

English bulletin December 1, 2021

..THE FAILURE OF COP26. . .

Once again, this time the 26th, the Conference of Parties has failed – the conference of the nation-states of the world to deal with the climate crisis.

As described by [Greta Thunberg](#), it was a “greenwashing event” of “blah, blah, blah”: “The leaders are not doing nothing; they are actively creating loopholes and shaping frameworks to benefit themselves, and to continue profiting from this destructive system. This is an active choice by the leaders to continue the exploitation of nature and people and the destruction of presents and future living conditions to take place”.

As described by [Amnesty International](#), “Leaders have catastrophically betrayed humanity at large by failing to protect people most affected by the climate crisis and instead caving into the interests of fossil fuel and other powerful corporations.

[The crisis has intensified](#), but little else has changed since the previous conferences such as those described in CPNN bulletins in [2012](#) and again in [2015](#) and summarized [here](#).. After those conferences, CPNN remarked that while the nation-states could not deal with the crisis, the organizations of cities were taking effective action, and young people around the world were mobilizing into a global youth movement.

Again this year, the organizations of cities are showing the way.

Global city partners C40, ICLEI, the Global Covenant of Mayors, CDP, UCLG, WRI and WWF, are working together to recruit cities to the Race to Zero. The 1049 cities and local governments signing onto the Race to Zero represent 722 million people and will pursue ambitious climate action in line with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C – the global standard for climate action. The mayors' presence at COP26 is the culmination of years of visionary climate leadership from local leaders who have leveraged their influence to bolster global climate ambition. They have promoted their vision for a Global Green New Deal, which aims to place inclusive climate action at the centre of all urban decision-making to create healthy, accessible, liveable, and sustainable cities for all.

And again this year, it is the young people like Greta Thunberg who are seizing the initiative.

At Glasgow there were an estimated **250,000 demonstrators**, led by young people and their organizations like **Fridays for the Future** which was started by Greta Thunberg.. **Other demonstrations**, largely led by youth, took place in Brussels, Melbourne, Palu (Indonesia), Paris, Berlin, Seoul, Manila, New York, Dharmasala (India), Wellington (New Zealand), Fiji, Istanbul, and Victoria (Canada), just to mention those for which we published photos.

The peace movement recognizes that the struggle for climate justice is an essential part of the struggle for a culture of peace. An example is our report from **Mouvement de la Paix** in France.

Religious organizations are also mobilizing. **Many Catholics** joined the demonstrations in Glasgow, inspired by the 2015 encyclical letter of Pope Francis entitled “LAUDATO SI’ drawn from the words of Saint Francis of Assisi. “Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us.”

A **global movement** is forming and it is led by youth. Quoting from the website of **Fridays for the Future**, “Along with other groups across the world, Fridays for Future is part of a hopeful new wave of change, inspiring millions of people to take action on the climate crisis. . . The goal of the movement is to put moral pressure on policymakers, to make them listen to the scientists, and then to take forceful action to limit global warming. Our movement is independent of commercial interests and political parties and knows no borders. We strike because we care for our planet and for each other. We have hope that humanity can change, avert the worst climate disasters and build a better future. Every day there are more of us and together we are strong. Everyone is welcome. Everyone is needed. No one is too small to make a difference.”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



COP26:
Thousands of young people take over Glasgow streets demanding climate action

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Some villages in France have found a second life by welcoming refugees

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



United Nations :
UNiTE by 2030 to
End Violence
against Women

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



From LA to Bogotá to London, global mayors unite to deliver critical city momentum to world leaders tasked with keeping 1.5

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



What I Saw on Election Day in

DISARMAMENT & HUMAN RIGHTS SECURITY



Remembering
Georgi Vanyan: for
peace between
Amnesty
International:
Leaders' catastrophic



EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Mexico: Municipal
Mediation Unit of
the City of Merida

English bulletin November 1, 2021

CITIES, TOWNS FOR CULTURE OF PEACE

As we have previously remarked in this bulletin most recently in **2020** and **2016**, the leadership for a culture of peace is often taken by cities and towns, since, unlike nation-states, they are not heavily invested in the culture of war and since they tend to be more responsive to the needs of their citizens.

This month, there are four articles in this regard from Mexico.

The mayor of Mexico City, Claudia Sheinbaum, has emphasized the **social programs that she has implemented** during her mandate to improve security conditions. She explains that “security is also the result of social justice, that is why we address the causes of violence with programs that allow access to education, culture and sports.” She emphasized the projects that have been the foundations of her government in the capital of the country: the Points of Innovation, Freedom, Art, Education and Knowledge (Pillars), Yes to disarmament, yes to peace, Inside the Neighborhood and Wellbeing for Girls and Boys, My Scholarship to Get Started.

