

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

 UWC RED CROSS  
NORDIC



# Annual Report 2023

Opened in 1995, UWC Red Cross Nordic is the only UWC in the Nordic region. Founded by Nordic governments and the Red Cross, the College focuses on the promotion of humanitarian, environmental, Nordic values and concerns.

The college is located in the beautiful fjord region of western Norway. It has 200 students, aged 16-20, all selected on demonstrated potential from over 85 countries.

Founded in 1962, United World Colleges is the only global educational movement that brings together students from all over the world – selected based on potential and personal merit, irrespective of race, religion, politics, and the ability to pay – with the explicit aim of fostering peace, international understanding and sustainability.

Today there are eighteen United World Colleges located on five continents.

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## Foreword

Hilde Sandvik, Board Member, Producer of podcast "Norsken, svensken og dansken"

“ Out of some persistent sense of large-scale ruin, we kept inventing hope.

Don DeLillo:

White Noise (1985)



On the morning of the 24th February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Since then, Europe and the rest of the world has been thrown into a conflict in which we are forced to take a stand. For Norway - which shares a border with Russia - it is a warning of how quickly a neighbour can become your worst enemy. For United World College, the war is a reminder of why the painstaking work of bringing students from all over the world together for education, for togetherness, is so important.

What role can UWC Red Cross Nordic play in the Nordic region?

These are our times: Wars, climate crises, rising inflation, the aftermath of a pandemic. The very foundations of democracy are threatened, freedom of expression is under pressure. In 2022, only 21 countries in the world will be classified as full democracies. Norway is at the top of the democracy index - all Nordic countries are in the top 10. Only ten countries are classified by Reporters Without Borders as having full freedom of expression\*. The trust index shows the same: the Nordic region is at the top, but trust is eroding. People don't trust the authorities or each other.

Why is the annual report for the beautiful school in Fjaler so gloomy and seemingly depressive? Because this is where the opportunities and the gold are: What the school does, learns from and passes on is nothing less than vital learning. In the Nordic region, we can demonstrate in practice what democracy can do, how trust can be built - even how disagreement can be accepted. A heterogeneous society requires more, not less, freedom of expression, the British writer Kenan Malik has written and spoken about this time and again. As a child of Indian immigrants to England, he knows what he is talking about. Learning to disagree respectfully is increasingly important in a world at boiling point.

UWC Red Cross Nordic, nestled in the mountains of western Norway, shows that this can be done - respectful disagreement, different backgrounds meeting and challenging each other, showing precisely that it is through open, free conversation in an open and free society that safe spaces are created. It is when we close the door to our neighbours that everything becomes unsafe.

\*<https://rsf.org/en/rsf-s-2022-world-press-freedom-index-new-era-polarisation>

# Looking Back and Thinking Forward

Pelham Lindfield Roberts, Rektor

The Annual Review is a celebration of achievements and an acknowledgment of challenges. In this past year we have celebrated the 60th anniversary of the UWC movement. As we approach our 30th Anniversary in Haugland, the present moment holds potential as a dividing line between the past and the future; on that thin line our actions hold unknown potential.

The invasion of Ukraine, so tragic for those directly impacted by the violence of war, had global impact, polarising perspectives, sparking discussions on campus about a new Cold War and raising implications for the Nordic Region.

The John Hick Centenary Conference held at RCN sought to define the two concepts of “plurality of religions” and “religious pluralism”. Discussions about tolerance supported understanding contemporary culture.

The Nobel Peace Prize ceremony recognized the work of the Centre for Civil Liberties in Ukraine and Ales Bialiatski, an imprisoned Belorussian pro-democracy activist who shared the prize with Memorial, a Soviet-era human rights organisation. The students who were able to attend, had a unique experience of being in the same room as world leaders and people who had devoted their lives to the cause of peace.

We celebrated the contributions of those who left their offices in 2022. Hege Myhre as Rektor and Jo Loiterton as Deputy Rektor, acknowledging also the important work of Arne Osland, as Director of Development and the passion and commitment of two long standing teachers, Jelena Belamaric, who joined in 1995, and Kåre Dale, who joined in 2007.

Reflecting on the past year, emerging from the ravages of the pandemic, we are thinking about what a Red Cross education, a Nordic education, and a UWC education should achieve. In establishing our vision to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world, we are reaching out to local partner organisations, such as NOREC and Skift to promote diversity as an opportunity or to challenge climate change as an obligation.

“Kurt Hahn’s call to action “you are needed” is as relevant now as it has ever been.



Kurt Hahn’s call to action “you are needed” is as relevant now as it has ever been. Our unique context, community and education contain unique potential and realising that potential in this moment of transition is our obligation. We need to call on our supporters and alumni to nurture the commitment of all the Nordic governments which have supported the college since its founding and maintain this into the future.

Taking on the position of Rektor is a privilege I am honoured to take on with a sense of purpose, aiming to create the best possible future for our Nordic Red Cross UWC community as a catalyst for positive peace and social justice through humanitarian and environmental action.

# Educational Role Model in the Nordic Region

Elizabeth Sellevold, Chair of the Board, Publishing Manager, Forlaget Vigmostad & Bjørke

“RCN always inspires me and renews my belief in the importance of this international mission-driven education.



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” I am often reminded of Nelson Mandela’s powerful words.

The year 2022 has been a challenging time, with war in Europe and geopolitical shifts. According to the World Bank, global progress in reducing extreme poverty has virtually come to a halt in the aftermath of Covid. How can UWC Red Cross Nordic be a forceful capability in these times?

The aim of UWC is to develop the potential of students from deliberately diverse backgrounds who will be able to set an example, to become ethical leaders in their communities and to commit themselves to making a positive difference in their personal and professional contexts in line with the UWC Mission. As an educational institution we must equip them with intellectual skills, emotional intelligence, responsibility, and service to others. UWC can also be important as an educational and Nordic role model.

My ambition in the years to come is for UWC Red Cross Nordic to connect closer to our partner Red Cross, and to promote the college broader in the Nordic region. UWC Red Cross Nordic is the only governmental, multilateral educational project in the Nordic region. The school was founded in 1995 and has been supported by Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Island, Greenland, Åland and the Faroe Islands. This is truly unique! RCN has the capacity to be of wider inspiration in Norway and in the region, both with its educational mission and as an example of Nordic cooperation. The previous Norwegian Prime minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, and the previous Swedish Prime minister, Ingvar Carlsson, recognised the importance of this collaboration when they guaranteed the support from their governments in 1991. 30 years later, with our big neighbour in the East waging war, it is more important than ever to sustain and strengthen this Nordic initiative. Having the opportunity to engage in the education of youth is highly rewarding. Meeting the engaged and thoughtful students at UWC Red Cross Nordic, the dedicated staff and management team always inspires me and renews my belief in the importance of this international mission-driven education. As our patron, Queen Sonja of Norway, said: “I am glad that our work in setting up a Nordic UWC here in Fjaler succeeded. You can feel the warmth once you come to campus, and the College is everything we hoped it would be.”

To go forward the college needs a visionary leader, and I will take the opportunity to thank Rektor Pelham and Ulrike Lindfield Roberts for their enthusiasm and dedication.



