



Annual Report 2005

“WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE

A UN-DESIGNATED PEACE MESSENGER INITIATIVE



"WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE
2006

June

Dear Peacebuilding Colleagues,

THANK YOU for your participation in the **"WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE (WPI)** and for your inspiring work as Peacebuilders all over the world.

Since 1983, at the request of the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Pathways To Peace (PTP) has submitted a "WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE Annual Report to the UN, summarizing the Peace Day activities of currently over 300 Participating Organisations worldwide. It is an honor for us to present the creative and dedicated ways in which organisations such as yours promote Peace through your activities on September 21.

In this 2005 Report, 155 Peace Day events in 47 countries are presented. There are also two umbrella organizations - IDP Vigil and Groups for Action toward Peace (GAP) for which we have provided links, so that you can read more about their activities online.

As of May 2006, "WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE has changed name and is now called "Culture of Peace Initiative" (CPI). We believe that the new name will better represent the idea behind the initiative: to create a culture of Peace by uniting the efforts of already existing Peacebuilding organisations worldwide.

As part of this development, Pathways To Peace is re-structuring the dedicated web site, to provide more opportunities for Participating Organisations, and others, to connect with each other. The new site, www.cultureofpeace.org, will still contain information about the initiative and its Participants, but it will also offer new features such as a searchable database and a way for organisations to post their Peace Day activities more easily than before. We welcome you to visit the web site and offer your suggestions or comments, to info@pathwaystopeace.org.

The 2005 Report is posted on your dedicated website, www.cultureofpeace.org, under "Annual Reports," followed by "WPI 2005 Annual Report."

International Day of Peace 2006:

There are many indications that International Day of Peace 2006 will be special. To read more about planned events, or post your own, please visit www.internationaldayofpeace.org.

"Acting in concert, we DO make a difference in the quality of our lives, our institutions, our environment, and our planetary future. Through co-operation, we manifest the essential spirit that unites us amidst our diverse ways".

May the Spirit of Peace be with you.

Most Sincerely,

Avon Mattison

Avon Mattison, President
Operating Officer/CPI Coordinator

Monica Meller Eldh

Monica Meller Eldh, Chief

Pathways To Peace
International Secretariat, Culture of Peace Initiative
www.cultureofpeace.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGES
ABOUT THE "WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE	7
REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE	8-33
United Nations Headquarters	8-9
Argentina Mil Milenios de Paz and Fundacion PEA World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) and United Religions Initiative (URI)	10
Australia Bahai Society of Flinders University Brahma Kumaris Youth in collaboration with Ashfield Council Macuarie Fields High School World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	10-11
Austria World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	11
Bahrain World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	11
Belgium United Religions Initiative (URI)	11
Brasil Tribute To Peace World Wheelchair and Amputee Games World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	11-12
Cameroon Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC) World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	12
Canada Cercle de Paix/Circle of Peace City of Montreal City of Ottawa Jane Goodall Institute of World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	12-13
Chile World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	13
Congo (RDC) World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	13
Cote d'Ivoire Service for Peace	13
Egypt US Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP)	13
England International Alert and the Dochouse	13
Finland World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	14
Gambia, The World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	14
Germany StadtRaum Koln	14
Ghana Center for Spiritual Enlightenment Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP)	14-15

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGES
India Anam Prem International Esoteric Healing Group Rotaract Clubs United Religions Initiative (URI)	15
Israel Bridges of Peace Service for Peace United Religions Initiative (URI)	15-16
Italy United Religions Initiative (URI)	16
Japan Goi Peace Foundation	16
Kenya Africa Peace Point and Nairobi Peace Rally World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	16-17
Luxembourg L'Association Luxembourgeoise pour les Nations Unies (ALNU) and Le Comite d'Organisation de la Journee Internationale de la Paix (COJIP)	17
Macedonia CIVIL NGO Ethno Center-Balkanika	17
Malawi United Religions Initiative (URI)	17
Moldova Service for Peace	18
Mongolia Service for Peace	18
Nepal Service For Peace Hindu Vidya Peeth-Nepal (HVP) and Youth Society for Peace (YSP)	18
Netherlands World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	18
New Zealand Intuition in Service and United Nations Days & Years Meditation Initiative	18
Nigeria Nigerian Group for Goodwill and the Seed Group of Port Harcourt Religious Youth Service (RYS) World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	18-19
Pakistan Organization for Peace and Development United Religions Initiative (URI)	19-21
Philippines Franciscan Movement for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (FMJPIC) Lahi Productions Service for Peace United Religions Initiative (URI)	21-22
Romania World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	22
Russia Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University Service For Peace	22-23

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGES
Scotland World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	23
Sierra Leone World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Campaign Against Drug Abuse (CADA)	23
South Korea Global Academy for Neo-Renaissance of Kyunghee University Service for Peace	23
Sri Lanka World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	24
Switzerland World Council of Churches (WCC)	24
Tajikistan United Religions Initiative (URI)	24
Tanzania Baha'i Community of Tanzania	24
Thailand Dhamma Park Foundation and Gallery Service for Peace	24-25
Uganda Conflict Resolution by Youth (CRY) Uganda Network for Peace Building Initiative (NPI) United Religions Initiative (URI)	25-26
Ukraine Service for Peace	26
United States	26-33
<u>Alabama</u> Alabama Peace and Justice Coalition, Alabama Veterans for Peace, Military Families Speak Out-AL Alliance for Peace and Justice	26
<u>Arkansas</u> World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	26
<u>California</u> A Single Drop City of Berkeley International World Peace Rose Gardens and the United Nations Association Meditation Mount Mercy Center Park Day School Province Center of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Santa Barbara Resources Group Self-Realization Fellowship Stand-up for International Peace Tim Robbins World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	26-27
<u>Connecticut</u> World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	27-28
<u>Florida</u> Barry University Pinwheels for Peace Naples Roots and Shoots World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	28
<u>Hawaii</u> World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	28
<u>Idaho</u> City of Coeur d'Alene Josh Misner/State of Idaho	28-29

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGES
North Idaho College	
<u>Illinois</u>	29
Books for Peace	
First Church of the Brethren	
World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	
<u>Indiana</u>	29-30
World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	
<u>Maine</u>	30
Murray Waters Family	
<u>Massachusetts</u>	30
World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	
<u>Michigan</u>	30
Detroit West District Peace Center, United Methodist Church	
Habib Kheil	
Holistic Alliance	
Stewart Elementary School	
<u>Minnesota</u>	30
Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	
World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	
<u>Missouri</u>	31
World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	
<u>New York</u>	31-32
International Day of Peace Vigil	
Jazz for Peace	
National Service Conference (NSC), Interspiritual Dialogue and Theatre Group Dzieci	
Roots of Peace	
World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	
Youth Peace Walk	
<u>Pennsylvania</u>	32
World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	
<u>Rhode Island</u>	32
World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	
<u>Texas</u>	32-33
Creative Life Spiritual Center	
World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)	
<u>Vermont</u>	33
Vermont Peace Academy	
<u>Wisconsin</u>	33
Peaceways-Young General Assembly Secretariat	
Wales	33
Brahma Kumaris and the United Nations Association	
APPENDICES	34-43
A. ROSTER "WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS	34-39
B. HOW TO BECOME A PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION IN THE "WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE	40
C. INFORMATION ON PATHWAYS TO PEACE, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE "We The Peoples" Initiative	41
D. THE PEACE BUILDING WHEEL©	42-43



ABOUT THE “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE

ORIGINS

At its 36th session of the United Nations, the General Assembly unanimously declared in a resolution adopted on November 30, 1981, that the opening of its annual session in September should be officially dedicated and observed as the **International Day of Peace**, devoted "*to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.*"

In 1983, Robert Muller, then Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, approved the initiative of Pathways To Peace (PTP) Founder and President Avon Mattison to coordinate the International Day of Peace with members of civil society representing diverse organisations. The following year, citizens in over 52 countries had responded to PTP's invitation to participate. In 1989, UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar granted status of Peace Messenger Initiative to PTP's "We The Peoples" Initiative.

Since its inception, the “**We The Peoples**” **Initiative (WPI)** has continued to serve as an informal coalition of forerunners in the emerging field of Peacebuilding, to give evidence that Peace is a practical reality and necessity in the 21st century.

The annual highlight of the WPI, the International Day of Peace, marks our personal and planetary progress toward Peace, and reminds us that our commitment-- above all interests or differences of any kind-- is to Peace.

VISION AND PURPOSE

The “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE is a co-operative Peacebuilding Initiative whose long-term purpose is to unite the strengths of existing organisations in building a Culture of Peace for succeeding generations. The INITIATIVE has served as a vehicle for bringing forward the previously unseen and unheard voices working towards Peace.

One of the purposes of the “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE is to bring to light the previously unseen and unheard Peacebuilders and their organisations, through the focus point of the annual International Day of Peace, 21 September.

ANNUAL REPORTS

As the International Secretariat for the “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE, (WPI), Pathways To Peace compiles and publishes an Annual Report, dedicated to the United Nations and to UNESCO's International Year for the Culture of Peace and Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010). Recent Annual Reports can be viewed online on the dedicated website wethepeoples.org. WPI continues its integrative work throughout the world, with a Roster of over 300 Participating Organisations involved in Peace Day activities. Additional information on the Initiative, how to become a Participating Organisation, and on Pathways To Peace can be found in the Appendices of this Report.

Reports from Around the World on the International Day of Peace

There are many important and exciting initiatives underway in throughout the world to initiate and maintain peace -- whether it's Peacebuilding through governance, education, business, healthy relationships, science and technology, religion, environment, culture, or another "pathway to Peace". The following are some examples kindly provided to Pathways To Peace, in its capacity as International Secretariat for the "WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE, beginning with activities held at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Those organizations which are Participants in the "WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE are identified in the body of the following report and are also shown on the Roster in Appendix A of this report.

UNITED NATIONS – *Activities for the International Day of Peace 2005* **United Nations Headquarters, New York**

On September 21, 2005, UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, Mrs. Annan, several UN Ambassadors for Peace, representatives of the United Religions Initiative and 500 young people gathered to observe International Day of Peace at the United Nations. As he prepared to ring the Peace Bell, which was cast from coins donated by children all over the world, the Secretary-General reflected that this day is intended to grow into a day of global ceasefire where all people all over the Earth step back from violence and reflect on the practice of Peace. He commented that people often say that 24 hours is not a very long time to devote to the practice of Peace, but 24 hours is, he said, a long enough time for people to look across the barbed wire that separates them and ask what they might do to remove the need for barbed wire.

Following the ceremonial ringing of the bell in the UN's Peace Garden, the action shifted to conference room C, where 500 young people and a few selected adults gathered to hear UN Undersecretary General, Shashi Tharoor, Mrs. Nane Annan and several of the UN Ambassadors for Peace. The first two speakers read from entries about Peace that had been submitted to the UN by young people from all over the world.

A highlight of the program was the link, by Internet video streaming, with young people in the Middle East and in Northern Ireland. They are students of the "Bridge Over the Wadi School", where Jewish and Arab children study side by side, and of Hazelwood College in Belfast, where Protestant and Catholic young people study side by side. Another highlight was hearing from young activists who are committed to inspiring and practical projects of transformation.

Following these presentations, there was a World Peace Prayer Ceremony that began with the ringing of a Peace bell forged from metal reclaimed from weapons. Mrs. Nane Annan was invited to ring the bell on behalf of the nations of the world. (2005)



MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
Secretary-General Kofi Annan

New York, 21 September 2005

Peace is the paramount United Nations mission.

It is the basis of our existence. The essence of our identity. The cause that animates everything we do.

September 21, the International Day of Peace, is a day on which we reaffirm our commitment to this quest.

It is an opportunity to consider how to strengthen our system of collective security and the global partnership for development.

It is meant to be a day of global cease-fire, when all countries and all people stop all hostilities for the entire day.

And it is a day on which people around the world observe a minute of silence at 12 noon local time.

Twenty-four hours is not a long time.

But it is time enough for combatants and political leaders to consider the destruction they are visiting on their people, and on their lands.

And it is long enough to look over the barricades, or through the barbed wire, to see if there is another path.

On this International Day of Peace, let us honour those who have suffered from violence and armed conflict.

And let us pledge to do our utmost to carry out the important decisions on peace taken by last week's 2005 World Summit.

Thank you very much.