Mayor Sheinbaum also hosted the **third World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace** in Mexico City. The Forum demonstrated the power of women and their influence in the most important positions to run large cities in the world. In the first session of the

event, all the participants were women. Claudia Sheibaum (representative of Mexico City), Claudia López (mayor of Bogotá), Ada Colau (mayor of Barcelona), Manuela Carmena (former mayor of Madrid) and Reyna Rueda (mayor of Managua).

Women have also taken the lead for a culture of peace in the Mexican city of Chihuahua. Their network, the **Red Mesa de Mujeres**, highlights the importance of training women leaders in this area. “We started with the idea of building a group of ten women and we already have 65 of all ages.”

In the Mexican city of Saltillo, the **Mano Cadena program** works to create, implement and disseminate preventive strategies for conflict resolution that promote a culture of peace. Actions include more than 138 information and awareness talks on the subject of alternative justice, 30 workshops on Peace Circles, and more than 50 training courses-workshops in community, school and alternative justice mediation given to more than 1,800 participants, community representatives and teachers.

Other articles come from Spain, United States, Japan, China, United Kingdom and France.

In Spain, United States and Japan, organizations of cities are putting pressure on their national governments to join the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which so far has only been signed by non-nuclear countries. Details are provided in the **newsletter of Mayors for Peace**.

Also in the United States, the city of Pittsburgh is taking steps to create “a city of peace with a culture of nonviolence.” A group, which called the **Black Elected Officials Coalition**, announced it

would begin a series of community events to promote peace in the streets.

In China, the city of Nanjing hosted the **2021 Nanjing Peace Forum**, co-sponsored with UNESCO. The Forum conducted a lively and in-depth discussion on the natural environment and human destiny, sustainable development goals and green investment, environmental challenges and youth actions, global green recovery and good business, peace actions and international practices. The “2021 Nanjing Peace Consensus” was passed. This has become an annual event, as the 2020 Forum was described in CPNN.

In the United Kingdom, the city of Coventry, the current City of Culture, which is known as a city of peace and reconciliation, welcomed **Little Amal**, a giant puppet of a child, as she nears the end of a 5,000-mile walk from Syria to “rewrite the narrative about refugees”. Coventry is home to about 1,500 people seeking refuge.



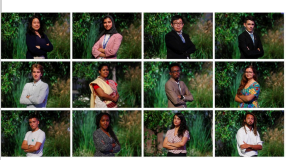

In France, the welcome of refugees also contributes to a culture of peace. The lead in this regard is being taken by **small villages** that have lost population in recent years and that find a revitalization by refugees. In Notre-Dame-de-l’Osier, the refugees have engaged in gardening and a weekly market, as well as pottery workshops, cooking and honey harvesting that have enlivened village life. In Pessat-Villeneuve, the immigrants took responsibility for the creation and distribution of masks that were needed to combat the epidemic of COVID.

The mayor of Grigny, France, Philippe Rio was chosen as **best mayor in the world** by the London association “ City Mayors Foundation ”to reward his management of the Covid crisis, and

his fight against poverty in his city.” He has also taken part in the welcome of refugees and the struggle to abolish nuclear weapons.

Mayor Rio spoke at the **first national forum of the AFCD RP** (Association of Mayors for Peace, France) that took place October 13 in Montpellier.

At the Forum I was privileged to deliver an address that described **how cities can contribute to the culture of peace**, with reference to the Declaration for the Transition to a Culture of Peace in the 21st Century.

<p>WOMEN'S EQUALITY</p>  <p>Mexico City successfully holds the World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace</p>	<p>TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY</p>  <p>Successful start of the Latin American March for Nonviolence, Multiethnic and Pluricultural</p>	<p>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p>  <p>Our future, our decisions: young activists call for seat at climate table</p>	<p>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</p>  <p>The programs of Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum to reduce violence in Mexico City</p>
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English bulletin October 1, 2021

. INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE .

In our **survey of the Internet this year** we found actions for the International Day of Peace in 628 communities located throughout the world. This total is similar to **what we found last year**, with the greatest number of actions taking place in Europe.

In **Western Europe** we found reference to actions in 191 communities. The greatest number was recorded in **Belgium** where 114 towns and municipalities participated in a campaign to fly the peace flag on official buildings, calling for a Belgium without nuclear weapons in a world without nuclear weapons. In France, the **Collective for 21 September** coordinated and described actions in 46 communities, including marches and demonstrations, often linked to the struggle to preserve the planet from global warming. The Collective is composed of 35 French organizations, led by Mouvement de la Paix.

Mikis Theodorakis, who passed away on September 2, was honored in **Athens** by dancers celebrating the Day of Peace, with the following quote from him, “We are a vast, deep river that is constantly deepening, that is constantly widening and enriching as it moves towards this endless, wide sea, which is global cooperation in a world of peace.”

