



"Building bridges between people and cultures through inspiring, quality education"

Dear Friends of UWC Mostar,

UWCs are extremely busy places with students and staff always faced with choices - shall I go for this talk about climate change challenges right now? or work on my extended essay that is due soon? Shall I join the jam session with students and staff displaying their wonderful musical talent or take time with my roommate who I haven't had the opportunity to spend time with yet? And the same goes for staff too. But in this hectic reality, there are amazing things that happen; an Israeli and a Palestinian student co-hosting a conversation, a student from Ethiopia who couldn't go home during the summer, being invited to spend a weekend with the family of a local friend, students from the local high school performing with UWC students in a joint musical band at the half marathon in the city and so on.

Thus, it's been a busy time at UWC Mostar since the beginning of the term with an intense and fun induction week - enthusiastic canoeing, academically focused placement tests & subject fair, a very high-energy opening-ceremony amongst other events. We have also been welcoming many guests, including our endowment donors and founders, Rose-Marie & Eijk van Otterloo, and Fleur Mejs & Adriaan van Otterloo who very sportingly took questions from inquisitive students and staff on a panel discussion about what giving back means, what makes people want to give back and how endowments work.

We also had Faith Abiodun, the Executive Director of UWC International with us this September as the keynote speaker for the first ever Peace Conference at the college and were able to share this magic that happens at UWC Mostar with him. His inspiring speech has our students proposing many ways in which they now want to share stories and develop an understanding of the perspectives and personal realities present in the community and in the city. It would not be an exaggeration to say that UWC Day and the International Day of Peace at the very beginning of this academic year have been most meaningful and set the right tone for the year.

This year is going to be about many discussions in the community that will ultimately culminate in the UWC Congress in February and March of 2024, where the UWC Mostar delegation that will include two students will share the Mostar story, specifically the relevance of this UWC in this city and the role that education could play in fostering peace. With students from all the three local nationalities, Ukraine, Russia, from Cypriot communities under the EU Scholarship Programme for Cypriot Youth and other active and post-conflict regions, UWC Mostar continues to try and contribute to building a bridge of mutual understanding amongst youth so that we can look forward to a more understanding and peaceful world. The work that we do here, needs resilience and strong belief as in the beautiful words of the Chinese origin American poet, *Ha Jin* in his poem, *A*

Center,

You must hold your quiet center,
where you do what only you can do.
If others call you a maniac or a fool,
just let them wag their tongues.
If some praise your perseverance,
don't feel too happy about it—
only solitude is a lasting friend.
You must hold your distant center.
Don't move even if earth and heaven quake.
If others think you are insignificant,
that's because you haven't held on long enough.
As long as you stay put year after year,
eventually you will find a world
beginning to revolve around you.

In Peace,
Sonia Rawat
Head of UWC Mostar



Welcoming our new generation

In the school year 2023/2024 UWC Mostar welcomed 108 new students from 55 countries of the world. With a lot of activities and a welcome programme dedicated to them, our new cohort is at home in Mostar!

[Read More](#)

[Gallery](#)



Peace Conference 2023 at UWC Mostar

Our first Peace Conference took place last month marking the International Day of Peace and celebrating UWC Day! We were truly honored by the visit and attendance of Mr Faith Abioudun, Executive Director of UWC International, who was welcomed by the staff and students of UWC Mostar. The conference programme also welcomed more than 300 participants, many interesting workshops and panels with the topic of :

"Education as a way to Build Peace" and "Grassroot Peace Building: Experiences from Mostar".

[Read more](#)



UWC Day Gallery 2023

[Take a look at some of the most beautiful national costumes from all over the world!](#)



Visit by UWC Mostar and Endowment friends

Last month, we had the great pleasure and honor of welcoming our great friends and UWC Mostar supporters Rose-Marie van Otterloo, Eijk van Otterloo, Fleur Meijs and Adriaan van Otterloo. Our guests were welcomed by UWC Mostar staff and students and were a part of different UWC Mostar activities. [Read more](#)

Cooperations and activities



Cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science FBiH

Minister of Education and Science of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jasna Duraković, met with the Head of UWC Mostar, Sonia Rawat, and presented projects on which these two institutions will collaborate in the coming period.

The meeting discussed specific cooperation projects between the Ministry and UWC Mostar, including student exchange, research projects and teacher training programs. [More](#)





University Mini Fair at UWC Mostar

UWC Mostar's University Counseling Department is busy with some great activities in the very beginning of the school year and have organized a great number of university visits and the annual Mini University Fair at UWC Mostar.

Mini University Fair welcomed 12 Shelby Davies University representatives and if you would like to find out which ones: [read more](#)



Cooperations of the month

- **New cooperation with the University of Mostar** Head of International Relations Inja Stojkić and Head of PR Office Maja Marić welcomed UWC Mostar's Director of Advancement and Outreach Haris Idriz and PR and Communications Coordinator Adla Velagić and exchanged some great ideas and proposals and discussed future cooperation and annual joint projects of the two institutions.

- **Eco activity in cooperation with Gimnazija Mostar** UWC Mostar students and members of the [Gimnazija Mostar](#) Eco Section contributed to the activity of cleaning the old core of the City of Mostar contributing to raising awareness of the importance of cleanliness of city surfaces, and especially the cultural heritage of the city.

Events and Initiatives



[UWC Global Sustainability Website](#)

To mark one of the biggest days in the UWC calendar, our global network is taking significant strides to shape a sustainable future and is excited to launch the brand-new Sustainability Website!

Make sure to visit:

[UWC Sustainability](#)



European Day of Languages

Traditionally, in cooperation with our partners Gimnazija Mostar, we marked the European Day of

Languages with a literature and poetry event.

[Read More](#)



UWC Mostar: September in the Media

[Podcast: Russell Speirs and Friends – feat. Sonia Rawat, Head of UWC Mostar!](#)

[Coming up: UWC Mostar story on the National Broadcasting Network BHRT](#)



[Beauties of BiH - Outdoor activities Gallery](#)

Alumni



SAVE THE DATE!

UWC MOSTAR REUNION 28TH - 30TH JUNE 2024

MORE INFORMATION AND SIGN-UP FORM
WILL FOLLOW SOON!



[Read the latest UWC International Newsletter here!](#)



VACANCIES AT UWC MOSTAR

For information and details, please go to:

www.uwcmostar.ba

UWC Mostar & Booking.com

Use the [UWC Mostar micropage](#) on Booking.com when reserving accommodation for your trip, Booking.com will automatically donate a small percentage of the amount to our school, more specifically, to the travel fund for scholarships students coming to study at UWC Mostar.

It's a really easy way to make a meaningful contribution, so please encourage parents, family and friends to use it!



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