

OBJECTIVE
03

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

PEACE CULTURE AND GENDER EQUALITY

Association of Women to Support Living (KAYAD)
and Maria Hadjipavlou

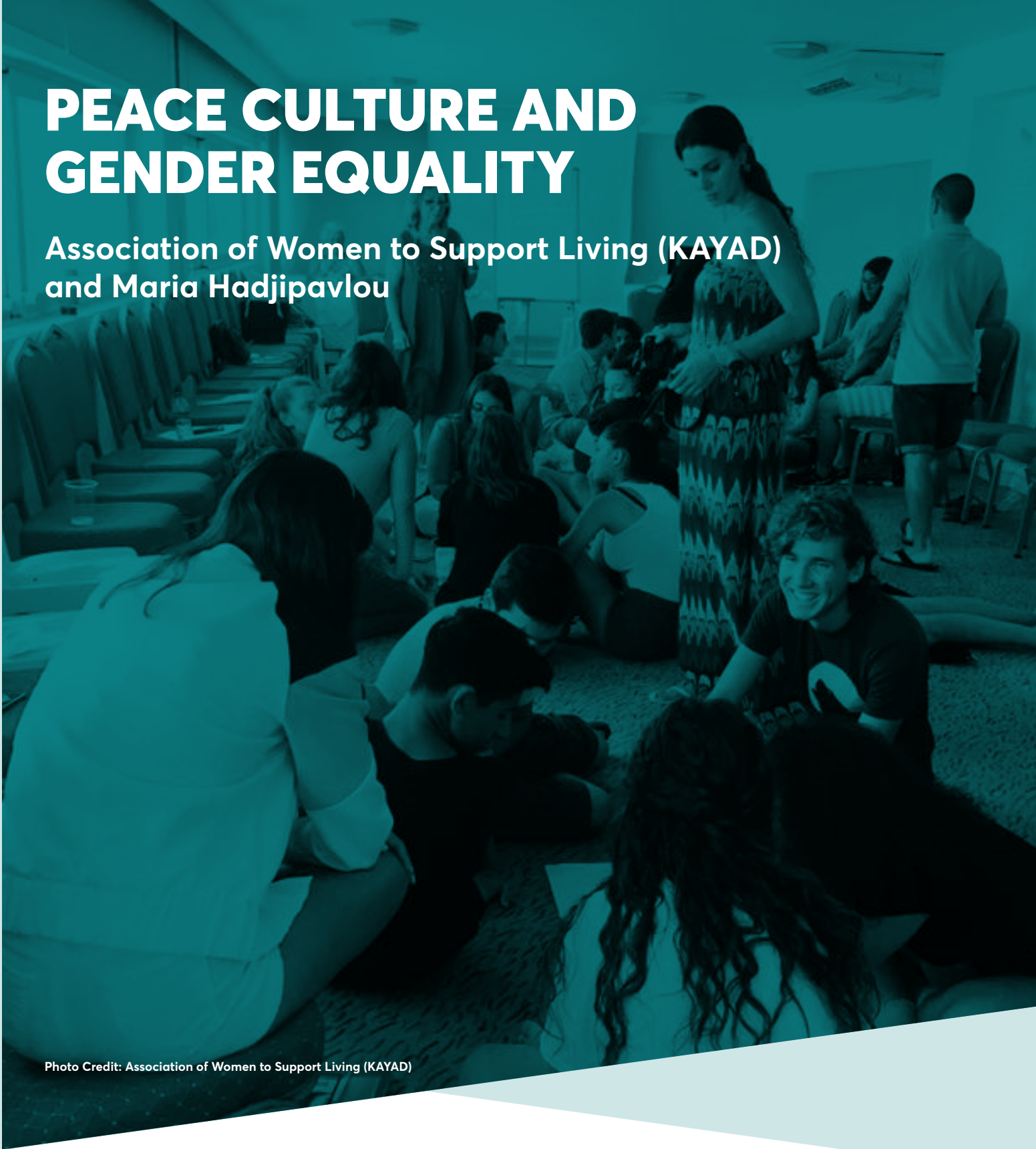


Photo Credit: Association of Women to Support Living (KAYAD)



GROW CIVIC
CREATE YOUR OWN MAGIC

THIS ACTION INVOLVED

Youths' capacity building to promote gender equality and peace

A multicommunal summer camp from 10 to 16 August 2018 entitled "WINPEACE Peace Culture and Gender Equality"

Development and presentation to duty bearers of a report including policy and action recommendations for developing peace culture.

