Comments:

“I deem this project crucial for reconciliation in BiH”
(Wolfgang Petritsch, former High Representative in BiH)

“In the Balkans we have all been challenged to do our work better, to understand the nature and complexity of the region, and to use the right tools and strategies to reach our objective... to transform the Balkans and equip it to sustain liberal democracy and the rule of law, grounded in efficient and effective institutions...” (Jacques Paul Klein, former Head of the UN Mission to BiH)

“...I felt weak and incapable to change anything in my previous school... Don Quixote fighting the windmills. Only the windmills of the system of our country were not illusionary, but real giants. This was the opportunity to grasp something pure, disinfected from all the prejudices... we teach our students how important it is to accept the rule of an activist... the majority of our students come from societies oppressed in this or that way... the most important virtue of our college is by far its location. This is where the problems exist and this is where the students need to act.” (Ivana Knežićević, English teacher and Pastoral Coordinator)

“UWC changed everything, the way I saw the world, friendships and mostly, how I saw myself. Not only do you reinvent the meaning of idealism and friendship here, you reinvent yourself. You realize, with the help of all the others, your strengths and weaknesses. You learn how to make yourself a better person. That is the greatest gift UWC gave me.” (Detmer Kremer, UWC Mostar alumnus)

“My time at UWC Mostar was the most challenging yet rewarding time of my life and left an immense impact on me and my future path. I’m filled with gratitude for being able to have experienced such a personally enriching time at my life not only in such an extraordinary school as UWC but also in such a beautiful place as Mostar, in Bosnia and Herzegovina.” (Christina Hasenhuettl, UWC Mostar alumna)

“Because all of us have been to the Old Bridge numerous times, we have witnessed how it still stands even after five centuries, defying the green time that relentlessly runs through it. And what will become of the bridges that we’ve built? Bridges that know no nationality, religion, skin colour, eye colour, good or bad people, bridges that can’t be seen with an eye but are felt with the heart... there is no river that bridges cannot bridge and there are

The United World College in Mostar/Bosnia and Herzegovina

A School in the Peace Process
7. International interventions have been part of Bosnia's history for centuries. The Dayton Agreement brought the recent war to an end in 1995. Sadly and dangerously, the constitution accompanying the Agreement leaves in place ethnocentric citizenship and ethnicized, fragmented governing structures for which Dayton foresaw only a few exceptions (foreign policy, the currency), not education. Thus the country is unable to adapt its educational system to the needs of modern European society and European Union membership. Solutions are inconceivable without renewed international intervention and support.

8. The United World College of Mostar and the Foundation achieve really effective, proven interaction between their Bosnian, Croat and Serb students; cooperate widely with the citizens of Mostar to whose economy they are also making a significant contribution; and stand for modern educational reform on international lines through the work of the Centre for the Professional Development of Bosnian Teachers.

9. The EU Stabilization Pact of 1999 includes education and youth in peace building for BiH and its neighboring countries. The Pact makes references to the need for the "marginalization of the importance of ethnicity in everyday life" and the urgency of "respect for human rights." Education reform and educational system improvement are identified as parts of the Stabilization Pact. Education for democracy and citizenship, seen by the EU as significant elements for reconciliation in BiH and other Balkan states, is central to the UWC Mostar experience.

10. The Board of the Bosnian Foundation Education in Action underlines the importance of the linkages between the United World College in Mostar, the efforts for education reform and nation-building at the national level, and the objectives above all of the EU Stabilisation Pact. The Board hopes that awareness of UWC Mostar's contribution to these peace-building initiatives will lead to enhanced support of the UWC Mostar by the Bosnian authorities, the EU Commission, EU member states and other countries and international agencies.

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UWC Mostar

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The Student Body 2006-2015

798 students from 72 countries

International Students: 417

BiH students: 381

Afghanistan (8), Albania (11), Armenia (1), Austria (13), Bangladesh (1), Barbados (1), Belarus (5), Belgium (8), BiH (381), Brazil (3), Canada (2), Chile (1), China (4), Croatia (5), Czech Republic (11), Denmark (4), Egypt (4), Ethiopia (4), Finland (9), France (9), Germany (33), Greece (2), Hong Kong (5), India (3), Iraq (9), Israel (23), Italy (9), Jamaica (1), Jordan (1), Kosovo (10), Lebanon (5), Libya (1), Lithuania (1), Macedonia (7), Mexico (3), Mongolia (1), Montenegro (12), Myanmar (1), Namibia (1), Nepal (2), Netherlands (26), Niger (1), North Korea (1), Norway (9), Pakistan (9), Palestine (4), Poland (7), Portugal (1), Romania (2), Russia (8), Rwanda (2), Senegal (1), Serbia (8), Slovakia (9), Slovenia (3), South Africa (1), Spain (14), Sudan (2), Suriname (1), Swaziland (3), Sweden (2), Syria (2), Tajikistan (2), Turkey (15), Ukraine (1), United Arab Emirates (1), United Kingdom (15), United States (29), Yemen (2), Zimbabwe (1).