



A Season of Interfaith Celebration

September- December, 2009

**The International Day of Peace
& Call for Global Ceasefire**

**Seasons for Peace and Nonviolence
“S.P.A.N. the Next Decade”**

Unity World Day of Peace

SEASONS for PEACE
and NONVIOLENCE



SPAN the next decade

How to Be Effective In Your Community Interfaith healing Through Prayer and Friendship

1. Create a celebration of interfaith prayers on September 11th and 21st
2. Establish a “Circle of Interfaith Friends” and make a friendly study of different religions
3. Educate your community in the philosophy of nonviolence
4. Participate in diverse ethnic and cultural programs
5. Organize meditation classes for adults and children

INTERFAITH PRAYER

***New Thought churches and spiritual centers* are well aligned to create an interfaith vigil for global healing to which you can invite your community. Make contact with your peers representing different religious traditions and share with them all the opportunities for connection and dialogue coming together at this important time. There is probably an Interfaith Council in your city; invite its members to engage in the planning and co-sponsor your events. There are four Sundays in September—all dates would be the perfect to schedule meditation services and sacred sharing. The International Day of Peace takes place on Friday, September 21, and Wednesday night services and meditations would be another great opportunity to sponsor citywide events in your church.**

A search index for prayers, celebrations and invocations from all Faiths can be found at <http://www.worldprayers.org/>

- In a world that is torn by religious misunderstanding and strife an interfaith prayer for peace and reconciliation, forgiveness and wisdom, would be appropriate
- It is important that interfaith prayers be held on neutral ground with no religious symbols of any kind
- It is important that each Faith tradition, irrespective of their size, be given equal time and respect at the function
- If requested, an official letter can be sent from the Gandhi Institute and the Association for Global New Thought so that you may use it in inviting interfaith participants
- The objective during the Season for Interfaith Celebration is to understand different religions and to build meaningful relationships with other Faith groups. If there is respect for each other in a community there will be no violence

CREATE A COMMON PRAYER INTENTION THROUGH DIALOGUE

In preparation for, and throughout the Season of Interfaith Celebration, your group will have the extraordinary opportunity to participate in a global-scale collective prayer and meditation experience hosted by AGNT/SPAN partner organization: Common Passion (see folder 5 on cd rom).

Season for Interfaith Celebration participating groups have been invited to contribute their own recommendations for the *collective intention* on which the global community will focus during these well-monitored experiences.

In order to arrive at your interfaith group's recommendations, your group leaders and facilitators are encouraged to conduct a meaningful dialogue that asks the question:

What prayer/meditation intention can people share from every faith and wisdom tradition that is most inclusive of diverse ideologies and theologies?

How to Be Effective in Your World

PEACE DAY PLEDGE

Peace Day is supported by more than 1000 organizations in over 100 nations. Please ask your favorite group, organization, or religious institution to endorse the International Day of Peace.
www.PeaceDayPledge.org <http://www.peacedaypledge.org/>

PEACE VIGILS

Each year thousands of Peace Vigils take place for the International Day of Peace. These range from small vigils of just a few people to huge gatherings of up to 300,000. Make your commitment to hold a Peace Day vigil. (www.IDPvigil.com <<http://www.idpvigil.com/>>)

12 NOON MINUTE OF SILENCE

Join millions around the world every day at 12 Noon in a Moment of Silence for peace. On Peace Day bring your community together at Noon around one of the more than 200,000 Peace Poles found in every nation that express the wish, "May Peace Prevail On Earth." (www.MinuteOfSilence.org <<http://www.minuteofsilence.org/>>)

SERVICE FOR PEACE

Volunteering for a service project in your community for Peace Day is a tangible way to make a difference for a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. (<http://serviceforpeace.org/IDP2005.htm>)

INTERFAITH COOPERATION FOR PEACE

Many Peace Day events and activities have an interfaith component such as those coordinated by United Religions Initiative Cooperation Circles and at World Peace Prayer Society's flag ceremonies and peace pole dedications. A high level conference on interfaith cooperation for peace is being organized on Peace Day by the **Tripartite Forum for Interfaith Cooperation for Peace**, consisting of 50 governments, 15 UN agencies and 110 religious NGOs.
(www.uri.org/United_Nations.html<http://www.uri.org/United_Nations.html>)

YOUTH FOR PEACE

Young people are playing a major role for Peace Day by helping to inspire their families, communities and other youth around the world through music and other creative arts, service and dialogue.
(www.PeaceDayYouth.com <<http://www.peacedayyouth.com/>>)

PEACE IN SCHOOL

Show children the pathways to peace by highlighting peace in classroom studies, having a special assembly and/or observing the 12 Noon Minute of Silence, as well as participating in The 9th Annual International

Peace Pals Art Competition and Exhibition, whose winners will be announced at a ceremony in In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (www.worldpeace.org/peacepalscontests.html)
<<http://www.worldpeace.org/peacepalscontests.html>>

PROCLAMATIONS

Ask your Mayor, Governor & Head of State to declare a Peace Day Proclamation. Which nation will be the first to declare a Legal Holiday for Peace Day? (www.PeaceProclamations.com)
<<http://www.peaceproclamations.com/>>

GLOBAL DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE

We, the people of planet Earth,
In recognition of the interconnectedness of all life
And the importance of the balance of nature,
Hereby acknowledge our interdependence
And affirm our dedication
To life-serving environmental stewardship,
The fulfillment of universal human needs worldwide,
Economic and social well-being,
And a culture of peace and nonviolence,
To insure a sustainable and harmonious world
For present and future generations.