# Academic Report



The timing of international schools' transition from a pandemic focus coincided with an intensification of climate and weather crises, a military invasion in Europe, protests against political regimes, financial inflation and the Earth's human population exceeding 8 billion. It is a small source of comfort, therefore, that our International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme continues to provide interdisciplinary subjects, a celebration of breadth, stimulation for students to think, communicate, socialise, self-manage and conduct research, and a global community of educators for collaboration. And it is our deliberate diversity at UWC Red Cross Nordic that allows us opportunities to understand multiple perspectives and share ideas for a better and more peaceful world.

Our 2022 results in the IB were a testament to our students' and teachers' academic knowledge, risk-taking and balance, with average points of 36 (out of 45) exceeding both the global average of 34 and our own 5-year average of 35. Our Diploma pass rate, which is an indication of dedication and care across the six subjects, theory of knowledge, extended essay, and creativity, activity and service, was 95% (in comparison with 85% globally) and again represents part of an upward trend for the college.

With our individual subject results being dependable (on average 5.7 out of 7 for students in receipt of the Diploma), we can also recognise the importance of collaboration in our academic programme. By working together within and across subject groups, and spear-headed by our Learning Support team, we hope that our teachers will gain an understanding of the skills that our students develop and how we can implement differentiation to ensure that every student can flourish. We are also making a commitment to uphold the time that our students spend with our teachers through our timetable, whilst understanding the benefits that our community and extra-academic programmes bring beyond the curriculum.

Giving time and space for our teachers to work together prompts us to think too about our students' needs as global citizens.

We cannot ignore, for example, artificial intelligence and the ways that it can both support our students' access to learning and pose a threat to good academic practices. We are also working closely with our wider Board on our academic strategy for the future, thinking about our aspirations for our students in this public environment and what success in the RCN context might look like. In 2022 our Academic Committee has been restored, with student-led projects exploring class productivity and our academic calendar.

In short, while the world swirls around us, all we hope for is that our students can come together in magnificent surroundings and experience the joys, awareness and career stepping stones that our academic programme provides. Education really is a force to unite people.

**Emma Mitchell**, IB Diploma Coordinator



## Summary of IB Points Compared to Previous Years

year	diploma candidates	under 24 points	24-30 points	31-35 points	36-40 points	41-45 points
2019	91	7	31	32	18	3
2020	96*	1	25	32	30	8
2021	95**	3	12	26	33	21
2022	96	1	16	26	32	21

\* Four candidates withdrew  
 \*\*Three candidates withdrew

	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Average all students</b>	35.6	35.8	33.66	31.37
<b>Average diploma</b>	36	36	33.8	33
<b>Average per subject</b>	5.73	5.73	5.41	5.22



This year has been a busy one for the new Community Life Programme. With four new House Leaders, 100 new students and lots of new programmes there has been a great deal of change. While change can be difficult at times, it can also be an opportunity for something beautiful to grow and flourish and that is certainly what has happened for us here at UWC Red Cross Nordic.

We have been working hard to create even stronger support systems in our community, focusing especially on developing community knowledge and skills around positive communication alongside mental health awareness and support strategies. This has included professional training in Nonviolent Communication and Conflict Transformation, a professional Mental Health First Aid Qualification for a group of students and staff, workshops on Diversity and Inclusion and the opportunity for every first year student to receive a certificate from Yale University after completing the hugely popular Science of Wellbeing course online.

Within the Student Village we have introduced regular evening drop-in sessions with every House Leader, a Koselig Committee to organise regular activities open to everyone, and have been developing the new student leadership role of House Representative and the new Community Life Committee.

**Sarah Haughey**, Community Life Leader

## Community Life



## Universities

In 2022, we were thrilled to return to in-person visits and had some 20 institutions visiting campus. Our UWC Counsellor group also put together a series of virtual events which encompassed almost all Davis Partner Schools, plus many non-Davis Partner Schools who have UWC-specific scholarships. This enabled us to expose students to well over 120 institutions. We also had the pleasure of hosting the President of Methodist University, Dr. Stanley T. Wearden along with other institutions such as New York University Abu Dhabi, Macalester College, Richmond University and Trinity College to name just a few who made in-person visits.

The US remained the top destination for our 2022 graduates. 47 students went to their chosen US institution in the autumn, 1 to the UK, 7 to the Nordic region, 6 to the Netherlands, 4 to Canada, 1 to China, 1 to Abu Dhabi and 2 to France. The remaining 26 took a gap year, of those 26, many will apply for university towards the end of their gap year.

**Mark Chalkley**, Senior University Counsellor

# From Ideals to Action

The Red Cross Legacy at UWC Red Cross Nordic

When the college was founded in 1995 with the invaluable help of the Norwegian Red Cross, the aim was to put Red Cross values at the heart of our school. This connection makes the Nordic UWC school unique and we are very proud of our partnership with the Red Cross. For our students, this cooperation gives both opportunities and requires student action. 2022 saw new Red Cross activities on and off campus as well as the continuation of a long tradition of established Red Cross engagements.

## RCN Humanity

RCN Humanity is a student group focusing on creating opportunities on campus for various audiences. Through applying for funding, the group secured enough budget to host overnight camps for guests on campus. We want to give a huge thank you to Agenda Vestland, (Sparebanken Vest), who, over the last three years, have given us more than 1 million NOK to run projects together with Bergen Red Cross. This generous support has created several new opportunities for students to volunteer and learn together with Bergen Red Cross whilst providing kids and youngsters from Bergen unique days on campus! During project week in October a group of students travelled to Bergen to volunteer for a full week together with Bergen Red Cross, where facilitated activities for children aged 6-12. This is a model we hope to extend in the years to come.

## Peace begins with us

The Red Cross Campus Care student group was central in planning UWC Day with the theme "Peace begins with us". The day included a workshop where Cathrine Hårsaker from the Red Cross taught students and visitors about the humanitarian consequences of climate change, and how to respond to this, and invited them to be creative and find ways to prevent further damage to the planet. This was a fantastic follow-up to the one day course that Pål Andreas Dahl from Sogn og Fjordane Red Cross held on disaster management earlier in the year.

## Community Action

Students in the Red Cross Care have taken up weekly visits to the local nursing home, Fjaler Sjukeheim, where they have a chat with people, play board games, sing or play music.



*“ I'm so thankful for the experiences I've been able to have on campus with Bergen Red Cross but also the other camps we've hosted. I worked a lot in KFUM back in Sweden, and to get to spend time with kids and people from vulnerable groups, just sparked a lot of happiness in me. It also reminded me of my role in a larger perspective beyond the RCN bubble. Seeing how joyful those kids were emphasised the impact of my actions as an individual in making a positive difference for others.*

**Thea Madisson**, Sweden, Second-year student



A group of students have also taken on a new weekly commitment in the municipality centre, Dale. The Language café is a weekly meeting point where refugees meet with Norwegians, European volunteers and RCN students to learn Norwegian, but also to practise other languages. It is a very popular, relaxed activity that means a lot to people.

## Lifeskills - First Aid

Dramatic scenarios for learning how to call for help and keep people alive while securing one's own safety; drilling of symptoms and treatments for hypothermia, heart attack, epileptic seizures and various burns. These are some of the components of the yearly first aid course run by 15 second year students. The course is made up of a theoretical and practical test, equivalent to the Norwegian Red Cross' 12 hours course and is completed by all first year students and for staff.

## Search and Rescue

The First Aid Team went for a Red Cross Search and Rescue course in Nesholmen in May. They learned to navigate, got familiar with different ways of the search for missing people in daylight and in the dark, practiced transporting people on difficult, steep terrain on a stretcher, and water rescue techniques.

