

# BLUE BERET

## MAGAZINE

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Spring 2025

UN Secretary-General  
hosts Cypriot leaders  
in Geneva

UN Youth  
Champions for  
Environment and  
Peace present  
final projects

# BLUE BERET

Spring 2025



## In this issue

### UN Peacekeepers in Action

UNFICYP honours women and men who serve in Cyprus on International Day of UN Peacekeepers  
SRSG engagements with key stakeholders and the diplomatic community  
SRSG Stewart speaks at the opening of the Pedieos/Kanlı Dere River Project

### Military Force

Force Commander attends conference with heads of military in New York  
UNFICYP welcomes Slovenia as its new Troop Contributing Country  
UNFICYP peacekeepers demonstrate agility during skills competition

### United Nations Police

UN Police officers awarded UN medals for their service for peace in Cyprus  
Senior Police Advisor Mingzhu Xu briefs New York on UNPOL's work in Cyprus

### Civil Affairs Section

Ioanna Phanaris: Bridging communities, one toy at a time  
Halef Kurt: Bridging peace and sustainability as a UN Youth Champion  
Young Cypriots gather to discuss gender equality on International Women's Day

### UN Good Offices Mission

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, hosts Cypriot leaders in Geneva  
Chief of UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, visits Cyprus  
Running for peace: Film highlights the power of sports to bring people together  
Technical Committee on Environment's Geo-heritage field excursions



**ZERO TOLERANCE  
FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION  
AND ABUSE**



**Stop, prevent, protect**

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# Editor's note

Dear readers, it is with great pleasure that we launch the Spring edition of the Blue Beret magazine. In this new edition, which has a fresh and new layout, we are covering the Missions' highlights from March to May this year.

In this edition, you will find the latest meetings of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, and senior leadership with key stakeholders, and with the diplomatic community.

In this edition, we also covered the visits of UNFICYP's Force Commander, Major General Erdenebat Batsuuri, and the Mission's Senior Police Advisor, Chief Superintendent Mingzhu Xu to New York earlier this year.

In this issue, you will also find how we are continuing efforts to protect the environment, including our engagement with local communities and how we are supporting initiatives on both sides to protect our shared environment. Ranging from barn owls nesting projects led by UNPOL to promoting youth participation in environment related issues through the UN Youth Champions programme, led by the Mission's Civil Affairs Section.

You will also find several stories on the work of our military and police colleagues and how the Mission marked some important UN dates and observances. In this edition, we also include pictures from our most recent medal parades and the peacekeepers skills competition.

We are proud of the commitment of our Civil Affairs Section and how the team continues to engage with a diverse range of civil society groups from both communities of the island and is promoting several in person activities. With the new layout we are also incorporating the coverage of events organized by the UN Good Offices Mission in Cyprus to showcase their work on the island.

In the next few pages, read about how UNFICYP continues to implement its mandate inside the UN buffer zone, and much more.

Enjoy reading!

## Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General visits Cyprus



From 24 to 30 May, the Personal Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Cyprus, María Ángela Holguín, visited Cyprus and met with both leaders and key stakeholders on the island. On 28 May, she held her first meeting with the members of the newly appointed Technical Committee on Youth.

## BLUE BERET

Spring 2025

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## UNFICYP honours women and men who serve in Cyprus on International Day of UN Peacekeepers

On 29 May, UNFICYP marked International Day of UN Peacekeepers. According to the Secretary-General, "today, more than 76,000 civilian, military, and police personnel are deployed in 11 peacekeeping operations around the world and the challenges they face are greater than ever."

"As we honour peacekeepers worldwide, we recognize their resilience in the face of modern threats like disinformation, terrorism, and political divisions, and their adaptability to evolving changes. Yet, here in Cyprus, we see that their work continues to make a difference in the lives of Cypriots," stated Stewart in his remarks.

Every year on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, we honour the brave men and women who serve under the UN flag to foster peace in conflict-affected regions. Among these missions, UNFICYP stands as a testament to the enduring power of multilateralism international cooperation and dedication to stability.

Since its establishment in 1964, the Mission has played a crucial role in preventing tensions,

maintaining law and order, and helping the return to normal conditions on the island.

Over 150,000 military and police personnel from 45 countries have served with UNFICYP, demonstrating unwavering commitment to peace.

Sadly, 187 peacekeepers have lost their lives, and their sacrifice serves as a solemn reminder of the risks peacekeepers face daily.

For the past six decades, UNFICYP has remained a vital, impartial force in de-escalating tensions and facilitating dialogue. The mission's efforts extend beyond the United Nations buffer zone, as it actively engages with youth, women's groups, and civil society to foster reconciliation and confidence in a shared future.

UNFICYP remains committed to support efforts by Cypriots from across the divide toward a peaceful, united Cyprus.

"On this International Day of UN Peacekeepers, we reaffirm our collective responsibility to uphold peace and remember those who have given their lives for the cause of peace," concluded SRSG Stewart.





# SRSO engagements with key stakeholders and the diplomatic community

SRSO Colin Stewart at the first meeting of the Technical Committee on Youth, highlighted that this is the first technical committee to be formed in 10 years and the 13th Committee now working.

For the United Nations, marking the 10th anniversary of the Youth, Peace and Security agenda; Stewart stressed the importance of empowering youth and ensuring meaningful engagement of youth in all aspects of life - social, political and economic.

## Cyprus Dialogue Forum



On 3 June, top United Nations representative in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, met with the Cyprus Dialogue Forum and its Political Task Group to discuss the current state-of-play on the island. During the conversation, they stressed the importance of keeping dialogue going. The Cyprus Dialogue Forum also shared information about its activities, including study visits and publications, focusing on the goal of improving the peace process.

## Cyprus bi-communal peace initiative



On 12 May, SRSO Colin Stewart, met with members of the Bi-communal Peace Initiative United Cyprus at Ledra Palace Hotel inside the UN buffer zone. Stewart joined the conversation and listened to their hopes for the future of Cyprus, they also discussed the importance of peacebuilding efforts, inclusive dialogue and sustained support for communities working across the divide.



Photo: UNDP

## SRSB Stewart speaks at the opening of the Pedieos/Kanlı Dere River Project

On 15 May, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, attended the launch of the long-awaited Pedieos/Kanlı Dere River Project. The river project will span the entire city of Nicosia, extending the existing linear park in the south along the Pedieos/Kanlı Dere river through the Ledra Palace crossing point to the north.

Set for completion in 2027, the EU funded project, to be implemented by UNDP in Cyprus, in coordination with the UN Good Offices Mission, will allow users to travel along the longest river on the island through a network of wooden bridges, cycling paths and green corridors fostering the preservation of nature spots, while encouraging recreation, mobility and people-to-people contact.

### UN diplomatic briefing



On 24 March, Colin Stewart, welcomed members of the diplomatic community for a briefing on the UN's activities on the island. At the briefing, Stewart informed about the positive initiatives announced by the Secretary-General in Geneva. Stewart commended the parties for the result of the Geneva meeting, and noted the positive decisions on a Personal Envoy and another meeting to be held at the end of July. He also briefed on the situation in the buffer zone and recalled the ongoing activities of the 12 technical committees to address issues of shared importance on the island.

### Women's coalition



On 1 May, SRSB Colin Stewart, met with women representatives from different organizations and groups across the island.

Stewart emphasized the crucial role of women in peacemaking and was impressed to learn of the concrete and constructive suggestions made and encouraged the group to continue their efforts to ensure women's voices are heard in the absence of negotiations and to ensure that women participate fully, equally and meaningfully as part of any resumed UN-facilitated negotiations in Cyprus.

