

**Budapest, 28 April 2001**

Dear Friends,

We are writing to you from Budapest, where 51 young people from 25 countries of Europe and Central Asia have been discussing the most important issues we face.

### **I. How we see Europe and Central Asia**

Our world is a world that is far from our dreams. A world where many families live in poverty and some children cannot afford to go to school. A world where people are not treated equally and their rights are not always respected. A world where young people are pushed to turn to drugs and alcohol and don't get the support they need. A world where education systems fail to prepare us for life. A world where public health services are not always available for everybody. A world where our families are falling apart and where we are not protected from the dangers in our societies. A world where adults do not take us seriously. A world created by YOU, but experienced by US....

### **II. The Europe and Central Asia we want to see**

This world is not good enough for us. We demand change. We have the right to a world where there is no more war, drugs or poverty. A world where:

- all young people finish secondary school;
- all young people have equal opportunities to develop their capacities;
- all young people have access to information they need;
- all young people can participate in political life and decision-making;
- all young people are protected from exploitation and abuse;
- all young people have safe places to go for recreational activities.

### **III. What can we do?**

We as young people are willing to work alongside adults to help create this world. We invite you to cooperate with us to achieve the following goals by the year 2011:

- shadow youth councils in every local authority where young people can have a say in decision-making in their community;
- educational reform to make the curriculum more relevant to children and young people;
- the creation of a centre for young people in every major city where young people from different backgrounds can exchange ideas and share experiences;
- the establishment of non-judgemental services in every community for young people's physical and mental health;
- enhanced social support and mentoring programmes for vulnerable families.

**Young people are not only the future ... we are the present.  
So let's start cooperating today!**