## Summer camps - Holiday for All

Red Cross summer camps, "Holiday for All" is one of the longest-running activities taking place at Haugland. Every year when students leave campus for the summer break, the campus is turned upside down to prepare for the Red Cross camps, with over 100 participants and volunteers visiting each week. Whilst the sun is shining, the families take part in a range of different exciting outdoor activities with focus on building family ties, making new friendships and lasting memories. These weeks are special to us, and in the summer of 2022 we hosted 5 weeks in total with Red Cross camps welcoming more than 500 guests to campus!

## Leonora Laukeland Kleiven

Director of External Relations & Communications

## Norwegian Red Cross

### Red Cross Principles:

humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, universality.



# Voices of RCN

“ I was struck by the vision of Kurt Hahn, which resonated deeply with my own principles.



During a visit to UWC Mahindra to participate in a regional conference of students and educators from South Asian countries in 2005, I was struck by the vision of Kurt Hahn, which resonated deeply with my own principles. The experience left a lasting impression on me and I felt compelled to associate myself fully and wholeheartedly with the UWC mission to teach, to learn, and to interact with a talented pool of students and colleagues from around the world.

While I was comfortably established as a principal in Sanskriti, a residential school in the historical city of Ajmer in India, I came across a chemistry teacher vacancy at UWC Red Cross Nordic and could not resist applying. It didn't take me long to realize that UWCRCN was where I wanted to be. The tall mountains, the gentle fjords, and the lush forests made a deep impression. I felt an instant connection.

I started solo in August 2007. My wife Madhulika started working at the International School of Bergen, and lived in Bergen with our two daughters. But once she was offered a teaching position at UWCRCN in 2009, the Singh family was reunited in Flekke. Being at RCN, my daughters got a wonderful and unique opportunity in their pursuit of holistic education. My eldest daughter Aditi graduated in 2013 and is a medical doctor. Her younger sister, Malvika, graduated in 2022 and is now pursuing studies in bioinformatics.

The college provided us with ample support to grow professionally and personally in different capacities. We are filled with a sense of gratitude for this opportunity, where we have been able to teach, to learn and to guide several generations of graduates who are committed to contributing positively in their immediate communities.

**Ashok Singh**, India, Teacher of Chemistry

“ I can already give back some of the gifts I got from being part of the UWC community.



I am from Irpin, a town close to the capital, Kyiv, that was occupied for several months, and I had to flee. My family is still in my hometown, where people live in fear and uncertainty, and I am worried about them.

Here at UWC Red Cross Nordic I feel privileged to be safe, surrounded by people who show their support and understanding. I have been exposed to so many different experiences I would have never been able to do at home. I have been pushed out of my comfort zone and broadened my horizons, for which I am ever so grateful.

I meet inspiring people from all over the world and make friendships that I know will last for the rest of my life. I enjoy being here and try to make the most out of the many opportunities the College gives. Among many things, I participate in The Knights EAC, where we help students with varying abilities to experience outdoor activities. We work in a team to overcome the limits that can hinder participation in sports. I am looking forward to Ridderrennet, the biggest winter sports event in Europe for people with physical disabilities, where we will provide help for the games. It feels like I can already give back some of the gifts I got by being part of the UWC community.

**Valeriia Ivanova**, Ukraine, First-year Student

“ ...working for humanitarian values is worthwhile and meaningful.



As a curious child in Sweden with a multicultural background, I was always fascinated by different cultures and values. Attending UWC Red Cross Nordic was a turning point in my life. Studying philosophy and exploring profound ideas about morality, the human condition, and political philosophy sparked my interest in humanitarian work.

After studying International Relations, Chinese Studies, and Human Rights and Humanitarian Action, I have worked with UNICEF on various projects, including combating online child sexual exploitation and abuse, ending child marriage and violence against children, and protecting children and women from sexual exploitation and abuse in the Pacific Islands. I am currently based in Amman, Jordan, supporting the work on strengthening child protection systems and working to end harmful practices in the midst of several crises in the Middle East and North Africa region. My next assignment will be in Afghanistan, supporting the UNICEF team in programming for gender equality.

Although my journey has not been easy, RCN has taught me that working for humanitarian values is worthwhile and meaningful. Being away from family and friends every 1-2 years while moving to new UN assignments has been challenging. However, knowing that there is always a UWC friend nearby wherever I go has been reassuring.

Looking back on my journey, RCN defined my career and personal development. If I can help provide better opportunities for children around the world, then that is a win.

**Jeanette Trang**, Sweden, RCN'11 graduate

“ UWC RCN contributed to our daughter's growing independence and sense of her world.



We first learned about UWC when our family lived in Norway for a year. We became friends with someone from Venezuela and learned that his connection to Norway began as a RCN student. His enthusiasm for the place and its role in his life led us to our own investigations. We came away impressed by the opportunities and mission of this unusual school.

Sending our daughter away to study at the peak of the pandemic was not easy, logistically or emotionally. But the dedication of the RCN administration, teachers, and staff to keeping the school both open and safe was reassuring, even inspiring. They truly led by example and the experience of negotiating borders during that difficult time contributed to our daughter's growing independence and sense of her world, just as her education in and around Flekke did.

The UWC mission is to make education “a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future.” That requires a willingness to travel, leave one's familiar surroundings, and persistently challenge assumptions about the way we live in our world. What could be a better experience for young people, in whose future mindsets and decisions we collectively must place all our futures?

Our daughter is now a first-year student in a liberal arts college in the United States. She is independent, curious, and empathetic by nature. UWC Red Cross Nordic helped give a sense of direction and purpose to those attributes, underscoring their intrinsic importance and practical value. Her IB education is serving her well and her appreciation of the many diversities contained on our planet was strengthened by the many concrete experiences of her two years living along Flekkefjorden. Like our friend from Venezuela, perhaps someday her stories will inspire someone else to investigate this special place.

**Jeffrey Kahn and LaiYee Leong**, USA, parents of an RCN'22 graduate



### JANUARY

We started 2022 with Covid restrictions, quarantine and online classes. All students were required to get tested for Covid upon arrival. Despite the challenges, spirits remained high and by the end of January, everything returned to normal.



### FEBRUARY

We took our first year students on a 5-day trip to learn how to ski, experience friluftsliv (outdoor life) and enjoy the outdoors in winter. Many had never skied before, but they had a great attitude and were eager to learn new skills.



### NOVEMBER

All second-year science students participated in an interdisciplinary science project, building model solar farms. The first-year students had a full day of interdisciplinary classes and workshops.



### OCTOBER

We welcomed the Executive Director of UWC, Faith Abiodun, to campus. *"When I had the opportunity to visit RCN... I was deeply inspired by the intricate blend of outstanding education, Nordic values, humanitarian leadership, and environmental stewardship."*



### SEPTEMBER

This year we celebrated UWC Day on the 21st September under the theme *"Peace Begins With Us"* to reflect on our collective responsibility toward building a more peaceful future for us all.



# 2022 month by month



### APRIL

The graduating class at UWC RCN made a commitment to the UWC Pledge initiative, coming up with ideas for a special project. This helps in their transition and we look forward to the impact of their contributions on the UWC community.



### MAY

Our Class of 2022 graduated on 20th May. It was a great pleasure to welcome so many families, host families from our local community and other guests at the ceremony after two years without guests.