# MILITARY

United Nations Peacekeepers in Cyprus



## This Section

**Force Commander meets heads of military in New York**

**Peacekeepers show readiness in skills competition**

**UNFICYP welcomes arrival of Slovenian peacekeepers**

### Peace begins with fire prevention



UNFICYP peacekeepers from military and UNPOL are preparing for soaring summer temperatures with training on fire safety management, to prevent fires inside the buffer zone.

### UNFICYP pays tribute to Pope Francis



In UNFICYP, we were deeply saddened about the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. He was a humble yet powerful voice of wisdom and humanity. We had the honour to host him in the buffer zone in 2021 where he met with our peacekeepers, who felt personally inspired by his humility.





## Force Commander attends conference with heads of military in New York

On 10 April, the Heads of Military Components Conference was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. This high-level forum brought together military chiefs from peacekeeping missions across the globe to assess current challenges, share experiences, and identify collaborative opportunities. UNFICYP's Force Commander, Major General Erdenebat Batsuuri, attended the series of discussions focused on strengthening operational effectiveness and aligning future peacekeeping efforts with the strategic vision of the Action for Peacekeeping initiative.



## UNFICYP welcomes Slovenia as its new Troop Contributing Country

On 23 April, UNFICYP's Force Commander, Major General Erdenebat Batsuuri, and the Mission's Senior Advisor, Aderemi Adekoya, together with UN staff attended a flag-raising ceremony marking the deployment of six new Slovenian peacekeepers to the Mission. The event took place in the UN Protected Area and was attended by Tamara Weingerl Požar, Ambassador of Slovenia, and Dr. Evros Alexandrou, Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus in Limassol. The ceremony underscored Slovenia's continued support to UN peacekeeping efforts in Cyprus.



## UNFICYP peacekeepers demonstrate agility during skills competition

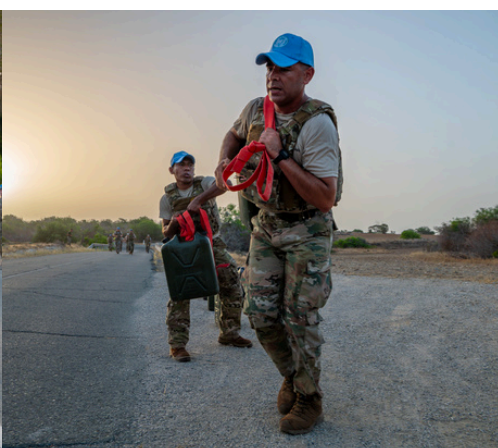
On 27 May, UNFICYP held a skills competition organized to ensure that peacekeepers remain agile and ready to deploy at short notice. Despite the soaring temperature, the first competition of 2025 was successfully concluded, showcasing the dedication and professionalism of peacekeepers serving in Cyprus. The peacekeeping skills competition is a major event in every rotation. These exercises are crucial in maintaining high operational standards of military and police personnel, ensuring that they can respond effectively in case of emergencies. The competition tested various skills, including endurance, navigation and driving, and crisis response key attributes of successful peacekeeping missions.

For Louise Long, one of our UNPOL Officers from Ireland: "Taking part in the competition as part of the UNPOL team was a real honour. It was an incredible experience that tested our teamwork, resilience, and dedication to the Mission. Placing third among such

skilled teams was a proud moment, not just for us individually, but for the values we uphold as UNPOL officers here in Cyprus."

The military and UNPOL officers who participated in these exercises demonstrate the spirit of international cooperation. Peacekeepers from various countries come together, united by a common goal: to serve and protect communities affected by conflict.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, awarded the Mobile Force Reserve team for winning this edition. He commended their outstanding performance and praised all participants for their commitment to peace. In Cyprus, UNFICYP continues to implement its mandate of preventing tensions and maintaining law and order in the buffer zone while also building trust among the communities to support the return to normal conditions. We congratulate to the winning team and all participants for their dedication to peace on the island.



