDH Mumbai coordinates medical camps in one of the city's slums.



AYUDH Pune plants saplings along a riverside for environmental action.



Visiting national heritage sites.



Bringing literacy to tribal villages.



AYUDH members both study and teach meditation to support wellbeing.



AYUDH Brazil feeds homeless people in the streets of São Paulo.



Cleaning up public trash in Kenya.



Voice to the Americas' First Nations.



Hari Kumar speaks for women's rights at a UN Women conference.

AYUDH HAS FOUR FOCUS AREAS

+ TAP AN IMAGE TO GO TO THAT SECTION



SOCIAL SERVICE



SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE



SOCIAL SERVICE

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AYUDH IS EMPOWERING AND MOBILIZING YOUTH TO FOSTER A MORE INCLUSIVE AND INTERCONNECTED SOCIETY THROUGH COMMUNITY OUTREACH, VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVES.

SOME SOCIAL SERVICE PROJECTS

+ *TAP A PROJECT TO FIND OUT MORE*

AMRITA JANANI JAGRAN

Empowering women in India's urban slums and rural areas via support for physical, mental and emotional challenges

2018 KERALA FLOODS

Through a 24-hour emergency helpline, aided rescue of people trapped in flood waters; also worked in relief shelters

AYUDH JAPAN BUILDS WATER FILTERS IN INDIA

Japanese university students visit villages to help build safe water systems for the people there

AYUDH INTERNSHIPS IN RURAL INDIA

Students from India and abroad live in the country's villages and develop solutions for sustainable living

WHITE C(R)ANE

An awareness and fundraising campaign which aims to provide visual aids to blind children in Kenya



Medical support for a woman living in a Mumbai slum.

AMRITA JANANI JAGARAN

A YUDH Mumbai is focusing on innovative ways to empower women in urban slums and rural areas by helping them overcome their physical, mental and emotional challenges.

The vision is “Healthy Women, Healthy World” and includes improving health and hygiene awareness. The first phase begins in a Mumbai slum where volunteers are collecting information from the families who live there to learn from them what their needs are.

The first priority of the project is health treatment. A team that includes an attending physician visits weekly to provide professional counseling and medical care. AYUDH volunteers distribute Health Awareness/ Medical Kits and hold health awareness sessions that emphasise the issues women face for menses, child-bearing and menopause.

In addition, AYUDH is organizing clean-up drives and installing garbage bins in the slum. They are also holding value-oriented sessions for self-empowerment so that women and the rest of the community can reinstall faith in their own worth as human beings.



More than 400 students and faculty answered distress calls.

VOLUNTEER HELPLINE SAVES LIVES IN THE 2018 KERALA FLOODS

In August 2018, floods hit the state of Kerala. More than 500 people were killed and one million displaced. When the disaster hit, students and faculty at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham decided to create a 24-hour helpline to reach people in distress and save lives. The team consisted of more than 400 volunteers who worked in shifts.

Within five days, they fielded more than 25,000 calls and connected over 100,000 flood victims with appropriate rescue and relief services, including Navy and Air Force.

For example, the helpline received a call from a woman whose elderly mother was clinging to her back while she held a baby in her arms above the rising waters. The call center reached out to a nearby fishing boat and within 10 minutes, the woman, her mother and her child were all saved.

AYUDH members also rushed to serve in the Mata Amritanandamayi Math's more than 30 relief camps across the state. After the floods, they assisted in community cleanups.



Taking part in construction of safe water systems in Kerala villages.

AYUDH JAPAN AT WORK IN INDIA

“If we can help make clean drinking water for people, we can reduce their sicknesses. They will be able to live healthy lives,” says Reo Hirata, a Science and Technology student from Ritsumeikan University, Japan. “I could undertake the challenge with a sense of mission.”

Hirata was part of a team of seventy-one students from Japanese universities who visited Kerala to help build water filtration systems. “Friendship between India and Japan lasts forever!” was their unifying call. The Japanese students’ work joins that of 140 AYUDH members from Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.

Over the course of ten days, the Japanese students built water-filtration systems that were conceptualised and designed by Amrita students and staff according to the needs of local people. The completed systems are maintained by the villagers under the leadership of local administrators, which also gives them a sense of empowerment.

The construction is part of the Jivamritam Project at Amrita. The goal is to bring clean drinking water to more 10 million villagers across India.



