

# December 2014



This month we see once again, [as we have noted before](#), that Africa is at the forefront of the culture of peace.

African journalism serves as a model for the rest of the world in its promotion of culture of peace, so much so that [one of the CPNN discussion questions](#) is devoted to this theme. The latest example is media network sponsored by the Hirondelle Foundation, including Radio Okapi in Kinshasa, Radio Ndeke Luka in Bangui, the Tamani studios in Mali, Mozaik in Ivory Coast, and Hirondelle in Guinea. This initiative was [described recently](#) by Patrick Busquet, national representative of the Hirondelle Foundation at the International Women's Congress for the Culture of Peace.

Of special importance, because it supports the economic development of Africa, is the continued advance of tourism for a culture of peace. As described in the [CPNN interview with Lou D'Amore](#) of the International Institute of Peace through Tourism, the major upcoming symposium in South Africa, addressing this subject, is the latest in a series of conferences and initiatives that have been taking place since 2001.

In education for culture of peace there are remarkable advances. The new [reference Manual for Peace Education, Human Rights and Citizenship](#) for all of the West African countries, sponsored by UNESCO, is available online in almost all of the indigenous languages of the region. Here we see that culture of peace transcends national boundaries and applies to the region as a whole, and all of its traditional ethnic groups.

Increasingly, thanks to the renewed involvement of UNESCO, there are networks of civil society organizations dedicated to development of culture of peace in Africa. The latest is a [Youth Network for a Culture of Peace in Africa](#), which is being launched at a Forum, jointly organized by the Omar Bongo Ondimba Foundation for Peace, Science, Culture and the Environment, the Gabonese National Commission for UNESCO with the support of UNESCO and the African Union. This network follows the establishment of a [Network of Women for Culture of Peace in Arica](#), and a [Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa](#).

Finally, the culture of peace is being applied to the democratic process in Africa to provide popular unity instead of the kind of divisions that result from the electoral process brought to Africa from Europe and North America. Last month, we reported on a [political initiative by the churches in Zimbabwe](#) to promote an enduring culture of peace in Zimbabwe and facilitate national healing, forgiveness and reconciliation. And as stated in the [dialogues](#) sponsored recently by Albert Tévoédjrè, the former ombudsman of Benin, "we must privilege social dialogue upstream rather than waiting to curb crises after they have arrived."

<p><b>PEACE EDUCATION</b></p>  <p>Maria Montessori and education for war</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on peace education</a></p>	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b></p>  <p>UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development 2014</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on sustainable development</a></p>	<p><b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p>  <p>A Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on human rights</a></p>	<p><b>WOMEN'S EQUALITY</b></p>  <p>Subscribe to meet remarkable women activists during 16 Days of Activism</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on women's equality</a></p>
<p><b>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</b></p>  <p>Colombia and Mexico: Diploma on Culture of Peace and Forgiveness</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on democratic participation</a></p>	<p><b>TOLERANCE &amp; SOLIDARITY</b></p>  <p>USA: Presidential action brings relief from deportation to millions of families</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on tolerance and solidarity</a></p>	<p><b>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</b></p>  <p>Africa: Creating media channels to promote the culture of peace</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on free flow of information</a></p>	<p><b>DISARMAMENT &amp; SECURITY</b></p>  <p>Meet Auckland's Peace Diplomat [New Zealand]</p> <p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on disarmament</a></p>

# November 2014



In October, CPNN received articles about advances in all [eight program areas of the culture of peace](#) and from most regions of the world.

Education for peace: The Nobel Prize for Peace this year was awarded to two champions of education: [Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi](#) from Pakistan and India, respectively. And from France comes the announcement of the annual [forum on promoting nonviolence in schools](#).

Sustainable development: Overcoming centuries of oppression and marginalization, the [indigenous people of Guatemala](#) have risen up to resist the attempts of Monsanto to force them to abandon their traditional corn and pay each year for genetically modified seeds. Human rights: In [Trinidad and Tobago](#), there is a strong movement to end discrimination against homosexuals and allow them full human rights. This could be a precedent for the entire Caribbean region.

Women's equality: The first [international congress of women for a culture of peace](#) in the Muslim world was held in Algeria with 3,000 delegates to discuss the themes of Perspectives, Ethics and Education, tradition and modernity, veiling and unveiling, Women and Culture of Peace. Also the United Nations International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated with the publication of [writings by women from Afghanistan](#).









Democratic participation: In Zimbabwe the Christian denominations have launched a [peace initiative](#) to ensure free and peaceful citizen participation in national elections. And [Chicago is receiving help in restorative justice](#) from Northern Ireland in order to stop the school-to-prison pipeline and reduce juvenile incarceration. . .

. . . Also in the US, the people of Ashland, Oregon, are establishing a [city commission for the culture of peace](#).

