



## Istanbul Communiqué on Looking Beyond Disaster 2019

1. We, citizens of all creeds, races and disciplines from disaster-affected nations in Europe, Asia, the Americas, Africa and the Pacific, gathered on 12-16 April 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey, at the Tenth Youth Looking Beyond Disaster Workshop (LBD10): **Ethical Disaster Resilience for our Global Community**, organised by Beşikçizade Center for Medical Humanities (BETİM), Eubios Ethics Institute, American University of Sovereign Nations, Youth Looking Beyond Disaster; Youth Peace Ambassadors International and other partners.

2. Recognizing the increasing impact of natural and human-caused disasters, and their complexity in many parts of the world, we declare our determination to enhance our efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction to reduce losses from disasters worldwide.

3. We express our solidarity with the people of Christchurch, New Zealand and all across the world who lost their lives and loved ones on 15 March 2019, and were affected by the terrorist attack on persons praying in mosques. Senseless terrorist attacks against persons of all faiths, religions, and ideologies, are human-made disasters that contradict the love of life. We need to ensure education and social maturity that embraces all persons in love and peace as members of local communities and the global community. We applaud the swift responses by government and citizens in New Zealand to overcome the hatred, and we support the project of Legacies of Love, Peace and Hope.<sup>1</sup> We choose the politics of love over the politics of hate.

4. The inhumane terrorist attack on the Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Mosque communities in Christchurch, New Zealand, caused 50 people to be killed. This unfortunate event deeply saddened the conscientious people all over the world. We believe that in the face of such an event, everyone who has a share of human dignity, regardless of their faith, nationality and ethnicity, should take a stand against terrorism, racism and social discrimination.

5. Calling the perpetrator of this appalling attack as simply “a lone wolf” or “psychopath” does not only lead to ignore the context in which action takes place, but also neglects the fascist, racist and Islamophobic discourses and attitudes, which are increasing day by day all over the world, West and East, South and North. Also, this attitude causes the attacker to be freed from his responsibility or to moralize his action on an individual basis. However, it is not possible to solve

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.eubios.info/legacies\\_of\\_love\\_peace\\_and\\_hope](http://www.eubios.info/legacies_of_love_peace_and_hope)

the problem without taking a stand on the rhetoric and social dynamics that terrorism and racism feed on. In this respect, we must raise our voices against the growing fascism and anti-Islamic rhetoric by focusing our attention on the ground where the issue is nourished, and we should come out against and put an end to all these subversive ideologies and actions.

6. The participants of the workshop express their solidarity with the victims of ongoing disasters at the time of this workshop, such as the devastating floods in Iran, and all other disasters that afflict every nation of the world. We reinforce the statement in the Sendai communique on the responsibility of the media to accurately and openly report disasters in all parts of the world.

7. When faced with disasters, youth are proactive agents of change for rebuilding their communities worldwide. After exclusion as a stakeholder from the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*<sup>2</sup> during the past 10 years, we highlight that youth have since 2011:

a. shared their disaster experiences as part of Looking Beyond Disaster (LBD)<sup>3</sup>, a series of international youth fora held at various locations in the Pacific, Asia, America and Europe, including:

- LBD1 Christchurch 2011
- LBD2 Sendai 2012
- LBD Auckland 2012
- LBD3 Kobe 2013
- LBD Padang 2013
- LBD4 Manila 2014
- LBD5 Yogyakarta 2014
- LBD6 Arizona 2015
- LBD Vanuatu 2015
- LBD7. Kathmandu, 2015
- LBD8. Bangkok, 2016
- LBD9. Kumamoto, 2017
- LBD10. Istanbul, 2019;

b. declared their commitment to disaster risk reduction in the Christchurch Communique 2011 and Sendai Communique 2012 produced at LBD fora\*, which were used in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 preparatory process from July 2014 to March 2015<sup>4</sup>; and

c. created international, interdisciplinary, and intercultural action plans at LBD fora\*.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unisdr.org/2005/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.eubios.info/looking\\_beyond\\_disaster](http://www.eubios.info/looking_beyond_disaster)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.wcdrr.org/preparatory/prepcom1>

8. Taking into account the heavy disaster losses suffered within that same 10 year period\*, we value the inclusion of youth in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework). Youth and all people are committed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework to enhance all efforts for the future. Specifically, we agree that:

- a. Governments should engage with youth in designing and the implementation of policies, plans and standards, in accordance with section 7 (of the Sendai Framework).
- b. An age perspective should be integrated in all policies and practices and youth leadership should be promoted, in accordance with section 19d.
- c. Youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with section 36aii.