In the **former Soviet countries of Eastern Europe**, especially Russia, and the Ukraine, we found actions in 157 communities,

most of them involving the children in schools. Following the tradition of recent years, the children made paper doves and wrote their wishes for peace, sometimes attaching them to balloons to fly into the sky and travel across the earth. This year many of the schools prepared videos of their actions and wishes.

As was the case last year, many of the actions took place in communities across the two sides of the armed conflict in the Ukraine. One of the celebrations, in **Yasinovataya**, took place despite being under an artillery attack. In one school after another, the war was mentioned, for example in **Markivka** it was said that “In the conditions of the war in the East of Ukraine, this holiday acquired a special, at the same time sublime and tragic significance. ”

In North America we found actions in 159 communities, of which 122 were coordinated and listed on the website of the **Campaign Nonviolence**, mobilizing “across the country and around the world for a culture of peace, economic equality, racial justice and environmental healing.” 48 of the 50 states of the United States were represented, along with the Canadian provinces of Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec.

As usual, the most intensive celebration was in **Philadelphia** (Peace Day Philly) with 15 events, including four events with colorful flyers for which links are provided.

Ongoing wars and recent peace accords were addressed by the day’s celebrations in the rest of the world.

In Africa we found celebrations in 36 communities in 19 countries, many of them torn by violent conflict. In the Democratic Republic

of the Congo, the **Youth Parliament of the Beni region** declared ““We launch a vibrant appeal to all young people in the province of North Kivu to dissociate themselves from the armed groups in order to make possible the return of peace and security in our region.” **In Cameroon**, thousands who marched in several cities and towns said they were tired of burying civilians caught up in the fighting. They called for a cease-fire between the military and separatists. **In Abuja, Nigeria**, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution called on all Nigerians to work assiduously to return peace to the country. And the **African Union** repeated its call for “Silencing the guns.”

In the Middle East and North Africa, we found actions in 18 communities in 12 countries. **In Taiz, Yemen**, the Abductees’ Mothers Association spoke of the suffering of mothers and families of the abducted, arbitrarily arrested, and forcibly disappeared individuals while waiting for peace resolutions leading to their sons’ freedom. **In South Sudan**, the Ecumenical Network on South Sudan called upon the leaders of South Sudan, both in government and in opposition, the security forces and citizens to finally take responsibility and resolve conflicts both national and locally through nonviolent means. **In Jerusalem**, some 1,000 Jewish and Arab mothers gathered for a number of events held by Women Wage Peace, including creating a human chain and a rally, demand that the government do everything possible to resolve the conflict with a political agreement. And **the Arab League** called on all nations and peoples, especially Arab countries experiencing armed conflicts, to immediately cease fire, abide by the cessation of hostilities, and resort to a political solution, as it is the only way to settle conflicts and disputes

In Latin America we found actions in 29 communities and 11 countries. Celebrations in Colombia were linked to





commemoration of the fifth year since the signing of the peace agreement. In Bogota, the Unit for Victims reiterates its commitment to those most affected by the violence, working to implement all the actions that are the central axis of the Final Agreement with the FARC. In Medellin, the Mayor's Office noted that the city is becoming an epicenter for the implementation of the Peace Accords, above all, putting in the center to the victims and their right to access justice, truth and guarantees of non-repetition. And in Nariño, the Third World Summit announced that San Bernardo and Tablon de Gómez are now free of antipersonnel mines.

In Asia and the Pacific we found actions in 42 communities in 13 countries. The plight of Rohingya refugees was addressed by the Center for Peace Studies in Dhaka, Bangladesh and by the NRS Relief in refugee camps. The plight of the people of Kashmir was addressed by the Kashmir Parliamentary Peace Conference. And the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in the Philippines called for strengthening institutional and popular support for this effort.

As mentioned above, women are playing a leading role in peace efforts in Yemen and Jerusalem. Similarly, in the Ukraine, the "Women for Peace" demonstrated and demanded fulfillment of promises by the government and Supreme Council to establish peace in the country. "We very much hope that once again the demands of our women, which we set out in our appeal, will be heard and measures will be taken." And in Casamance, Senegal, it is the Platform of Women for Peace that is most active.

Summing up the sentiments of Peace Day participants, and repeating a phrase of young activist Greta Thunberg, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres concluded "We need peace

to recover from the pandemic and re-build shattered systems and shattered lives. We need peace to level the playing field and reduce inequalities. We need peace to renew trust in one another — and faith in facts and science. And we need to make peace with nature — to heal our planet, build a green economy, and achieve our net-zero targets. Peace is not a naïve dream. It’s a light in the darkness. Guiding us to the only pathway to a better future for humanity. Let’s walk the pathway of peace as if our lives depended on it. Because they do.”

<p>GLOBAL</p>  <p>What has happened this year: International Day of Peace</p>	<p>UNITED STATES AND CANADA</p>  <p>United States and Canada: International Day of Peace</p>	<p>EUROPE</p>  <p>Europe: International Day of Peace</p>	<p>ASIA AND PACIFIC</p>  <p>Asia and Pacific: International Day of Peace</p>
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EX-SOVIET COUNTRIES



Ex-Soviet countries:
International Day of Peace

ARAB STATES AND MIDDLE EAST



Arab and Middle Eastern States:
International Day of Peace

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



Latin America:
International Day of Peace

AFRICA



Africa:
International Day of Peace

English bulletin September 1, 2021

. AFGHANISTAN AND HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI . . .

The commercial media this month was dominated by the American withdrawal (in defeat) from Afghanistan. However, it was difficult to find anything worthy of this bulletin, since we insist that articles must “promote at least one of the 8 domains of the culture of peace”.

Eventually we found something positive: the courage of [Search for Common Ground](#) to stick with their culture of peace principles and to resist the mass exodus from Afghanistan. The organization will continue working there on the grounds that “intensive and consistent dialogue between all parties is the key to building a safe, healthy, and just society.” Similar decisions were taken by a few other aid organizations, including [Médecins Sans Frontières](#).

The defeat of the American Empire in Afghanistan has inspired renewed efforts to defend Julian Assange, who is under attack because of his courageous research and publications that predicted the defeat from the very beginning. As expressed in an [article coming from his home country of Australia](#), “The true nature of the war in Afghanistan has long ago been revealed by Assange, Wikileaks and others, counter to the propaganda justifying and promoting the war. . . . As events in Afghanistan demonstrate, never has the call for peace and justice for all peoples been more urgent. And given Julian Assange’s situation, never has the call for his release been more urgent.”

Meanwhile, **as usual**, the most important events for human history are ignored by the commercial media. The greatest threat to humanity is nuclear weapons, and the media mostly ignored the calls coming from Hiroshima and Nagasaki and peace activists around the world to ensure that they will never be used again.

The **mayor of Hiroshima**, Kazumi Matsui, writes, “At this Peace Memorial Ceremony marking 76 years since the bombing, we offer heartfelt prayers for the peaceful repose of the souls of the atomic bomb victims. Together with Nagasaki and likeminded people around the world, we pledge to do everything in our power to abolish nuclear weapons and light the way toward lasting world peace.”

The **mayor of Nagasaki**, Tomihisa Taue, writes, “While extending our deepest condolences to those who lost their lives to the atomic bombs, I hereby declare that Nagasaki will work tirelessly alongside Hiroshima and all people who desire peace to spread a “culture of peace” around the world and bring about the abolishment of nuclear weapons and the realization of eternal peace.”

The **United Nations Secretary-General**, Antonio Guterres, says he continues to be humbled by the “selfless acts of the hibakusha, the name given to those who survived and continue to bear witness. Your courage in the face of immense human tragedy, is a beacon of hope for humanity. I reaffirm the full support of the United Nations to ensuring that your voices are heard by the world’s people, and especially by younger generations.”

And the **United National Antiwar Coalition** (USA) writes, “Many people now believe that the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was not to end WWII, which was in its final days but to start the

Cold War and show the Soviet Union and the world what the US could do if any country dared to oppose it. . . . the United National Antiwar Coalition sees the main danger of nuclear war coming from the United States and believes that we in the US have a special obligation to the world to oppose that danger.”

CPNN readers were invited this month to take part in [three virtual conversations about Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#) .

On August 6, a webinar on abolishing nuclear weapons was held by UNITAR, in collaboration with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, Hiroshima Prefecture and the Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace.

Also on August 6, peace activists associated with the United Nations in New York, including the NGO’s Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons and Charter for Compassion held a webinar asking “Hiroshima Day: Have we done enough?”

And on August 5, antinuclear groups in Brisbane, Australia, commemorated the anniversary of the bombings with a webinar celebrating the work that the community has done over time in opposition to nuclear weapons. One of the speakers was the renowned Dr. Helen Caldicott.

We at CPNN join in the global chorus demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons before nuclear weapons destroy our planet.

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Afghanistan and Julian Assange

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Benin: Traditional kings and religious leaders pray for peace in Parakou

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Climate change widespread, rapid, and intensifying – IPCC

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Declaration for the Transition to a Culture of Peace in the XXI Century

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



United Nations: Strengthening women's meaningful participation in peace processes

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



The City of Hiroshima: PEACE DECLARATION

HUMAN RIGHTS



58 Years After Historic Rally, Thousands March on Washington for Voting Rights, DC Statehood

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Childrens Message for Peace

English bulletin August 1, 2021

PROGRESS IN AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

This month sees continued advances on the themes presented in the last few bulletins: the leadership of women and youth for a culture of peace in **Africa**; and the struggle against Israeli apartheid in the **Middle East**.

The Luanda Biennale, to be held October 4-8, will continue the development of networks promoting the “creation of a continental and sustainable movement for peace.” These include the Pan-African Youth Network for the Culture of Peace and the Pan-African Women’s Network for the Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development.

The **Kinshasa Declaration**, launched at the **Generation Equality Forum** [Paris, July 2], outlines concrete actions for African Union member countries to advance gender equality in Africa by 2030. The Declaration was drafted during the Conference on Gender Equality held in Kinshasa on June 10, and is the result of a large mobilization of pan-African groups including youth, civil society, researchers, government officials, activists and international organizations.

The African Union has announced that they have finished the call for nominations of African women who have exceptionally advanced the women, peace and security agenda in Africa. The selected women will be featured in an upcoming **commemorative**

book featuring twenty African women. A chapter will be dedicated to each woman to share her story or contribution to either of the four pillars of UN Resolution 1325 namely; prevention, protection, participation and/or relief and recovery as part of the peace and security activities.

The African Union Special Envoy for Women Peace and Security, Mme Binetta Diop, has shared the findings of the UN-AU high level **Solidarity Mission** to the Republic of Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In both countries, the delegation met grass root women leaders, and the Chibok Girls, who have been rescued from Boko Haram. There are big camps for IDPs (displaced persons) including the Dalori camp in Nigeria, and the Mugunga IDP camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We held a focus group discussion with women IDPs to further gain understanding and learn from their experiences.

In Nigeria, The **First Ladies** of Osun and Kaduna States have been elected chairpersons of the Southern Governors' Wives Forum and Northern Governors' Wives Forum respectively. The forums ensure increased participation of women in governance, the construction of a culture of peace in communities across the country and access to education for girls.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, delegations of women from several African countries have been participating in a training workshop in peace education and socioeconomic empowerment. "Women cannot remain on the sidelines of our priorities. For this, we need to take into account the issue of gender and education for a culture of peace as a new and promising theme allowing everyone to truly play the role of mediators, educators, actors. of peace and

reconcilers,” underlined Dr Diénéba Doumbia, the director of the Regional Center for Education and the Culture of Peace that provided the training.

At the **WANEP-GUINEA** school, a training workshop was held with about 50 women “in order to allow the communities of Conakry and those of Upper Guinea to develop the culture of peace.” The training enables a sharing of experiences between women with strong experience in their professional career and young women at the start of their careers.

In Uganda, 15 **Rotary Peace Fellows** gathered at Makerere University for the inaugural session of Rotary International’s new peace center. Among them, the peace center’s first cohort represented 11 countries and spoke, in addition to English, a dozen African languages, including Luganda, Swahili, and Zulu. “Coming from diverse backgrounds, and yet with a shared desire for peace in Africa, they are the epitome of unity in diversity,” said Anne Nkutu, the host area coordinator for the Makerere University peace center.

Finally, in a remarkable contribution to the struggle against Israeli apartheid, **two former ambassadors from Israel** to South Africa have written that “It is time for the world to recognize that what we saw in South Africa decades ago is happening in the occupied Palestinian territories too. And just as the world joined the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, it is time for the world to take decisive diplomatic action in our case as well and work towards building a future of equality, dignity, and security for Palestinians and Israelis alike.”

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Culture of Peace and the Luanda Biennale

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Different religions come together to pray for peace in Peru

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



WWF report: The custodians of nature crucial to any and every effort to protect our planet

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Mayors for Peace Adopts New Vision and Action Plan

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



African women propose a 10-year plan for gender equality in Africa at the Generation Equality Forum in Paris

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Barcelona will host the Second International Peace Congress from October 15-17, 2021

HUMAN RIGHTS



It's Apartheid, Say Israeli Ambassadors to South Africa

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Argentina: Teachers lead national strategy for Comprehensive Environmental Education

English bulletin July 1, 2021

AFRICAN WOMEN, YOUTH LEAD THE WAY

As UNESCO helps prepare the Biennale Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace that will take place in October in Luanda, **the UNESCO Directrice-General Audrey Azoulay**, has emphasized the participation of women, especially in the session on “Women’s Networks for Peace in Africa”. She explains that “Around the “Pan-African Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation” (FemWise-Africa) created in 2017, it is important that the various networks of women for peace that exist in Africa can exert more influence, unite and enhance their complementarities. It is only through collective action that we can effectively contribute to building and consolidating peace on a daily basis.”

The Biennale is also placing a priority on African youth. It is being organized as an **intergenerational dialogue**. 150 young people (from all AU countries and the Diaspora) will be invited to take part in this Dialogue. These young people will be selected from among members of National Youth Councils, National Coordinating Bodies of the Pan-African Youth Network for a Culture of Peace (PAYNCOP) and other youth leaders and organizations, through a call for applications. They will discuss with Heads of State and Government, Ministers in charge of Youth / Culture, Commissioners of the AU and Regional Economic Communities in charge of Youth, representatives of the United Nations, international organizations and technical and financial partners invited to the Biennale.

Among the many networks of women for peace in Africa, several have featured in recent CPNN articles.

The **Nala Feminist Collective (Nalafem)**; a Pan African group of 17 young feminists with a mission to foster and mobilize young women from Africa and the diaspora, advocate for Africa Young Women B+25 Manifesto; a groundbreaking political document that sets out ten critical issues of concern for young African women. The manifesto calls on world leaders to scale up action for progressive gender inclusion and will be presented at the upcoming Generation Equality Forum in Paris.

In Mali, the **national restitution conference** “Palabre trees of Timbuktu and Gao” engaged more than a hundred women from the north, some of whom are on their first trip to the capital. The initiative lays the groundwork for a return to lasting peace and cohesion with a dual objective:

- to restore and make available to all participants the diagnosis of the Mali situation by women in the regions;
- and to give a voice to the representatives of women from the municipalities for the implementation of structuring projects for local community development.

In Kenya, The inaugural season of **Think African** is inspired by Nobel Prize Winner Wangari Maathai’s political philosophy, which she likened to a traditional African stool, comprising a seat and three legs. First leg: Inclusive Democracy. Second leg: Sustainability. Third leg: ” a culture of peace”; fairness, respect, compassion, forgiveness, recompense and justice. The first episode features Kenyan climate change activist Elizabeth Wathuti. She is the founder of the Green Generation Initiative, which nurtures young people to be environmentally conscious

from a young age and has planted 30,000 tree seedlings in Kenya.

In Senegal, the members of the **Platform of Women for Peace in Casamance (PFPC)** have called for serenity and social stability in the country. “Our nation is characterized by a multiethnicity which, instead of being a source of division, is a richness and a pledge of a symbiosis, a harmony, a mutual respect. The joking cousin is the real social cement that unites the Serer to Pulaar, Diatta Ndiaye to Diop, the game of fraternal alliances which banishes any hostility between Diola and Serer.”

African youth networks for peace have also been featured recently.

In Gabon, **The Pan-African Youth Network for the Culture of Peace**, Gabon section (PAYNCoP Gabon) has recently launched, in Libreville, a project to promote the culture of peace and fight against violence in schools. The initiative will sensitize key actors (supervisory staff, students, parents of students) on the effects of violence in schools, train them on the culture of peace and peaceful conflict resolution. In order to engage students in the continued promotion of the culture of peace within the school, the project also plans to create a club of young peacemakers within the school.

In Chad, an **interactive conference** was held on “The involvement of young people in the preservation of culture of peace”. The objective was to make young students understand the essential role of peace and the culture of peace. Following ideas expressed by students regarding peace, the speakers emphasized that peace is the acceptance of others, peace being the foundation or the basis of life in society. The president of the organizing

committee, Wardougou Moussa Abdelkader, on behalf of the students of HEC-TCHAD, thanked the United Nations association of Chad, for the initiative, and pleaded for the sustainability of this theme.

In Cameroon, UNESCO is supporting five exemplary leaders of **youth-led organizations** engaged in early warning and response Mechanisms for peacebuilding. These young leaders include-Christian Achaleke of Local Youth Corner (LOYOC), Loic Atangana Nkulu of the Pan-African Network for a Culture of Peace (PAYNCOP), Brice Nisebang of the Cameroon National Youth Council (NYC), Paul Bernard Noah of “G-54 Afrique Avenir” and Gladys Tchegoue of Dynamique Mondiale des Jeunes (DMJ). Other youth leaders equally participated in this initiative such as Desmond Ngala of Rog Agency for Open Culture, Stephane Mebonde of Accord Parfait and Ramatu Abdou of the Association for the Welfare of Women and Indigenous Persons (ASOWWIP).

In her interview, **Directrice-General Audrey Azoulay** concludes that “Africa is the continent of today. The African continent is rich in knowledge and opportunities, it is the youngest continent in the world and UNESCO is committed to ensuring that this youth has the skills, education, creativity, all the capital. human potential to build a better future.”

And in supporting the Luanda Biennale, **the African Union** says, “The strategic objective of the event is to promote a peaceful and prosperous Africa through the defense and encouragement of actions that prevent conflicts in the management of national and cross-border natural resources on the African continent, as well as to educate a generation of young Africans as agents of peace, stability and development.”

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Gabon: Youth for the Culture of Peace

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Past virtual events in June

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Netherlands: Court orders Shell to cut carbon emissions 45% by 2030

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Mexico City prepares third culture of peace meeting

In addition to articles, we list virtual events for the culture of peace: Click [here for upcoming events](#). Last month we registered **26 virtual events**.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



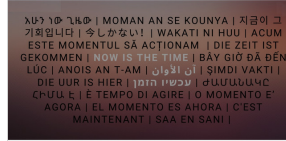
Mali National Restitution Conference: Women propose possible solutions

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



US-Russia Summit advances key points in international Open Letter

HUMAN RIGHTS



#NowIsTheTime – A global call to President Biden

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Building peace, from the bottom up: A Q&A with Séverine Autesserre

English bulletin June 1, 2021

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE .

As they suffered attacks from Israel which, according to [the United Nations experts](#) and [Amnesty International](#), may end up being condemned as crimes of war, there was a global movement of solidarity with the people of Palestine.

It was as if the Israeli government and military wanted to prove the allegations, as described in [last month's CPNN bulletin](#), that they are imitating the apartheid policies of South Africa half a century ago.

The Israeli attacks began against Palestinians who protested forced evictions of their countrymen living in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem. [Amnesty International](#) condemned the evictions and what they called “repeated, unwarranted and excessive force against Palestinian protesters in occupied East Jerusalem.” After that the Israeli attacks were broadened into a war against Gaza, where, [according to the UN](#), “222 people, including 63 children, were killed . . . More than 450 buildings in the Gaza Strip were completely destroyed or damaged by missiles, the statement continued. Among them were six hospitals, nine healthcare centres and a water desalination plant, supplying around 250,000 Palestinians with clean drinking water, as well as a tower which housed media outlets including the Al Jazeera network, and Associated Press (AP).” The war was almost completely one-sided, as the UN said that only “12 people died in Israel as a result of the fighting.”

The **list of solidarity events** with the people of Palestine was global in scope, including events listed from almost all of the 50 states of the USA and 27 cities of the UK. Also in Europe: Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canary Islands, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, Also in the Americas: Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala. In Asia/Pacific there were events in Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand and Pakistan, while in Africa: Morocco and South Africa.

Photos showed **huge mobilizations** in London, New York City, Washington, D.C., Beirut and Pakistan.

In addition to the international solidarity movement, there were mobilizations for peace in Palestine and Israel.

According to our source **in Palestine**, “Today [May 18] will go down in history as one of the most powerful days of Palestinian non-violence resistance against the Israeli aggressions. Palestinians across the occupied West Bank, Gaza, and inside Israel took part in “GENERAL STRIKE” to protest against the Israeli occupation, aggressions in Jerusalem, and the bombardment in Gaza!!”

In Israel, thousands of Jews and Arabs rallied in Tel-Aviv in a mass march and rally for peace and coexistence, organized by the movements “Standing Together” and “Breaking the Silence”.

The solidarity movements made use of social media, despite attempts by facebook to censor them, according to a **letter to facebook** signed by many well-established progressive movements in the United States. They wrote that “Facebook





executives’ decision at this moment to directly collaborate with Israeli Defense and Justice Minister Gantz on content moderation, without appropriate parity of government engagement until prompted by civil society, is beyond outrageous. . . . Facebook must take . . . urgent and crucial steps to repair this mistrust with our communities and ensure that we can count on Facebook and Instagram as free civic spaces and tools for holding governments accountable:”

In response to the question as to what people can do to support the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality, the BDS movement has listed **five kinds of actions**, including the kinds of international moral, economic and political pressure that contributed to the end of South African Apartheid.

Can we imagine that freedom, justice and equality will eventually be achieved as was the case in South Africa? The answer is “Yes,” according to **this month’s blog for the culture of peace**.

<p>TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY</p>  <p>People Around the World Stand Up in Solidarity With Palestine</p>	<p>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</p>  <p>Nonviolent Response to the Crisis in Colombia</p>	<p>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p>  <p>France: March for the Climate: Thousands Demonstrate in Paris</p>	<p>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</p>  <p>Haiti: CNDDR workshop finalizes its national disarmament strategy</p>
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In addition to articles, we list virtual events for the culture of peace: Click [here for upcoming events](#). Last month we registered **13 virtual events**.

<p>WOMEN'S EQUALITY</p>  <p>Think African Podcast Episode 1: Planting Seeds</p>	<p>DISARMAMENT & SECURITY</p>  <p>Australia : Brisbane Weapons Expo Protest Planned</p>	<p>HUMAN RIGHTS</p>  <p>Amnesty International : End brutal repression of Palestinians protesting forced displacement in occupied East Jerusalem</p>	<p>EDUCATION FOR PEACE</p>  <p>Mexico: Quintana Roo celebrated a unique virtual hip hop festival in Maya language</p>
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English bulletin May 1, 2021

. *OVERCOMING ISRAELI APARTHEID* . .

