



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

Note from the Head

Dear Friends of UWC Mostar,

This edition of the newsletter offers a glimpse into the International Days of Peace at Mostar, which began with the annual UWC Mostar Peace Conference and concluded on the fourth day with the highly anticipated event, *Around the World in 80 Minutes*. This celebration is something the entire city of Mostar eagerly looks forward to each year.

I felt immense pride attending the UWC Mostar Peace Conference, which featured an excellent panel discussion and showcased the meaningful contributions of our community, particularly our students. If any of you wish to experience the mission of UWC Mostar firsthand, I strongly recommend attending the Peace Conference, *Around the World in 80 Minutes*, or participating in any service CAS or Project Week experience. I promise it will be an experience you'll treasure—one that will reveal how, amidst the violence and noise of today's world, our students from across the globe represent much-needed hope.

This same spirit accompanied our UWC Mostar contingent to the International Youth Forum in Cyprus, organized by the EU and UWC. Our delegation of three students and two staff members was joined by Dr. Pilvi Torsti, one of the original three founders of UWC Mostar. During the discussions, presentations, and conversations in the physically divided capital of Nicosia, we represented the unique UWC model that carries out its mission in the divided city of Mostar—a city with a different type of division, not physical, but political and educational, one that often exists in the minds of its people.

It was deeply moving to witness our student from Mostar reflect while standing by the dividing walls of Nicosia:

"We do suffer, especially through education, and we speak the same language. Why do you have to separate us, if our parents lived together and the people of Cyprus lived together? That's why we are here, to stand up and cross these borders, to tell people that we are human, that we care, that

we love. We are the ones who can bring change in different aspects. We need to bring people together through education, discussion, and communication. We have to take the initiative to stand up tall and say, 'Yes, we are the change.'"

No wonder the youth are our beacon of hope. We trust that the UWC Mostar experience will help them not only break free from the imposed divisions but also carry the timeless message of Albert Einstein to their communities and to the world: *"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."*

In Peace,
Sonia Rawat
Head of UWC Mostar

Join us in celebrating peace and unity: Peace Conference, Peace Days and UWC Day



We are thrilled to highlight two extraordinary events that brought our community together: the Peace Conference and UWC Day. Both events celebrated the values of peace, collaboration, understanding, togetherness and unity, each in its own way.

The Peace Conference gathered leaders, activists, citizens and students to discuss how we can work together to promote global harmony, resolve conflicts, and foster dialogue. Meanwhile, UWC Day was a vibrant celebration of our diverse heritages, reminding us that our differences are what make us stronger and that together we change.

Together, these events underscore an essential truth: peace and cultural understanding are deeply intertwined. As we look back on these impactful days, we are reminded of the power of community,

communication, and mutual respect.

Peace Conference Highlights: A Gathering for peace and global harmony

The Peace Conference brought together a diverse group of experts, activists, and peace advocates to explore meaningful paths toward conflict resolution and global peacebuilding. The event focused on fostering dialogue, deepening understanding, and creating actionable plans for a more peaceful world.

The conference opened with an inspiring keynote address from Orhan Oha Maslo, whose powerful and inspiring words set the tone for the day.

Peace Conference Highlights: Panels and workshops

Throughout the day, participants engaged in panels and workshops that tackled pressing issues such as Building Peace: Global Challenges Today, Building Peace: Perspectives on Today's Most Complex Global Challenges and Conflict and Divided Communities. Experts and students shared insights on how we can resolve conflicts through diplomacy, promote social justice, and ensure that marginalized voices are heard in peace processes. The emphasis on collaboration across borders and sectors left attendees feeling hopeful and motivated to continue their efforts toward peace.

UWC Day Highlights: Together we Change - Celebrating Diversity and Unity

On September 21st, the community gathered for a lively celebration of UWC Day. This colorful event brought together people of all backgrounds to share in the richness of various cultures through performances, art and cuisine with the local community. From the vibrant sights and sounds to the shared experiences, UWC Day was a powerful reminder of the beauty that comes from embracing our differences and focusing on togetherness.

Cultural Performances: A Feast for the Senses

Throughout the day, the Spanish square in Mostar came alive with performances from a wide range of cultural traditions. Highlights included traditional dances, captivating musical performances and national costumes that brought to life folklore from all over the world. Each performance offered a glimpse into the heart of a different culture, fostering appreciation and understanding.

Fostering Connection: Unity in Diversity, Together We Change

UWC Day not only celebrated the uniqueness of each culture but also emphasized that together we change and focused on our shared values, respect, and understanding that unite us all.

Events like these are vital in building bridges between communities, reminding us that while we may come from different backgrounds, we are all part of one global family. We look forward to continuing this celebration of diversity at future events, and hope to see even more participants next year!

As we reflect on both the Peace Conference and Culture Day, it's clear that promoting peace and celebrating diversity are deeply interconnected.

The conversations sparked and connections made during these events inspire us to continue working toward a world that values harmony, respect, and cultural understanding.



UWC Mostar recipient of the Peace Award "Goran Bubalo"

We are proud and happy to announce that UWC Mostar has won the Peace award "Goran Bubalo" for the year 2024 in the category of educational institutions in BiH!

The award is a recognition for the work on multi-ethnic understanding among young people and for the promotion of peace education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the region and the world. [Read more](#)

Days of Peace



From September 18 to 21, participants from different parts of the world gathered in Mostar to promote peace, understanding and unity during the "Days of Peace".

The event, dedicated to marking the International Day of Peace, opened with the conference "Building peace: Perspectives on Today's Most Complex Global Challenges", which sparked a discussion on global challenges in peacebuilding. As part of the program, UWC Mostar held workshops on the topic of divided communities, communities in conflict and the process of building trust, which opened up space for the exchange of opinions and discussion. Our guests had the opportunity to participate in a regional round table, a workshop dedicated to divided communities organized by the Network for Peacebuilding, but also to see the performances of the Mostar Youth Theatre and the DIS Theatre from Banja Luka. [Read more](#)



Peace Conference and Peace Days in Mostar 2024

[Play](#)



[Peace Days 2024](#)

Celebrating UWC Day



UWC Day 2024 - Around the World in 80 Minutes

UWC Day in the Media



UWC Day is the annual global celebration of the UWC mission and values, which takes place on **21 September** every year, to coincide with the UN International Day of Peace. Each year, UWC Day is celebrated by thousands of people worldwide, including students and staff at UWC schools and colleges, national committees, UWC alumni and friends.

"Around the World in 80 Minutes" traditionally gathered a great number of guests and visitors from the local community. [Read more](#)



[UWC Day Celebration in Mostar!](#)



Mostar celebrates UWC Day 2024



Alumni



Together We Change

Our alumnae celebrated UWC Day 2024 in New York!

It was a beautiful event with inspirational speakers organised by UWC NYC, and also a wonderful experience and a chance to represent UWC Mostar at a global celebration.



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!

The Booking.com logo is centered within a gray rectangular box.

Read the latest UWC International Newsletter



*Copyright © 2024 UWC Mostar
All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:
public.relations@uwcmostar.ba
Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).