Free flow of information: [Four journalism and press freedom groups](#) have filed a complaint in the United States with the Federal Communication Commission to stop an attempt by major corporations to require payment in order to access their websites. As they say, "it won't just be the media that loses out if we don't have Net Neutrality. Our democracy will suffer as well."

Disarmament: Amnesty International informs us that the [United Nations Arms Trade Treaty](#) will take effect in December thanks to the recent ratifications by Argentina, the Bahamas, Czech Republic, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Senegal and Uruguay which brings the total to the required 50 states.

It is worth noting that the above initiatives come almost equally from the regions of Latin America, Africa, North American, South Asia and the Arab States. The Movement for a Culture of Peace is truly global!

<p><b>PEACE EDUCATION</b></p> 	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b></p> 	<p><b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p> 	<p><b>WOMEN'S EQUALITY</b></p> 
<p>Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi win Nobel Peace Prize</p>	<p>United, We Will Never Be Defeated: Guatemala's Victory Over Monsanto</p>	<p>Looking for a leader in the Caribbean to end discrimination against homosexuals</p>	<p>Opening of the first International Women's Congress in Oran, Algeria</p>
<p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on peace education</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on sustainable development</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on human rights</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Click here to read other articles on women's equality</a></p>
<p><b>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</b></p> 	<p><b>TOLERANCE &amp; SOLIDARITY</b></p> 	<p><b>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</b></p> 	<p><b>DISARMAMENT &amp; SECURITY</b></p> 
<p>Zimbabwe: Christian denominations launch peace initiative</p>	<p>International Seminar on Peace and Reconciliation: Challenges on the Colombian-Venezuelan Border</p>	<p>United States: News and Press Freedom Organizations Stand Up for Real Net Neutrality</p>	<p>UN: Landmark Arms Trade Treaty to become reality with 50th ratification</p>

September is the month for the International Day of Peace which is celebrated by millions of people everywhere in the world. It provides us with a measure of whether the culture of peace is advancing.

In Africa, the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Culture of Peace movement was celebrated on September 21 at [Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire](#) by UNESCO, the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research, and the Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa. At the same time, many local celebrations took place throughout Africa, exemplified by one reported in CPNN from [Zanzibar](#).

Latin America saw extensive celebrations for peace in September. At the end of the month, Colombia hosted an international conference "[Building Peace in the XXI Century](#)" while at the beginning of the month, the civil society of Colombia celebrated a [week of peace](#). In Bolivia, the International Day of Peace was celebrated in Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, El Alto, La Paz, Santa Cruz and Tarija, [an effort that was joined by 51 institutions](#), including the government, municipalities, universities, schools, colleges and NGOs. And of special significance, the states of [Michoacan](#) and [Zacatecas](#) in Mexico have returned to the Manifesto 2000 for inspiration. During the International Year for a Culture of Peace in the year 2000, 75 million people signed the [Manifesto](#), promising to cultivate a culture of peace in their community.

In the United States, in conjunction with the [march of 400,000 people](#) before the United Nations, calling for an agreement to stop global warming, an [initiative for nonviolence and a culture of peace](#) has been launched and now includes over 180 organizations.

At United Nations headquarters, the Secretary-General rang the [Peace Bell](#) in the company of peace activists from around the world. Earlier in the month, he spoke at a [High Level Forum for the Culture of Peace](#). The main speaker at the event was [Nobel Laureate Linda Gbowee from Liberia](#).

To give some idea of the scope of celebrations around the world, I see that the listing of recent news articles in Google News includes 2960 for "International Day of Peace" as well as 2300 for "Día internacional de la paz" and 986 for "Journée Internationale de la Paix"

Finally, the Global Alliance for Ministries & Infrastructures for Peace has begun a [campaign seeking one billion signatures](#) calling upon the UN and governments worldwide to establish ministries, departments and infrastructures of peace that support the global culture of peace!

In sum, we have seen this month the most impressive mobilization for a culture of peace since the International Year for the Culture of Peace 14 years ago. In other words, we can say with certainty that the culture of peace is advancing.

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<p><b>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</b></p>  <p>Peace Coalition: How to make Rockford a city of peace (USA)</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on democratic participation</p>	<p><b>TOLERANCE &amp; SOLIDARITY</b></p>  <p>International Scholars, Peace Advocates and Artists Condemn Agreement To Build New U.S. Marine Base in Okinawa</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on tolerance and solidarity</p>	<p><b>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</b></p>  <p>25th anniversary of the International Congress on Peace in the Mind of Men, Yamoussoukro</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on free flow of information</p>	<p><b>DISARMAMENT &amp; SECURITY</b></p>  <p>Some Events for the International Day of Peace</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on disarmament</p>

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**Please send us articles about the work of your organization and other culture of peace news. (see <http://cpnn-world.org/write/reporter.html>). We look forward to hearing from you.**

**Peace, through struggle,**

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# September 2014



If anyone needed convincing that we live in a culture of war, one only needs to read and listen to the commercial media this month. Ukraine, Palestine/Israel, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, all are exploding with military encouragement and armaments from the United States, NATO, Russia, Saudi Arabia, etc.

