WORLD SCOUTING

6th World Scout Interreligious Symposium
France 2026

The Marseille Declaration

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We, the participants in the 6th World Scout Interreligious Symposium, gathered in Marseille under the theme “Education for Peace through Interreligious Dialogue,” affirm our shared responsibility to strengthen spiritual development, deepen mutual understanding, and turn dialogue into action for peace.

Marseille, a Mediterranean city at the meeting point of Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, inspires our gathering. The encounters and cooperation among its very diverse communities remind us that coexistence grows through relationships, respect for difference, and shared responsibility for the common good.

At a time of armed conflict, political polarisation, and rising tensions around identity, culture, and religion, we are concerned by the ways prejudice, exclusion, and the misuse of religious and cultural differences undermine trust and divide communities. These challenges make education for peace and interreligious dialogue more urgent than ever.

Rooted in the Scout Promise and Law, Scouting offers young people opportunities to deepen their convictions, listen to others, and put their values into practice. Through its global reach and local presence, the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) has both the potential and the responsibility to support young people as bridge builders and peacemakers, guided by human dignity, freedom of conscience, solidarity, and service. Faith-based Scout organisations with a consultative role alongside WOSM ultimately have the responsibility of supporting the Movement in achieving its goals.

Our work supports the Strategy for Scouting’s ambition for a peaceful and inclusive world and contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals through education, peacebuilding, and partnership. We commit to carrying this spirit of encounter and cooperation into the daily life of Scouting.

Rooted in Scouting's foundational principle of Duty to God, together, we commit to:

1. Strengthen spiritual development and exploration, as an essential dimension of Scouting's educational purpose and its contribution to the holistic development of young people.
2. Support young people in exploring and deepening their faith, beliefs, spiritual and religious identity, encouraging their openness and their search for meaning, helping them connect their convictions with personal growth, service, and responsibility towards one another and to the world.
3. Make intercultural and interreligious dialogue an integral part of Scouting's educational experience. That means creating opportunities to listen, learn, share experiences, and nurture lasting friendships among young people of different faiths and beliefs, while respecting and valuing their distinct identities.
4. Uphold freedom of religion or belief, respect freedom of conscience, and protect the dignity of every person, ensuring that Scouting provides a welcoming and safe environment for spiritual and religious discovery, deepening, and growth.
5. Give young people opportunities and tools to practice dialogue and build a culture of peace, drawing on the values and spiritual convictions that inspire their commitment to peacebuilding, by breaking down barriers that divide, building bridges, and promoting openness, respect, and shared values.
6. Enable young people to lead interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding, giving them meaningful opportunities to make decisions, take action, and build peaceful and inclusive communities.
7. Equip adults in Scouting with tools to support young people's development, in cooperation with faith communities, recognising their contribution to the spiritual and religious education of young people, while respecting each young person's freedom of conscience.

We encourage the Interreligious Forum of World Scouting (IFoWS), National Scout Organizations (NSOs), and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) to work in close cooperation to give practical expression and best practices to these shared commitments. Through continued dialogue, shared expertise, and the development and exchange of educational resources, this cooperation can support meaningful learning experiences and action in local Scout groups and communities.