Reports from “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE Participating Organisations and Others

ARGENTINA

Mil Milenios de Paz and Fundacion PEA started the project “1000 Banners of Peace” in order to awake the consciousness of Peace and establish “Embassies of Peace from Antarctica to Alaska”. The goal for 2005 was to establish 100 Embassies of Peace that will start celebrating the International Day of Peace and rising the Banner of Peace. A group of 100 Latin American young people joined the Argentinean Senate under the subject “Peace and Goodwill”. Each one received a Banner of Peace to bring back to their countries. Three of the Senators also requested that a Banner of Peace be put in their offices along with the Argentinean flag. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) and United Religions Initiative (URI) On September 21, members of WPPS, URI, Mil Milenios de Paz, Proyecto 3er Milenio Foundation, the Buenos Aires Culture and Education state departments, Rotary International district 4890, Pupi Foundation and schools in the Buenos Aires area, gathered together at the Japanese Garden of Buenos Aires. Opening of the ceremony was held by Maria Costa Pinto, Director of the United Nations Information Center. During the ceremony, all attendants paid respect to the International Day of Peace with a minute of silence, proclaimed “May Peace Prevail on Earth”, danced circular dances and released white balloons as a symbol of support. The Peace Bell was rung on its 50th anniversary. Many schools in the area supported the motto “Join the crew” by holding a minute of silence at noon. (2005)

AUSTRALIA

Bahai Society of Flinders University For 9 days, starting on 21st September, there was a public display in the library foyer of Flinders University, Beadford park, South Australia, Australia. The display represented all the major faiths, and some other organisations interested in peace. Quotes and pictures of peace were displayed, and a flyer with the title “How to Achieve World Peace. 13 basic steps: a Baha’i perspective” was handed out to students and visitors. With all the major religions of the world represented, the display aimed to show the oneness of religion and through that the oneness of mankind, both of which are required for peace to be established. (2005)

Brahma Kumaris Youth in collaboration with Ashfield Council held Peace Day celebrations in Ashfield Park on September 24th. The Mayor, counselors and Youth Services were amongst the participants and the day included a music performance by international star Armando Hurley and an appearance by the Peace Angels. Also on the program was the launching of three projects funded by the Council: a Peace Point Sign, Self Empowerment Workshops for Young People and a Peace Park Project. (2005)

Macuarie Fields High School in Sydney themed their annual celebration day “Peace” in honor of International Day of Peace. As part of the day’s events, a traditional Aboriginal land ceremony was held and students were encouraged to wear clothing related to the theme of Peace. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)

Cockburn, Western Australia International Day of Peace was celebrated by a gathering of community members and guest speakers, including WPPS representative Mr. PJ Mahuvawalla. Counselor Sue Limbert represented the City of Cockburn at the event that took place at Civic Centre in Cockburn. The program included presentations of WPPS, lighting of a Peace candle, singing of the Peace song (Let there be Peace on Earth) and the making of cardboard Peace poles. It also included a discussion on the theme “what can I do individually for Peace?”. All participants received bags containing information material as well as bumper stickers, pins and Peace candles. (2005)

Devonport Devonport City Council's Bushland Coordinator conducted a community walk in the Kelcey Tier Greenbelt to mark International Day of Peace. Participants walked to see the city's first permanent Peace pole, that was planted by the multicultural youth group Fresh Xpress in June 2005. After visiting the Peace pole, the group walked to the Allison Track lookout to view the giant lizard sculpture known as "Preeatenna" (lizard in Tasmanian Aboriginal language). Members of the public were given some background about the making of the Peace pole, and why the Kelcey Tier Greenbelt was chosen as the location for it. (2005)

AUSTRIA

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) A flag ceremony was held in **St. Elisabeth Catholic Church** in Salzburg. Cardboard flags were placed on the floor of the church, in the shape of a mandala. 70-80 people participated in the ceremony, which was open to the public. A Peace pole was donated to the City of Salzburg, and the city's Mayor assured organizers it would find a good spot in the center of Salzburg. The evening's program included a literature reading by handicapped people and presentations by refugees from Afghanistan and Africa. Participants danced Israeli dances around the flag mandala, and olive oil and herbs from Palestine were sold to support Palestinian farmers. (2005)

BAHRAIN

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) GAP RIA Bahrain White doves were flown and pinwheels planted all over Bahrain on September 21. More than 350 people attended the Peace One Day event at the Muharraq Club, where two Giant Peace Doves were "flown" by children from various schools, as well as special education institutions. During the celebration, students performed dances, songs, poetry and mini-plays on the theme of Peace. Prayer flags were displayed on the fences surrounding the club and inside the prayer hall. More than 70 children planted pinwheels in the garden, as part of the international Pinwheels for Peace project. Each pinwheel carried the child's message of Peace. All Gulf Air flights carried Peace doves made by children from the RIA Centre. The Muharraq Club was chosen as venue, so that passengers landing and taking off at the Bahrain International Airport had an aerial view of the event. (2005)

BELGIUM

United Religions Initiative Europe AISBL An interfaith assembly entitled "Overcoming irritations and prejudices between people of different cultures, religions and convictions in the EU enlargement process" was held in Brussels on September 22-24. The program included workshops on the role of religions and convictions in today's Europe, how to become aware of prejudices against people from other cultures and tools and practices in interfaith and intercultural dialogue. One of the sacred opening ceremonies was dedicated to International Day of Peace. 80 people from 22 countries and 15 faith traditions participated. (2005)

BRASIL

Tribute To Peace World Wheelchair and Amputee Games The Tribute to Peace ceremony, which celebrated International Day of Peace and the National Day for the Disabled, gathered celebrities at the monument of the Christ in Rio de Janeiro on September 21st. Guitar player Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin, Ambassador of the event, Magda Lopes, and the city Secretary of the State of Sao Paulo for the disabled, Mara Gabrieli, were among the participants. The highlight of the day was the parade of flags from all countries of the world - the first time a flag ceremony was performed on Corcovado Mountain. 48 athletes representing the countries that took part of the games were present, some of whom carried flags along with children from TASK (The Abandoned Street Kids). The speeches that followed emphasized the role of sport in helping to create a sense of achievement, by excelling one's personal capabilities within a spirit of brother- and sisterhood beyond political and national boundaries. At mid-day, one minute of silence was held in homage to World Peace.

The Brazilian Smoke Squad closed the ceremony by crossing the beaches of Rio de Janeiro. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) a special event was held in House of Americas at the triple border of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, where two rivers merge. The group held a flag ceremony in a Latin American version, with flags from all Latin American countries and one representing the planet. Two Indian Chiefs from Ma'A and Ava-Guarani Nations participated with their groups and offered messages of Peace. (2005)

CAMEROON

Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of the Child (CAPEC) organized a series of activities in Yaounde in collaboration with the association "One Father". The program included a painting competition for children 0-15 of age, a round table conference on Peace involving youth leaders and decision makers, a radio quiz on issues concerning world Peace and a music and prayer vigil. Diplomats, decision makers, youth association members and the general public were invited. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) A conference was held in Yaounde on September 20, attended by the army, the police and representatives of the government. On September 21, there was a symbolic march of 3km, where participants sang the Peace Anthem. The group then gathered for further celebrations, a minute of silence at noon and the raising of flags representing all nations of the world. Mrs. Anne Sang of the UNDP Information Service read the speech by the UN Secretary-General. The final part of the program was a symbolic presentation of a Peace pole. The event was covered by the TV channel Canal 2. (2005)

CANADA

Cercle de Paix/Circle of Peace is an organization whose main mission is to raise awareness of International Day of Peace. In 2005, they launched a campaign to have Mayors around the world proclaim September 21 as a Day of Peace. (2005)

City of Montreal The Mayor of Montreal, Gerald Tremblay, declared September 21 as International Day of Peace in the City of Montreal. (2005)

City of Ottawa The Mayor of Ottawa, Bob Chiarelli, declared September 21, 2005 as International Day of Peace in the City of Ottawa. (2005)

Jane Goodall Institute of Canada organized a walk for Peace in Montreal on September 24. Also on this day, over 70 of the Institute's local Roots & Shoots groups organized Peace Day celebrations. One part of the celebrations were the building of giant Peace doves, made of recycled materials, flown by young people and the young at heart in cities, towns and villages in different parts of the world. Altogether, Peace doves were flown in 22 countries and 69 cities around the world. Doves flew for the first time on top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania, Switzerland and Madagascar. Over 3,000 people flew over 100 doves. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)

Project Ploughshares invited the public to attend an event in Officer's Square, Fredericton, at noon on September 21. The program included a dedication of the Peace pole, music and dance by children and youth, and a minute of silence to "imagine Peace in our life...our community...our world". (2005)

Canadian Red Cross Hundreds of students gathered in three cities, promoting Peace and celebrating the proclamation of Peace Day in Saskatchewan. Students in Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Regina attended "Hear the Children" Peace Day events, which included activities to promote cooperation, mutual respect and nonviolence. The students also created their own personal messages for Peace and held a Peace march. In addition to these activities, students in 80 schools committed to planting Peace poles, and the hope is

that 100 poles will be planted during the centennial year. This year's Peace Day celebrations were part of the Saskatchewan Centennial 2005 Peace Project. (2005)

CHILE

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) In Santiago, the WPPS opened their celebrations with a speech by the office Director, Mr. Sergio Valdivia. A slide show by Nelida Alamos, about Nobel Peace prizes was shown thereafter. There was also an artistic presentation accompanied by songs. At the same time, the finalist Peace cards from the last contest on a Hispanic speaking level were exhibited. The program continued with a music and dance performance that was closed with the pronunciation of a prayer for all the people of the world, divided by continents. The event was closed with a deep meditation for Peace. (2005)

CONGO (RDC)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Celebrations were held at L'Eglise Union des Elus du Christ in Kinshasa, with the cooperation of L'Ecole Complexe Scolaire Le Chandelier. A Peace pole was planted, with "May Peace Prevail on Earth" written in 4 languages. (2005)

La Paume de ma Main

Voici la Paume de ma main!

J'ai cinq doigts, les uns courts et les autres longs,

Sans contributions des autres, il est impossible de tenir quelque chose.

Je represente le Monde par la Paume de ma main

Soyos unis, soyons unis, soyons unis

De l'unite naitra un fruit qui est l'amour.

*Poemes de la Paix SPPM/RDC 2005
WPPS, Congo*

The Palm of my Hand

This is the Palm of my hand!

I have five fingers, some short and others long,

Without cooperation, it is impossible for them to grasp anything.

I represent the World with the Palm of my hand

Let us unite, let us unite, let us unite

From unity the fruit of Love will grow.

*Poems for Peace SPPM/RDC 2005
WPPS, Congo*

COTE D'IVOIRE

The Cote D'Ivoire Chapter of Service For Peace held a conference on Peace and Social Cohabitation through differences. The event was made possible with the help of 162 volunteers from the local UN office, UNESCO, CERAP, National Television and Radio. All wanted to work together to avoid the catastrophic conflicts that other parts of Africa have endured. (2005)

EGYPT

US Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP) organized an International Day of Peace Conference in Cairo, on September 20-23. Speakers included members of USFMEP as well as Egyptian ministers, foreign dignitaries and Peace advocates. An award for "Shield of Peace Advocate of the Year" was handed out. The program also included a meeting with the Mayor of Sinai and tours of the area. (2005)

ENGLAND

International Alert and the Dothouse marked the International Day of Peace with two award winning documentaries chronicling the lives of those living with the consequences of violent conflict in Latin America. Films shown were "La Sierra", a portrait of daily life in the slums of Medellin, Colombia, and "Leo and Ze", a story of violence, poverty and wasted lives in Rio de Janeiro. The screening at the Ritzy Cinema in Brixton, London, was followed by a discussion with Professor Ed Garcia, who has been working in Asia, Africa and Latin America, focusing on people's participation in Peace processes, for over a decade. (2005)

FINLAND

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) A school in Espoo held a Peace celebration on September 21, with 400 students attending. A big Peace Dove was flown by the students, as they repeated “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in different languages. Information about the importance of Peace and justice was given to the students in the form of slides from Africa. Also on Peace Day, the interfaith group Religious Forum in Helsinki URI visited a Shia mosque for a Peace event. People from different faith groups read sacred texts and poems that inspire them to walk the path of Peace. The event ended with a prayer. (2005)

GAMBIA, THE

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)

The Gambia Chapter of WPPS organized events on September 21, in celebration of International Day of Peace and the launch of “Education for Sustainable Development” (2005-2014). The Chapter inaugurated a Peace Pal Club at the Cates International Academy, Kotu East, which was commemorated with a symposium on the theme “Sustaining a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence in the Gambia and the West African Sub-region”. After opening prayers and welcoming remarks by the Vice President of Cates Academy, there was a brief description of the history of WPPS, with an invitation to the audience to get involved in Peacebuilding. The program also included several speeches: Pastor Samuel Mubele spoke on the theme “The spiritual dimensions of Peace, nonviolence and sustainable development”, Mrs. Mercy Egbuchulem held a lecture entitled “Teaching about Peace” and Saikou S.S. Camara talked about “Sustaining a culture of Peace and nonviolence in The Gambia and West Africa that will create an enabling environment for development”. There were song, dance and poem performances as well as a flag ceremony carried out by students. (2005)

