

Grigny, France

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This summer, I had the chance to go to Hiroshima and participated in the IYCPF. I was really happy to represent the youth of my city in Japan.

When I first arrived in Japan I fell in love with this culture, with their culture of peace especially. I've been welcomed in Hiroshima airport by a very adorable committee and got the chance to know them better.

Since the first day, I felt the willingness of all the participants to build peace together. What I understood there was such precious lessons.

At first, I've learned a lot about the Japanese culture because of all the activities proposed (homestay, restaurants, temple...) and also the cultures of the other participants by talking with them.

I understood that even with our cultural differences all the youth of the world were the same and want the same: a future in a better world without war, pollution... I've learned there that all we listen in the media about the population of other countries were false and all of us are simply citizens of the world. I've learned there that we have to listen to history in order not to make the same mistake (that's the duty of memory). I've learned there that peace is a long process and that we can't get discouraged by how long it'll take to get it. And I've learned to work in group, something that was really difficult for me but I understood that it was essential to work as a team to build peace.

In Hiroshima, I've made such wonderful friends and I keep in touch with them as much as possible! I still talk a lot with my team, and some friends that there and recently, I had the chance to meet Anne (homestay host) again in Paris to make her discover the city!

Following this trip, I've been interviewed by a few newspapers in France as "Le parisien" and "Actu.fr" who gave me the chance to promote our message of peace. I am currently discussing with my city and my school about diverse activities to promote peace as : the camera in common with other country in order to all the people of these cities to express their wish of peace with other around the world or a peace challenge on social media or an inter-generational discussion .

In conclusion, this conference opened my mind and changed my fight for peace in a way I couldn't imagine before this trip. It convinced myself that with all the good willingness from all the people all over the world we could and should get peace.

The beautiful Hiroshima will stay in my heart, thank you for welcoming me.