Students from Canada help women in rural Bihar transplant rice.

INTERNSHIPS IN RURAL INDIA

“ Seeing the way these villagers live has prompted me to start thinking with a sense of compassion,” explained Eashwaramoorthy, a student with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham’s Mechanical Engineering Department in Amritapuri.

Eashwaramoorthy was one of more than a 100 engineering and biotechnology students who travelled to 13 villages across rural India in 2018. The project was in its fourth year and is a credit-based experiential learning elective course at Amrita.

The programme applies classroom theory in real-world settings for the development of rural communities in India, where most of the country’s poor live. Both international and Indian students join the internships.

The students observe the hardships that poor villagers face in their every day lives. This includes issues such as lack of safe water supply, sending their children to work in the fields instead of to school, and scarcity of household income. As a result, the students become further inspired to find solutions to such problems via their fields of study.



Blind children in Kenya receive their first canes.

WHITE C(R)ANE

*I*n Kenya, nearly seventy blind children from Thika Primary School of the visually impaired received white canes as part of the first phase of AYUDH's White C(r)ane Project.

Thika School caters to students with varying degrees of vision loss, from photosensitivity to complete blindness. Not a single child in the school had owned a cane before, which can make life significantly easier for a visually impaired person.

Initiated by Matthias, an AYUDH member who is also blind, youth across Europe spent eight months raising funds to sponsor the project. At the same time, volunteers on the ground in Kenya worked together with the African Braille Institute to find the most suitable and best quality canes for the children.

A ceremony was held at the school to distribute the canes, and so in advance, the children spent days composing a song to express their gratitude.

Meanwhile, AYUDH Europe has already raised the funds to support another 300 children in Kenya with canes and will continue to reach out to visually impaired children across the country.



SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

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A YUDH IS ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL BY CREATING COMMUNITIES OF YOUTH THAT STAY ENGAGED AS VOLUNTEERS. WE ALSO PROMOTE CLEAN, SUSTAINABLE AND ECOLOGICALLY SOUND PRACTICES TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND BUILD RESILIENT ECONOMIES.

SOME SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES

+ *TAP A PROJECT TO FIND OUT MORE*

SWACHH BHARAT (CLEAN INDIA)

Taking part in a Govt. of India program to clean up garbage, especially plastic pollution, in public spaces across India

MENSTRUAL EDUCATION & REUSABLE PADS

Training women in rural India to produce reusable cloth pads along with menstrual health education

PLANTING SAPLINGS TO CELEBRATE SPRING

The distribution of thousands of saplings for youth to plant in their communities across Kerala

TREES FOR PEACE

A planting campaign in Europe that combines concrete climate action with education about sustainable living

THE PLASTIC CHALLENGE

Evaluating how much disposable plastic people use in daily life and providing info on how to reduce



Cleaning up trash from the roads in Kerala, India.

SWACHH BHARAT (CLEAN INDIA)

AYUDH groups across India have proudly joined the Govt. of India's movement to inspire its citizens to clean public spaces of trash, especially plastic waste. The volunteer work is part of a campaign to mobilize citizens to bring their country back to a place of environmental harmony.

For many years before Swachh Bharat began, AYUDH India was conducting cleanup drives in public spaces and on national highways. Along with collecting trash, the goal is to raise social awareness about humanity's debt to our beautiful Earth and Mother Nature.

Across India, there were 1,700 cleanup drives in 2018. In addition to AYUDH's efforts, the Mata Amritanandamayi Math donated \$15 million US to the national government's work. To bring an end to open defecation, the Math has also built 15,000 toilets in the state of Kerala, as well as toilets in villages across the country. AYUDH members have participated in every step.

In 2018, the Prime Minister of India and the UN Secretary-General presented Amma with an award for the efforts.



Production of reusable cloth pads in a village in Telangana, India.

MENSTRUAL EDUCATION & REUSABLE PADS

Young women with AYUDH are taking part in a project in India that has two crucial benefits for our world. The first aspect is to visit rural areas and share information about menstruation and women's health.

In the villages, the AYUDH members join the Mata Amritanandamayi Math's local health workers to organize workshops with women, especially teenagers, and speak openly about menstrual care. In many Indian villages, menstruation is a taboo topic. There are even some places where women must stay in a secluded space during their periods.