A combined activity was conducted by the **New Era for Peace and Freedom Foundation** and the **Kalagi Peace Pals** in Serrekunda on September 21. At the Kalagi school hall, the group paid a concerted respect to global Peace by proclaiming “May Peace Prevail on Earth” and performing songs, poems and riddles. During the celebration, teachers talked to students of the need for world Peace and nonviolence. The message of Peace was spread through posters, pictures and drama that condemned threats to world Peace. (2005)

GERMANY

StadtRaum Köln organized an opportunity for people to discuss their own contributions to Peace. During the talks, they looked at what is already being done for Peace and where more efforts are needed. Starting point for the discussions was the praxis of care and the common wish that all beings may experience happiness. (2005)

GHANA

Center for Spiritual Enlightenment took part in a Peace Meeting on September 21, in Accra. The four members that participated brought back string that would tie people together symbolically. On the same theme, in a meeting with a catholic group, more string was tied together during a prayer for Peace. The string is called “thread for Peace” and the idea is to get the whole world involved. (2005)

Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) Ghana Northern Sector Office and the Student World Assembly observed International Day of Peace at the campus of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. A number of youth organizations were invited to participate. Activities included messages from religious leaders, young people working for Peace and the UN Secretary-General, as well as a candle light vigil. (2005)

West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) joined the celebrations of International Day of Peace through its sub-division, West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI). WAPI organized a Peace march followed by prayers and speeches and a cultural

variety night. Participants of the institute come from various countries in Africa and beyond. (2005)

INDIA

Anam Prem (Love 'A') organized celebrations in Sawantwadi-416510 on September 21. School children lighted candles in the church and incense sticks in the mosque and temple. Students from local high schools participated in a procession to mark the event and make people aware of International Day of Peace. All governmental offices as well as schools, colleges, banks and many private citizens observed one minute of silence at noon, while the church rang its bells. (2005)

International Esoteric Healing Group held a Peace ceremony at the local Hata Yogashram in Andhra Pradesh on September 21. The ceremony included lighting of lamps, burning of incense and ringing of a small bell. At 8am, a meditation started, facing east. At 9am, the Bharat Samaj Pooja, as formulated by the world teacher J. Krishnamurti of India, was performed. At 10am, an esoteric healing ritual was held for those who suffer and at 11am, there was a holy fire manifestation as per sacred Vedic principles. At 12, noon, a Peace meditation ritual was performed. At 12.40pm all the participants declared: "in good faith we solemnly take pledge and will try to the best of our ability to faithfully execute it under all circumstances. May Peace prevail in our hearts. May Peace prevail on earth". At 1.30pm, the "Great Invocation" golden stairs prayer of all religions was recited. (2005)

The **Rotaract Clubs** of Mumbai Ghatkopar, Lahore Sharqi, Nawabshah, Jaipur Main and Istanbul Beyoglu in India created an e-bulletin for Peace, with the purpose of spreading the word of Peace and making an effort to achieve World Peace. The bulletin included poems and other messages of Peace. (2005)

United Religions Initiative (URI)

Delhi CCs marked International Day of Peace by organizing an Interfaith Peace Prayer in Salwan Public School on 21 September. The function began with prayer from different religious traditions of India, followed by addressed from the leaders of nine religious traditions. The Chief Guest of the function called upon the school children to work for building a peaceful society and to cultivate a culture of Peace. The principal of the school highlighted various initiatives taken by the school in promoting Peace. (2005)

Manipur URI CC observed International Day of Peace with over nine diverse religious and spiritual groups participating at the Tingkao Ragwang Kuhumkai Manipur (India) with prayer, devotional songs and a painting competition for children from the Sixth to Eighth Standard, on the theme "Global Community Prayer for Peace". (2005)

ISRAEL

Bridges of Peace organized an event in Kiryat Ono where more than 700 children, from 11 different schools, came together in a Peace ceremony. The 12-year old students attend Jewish secular, Jewish orthodox, Muslim and Christian schools in the area. The Mayors of five towns attended. During the ceremony, a Peace Pole was offered by the children to one of the Mayors. It was followed by a parade of 195 children, carrying flags of all the nations to the rhythm of a Peace Drummers Circle. The program also included creative performances such as songs, dances and plays about Peace. The ceremony was closed with a minute of silence at noon. (2005)

The Jerusalem Chapter of **Service For Peace** promoted a soccer contest, a kite-flying competition and a Peace walk. All three events involved Israeli and Palestinian youth making a commitment to not only one day, but a lifetime of Peace. (2005)

United Religions Initiative (URI) On September 21st in Jerusalem **the Interfaith Encounter Association (IEA)** had 60 Muslim, Jewish and Christian participants

celebrating the International Day of Peace by observing a minute of silence, saying “May Peace prevail on Earth”, dancing and throwing white balloons in the air. The Peace Bell was tolled on its 50th Anniversary, Peace candles were lit and traditional prayers from the three religions were offered along with sharing about the work of the different IEA groups in Jerusalem, signing a Declaration of Intention to work and pray for Peace daily. After blessing each other, food was shared, songs were sung in Arabic and Hebrew accompanied by guitar and oud. (2005)

ITALY

United Religions Initiative (URI) In Assisi, a 24 hour Peace vigil was observed, beginning at midnight September 20. Two seminars, one on “The Role of Religions in Peacebuilding” and one on “The Role of Religions in Conflict Zones” took place over 2 days. (2005)

JAPAN

The Goi Peace Foundation in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo disseminated information about the International Day of Peace to public and private schools throughout Japan, encouraging them to observe it in their own creative ways. In 2005, International Day of Peace was widely supported by the Ministry of Education of Japan, prefectural boards of education, school networks and some media organizations, with activity reports submitted by more than 62 schools. A total of 25,000 students from elementary through high school took part in the observations. In many schools, teachers talked about Peace in morning assemblies or organized special programs to discuss Peace, the work of United Nations and current international affairs. Other activities centered around the theme of Peace, including essay writing, poster drawing, creating slogans, singing songs and sharing a minute of silence. Some schools also made outreach efforts to raise awareness of the day in their homes and local communities, while others used the occasion to learn about the UN Millennium Development Goals and think of ways in which individuals can make a difference in this world. Education for sustainable development was also a focus of the International Day of Peace activities in a few schools. Members and friends of the Goi Peace Foundation and the World Peace Prayer Society also observed the day in different cities in Japan by dedicating Peace poles, conducting WPPS ceremonies, participating in community service projects and sharing the prayer “May Peace Prevail on Earth”. (2005)

Service For Peace In Tokyo, high school students played volleyball and college students from six Asian nations discussed how to improve historic resentments between their countries and Japan. Flowers were brought to the Moyai statue in Shibuya for victims of 9/11 and other tragedies. In Hiroshima, volunteers displayed an exhibition of 170 Peace pictures drawn by students of elementary, junior and high schools and held a vigil at the memorial to those killed by the atomic bomb in 1945. (2005)

KENYA

Africa Peace Point and the organizing committee of the **Nairobi Peace Rally**, an initiative of a group of Peace NGOs in Nairobi, organized the Nairobi International Peace Rally on September 17th at the Uhuru Park Grounds. The theme of the celebrations were “Towards Justice and Equity”, which evoked the idea of different players in the civil society and the public working together with the state to entrench the values of justice and equity at local, regional and international levels. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Representatives of the Kenyan military, and international diplomats stationed in Nairobi joined United Nations staff members at the UN’s African headquarters in Gigiri, Nairobi, to commemorate the International Day of Peace. The focus of the UN-sponsored celebration of the International Day of Peace in Kenya was the contribution made by the people and Government of Kenya to peace in the region, and for their important role in the UN’s peacekeeping work across the globe. Participants in the celebrations included Kenyan military officers, led by Major General Njuki Mwaniki, and civil

society representatives from the Peace process which resulted in the cessation of hostilities between North and South Sudan. Also invited were schoolchildren from the Nairobi area who had written messages of support to Kenyan peacekeepers currently involved in nine different peacekeeping operations around the world. Some of the letters were read out by the children before they presented them to General Mwaniki for forwarding to the peacekeepers. (2005)

LUXEMBOURG

L'Association Luxembourgeoise pour les Nations Unies (ALNU) and Le Comite d'Organisation de la Journee Internationale de la Paix (COJIP) organized several activities in honor of International Day of Peace between September 14-21 in the City of Luxembourg. The celebrations gathered diverse groups active within cultural, humanitarian, religious and educational issues, with the common goal of promoting a non-violent society. Programs included themes such as “Express yourself on the theme of Peace” and “Peace and non-violence; let’s all be actors”. (2005)

MACEDONIA

CIVIL, in partnership with Caritas France and Komuna e Quendres, organized Peace activities from September 21 to October 21, under the name “Month of Peace”. (2005)

NGO Ethno Center-Balkanika in Tetovo participated in the “Months of Peace” celebrations. The group organized a manifestation with students of mixed ethnicity, from several primary schools, under the name “I am for Peace – Peace is my choice”. The activities lasted several hours and included distribution of flyers and posters and Peace motives painted on public sidewalks. The manifestation was concluded with a symbolical releasing of Peace balloons, as a message of Peace to the world. The message on the balloons was written in four languages (Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish and English) and said: “Let the children color the world in the colors of the rainbow”. (2005)

MALAWI

United Religions Initiative (URI) URI Malawi celebrated Peace Day at Chisapi Private School. The theme was “May Peace Prevail on Earth, and about 500 people attended. The main celebration started when a Member of Parliament arrived at the school. After an opening ceremony, there was a traditional dance performance by school children. They wore white hats with Peace slogans and sang while dancing: “We want Peace in Malawi and the whole world; we are proud of this day, stop fighting each other, love your neighbor”. The performance was followed by speeches by students, teachers, the Group Village Headman and representatives of URI. The last speaker was a young Member of Parliament, who urged the people to solve their problems through contact and dialogue and called for Peace in Malawi, its neighboring countries and the world as a whole. Other activities this day were reading of poems and bible verses on Peace, drama, Kwaito dance and singing. The function ended with a candle lighting and a prayer by one of the teachers. (2005)



MOLDOVA

Service For Peace organized “Running For Peace” to raise funds for Peace work. (2005)

MONGOLIA

Service For Peace organized events where more than 40 schools in Ulaanbataar observed the minute of silence, and volunteers from all faiths gathered around the Bell of Peace in Sukhbaatar Square after a day of service. Students were invited to the “Lighted Window” TV studio to make a children’s Peace program. (2005)

NEPAL

Service For Peace Volunteers in Nepal provided colorful uniforms for street children to participate in the IDP program. Working side by side with college students and high school students the street children were uplifted as valuable resources to the community - resources that need access to opportunities for education. (2005)

Hindu Vidya Peeth-Nepal (HVP) and Youth Society for Peace (YSP) organized three different activities for International Day of Peace. During one week, September 16-22, talks were held at 10 different schools and colleges on the topic of “Youth for Peace and Progress”. This program aimed to empower youth to develop a consciousness of Peace within themselves and with their peers. The second activity was a poetry competition among children, with the theme of “Seeds of Peace”. The purpose of the competition was to encourage children to express their creativity and realize the importance of Peace. Three prominent Nepalese writers and poets awarded the best contributions. Finally, on September 21, an awareness-raising rally with the theme of “Peace and Spirituality for Humanity” was held. Youths, social workers and religious leaders participated. (2005)

NETHERLANDS

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) 24 hours of silent prayer was held in front of the Peace Palace in the Hague. About 100 Peace workers from all over the country gathered for the vigil, to stand up for Peace and justice in the world. A ceremonial fire from the indigenous peoples of North America, called the Seventh Fire, was the center of the ceremony. Participants shared rituals and prayers, affirming Peace for all countries during the world Peace flag ceremony. (2005)

NEW ZEALAND

Intuition in Service and United Nations Days & Years Meditation Initiative have coordinated an annual international vigil of meditation and prayer for the 24 hours of September 21 since 2002. The 24 hours are divided into 15-minute periods, and individuals or groups commit themselves, by registering on the website, to spend specific 15-minute periods in prayer or meditation for world peace. Participants began precisely on the quarter hour by using the Great Invocation, the world prayer 'May Peace Prevail on Earth', or another invocation or prayer oriented towards world peace. Then they linked in thought with the others who are linking at the same precise time and with everyone in the world who is participating in the International Day of Peace Vigil. All were invited to reflect on the meaning of a Culture of Peace, visualise the lighted, loving energies that can create the mental and emotional understanding and atmosphere within which peace can flourish in ourselves, our communities, our nations, and our world, and then use the Great Invocation or another invocation or prayer precisely on the quarter hour. (2005)

NIGERIA

Nigerian Group for Goodwill and the Seed Group of Port Harcourt organized a workshop on Peacebuilding on September 17 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The theme of the workshop was “Sustainable development and sustainable living in the quest for world Peace” and the program included a keynote speech by Val Usifoh and a discussion around the theme of the day. There was also a break out session, where four groups deliberated on the following

themes: “Governance accountability and anti-corruption campaign”, “Education and employment”, “Ecological challenges and agriculture” and “Right relations between religious and ethnic groups in Nigeria”. Each group made a presentation of their deliberations, conclusions and action points in the final plenary section. Participants were invited to write essays expressing their own views on the topic. The contributions will be added to the Peace Day Essay Project, which was launched in 2004. The workshop closed with a group meditation. (2005)

