



## **Pax Christi International Youth Forum Declaration**

*Launch event, Florence, November 2025*

As the Pax Christi International Youth Forum we would like to express our deepest gratitude for this opportunity to think, listen, and talk about the issues shaping our society today. We had wonderful insights from one another, and most importantly, we discovered the shared strength and passion that unite us in peacebuilding. Coming from different cultures and experiences, our meanings of peace may differ— and each one matters. Yet together, they form a vision of peace that is alive, diverse, and full of hope.

Beyond our differences, we realized that we are fighting for something greater than ourselves. We are fighting for the future generation, for democracy, for human rights, and for justice. We are standing for a world where young people can grow without fear, where every voice counts, and where compassion outweighs division. We do this not because it is easy, but because it is necessary. Peace is not only our dream— it is our shared duty to the generations to come.

As young people, we see how fragile peace can be. We live in times where misinformation spreads quickly, where injustice often goes unanswered, and where violence sometimes feels closer than safety. But we also know that peace begins when we choose not to give in to despair. Instead, we act— we speak, we organize, we create, and we care. Through these actions, we remind the world that hope is not naïve; it is powerful.

In our Youth Forum, we witnessed that courage takes many forms. Some of us work directly with communities affected by conflict, while others advocate for human rights, promote education, or use art and dialogue to build understanding. Every story we shared showed that peace grows from everyday actions— from kindness, from truth, from standing up for what is right. Pax Christi teaches us that peace is not a passive state, but a choice made again and again. Together, our small acts of peace form a movement of resilience and compassion.

We also learned that the fight for peace is inseparable from the fight for justice and democracy. There can be no peace when people are silenced, excluded, or oppressed. True peace thrives only where dignity and fairness are protected. That is why we continue to defend the truth, to amplify the voices of the unheard, and to challenge systems that deny freedom. Through our actions, we carry forward the mission of Pax Christi— to build a just and peaceful world for all.

As we look to the future, we do so with both courage and conviction. We know that change does not happen overnight, but we also know that peace begins with people who care enough to try. We believe in a future where the next generation inherits not our conflicts, but our commitment to dialogue and solidarity. Each of us, as youth, has the power to shape that future through compassion and persistence. And so tonight, we renew our promise— to keep fighting for peace, for justice, for democracy, and for the generations yet to come.