

**2022 Asia Interfaith Youth Peace Camp Statement:  
YOUTH LEADERSHIP AT THE FOREFRONT OF PEACEBUILDING**

We, members of the Asia and the Pacific Interfaith Youth Network, gathered in Manila, Philippines on 5-8 February 2023 for the 2022 Asia Interfaith Youth Peace Camp with the theme “Asia Youth as Peacebuilders” catalyzing a youth-led movement towards positive peace. With the generous support of the Seoul Peace Education Center and the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace, and the partnership of the University of Santo Tomas Senior High School, Religions *for* Peace Philippines, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Philippines, the over 60 delegates from 12 countries were able to discuss the challenges that the Asia-Pacific Region face and the important value of youth-led movements to address the issues that affect our common humanity.

We respond to the call of Prof. Lilian SISON, President of Religions *for* Peace Philippines, for youth leadership to be at the forefront of dealing with and solving the problems that our society faces during these troubled times: we are here, we are ready, and we are willing to do our part in effecting the transformative change that our world needs.

We commit to becoming peacebuilders for a more peaceful and just Asia. We take on the challenge of Rev. Masamichi KAMIYA, Senior Advisor of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace, to become changemakers by transforming the outputs of our discussions during the Youth Peace Camp into common actions. To achieve this, we all pledge to:

- Raise awareness within and among our communities regarding issues on positive peace, climate action, social justice, gender equality, prevention of human trafficking, promotion of children’s rights, protection of human dignity, and achievement of the sustainable development goals;
- Actively participate in social advocacies and movements that aim to address the social and environmental issues that affect the youth;
- Develop and implement projects and programs for the youth and by the youth;
- Commit our individual efforts towards peacebuilding by working with our National Interreligious Councils, our own organizations, and our communities;
- Empower our fellow youth to be involved in common actions towards positive peace; and,
- Engage stakeholders towards collaborative action, ensuring a multi-religious, multi-generational, multi-stakeholder, and gender-sensitive approach.

In this commitment, we also call on the youth of Asia and the Pacific to work with us. The essence of youth-led movements lies in the active involvement of young people and we can only achieve our goals if we all work together.

We also call on the generations that came before us to recognize the unique role and contributions that the youth have in addressing the various problems that we are dealing with. We are here as your partners and we can offer you our energy, our values, and our vision of peace. We ask you to continue giving us safe spaces to share our ideas, take action, and be involved in policies and decisions that affect our future. The time to act is now and this is the critical moment where intergenerational action can benefit all generations and the generations to come.

We continue to pray for the end of the conflicts happening in different parts of the world. We pray for those whose lives, homes, and livelihoods have been lost because of the recent earthquake that affected Turkiye, Syria, and Pakistan. We pray for Ukraine and Myanmar. We pray for the refugees, migrants, stateless individuals, and those caught in the crossfires of conflict. We pray for those who suffer from poverty, domestic violence, discrimination, and injustices.

While the problems we face are not easy, we, young people, believe that the strength of our connectivity and friendships can help us take common action for all of us. We will hold on to the strength of our religious convictions and shared values as we pray that the Divine gives us courage to take on the responsibility that is now in our hands.