But the media does not tell us how the culture of peace is advancing at the same time. Last month we highlighted the advances in participatory budgeting that contribute to a culture of peace. This month we highlight another related advance, restorative justice.

As described in a [CPNN article](#), restorative justice is spreading around the world. It began in the ancient pre-colonial traditions of Africa. In recent times, it inspired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa led by Archbishop Desmond, which played such an important role in the transition from apartheid to democracy under the government headed by Nelson Mandela. And more recently it has been adopted in Brazil thanks in great part to the work of Judge Leoberto Brancher. [As described in CPNN this month](#), it has now been formally adopted at a national level by the Brazilian judicial system.

Now restorative justice is being taken up in the United States. In recent months there have been press reports about initiatives in Oakland, Los Angeles and Sonoma County, California, Boulder Colorado and Burlington Vermont. The principles of restorative justice are clearly described in [the CPNN article quoting from Sonoma County](#): "Restorative Justice is rooted in the practices of indigenous societies, which saw individual actions that harm, hurt and kill as a disease of the culture. They did not perceive of the world as being made up of good guys and bad guys . . .

. . . They recognized misbehaviors as either the symptom of a disease or rooted in ignorance. They took on the responsibility to teach and heal the individuals who were reflecting the failures of the culture. Experience has taught us that victims are not healed through revenge, and that people are not rehabilitated through the cruelty of prisons. We are healed when we feel seen, understood and offered whatever rehabilitation is needed to become a contributing member of our community."

Colorado, by the extensive involvement of volunteers for restorative justice, has greatly reduced repeat criminal offenses, and Vermont has a statute dating from 2000 that affirms restorative justice as a state policy.

Meanwhile, in the face of war, there are strong initiatives for peace. In response to the terrible destruction of Gaza by Israel, [Jimmy Carter and Mary Robinson](#) (from the Elders) and [Amnesty International](#) propose a way forward towards peace. Always there are many ongoing culture of peace initiatives that link Palestinians and Israelis at the local level such as those described in the CPNN articles about the "[vision camp](#)" and the initiative "[Accelerating Women Entrepreneurs](#)." And this last month [Israel saw its largest peace demonstration](#) in recent years.

<p><b>PEACE EDUCATION</b></p> 	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b></p> 	<p><b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p> 	<p><b>WOMEN'S EQUALITY</b></p> 
<p>Trinidad and Tobago: Students told to create a culture of peace in classrooms</p>	<p>IIPT World Symposium: Cultivating Sustainable and Peaceful Communities and Nations Through Tourism, Culture and Sports</p>	<p>UN rights office praises identification of 114th Argentinian 'Grandson of Plaza de Mayo'</p>	<p>For Nigerian girls, education is the key that opens doors to progress</p>
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<p>Hong Kong's Occupy Central pushes for 'genuine democracy'</p>	<p>Peace Summit 2014 to take place this Saturday on the Ecuador-Colombia border</p>	<p>UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace</p>	<p>Hiroshima peace declaration on 69th anniversary of atomic bombing</p>
<p>Click here to read other articles on democratic participation</p>	<p>Click here to read other articles on tolerance and solidarity</p>	<p>Click here to read other articles on free flow of information</p>	<p>Click here to read other articles on disarmament</p>

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# August, 2014



For those who watch or listen to the commercial media, it would seem that we have all lost our minds. Whether it is the events in Israel and Palestine or the Ukraine, or the way their events are treated in Paris and Washington, the news is filled with seemingly endless enmity and violence.

But if you read CPNN instead, you see that we are advancing towards a culture of peace in little steps throughout the world. A good example is the progress in Participatory Budgeting (PB) which is, in effect, democratic participation. News about PB may be found in local media, but not on the front pages of the international commercial media which does not consider it to be important. A number of these local stories are covered by CPNN this month.

As described in the [CPNN article from Brazil](#), PB was first invented in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 1989 and it is now reproduced in 3000 cities around the world in dozens of countries. It was recognized recently at the 14th Conference of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy that took place in Brazil in June with over a thousand participants from 25 countries.

As the article describes, "The essence of Participatory Budgeting is to listen to people in public meetings for preparation and prioritization of programs and articles that guide the municipal government in the making of the municipal budget. The Participatory Budget Council, formed by society, organizes the collective demands of the citizens and refers them to the City Council who have the last word on the public budget."