### JUNE

First year students presented their Theory of Knowledge exhibitions to fellow students and teachers, demonstrating their critical thinking skills by connecting everyday objects to TOK concepts. This has become an end of term tradition.



### JULY

As every summer, UWC Connect runs several camps for children and families in need with cooperation from the Red Cross in addition to camps for local children.



### AUGUST

We hosted a reunion for our alumni and it was great to see them, now grown, still embodying the same energy and enthusiasm for UWC and its mission. Our alumni show that the UWC mission can be lived out in any profession, lifestyle, or location.



# What is Love at RCN?

Impressions of our college through the lense of art



*I'm a Dreamer*  
Naima Steck, Germany, RCN'22

In that first October, something shifted. I began to understand that perhaps love is knowing the green, joyful summer still exists despite the rain and the sleet and ice crystals on the windows, a cold so bitter it feels like it crawled into your bones. I realized that love is giving someone the last piece of garlic bread, even if the ends are your favorite. Love is complimenting your roommate's outfit, watching their face light up at a joke they made, watching your favorite movies late at night and making it a weekly ritual with your friends. Love is helping someone with their homework and bringing them back to earth when academic stress feels never-ending. Love is taking walks to the island at 10 pm with your best friend and going on tangents about things that don't matter, talking about the

things that do, and supporting them all the same. Love is the first snowfall of the year and running back into the warmth of the dayroom after a snowball fight. It's calling your little brother, 2,000 miles across the ocean and space and time, watching them grow up through the phone and realizing that maybe they're your best friend. Love is getting dressed for events and braiding your roommates' hair, tying their dresses, lending mascara and everything you own, and knowing they will always do the same for you.

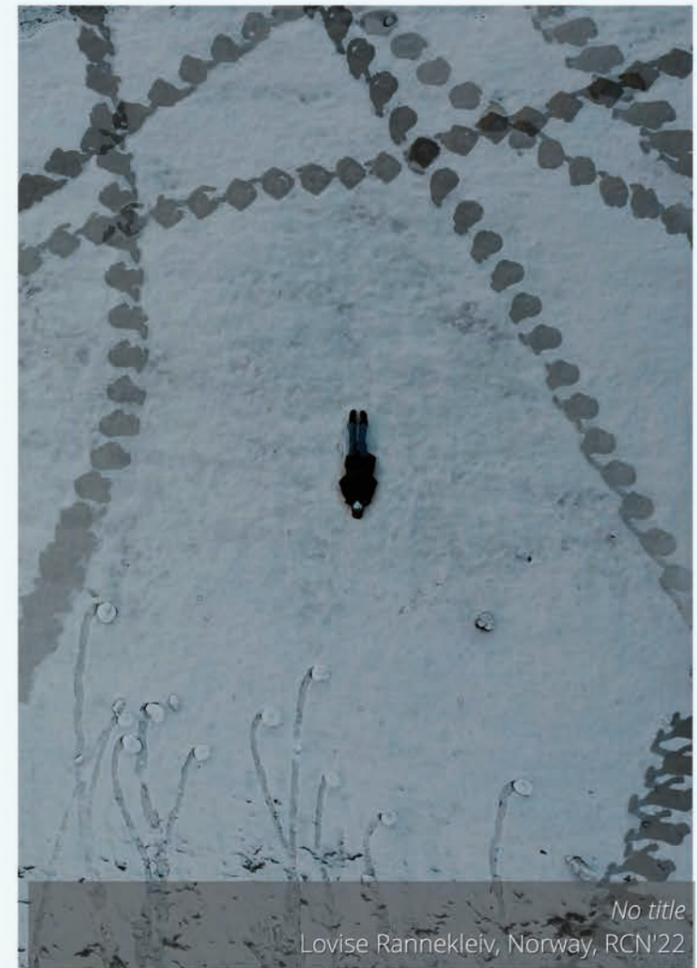
**Fiona Elliott, USA, 2nd year**

It is winter. Still dark when school starts, and dark again by the time it ends. She wakes up and struggles to leave the comfort of her bed and venture into the cold air. It is one of those days where everything is covered in fog, she can barely see in front of her, and the fjord disappears behind a white curtain. These are her favorite days because once the fog clears out, the sun will be there, shining its winter rays from a distance. She thinks of how strange it is to look directly at the sun without feeling its warmth reach her body. That's how it is in these northern regions.

The walk between her house and the classrooms has always been the same, yet the face looking at the reflection of the fjord has changed. She remembers looking at the colors painted on the morning sky for the first time, the dawn of excitement and fear for an uncertain future that filled her naïve mind. Now, the frozen fjord and the white mountains fight against the arrival of spring, she sympathizes with them, understanding their shared battle against the passage of time.

She wonders how the same walk can be so different, yet just as calming every day she sees it. She thinks maybe that's the thing about love, that we never get tired of looking at the same picture because it is so enchanting to find newness in routine. To love a place is to discover a new detail in it, no matter how many times we've already looked.

**Heloise Cussins Orozco, Colombia, 2nd year**



No title  
Lovise Rannekleiv, Norway, RCN'22



Loom  
Mayssen Tazi, Morocco, RCN'22

Friday afternoon. Thirteen rain-drenched, chatty students come in after lunch. Lali sends me a punk rock video for our class's "Friday Dancing" tradition, and while the guitarist headbangs on the board, we all move to the beat. I'm rocking out as I circle the room to check in with each student. Antoinette is into it, swinging her arms over her head. Emmy sits with a quiet smile. "Let's do some dancing!" I call, and Marija gives a momentary laugh and dances half a line, then leans her head back. That's all okay. "Let's get started," I say. "Let's pick up with the book."

We're reading Loung Ung's *First They Killed My Father*, a memoir of the Cambodian genocide. We have traced the narrator's experiences through disbelief to terror to numb persistence as the horrific events unfold around her. We seek in these words the human experiences of such political atrocities, what human rights mean at the most visceral levels.

Malvika says she was up late: "I couldn't stop reading." Liva describes an experience told to her by her grandmother, a different but no less important story of political injustice. Francesco is indignant about what is happening to the characters. All of us in this classroom are together, looking for that meaning, looking for the wisdom we will carry forward into other spaces. What can we each do to right wrongs when we see them? That is the power of stories. That is what love is, to find the one thing that is in our power to change for the better, and change it.

**Jimmy Kindree, USA, teacher**

# A Meeting Place for Diversity

## UWC Connect

Bringing 200 students from all over the globe together creates a unique opportunity for experiencing the world in Fjaler. Our students, on the other hand, get the chance to meet a wide variety of Norwegians, to take action on the issues they care about and to be involved in many different types of events and activities on campus.

2022 became the year where we could finally mix students and guests again!

Since 1999 students have been involved in running UWC Leirskule, where they (as part of their CAS commitment) act as outdoor activity instructors for Norwegian school children. This was put on hold due to the pandemic, but in 2022 we could start including students back into the program, providing a unique learning opportunity in terms of taking responsibility and developing students' leadership capacity. In 2022, we hosted the annual course for staff working with campschool from all parts of Norway, welcoming more than 50 professionals to campus.

Throughout the year close to 2500 overnight guests visited campus in addition to many more on day visits.

These visits bring new energy to campus and give our students an opportunity to take part in relevant projects, from making international cuisine together with guests to running workshops on sustainable clothing for young professionals from Bergen. For many of these events, especially when guests are part of marginalised groups in society, being refugees or others, we also apply for funding, allowing more people to visit! A special thank you to Gjensidigestiftelsen for granting money to run 2 weeks of summer camps for close to 140 local children and to Agenda Vestland for great collaboration over a period of 3 years and a total contribution of over 1 million NOK, allowing us to run numerous camps for children and youths associated with the Bergen Red Cross.

