

## THE GUBBIO DECLARATION

### A CALL TO THE LEADERSHIP OF EUROPEAN SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE

September 2022

We are students of the member universities of Fédération des Universités Catholiques Européennes/ European Federation of Catholic Universities/ Federación de Universidades Católicas Europeas (FUCE/EFCU).

We came together in Gubbio, Italy to participate in the 'European Humanism in the Making' Summer School. Against the backdrop of many crises facing Europe and the world, we appeal to the leadership of European Society and Governance.

We join with Pope Francis who dreamt of "a new European humanism", one that involves "a constant work of humanization" and calls for "memory, courage, [and] a sound and humane utopian vision". (Address on receiving the Charlemagne Prize, 6 May 2016).

Learning from the past, we

- acknowledge that we have different histories marked by both violence and domination, and the building of peace
- are convinced that striving for freedom and justice can only come from facing the past clearly and empathetically
- claim responsibility for the past in order to understand the present and construct the future

Reflecting on the present, we

- are aware that we address a polyvalent crisis and that the urgent problems of today, including war, environmental degradation, forced migration, inequality, discrimination and so on, are interconnected and are affecting everyone in Europe and other regions and nations directly or indirectly.
- acknowledge those who come to Europe from different corners of the world in search of a better tomorrow
- identify the key challenge of social and economic inequality to shape and impede the capacity of young people for social mobility and inclusion
- encourage special care be paid by political discourse to historical accuracy, peace building and empowering people to face a rapidly changing world
- conclude that the response to these contemporary and future challenges can never be merely technocratic or economic but must be based on the unfolding understanding of what it is to be human, including our historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds

Believing in our future, we

- warn against hollow utopianism and/or cynicism
- call for the building of trust between people and government and all who hold positions of leadership as key to the legitimacy of democratic institutions, and other institutions in the economic sphere and civil society
- appeal for flexible cooperation between nations and regions, both within Europe and beyond, to meet the challenges we face together

- emphasise the vital role of education in fostering a European consciousness; an education that is marked by real encounters with each other, open access and critical inquiry
- accept that we are privileged people, with a responsibility to initiate the transformation of Europe into something better. Europe is what we make of it. We have the power to fix it

Accepting the challenge, we

- assert the importance of solidarity, cooperation, human rights, human dignity, and freedom, in caring for the common good in Europe and globally
- understand that European humanism is an ongoing journey and therefore continuously in the making

Signed :

ALIA CHICARRO	Gabriel	CEU San Pablo University Madrid
BARBAKADZE	Davit	Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University
BAYLEY Benjamin		St Patricks Pontifical University Maynooth
BLASCO Isabel		Catholic University of Valencia
BRLECIC Martin		Catholic University Croatia
BROSSIER Joy		Catholic Institute Toulouse
CHLELA Joseph		Université de la Sainte Famille-Batroun
DACCACHE	Pierre	Saint-Joseph University Beirut
DUFORT Fatkine		Catholic Institute Toulouse
DUNNE Ellen		St Patricks Pontifical University, Maynooth
GERVASONI	Aurélia	University Saint-Louis Bruxelles
GUERIF Celestine		Catholic University Lille
IVANUN Yuliana		Catholic University Ruzomberok, Slovakia
KOLLAR Nikolina		Catholic University Croatia
DOS SANTOS	Ana Francisca	Catholic University Portugal
MORIAUX Alice		Catholic University Lille
NASR Sally		Saint-Joseph University Beirut
NATA Frederica		Catholic University Portugal
OJESANMI	Glory	Catholic University Lille
PAVLENKO	Anastasiia	Ukrainian Catholic University
PICHUHINA	Oleksandra	Catholic University in Ruzomberok, Slovakia
REIS DE CARVALHO	Ines	Catholic University Portugal
URDA OTERO	Ana	CEU San Pablo University Madrid
VALLET SANCHEZ	Maria del Mar	Catholic University of Valencia
VILA Doris		Catholic University Our Lady of Good Counsel Tirana