The Brazilian article goes on to note that "the peoples' wisdom, contrary to the expectation of many city managers, selected as the top priority asphaltting streets of neighborhoods and villages, especially where the bus passed, instead of health centers or schools. People did not want to step in the mud in the winter cold, and they wanted quality of life at their doorstep." This is illustrated in the case of [Trenque, Argentina](#) where the priorities decided by the people include jogging paths, parks, waste collection for recycling, and workshops or cooperatives for growing fruits and vegetables, sewing and making toys. And in [Paran i, Argentina](#), the priorities are

street and road improvement, enhancement of green spaces, street lighting and water or sewer improvement.

In [Rosario, Argentina](#), another city that has long engaged in PB, there is now a separate substantial budget that is decided upon by youth between the ages of 13 and 18, thus guaranteeing that the practice will be passed on to future generations.

Where it has been installed, PB gains the confidence of citizens. For example, in [La Serena, Chile](#), there were over 10 times more people taking part in the diagnostic stage of the process this year as compared to 2013. Information technology is being applied to reach even more citizens, as described in the case of [Ubatuba, Brazil](#).

More and more cities are taking up PB. For example, in Portugal, "for the first time in its history, the Board of [Alcoutim](#) is implementing a Participatory Budget for the municipality of Alcoutim, which will take effect from 2015, with an investment of 100 million euros." Citizens in [New York City](#), inspired by what they saw in Brazil, first started PB in four districts of their city in 2011. Now, only three years later, 22 districts are using PB, committing at least \$25 million to a public vote. Research shows that "the diversity of NYC is being represented in the process and new people are getting engaged: two-thirds of PB voters were women; 60 percent identified as people of color; 49 percent had less than a college degree; nearly half have household incomes less than \$50,000; 32 percent were born in another country; 22 percent of ballots were cast in a language other than English; almost 70 percent had never worked with others in their community to solve problems; and 22 percent of PB voters identified barriers that made them ineligible to vote in traditional elections."

Although it is the newest way, PB is not the only way to increase democratic participation. In this regard, the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#), which has always been a leader in promoting democratic participation, is marking its 125th anniversary. "The oldest multi-lateral political organization in the world, IPU has played an important role in; the creation of the UN, inter-State relations during the Cold War; helping countries in post-conflict to transition smoothly into democracy, setting international standards on elections and parliamentary working methods and in increasing women's political participation globally."

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



Mainstreaming Peace Education - Approaches, Methodologies, and Visions  
A Practitioner's Manual

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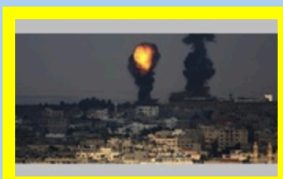
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Computerized voting system for Participatory Budgeting in Ubatuba, Brazil

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Wikipedia Summit "Wikimania" comes to London - Largest ever gathering

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# July 2014



Two Nobel Peace Laureates provide us in-depth analyses of important events this month.

Nobel laureate [Mairead Maguire](#) gave a major speech at the Peace Event in Sarajevo and deplored the direction being taken by Europe: "we are witnessing the growing militarization of Europe, its role as a driving force for armaments, and its dangerous path, under the leadership of the USA/NATO, towards a new 'cold' war and military aggression. Maguire called for the abolition of NATO and the reform of the United Nations: "The UN should actively take up its mandate to save the world from the scourge of war."

According to [participants in the Sarajevo event](#), the remarks by Maguire and other speakers broke new ground, addressing subjects such as NATO that have been taboo in the past. "Peace is possible" - this was the common mood at the Sarajevo event. We want "no more war and conflicts have to be resolved peacefully" - was the message of more than 900 people and peace activists from 32 countries at the opening ceremony. "Let the Sarajevo, where peace ended, be the starting point for the bold beginning of a universal call for peace through the wholesale abolition of militarism." Again and again the importance of the UNESCO culture of peace program as an alternative program to war and militarization was emphasized.

Another Nobel laureate, [Archbishop Desmond Tutu](#), tells us why it was important that the Presbyterian Church in the United States voted to divest its funds from corporations that aid the Israeli occupation of Palestine. "I am especially urging the assembly to adopt the overture naming Israel as an apartheid state through its domestic policies and maintenance of the occupation and the overture calling for divestment of

certain companies that contribute to the occupation of the Palestinian people." Archbishop Tutu goes on to say that "The parallels to my own beloved South Africa are painfully stark indeed . . . We learned in South Africa that the only way to end apartheid peacefully was to force the powerful to the table through economic pressure."

The vote was close but the [Presbyterian General Assembly](#) voted to divest from Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions and Hewlett Packard because of their involvement in the Israeli military occupation. This follows two other similar actions in recent weeks: The United Methodist Church, the largest mainline Protestant denomination in the US decided to divest from a private security company that supplies equipment for Israeli prisons in the occupied West Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation sold off their shares in the same company.