Religious Youth Service (RYS) has been involved in promoting International Day of Peace since 2002. This year RYS organized an international gathering of high school students who took part of a one day Peace education under the theme “Inter-Ethnic Integration: a Road Map to Peace”. Over 60 participants from different states in Nigeria as well as from Ghana and Togo attended. The program was divided into sessions such as: a prayer for those who have died in conflicts and violence, three minutes of silence at noon, a lecture on Peace and a recitation of the Peace Pledge book. A consensus was reached to form a Peace Peer Group Educators for next year. RYS also promoted International Day of Peace 2005 by notifying networks of NGOs on the need to respond to and join in the celebrations. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)

The Nigerian Chapter of WPPS pitched a tent at Ika Local Government Area on September 21 for their Peace Day celebrations. The event started with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for his enduring mercies, after which the youth wing performed inspirational songs to honor God. The Chairman of the day’s event, Mr. Imo Ukpongette, called upon parents, churches, NGOs, the government and young people to embrace Peace as a pathway to productive ventures. A thought-provoking speech was presented by WPPS-Nigeria Peace Representative, Mr. Mojima Umo Etokudo. During the prayer session, fervent prayers were offered by Ministers of God for the unity of the local government, the council staff, the state, the nation and the world at large. Dr. Iniodu Ukpong presented a paper on the need for Peace, in which he stated that Peace is a panacea for communal harmony, community development and for harmonious worship of God. The Head of the local government thanked WPPS for choosing them for this year’s event and promised to adopt the prayer “May Peace Prevail on Earth” as a tool. Deserving individuals of Ika Land received Peace Awards in the form of certificates of honor and desktop Peace poles. A large-scale Peace pole was planted outdoors at the end of the event. (2005)

Agenda for Community Development (AFCODE) started their preparations for International Day of Peace with a Peace Art Camp for Children, September 1 to 15. The Art Camp, which had 35 participants in the age of four to nine years old, was scheduled to enable the children to participate in the 8th Annual International Peace Pals Art Competition and Exhibition, announced by Peace Pals of the WPPS. On September 21, AFCODE took another step by dedicating a Peace pole and celebrating International Day of Peace at the campus of Royal Field School in Olambe Village. AFCODE’s representative explained that the decision to bring a Peace pole to the school was a symbol of his group’s commitment to Peacebuilding and promotion of a culture of nonviolence. Two of the students prayed for Peace in places within Nigeria where there are communal and religious crises. They also prayed for Peace in families. The four-sided desktop Peace pole was presented to the school’s Proprietor, and in his response, Mr. Otunla affirmed the school’s commitment towards promoting tolerance among students. He stated that the school would work towards becoming a bullying-free zone. (2005)



PAKISTAN

Organization for Peace and Development observed International Day of Peace at the Dar-ul-Hikmat Education Centre, together with 400 school children and representatives of the Women and Children Development Society. The celebration started with a Peace Walk, during which the children were waving flags of all countries of the world. The walk was

followed by Peace speeches, poems, songs, a tableau and the planting of a Peace Pole. Jahangir Piara of the Organization for Peace and Development talked about the importance of Peace Day and asked all participants to work for Peace in their own lives. At noon there was a prayer in silence for a culture of Peace in the world. (2005)

United Religions Initiative (URI) organized several events in cooperation with other organizations in Pakistan:

Staff and students of the **Pastoral Institute Multan** offered a Holy Mass for Global Peace in their chapel. Special readings on the message of Peace and love were chosen from the Holy Bible. Rev. James Channan, OP lead the ceremony and students sang Peace songs and offered petitions before God for Peace in the world, especially Iraq, Afghanistan and Israel/Palestine. A homily was given on global Peace: the role of the United Nations in promoting Peace and Peace messages from Pope Benedict XI and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. (2005)

A Peace Walk was organized by the **Multan Peace Network, Taraqi Pasand Organization, URI Pakistan and Caritas Pakistan Multan**. More than 150 people gathered in front of the Press Club of Multan, where doves were released and Peace songs sung. Children were holding cards with slogans such as “We Want Peace and Not War”, “Give us Books and not Bombs” and “May Peace Prevail on Earth”. Fr. James Channan, OP, addressed the press and said that Pakistan is a Peace loving country, with only a small number of people wanting to disturb the Peace and promote terrorism. He urged the government of Pakistan to continue the dialogue with the government of Israel in order to help resolve the issue of Palestine. He also urged the government to celebrate International Day of Peace on September 21. (2005)

Crescent Lines Club of Multan organized a seminar on the theme of “Development of Peace and Harmony” at the Workers Welfare High School in Multan. The entire school staff and over 500 students were present. Students spoke about the need of promoting Peace and harmony among religions and Muslim students emphasized that Islam is a religion of Peace and tolerance. One minute of silence was observed at noon, as suggested by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Mr. Ijaz Ahmed of the Crescent Lines Club said in his speech that we must fight terrorism at all levels and destroy its roots. Fr. James Channan, OP, pointed out that versions of the Golden Rule are found in the teachings of all major religions. If all of us practice this Golden Rule and act upon it, we can bring lasting Peace in the entire world. (2005)

A large celebration was held at the **Pastoral Institute Multan**. The function began at 5pm with the releasing of doves and balloons in the air by guests and students of the Institute. A plant of Peace was planted on the lawn of the Institute by representatives of Islam, Christianity and Hinduism. These activities were followed by a Peace conference under the theme of “The Role of Civil Society in Promoting Global Peace”. A group of students from the Institute presented two Peace songs and a tableau. One minute of silence for world Peace was observed. Then, during the conference, representatives of 23 different organizations gave their view of global Peace and the role their organization is playing to promote Peace in the world. All speakers highlighted the importance of civil society in promoting Peace and human rights. All vowed to support the noble cause of the United Nations, and the message of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was read. Towards the end of the conference the participants agreed upon a number of resolutions which will promote Peace in Pakistan and the world. (2005)

The **Tehreek-E-Insaniate (TTI) CC**, the **Peace and Development Foundation (PDF)** and the **Eric John Welfare society (EJWS)** organized a seminar event on September 19, 2005. 250 people participated from the Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Baha'i Communities, including children of different faiths. The program began with interfaith prayers and singing the National Anthem. After one minute of silence for World Peace, Interfaith Prayers were offered. The UN declaration was presented initiating the

International Day of Peace, the URI and the World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS). Children of Peace and Development Foundation (PDF) sang a song of Peace, a Peace candle was lit, Peace Pole Ceremony was held, balloons were flown and special prayers were offered. Fr. Nasir Gulfam, President of the Ceremony asked everyone to stand together to pray for world peace. (2005)

The **Lahore URI CC** arranged a Peace walk for school children. They also organized a Peace Conference with the theme “The Importance of World Peace”. (2005)

In Gujrat, the **National Muslim Christian Dialogue CC** and **Ulama Peace Committee** (Religious Leaders Peace Committee) organized a Peace conference at City Hall, with the theme “Our Role in Promoting Peace in Pakistan”, in which over 500 people participated. The event included speeches, one minute of silence and the message of Kofi Annan was read. (2005)

St. Andrews URI CC organized a Peace conference in Gujrat. (2005)

A joint Peace conference was organized in Islamabad, by **Universal Interfaith Peace Organization, Ibeda Foundation and Press for Peace**. The conference was held at a local hotel and had over 150 participants. Leaders of different religions held speeches and a commitment was made to work jointly for Peace in Pakistan and the world. The group observed one minute of silence and said a prayer for world Peace. (2005)

An **All Pakistan Poetry Concert** was organized in Multan on September 19 at the Pastoral Institute Multan. Over 30 poets participated and recited poems on global Peace and tolerance. A group of young girls and boys sang beautiful Peace songs. The International Day of Peace message by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was read in English and translated into Urdu. (2005)

The **Pakistan Christian Life Ministries Church Worship Hall** was opened for prayer for the whole day of September 21. There was a worship and candle ceremony and Peace songs sung by children. (2005)

In Lahore the **Women and Children Development CC** arranged a Peace festival for school children with prayers, Peace walk, poems, songs and dancing around a Peace pole. (2005)

In Toba Tek Singh a joint International Peace Day program was organized by **The United Religions Initiative CC, The Young Christians Workers, St. Peter’s High School and the Teachers Resource Center and Human Development Center**. The Peace message prepared by the United Religions Initiative was read and speeches were given promoting Peace and solidarity throughout the world. (2005)

PHILIPPINES

Franciscan Movement for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (FMJPIC) joined the interfaith Liturgical Celebration and Procession on September 21, at Liwasang Aurora, Quezon City Circle. Before the procession, there was an opening with different Peace booths. Some of the objectives of the event were to raise public awareness of International Day of Peace, make September 21 a gathering and celebration of Peace advocates, continuously challenge people to pray and work for Peace and celebrate the achievements and contributions made so far by Peacebuilders. (2005)

Lahi Productions is group of young professionals and individuals whose aim is to provide aspiring world musicians and artists the chance to express themselves through different forms of art and to help promote Peace and unity in the Philippines. On September 23, the group organized an event in Quezon City, entitled “Rhymes for Peace: a Celebration for the

International Day of Peace”. Musicians, painters, photographers, poets and other artists participated, as well as students, teachers and other professionals. (2005)

Service For Peace Throughout the Philippines, more than 3000 volunteers participated in IDP observances and contributed more than 15000 hours of community service. Over 2000 participants gathered at the San Andres Sports Complex and Civic Center to launch a full day of activities. College students from Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines were mentors for local high schools in Manila. They stopped activities at 12 noon to pause for a moment of reflection and prayer, the ringing of a Peace bell, lighting Peace candles and releasing Peace balloons. (2005)



United Religions Initiative (URI) The 2005 Peace Day celebrations in Manila, Philippines, were entitled “Moving in Solidarity towards Peace”. They brought together religious groups from diverse faith traditions, non-profit organizations from various sectors of society and students from different schools and universities. Some of the convening partners of the event were **World Peace Prayer Society, The Peacemakers’ Circle, the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines, the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, Urban Missionaries, and the Women and Gender Commission**. The activities began with ringing of the Peace Bell at 2pm, followed by interfaith prayers. At 4pm, the program continued with welcome remarks from the President of the park and reflections and blessings of Peace offered by leaders of faith groups. A representative of the UN information Center graced the occasion and read the UN statement to the outdoor assembly. One of the highlights of the celebration was the prayer for all countries of the world, where the flags of all 191 countries of the world waved in the afternoon breeze. Songs, dances and reflections on Peace were shared with all who participated. As dusk turned to night candles were lit and a procession began while participants sang “Make Me a Channel of your Peace”. (2005)

ROMANIA

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Representatives of WPPS wrote several articles about International Day of Peace, that were published on Internet and in the National Periodical of the Romanian Franciscan Tertiare Order. (2005)

RUSSIA

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University arranged a public program entitled “Return of the Happy Fortune” at the Moscow International House of Music, on September

18. The thought behind the event was that this is a time of deep changes, and that maybe it's time to change the fortune of the world. The program joined together science, philosophy, art and real life stories and included musical performances, exhibitions and video novels. (2005)

The Moscow Chapter of Service For Peace organized two days of “Lessons of Peace”. 160 teens aged 13-16 joined in an exploration of Peacemaking, simple points about conflict resolution, explanation of UN initiatives and a role-playing training called “How to cooperate”. After the lessons there was a minute of silence and all participants had the opportunity to sign the “Pledge of Young Peacemakers”. (2005)

SCOTLAND

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) International Day of Peace was celebrated on Uist, in the Scottish Isles. The World Youth Congress 2005, which was organized by Peace Child International and The Scottish Executive, presented a Peace pole to the community of Uist, as a gift from Hawaii. (2005)

SIERRA LEONE

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Campaign Against Drug Abuse (CADA), a local non-governmental organization, and WAR CHILD, an international organization, joined in celebrating International Day of Peace in two remote villages in the Rokel community. The activities started in John Thorpe Village with a brief Peace statement by the Village Head. The newly built Peace pole was unveiled and dedicated to the people of the community. Peace songs were sung by children. Later, a procession of school children from both villages started off from John Thorpe to Madina Village. At Madina Village, school children and community people gathered around the Peace pole, where the Village Head addressed the group, calling upon them to live in Peace among themselves. (2005)



