



VATICAN YOUTH SYMPOSIUM 2025



*3 & 4 April 2025 | Vatican City | Voices of Change:
Sparkling Hope with Sustainable Solutions*



WELCOME TO THE VATICAN YOUTH SYMPOSIUM



ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The **Vatican Youth Symposium** is an annual gathering of young leaders and experts from around the world, discussing and generating solutions for the most urgent issues of humanity. Made possible by the **generosity and support of Dr. Betsee Parker**, the Symposium, now in its ninth year, has developed into a leading global forum for young leaders in sustainable development and an intergenerational platform for building social movements.

“

Dear young people, your joyful presence, your thirst for truth and high ideals are signs of hope! Being young does not mean being passive, but rather means being tenacious in your efforts to achieve important goals, even if this comes at a price. Being young does not mean closing your eyes to difficulties: instead, it requires a refusal to compromise or be mediocre.”

Pope Francis, 2015



ABOUT THE HOSTS



Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

The Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS), established by Pope John Paul II in 1994, aims to evaluate and elaborate on the Church's social teachings through the lens of social sciences. It organizes conferences, workshops, and research, publishing its findings. The Academy has addressed various topics, including human rights, religious freedom, work and employment, democracy, globalization, intergenerational solidarity, charity, justice, human trafficking and modern slavery.

The Academy is headquartered in the Casina Pio IV, a Renaissance villa in Vatican City, and consists of up to 40 members appointed by the Pope based on their expertise and moral integrity. Its President leads the Academy with the assistance of the Council. The Academy publishes its work in the Acta series, Scripta Varia, and Extra Series.



SDSN Youth

In 2012, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national and global scales.

In 2015, the SDSN launched its official youth division, SDSN Youth, to mobilize and empower young people worldwide and equip them with the skills, resources, and opportunities necessary to implement sustainable development solutions. With more than 1,600 youth trained, SDSN Youth fulfills this mission through diverse programs that empower youth to take action on their campuses, in their communities, and across cities and countries

THE 2025 SYMPOSIUM



This year's theme, **Voices of Change: Sparking Hope with Sustainable Solutions**, will prompt participants to consider how youth can envision and create a form of progress that — in the words of Pope Francis — is “healthier, more human, more social, and more integral.”

Approximately 70 participants are expected at the 2025 Vatican Youth Symposium. Attendees and speakers will represent 38 countries, including 22 delegates from the global south. Forty-five participants are between the ages of 18 and 35, and more than half are women.



Scan the QR code to read the biographies of all participants

AGENDA

Day 1, 3 April 2025

8:30 - 9:00 Arrivals and Networking - Start of the Day

9:00 - 10:30 Opening Session

- *Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences*
- *Professor Jeffrey Sachs, President, SDSN*
- *Sr. Helen Alford, President of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences*
- *Dr. Betsee Parker, 17th Baroness of Locheil in Scotland, Philanthropist, Naturalist and Conservationist*
- *María Cortés Puch, Vice President of Networks, SDSN*
- *Danilo Raponi, Group Head of Innovation, Generali*
- *Raquel Armendariz, Program Coordinator of SDSN Youth, SDSN*
- *Kayla Colyard, Education Manager of the SDG Academy, SDSN*

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:00 Educating with Impact: Skills and Knowledge for Sustainable Development

- *Monika Froehler, CEO, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens*
- *Sinead Bovell, Founder & CEO, WAYE*
- *Ilan Enverga, Founder and Executive Director, Global Changemaker Schools*
- *Stacy Nyathi, Communications Project Lead, Global Schools Program*
- *Moderated by Kayla Colyard, Education Manager of the SDG Academy*

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 - 14:30 Smart, Green, and Inclusive: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- *Martin Powell, Group Sustainability Director, AXA*
- *A/Prof HY William Chan Emeritus Councillor, City of Sydney and Associate Professor, University of Technology Sydney*
- *Daniela Rizzi, Senior Expert Nature-based Solutions and Biodiversity, ICLEI Europe*
- *Amer Qawasmi, Project Officer, Local Pathways Fellowship*
- *Moderated by Bessy Thurairaraj, Deputy Project Lead, Local Pathways Fellowship*

14:30 - 15:30 Laudato Si: Promoting Human Rights through Care for Our Common Home

- *Valentina Muñoz Rabanal, Emeritus SDG Advocate, United Nations*
- *Ruby Haji Naif, Peace and Security Focal Point, UNCCD Youth Caucus*
- *Sienna Nordquist, PhD student, Bocconi University*
- *Gala Ivković, Board Member, Rondine International Peace Lab*
- *Moderated by Tara Everton, Communications Manager, SDSN*

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:00 Navigating the Climate Crisis: Aligning the Goals for a Green Planet

- *Karen Hanyuan Wang, Founder, Climind*
- *Livia Chaves Marcolin, Business Development Analyst, WayCarbon*
- *Alejandra Quiguntar, Member of the Youth Advisory Committee, Science Panel for the Amazon*
- *Xan Northcott, Project Manager, COP28 Youth Climate Champion Team*
- *Moderated by Antonio Diaz Aranda, Partnerships and Events Project Lead, SDSN Youth*

17:00 - 18:00 End of Day Exchange: Reflections and Takeaways

18:00 - 18:30 Networking

18:30 Dinner



Day 2, 4 April 2025

8:30 - 9:00 Arrivals and Networking - Start of the Day

9:00 - 12:30 The Arts and Crafts of Innovation with Generali

- *Danilo Raponi, Group Head of Innovation, Generali*
- *Alice Repetti, Innovation Lead, HITS - House of Insurtech (Generali Corp-up studio)*
- *Samyr Mezzour, Chief Venturing Officer, HITS - House of Insurtech (Generali Corp-up studio)*