[Other in-depth analyses](#) of the divestment by the Presbyterian church are available in the discussion section for the preceding articles.

Meanwhile, the peace processes in Colombia and the Philippines, which were discussed in the May bulletin, continue to advance. [In Colombia](#), the incumbent president won re-election by promising to continue the peace process. And [in the Philippines](#), the conference, entitled "Peace is Living Together Religions and Cultures in Dialogue for Peace and Reconciliation in Mindanao" attracted national and local government officials, as well as those from Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Moro National Liberation Front, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Mindanao universities, diplomats, and non-government organizations from the Philippines and other countries, as well as many youth.

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



"Caminhos da paz" (Paths of Peace)

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**SUSTAINABLE  
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EQUALITY**



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**DEMOCRATIC  
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Chiapas Joins Forces with the Asociación Menchú Tum to Support the Indigenous Peoples

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SOLIDARITY**



Anti-Apartheid Archbishop Tutu Calls Presbyterians to Back Divestment From Israeli Occupation

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OF INFORMATION**



Interfaith dialogue vs. 'spoilers' of Mindanao peace set in Cotabato (Philippines)

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**DISARMAMENT &  
SECURITY**



Sarajevo Peace Event: We have to become more visible on the streets

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# June 2014



Despite the headlines of human rights violations in such countries as Syria, North Korea, Egypt, Thailand and Burma, there was some progress over the past year according to the [annual report of Human Rights Watch](#). Two new multinational treaties give hope for some of the world's most marginalized people: [domestic workers](#) and artisanal miners poisoned by the [unregularized use of mercury](#). And, after a slow and disappointing start, the [United Nations Human Rights Council](#) is starting to be effective.

Human rights measures are a good indicator of progress towards a culture of peace in all its aspects. For example, it is not by accident that the domestic workers treaty is being signed and put in force by the countries of Latin America rather than the "great powers" which reflects their leadership for a culture of peace.

In the case of women's rights, there is good news in the recent groundbreaking [European treaty on violence against women](#). According to Human Rights Watch, "This is a defining moment for women in Europe for whom the home is a place of danger. This treaty will oblige governments to take concrete steps to help women and girls facing violent attacks."

With regard to the rights of indigenous peoples, [Survival International](#) reports that there were significant gains in the past year in Colombia, Brazil, Botswana and India. The rights of native Americans took a step forward with the appointment of the [first ever Native American judge](#) in the United States. Meanwhile in Canada a [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) has been established to bring healing to the suppression of the native peoples in that country. In fact, the rights of indigenous peoples also involves the right to a sustainable environment, as

emphasized by [Canadian participants](#) at the recent UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

And with regard to the free flow of information, the adoption by Brazil of the "[Marco Civil](#)" - an Internet bill of rights - is an important counter to the attacks on free access to the Internet in many countries, including the United States among others.

Unfortunately, most coverage of human rights issues by the mass media are negative, consisting of accusations of human rights violations, often pointed at the "enemy" as a kind of propaganda weapon. This makes human rights coverage more difficult for CPNN, since we insist that our stories concern positive developments. After all, there are plenty of other websites that provide negative news!

But even the question of human rights violations often can have both positive and negative sides. For example, at the same time as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and others denounced the Venezuelan government for violating the rights of political protesters, the Venezuelan government announced that it was complying with a demand of the the Foreign Ministers of the Union of South American Nations (Unasur) to establish a [National Council for Human Rights](#). And in the neighboring country of Colombia, long known for its human rights abuses, the government recently launched the [Ibero-American Institute of Human Rights Education](#), sponsored by the Organization of American States.

Often, the violations of human rights are associated with civil wars or threats of civil wars and sometimes as a result of interventions to support what the American's call 'regime change.' In these cases, the accusations can be very hypocritical when the intervening countries accuse the target countries of human rights violations that are caused directly by the country's counter measures, but indirectly by the



interventions of the foreign powers. Recent examples include Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela and Libya.

Finally, here is a case where the negative news can be turned into positive action. A [number of human rights organizations](#), including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists have called for Palestine to refer the Israeli interventions to the International Criminal Court.

International Criminal Court.

PEACE EDUCATION	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	HUMAN RIGHTS	WOMEN'S EQUALITY
			
The Nonviolence Handbook: A book review	Indigenous women at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous rights	Colombia ratifies the Domestic Workers Convention	Calling women: Why women and technology are a perfect pairing
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DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION	TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY	FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION	DISARMAMENT & SECURITY
			
Rwanda: 3rd African Alliance for Peace Summit	First Native American Woman Becomes Federal Judge	Brazil: Internet "bill of rights" to take effect in June	The Elders applaud Palestinian unity agreement
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## May 2014



This month we have seen progress toward peace agreements in conflict zones, beginning with the Philippines and Colombia.

