

Most Recommended  
Hostels Worldwide

**HI!**

Youth Hostelling  
for Peace and  
International  
Understanding



**Hostelling  
International**  
[www.HIhostels.com](http://www.HIhostels.com)



Supporting the United Nation's "Decade for a Culture of Peace" Hostelling International is active throughout its Youth Hostels to educate people and promote peace concepts.

In HI Youth Hostels around the world, you are able to encounter people of different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences. HI Youth Hostels are a rich resource for learning and for building a better, more peaceful world.

Our Youth Hostelling for Peace and International Understanding campaign embraces Hostelling International's Environmental Charter: this promotes and educates a more careful use of the world's limited natural resources.

In September 2003, HI (Hostelling International), working with UNESCO, launched its first international volunteering programme to promote peace and understanding between all people of the world. The volunteers completed three-month missions as Ambassadors of Peace in the 11 HI Learning Centres for Peace around the world.

The programme culminated with the "Colours of Asia" Youth Festival for Peace in July 2004. This festival brought together 345 young people from 27 countries to learn about Peace, Culture and the Environment. In a packed programme of workshops and discussions, the young participants tried to identify solutions to the issues of peace around the world. As a conclusion, they collectively created and committed to living by the goals of the "Seoul Declaration and Resolution".

## Seoul Declaration 2004

- We, the youth participants of the IYHF/UNESCO Youth Festival for Peace 2004, have assembled and engaged in the finding of solutions to the peace questions at the grass root level and have reached general consensus to act on the following:
- We declare that we aim to fight discrimination and inequality by upholding rights for all, regardless of ability, gender, age or ethnicity, thus empowering people to recognize and fulfil these rights.
- We declare that we aim to create better awareness and fuller understanding among young people in order to raise and encourage their active participation in defining a better world for the future.
- We declare that we aim to promote a change towards a more environmental friendly and sustainable way of life at an individual level, in order to minimize environmental damage without degrading quality of life.
- We declare that we aim to promote mutual understanding and respect among different beliefs and related practices.
- We declare that we aim to encourage Youth Hostel Organizations around the world to assess, support and participate in neutral, peaceful solutions to conflict.
- We, the youth participants of the Youth Festival for Peace 2004, pledge to collectively engage and act towards the accomplishment of the objectives expressed in this declaration and its accompanying RESOLUTION.

## Resolution

We, 345 young people from the 27 nations who have gathered in Seoul, thank the IYHF and UNESCO for providing this opportunity to meet and learn about Peace, Culture, and the Environment. As young people, we have each committed to specific actions in support of global peace and understanding. In light of the actions, we would like to propose to you, Mr. President, that:

- The Conference endorses the festival as a regular precursor to the biennial IYHF conference.
- The Conference urges all member associations to work actively for the theme of Peace and International Understanding engaging with young people at all levels of their organizations.
- Through the network of the 4,400 HI affiliated Youth Hostels, it is necessary for the establishment of a platform for young people to act and engage with other young people within the network.
- The youth festival becomes a permanent event supported by IYHF on a national and international scale, encompassing all continents.
- The youth festival and its philosophy become part of the IYHF marketing strategy and is represented within its promotional material.
- In order to strengthen the philosophy of hostelling worldwide, a system of twinning, staff and member exchange between hostels must be implemented.
- It is necessary for the development of a youth ambassador scheme whereby ambassadors represent their national association at youth events. In exceptional circumstances IYHF use these ambassadors and its worldwide network to encourage peace in times of conflict, for example ambassadors from areas of conflict can meet in a neutral country within the spirit of peace and unity.
- The relationship between UNESCO and IYHF must be enhanced and extended to include other like-minded organizations, for example groups such as Amnesty International.
- The relationship between UNESCO and IYHF be utilized in forming youth committees which will focus on specific subjects, for example, the advancement of women's rights around the world.
- All existing and future IYHF, UNESCO, Youth Hostel Information and festival publications be translated into a wider range of worldwide languages.
- The development of environmental and social campaigns within the national Youth Hostel associations and at the community level of local youth hostels be developed and followed by the implementation of these campaigns into sustainable practice.
- Youth Hostel staff are to be trained in issues of peace and international understanding in order to raise further awareness among the hostelling community.
- A peace and environmental prize be founded, and presented to exceptional individuals who devote themselves to establishing a better world.
- International Peace and Understanding Scholarships be made available for particular individuals who commit themselves to spreading the message of peace.

- In order to pursue the spirit of the Youth Peace Festival, develop links to national associations and encourage wider scope for participatory action at all levels, the establishment of a communicative network via the IYHF website be developed.
- A monitoring committee be set up to ensure that the objectives of this declaration are fulfilled, and the spirit of the Youth Festival for Peace be kept alive.

## Hostelling International Learning Centres for Peace

- Australia - Blue Mountains YH
- Brazil - Rio de Janeiro YH
- Costa Rica - Toruma YH
- France - Verdun YH
- Germany - Dachau YH
- Israel - Peki'in YH
- Italy - Assisi YH
- Japan - Hiroshima YH
- Northern Ireland - Enniskillen YH
- Tunisia - Rimel YH
- USA - New York YH

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