

**The Assistant-Director General
for Social and Human Sciences *a.i.***

To Secretaries-General of
National Commissions for
UNESCO

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17 June 2025

Dear Secretary-General,

I am pleased to inform you that UNESCO launched the seventh edition of the “Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads” international photo contest on 26 May 2025, under the theme “Women, Guardians of Silk Roads Heritage”.

Since its first edition, launched in 2018 within the framework of the Social and Human Sciences Sector’s Silk Roads Programme, the photo contest has continued to offer young people a meaningful opportunity to share their perspectives on fostering a more inclusive world through tolerance and intercultural dialogue, thereby promoting mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence.

This year, young photographers are invited to reflect on and honour the often-overlooked contributions of women whose roles have long shaped the living legacy of the historic Silk Roads. In a context marked by global challenges, inequalities, and conflicts, the theme “Women, Guardians of Silk Roads Heritage” is more timely than ever. By shedding light on both the historical and contemporary roles of women, young participants encouraged to highlight their enduring influence of women in advancing intercultural dialogue, transmitting knowledge and skills, and building more inclusive societies.

I am pleased to share with you the link to the photo contest website (<https://unescosilkroadphotocontest.org>), where you may find useful guidelines.

I kindly invite you to share information on the contest as widely as possible across your youth, education and artistic communities to engage as many young people as possible.

My colleagues, Mr Mehrdad Shabahang (m.shabahang@unesco.org) Programme Specialist for the UNESCO Silk Roads Programme, and Ms Tara Golkar (t.golkar@unesco.org), Associate Project Officer, remain at your disposal for any further information you may require.

With my best wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Lidia Brito

cc.: Permanent Delegations to UNESCO