9. We are aware that implementation of the Sendai Framework depends on our unceasing and tireless collective efforts to strengthen resilience to hazards for the benefit of the present and future generations. To this end, we believe that implementation of the Christchurch Communique 2011, Sendai Communique 2012, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 can only be achieved with the full and meaningful engagement of young people.

10. We consider that LBD needs a continuing commitment from all stakeholders, working together, to provide visible ongoing mentoring, financial and monitoring support for action plans related to policy-making, practical action in disaster prevention and recovery, and sustaining and increasing innovative youth engagement in reducing disaster losses. We welcome all partners and stakeholders to achieve this full and meaningful engagement of young people through the ethos of LBD, including all LBD alumni and LBD Ambassadors.

11. Community resources and educational degrees and programs for ethical disaster risk reduction, can provide a safe 'space' for people to share their disaster experiences and LBD action plans provide 'modalities' for meaningful contributions to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with section 36 a ii of the Sendai Framework.

12. We call upon all stakeholders to make a life-time commitment to support the role of youth as contributors to DRR, through annual budget allowances which will:

- i. enable youth experiences of disaster to be shared at regular LBD fora held at various locations globally;
  - ii. ensure work-to-date on LBD action plans are documented, made accessible to youth internationally and online, and advanced further.
- 3b. Support the inclusive global LBD governance structure:<sup>5</sup>
- i. empower any party wishing to use the LBD, AUSN<sup>6</sup> and other resources at any location worldwide;

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.eubios.info/youth\\_ambassadors](http://www.eubios.info/youth_ambassadors)

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ausn.info> and <http://www.eubios.info>

- ii. provide on-going mentoring, financial support and monitoring for implementation of LBD action plans;
- iii. catalyse a coherent global movement of young people in DRR through a community of practice.

13. We thank all individuals and organizations involved in all LBD fora from the first in Christchurch to the tenth in Istanbul for their commitment to youth and advancing disaster risk reduction in the global development agenda.

14. All persons of every specialty have an imperative to be engaged in disaster response and collective action responses.

- a. Recognizing the commitment of youth, and continued call for recognition at the highest Governmental and International level, for collective action responses on disaster,
- b. Recognizing the imperative to engage youth, to avoid their disenfranchisement in a warming, and more disaster prone world,
- c. Recognizing the need to train, develop and nurture the development of leaders in disaster response and risk management,

15. Humanitarian relief from disasters should never be subject to restrictions because of sanctions that impede the ability of a community, and those from outside the community who are invited to offer humanitarian assistance. Politics should not sacrifice the lives of persons living with disasters, and wars that lead to loss of lives are disasters and crimes against humanity.

16. We make the following recommendations to that effect:

- a. Support nascent youth engagement and interest in disaster risk recovery.
- b. Build capacity for youth, including training programs, mentoring opportunities to ensure youth engages in a responsible and sustainable way.
- c. Involve such trained youth in all policy making and evaluation of its implementation.
- d. Work together to develop and implement global educational degrees and courses to build up the capacity and resilience of societies to prevent disasters, and to recover from them.
- e. We, as BETİM based in İstanbul and Eubios Ethics Institute based in Christchurch, condemn the abomination cited above that coincides with our joint organization of the LBD10 forum. We also note the recent signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Turkish Red Crescent Association and New Zealand Red Cross. We hope that this meaningful workshop organized by institutes from both countries, and attended by persons from all inhabited continents of the world, will promote the deep understanding of how we need to construct a global society based on love and coexistence of all people in the world in harmony with human dignity.

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