

Countdown to organizing the 20th General Assembly of the World Federation of Democratic Youth in Cyprus

On December 3-6, 2019 an event of historical importance will take place on our island. The General Assembly of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) will be hosted in our homeland with over 130 delegates from every corner of the globe. It is historically the second time we have had the opportunity to host the General Assembly, as the first was in 1999.

This Assembly is held every four years and has the agenda of discussing what is happening nowadays, as well as what has happened before. It examines and analyzes with practical methods how the struggling youth can stand against what is ruining their lives, stand against imperialism and exploitation. It also includes the presentation of WFDY's action by the outgoing General Council and concludes with the election of the new General Council. Historically, EDON, one of the founding members of the WFDY (1945), is elected to the Presidency for the first time in 2011 and for the second time in 2015 without an opposing candidate. By decision of the EDON Central Council, the Organization will not reclaim its presidency.

As EDON, we have served in the last eight years the global anti-imperialist youth movement with honor and awe, marking achievements that will remain a legacy of WFDY and a beacon for future generations. During these years, two World Youth and Student Festivals were organized, in 2013 in Ecuador and in 2017 in Russia. There have been events, campaigns to rally the members of the Federation with the common goal of fighting against imperialism.



In all seriousness, as EDON we have taken up the hosting of the 20th Assembly with the knowledge of the responsibility it brings. We are sure that through the Assembly the views of the new generation will be heard and decisions will be taken to condemn the imperialist interventions that kill people and makes them refugees.

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Makronisos

Theatrical Performance That Leaves Legacy



The Antilogos Theater Team, this season, presents with great success the work of the prolific Cypriot writer Michalis Papadopoulos “Makronisos” directed by Alexia Papalazarou. EDON hosts this show in all provinces of Cyprus.

The work presents the invisible side of women who lived through the horror of Makronisos (1948-1950) during the civil war in Greece. The protagonists on stage, “Valentine, Maria, Smarro, Helen”, represent the thousands of women who passed away, were lost or stigmatized forever in their later lives with what they experienced with their incarceration on that island.

The horror of incessant torture, the humiliation of every human dignity to renounce their communist ideals, but also their vision of a more humane and just society, is evolving in front of the viewer’s eyes, letting him understand that until today “the struggles of people from Makronisos” are amongst us. It may be that the face of fascism, nationalism, the depreciation of the ideals and all those who hold the people captive, their interests change according to the times, yet every day the dignified struggle of the people is greater than anything in this world. After all, as correctly stated in the play “Right is more precious than life itself”.



At the end of the play, in addition to the thrill of the narrative, the viewer receives the big questions that come with the end of each fight, every attempt at change ... Was it all worth it? What have we accomplished? Will the inner wound ever close? What have our kids got from this? Questions that each have a different answer to, but are always accompanied by the insurmountable and magnificent feeling that man must fight for what drives him into this inhumane system.

Great performance! See it!

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Students show us the path of struggle

Education has been receiving attacks since the first election of the current DISY-Anastasiadis government are not over. The attacks are rampant, in teachers, and students.

In Secondary Education students were converted to experimental animals by applying the exams every four months, at the same time as the stakeholders in education and others react. On November 12, the organized student movement successfully abstained from classes for two hours, resisting the anachronistic plans of the Ministry of Education. The elimination of exams every semester is a top issue on this year's PSEM agenda, but it is not the only one. Students are fighting for a human, democratic and truly free school.

In Higher Education, the Government refuses to bring back student support funds to 2012 levels after they were cut following the financial crisis. The above reinstatement is the position of the organized student movement. Failure to provide adequate government care coupled with increased rents, the few university dorms and high tuition fees in private universities have resulted in many students stopping their studies. On the other hand, many students are forced to work alongside their studies in derogatory terms, with many of them doing more than one job. On November 7, POFEN mobilized in all study areas, inside and outside Cyprus.

As EDON, we stand by the struggles of pupils and students for their right to education. We stand by every student who is anxious about their future, but also by any student who lacks state student care because they does not meet the criteria, while in fact they needs state support.





THE TWO LEADERS TO RISE TO THE HEIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES

Things have become very difficult and complex for the Cyprus issue and the November 25 meeting in Berlin is very important and decisive for the future of the Cyprus issue.

The purpose of this meeting is to lead to a five-day conference, which will adopt the terms of reference that include the UN Secretary-General's framework, the convergences achieved so far and will of course be based on relevant UN resolutions and high-level agreements.

At this meeting it will be ascertained by the UN Secretary-General whether the conditions are in place for a new initiative to reopen substantive negotiations. And it has long been clear on its terms. It wishes to restart from the point at which they were interrupted, on the basis of its Framework and preserving the convergences achieved. And from there the will and readiness of the two sides will be judged.



Our side on this tripartite should be clear on what to propose. The President must move both with clear positions and with unshakable consistency in the agreed upon and persuaded of the necessity of both reaching terms of reference and resuming substantive negotiations in order to reach a solution to the Cyprus issue as soon as possible.

The two leaders should come together with the political will to work together, to overcome any problems so that the meeting will have positive results.

We now consider that only one solution to the Cyprus problem guarantees security and peace in our country. And only the liberation and reunification of Cyprus can truly guarantee the future of our people.

