



## HELP BUILD PEACE DAY IN YOUR CITY

*The United Nations International Day of Peace – September 21*

**The United Nations International Day of Peace (Peace Day) is observed worldwide on September 21 each year. Peace Day came into being in 1981 through a unanimous United Nations resolution. In 2001, a second unanimous UN resolution gave Peace Day the fixed calendar date of 9/21, and specified that the day should be one of global ceasefire. You - as an organization, group or even as an individual – can help create Peace Day in your city. Here are some suggestions:**

Spread the word about the United Nations International Day of Peace (Peace Day) to your co-workers, friends, community organizations and businesses. For more information about Peace Day, go to [www.internationaldayofpeace.org](http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org), [www.peaceday.org](http://www.peaceday.org), and [www.peacedayphilly.org](http://www.peacedayphilly.org). LIKE the Facebook page for these organizations.

Take a look at the many activity ideas for Peace Day. Go to: [www.internationaldayofpeace.org](http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org), download the **Global Framework Guide** from <http://www.peacedayphilly.org/peace-in-our-city/> and look at activity ideas by area at <http://www.peacedayphilly.org/what-can-you-do>.

Commit to the Global Truce 2012 Campaign at [www.peaceday.org](http://www.peaceday.org) and spread the word about this global call for ceasefire, a concept unanimously supported by the UN in 2001.

Contact non-profits you know of that do work to strengthen communities in various ways. These can include social service organizations, after school programs and museums as well as recreation, cultural and environmental programs. Encourage them to do some kind of activity the week that Peace Day falls that is related to peace and non-violence and is in keeping with their mission.

Organize a Peace Day event – music, art, dance, sports, meditation, education, discussion forum – whatever is most meaningful for you related to peace and non-violence.

Contact the press office of your Mayor, and ask if they would do a statement of support for Peace Day. This could be a written statement or a short Public Service Announcement. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XptltTkSLyQ> for a sample PSA. Also ask about how to get a Mayoral Proclamation for Peace Day -- have a short template ready to submit to them.

Contact your Police Department, and ask if the neighborhood or district offices would be willing to do something related to peace and non-violence in their communities for Sept. 21. For a sample list of activities, go to <http://www.peacedayphilly.org/peace-in-our-city/philadelphia-region/> and scroll down to the section about Police Department support. Police Departments often welcome opportunities to interact with community members in positive ways not related to law enforcement.

Contact the local Rotary Club and encourage them to get involved. “Peace Through Service” is the Rotary International’s 2012-13 theme!

Contact your public library and ask if they would consider a peace activity in their after school program. Philadelphia does “Poems for Peace” on Sept. 21 in libraries across the city. Go to <http://www.peacedayphilly.org/what-can-you-do/art/> to see the “Poems for Peace” poster, which can be requested from [www.peacedayphilly.org](http://www.peacedayphilly.org) and modified for your city.

Learn more about **Mayors for Peace** – [www.mayorsforpeace.org](http://www.mayorsforpeace.org) - made up of over 5,200 cities in 153 counties that support the total abolition of nuclear weapons.

Contact/ visit the main office of community recreation centers and libraries, and request that they share information about Peace Day. Each year the UN creates an International Day of Peace poster/postcard. Go to the IDP FB page to find out how you can access it.

Contact your school district, and ask them to publicize Peace Day in schools - before the end of the previous academic year if possible. Encourage them to consider activity ideas for Peace Day, such as those found at <http://www.peacedayphilly.org/what-can-you-do/children>.

Encourage faith based organizations and others to observe a minute of silence at noon on September 21. This is a global activity in all time zones put forth by the NGO Pathways to Peace and supported by the U.N. Secretary-General. Faith organizations can also devote a service or meditation to Peace Day, hold a vigil or organize an interfaith dialogue.

Emphasize Peace Day as an established day observed worldwide, and in many of the world’s cities. For a sample of cities active in Peace Day, and some of their activities, visit <http://www.peacedayphilly.org/peace-in-our-city/cities-across-the-world>.

Send information about Peace Day and Peace Day activities in your area to local newspapers and TV stations 2-4 weeks before 9/21. Have multiple people you know ask for press coverage about the positive community initiatives building peace every day in your city.

Ask a local toy store to partner with a local business or non-profit sponsor a toy swap program for Peace Day, where toy guns are turned in and traded for non-violent toys.

Encourage environmental centers to learn about UN Messenger of Peace Jane Goodall’s **Roots and Shoots** program, and to do something related to the environment for the week in which Peace Day falls. Go to [www.rootsandshoots.org](http://www.rootsandshoots.org) for more information.

Get groups together to “Play for Peace” on September 21 in the spirit of peace and unity. For more about sports activities for peace, and a poster that you can modify and use, go to: <http://www.peacedayphilly.org/what-can-you-do/sports/>

Request peace and non-violence music on Peace Day from your radio stations – no matter the genre, there is plenty of music related to peace for every taste!

Create a Facebook page for your city’s Peace Day initiative!

Remember: 1) *Start with people and organizations you know, and then ask them to help you raise awareness and encourage action.* 2) *Use social media!* 3) *It can take time to build awareness of Peace Day. Every effort helps create the foundation for future Peace Day observances* 4) *Find peers and friends to co-create!*