# UN POLICE

United Nations Police in Cyprus



Photo: Jaydan Pozo

## This Section

**SPA Mingzhu welcomes new UNPOL officers**

**UNPOL officers awarded with UN medals**

**Mingzhu attends conference with heads of police in NY**

As part of UNFICYP's efforts to protect the unique ecosystem in the buffer zone, UNPOL officers work closely with the Game and Fauna Service in Cyprus to provide a safe place for nesting barn owls. United Nations Police officers conduct regular joint patrols to support monitoring of the owl population, inspect nesting boxes and tracking the population for control purposes.



Photo: Jaydan Pozo





## UN Police officers awarded UN medals for their service for peace in Cyprus

On 16 May, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, accompanied by UNFICYP Senior Police Advisor, Mingzhu Xu, awarded the prestigious United Nations medals to 31 United Nations Police peacekeepers from China, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Nepal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Slovakia for serving for peace on the island. The ceremony was attended by several representatives of the diplomatic community from the awarded Police Contributing Countries. We thank them for their invaluable contributions to peace in Cyprus.

### Chinese police delegation visits UNFICYP Senior Police Adviser



On 30 May, UNFICYP Senior Police Adviser, Mingzhu Xu, welcomed a police delegation from China to the UN Protected Area to discuss the role of UNPOL in Cyprus and possible further collaboration.

### Mission welcomes newly arrived UN Police officers



On 30 May, SRSR Colin Stewart, together with the Mission's Senior Police Adviser, Mingzhu Xu, welcomed the newly arrived UNPOL peacekeepers from Germany, Ireland, and Jordan. They will contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order in the buffer zone.



## Senior Police Advisor Mingzhu Xu briefs New York on UNPOL's work in Cyprus

From 26 to 28 February, senior police leaders from all United Nations Peacekeeping operations gathered in New York for the 19th Heads of Police Components Conference to discuss pressing challenges, strategic priorities, and innovations in UN policing. The conference, led by Mr. Faisal Shahkar, UNPOL Adviser, aimed to enhance mission effectiveness, align efforts with global frameworks, and ensure that UNPOL can adapt to evolving security demands. Among the participants was Ms. Mingzhu Xu, Senior Police Adviser to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus, who played an active role in key discussions. The discussions focused on strategic coherence, ensuring UNPOL's work can support broader political and peacebuilding goals, including the Pact for the Future and other key UN initiatives. Participants examined how to integrate these priorities into mission while ensuring alignment with Security Council mandates and organizational strategies. Gender equality was also a major topic, with sessions exploring how UNPOL can advance the Women, Peace and Security

agenda through leadership, policy, and operational practices. Additionally, the conference gave a space to discuss how technology and data-driven approaches can modernize policing in peacekeeping, addressing risks like cybercrime and disinformation while leveraging digital tools for better outcomes. A key theme was how to improve collaboration between military, police, and civilian components to enhance mission effectiveness. The conference served as a space to foster collaboration, innovation, and accountability and to strengthen UN policing as a cornerstone of global peace and security not only in Cyprus, but around the world.

“UNPOL operates and runs daily patrols within the buffer zone”



# CIVIL AFFAIRS

Bringing communities together



## This Section

**Bridging communities,  
one toy at a time**

**UN Youth Champion  
Halef Kurt shares his story**

**Young Cypriots gather to  
discuss gender equality**

On 27 March, the UN in Cyprus held the closing ceremony of the UN Youth Champions for Environment and Peace in Nicosia. Colin Stewart congratulated the participants and marked the occasion as a celebration of four successful years of the programme.

Since its inception in 2020, the initiative has engaged and empowered young people from across the island, promoting peacebuilding and environmental advocacy among youth from all communities. In this edition, we invite you to read the stories of some of them!

### **Cypriot children join friendly chess tournament**

On 12 and 13 April, UNFICYP supported the second Intercommunal Chess Tournament held in Kalopanayiotis village. The event brought together 42 enthusiastic children from both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to engage in a friendly competition and mutual learning through chess.





## Ioanna Phanaris: Bridging communities, one toy at a time

“

Small gestures, like sharing, reusing, and reducing waste, carry deep meaning.