The second aspect is to train village women in the production and marketing of reusable cloth and banana fiber pads as an alternative source of income for their families. The pads are named Saukhyam, which means happiness and well-being.

The use of reusable pads from natural materials reduces a large footprint of plastic pollution, especially in the oceans. The Saukhyam project is making the pads available to women worldwide.



In April 2019, Amma distributed thousands of saplings to AYUDH in Kerala.

PLANTING SAPPLINGS TO CELEBRATE SPRING

Vishu is a traditional festival in Kerala which celebrates the coming of spring. Five years ago, the Mata Amritanandamayi Math and AYUDH added a new element—the distribution of saplings for youth to plant in their communities across the state.

In 2019 after distributing thousands of saplings, Amma lamented the lack of harmony between humankind and nature and said that it is only through united efforts that harmony can be restored.

“Every natural disaster is a warning to humanity to correct our mistakes if we want to avoid bigger calamities,” she explained. “Let our children plant and nurture these saplings. We must protect plants, trees and every other living being, understanding them to be a part of us.”

During the last five years, AYUDH volunteers have distributed more than 350,000 saplings in Kerala. Since 2000, the Mata Amritanandamayi Math and AYUDH have planted more than one million trees around the world as part of the United Nation’s Billion Tree Campaign.



Connecting with the concrete actions required in tree planting.

TREES FOR PEACE

Their goal: to plant 1,000 trees within three years. AYUDH Europe has launched Trees for Peace—a planting campaign that combines concrete climate action with education for sustainable living.

In the last 14 years, AYUDH Europe has organized many spontaneous tree-planting activities, but they were never part of a bigger picture. Now they are coordinating with local administrations and private landowners in order to track the bigger picture.

In this process, the AYUDH team first outlines what roles the trees will play in the community. Then it is time for practical details: how many trees to plant, the species of the seedlings, and collection of all necessary tools and materials.

The best thing is that it's an act that lasts a lifetime. It doesn't finish with digging the holes or watering the saplings, but continues as the trees grow and mature enough to provide shade, shelter and fruit.

Tree-planting is also a very effective action for forming a community of young and concerned citizens. Through their own hands, they literally create the environmental change they want to see.



An AYUDH group in the US accomplishes a massive public trash cleanup.

TAKING ON THE PLASTIC CHALLENGE

The Plastic Challenge is a means to share information on the simple but effective ways to reduce the detrimental footprints of plastic pollution around the globe. It is in coordination with GreenFriends, an organization with the Mata Amritanandamayi Math that focuses on the preservation and protection of nature.

In the first phase in North America, more than 320 people took part to concretely measure how much disposable plastic they used in their daily lives over the course of a month. They then made a pledge to reduce.

“It keeps on coming to my mind wherever I go for shopping,” shared a participant. “It makes me feel guilty to carry groceries in plastic bags now—which is a good sign because it’s a harbinger to start using cloth reusable shopping bags.”

The participants found they were able to reduce their plastic footprint by 6,000 items. It came to a cutback of 45% used in their households. Now people in India, Japan and Europe have joined the Plastic Challenge to reduce the amount they use—and throw away.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

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AYUDH IS TRANSFORMING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS BY PROVIDING FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES THAT EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE TO IDENTIFY THEIR STRENGTHS, EXPRESS THEIR CREATIVITY AND RECOGNIZE THEIR POTENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

SOME PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

+ *TAP A PROJECT TO FIND OUT MORE*

LEADERSHIP TRAINING SUMMITS

From India to Europe to America, youth summits emphasize service, empowerment and love in our global community

SOCIAL IMPACT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

AYUDH Europe's year-long program to foster compassionate leadership, social responsibility and intercultural learning

AMRITA YOGA

Practising yoga in their own lives and teaching it in villages across rural India

INTEGRATED AMRITA MEDITATION TECHNIQUE

Using meditation to bring calm to daily life and teaching it to others, including police services and navy across India



From across India, 1200 youth took part in a leadership summit.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING SUMMITS

In December 2018, more than 1,200 youth from across India gathered at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Amritapuri to shape their goals for the future of our world. Having travelled from 23 different states, they were taking part in AYUDH India's second Leadership Training Summit.

“As Swami Vivekananda said, a hundred youth can change the whole nation,” expressed one young woman who attended the summit. “A leader is not only someone who transforms himself, but the world around him.”

