

## PEACE PLEDGE 2023

### Island of Ireland Peace Park, Messines

We come together, as international members of the Messines Youth Symposium empowered by our collective longing for peace, unity, and justice. We are moved by the emotive words written in the Island of Ireland Peace Park 25 years ago that acknowledge the sacrifices made during World War I and the collective wish for a peaceful future. This peace pledge reiterates the aspirations stated 25 years ago. We work to both acknowledge and comprehend the tragic history, the lives lost, and lives irreparably changed, during both World Wars and all violence across the world.

We feel the weight of the specific challenges of our time, including growing nationalism and hate, continued discrimination, the exploitation of the earth and recurrent violent outbreaks of historical conflicts.

We pledge to contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and support victims of violence and war. We strive to protect nature as we transition towards a sustainable future. We will nurture loving and fair communities, that allow all to experience safety and stability, and will shape societies that enable individuals to reach their full potential. We will build bridges of understanding in our own context, contributing to harmonious and vibrant communities.

We hope to approach disagreement with empathy and curiosity, not with violence, remaining optimistic as we journey towards peace holding these hopes for future generations.