Our aim is always to create programs that foster a celebration of differences and intercultural understanding. We want our guests to leave campus with a taste of the magic of UWC, feeling inspired that anything is possible!

**Leonora Laukeland Kleiven,**  
Director of External Relations & Communications



“Bringing our trainees to UWC Red Cross Nordic is an important reminder that we all live in the same world, about the importance of intercultural understanding and that we are all responsible for making the world a better place!”



**Marit Warncke,** recent CEO of Bergen Chamber of Commerce

UWC Connect AS is a sister company of UWC Red Cross established in 2014. UWC Connect delivers programs in line with the UWC Red Cross Nordic mission. UWC Connect wants to be the best Meeting Place for Diversity in the Nordic region by creating unique programs for students and guests.



# Talent is Equally Provided - Opportunity is Not



UWC Red Cross Nordic was founded with political support at the highest level from the Nordic countries. This foundation and the continued support has enabled the College to focus on its mission and to give scholarships to a diverse range of students regardless of their ability to pay.

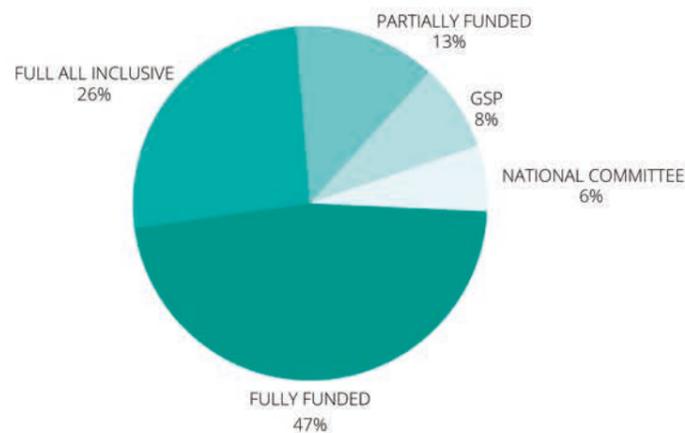
The College statutes state that: *"the majority of students must come from underprivileged and/or conflict-ridden backgrounds..."*. We are extremely proud to be the UWC school with the highest numbers of students on partial or full scholarships providing equal opportunities to all. This is only made possible thanks to the continued support from the Nordic governments as well as private donations.

Our biggest private contributor of individual scholarships is Shelby Davis through the Dare2Dream scholarship program, established by the UWC international office. This program is part of the world's largest international scholarship program for undergraduate study, providing

both scholarships for young people to complete a UWC education program and also for university study after leaving UWC. In 2022 we had a total of 27 students enrolled via the Dare2Dream program, generously supported by Shelby Davis and his wife Gale.

**Leonora Laukeland Kleiven**  
Director of External Relations & Communications

## Intake of students in 2022

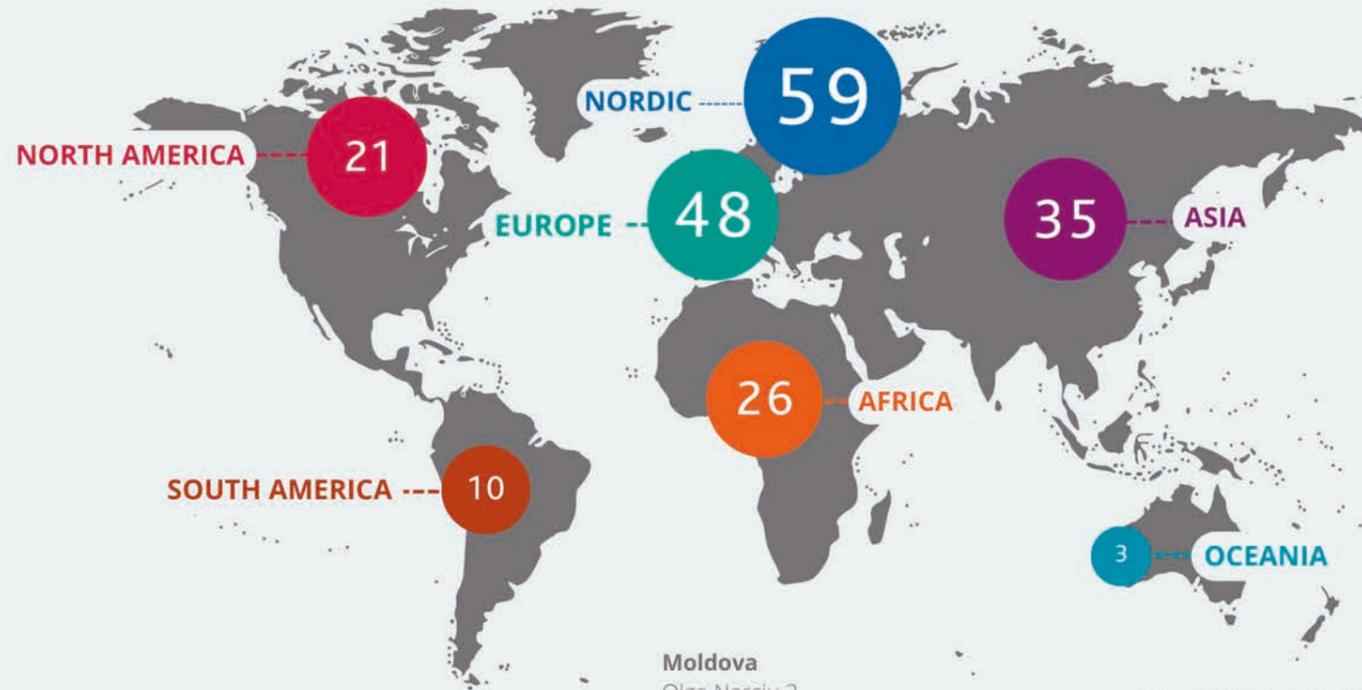


## Our Donors in 2022

**We want to thank everyone for all donations received in 2022 towards our work to make education a uniting force. It has an immediate impact on the number of scholarships we can provide and on the quality of the programmes we can give to our students.**