SOUTH KOREA

Global Academy for Neo-Renaissance of Kyunghee University hosted an international forum in Seoul, in commemoration of the 24th Anniversary of the International Day of Peace. More than 200 scholars from all around the world participated in discussions about the possibility of the future of civilization on Peace and co-prosperity. The program was divided into three sessions: perspective of open humanity, new cultural society and alternative politics. Joseph Verner Reed, under-Secretary-General and special advisor to the UN Secretary-General, delivered keynote a speech on the role of the UN in an era of reinventing world orders. (2005)

Service For Peace International students from Japan, China, Taiwan, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand, Russia, Belorussia, Kenya, Hungary and Chile joined together to create 2005 pieces of origami to be distributed to senior homes and hospitals. (2005)

SRI LANKA

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Samasevaya organized different activities in the city of Anuradhapura. The popular radio show Subaharathi had International Day of Peace as its theme, and included discussions on the Peace process in Sri Lanka. Later in the day, there was a prayer session in front of Samavihara Buddhist Temple, where Buddhist, Christian, Islamic and Hindu priests participated. The last activity was a rally, where people gathered to light lamps for Peace in the center of the city. Over 800 people participated, representing religious communities, political groups, government and NGOs. (2005)

SWITZERLAND

World Council of Churches (WCC) is a fellowship of churches in more than 120 countries from virtually all Christian traditions. For the second year running, WCC invited churches representing over 560 million Christians worldwide, to mark September 21 as an International Day of Prayer for Peace. This was done in the framework of the initiative “Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace (2001-2010)” that was launched in 2004. The theme for 2005 was “Building communities of Peace for all” and focused on Asia. Christian churches worldwide were invited to especially include faith communities in that vast and diverse continent in their prayers of intercession. (2005)

TAJIKISTAN

United Religions Initiative (URI): An International Peace Day celebration, initiated by the **CC of Dialogue of Cultures** under the direction of the Ziyodullo Shahidi International Foundation with the partnership of the UN Tajikistan Peace-Building Office, was held at the Ziyodullo Shahidi Museum of Musical Culture and the Slavic University of Dushanbe. There were more than 1500 participants, including representatives of different faiths present in Dushanbe, and perhaps for the first time in the last few years, direct conversations were held between Christians and Muslims. Representatives of the Islamic University of Dushanbe Mohammadjon Oumarof and Mullah Khoja Said spoke about Suras of the Koran, Peace, openness and hospitality as the main features of the Islamic ethic. The head of the Russian Protestant Church in Dushanbe spoke about the devout Christians of Tajikistan, who sing songs of Peace very similar to those sung by the Muslims. The head of the Russian Baptist Church in Dushanbe spoke of the importance of praying for Peace. Candles were lit to express our collective wishes for Peace, and songs were sung in several languages in order to give voice to this hope. (2005)

TANZANIA

The **Baha’i Community of Tanzania** organized a gathering where representatives of nine religious communities offered prayers on the International Day of Peace. The purpose was to provide a common ground where various religious organizations can come together and pray for the common goal of Peace. The reason behind the gathering was explained by the Baha’i spokesperson, who said that humanity now stands at the beginning of a great new era of Peace as promised in scriptures of the world’s religions. Representatives of the Baha’i faith, Buddhism, Christian denominations, Hinduism, Islam, Zoroastrianism, the Aga Khan Council as well as African traditional religion presented their suggestions on what should be done to become Peacemakers and how to make a contribution individually and jointly towards building a peaceful world. The program also included a parade by children carrying banners that read: “Guess who we are? Children of one Creator and flowers of one garden; guess what we need? Peace, please.” (2005)

THAILAND

Dhamma Park Foundation and Gallery held their 5th commemoration of the International Day of Peace and Hear the Children’s Day at the Dhamma Park Gallery and Heritage Gardens. Students and teachers from 17 local and primary schools attended, including 70 members of the “We Love Bikes Club” – the flagship for the Foundation’s Dhamma Bike Project. The theme for 2005 was “Right conduct brings good results. Bad

conduct brings suffering” with a focus on the Buddhist Wheel of Law and the Peace Wheel. The gardens were decorated with white balloons hanging from trees. A large map of the world was exhibited, with red light pinpointing the countries where wars and armed conflicts are ongoing. Program included a procession of monks and lay people gathering around a Peace Pole for prayers and the releasing of birds. There was also a candlelight ceremony at the Fountain of Wisdom, a poetry competition, a short play by students and a round table with the subject “How can we help to integrate moral ethics into a consumer driven society?” (2005)

Service for Peace and **Samuharath Bumrung Community** held the event “Sport for Development and Peace” with Watsamuharath Bumrung in Lumlookk. There were 280 participants from Students Assumption University. The winner’s cup in soccer was handed out by Prime Minister Taksin Chinawat. (2005)

UGANDA

Conflict Resolution by Youth (CRY) Uganda carried out an African cross-cultural as well as interfaith Peace concert, orchestrated by young people. The activity was part of the 11 day regional Youth Peace Camp Project in the Katakwi district in Eastern Uganda. This area is recovering from the trauma of war and still faces periodic armed rustling from armed ethnic groups. The theme of the Peace Camp this year was “Youth are a Resource”, and the objective was to allow delegates to discuss experiences and alternative perspectives to the key issues affecting the Peace processes in Eastern Uganda. Another objective was to solicit support for youth in strengthening their awareness of solving problems through non-violent means. Approximately 120 delegates were selected by a regional panel based on their commitment and ability to effect change on their return home. (2005)

Network for Peace Building Initiative (NPI) celebrated International Day of Peace in Northern Uganda under the theme “Peace begins with me”. It was intended to raise awareness among various communities about the devastating effects brought to the area by the 19 year long war between the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) and governmental forces. This conflict has displaced over 1.6 million Ugandans who now live in camps, and has resulted in extensive crimes against humanity. Increased HIV/AIDS, rising poverty levels and complications in the treatment of malaria and tuberculosis are some effects of the war. The event organized by NPI included Peace marches, a ceremony for a new Peace monument, speeches, music and an essay/art competition. (2005)

United Religions Initiative (URI)

Northern Uganda – **The Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative** conducted candle light interfaith prayers on the eve of September 21. Many people from the region came for bull roasting and shared some good moments, which is unusual in Northern Uganda. For several hours, Peace was evident on many people’s faces, thus making the war which has existed for more than 20 years seem like history. The following day there was an interfaith Peace walk concluded by prayers at the bomb grounds. (2005)

The **Universal Ministries CC**, **Stewardship Ministries CC** and **Affinet CC** merged their activities. Celebrations took place under the theme of “Empowering the orphaned child – a key to national development”. Uganda has over 2 million orphans mostly due to HIV and the war. Religious leaders and government officials in the sub-region were invited, as well as the Member of Parliament for the area. Later orphans exhibited their arts and crafts, including tailoring, carpentry etc. The URI contact person for Stewardship Ministries CC said that Peace cannot be enjoyed when orphans have no clear future ahead of them. (2005)

Youth Interfaith Mission and **Interfaith Youth Partnership CCs** came together under the umbrella of URI and decided to conduct a youth work camp for northern Uganda refugees, who had been resettled in the Mukono district (southern Uganda). The

youths collected used clothes, shoes, hand bags etc for these refugees and also offered manual labor, such as cleaning and food preparation. (2005)

Pamoja CC members are undertaking skills training courses in alternatives to violence at Makerere University. They want to utilize these skills together with the URI Interfaith Peacebuilding Guide to train other CC members in Peacebuilding. (2005)

Interfaith prayers were held at **Wampewo grounds** in Kampala. Tension is building up in Uganda over the political situation, and many people fear what might happen in the 2006 elections. The last time Uganda had a similar political situation was in the late 70s to early 80s, when there was a lot of chaos and loss of lives. Religious leaders therefore prayed for Peace in this transitional period and for a harmonious co-existence among Christians and Moslems. (2005)

UKRAINE

Service for Peace The students club and faculty of physical training of the **National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy** and the youth organization **Kyiv Plast** organized contests in 10 local universities and in Kharkov and Vorzel. (2005)

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

On September 24, a statewide Peace rally and march were held in Birmingham, Alabama, under the theme “Alabama says: Stop the War on Iraq!”. Sponsors of the event were **Alabama Peace and Justice Coalition, Alabama Veterans for Peace, Military Families Speak Out-AL** and 60 other Peace veteran, religious, and political organizations. The event included live music, speeches, stories, giant Peace puppets and a counter-recruitment workshop. (2005)

At noon on September 21, members of the **Alliance for Peace and Justice** observed International Day of Peace with a moment of silence at Toomer’s Corner in Auburn. Participants also signed the Peace Pledge. Alliance for Peace and Justice was formed in 2003, just months before the war in Iraq began. The group continues to support US troops, but not the war. (2005)

ARKANSAS

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) The OMNI Center for Peace, Justice & Ecology recognized International Day of Peace by planting a Peace pole in Fayetteville. (2005)

CALIFORNIA

A Single Drop is a non-profit organization formed after the tragedy of 9/11 2001. Founder Gemma Bulos had a vision of a world anthem that would be sung by people all over the world, creating an experience of a global united moment in song. Gemma wrote the song “We Rise” and started the **Million Voice Choir** movement, which has since spread throughout the world. The purpose of the project is to cultivate Peace and it uses water as a symbol for Peace, since water is necessary for all living beings and a potential source of conflict or unity. In 2005, Million Voice Choir concerts were held in over 100 cities in 60 countries worldwide. (2005)

The **City of Berkeley** hosted an event called “Singing for Peace” at the Civic Center Park. Singing for Peace gathered to sing as part of the march/vigil through the streets of downtown Berkeley on September 21. (2005)

International World Peace Rose Gardens and the United Nations Association, Sacramento Chapter, sponsored International Day of Peace celebrations at State Capitol Park in Sacramento on September 24. The event featured a procession of children holding flags of the nations of the world, giant Peace doves, entertainment, speakers, a display of

student artwork and government resolutions regarding International Day of Peace. The event promoted unity, diversity, celebration, cooperation and Peace. (2005)

Meditation Mount held three silent meditations on September 21, in honor of International Day of Peace, one in the morning, one at noon and one in the afternoon. After the noon meditation there was a groundbreaking ceremony for the new meadow garden project, which illustrates the six laws and principles that the Tibetan teacher D.K. said will bring Peace to the world when they are integrated into our way of being. (2005)

Mercy Center in Burlingame sponsored an interfaith Vigil on September 21. The community was invited to come together for solidarity, silence, prayer and chant. (2005)

Park Day School (a K-6 school with 230 students) in Oakland celebrated International Day of Peace on September 21. The school gathered on the sports field and made a big circle. All staff met as well, including administrators, and families were invited to stay for a while after dropping their kids off. Participants lit candles, read a poem and then the director spoke to the group about the hard times many people were having around the world, Katrina, the war, etc. He also spoke about how important it is to remember our role as citizens, and about our stance of being activists & allies, words we teach the children and use often. Then, there was a special event that raised money for Katrina relief. Children were asked not to bring a lunch, but to instead bring about what they would normally spend to pack a lunch, 2 - 3 dollars. Some parent volunteers helped cook a simple lunch and collected donations. (2005)

Province Center of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Belmont observed International Day of Peace with an evening of reflection entitled "Voices for Peace" on September 25. (2005)

The Santa Barbara Resource Group celebrated International Day of Peace on September 18-20, by showing a recording of Prem Rawat's "Words of Peace" on local TV channels as well as at the Santa Barbara Central Library. (2005)

Self-Realization Fellowship, based in Los Angeles, invited its members and friends to join monks and nuns of the SRF Worldwide Prayer Council by spending a few minutes on September 21 praying for Peace and harmony throughout the world. (2005)

Stand-Up for International Peace is a project of **think PEACE Network**, a non-commercial organization based in California. The thought behind this project is to bring awareness to International Day of Peace through stand-up comedy shows. Comedy clubs in 28 cities in different parts of USA, Canada, England and Australia participated in 2005. (2005)

Academy Award winning actor **Tim Robbins** chose September 20 as national street date for his DVD "Embedded Live", in acknowledgement of International Day of Peace. It is the filmed version of his acclaimed play, a fictionalized story about the Iraq war and the journalists who covered it. The play was written and directed by Robbins, and the film features Robbins and the theatre group The Actors' Gang. The filmed version was shot live during an off-Broadway run in New York. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Sisters of San Rafael, Dominican Order of Preachers in San Rafael installed a Peace pole on International Day of Peace 2004. This year, sisters, neighbors and students from St. Raphael's Elementary School gathered for prayer and procession, with hopes for world Peace in their hearts. (2005)

CONNECTICUT

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)

A Peace pole ceremony was held at the home of **Gail Ostrow and Robb Sauerhoff** in Bridgeport, in memory of the lives lost on 9/11 and in honor of International Day of

Peace. Over 120 adults and children from three local schools gathered for the event, the children bearing signs and banners praying for Peace. Several guests of honor attended, such as Aye Aye Thant, daughter of former UN Secretary-General U Thant. The participants were taught how to say “hello” and “Peace” in the four languages of the Peace pole (English, Hebrew, Japanese and Cambodian). A letter from US Congressman Christopher Shays was read to the group. The Peace pole was blessed by participants’ prayers for Peace for all the cities and countries of the world. Three newly hatched Monarch butterflies were released. Each person placed a small stone at the base of the pole upon leaving, as a symbol of remembrance. (2005)

Students gathered around the Peace pole at **Rochambeau Middle School** in Southbury, to celebrate International Day of Peace by sharing their reflections on the meaning of Peace. Art enrichment students from the eight-grade shared their posters and explained the symbolism behind their Matisse-inspired works of art. (2005)

FLORIDA

Barry University in Miami Shores had over 40 Peace Pledges signed. (2005)

Groups of Action toward Peace (GAP) is a sub-group under Friends of the United Nations. In 2005, they worked actively to promote observance of International Day of Peace through their local chapters in countries all over the world. To see a complete report, please go to www.fotun.org/IDP2006.doc, or contact them at unrights@aol.com. (2005)

Pinwheels for Peace is an art installation project started in 2005 by two art teachers at Monarch High School in Coconut Creek, Florida. Through this project, students can make a public visual statement about their feelings about war, Peace and tolerance, and let the public know what the next generation is thinking. Students create pinwheels of all shapes and sizes. On one side of the pinwheel, students write down their thoughts and on the other side they express their feelings visually. On September 21, the pinwheels were planted outside as a public exhibit/installation. Approximately 500,000 pinwheels were planted in over 1,350 locations throughout the world. (2005)

The Naples Roots and Shoots group celebrated International Day of Peace on September 24th at Lowdermilk Park Beach. The program for the day included the flying of giant Peace doves as well as an exhibition of pinwheels for Peace created by children. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Bridges Peace Coalition observed International Day of Peace with a re-dedication of the Peace pole and Peace site, along with a moment of silence. The group made paper cranes to hang in the trees, a Peace mural displayed along the fence and pictures describing the meaning of Peace. (2005)

HAWAII

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Global Hope organized a Peace pole ceremony at the Ahimsa Hamakua sanctuary, north of Hilo. The message of Peace was combined with a vegan theme, encouraging participants to bring their own food for the vegan potluck. (2005)

IDAHO

The **City of Coeur d’Alene** proclaimed September 21 as a Day of Peace. (2005)

Following an initiative by **Josh Misner**, **Governor Dirk Kempthorne** proclaimed September 21, 2005 to be a Day of Peace in Idaho. (2005)

North Idaho College hosted Peace Coeur d’Alene, which included several events on September 21 in honor of International Day of Peace. The documentary “Peace One Day” by Jeremy Gilley was shown in NIC’s Boswell Hall Schuler Auditorium. After the film, the

participants marched from the auditorium to the Coeur d'Alene City Park, where a candlelight vigil was held. (2005)

ILLINOIS

Books for Peace is a project of BookCrossing.com, an online network where people can exchange books with each other. The three R's of BookCrossing are "Read" a book, "Register" the book and "Release" the book. In honor of International Day of Peace, one of the members posted a Release Challenge, encouraging other participants to register a book with a "Peace" theme, to be released on September 21. (2005)

First Church of the Brethren in Chicago hosted a free workshop on the topic "The Military and Me: Options in a Time of War, which offered information and options to young people in the event that a military draft is started. It also gave participants a chance to review terms of a military enlistment that are commonly passed over by recruiters and provided a space for discernment before making a voluntary commitment to join the military. The workshop was followed by a discussion and Bible study on "The Healing Power of Nonviolence. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)

Members of the **First Unitarian Church of Chicago** in cooperation with other organizations celebrated International Day of Peace with different activities, including children's activities at the 57th St Children's Book Fair, ringing of the church bells at noon on September 21 and the Oak Park Peace Fair at Scoville Park. The Chicago Peace Museum hosted "Imagine Peace" U2 Guitar Auction and Benefit Concert on September 21. (2005)

The Peace School gathered over 150 people to celebrate International Day of Peace on September 17th. The day was highlighted by one minute of silence for world Peace at noon, followed by wishes, thoughts and prayers for all countries of the world. Children were carrying small flags representing all countries of the world and music from all regions of the world was being played. A representative of the Mayor's Office read the Mayor's proclamation for Peace days in Chicago, honoring the two-week period from September 7 to 21. The program continued with musical performances by children, and ended with the singing of "Let There Be Peace On Earth". (2005)

A guest editorial by **Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson**, regarding International Day of Peace, was published in the Chicago Defender on September 12. (2005)

Several organizations at the **Southern Illinois University Edwardsville** arranged "Eleven Days of Peace", to commemorate the events on September 11th and honor International Day of Peace, from September 11 to 21. The program included a Mass for Peace, brown bag lunch discussions, display tables about the work of local Peace organizations, a "Cranes for Peace" ceremony and a candlelight Peace walk. On September 21, participants were urged to pledge non-violence and received a pledge card to keep as a reminder. (2005)

The Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis and the thirteen Executive Vice Presidents of the Hospital Sisters Health System Hospitals observed International Day of Peace at the Motherhouse of the Hospital Sisters in Springfield, on September 21. Following a prayer service in the St. Clare Adoration Chapel and a gathering around the Motherhouse Peace pole, the group posed before flags of the nations were the Hospital Sisters have served in their 160 year history. (2005)

INDIANA

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Just Peace, a peace and justice group of the University of Saint Francis, hosted a candlelight vigil commemorating International Day of Peace, on September 21. The program began at the peace pole located on the East Campus,

included a candlelit procession across the causeway of Mirror Lake, and concluded at the bronze sculpture of Saint Francis near the Bass Mansion. (2005)

MAINE

A candlelight vigil was held on September 21, in Augusta, organized by the **Murray Waters family**. Peace flags made by participants were flown. (2005)

MASSACHUSETTS

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)

The Learning Center for Peace in Boston is the local affiliate of the international Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization. On September 21 there was a ceremony in honor of International Day of Peace, in which participants had the opportunity to honor the essence of Peace, meditate and light a candle. Participants were also offered flowers, gifts and spiritual, personal blessings. Children were singing the Beatles song "All you need is love". Prior to the celebration, attendees were invited to enjoy the Peace Gallery in the Center, where messages of Peace were displayed. (2005)

Earth Spirit Herbal Apothecary in Sturbridge invited people to the official dedication of their Peace pole on September 20. The pole has four sides, with the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" written in four different languages, to represent the four races of the world – English for white, Lakota for Native American, Tibetan for Asian, and Swahili for African. (2005)

MICHIGAN

The **Detroit West District Peace Center, United Methodist Church**, which encompasses 54 churches, observed International Day of Peace with a 24 hour prayer vigil, a Consecration Service for the Peace Center and Worship Service and Program with Muslim, Christian and Judaic prayers for adults and youth. They also distributed 3/5 cards for writing of Peace to churches and organizations, which were to be mailed to the United Nations and President Bush. The Governor, Jennifer Granholm, has declared the day a Peace Day for the State of Michigan. (2005)

In Saginaw, Professor **Habib Kheil** read the story "Kids for Peace" to several first and second grade students at the Plainfield Elementary School. This initiated a discussion regarding Peace and what it means. The local newspaper, The Saginaw News, also published an article by Professor Kheil, reminding people of International Day of Peace on September 21. (2005)

The Holistic Alliance in St Joseph organized two events for International Day of Peace. On September 18, there was a program of meditation and music for the public, and on September 21, classes in meditation devoted their meditation to world Peace. (2005)

Stewart Elementary School celebrated International Day of Peace for the first time. As part of the school's morning routine, the Peace Day Book was read to the entire student body, followed by the Peace Pledge. The first grade students sang "Peace is the World Smiling". During the day, each student was given a Peace dove on which they drew or wrote about what Peace means to them. The doves were then displayed throughout the school. After lunch the students listened to the book "If Peace is..." and a quotation from Mahatma Gandhi. (2005)

MINNESOTA

Members of the **Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** in Bloomington signed the Peace Pledge on September 21, in honor of International Day of Peace. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers organized an International Day of Peace Benefit/Concert. (2005)

MISSOURI

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Louis invited the public to gather at the Peace pole and later for a prayer service at the Holy Family Chapel at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. (2005)

NEW YORK

International Day of Peace Vigil is an interfaith project with the following objective: to encourage worldwide, 24-hour spiritual observations for Peace and nonviolence on September 21 in every house of worship and place of spiritual practice, and by all men, women and children who seek Peace in the world. This global 24-hour spiritual observation for Peace is meant to demonstrate the power of prayer and other spiritual practices in promoting Peace and preventing violent conflict. These worldwide spiritual observances will also help raise public awareness of the International Day of Peace and directly support the establishment of a global ceasefire. For a list of 2005 events, please visit the following website: www.idpvigil.com/commitments/commitment2005.php (2005)

Jazz for Peace is a band lead by jazz pianist and vocalist Rick DellaRatta. Since 2002, Jazz for Peace has held over 300 benefit concerts raising funds, publicity and awareness to non-profit organizations in need. Jazz for Peace also works to bring music back into schools and donates musical instruments to underprivileged children worldwide. On September 17, 2005 a benefit concert was held in Queens, New York. (2005)

National Service Conference (NSC), InterSpiritual Dialogue and Theatre Group Dzieci organized an "InterSpiritual Ceremony for Peace" at Cathedral St. John the Divine in New York on September 21. The theme of the ceremony was "Bless the Children" and centered on children with disabilities. Participants and audience gathered first to learn the basic chants that would carry the event. Singing the chants, all processed with the Canon of the Cathedral along the length of the knave of the Cathedral, with tour groups and other visitors looking on. The Canon blessed all with holy water from a pine bow. The chanting continued as participants were given a votive candle and the procession continued to a clothed table in front of the main altar. Here, each person was blessed by the founder of the National Service Conference, Rose Walker. The chanting continued until all had gathered near the altar. After a Tibetan Bell and silence, the event erupted into drums and loud Native American chanting, with Dzieci lifting youngsters into the air. After this active period, there was a circle of silence in the central knave and the singing of a blessing by a member of Dzieci. Finally, there was a slow silent procession out of the knave and onto the Cathedral steps for the chiming of the Cathedral bells at 12 PM. (2005)

Roots of Peace organized a ceremonial planting of a grapevine at the Isaiah Wall, across the street from the United Nations, New York. The ceremony celebrated the organization's removal of 100,000 landmines in Afghanistan and the harvesting of 80,000 tons of table grapes from the newly freed fields. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)

The **Browne Street Community Church (BSCC)** in Flushing planted a peace pole in observance of International Day of Peace on September 21, 2005. The pole was a gift from the English Language Women's Fellowship and was placed in the front of the church yard in a location easily seen and read by passersby. Reflecting many of the languages of the neighborhood, it has six sides that proclaim "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Hindi and Arabic.

A World Peace Flag Ceremony at the "Vigil for International Peace" was held in Central Park in New York. The vigil was organised by Ms. Susana Bastarrica, the President of the **United Nations S.R.C. Fengshui Group**. This was the 4th annual vigil, and it coincided with the "Imagine Peace Festival" being held at Amenia Sanctuary, upstate New York. The event also coincided with the visit of the Heads of State of 180 countries to the United Nations to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the UN. Peace loving Americans

from all over the USA, and tourists from all over the world gathered at the Bandshell in Central Park, to offer their contributions to creating a culture of peace in this new era, through all kinds of world music, dance, beautiful works of art, poetry, heartfelt pleas for peace, and profound meditations. Hundreds of people enjoying a day of recreation in the park were drawn to support and listen to the performers. At 4.00pm, the World Peace Flag Ceremony was held, accompanied by the music of Vangelis. (2005)



On September 17-18, the World Peace Prayer Society hosted “**Imagine Peace Festival**” at the World Peace Sanctuary in Amenia. The program featured a number of performers and speakers such as Marianne Williamson. There were also activities including a global marketplace, an international food court, a visual art gallery and a healing arts village. One highlight of the festival was an interfaith ceremony offering prayers for Peace from many different traditions. It was followed by a World Peace Prayer Ceremony, inviting all present to live into the fullness of their divine nature as lights of Peace. The flags of all 191 nations and of communities of identity, such as Tibet, Palestine and the native peoples of North America, were paraded as those gathered prayed for Peace on Earth. (2005)

The Youth Peace Walk began in upstate Grafton, NY and walked first to the World Peace Prayer Society’s Imagine Peace Festival on September 18. They continued their International Day of Peace observance by walking their prayers and hopes for Peace to the UN and then onto the event “**Courage to Forgive**”, held at St. Peter’s Church near the former World Trade Center. (2005)

PENNSYLVANIA

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) On September 21, **Pax Christi of the Alleghenies Young Adult Forum** held a Peace Walk from Saint Francis University to Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. The schedule of events included gathering at the Peace Pole at Saint Francis University for opening prayer and remarks, a Peace Walk to the campus of Mount Aloysius College, and a service in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel in solidarity with the global observance of peace. Then, a candle-light procession took place to the newly-placed Peace Pole for the dedication and concluding service. (2005)