10:45 - 11:15 Coffee Break

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:00 Scaling Up: Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Change

- *Yvette Tetteh, Co-founder and CEO, Pure and Just Company Limited*
- *Patrizia Braga, Head of Ecological Innovation Area, Melting Pro*
- *Deqa Abukar, Founder & CEO, BLING*
- *Laura Bandeira de Mello, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio)*
- *Risuna Maluleke, CEO, Young African Entrepreneurs Institute NPC*
- *Moderated by Nardos Berehe, Global Youth Networks Project Lead, SDSN Youth*

15:00- 16:00 Youth Voices, Global Choices: Shaping the World Beyond 2030

- *Nisaa Jetha, Founder & Global Strategist, Impact for SDGs*
- *Dr. Sameh Kamel, International Organizing Partner, UN Major Group for Children and Youth*
- *Chelsea Toler, President, Private Family Foundation (Generation Philanthropies)*
- *Gaia Guadagnini, Young Ambassadors Society Climate Team*
- *Moderated by Raquel Armendariz, Program Coordinator of SDSN Youth, SDSN*

16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break



16:30 - 18:00 Closing Session

- *Cardinal Peter K.A. Turkson, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences*
- *Professor Jeffrey Sachs, President, SDSN*
- *Raquel Armendariz, Program Coordinator of SDSN Youth, SDSN*
- *Kayla Colyard, Education Manager of the SDG Academy, SDSN*
- *Sam Loni, Founder of SDSN Youth and Former Chair of Vatican Youth Symposium*
- *Monika Froehler, CEO, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens*

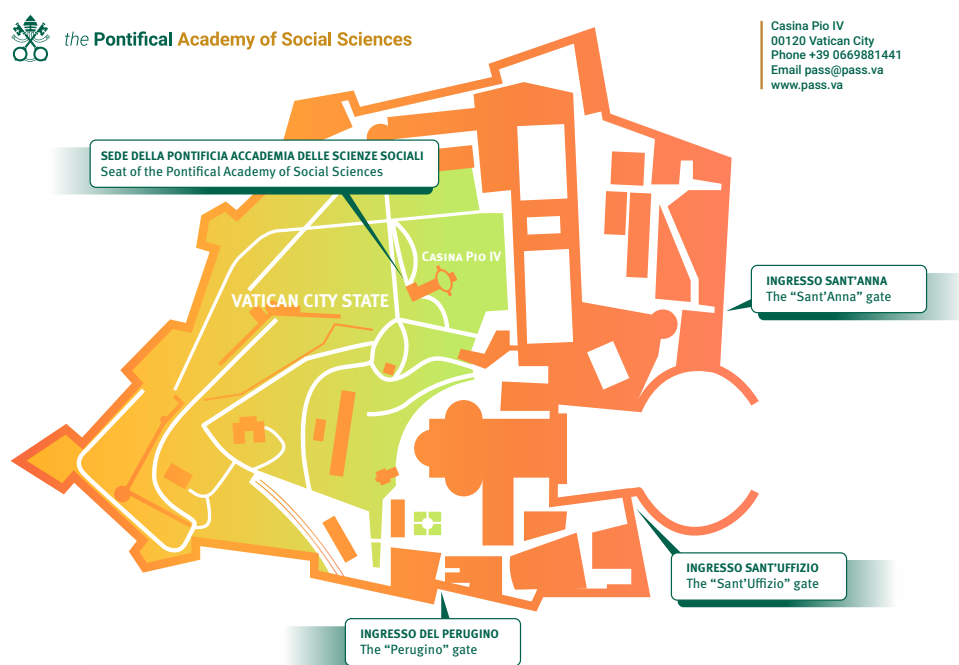
18:00 - 18:30 End of Day Exchange and Call to Action

18:30 Dinner

LOGISTICS

Dress Code

The **dress code is business casual**. In accordance with the Vatican's policies, attendees are required to ensure the following: shoulders and knees must be covered; clothing should not have rips, tears, or distressed elements; and sheer or see-through garments are not permitted. It is recommended that you bring a pair of flat shoes for the walk after the Symposium, as the paths are cobblestones, and you'll be walking downhill.



Getting to the Vatican

Please carry your passport, as you will be crossing an international border when entering/exiting Vatican City.

If you are NOT staying at Carpegna Palace: Your name has already been communicated to the Vatican Security. Instruct the driver to enter the Vatican through the Perugino Gate at Via della Stazione Vaticana. Vatican Gendarmes will check your name on their list and authorize the taxi to drive you to Casina Pio IV. Do not exit the taxi at the Perugino Gate, as it is a long walk to Casina Pio IV. The best thing would be to bring a printed copy of the program to show the Gendarmes where you are headed.

Please note that taxis cannot enter the Vatican empty. To leave by taxi, you must exit the Vatican on foot.

If you are staying at Carpegna Palace: On April 3 and 4, a Vatican shuttle (SCV-plated) will pick up participants staying at Carpegna Palace at 08:15 and transport them to Casina Pio IV. We kindly request that you arrive on time. If there are any delays, SDSN Youth members will reach out to you.

Please note: There will be no return shuttle service.

Carpegna Palace Hotel is near the Cornelia subway stop on Line A, which is five stops from Ottaviano, the closest stop to the Vatican. The subway operates from 5:30 to 23:30 on weekdays and until 1:30 on Fridays and Saturdays. Each ride costs €1.50 and can usually be paid using contactless methods at the turnstile. Please watch your belongings when using public transport.

Coordination & Questions

If you have any questions, please contact the organizers of the event via email or WhatsApp. Prior to the Symposium's start, they will create a WhatsApp group chat, where announcements and reminders will be shared throughout the event.



The Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

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www.youtube.com/c/CasinaPioIV

For further information please visit: www.pass.va

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