



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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RECOGNITION:

The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations and Peace Day Philly

The Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia is pleased to announce the recognition of two organizations as *Zones of Peace*: the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations and Peace Day Philly. On behalf of their organizations, Rue Landau, Executive Director of the Commission and Lisa Parker, Co-founder and Coordinator of Peace Day Philly will accept the awards on Friday, September 20 during the Peace Day Philly Kick-Off Event at Hawthorne Park (12th and Catherine Sts).

The City of Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, founded under the City Charter in 1951 to address workplace discrimination, is the oldest human relations commission in the country. Its goal is to enforce Philadelphia's civil rights laws and to address matters of intergroup conflicts in the city. The Compliance Division investigates claims of unlawful discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and the delivery of city services. The Community Relations Division works to mediate, ease and diffuse individual, intergroup and community tensions and conflicts throughout the city. It uses deep listening and other methods to build trust, and provide safe places for airing grievances as well as opportunities for bridge-building and reconciliation. The Commission truly embodies our mission to make the entire region a Zone of Peace.

Peace Day Philly was founded in 2011 to encourage and collaborate creating events which relate to the United Nations' International Day of Peace observed on September 21. For the third year, Peace Day Philly has earned the support of the Mayor and the active engagement of the police department, who are this year hosting over 40 events in communities across the city. These and other Peace Day activities throughout the city and suburbs focus on education, the arts, sports for unity, service to others, and intercultural dialogues, as they build peace personally, locally, and globally.

Zones of Peace is a region-wide interfaith movement of churches, synagogues, mosques, other houses of worship, schools, and community-based organizations. It honors, networks and supports recognized organizations which address the root causes of violence and make us safer in the communities where we live, work, and play.

The Religious Leaders Council was founded in 2006 to build relationships of mutual support, offer a moral and spiritual voice in the region, and identify issues of concern for dialogue and action for the region's religious communities. They have committed the resources of their congregations, members, and rich religious traditions to transforming our region into a zone of peace, free from fear, filled with respect, and marked by deeds of kindness.

***Zones of Peace* is coordinated by the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia
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