”

In a world where youth voices are often sidelined, the UN Youth Champions for Environment and Peace program shines as a powerful example of what happens when young people are given the opportunity to lead, connect, and act. For Ioanna Phanaris, the program has been nothing short of transformative, personally, environmentally, and socially.

Ioanna first came across the initiative through social media, and the idea immediately resonated. “It stood out to me as an opportunity to engage in meaningful, youth-led action around peace and the environment,” she recalls.

Through workshops, joint activities, and hands-on projects, she and other youth from both communities in Cyprus came together not just to share space, but to build real, lasting connections.

“Collaborating with youth from the other

community broke down barriers and built genuine connections.

“Small gestures, like sharing, reusing, and reducing waste, carry deep meaning.” That idea blossomed into Toys n’ Talks; the grassroots initiative led by her group.

The concept of Toys n’ Talks is beautifully simple: children bring gently used toys to exchange for others. But beyond the practical benefits of reducing waste and promoting reuse, the exchanges create space for interaction, storytelling, and friendship. “It’s a gentle, playful way of promoting both environmental responsibility and peace,” Ioanna notes.

One unforgettable moment stood out for her: two children, unable to speak each other’s language, smiling and playing together after exchanging toys. “It was such a simple moment,” she says, “but it embodied the spirit of our project perfectly: kindness, openness, and shared joy.”

For Ioanna and her team, the journey doesn’t end here. While they’re uncertain about the next steps, the impact of the program is lasting: “We’re proud of what we’ve achieved and hopeful about what could come next.” The UN Youth Champions for Environment and Peace program demonstrates the profound potential of young people to build bridges between communities, between cultures, and between causes.





# Halef Kurt: Bridging peace and sustainability as a UN Youth Champion

Halef Kurt, a Cypriot peace activist, is helping shape a vision for a more peaceful and sustainable Cyprus. As one of the UN Youth Champions, Halef represents a generation committed to dismantling barriers, both environmental and societal, through meaningful, collective and interdisciplinary action.

Halef first encountered the UN Youth Champions program through events in the buffer zone and updates from UN social media platforms and bulletins. These platforms played a pivotal role in sparking his interest. "It offered a unique opportunity to work in an interdisciplinary field that connects peacebuilding and environmental action. These are two essential issues for the future of our island," Halef shared. Participation in the program provided Halef with hands-on experience in both peacebuilding and environmental sustainability. "It was interactive, informative, engaging, entertaining, and important for both personal development and community impact."

For Halef, one of the most meaningful aspects of the program was witnessing how environmental issues transcend identity, community, and division. "When it comes to the environment, there are no borders—no 'other' communities.

These first-hand experiences equipped him and others with the practical tools necessary to become more effective changemakers. One of Halef's proudest achievements as a UN Youth Champion is the creation of Hade Pame!, an initiative that promotes peace and dialogue through eco-friendly transportation. Their flagship event, City Trek: Explore the Divided Capital of Nicosia, invited participants to discover both sides of the island on foot.

But the mission doesn't stop there. "We aim to help all communities on the island discover and explore both sides of Cyprus through environmentally friendly transportation options," Halef said.

This initiative not only fosters environmental awareness but also encourages cross-border engagement—two pillars of sustainable peace.

“ We aim to help all communities on the island discover and explore both sides of Cyprus through environmentally friendly transportation options ”

”





# Young Cypriots gather to discuss gender equality on International Women's Day

On 4 March, young women and men from across the divide gathered in Ledra Palace Hotel to engage in a dialogue on gender bias and explore innovative ideas to advance women's rights across the island. The workshop, held just days ahead of International Women's Day, served as a platform for discussing pressing issues surrounding gender inequality and the collaborative efforts needed to overcome them.