Created by We, The World
Inspired by the Earth Charter (<http://www.earthcharter.org>)

PINWHEELS FOR PEACE

More than 1350 schools and groups around the world created and displayed 1/2 million pinwheels for peace to inspire their communities to imagine whirled peace last Peace Day. This year many more will participate. (www.pinwheelsforpeace.com) <<http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com/>>

FLYING PEACE DOVES

Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots chapters flew giant peace doves in 22 countries and 69 cities in 2005 to inspire their communities for the International Day of Peace. Bring the giant doves of peace to your Peace Day celebration. (www.GiantPeaceDoves.org) <<http://www.giantpeacedoves.org/>>

PEACE DAY PARADES

A Peace Day Parade or Peace Day March with colorful flags and positive peace messages is a powerful way to inspire your community with hope on the International Day of Peace.
(www.PeaceDayParade.com) <<http://www.peacedayparade.com/>>)

MUSIC FOR PEACE

Musicians and performers around the world are dedicating their performances to Peace on September 21 and during the Countdown to Peace Day. A globally telecast peace concert is being planned to air on Peace Day from stages in Geneva, Africa, New York, Jerusalem, the Great Wall of China, India and Montreal.
www.PeaceDayConcert.org <<http://www.peacedayconcert.org/>>

FILMS FOR PEACE

The Global Peace Film Fest will take place in Orlando, Florida beginning on September 14 and concluding on Peace Day, September 21. Filmmakers may submit their films at www.peacefilmfest.org
<<http://www.peacefilmfest.org/>>

PEACE DAY PARTIES

You don't have to plan a BIG event to be part of the global Peace Day observance. Invite a few friends to

get together to watch the Peace One Day video or to write letters for peace together, light a candle for peace or just talk about our shared wish for peace. (www.PeaceDayParty.com <<http://www.peacedayparty.com/>>)

WEBCASTS FOR PEACE

June 13 - 100 Days to Peace Day

WorldPuja.org will broadcast a live webcast of the launch of the 100 Days to Peace Day Countdown on June 13, and will feature webcasts on key dates during the Countdown, especially during the 11 Days to Global Unity, September 11-September 21 (www.WorldPuja.org <<http://www.worldpuja.org/>>). If you are planning an event for the 100 Day Countdown launch please contact: peaceday@pathwaystopeace.org

PROCLAMATIONS AND DECLARATIONS

First Global Holiday

You can help to create a more peaceful world. Ask your Mayor, City Council, Governor and Head of State to declare a legal holiday on September 21, the International Day of Peace.

Which nation will be the first to declare Peace Day as a National Holiday?

(www.FirstGlobalHoliday.org <<http://www.firstglobalholiday.org/>>)

GLOBAL CEASEFIRE

In United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/282, all member countries of the United Nations agreed to observe a Global Ceasefire on September 21, The International Day of Peace. **AZERBAIJAN IS THE FIRST NATION TO PLEDGE TO HONOR THE GLOBAL CEASEFIRE THIS YEAR.**

Urge your leaders to agree to honor their pledge to observe The Global Ceasefire.

(www.GlobalCeasefire.org <<http://www.globalceasefire.org/>>)

HEADS OF STATE

Contact heads of state in all nations by contacting their ambassadors to the Permanent Missions at the United Nations. ***Request that they officially become advocates for a nonviolent solution.***

Sample letter is below. (www.un.int.org <<http://www.un.int/>>)

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

- Form a small, informal, discussion group that will meet periodically to discuss issues, talk about different Faiths and their rituals in a friendly atmosphere
- The group can meet periodically over dinner in a restaurant or meeting house, or take turns in one another's homes
- This activity can go on round the year and not be limited to the Season

EDUCATION IN NONVIOLENCE

- The Institute for Nonviolence, Memphis, will provide reading material and audio/video tapes to initiate discussion and education. <http://www.gandhiinstitute.org/>
- Materials can be downloaded from websites such as www.mahatma.org.in

Full sets of nonviolence education materials can be found at the Association for Global New Thought website <http://www.agnt.org/snv03.htm>

SUPPORT THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION

May 5, 2006

Dear Ambassador _____,

Thank you for considering to officially state your nation's support of UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/55/282 fixing the date for the International Day of Peace as 21 September and declaring "that the

International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day..."

For the past 24 years, the International Day of Peace has been a catalyzing opportunity for individuals, nations and civil society to unite in our shared yearning for a more peaceful, just and sustainable world. Thousands of events and activities have taken place for the International Day of Peace, coordinated by governments, agencies and a network of more than 800 civil society organizations in over 106 nations!

The issue of peace has never been more relevant, but the truth is that most people around the world do not know about the International Day of Peace. Global awareness about the Day will help to convince individuals and nations that we share a common wish for peace, and this year's Peace Day can play a significant role in helping to increase global cooperation to strive towards this most worthy of goals.

Your nation can help lead the way to a more peaceful world by leading the call for the International Day of Peace. Please consider being one of the first nations to do one or more of the following: 1) pledge to honor the United Nations' call for a Global Ceasefire on 21 September; 2) establish a National Holiday on 21 September for the International Day of Peace; 3) Convene a national Minute of Silence at Noon on the International Day of Peace.

The International Day of Peace NGO Committee at the UN plans to hold a press conference on June 13, which is the 100 Day mark to the International Day of Peace, to announce the first nations that have taken on this leadership role for peace. Please consider this opportunity for your nation to lead the world towards peace.

We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this initiative further.

May Peace Prevail On Earth,

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT

The Republic of _____ supports UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/55/282 for the International Day of Peace.

Our nation pledges that unless attacked we will honor the UN's call for a Global Ceasefire on 21 September.

Our nation will establish a National Holiday on 21 September for the International Day of Peace.

Our nation will participate in the Minute of Silence at Noon on the International Day of Peace.

Name _____ Position _____

Signature _____ Phone _____