

WYA Declaration on Personal Identity and Human Dignity Education

New York, 2026

We are young people of diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, and economic backgrounds from all regions of the world. We affirm that each human being possesses intrinsic and inalienable dignity from conception until natural death. This dignity is the foundation of every human right. Dignity is not granted by any State or institution and does not depend on ability, achievement, social status, or recognition by others.

The human person is an embodied being, endowed with reason, freedom, purpose and the capacity for self-gift. Personal identity, rooted in the relational nature of the human person, is formed within family, culture and community, not constructed in isolation, nor imposed by ideology. Rather, this identity is recognized and cultivated through the integration of the biological, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual dimensions of the person. True freedom is exercised in accordance with human dignity and directed toward excellence and solidarity.

Authentic education plays a decisive role in the formation of personal identity as it does not merely transmit information or teach skills, but forms the whole person. It must therefore be rooted in a coherent understanding of the human person and ordered toward human flourishing. Education cultivates the capacity to seek truth, to understand and choose the good, and to act responsibly in solidarity with others.

We recognize and empathize with many young people today who experience confusion regarding their identity, worth, and purpose. Educational approaches, including forms of Comprehensive Sexuality Education, that fragment the human person or reduce identity to subjective self-perception risk undermining the integral development of the child. Programs that separate sexuality from the broader context of personal dignity, responsibility and respect offer an incomplete and potentially harmful understanding of the human person.

We affirm that the family is the fundamental unit of society and the primary institution in which children first encounter unconditional love, their identity, values and learn the meaning of their own dignity. As international law recognizes, parents have the primary right and responsibility to educate their children, and the State must respect this role. Educational policies that disregard or undermine parental authority violate the rights of the family.

We recognize that education must not merely inform, but form the whole person. The Human Dignity Curriculum (HDC), a K–12 program adopted in schools in multiple regions, exemplifies this approach. HDC helps children understand two questions: “Who am I?” and “Who can I become?”. Grounded in personal identity, the HDC motivates students to recognize their inherent worth, strengthen their capacity for self-reflection and responsible choice, and build habits of excellence, in solidarity with others. Offering an integrated vision of human dignity, the HDC represents a practical model forming young people capable of facing life with confidence and moral clarity.

We stand united in our commitment to advancing human dignity education as a foundation for personal identity and strong families, which leads to flourishing societies. By emphasizing the formation of young people who understand their inherent worth and are capable of choosing the good, we help shape societies rooted in freedom, responsibility, and solidarity.