

Call for Participants

Service Civil International (SCI) and Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (VYRE) are organising, with the support of the Council of Europe, a study session aimed to train young people to be a 'peace messenger' with special attention for gender- and refugee-issues. The study session will take place on **8-12 April 2019** in the European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, France. Participants are expected to arrive on 7th of April and depart on 13th of April.

Organisations:

Service Civil International (SCI) is a voluntary peace organisation with approximately 43 national branches and groups worldwide. SCI aims are promoting peace, international understanding and solidarity, social justice, sustainable development, and respect for the environment. SCI believes that all people are capable of living together with mutual respect and to solve conflicts without recourse to any form of violence. The work of SCI is carried out on all the continents and ranges from reconstruction work to ecology, from social inclusion to North-South solidarity.

VYRE as an international network created by, with and for young refugees is indispensable as many young people with refugee background in Europe face discrimination and very often exclusion when it comes to possibilities for participation in the society. Exclusion by means of ignorance, prejudices, racism and patronizing attitudes. A strong network, in which members can share experiences and raise common concerns, acquire new skills and strengthen their capacities, can contribute to a Europe with greater knowledge of the reasons for being a refugee and with greater capacity for building social cohesion with intercultural learning as a base.

Objectives of the study session:

- To build on a common understanding on the concept of peace and peace building including the threats to peace in Europe
- To provide information and tools to young people so that they can act as peace messengers
- To reflect on gender issues in peacebuilding and in the local context
- To explore different challenges young refugees are experiencing in Europe and how peace education can address them
- To support participants in designing follow up action as peace messenger by providing tools for campaigning, education and other activities.

The study session will have an interactive approach, encouraging participants to contribute with their own experiences, ideas and expertise. Participants will be expected to bring their own good practices from their own fields. We will use a non-formal educational approach with a combination of peer-to-peer learning, group discussions, simulation exercises, debates and presentations to engage and motivate participation.

Profile of the participants:

- Residents of the Council of Europe member states and three non-CoE parties of the European Cultural Convention: Belarus, Holy Sea, and Kazakhstan
- Aged 18-30 – exceptions are possible
- Active in a local context but not necessarily experienced in peace building.
- Motivated to run a follow up activity in their local area.
- Should have a basic level of knowledge/ interest in the topic but do not necessarily have a detailed understanding of peace building.
- Participants need to be able to work in English

Participants will be selected both among VYRE members, SCI members. Also non-members are invited to apply. Gender, age and geographical balance among participants will be ensured.

Application procedure: Please fill in [the following form](#) in order to apply for the Study Session

The deadline for the application is 1st of March 2019. The results of the selection will be communicated on in the first week of March 2019. Only the shortlisted applicants will be informed.

Travel expenses: Travel expenses, insurance and visa fees for the Study Session in Strasbourg will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed. The payment will be made by cash at the spot or by bank transfer after the study session.

Accommodation: Board and lodging will be provided by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg.

Enrolment fee: Participation fee for the event is 50 Euros which will be deducted from the reimbursements for travel expenses or paid at the Youth Centre during the Study Session. Participants with refugee background could be exempted from the participation fee upon request.'

Working languages: The working languages of the event will be English.

If you need further information please send your email to peacemessengers@gmail.com