

BIOPOLITICS INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION



Pursuing Global Citizenship through Education for Peace

Tuesday, 7 November 2017, 10:45-12:00

Palais de Nations, Building A, Geneva, Switzerland

PRESS RELEASE

A most successful and thought provoking event was organized in the framework of Geneva Peace Week 2017, by the Biopolitics International Organisation (B.I.O.), a pioneer in peace education since 1985, and 3DlexiaCosmos, an initiative in holistic education for a world we deserve. Policy makers, educators and representatives from civil society organizations presented a “thesis” and “antithesis” on key issues concerning global citizenship in order to create a “synthesis” of new values for peace-building around the world.

The event was chaired by Prof. Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis, President and Founder of the Biopolitics International Organisation and 15 times nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and was attended by a distinguished international audience. The speakers and delegates addressed a variety of issues in an effort to strengthen the role of education in informing and motivating citizens and decision-makers everywhere to take inspired action for peace.

Agni Vlavianos Arvanitis, President and Founder, Biopolitics International Organisation: Is peace an unattainable goal? After so many millennia, we still have so many unresolved conflicts, threatening the very continuation of *bios* – all life – on our planet. With modern technology and education as a strong tool, we can reverse this dark trend of humanity and international organisations such as the United Nations can bring to fruition, with sincerity and effectiveness, their true calling: the implementation of peace.

Aggeliki Pappa, Founder/President, 3DlexiaCosmos NGO, Founder/CEO “I love dyslexia” EFL School: Global education in its transformative holistic model has been profoundly influenced by quantum physics, proposed by leading-edge physicists. Insights from their subatomic world studies provide a power model for our thinking about our self, the planet and the universe. It is high time to stress to universities, governments and policy makers that the pedagogy of compassion and love that are visibly manifested in positive efforts towards others and the climate is the only way to a peaceful, sustainable future.

Vasileios Boumpis, Student K-11: Responsible youth are the mirror that reflects clearly what we have not been willing to see. We work hard to organize solutions that move the world forward. My message to the world is that I have the right to use my intelligence and deep desire to create solutions to global challenges. I am capable of making all this possible, despite the fact that poor education and a corrupt system may be blocking my way to working meaningfully and with an open heart for a world that we deserve.

Ali Rashidi, Director, Department for International Cooperation, Folkuniversitetet, Uppsala: The refugee crisis in Europe is leading to the marginalization and exclusion of certain young people and the feeling of not being part of mainstream society. This has driven us to realize that we need to inform and teach young people about global values, i.e., the UN values of respect for human rights, through special training and educational projects, which are also being used to teach new immigrants about their rights and obligations.

Helen Poulla, EFL State School Advisor, Regional Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education of Crete: “Educating for Peace” is a program that aims at supporting EFL state school teachers in Crete, Greece, to develop inclusive curricula which will help students develop critical thinking on their “me” identity as a synthesis of three very fundamental cultural identities: local, national, global. Cultivating awareness of their global citizen identity, students are expected to become active citizens who promote human rights and Peace in the world.

Marios Epaminondas, Representative of the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture: The Ministry supports the development of active citizens with a global perspective, able to contribute to the creation of democratic societies, in which a culture of peace prevails. For the fulfillment of this aim, synergies with Civil Society Associations and International Organizations have been pursued. Policies, as well as specific programs and actions, which were initiated from these synergies, will be presented.

Stefanos Gialamas, President of the American Community Schools of Athens: A new educational paradigm based on Comprehensive Learning Experience is urgently needed to prepare young people to become tomorrow’s citizens with ethos to make the world a better place to live with peace and harmony for the benefit of all people. Therefore a new educational philosophy, a pioneering teaching and learning delivery methodology and an innovative leadership guided by Ethos are the three interrelated, interconnected and inseparable elements required for such educational paradigm.