ABOUT KAYAD, MARIA HADJIPAVLOU and WINPEACE

KAYAD was established in 1998 as a CSO to enable gender equality by preventing discrimination towards women and empowering women's profile in society. The organization has held various awareness raising activities towards the prevention of domestic violence and has helped women, families and children in need. Maria Hadjipavlou is a well-known expert in conflict resolution and feminism who promoted peace across the divide in Cyprus for the last twenty-five years. She is a trainer in conflict resolution and gender and published widely in conflict resolution, Cyprus and gender issues. WINPEACE, founded in 1997, is a platform for women from Cyprus, Greece and Turkey to promote and sustain solidarity and peace in the region and take joint action to build a peace culture and enhance women's role in conflict resolution.

STORY OF THE ACTION

The action involved a summer camp for young people between the ages of 15 and 18 from Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. It aimed at encouraging peace, reconciliation and dialogue among the participants. It also enhanced the notion of civil society activism to entice the youth to contribute to the culture of peace, actively participate in the peace process, increase awareness of reconciliation and conflict resolution among youth and explain how civil society activism can contribute to peace culture. Furthermore, it encouraged young people to design their own projects to promote gender equality and peace building. It also helped to develop networks between Cypriot, Turkish and Greek youth activists of peace and gender justice.

The camp, which 40 participants attended, consisted of training sessions on empathy, conflict resolution, gender equality and human rights, teamwork and entrepreneurship, domestic violence and communication. Educators conducted the sessions daily.

Participants resided in a social and cultural environment that allowed them to know about human rights practiced in their daily lives. These included: identifying stereotypes about the "other", the perceived "enemy", learning about the other's fears, views and perceptions. They could enter a facilitative open dialogue and jointly created a common ground for future cooperation. Participants also gained an understanding of gender equality, domestic violence, healthy relationships as well as specific skills to identify gender discrimination and abusive behaviour.

Throughout the camp, participants were able to design their own social entrepreneurship projects. At the end of the camp, each group provided a list of policy recommendations for WINPEACE to promote to policy makers. The recommendations taken by WINPEACE officials to duty bearers included: to integrate domestic violence, gender equality and peace building into education systems and to support the central and local government for bi-communal initiatives. The participants met with Cypriot CSOs, political figures and peace activists during the camp.

Participants contributed to the design of the training curricula and provided important feedback and recommendations accordingly.



Photo Credit: Association of Women to Support Living (KAYAD)

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH

The action added to KAYAD's volunteer youth pool and contributed to KAYAD's aim of mobilizing youth for change.

The action was made sustainable as young people were encouraged to design and advocate for the implementation of their social innovation ideas. They were also able to participate in a discussion with Cypriot CSOs, opinion and political leaders and other peace activists in a specially arranged meeting held in the Ledra Palace Hotel. A camp report was drafted to compile results, policy and action recommendations. It has been made publicly available to all stakeholders and presented to political parties, decision makers and other duty bearers.



"Participants stated that the camp experience had impacted their lives and outlook on civil society. As a result, KAYAD was able to provide valuable youth feedback to their gender equality and healthy relationship curricula. KAYAD is appreciative of every action that supports its overall aim to promote peace culture."

Mine Atli



Photo Credit: Association of Women to Support Living (KAYAD)

WHAT'S NEXT?

Association of Women to Support Living (KAYAD) is helping to establish a youth organisation, many members of which are KAYAD's WINPEACE alumni.

TO FIND
MORE ABOUT
THE ACTION



/kayad.centre



www.kayadcommunitycenter.com/projeler/winpeace/



This Project
is funded
by the
European Union

