



DECLARATION OF RECTORS “THE VALUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO: HARNESSING THE POWER OF TOURISM TO PROMOTE CROSS-CULTURAL DIALOGUE AND ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

Under the auspices of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and in collaboration with the Helsinki-España Organization and the Compostela Group of Universities,

We, the Rectors and representatives of 18 universities from 12 countries, gathered in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, on 23 March 2018, within the framework of the holding of the **International University Forum “The Value of Human Rights on the Camino de Santiago: Harnessing the Power of Tourism to Promote Cross-Cultural Dialogue and Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”**, express our commitment to work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations, disseminate, protect and uphold human rights and promote tourism that contributes to economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability.

Aware of this, we present a vision and a common roadmap in an academic and social framework that promotes the advancement and observance of human rights, sustainable tourism and lasting peace among young people and safeguards this legacy for future generations.

With this declaration:

1. We recall the importance of Resolution 70/1 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, of 25 September 2015, on “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose 70th anniversary is celebrated this year 2018, Resolution 707(XXII) of the UNWTO General Assembly of September 2017 on the Framework Convention on Tourism Ethics, in order to promote the knowledge, participation and contribution of academia and young people to the construction of peace and a sustainable society.
2. We affirm the value of the Camino de Santiago as a route of pilgrimage and encounter between people and peoples, today a symbol of fraternity, reflection, concord, cross-cultural dialogue, hospitality and tourism that is responsible, sustainable and universally accessible, for the enrichment of local communities.
3. We recognize that we, as Rectors, have been entrusted with the responsibility of forming the minds of our future leaders and ensuring that they continue to prioritize peace, human rights and sustainable tourism for all.
4. We value the ongoing work of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the United Nations system, governments, universities, the private sector and civil society to promote sustainable and ethical tourism and uphold the principles of human rights.

For all these reasons and in order to advance along this path, we undertake a commitment:

5. To establish a framework policy that includes the Sustainable Development Goals in academic curricula, considering that it is essential for teachers and researchers to promote the competencies and continuous knowledge of the SDGs, including innovation, good practices and talent development.
6. To urge the entire university community to adhere to the Sustainable Development Goals by developing a biannual plan for the implementation of this commitment.

Therefore, as Rectors attending the International University Forum “The Value of Human Rights on the Camino de Santiago: Harnessing the Power of Tourism to Promote Cross-Cultural Dialogue and the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”, we commit to working together with all stakeholders in order to ensure the fulfilment of this Declaration.

Inspiring the youth of today, changing the world of tomorrow

Santiago de Compostela, 23 March 2018

Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland
Ahfad University for Women, Sudan
Complutense University of Madrid, Spain
Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
Fordham University, United States of America
Hospitality Business School Saxion, the Netherlands
IESIDE Business Institute, Spain
Network of Universities of Cultural Routes Studies, Council of Europe, Luxemburgo
KU Leuven, University of Leuven, Belgium
Tulsa Community College, United States of America

University of A Coruña, Spain
University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro
University Jaume I, Spain
University of Lima, Peru
University of Minho, Portugal
University of Monterrey, Mexico
University of Oklahoma-Tulsa, United States of America
University of Paris 1 Panthéon - Sorbonne, France
University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain