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## Is Education the Path to Peace? Thousands of Organizations Think So

June 13th begins the 100-Day Countdown to the United Nations International Day of Peace (IDP), observed worldwide each year on the 21st of September. This year's theme "Education for Peace," is inspired by the U.N. Secretary-General's "Education First" initiative ([www.globaleducationfirst.org](http://www.globaleducationfirst.org)) and the growing efforts of educators around the world to integrate Peacebuilding and global engagement into curricula for students of all ages.

"It is not enough to teach children how to read, write and count," says U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon. "Education has to cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive and peaceful societies."

Thousands of organizations and schools in many cities across the globe have pledged their active commitment to the IDP 2013 "Education for Peace" theme, including: Chicago (USA), Hong Kong (SAR), Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, Guerrero (México), Kampala (Uganda) Katmandu (Nepal), Manchester (United Kingdom), Montreal (Canada) and Sydney (Australia).

The IDP will be observed at the United Nations on Wednesday, September 18, beginning with the Secretary-General's ringing of the Peace Bell and a flag ceremony, followed by a student conference with celebrity Messengers of Peace and live satellite connections to U.N. Peacekeeping sites internationally.

On Peace Day - Saturday, September 21 - the world will celebrate and educate about peace in diverse and meaningful ways. Actions will include: a wide range of educational and Peacebuilding activities for all ages; arts and intercultural events; yoga, meditation and prayer gatherings; marches, walks and vigils; community feasts and festivals; planting of Peace Poles and peace gardens; and, sports for peace and unity events. In addition, Pathways To Peace, The World Peace Prayer Society, the United Religions Initiative, as well as the Culture of Peace Initiative, encourage people worldwide to observe a Minute of Silence at noon on September 21 (all time zones).

This 31<sup>st</sup> celebration of the U.N. International Day of Peace gives people worldwide the opportunity to participate in both envisioning and taking practical action toward a Culture of Peace. JOIN CITIES AND VILLAGES ACROSS THE WORLD, September 18 - 22 - and especially on Peace Day, September 21 - uniting through the theme: "Education for Peace!"

Educators are invited to share peace education resources that can be used in educational contexts worldwide September 18-20 via [educationpeaceteam@gmail.com](mailto:educationpeaceteam@gmail.com).

For further information: [www.un.org/peaceday](http://www.un.org/peaceday); [www.internationaldayofpeace.org](http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org). For Peace Day activity ideas and links to peace education resources, go to the "What Can YOU Do?" Section of: [www.peacedayphilly.org](http://www.peacedayphilly.org).

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