PRESS RELEASE
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Travel as a force for good: Hostelling International launches first Global Social Impact report.

HI's new Global Social Impact Report shows how youth hostels are creating opportunities, connecting cultures and supporting communities on a global scale.
Drawing on activities from 2023 and 2024, the report demonstrates the reach and diversity of social impact taking place across the Hostelling International network. In 2024 alone, **more than 977,000 people** participated in **programmes organised by HI hostels,** with **over 230 different programmes** and **more than 8,000 events** and actions reported across the network.
Hostelling was founded over 100 years ago on the belief that travel can be a force for good, and for the first time we can show the impact of our day-to-day actions in our global federation with more than 2,100 hostels in 57 countries, welcoming more than three million hostellers each year. It is a charity-led movement, rather than a chain, united by a mission to foster connection, learning and curiosity across cultures and people.
The new report captures how that mission translates into three core values: **Belonging, Curiosity** and **Care.** Hundreds of programmes bring those values to life with actions around the world, from widening **access to travel and opportunity**, promoting **cultural diversity, inclusion** and **youth empowerment**, to **education, volunteering, skills development, environmental stewardship** and **community action**. It also includes **accessibility and adapted experiences,** reducing **energy consumption and emissions, sustainable practices** and **collective impact.**

Brianda Lopez, CEO, Hostelling International, said:
"*Hostelling has always been about much more than having somewhere affordable to stay. At its heart, it is about bringing people together, opening up opportunities to experience the world and creating greater understanding between people and cultures.*
This report gives us a shared picture of that impact at a global level. Behind the numbers are hundreds of initiatives led by our Member Associations, hostels, staff and volunteers, from creating opportunities for people who might otherwise be excluded from travel, to helping young people develop skills, bringing communities together and encouraging more responsible ways to experience our world.
We are incredibly proud of what our network is achieving, while recognising that this is also the beginning of a journey. By improving how we measure and understand our impact, we can learn from what works, strengthen our programmes and ultimately increase the positive difference hostelling can make."

The report also marks an important step in HI's work to build a stronger global approach to **measuring social impact**. It sets out the organisation's new methodology and establishes a foundation from which HI and its Member Associations can improve reporting, develop metrics and better understand the difference their activities make.
Looking ahead, HI aims to increase participation in impact reporting throughout its membership and continue evolving its metrics, helping the network identify successful approaches, share learning internationally and increase its collective impact.

Explore the Global Social Impact Report at: https://impact.hihostels.com

About Hostelling International

Hostelling International is a global federation of youth hostel associations, with a network of **more than 2,100 hostels across 57 countries**. Its story dates back to **1909**, when the youth hostel movement began from one teacher's idea to open up opportunities for young people to travel. Today, more than **three million hostellers** stay within the network each year.

HI and its network share the values of **Belonging, Curiosity and Care**, using travel and hostelling as a platform to encourage cultural exchange, learning, social inclusion, environmental responsibility and positive community impact.

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