

Yalla! Walking, Talking, and Building Bridges – Youth-Led Interfaith Action in Vienna

Episode 3 of International Dialogue Centre KAICIID’s Youth Webinar Series “NextGen TALKS” Faith in Action: Youth-led Projects Making a Difference



This event was the third episode of the International Dialogue Centre – KAICIID youth webinar series **NextGen TALKS**, titled " **Youth Power for Peace: Breaking Barriers and Building Change**" a collaboration between its **E-Learning Unit and Europe Region Programme**. This 30-minute session featured **Hind Hafuda and Eidel Malowicki**, two young ambassadors from the **Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC)**, sharing their grassroots interfaith initiatives aimed at fostering **understanding, collaboration, and social cohesion** between Muslim and Jewish communities in Europe.

Their flagship project, **Yalla City Walks and Talks**, is an interactive **walking tour in Vienna** that highlights **shared Jewish-Muslim history** through **storytelling, cultural exchange, and**



culinary traditions. A key narrative featured was the story of **Mohammed and Anna**, a Muslim doctor who saved a Jewish woman during the Holocaust, showcasing historical acts of solidarity.

Expanding their work beyond storytelling, they launched **Yalla City Sports**, engaging Jewish and Muslim youth in **community-based running and cycling events**, demonstrating that **sports can transcend religious and cultural differences**. Their initiatives have reached 20 active participants and have garnered support from faith leaders, including **Austria's Chief Rabbi**.

Their impact extends beyond Vienna, as they have participated in **interfaith dialogues in Milan**, joined the **Srebrenica Peace March** in Bosnia, and engaged in the **European Quran Exhibition**, exploring art as a tool for interfaith connection.

To ensure **sustainability**, they plan to develop a **website and digital resources** to allow **educators and communities** to replicate their model. Their approach **blends grassroots activism, movement, and cultural engagement**, ensuring **long-term interfaith solidarity**.

We must see beyond our differences and appreciate the beauty in what we share. When we come together, we create a space that transcends religious boundaries, a space of love, a shared experience, peace, freedom, resources, bridge building togetherness and added value for everyone.

Hind Hafuda

The president of the Mothers of Srebrenica Association told us 'we do not teach our children hatred, but love'. How is it possible that women who have lost everything can find such words of love? If those who have lost everything have managed to do so, then we can as well. We are stronger than hate.

Eidel Malowicki

Impact Assessment

This event strongly aligned with **World Interfaith Harmony Week** by promoting **interfaith collaboration, shared history, and grassroots peacebuilding**. Key impacts included:

✔ **Strengthening Jewish-Muslim Relations** – By **highlighting shared history and encouraging interfaith dialogue through storytelling and sports**, the initiative bridged religious divides.



- ✔ **Fostering Intercultural Exchange Through Movement** – Yalla City Sports demonstrated that **physical activities, such as running and cycling, create neutral spaces** for community engagement.
- ✔ **Providing Entry Points for Interfaith Engagement** – The initiative catered to **diverse interests, from historical tours and storytelling to sports and cultural workshops**, making participation accessible and meaningful.
- ✔ **Addressing Prejudice and Building Trust** – Through personal outreach and partnerships, Hind and Eidel successfully **mobilized Jewish and Muslim communities**, overcoming initial hesitation and skepticism.
- ✔ **Creating a Scalable and Sustainable Model** – Their future plans include **digital platforms, leadership mentoring, and institutional partnerships**, ensuring **long-term impact and global replication**.
- ✔ **Encouraging Youth Leadership in Peacebuilding** – By taking **personal initiative**, Hind and Eidel demonstrated how **young leaders can shape interfaith engagement and foster social change**.

By **combining storytelling, sports, and cultural narratives**, this event offered an **innovative and inclusive model** for interfaith dialogue. The **high demand for Muslim-Jewish engagement** reinforced the need for **structured spaces that promote connection, history, and shared experiences**, fully aligning with **World Interfaith Harmony Week's mission**.

[Event recording and resources](#)