



ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

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Youth Projects

Youth



Youth has been identified as one of the key priorities for the work of the Alliance of Civilizations. The AoC Secretariat is actively trying to involve youth directly in its work by collaborating with broad networks of youth organizations. Our goal is to have a youth perspective in the

media debate, on cross-cultural and interreligious issues and in all AoC projects.

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Working with youth organizations

The AoC Youth Strategy involves integrating youth input in relevant projects and initiatives organised or facilitated under the auspices of the Alliance or its partners. The Secretariat of the AoC runs a limited number of initiatives in-house, such as the Youth Solidarity Fund (click [here](#) for more information). In addition, the AoC has links with international, regional and national organizations working in the youth area, with a particular emphasis on intercultural dialogue.

We regularly consult with a number of key actors in the youth field to identify opportunities for highlighting good practice and to enable a youth voice on AoC issues. A recent example of action in this area was the call for a youth statement on the controversial Dutch film released in March. Read the statement [here](#)

Alliance of Civilizations Forum

At the First Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Madrid from 15-16 January, youth nominated by five partner networks participated. Partners included:

- Commonwealth Secretariat
- Council of Europe
- International Coordinating Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO)
- Islamic Conference Youth Forum (ICYF)
- UNESCO

The youth-oriented sessions at the Forum focused on youth voices in the media as well as intercultural and interreligious exchanges and leadership training. Youth actively participated in the overall Forum and made substantial contributions to the working session on Innovative Uses of

the Mass Media and the working session on the Role of Religious Leaders in Shaping Shared Security.

The event was also an opportunity to meet and interact with decision makers from various fields, including politics, civil society, media and religious institutions. Read more about the Forum [here](#)

Photos courtesy of Ben Powless

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