

## OBJECTIVE 03

To support reconciliation, dialogue,  
closer relationship and trust between the Turkish  
Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot communities

# INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE ON PEACE EDUCATION CONFERENCE- PUBLIC DAY

Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR)

Photo Credit: Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR)



## THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Engaging Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot educators in discussions on pedagogies of peace and human rights to implement in their respective communities

Organisation of one day of plenaries and workshops entitled "Educating for a Culture of Peace in Divided Societies: History, Dialogue and Multiperspectivity Toward Reconciliation" in the International Institute on Peace and Education Conference (IIPE) 2019, 25 July 2019.

## ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORICAL DIALOGUE AND RESEARCH (AHDR)

The AHDR is an inter-communal organization whose mission is to contribute to the advancement of historical understanding amongst the public and, more specifically, amongst children, youth and educators by providing access to learning opportunities for individuals from every ethnic, religious, cultural, social, and ability status. Since its inception, the AHDR, founder of the Home for Cooperation (H4C), has initiated several local peacebuilding actions and has assisted local peace educators, activists, researchers and academics in having access to numerous opportunities in the fields of history and peace education.

## STORY OF THE ACTION

The aim of the action was to organise the public day “Educating for a Culture of Peace in Divided Societies: History, Dialogue and Multiperspectivity Toward Reconciliation” at the International Institute of Peace Education Conference 2019. The event sought to engage both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot educators in discussions on peace and human rights pedagogies that they can later implement in their respective communities.

People from around the world and across the divide, including educators and civil society organisation (CSO) representatives, exchanged research, academic theory, best practices and actions related to teaching peace education during the week-long conference from 21 to 28 July, 2019.

The public day was a day of plenaries and workshops on gender-based violence, refugee issues, environmentalism, decolonization, and Cyprus-based peace education initiatives. It was attended by 45 local and 74 international participants. They had the opportunity to learn from each other's experiences to further their knowledge and newcomers were introduced to the core concepts of peace education.



*“The International Institute of Peace Education public day was one of the many highlights of the conference, as international participants got the chance to engage with local participants from all around the island creating a space for exchanging ideas and experiences. Another highlight was the interaction of people from different cultural, linguistic and social backgrounds working towards education for a culture of peace. Engaging in discussion with participants about their perceptions on the topic and sharing their own personal experience with peacebuilding, especially in conflict areas, was an enriching and enlightening part of the conference.”*

Özge Özoğul



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## RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

With the public day, the AHDR team got the opportunity to promote the concept of peace education to teachers, who have had no previous knowledge in the field, and those who were familiar with the topic but wanted to enhance their knowledge and skills further. All participants, mainly consisting of educators, representatives of CSOs, and teacher unions, were provided with insights and information about different contexts and approaches to peace education that could be implemented in their educational work. Furthermore, the conference proceedings, compiled in a publication following the event, was shared with all stakeholders and duty bearers, adding layer to the understanding of the rights-based approach.

Intercommunal interaction was established between participants across the island, ensuring an environment of collaborative learning among all participants. Overcoming the language barrier, thanks to simultaneous interpretation, also enabled educators, who otherwise could not have access to this information, to comprehend the discussions on a variety of topics fully.



*“The AHDR team got the opportunity to enrich their knowledge as many individuals and representatives shared their experiences, methodologies, and practices related to peace education. Furthermore, the team shared the organisation's mission and vision which promotes respect for diversity and dialogue of ideas for a society in which individuals of every ability and every ethnic, religious, cultural and social background access and benefit from opportunities.”*

Özge Özoğul



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## WHAT'S NEXT?

The Association recently published the conference booklet in collaboration with the IIPE Secretariat and is proceeding to expand its sharing to educators, CSOs, duty bearers and other important stakeholders. The publication consists of knowledge and outcomes that emerged from IIPE 2019 Cyprus and includes peace education concepts covered during the conference.

TO FIND  
MORE ABOUT  
THE ACTION



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