RHODE ISLAND

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) **The Peace Flag Project and the American Friends Service Committee** along with other religious, community and peace sponsors observed the International Day of Peace in Providence on September 21. The event was held at Market Square Park along the waterfront between the RISD Auditorium and the Market Building. There was a display of hundreds of colorful Peace Flags, flag making in the lobby of the RISD Auditorium and dedication of a Peace Pole. The event began with a Walking Peace Meditation. (2005)

TEXAS

Creative Life Spiritual Center in Spring held a vigil around the Peace pole, which has “**May Peace Prevail on Earth**” printed in English, Arabic, French, Spanish, Russian, Hindi, Japanese and Cherokee. (2005)

World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)

The Center For Spiritual Living of Dallas (CSL), a member of the United Church of Religious Science (Ernest Holmes, Founder, UCRS) announced the CSL Living Peace Ministry ceremonial event on September 21 as part of The International Day of Peace. The “Dedication of Peace Pole and Walking Meditation” took place at the Center for Spiritual Living sanctuary beginning at the Genes Altar. The 2005 CSL theme of “A World That Works for Everyone, A Life That Works For Me” sums up the sense of unity and positive support the Center offer its members, the Dallas community as a whole, and larger global peace initiatives. In a world that works for everyone, each of us is an instrument of Peace, said Reverend Robert Mitchell, Assistant Minister. (2005)

The **Houston Dominicans** in Houston observed the International Day of Peace is several ways. Beginning last September 11th, for the ten days leading up to the day of peace, sisters participated in a rolling fast. On Tuesday evening, they gathered for a prayer vigil and labyrinth walk, invoking God's mercy on the various places in the world where conflict and natural disasters are seen today. A display of white paper doves bore individual prayers for peace, while the labyrinth was used as a tool for seeking inner peace individually. Several sisters who evacuated from New Orleans attended. At noon on September 21, bells rang out at the Houston Villa and Motherhouse grounds. Students and members of St. Pius X High School joined the sisters for the gathering. (2005)

The International Day of Peace in the Texas/Louisiana areas saw millions of individuals on the road fleeing to safety from the onslaught of Hurricane Rita. The Unity Peace Makers, The **North Houston Peace Group, the Department of Peace and the Decade of Non-Violence** Members gifted Mayor Bill White of Houston with a Peace Pole in honor of the International Day of Peace on September 17th. The Mayor was also asked to give a Declaration of Peace for the International Day of Peace, which he did gladly. The Decade of Non-Violence Conference: The Mid-Way Peace Report, held on the September 17, was attended by almost 100 individuals, with a third being that of young people between the ages of 16 and 24. They built Peace altars, which were used as table decorations for the Awards Dinner for the Decade, held on October 22. (2005)

VERMONT

Vermont Peace Academy (VPA) celebrated International Day of Peace with **Windsor High School** and the Montpelier community. Students and teachers across Vermont traveled to the United Nations to listen to speakers such as Mrs. Annan, Jane Goodall, Elie Wiesel and Michael Douglas. VPA sponsored “24 hours of Peace”, a community initiative that included speakers, activities and ceremonies in celebration of Peace. (2005)

WISCONSIN

Peaceways-Young General Assembly Secretariat, Reedsburg – the theme for this year’s Hear the Children Day of Peace was “Children – the Light to the Future”. (2005)

WALES

Brahma Kumaris & United Nations Association in Cardiff, Wales, organized an event entitled “Peace is a Choice” at the Temple of Peace. The event was free of charge and offered participants an opportunity to discover, celebrate and empower the choice for Peace in their lives. (2005)



APPENDICES

Appendix A. Roster of Participating Organisations in the “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE

* Where countries not indicated, there are multiple or USA-based headquarters.

ACE Media LLC
A.U.M.
A World of Peace, The Gambia
Academy for Future Science
Action Network/Wales in Action, UK
Action Without Borders
Alaskan Flower Essences
Alliance for Sustainability
Anuvrat Global Organization (Anuvibha), India
Aquarian Age Community
Arcana Workshops
Argonne Alternative Elementary School
Arnowitz New Media Studios
Artists Embassy International
Artists for Peace
Artship Foundation/ Int’l Peace University
Assn. of UNESCO Volunteers, Cameroon
Associate Optimist Club of Adabraka, Accra-Ghana
Association for Social Movement, Bangladesh
Association of World Citizens
Association of World Citizens, Netherlands
Auckland Univ. Multimedia Society, New Zealand
Audubon Montessori School
Autonomous Women's Ctr. Against Sexual Violence, Yugoslavia
Azerbaijan Youth Union for Peace and Security MR, Azerbaijan
Baha'i Center of San Francisco
Baha'i Society of Flinders University, Australia
Bangladesh Buddhist Missionary Society (BBMS), Bangladesh
BIG Picture Productions
Birce Boga, Turkey
Bohol Goodwill Volunteers, Philippines
Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal- Gandhi Book Ctr, India
Boston Research Ctr for the 21st Century
Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization
Bresky, James J.
Bridges of Peace, Israel
Byakko Shinko Kai Fuji Seichi, Japan
Byelorussia Peace Defence Committee, Rep. of Belarus
Cameroon Association for the Protection and Education of Children, Cameroon
Casa Productions
Center for Community Dispute Settlement (CCDS)

CCRPA- Ctr for Conflict Resolution & Peace Advocacy, Nigeria
 Center for International Dialogue
 Center for Partnership Studies
 Center for Peace Through Culture
 Center for Spiritual Enlightenment
 Center for Visionary Leadership
 Center of Excellence
 Center Sirio, Italy
 Centre for Int'l Peacebuilding, UK
 Centre of Intellectual Youth- Uzbekistan
 Cercle de Paix / Circle of Peace, Canada
 Children of the Earth
 Children & Youth Parliament of Silesia, Poland
 Children's Peace Movement International (CPMI), Nigeria
 Circle of Life
 City of Subotica, Rep. of Serbia
 Club of Budapest, Hungary
 Club of Budapest- Int'l. HQ, Germany
 Comfort Star
 Community 2000 Charitable Trust. UK
 Community Intelligence Labs, France
 Comunidade Bahá'í do Brasil, Brasil
 Conflict Resolution by Youth (CRY), Uganda
 Conflict Resolution Network, Australia
 Conscius-Programa de Gestão da Consciência, Brasil
 Consortium for Young Women
 Cosmic Peace 12:12
 Course in Miracles International
 CPNN-USA (Culture of Peace Network News)
 CREUMHS, Kenya
 Cross-Cultural Studies Program-Panalogue Project
 CUNPA Citizens for a United Nations Peoples Assembly
 Davidhuis Foundation, Netherlands
 Dayemi Complex, Bangladesh
 Delicious Living Magazine
 Detroit West District Peace Center
 Development Council for Youth, Bangladesh
 DFrary
 Dhamma Park Foundation and Gallery, Thailand
 Direct Way Networks
 Earth Day USA
 Earth Emerge & See
 EarthPax- Art for Planetary Peace & Cosmic Consciousness
 Earthwalker/Paul Coleman Peacewalk Project, UK
 East-West Group
 EcoNews Africa, Kenya
 Ehama Institute
 El Dorado Elementary School
 Emergency Relief Mission, Bangladesh
 Empowerment Institute / Global Action Plan
 ENO Programme -Environment Online, Finland
 Findhorn Foundation
 First Light
 Flag of Peace & Freedom Organization
 Forgiveness Works Project
 Foundation for Conscious Evolution

Foundation for Global Community
 Foundation for Healing Among Nations (FAHAN)
 Foundation for Human Rights & Peace Education, Hungary
 Foundation for Mind-Being Research
 Foundation for Peace and Solidarity, Cameroon
 Franciscans International
 Friends Service Council, Nepal
 Friends of the UN
 Fruit of the Spirit-Progressive Unity
 Fundacion P.E.A., Argentina
 Fundacion R. Bertisch
 Future Talk
 Gateway to Peace Project, Sierra Leone
 GEPP-One Day in Peace Campaign, India
 Global Futures Network
 Global Peace Foundation
 Global Village School
 Global Woman, UK
 Global Youth Action Network (GYAN)
 Glocal 3000, UK
 Good News Agency, Italy
 Graphics Unlimited
 Heal Our Planet Enterprise, Inc.
 HMS Consultores S.C., Mexico
 IACERHRG, Rep. of Georgia
 IDEAL-Spring International Foundation
 IDP Vigil / PTP
 IEAWP-Int'l Assn of Educators for World Peace. Australia
 In the Light
 Indian Board of Alternative Medicines, India
 INEH- Int'l Network of Esoteric Healing, UK
 Inner-Light Sanctuary, Nigeria
 Inspiration Consulting, Belgium
 Institute for Global Communications
 Institute for Individual and World Peace (IIWP)
 Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy (IMTD)
 Institute for Peacebuilding / PTP
 Institute for Victims of Trauma
 Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS)
 Int'l Children's Peace Council (Assoc. ICPC Italia), Italy
 Int'l Esoteric Healing Group, India
 Int'l School for Transformation & Synthesis, New Zealand
 International Association for World Peace
 International Association of University Presidents. South Korea
 International Child Art Foundation
 International Day of Peace Brisbane Alliance, Australia
 International World Peace Rose Gardens
 Intuition-in-Service, New Zealand
 Jane Goodall Institute of Canada, Canada
 Journee Mondiale de la Paix, Switzerland
 KOSMOS Journal
 Lea Designs
 Leonard Duboff and Associates
 LEPOCO Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern
 Liazon Consultancy, Australia
 Lifebridge Foundation

Light A Candle For Peace
 Lucis Trust/ World Goodwill
 Luna Media (formerly Milenio)
 M.A. Center (Amma)
 Marin County Board of Supervisors
 Marin Peace and Justice Coalition
 Marin Peace Projects
 Martin Luther King Jr International Chapel
 Mata Amritandanamaya Devi (Amma), India
 Meditation Groups Inc., Meditation Mount
 Message of Peace Foundation, Ghana
 MHONA International
 Millenium Eve, Canada
 Millennium People's Assembly
 Misner, Josh
 National Education Association
 National Federation of Youth Organisations, Bangladesh
 Naturfreundejugend Deutschlands, Germany
 Naturganic Foundation
 Neil Cummins School PTA
 Network 2012
 New Dimensions Broadcasting Network
 New Humanity Centre, Greece
 NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values & Global Concerns at the UN-NY
 Nicholas Roerich Museum
 Nigerian Environmental Society, Nigeria
 Nigerian Group for Goodwill, Nigeria
 Nonviolent Peaceforce, Sri Lanka
 Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
 Olof Palme Peace Foundation, Ghana
 Olympic Lights
 One Day Foundation, Inc.
 One Day in Peace
 Operacion Planeta Amor, Mexico
 Operation Peace Through Unity, New Zealand
 Organization for Peace and Development, Pakistan
 Our Lady's Missionaries, Canada
 Pacific Research Center Inc.
 Palestinian Peace Groups, Palestine
 Park Day School
 Pastoral Institute Multan, Pakistan
 Path of Light/Online Triangles of Light
 Pathways To Peace
 Paz Y Cooperacion, Spain
 Peace Alliance Foundation
 Peace Center of the Theosophical Society, Philippines
 Peace Child Int'l, Sierra Leone
 Peace Child International, UK
 Peace Education Center, Notre Dame Univ., Philippines
 Peace Journey
 Peace One Day, UK
 Peace Parade & Global Coalition for Peace
 Peace Partners International
 Peace Pole Project, Japan & USA
 Peace Project Group, First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis
 Peace School / Global Initiative, Switzerland

Peace Team / Peace is the Only Gold /PTP
 Peace the 21st
 Peace the 21st, Canada
 Peace-A Youth Public Organization, Rep. of Armenia
 Peacemakers Circle/ Santa Magdalena Ctr for Peace, Philippines
 Peaceways--Young General Assembly Secretariat
 Peal For Peace, Canada
 Pensiero, Ambiente, Vita- Int'l Children's Peace Council, Italy
 People For Peace
 People in Need Foundation (PINF)
 Performing & Fine Artists for World Peace
 Pinwheels for Peace
 Planetary Vision Festival, Canada
 Polaris Center, Denmark
 Prairie Peace Park
 Professional Thinking Partners
 Quaker Peace Centre, South Africa
 Quiron Team of Educational Research, Spain
 Radio For Peace Int'l, Costa Rica
 RAFHAJ, Nepal
 Rainbow Bridge Centre, South Africa
 Red Victorian Peace Center Bed & Breakfast
 Religious Youth Service, Nigeria
 Renaissance Business Associates, South Africa
 Ribbon International
 Robert Muller School
 Roots of Peace
 Rural Development & Youth Training Institute, India
 Rural Youth Council - Bangladesh
 S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violence Everywhere)
 Samoa United Nations Association, Inc. Western Samoa
 Saudi Aramco Schools, Udhailiyah School, Saudi Arabia
 Schumacher Society, UK
 Seasons / The Fetzer Institute
 SEEK TV.TV
 Seniors for Peace
 Service for Peace
 Share the Spirit of Peace Youth Summit
 Shinnyo-en Foundation
 Silent Minute, UK
 Simply Balanced
 Sirius Community
 Sister Cities International
 Society for Harmony & Int'l Peace
 Youth Welfare Club, India
 Source Publications
 Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace
 Spirit in Education Movement, Thailand
 St. Mary's School, Yap, FSM
 Stand-up for Int'l Peace/Thinkpeace Network
 SUN (Symphony for UN) Society, Inc.
 Sundial House Group, UK
 Tamalpais District Adult Education
 The Cello Cries On, Inc.
 The Peace Company
 The Peace School / International Association for World Peace