Agnes Hammarlund, Akmal Daniyarov, Amantia Muhedini, Ammar Hasan, Ana Aguilar Figueroa, Andrea Feigl-Ding, Anna Tumadottir, Anne Catrine Møller, Antonia Reininger, Aseel Hawi, Asil Abuassba, Brayon Munoz, Cara Haberman, Carlos Siekavizza-Robles, Cecilie Øen, Christel Ghawi, Christopher Jones, Christopher Scoville, Claudia Calderon Machicado, Craig William Christensen, Dana Kianfar, Danica Levine, Daniel Holmdahl, David Picon Alvarez, Diego Leal, Doriyush LLC, Edward Love, Eivind Bakke, Elaheh Peyman, Tabar, Elisabeth Jusnes, Emily Jones, Emmy Wahlström, Fay Dickson, Frederik Bojesen, Fredrik Norell, Guro Steine, Hadas Kadar, Harald Møller, Håkon Gresvig, Ilana Bleichert, Irene Estefania Gonzalez, Isabell Bolander, Jeanette Trang, Jeffery Khan, Jelena Vojnic, Joost Bosland, Kagabo Ngiruwonsanga, Kaoru Okehara, Kari Laumann, Karina Bolseth, Kasun Bodawatta, Katariina McAspurn, Katarzyna Dybek, Kathryn Lindsay, Khanga Jetouan, Knut Gresvig, Kris Inga Mewes, Kunal Chauhan, LaiYee Leong, Laura Lintamo, Lee Davis, Leena-Maarja Parts, Leif Høegh Stiftelsen, Leonora Laukeland Kleiven, Lucia Michelazzo Ceroni, Manyima Njie, Maria Lisiakova, Mariana Fernandez, Bertocchi, Marianne Labussiere, Marius Salvesen, Mary Hick, Mei Yuan, Menka Sajnani, Molly Froschauer, Motaz Al-Chanati, Mtheto Kadoko Hara, Nawras Abureehan, Negar Pirmadjid, Nikhita Winkler, Nikolai Barnwell, Odd-Jørgen Maeland, Pär Boman, Parsa Keshavarzalamdari, Pei Gong, Pei-Yu Shih, Pelham Lindfield Roberts, Petra Kühne, Phuong Linh Tran Vu, Piotr Faba, Queirozsousa Paulov, Reetta Tilvis, Rikke Oeksnes, Seema Gail Parkash, Sofia Vester, Sophie Dekker, Sophie Schut, Supunnavadee Jitdumrong, Tiffany Yat Yee Cheung, Tina Frydenberg, Thorkil Hansen, Turið Holm Johannessen, Wincy Li, Zhe Wang Gresvig, Zoya Taylor, Yfat Barak, Åge Frivoll

# Students in 2022-23



- Albania**  
Vivien Shkodra 2
- Algeria**  
Taslem Mohamed Mahdi Mami 1
- Angola**  
Lea Komba 1
- Argentina**  
Fabricio Silveyra 2
- Armenia**  
Rodya Shakhgaldyan 1
- Austria**  
Melissa Rachinger 1
- Barbados**  
Gabrielle Brathwaite 1
- Belgium**  
Valentina Wigny 2
- Belize**  
Dharsh Nagrani 2
- Bhutan**  
Tempa Dorji 1
- Bolivia**  
Hermogenes Rios Torres 2
- Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
Nejra Idrizović 2
- Botswana**  
Ishi Rajbar 2
- Brazil**  
Giovanna Silva Guimarães 1
- Bulgaria**  
Raya Hristova Tucheva 1
- Canada**  
Bronwyn Gelber 1  
Claire Richardson 1  
Cole Tkachuk 2  
Emily Gordon 1  
Sheryl Xue 1  
Sophie Kirk 2
- China**  
Jiahua Tan 1  
Qianyi Ying 2  
Xiyun Zhang 2  
Yuji (Eugene) Zhang 1
- Colombia**  
Daniela Angel Vivas 2  
Heloise Cussins Orozco 2  
Jorge Wilson Manrique Betancur 1
- Costa Rica**  
GeHua Wen 2  
Larissa Marin Rojas 1  
Pablo Reyes 2
- Denmark**  
Albert Pold 2  
Ana Isabella Quemada Rasmussen 2  
Asta Nuka Fruelund Gabriel 1  
Clara Ann Søby 2  
Inga Hørslev Serup 1  
Isa Kathrine Dittmer Rohmann 2  
Klara Prip Lahrmann Sørensen 1  
Laura Jørgensen 2  
Magda Kragh Hundsbæk 1  
Marie Lodberg Rasmussen 2  
Nicolai Christian Sahlertz Raufuss 1  
Noah Marcus Christensen Flarup 1
- Egypt**  
Ali Gaber 2

- El Salvador**  
Alexandra Moreno Rodas 2
- Estonia**  
Roosi Ahas 1
- Eswatini**  
Lenhle Nhleko 2  
Nongcebo Pertunia Nsingwane 1
- Ethiopia**  
Robel Markos Haile 2
- Faroe Islands**  
Oline Lykke Grand 1  
Sólja Hilduberg Djurhuus 2
- Finland**  
Aaro Korpela 2  
Enni Huttunen 1  
Erika Forsman 2  
Fanny Clemes 2  
Henni Kontinen 1  
Inka Karlsson 1  
Kaapo Haapanen 2  
Lise-Lotte Lintervo 2
- Germany**  
Clara Stuchtey 2  
Elinor Müller-Hübenthal 1  
Henry Kremp 1  
Mara Flechtner 1
- Ghana**  
Dickson Dzidula 2  
Jude Kwasi Awuku 1
- Greece**  
Thalia Konstantopoulos 2
- Guatemala**  
Jimena Galeano Reyes 1
- Haiti**  
Keisha William 2
- Honduras**  
Ana Clara Maria Ramirez Fleumer 1
- Hong Kong**  
Hayden So 2
- Hungary**  
Petra Blanka Poór 2
- Iceland**  
Kolbrún Garðarsdóttir 1  
Unndís Ingvarsdóttir 2
- India**  
Tenzin Dadon 2
- Iran**  
Aria Soleimani 1
- Italy**  
Carolina Sarti 2  
Eleonora Carone 1  
Giorgia Maran 2  
Giulia Cigolot 2  
Leonardo Bruti Liberati 2

- Nico De Maria 1  
Sofia Uliana 1
- Jamaica**  
Alexis Walters 1
- Japan**  
Hinata Sai 2  
Yura Mizutani 1a Mizutani 1
- Jordan**  
Ibrahim Alwahdani 2
- Kazakhstan**  
Danel Adaibay 2
- Kenya**  
Alvin Magata 2
- Kosovo**  
Era Dukaj 2
- Lebanon**  
Hamzah Azzam 2  
Lori Keushgerian 2
- Lesotho**  
Limpho Lehasa 2
- Luxemburg**  
Mélusine Laure Ida Jeannine Germaine Estgen 2
- Macedonia**  
Gurra Aliu 1
- Madagascar**  
Ranoromiangaly Andriamihaja-Rabe 2
- Malawi**  
Eliza Kuyokwa 2  
Tayseera Pillane 2
- Malaysia**  
Natalie Fong Wen Ling 1
- Maldives**  
Aishath Lees Abdul Hadhee 1
- Mexico**  
Giselle Gongora 1

- Moldova**  
Olga Nerciu 2
- Mongolia**  
Tselmeg Erdemsaikhan 2
- Morocco**  
Amina El Guenuni 1
- Mozambique**  
Nyah Mandisa Francisco 1
- Myanmar**  
Hein Htet 2
- Nepal**  
Pema Dekyi Lama 2  
Phuntsok Gyaltzen Lama 1  
Sunita Nepali 2
- Netherlands**  
Christina Aoi Hoogedeure 1  
Clarine Koch 1  
Dido Arts 1  
Eline Johanna van Paasen 1  
Françoise Franssen 2  
Hannah Hirson 1  
Henriëtte Anne Louise Gunning 2  
Julie Elias 2  
Sarah Maya Dewi Göbel 1  
Tessel Gast 1
- New Zealand**  
Anais Moana Arnth-Jensen Rodin 1  
James Feng 1  
Rä McClellan 1
- Niger**  
Mohamed Ramzi Akoteye Takane 1
- Nigeria**  
Blessing Helen Ameh 1  
Haiqa Shelleng 1
- Norway**  
Alma Alnæs 1  
Anine Hermo 2