In the Philippines, the government and the main rebel force in Mindanao, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front have signed a [comprehensive peace agreement](#) after more than 40 years of violence and 17 years of difficult negotiations. In the words of the chief negotiator, "The sealing of the comprehensive agreement is important not only for the Bangsamoro, the people of Mindanao and all other Filipino citizens who have all to gain as one country pursuing its unfinished task of nation-building. It is also our global contribution to the pursuit of peace in our immediate neighborhood, the Southeast Asian region, and the rest of the world."

Readers of CPNN may have followed the progress towards the Philippines agreement in recent years. A [framework agreement](#) was reached in October 2012 and the [final sections](#) were signed in January of this year. During the years of negotiations, more and more zones became "peace zones." Two such initiatives are described this month in CPNN: the "protection site" of [Lanao del Norte](#) initiated by Nonviolent Peaceforce and the Muslim Organization of Government Employees and Professionals; and the [peace schools](#) in Manila de Bugabos initiated by Action for Conflict Transformation.

In Colombia, following almost 40 years of civil war, the government and the FARC rebels recently signed the [third section](#) of their five-part peace accords which concerns the difficult problem of illegal drugs. It was almost a year ago that they reached agreement on the [first section](#) concerning land. And the second part, concerning political participation and rights of the opposition, was signed last November.

As the United Nations representative in Colombia recently stated, in announcing a [media program to support the peace effort](#), "it is not enough to disarm the guns if there is no disarmament of the minds," affirming that peace requires the support of the majority and a change of attitudes.

The government of Colombia has been doing its part. President Santos recently inaugurated the [American Institute of Human Rights Education](#) and announced he will

reactivate the [National Peace Commission](#), created in the 90s to promote a culture of peace, to support the peace process.

The civil society of Colombia has also done its part. Last year, CPNN reported on a [National Peace Congress](#) with representation from a wide range of social and political organizations. Also, an analysis by the [Rector of the National Pedagogical University](#) mentions contributions to the peace process by many civil society organizations, including El CINEP, Arcoiris, IEPRI, ESAP, Viva la Ciudadanía, Redepaz, MOE, Plural, and other groups working in the various regions of Colombia.

Most recently, the death of the great Colombian writer, Gabriel García Márquez, is being seen by [all sides of the conflict](#) in that country as a spur for them to complete the peace process.

Of course, the signing of peace accords is not the end of the process. As the [recent article from Nepal](#) points out, it's been eight years since the comprehensive peace accord was signed between Nepal Government and the Maoist rebels, but it is still necessary to re-integrate refugees village by village.

We may hope that the examples of the Philippines and Colombia may inspire similar peace accords in other conflict zones. Already there are civil society initiatives underway to support a peace process for [Syria](#) and [Venezuela](#).

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



Miles of Murals Exhibit in Paris May 2014

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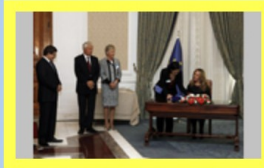
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Women ecowarriors

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How to achieve a culture of peace in Venezuela

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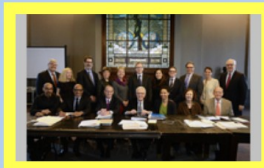
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Anglicans reflect on impact of TRC events (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada)

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Another Pulitzer for reporting classified info

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Reintegration after 10 years conflict: Nepal

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# April 2014



Last month we featured the advanced role of Latin America for a culture of peace, and this month, as we did previously in [August 2012](#), we feature the other continent in advance: Africa.

Major culture of peace initiatives at a continent-wide level are being undertaken by UNESCO and the African Union. An overall view is provided by a new brochure published by UNESCO under the title "Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace in Africa" [as reviewed by CPNN](#). The most recent initiative, established this month, is [an African women's network for a culture of peace](#).

Ghana has established a National Peace Council, chaired by [Reverend Emmanuel Asante](#), who is featured in an article this month. CPNN readers may recall his remarks at [last year's Summit](#) of Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures of Peace.

Unlike the mass media elsewhere in the world, African journalists continue to give priority to a culture of peace. The latest story in this regard comes from the [journalism school of Mali](#).

The schools of Africa, more and more, include specific curricula for a culture of peace. The latest development is a guide for peace education published by the [West African Network for Peacebuilding](#).

Musicians in Africa also contribute to a culture of peace, as exemplified this month by the major [rap concert for peace](#) at the Goma refugee camp in Eastern Congo, a region long torn by civil war. Another initiative for peace in this region, this one involving street theatre, is described in the CPNN article, [Local Voices Saying No to War in Norh Kivu](#).

As always, women are taking the lead for a culture of peace. Here are three new CPNN stories:

- [Women of Congo speak out](#);
- [Interview with Liberian Nobel Laureate](#);
- [Tanzanian woman says no to forced marriage](#).

In some situations, the women's leadership is supported by men, for example, the [V-men of Congo](#).

And finally, we should mention 15-year old [Olga Katilé from Mali](#), who has won UNESCO's "Pathways to a Culture of Peace: Global Contest for Mutual Understanding."

<p><b>PEACE EDUCATION</b></p>  <p>Rap for Peace in the Great Lakes Region of Africa</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on peace education</p>	<p><b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b></p>  <p>Global Day of Action on Military Spending</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on sustainable development</p>	<p><b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p>  <p>Protection of human rights at heart of United Nations, says UN Geneva on 25th year</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on human rights</p>	<p><b>WOMEN'S EQUALITY</b></p>  <p>Statement of V-Men Congo at the Launch of their Movement In Bukavu</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on women's equality</p>
<p><b>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</b></p>  <p>Ghana: Most Rev. Prof Asante: I have a dream for peace</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on democratic participation</p>	<p><b>TOLERANCE &amp; SOLIDARITY</b></p>  <p>Islamic scholars establish prizes for peace, recommend Muslim peace teams</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on tolerance and solidarity</p>	<p><b>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</b></p>  <p>Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace in Africa</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on free flow of information</p>	<p><b>DISARMAMENT &amp; SECURITY</b></p>  <p>Syria: Vienna Conference Final Statement</p> <p>Click here to read other articles on disarmament</p>

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## March 2014



Again this month Latin America and the Caribbean are at the forefront of the global movement for a culture of peace. At their second summit, held at the end of last month in Havana, the heads of state from these regions declared their region a "zone of peace." Among the numerous points in [their declaration](#) was the following: "The promotion in the region of a culture of peace based, inter alia, on the principles of the United Nations Declaration on a Culture of Peace".

In this same spirit of peace, the countries of [Chile and Peru](#) welcomed a World Court ruling on their maritime border dispute, saying that the ruling is a "triumph for peace and paves the way for cooperation and better links between two Latin American nations."

The countries of this region know well the devastation of the culture of war, and are taking steps to overcome it.

[In Mexico](#), one of the most violent countries in the world, there is great progress in peace education. According to the renowned peace educator Johan Galtung, "At the national level an overarching program to prevent violence has been designed and enacted. . . it is a bold proposal, grounded in a legitimate peace philosophy. . . This top-down approach is then linked with efforts bottom-up from the ground level in the different regions."

[In Colombia](#), long torn by civil war, the United Nations is helping with a program called "La Paz es mía" (Peace is mine). The UN official revealed that they decided to launch the campaign at Christmas for Colombians "to renew their faith in peace" as a "serious process that deserves support," referring to the talks between the government and the FARC guerrillas, which have been going on for more than a year in Havana.

[In Venezuela](#), recently rocked by demonstrations which seem to be aimed at toppling the government, President Maduro has "called on citizens to join the National Plan for Peace and Coexistence, which seeks to promote a culture of peace and reduce crime rates in the country."

[In Haiti](#), where Cité Soleil has been plagued by socio-economic, political and security issues, a "Forum of reflection, which promotes dialogue and not the dialectic of arms"

was hosted by the Minister of the Interior. He welcomed "the determination of organized groups, associations and citizens of Cité Soleil, who actively participated in the series of negotiations initiated by the Ministry of the Interior, that enabled to sit around the same table, representatives of different neighborhoods of Cité Soleil."

Perhaps most important in the long run are the many local initiatives for a culture of peace in Latin America. For example, [Santos, Brazil](#), has established a City Peace Commission. According to the mayor of the city, "We have been carrying out actions since last year like the "Peace Wave", along the beach with the participation of thousands of Santistas. It is ever more important to stimulate such actions and to spread a culture of peace in the everyday life of the population."



And finally, we should mention 15-year old [Olga Katilé from Mali](#), who has won UNESCO's "Pathways to a Culture of Peace: Global Contest for Mutual Understanding."

#### PEACE EDUCATION



The West African Network for Peacebuilding publishes its guide for culture of peace and non-violence in the schools

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These Four Cities Are Making Youth Empowerment a Priority

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At last! Brazil begins long-awaited operation to save Earth's most threatened tribe

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#### WOMEN'S EQUALITY



Indian women rally to back demand for more seats in parliament

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#### DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Maduro ratifies the call for dialogue to consolidate peace in Venezuela

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#### TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Award for grass-root organizations engaged in innovative cross-cultural work

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#### FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Federico Mayor once again at UNESCO

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#### DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Building a Global Movement to End All War

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# February 2014



"Formidable Tunisie!" concludes [Martine Gozlan, writing in the French journal Marianne](#), about the process by which Tunisia has arrived at a new constitution. Tunisia, the country that started the Arab Spring, has now been the first to institutionalize their democratic progress into the legal framework of their country. The process begun with the Arab Spring thus continues to be a most exciting advance towards a culture of peace, as was described in the CPNN bulletin last April.

CPNN, this month, carries three articles about the new Tunisian constitution.

The [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) calls the new constitution a "defining moment for democracy" in Tunisia, and we may add by implication, for the entire Arab World.

Of central importance, as described in the [article from Global Net](#), the Constitution institutes the equality of women and men. Women's equality is essential to democracy, according to the framework of the culture of peace.

Also of critical importance, as described in the [article from RT News](#), the Constitution has rejected religious (sharia) law as its basis, despite the fact that most of the country and the constituent assembly are Islamic and since the beginning of the Arab Spring there has been a dominating Islamist influence.

The struggle is not over, as [Martine Gozlan reminds us](#): "But not too fast! They have not yet completely won, these Tunisiens with their civil state and the freedom of conscience enshrined in the texts. Nadia el Fani, the magnificent and celebrated director of "Laïcité Inch Allah!", so often threatened and insulted, tells me that I am much too naive to be a Tunisien".

Meanwhile in neighboring Egypt, where the Islamist government was overturned last year and replaced by military rule, a similar struggle goes on. [The Elders](#) consider that the draft constitution being discussed in Egypt could be a major step forward toward

democracy: "The constitution should protect, and indeed celebrate the extraordinary diversity and cultural heritage of Egypt and reflect the inherent value of pluralism for a healthy and vibrant society."

There is even movement in the most conservative of Arab countries, Saudi Arabia, [as reported by Human Rights Watch](#). Despite repression there are Saudi activists who are advocating popular political participation, judicial reform, and an end to discrimination against women and minorities.

In the long run, it is the new generation that will determine the future in the Arab world. [As Aisha Habli writes](#) about discussions with her peers at an Arab Youth Leadership workshop, "We have a big role in carrying our communities forward even when the older generations may have grown tired, and we will continue to create positive change."

**PEACE  
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UN Campaign in Colombia:  
"Peace is mine"

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Samba-Panza's election  
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for African women in  
politics

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**DEMOCRATIC  
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Tunisia: Equality of Women  
and Men in New  
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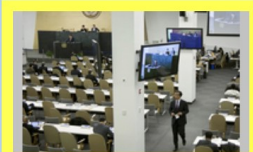
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Togo: Muslim Imans Train  
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# January 2014



While last month's bulletin was concerned with the leadership of peace heroes in general, this month we concentrate on one great example who passed away this month, Nelson Mandela. As described by the Elders, an organization founded by him in 2007, Mandela illustrates all the properties of leadership needed for a culture of peace.

Despite 27 years in prison, he was not bitter about his captors, but instead he worked unceasingly for forgiveness and reconciliation.

He was a "courageous voice for justice" and a "moral compass." He devoted his life to the struggle for "a united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic society where all are equal." in South Africa, but beyond that "his passion for freedom and justice created new hope for generations of oppressed people worldwide."

He was a "visionary leader" whose vision inspires us to work for human rights and justice for all. As described by his political party, the African National Congress (ANC), "In the life of every nation, there arise men who leave an indelible and eternal stamp on the history of their peoples; men who are both products and makers of history. And when they pass they leave a vision of a new and better life and the tools with which to win and build it."

In the typical African appreciation of the tree as the symbol of their culture and traditions, the ANC describes Mandela as "the large African Boabab, who loved Africa as much as he loved South Africa . . . Its trunk and seeds will nourish the earth for decades to come."

Refusing to bow to the anti-communism inherited from previous centuries, the ANC reminds us that Mandela was "a member of the South African Communist Party, where he served in the Central Committee."

Mandela is not only an inspiration for the transition to democracy in South Africa, but he serves as a model for the "New Africa", as described by the head of the Economic Commission for Africa: "Mandela's legacy, values and truths will act as a strong foundation for a united and prosperous Africa."

The official South African commentary states that "Mandela dedicated his life in service of humanity and contributed immensely to the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world." This is echoed by the official commentary of the United Nations as delivered by Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, that the UN General Assembly "has declared 18 July, his birthday, 'Nelson Mandela International Day', an annual observance on which we recognize and seek to build on his contributions to promoting a culture of peace and freedom around the world."

**PEACE  
EDUCATION**



The Culture of Peace in African Literature

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Breaking Ground: New Report from the Nobel Women's initiative (Canada)

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UNHCR project helps ethnic minority in Fergana Valley get Kyrgyz nationality

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**WOMEN'S  
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MPP's Much Ado About Women

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Santos creates a Peace Commission to avoid violence and intolerance (Brazil)

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Sanaa to host international youth peace conference

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UN Secretary-General's Statement on the Death of Nelson Mandela

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Thousands of Civilian Lives Being Saved by the Convention on Cluster Munitions

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