Tree of Life Foundation
 Triangle Centre, New Zealand
 Umtapo Centre, South Africa
 UNA New Zealand (National Office)
 UNDP-Capacity Building for Conflict Transformation & Peace Building Project, Sudan
 United Children
 United Church of Religious Science
 United Nations Association of Sri Lanka
 United Nations of Youth Foundation (UNOY), Netherlands
 United Peace Council - Liberia
 United Religions Initiative
 United Youth International
 Unitive Psychotherapie, Netherlands
 Unity Foundation
 Unity-and-Diversity World Council
 University for Peace, Costa Rica
 Unlimited Productions, UK
 Uplinger Enterprises
 US Foundation
 Valley Commonwealth Public School, India
 Vermont Peace Academy
 Vermont Peace Institute
 Vieques Youth Leadership Initiative, Puerto Rico
 Visions of a Better World Foundation
 Wakan, Inc
 We the Peoples: Our Paths to Peace
 We The World, Rick Ulfik Productions
 WFUNA World Fed. of United Nations Associations
 WHEDA, Nigeria
 Whispers On The Wind
 Wilhelm Schole International
 Women's World Summit Foundation, Switzerland
 World Business Academy
 World Centers of Compassion for Children, Ireland
 World Centre of Service, UK
 World Children's Center, India
 World Citizen Diplomats
 World Citizen Inc., Peace Site Project
 World Core Curriculum
 World Federalists Assn. of No. California
 World Goodwill, Switzerland
 World Goodwill, UK
 World Muslim Congress, Pakistan
 World Peace 2000 Network, U.K.
 World Peace Prayer Society, Ethiopia
 World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS)
 World Public Forum
 World Youth Peace Propagation Forum (WYPPF), Nepal
 World-Action, UK
 WorldPuja
 WOVA
 WYSE International, UK
 YES! A Journal of Positive Futures
 Young Power in Social Action, Bangladesh
 Youth for Intercultural Experience, Ghana
 Youth Vision Education Centre, Kyrgyzstan

Appendix B. How to become a Participating Organization in the “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE (WPI)

A primary guideline is that the organisation works co-operatively, inter-generationally and inter-culturally in ways that contribute to Peacebuilding.

A secondary guideline is that WPI Participants share ideas and resources whenever possible among the community of Participating Organizations in the Initiative, to inspire and expand our worldwide network building Cultures of Peace.

The annual highlight of WPI is the International Day of Peace, 21 September, also known as Peace Day. All Participating Organisations are asked to promote or engage in an activity on or around this Peace Day.

In order to join the “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE, please submit a formal letter to Pathways To Peace (PTP) stating your organisation’s intention to participate, and a brief description of your organization.

Upon acceptance, your organisation’s name will be added to our online international **Roster of WPI Participants**. You will be invited to submit brief annual reports on your activities for International Day of Peace via a password-protected website page where you may also update your contact information for fellow WPI Participants. Your information will be included with the annual report on the Pathways To Peace “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE website: **WWW.WETHEPEOPLES.ORG**



**Pathways To Peace
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FAX: 415-925-0330
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QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (LZW) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Appendix C. INFORMATION ON PATHWAYS TO PEACE, INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE

Pathways To Peace (PTP) is an international PeaceBuilding, Educational, and Consulting organization. The mission of **Pathways To Peace** is threefold:

- ✚ to expand the comprehension and substantive expression of “PEACE” and PeaceBuilding practices at all levels;
- ✚ to build Cultures of Peace by uniting and enhancing the strengths of existing organizations and programs along eight paths to Peace;
- ✚ to contribute, through consultation and direct participation, to the evolving mission of the United Nations and to citizens’ worldwide participation in the International Day of Peace (Peace Day).

The **Pathways To Peace** mission is accomplished through projects and consulting services. Current projects include: “We The Peoples” Initiative, Institute for Peacebuilding, IDP Vigil, Events with Peace Leaders, and P*A*C*E*M* – Pathways Consulting, Educating, Mentoring.

PTP project example: Institute for Peacebuilding (IPB) works with schools in the San Francisco Bay Area to bring an experience and understanding of Peacebuilding practices through assemblies, classes, and teacher training. IPB offers a university course called The Art and Practice of PeaceBuilding, and leads community PeaceBuilding workshops and weekend retreats. This Project has reached youth in over 70 countries. Collaborative projects have included: Rights of the Child Caucus, World Summit of Children, and United Peoples Assembly. Affiliates include: Ehama Institute, Global Youth Action Network, Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, The Peace Company, and United Religions Initiative.

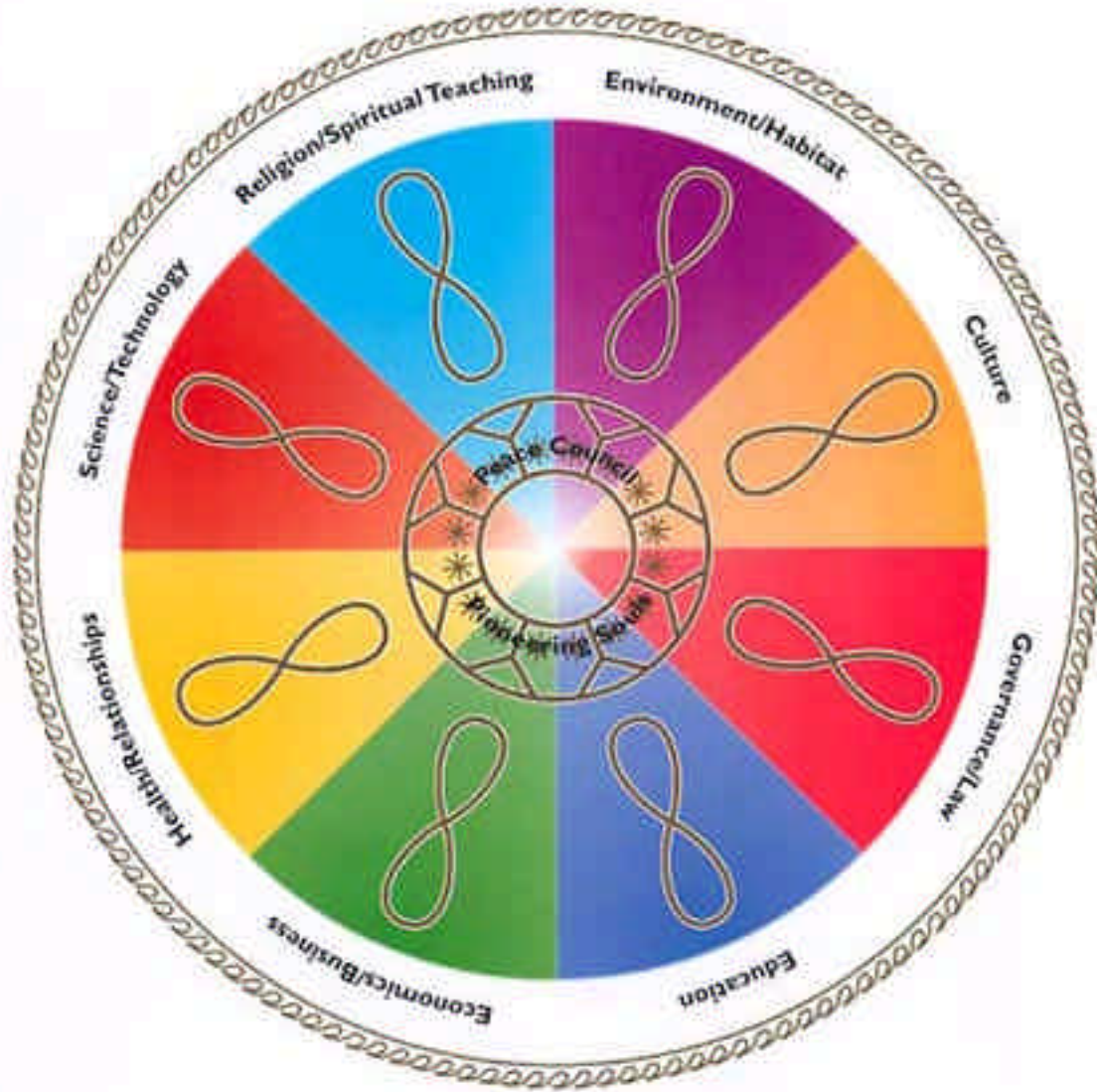
On a global scale, PTP serves as International Secretariat for the “We The Peoples” Initiative, a multicultural, intergenerational, citizens movement of established groups and organizations cooperating to make Peace a practical reality in the 21st Century. Granted official “Peace Messenger Initiative” status by the U.N., this PeaceBuilding Initiative contributes to the evolving mission of the U.N. and to the direct participation of young people in strategic decisions affecting the quality of life for the children of this and future generations. International Peace Day September 21st is the annual period for Participants to highlight local/global progress toward Peace in its multifold expressions.

“Peace,” as defined by Pathways To Peace, is both an innate state of being and a dynamic, evolutionary process. Peace begins with ourselves, living in harmony with one another, the Earth, and all Circles of Life. PTP’s operating principle-in-action is:

Acting in concert, we do make a difference in the quality of our lives, our institutions, our environment and our planetary future. Through cooperation, we manifest the essential spirit that unites us amidst our diverse ways.

Envisioned in 1945, **Pathways To Peace** initiated research and development in integrative decision-making in 1962, began consulting in the early 1970’s, and was incorporated in 1983. PTP has Consultative Status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), and works with the UN Centre for Human Rights, UN Centre for Human Settlements, UNESCO, UNICEF, and other Agencies. PTP is an official UN Peace Messenger. PTP is a tax-exempt, Social Profit, Non-partisan 501(c)(3) Corporation. Tax-exempt I.D.# 68-0015625.

PeaceBuilding Wheel®



Co-Created for the "WE THE PEOPLES" INITIATIVE:
Building Cultures of Peace for the 21st Century

© Pathways To Peace

The PeaceBuilding Wheel©

The Pathways To Peace Wheel © (or PeaceBuilding Wheel) is a graphic representation of universal principles and creative energies, and insights from over 25 years of observing emerging transformation in eight sectors of human activity. The Peace Wheel © is used (and continuously modified) in diverse ways, e.g., as a working model for international conferences and organizations, Peacebuilding symposia, and for organizing information on the International Day of Peace.

The Eight Sectors (or Pathways) on the Peace Wheel are:

1. **Governance, Law, Security:** Participatory governing systems, ensuring equity and justice for all. Rights and responsibilities. Empowerment of civil society. Security shifts from “weaponry to livingry”.
2. **Education, Media:** Lifelong development of the whole person. Free access to all systems of knowledge. Literacy. Planetary Citizenship. Unfolding of innate wisdom.
3. **Economics, Business:** Creation of commonwealth and well being for all stakeholders / segments of society through production, labor, finance. New community-based monetary systems. Social responsibility and social indicators. Servant leadership
4. **Health, Relationships:** Harmonious inter-relationship of the physical, emotional, mental, and Soul levels. Resolving conflicts within self and society. Harmless human relationships. Partnership models. Psychologies of growth.
5. **Science, Technology:** Scientific research, technological and noetic development for evolutionary unfoldment of all life. Inner and outer space exploration.
6. **Spirituality, Religion:** Universal principles, ethics and values. Spiritual development through diverse practices in unitive Spirit. Higher understanding of Truth. Living the Golden Rule.
7. **Environment, Habitat:** “Living” systems and structures that integrate sustainable human needs with renewable material resources. Fulfilling basic human needs (food, water, shelter, etc.) and restoring the natural environment. Self-organizing, community-based action plans demonstrating reverence for all life.
8. **Culture:** Co-creative, integrative expressions of the basic seven paths (sectors) of human creativity. Synthesis of humanity’s highest Soul expression and evolutionary development. Building life-enhancing Cultures of Peace for succeeding generations. All arts, media, communications, and cultural exchanges. Unity in Diversity.