The workshop, marked by its collaborative atmosphere, drew participants from diverse backgrounds, each bringing unique perspectives and ideas to the table. The primary aim was to address the pervasive issues of gender bias that continue to challenge both communities on the island and to identify ways for fostering an environment where women and girls can thrive. The conversation included activists, students, and professionals from Cyprus and abroad, all eager to share their experiences and insights on the challenges faced by

women on the island. "This is not just about women; it is about creating societies that values equality and inclusivity for everyone," said Lauren McAlister, UNFICYP Gender Affairs Officer.

During the event, participants discussed a wide range of topics, including the effects of social norms on women's personal and professional choices, the importance of gender representation in politics, and the role of education in shaping future generations' understanding of gender issues.

The workshop is part of UNFICYP's Civil Affairs Section 'Peacebuilding in Divided Societies' programme, which aims to strengthen women and youth people's input to discussions on peace and security, with a focus on peacebuilding, social action, leadership, negotiation, and mediation processes. The workshop highlights the ongoing quest for gender equality and serves as a beacon of hope for younger generations living on the island.



# CYPRUS TALKS

Highlights from the UN Good Offices Mission



## This Section

**UN Secretary-General  
hosts leaders in Geneva**

**Under-Secretary-General  
DiCarlo visits Cyprus**

**Running for peace  
documentary screening**

**Good Offices supports  
visits to geo-heritage sites**

## UN Good Offices Mission joins Model United Nations

UN Good Offices Mission staff Sherry Holbrook participated in the 20th anniversary model UN conference held by the Mediterranean Model United Nations, sponsored by the English School and organized by Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot students. Over 500 student between 15 and 18 years old from around the Mediterranean region participated.

This year's theme was "Adapting to Today's Tomorrow: Diplomacy in a Divided World", and during the panel discussion Ms. Holbrook highlighted the programmes supported by the UN in Cyprus geared towards young people and the importance of the UN's Youth, Peace and Security policy. The forum aims at providing a unique platform for young minds to engage with current global issues through meaningful and constructive debate. The debate panel took place with two other panelists, Mr. Roar Thun Wægger from Wægger Negotiation Institute and Ambassador to Poland Mr. Marek Szczepanowski.





## UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, hosts Cypriot leaders in Geneva

The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, hosted an informal meeting on Cyprus in Geneva, with Mr. Nikos Christodoulides and Mr. Ersin Tatar alongside representatives from Greece, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom. The event began with a dinner on 17 March and continued through the following day. In his remarks to the media on 18 March, the Secretary-General said that from the very start of his mandate, he has “been committed to the security and wellbeing of the Cypriots, the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots. And today was another attempt to find a way forward.” Guterres noted that the discussions were held in a constructive atmosphere,

with both sides showing clear commitment to making progress and continuing dialogue. He then announced that “Mr. Tatar and Mr. Christodoulides have agreed the following group of initiatives to build trust: opening four crossing points; demining; creation of a technical committee on youth; initiatives on the environment and climate change, including the impacts on mining areas; solar energy in the buffer zone; and the restoration of cemeteries.” In addition to these six initiatives, the Secretary-General informed that the parties “agreed to have in this format the next meeting end of July”, and that he would “appoint a Personal Envoy to prepare the next steps.”

“

Cyprus needs you all as key partners, contributors and opinion leaders to help shape the future of the island.

”





# Chief of UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, visits Cyprus

On 10 February, the UN Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, visited Cyprus and held several meetings. She met with the Turkish Cypriot leader, Ersin Tatar and the Greek Cypriot leader, Nikos Christodoulides regarding the Cyprus issue in Nicosia, discussed plans and reaffirmed the United Nation's continued commitment to peace on the island. During her discussion with the two leaders, she urged them to engage more actively with civil society and incorporate diverse perspectives into the peace process. She began her trip with an internal briefing from colleagues in the UN Good Offices Mission and Colin Stewart.

Later in the day she attended a roundtable discussion with representatives of bicommunal women's groups at an event co-organized by the Good Offices Mission with the Cyprus Women Bi-communal Coalition in Ledra Palace Hotel where she stated: "Cyprus needs you all as key partners, contributors and opinion leaders to help shape the future of the island. Women's participation in peace-making efforts is therefore not just a matter of fairness and equality, it is smart peace-making."