- Frida Knudsen-Kvernevik 1  
Hans Sebastian Bay-Wold 2  
Hedvig Skou Eskeland 1  
Helene Bondy 1  
Ida Helene Imenes 1  
Jakob Clemens Schirdewahn 2  
Johannes Wood Hegdal 1  
Lisa Sævoid 1  
Maki Matsuoka 1  
Mildrid Amdal-Rasmussen 1  
Mina Andrea Syltevik Strøm 2  
Ninala-Ilinca Anton 2  
Odin Remy den Haene Endresen 1  
Oscar Nome 2  
Rakel Backer Meiner 1  
Thora Steinsrud 2  
Thuraya Ibadbekova 2  
Vihaan Khandelwal 2
- Pakistan**  
Nael Azfar 2
- Palestine**  
Celine Al-Miari 1  
Dima Aljamal 2  
Ismail Ismail 1  
Sarah O.M. AbuKarsh 1  
Shahed Zahaykeh 1
- Panama**  
Lorey Alvarez Antunez 2
- Philippines**  
Andrea Christina Marcelo 1  
Jay-Jay Boy Cuares Ventura 1
- Poland**  
Mikolaj Wnuk 1  
Portugal  
Beatriz Dinis Neves 2
- Romania**

- Adriana-Ioana Cenuse 2  
Lavinia Volcu 1
- Russian Federation**  
Alena Ivanova 1  
Ekaterina Mastuykova 2  
Snezhana Kirichenko Aleksandrovna 2
- Rwanda**  
Gloriose Avemarie Buntubwimana 1
- Senegal**  
Halimatou Dieye 2
- Sierra Leone**  
Emmanuel Lassayo 2
- Slovakia**  
Lubica Fintorová 2  
Tatiana Vorobjov 1
- South Africa**  
Nia Poppy Swift 1
- Spain**  
Aimar Armendariz Iriarte 1  
Lucía Sobrado Louzao 1  
Pablo Vega Rodriguez-Villar 2
- Sri Lanka**  
Vishmi Sylvester Patabadige 2
- Sweeden**  
Agnes Ulla Margareta Karlsson 1  
Arvid Julian Bjerke 1  
Ebba Louise Lagerlöf 1  
Emil Alexander Ryd 2  
Ernesto Fabra Shutrick 2  
Fanny Skarin 2  
Liv Stafström 2  
Lo Agnes Elin Stranne 1  
Maria Clara Duarte Santos 1  
Märta Ingrid Marianne Sparrman 1  
May Norberg 2  
My Isis September Saga Lundqvist 1  
Thea Madisson 2  
Vera Ying Margareta Flodh Li 2  
Vilde Helm 2
- Tajikistan**  
Manserrat Ramazonova 2
- Tanzania**  
Laura Gabriel 1
- Tibet**  
Shari Bhü 1  
Tenzin Ingsey 1  
Tenzin Samten Trasar 2
- Ukraine**  
Khrystyna Saiko 1  
Valeriia Ivanova 1
- United Kingdom**  
Theresa Martins 1
- United States**  
Alima Mariam Deen 2  
Félicie Hoffmann 1  
Fiona Elliott 2  
Lillianna Feronti 1  
Sonja Luyten 2  
Sophia Jones 2
- Uzbekistan**  
Asad Abdrshin 1
- Venezuela**  
Arianna Victoria Pacheco González 1
- Zimbabwe**  
Miriam Nomaswazi Maphosa 1

## Staff in 2022



# OPEN DOORS HEARTS

## UWC RED CROSS NORDIC HOST FAMILY PROGRAM

We are incredibly grateful to all the members of the local community who volunteer to be Host Families for our students. Thank you for providing a space where students can get to know more about Norwegian culture and values, whilst taking a break from their day-to-day activities on campus. We hope that this has been an equally rewarding experience for you as we know it has for us.

**Tusen takk!**

Anne Lise Aaseng & Øvredal Vidar  
Ørjan Alme & Vie Audhild  
Sunniva Vie Alme  
Alexandra Badescu,  
Marieke Brock  
Julie & Daling Korsøen  
Grete Ekløv Aas  
Kari & Roti Olav Esaiassen,  
Leif Jarle Espeda  
Trude & Kjetil Felde  
Aina Brendsdal & Thomas James  
Forthun

Hanna Froelke  
Øystein Furnes  
Erg Gjergji  
Kari Grønnestad  
Florence Hamper  
Jan & Nina Aas Haugen  
Haugland Tone-Merete & Magnus  
Oppedal  
Anne Serine Heggdal  
Ingrid & Thomas Henne  
Hanne & Karsten Igelkjøn  
Lydia Kofa

Maria Korakaki  
Helene Langedal  
Renate Lillefoss & Tarjei Nitter  
Karen Helga Maurstig  
Mexhet Medhane  
Runhild Mo  
Nadia Nardelli, & Mads Masdal  
Solveig Nitter  
Harriet & Helene Norstrand  
Anne Nybakk  
Charlotte May Rintler  
Avis Rolfe & Kristian Rygg

Anne Marit & Jan Inge  
Laila Schönhardt & Astor Hugøy  
Bjarte Grytli Seim,  
Alexis Lanza & Sondre Skarsten  
Hege Stavang  
Petter & Anne Margrete  
Stenstadvold  
Steffi Storch  
Ingvill Storøy & Endre Natvik  
Linda Sølberg & Dag Kjetil Storøy  
Berit Marie Viken  
Tineke Wester & Willem Pranger

Alberto Carrillo Casas, Spain  
Alessandro Cozzarini, Italy  
Alistair Robertson, South Africa  
Ann Marit Kirketeig, Norway  
Arne Osland, Norway  
Ashok Singh, India  
Avis Rolfe, UK  
BarbaraToa-Kwapong, Ghana  
Cary Reid, Jamaica  
Charlotte Systaddal Willemoes,  
Norway  
Chris Hamper, UK  
ChrisHatlem, Norway  
Dan Silfwerin, Sweden  
Daniel Toa-Kwapong, Ghana  
David Robertson, UK  
David Melone, USA  
Debbie Bosacki, UK  
Emma Mitchell, Ireland

Erik Vagstad, Norway  
Fredrik Gustafsson, Sweden  
Guri Kanavin, Norway  
Hannah Gaffey, UK  
Håvard Indrebø, Norway  
Hege Myhre, Norway  
Heidi Myklebust, Norway  
Hilary Hamper, UK  
Hilde Genberg, Norway  
Hildegunn Arstein, Norway  
István Poór, Hungary  
Jelena Belamaric, Croatia  
Jimmy Kindree, USA  
Jo Loiterton, Australia  
Joakim Janninge, Sweden  
Jonny Lidal, Norway  
Josh Macfarlane, UK  
Judit Dudás, Hungary  
Julius Krajnak, Slovakia

Karen Amolo, Kenya  
Kåre Dale, Norway  
Leif Skaar, Norway  
Leonie Koning, Netherlands  
Leonora Laukeland Kleiven,  
Norway  
Liusaidh Brown, UK  
Live Linnestad, Norway  
Liza Øverås, Norway  
Lykke Bonde Melone, Denmark  
Madhulika Singh, India  
Magnar Kapstad, Norway  
Mamta Bashisth, India  
Mariangela Lanza, Italy  
Maris Descartin, Philippines  
Mark Chalkley, UK  
Merethe Solheim, Norway  
Michael Kendall, USA  
Mona Hatlebrekke, Norway

Mtheto Hara, Malawi  
Natasha Lambert, UK  
Nikki De Marco, UK  
Ola Hovland, Norway  
Paulina Szymczak-Ønnerstad,  
Poland  
Pelham Lindfield Roberts, UK  
Pete Wilson, UK  
Roar Hatløy, Norway  
Rune Vågenes, Norway  
Sarah Haughey, UK  
Sigrunn Barsnes, Norway  
Silje Birkeland, Norway  
Sven Onnerstad, Sweden  
Svein Rundereim, Norway  
Taren Kindree, USA  
Ulrike Lindfield Roberts, Austria  
Vetle Øvrebotten, Norway  
Wenche Svendsen, Norway

## In Memoriam

Svein Peder Rundereim (1969-2022)

It was with great sadness that we received the news that our dear colleague Svein Peder passed away after a period of fighting cancer in early December. Svein Peder has contributed to life at UWC Red Cross Nordic since 2001 as a chef in our kitchen. Svein was always smiling and cracking jokes with staff and students and will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and deepest sympathy go out to his wife Asbjørg and to Lars and Sveinung, their sons.