AYUDH expects its volunteers to be fearless and strong leaders who are also loving and compassionate—a formula achieved by incorporating universal values into decision-making and becoming role models for society overall. This kind of community building is what also empowers others.

Annual AYUDH leadership summits also take place in Europe and North America. Hundreds of youth explore such themes as achieving UN sustainable development goals and being a generation of peace.



Learning to lead with a balance of fearlessness, strength and compassion.

SOCIAL IMPACT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Thirty youth activists from six different countries have decided to become changemakers for our planet's future. They have completed AYUDH Europe's first year-long training course on Social Impact Leadership.

The participants were from the ages of 18 to 30 and came from Denmark, Greece, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Germany. They finished the course in October 2018.

The challenges in today's world are many—ranging from climate change and gender discrimination to lack in quality education and cultural stigmatization. Many young people are concerned by these developments and wish to take concrete action by leading projects that affect real change on the ground.

The Social Impact Leadership program fosters project management skills, deepens understanding of social issues, and develops a mindfulness practice that inspires personal growth as compassionate leaders.

Supported by the European Union, the focus was on six social themes: Climate Action, Education, Gender Equality, Human Rights, Intercultural and Inter-religious Understanding, and Peace and Security.



Teaching yoga in a village in rural India to strengthen the people there.

AMRITA YOGA

Most people know yoga benefits the body physically, but it also calms the mind and balances the emotions. Practitioners can become alert and aware in the present moment—ready for whatever comes their way. Amrita Yoga has created courses to address the needs of different age groups, including youth specifically.

Classes and workshops for youth are held in schools, universities and community centers in India and around the world. The teachings offer a unique approach by using skillful awareness. Practitioners find positive solutions to life's challenges more easily.

Today's world is complex and fast-moving. Amrita Yoga helps people find their paths from a holistic perspective. Students learn to stay true to their values and use their unique abilities to help others. They become someone who gives to the world instead of just taking.

Beyond studies, AYUDH members also teach the practice of yoga to others in need, especially in rural India. A simple 20-30 minute sequence is taught to children and adults in 28 states across the country.



Police trainees in Delhi study the IAM Technique to enable peace of mind.

INTEGRATED AMRITA MEDITATION TECHNIQUE

IAM Technique is a simple meditation sequence that the Mata Amritanandamayi Math began teaching in 2003. It combines traditional, time-tested practices with the current mental conditions and time-constraints of today's busy lives.

IAM is taught free-of-charge around the world, and of course, many AYUDH members study it. But they also teach it to a vast array of people, including school children, university students and corporate managers, as well as paramilitary, police officers and navy units.

"IAM is a combination of relaxing yoga stretches, breathing and concentration exercises and takes only 20 minutes a day," explains AYUDH instructor Narinder Singh. "It is a suitable practice for people of all faiths and not bound to any religious or spiritual-belief system."

Major Singh is with the Punjab Police in Ludhiana. He shared, "The class was very motivating and relaxing. I was very impressed listening to the lecture and hope to attend further such sessions till I perfect this technique to have mental peace and inner calm."



INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE

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AYUDH CONNECTS YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SENIOR POLICY MAKERS AND INVOLVES THEM IN WRITING POLICY PAPERS TO ADVANCE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY. AYUDH STRENGTHENS INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND MULTICULTURALISM AND DEVELOPS INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ACTIVE, DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP.

SOME INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE PROJECTS

+ *TAP A PROJECT TO FIND OUT MORE*

CONFERENCE ON KINDESS: UNESCO MGIEP

Travelled to New Delhi for UNESCO's first World Youth Conference on Kindness

TALKING ACROSS GENERATIONS ABOUT EDUCATION

An intergenerational dialogue organised by AYUDH with the support of UNESCO MGIEP and the EU

FIRST FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS: UN

Co-organized the youth segment of the UN's first Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law

FIRST YOUTH FORUM: UN WOMEN

Co-organized the first Youth Forum held by the United Nations' Commission for the Status of Women

ONE HUMANITY SYMPOSIUM

Examining a shift from a narrow focus on personal and cultural identities to a fundamental human identity



Sarah Keil (Germany) addresses the first World Youth Conference on Kindness.

CONFERENCE ON KINDESS: UNESCO MGIEP

In 2019, three members with AYUDH Europe travelled to New Delhi for UNESCO MGIEP's first World Youth Conference on Kindness. MGIEP is UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development.