The women shared views on obstacles to women's participation as well as targeted recommendations as to how women's full, equal and meaningful participation could be achieved – both in the absence of active peace talks as well as during them. During her visit, DiCarlo was also escorted to the UN Good Offices Mission's latest photo exhibition about the peace process located outside Ledra Palace and had an encounter to exchange views with the current and former negotiators. In his last report to the Security Council on his mission of Good Offices, the Secretary-General encouraged all parties to the Cyprus issue to engage in dialogue and to seek a mutually acceptable way forward with the required political will, creativity and openness to compromise.

“ Women's participation in peace-making efforts is not just a matter of fairness and equality, it is smart peace-making. ”





# Running for peace: Film highlights the power of sports to bring people together

In the early hours of 23 November 2024, two groups of runners in Cyprus set off—one from Kyrenia/Girne and the other from Larnaca—their paths converging towards Nicosia, in the center of the island. This was the Runite Run, a powerful demonstration of how sport can transcend divisions and bring people together. With 250 participants from both communities—joined by members of the diplomatic corps and international supporters—the event embodied the spirit of togetherness. Covering over 80 kilometers in segments, it was designed for all levels, ensuring inclusivity and broad participation.

## **A Journey of sports and peacebuilding**

Using sport as a bridge between communities has been championed by the Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission in Cyprus. In recent years, OSASG-Cyprus has supported a range of sports-based peace initiatives, recognizing their ability to foster dialogue and collaboration among people who might not otherwise meet. This vision took shape in September 2022, when a public panel discussion brought together Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot stakeholders to explore the role of sports in peacebuilding.

In September 2023, the running association Runite organized a 'Run for Peace' through Nicosia. Inspired by its success, Runite—with support from OSASG-Cyprus and UNDP—set its sights on an even more ambitious challenge: a coast-to-coast run.

## **More than just a run**

The Runite run was about much more than covering distances: it was about breaking barriers. Runners didn't just follow a route; they paved the way for dialogue, cooperation, and shared experiences. To capture this journey, a 10-minute documentary, *Running for Peace*, was produced. Premiered on 11 March in Nicosia, the film was screened before an audience of around 100 participants, including representatives from both communities, media, running associations, and civil society groups.

USE THE QR CODE TO  
WATCH IT ON YOUR PHONE





Photos: UNDP/Artemis Evlogimenou

## Technical Committee on Environment's Geo-heritage field excursions

“

Small gestures, like sharing, reusing, and reducing waste, carry deep meaning.

”

On 22 March, the Technical Committee on Environment facilitated an unforgettable field excursion through some of Troodos' key geo-sites. Youth enthusiasts had the chance to dive into the fascinating world of rocks and minerals, learning how they shape the island and impact our daily lives. Participants also engaged in a hands-on geological exploration, each receiving a box filled with rocks found across the island of Cyprus along with geology tools to study them. Using a set of informative cards, they identified different rock types and discovered their various uses in daily life—a truly interactive way to connect with the island's geological heritage.

Hands got creative in a pottery workshop, where participants crafted their own fossils from clay, using natural pigments and elements like leaves, shells, and small rocks—a perfect blend of science, art, and nature. The project highlights included a selection of cards on the rocks and minerals of the island; a treasure hunt game and an excavation simulation workshop. The Geo-heritage project was organised by the Technical Committee on Environment, and was funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, in coordination with the UN Good Offices Mission in Cyprus (OSAG).



Photos: UNDP/Koray Üstüner



# THROUGH HER LENS

WOMEN RISING FOR PEACE

STAY TUNED  
THROUGH HER LENS IS COMING TO CYPRUS

United Nations  
Peacekeeping

DFPA

The Elsie  
Initiative Fund

UN  
WOMEN

Photoville



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