# Governance 2022

## Members of the Board

Elizabeth Sellevold - Chair, Norway  
 Jens Pettersen - Deputy Chair, Denmark  
 Johnny Nilsson - Sweden  
 Sigríddur Arnna Thordardóttir - Iceland  
 Charlotte Gyllenhammer Nordstrøm - Norwegian Red Cross  
 Ivar Lund-Mahtiesen - UWC Norway  
 Ashok Singh - Staff Rep, India  
 Marie Lodberg Rasmussen - Student Rep, Denmark

## Deputies:

Norway: Laila Bokhari - Norway  
 Norway: Hilde Sandvik - Norway  
 Red Cross: Dag Hovland - Norwegian Red Cross  
 Espen Stedje - UWC Norway

## Elected members of the Council:

Frants Bernstorff-Gyldensteen – Chair, Denmark  
 Ezequiel Jimenez - Argentina  
 Zhe Wang Gresvig - Norway  
 Teresita Alvares Bjelland - Norway  
 Ingrid H. Warner - Norway  
 Tomas Urvas - Åland  
 Ulrika Bjørksten - Sweden

## Honorary members of the Council:

Marianne Andresen - Norway  
 Einar Steensnæs - Norway  
 Astrid Marie Nistad - Norway  
 Tove Veierød - Norway  
 Pär Stenbäck - Finland



# Financial Report

## Business activities

The aim of the Foundation is to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. The operation is based at Haugland, in Fjaler Municipality in Sogn og Fjordane. The Foundation owns two daughter companies, Verdsgrenda Eigedom AS, and UWC Connect AS. Verdsgrenda Eigedom AS is a property company that has built new facilities for visitors to the campus. The College has invested NOK 3,6 million in shares in this company. UWC Connect AS is responsible for running activities for visitors and other commercial activities, including camp school and summer camp activities that used to be directly part of the College's portfolio. The share capital is NOK 100 000.

## Overview of results and development

The accounts show a positive result of NOK 7 685 310. The accounts last year were positive by NOK 10 051 102. The equity shows a positive balance to the amount of NOK 75 987 972. The equity last year was NOK 68 302 661.

## Future Development

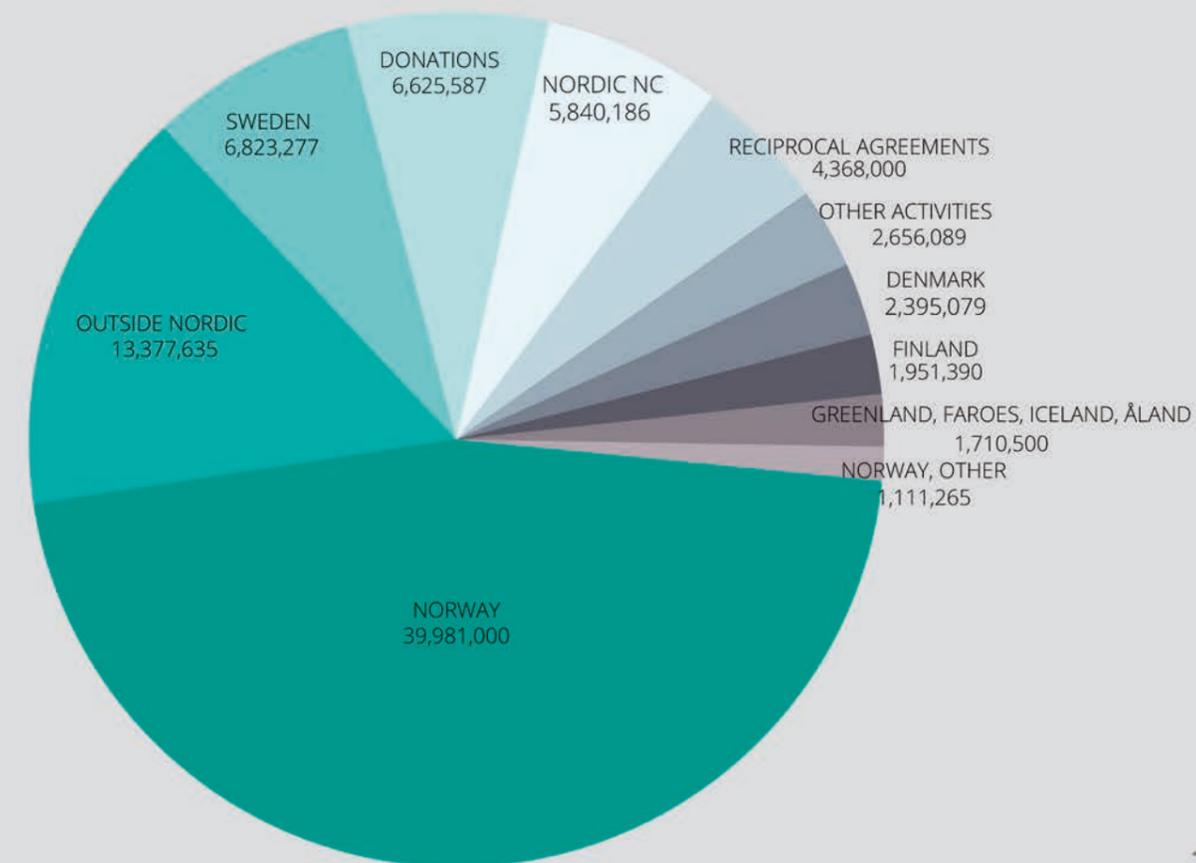
The College is running with a positive financial result but is aiming to increase its income to meet the changes in the income model, the need for refurbishment, investments, and organizational development. Through increased attention towards fundraising activities, renovation of buildings and facilities and a continuous focus on delivering an innovative education of top quality, the size of the operations will increase in the years to come and is used in the financial statements. The Board is of the opinion that the conditions for future operations are present.

## The Environment

The main impact for the organization on the environment comes from energy consumption for housing and for travel and use of consumer goods like food and paper. The organization is certified through 'Environmental Lighthouse' (Miljøfyrtårn).

Ola Hovland, CEO

Income in 2022, in NOK



## UWC MISSION STATEMENT

UWC makes education a force to unite people,  
nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future

## RED CROSS MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Red Cross is to protect life and health and ensure respect  
for the human being. It is guided solely by individual needs. It makes no  
distinction as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinion.



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