The goal of the gathering was to impart critical competencies such as empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical inquiry to enable young people to transform themselves and build long-lasting peace in their communities.

AYUDH was represented by members Andrea Goikolea (Spain), Aiknaath Jain (UK), and Sarah Keil (Germany). During the first three days, they participated in Compassionate Integrity Training and did various workshops around the topic of kindness and preventing violent extremism.

The AYUDH team also presented its **Statement on Cultural Diversity** and contributed to the official UN Declaration on Kindness. The AYUDH document is being shared widely at multiple levels via local, national and international policy and decision-makers.



Empowering youth to reach high level policy decision-makers.

TALKING ACROSS GENERATIONS: EDUCATION

The UNESCO MGIEP Talking Across Generations on Education (TAGe) event series is an effective and unique intergenerational forum which mainstreams the collective voice of youth for inclusion in policy decision-making at the highest levels.

AYUDH Europe is proud to have been selected as the first civil society organization to host an independently organized session (iTAGE). The European Union also supported the initiative.

In July 2017, the event itself was the culmination of what had been a week of intense reflection for the 250 youth activists who had come from across Europe to participate. The iTAGE sessions were part of AYUDH'S 13th European Youth Summit. They addressed issues related to education, mindfulness, citizenship, sustainability and peace.

Finally, nine youth took the stage to present findings to three senior decision-makers: Judith Klein, Rorg Org. Norway; Dr. Daniela Worek, ENTEP (European Network on Teacher Education Policies); and Veronica Fedorchenko, UNESCO, SHS Division.



First UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.

FIRST FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS: UN

In November 2016, it was a historic moment: the United Nations' first Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. The UN's Human Rights Council invited spokespeople from all different sectors of civil society, especially those working with and acting in representation of young people.

AYUDH Europe co-organized the youth segment of the event, and members from England, Ireland, Germany and Spain joined young leaders and state delegates from all over the world at the gathering in Geneva, Switzerland.

"Strengthening youth participation in public affairs should be a core objective for any society aspiring to inclusiveness, democracy and respectful human rights," stated the President of the Council, Choi Kyonglim.

The forum highlighted the urgency for youth engagement in the public sphere and invited all participants to identify challenges and opportunities in their respective countries. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of groups like AYUDH to create cause-oriented engagement and spaces for real youth representation, as well as to establish the necessary collaborations with public stakeholders.



AYUDH representatives attended UN Women's first Youth Forum.

FIRST YOUTH FORUM: UN WOMEN

*I*n 2016, AYUDH co-organized the first-ever Youth Forum in conjunction with the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60). The event took place at the UN headquarters in New York, and more than 400 young people from over 50 countries gathered to define a vision for gendered implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The most significant outcome was a Youth Declaration that outlined gender-just and youth-centric policy recommendations. The declaration was presented to H.E. Amb. Patriota of Brazil, Chair of CSW60, who pledged to share and incorporate it into the official Agreed Conclusions, a text negotiated by UN Member States.

The forum helped to foster strategic partnerships between AYUDH and other NGOs that align with our values. Following the Forum, AYUDH's European Director was also appointed to serve on the UN's Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development Task Force. The focus of the appointment included engaging young men to achieve gender equality.



Searching for a paradigm shift from narrow views to global perspectives.

ONE HUMANITY SYMPOSIUM

In July 2016, AYUDH Europe organized a high-level symposium called “One Humanity” that brought leading voices in the fields of politics, diplomacy, activism, spirituality and education together with 300 young people.

The gathering aimed to encourage a paradigm shift from a narrow focus on personal, political and cultural identities to a more fundamental human identity, and the shared need to be respected, understood and loved for who we are.

The event paid respect to the fifth anniversary of the 2011 Utøya and Oslo massacres, in which 77 people—mostly youth—lost their lives in tragic attacks in Norway.

Bjørn Ihler, a young activist who survived the Utøya massacre, expressed appreciation for Amma’s message of love. “I think we need to start here and build on what Amma does, build rituals of love to counteract the politics of hate and fear that currently drive the world,” he said.

The panel included Martine Reicherts, EU-Commissioner for Education and Culture and Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.



*I*F WE HAVE LOVE AND COMPASSION IN OUR HEARTS, WE WILL WHOLEHEARTEDLY SERVE THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM LACK OF FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER.

- Amma

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