Believing that a solution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine is the key to peace in the Middle East, **CPNN has carried many articles on this subject**. Increasingly it is recognized that the situation resembles the **apartheid** of South Africa.

The overcoming of apartheid was accomplished by a combination of struggle within South Africa and international pressure through boycotts, divestment and sanctions. In this regard, a number of important developments have occurred since the beginning of this year.

SANCTIONS

A report released by **Human Rights Watch** : Abusive Israeli Policies Constitute Crimes of Apartheid, Persecution Human Rights Watch on April 27 states that the Israeli oppression of Palestinians has reached a “threshold and a permanence that meets the definitions of the crimes of apartheid and persecution.” According to HRW director Kenneth Roth, “Those who strive for Israeli-Palestinian peace, whether a one or two-state solution or a confederation, should in the meantime recognize this reality for what it is and bring to bear the sorts of human rights tools needed to end it.”

The HRW report confirms previous reports, such as that of January 12 by the Israeli human rights group, **B'Tselem** labelling Israel as an “apartheid state.” According to Richard Falk, who served from 2008-2014 as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, B'Tselem is Israel's most respected human rights organization. He states that the report “confirms earlier UN reports and allegations that the Palestinians are victimized by an apartheid regime that seeks to impose policies and practices that ensure the supremacy of Jews by victimizing the Palestinian people.”

Perhaps the most important development is the decision of the **International Criminal Court** on February 5, 2021. By a 2-1 vote the Chamber's decision affirmed the authority of Fatou Bensouda, the ICC Prosecutor, to proceed with an investigation of Israeli war crimes committed in Palestine since 2014. Richard Falk considers that ICC decision may turn out to be **a turning point** in the struggle against Israeli apartheid, not unlike the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in South Africa.

According to **Michael Lynk**, the present United Nations Special Rapporteur for the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, the ICC decision “offers profound hope to those who believe that consequences, not condonation, must be the answer to the commission of grave crimes . . . Ending impunity and pursuing justice can only bring us closer to peace in the Middle East.”

BOYCOTTS AND DIVESTMENT

Boycotts and divestment continues to develop around the world, especially from religious and academic institutions, as reviewed in the [website of the BDS movement](#).

STRUGGLE WITHIN PALESTINE

Pressure continues to grow for elections in Palestine in order to arrive at a unified struggle against apartheid, since elections previously scheduled for May have been postponed. Palestinian activist [Mazin Qumsiyeh](#) reports on key points towards a electoral program for the needed social change, as agreed to in recent discussions with Palestinian activists. These include, among other points:

- Support for human rights including a) the right of return for refugees to their homes and lands and to be compensated for their suffering, b) the full equality to women (in all aspects of social, educational and economic rights, c) the right to education to all, d) the right to due process of law, e) the right to clean and healthy environment, d) right to food/sustenance and shelter;
- Complete freedom of expression through all communication media;
- Mechanisms created to weed out corruption, nepotism and other unethical behaviors in all levels of society;





STRUGGLE WITHIN ISRAEL

Israel has not seen mass demonstrations for justice for Palestine since 2017 when some 15,000 Israelis attended a [Tel Aviv rally](#) to demand progress for a two-state solution to the conflict.

However, there continues to be a movement among young Israelis to refuse to serve in the armed forces. In January of this year **sixty Israeli teenagers** published an open letter addressed to top Israeli officials declaring their refusal to serve in the army in protest of its policies of occupation and apartheid.

WHEN WILL IT END, AND HOW?

Quoting **Richard Falk**, “the African majority waited more than 30 years for their emancipation from apartheid. The Palestinian people have already endured the hardships and humiliations of racist subjugation and Jewish supremacy for more than 70 years. When will it end, and how?”

<p>HUMAN RIGHTS</p>  <p>APARTHEID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An intent to maintain the domination by one racial group over another • Systematic oppression by one racial group over another • and one or more inhumane acts as part of that oppression <p>Human Rights Watch : Abusive Israeli Policies Constitute Crimes of Apartheid, Persecution</p>	<p>FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION</p>  <p>SECURING DEMOCRACY</p> <p>My Fight for Press Freedom and Justice in Bolsonaro's Brazil</p> <p>Glen Greenwald : My New Book on Journalism, Exposing Corruption, and the Resulting Risks, Dangers and Societal Changes</p>	<p>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p>  <p>Biden’s Climate Summit Falls Short : Lofty Words But Where is the Plan?</p>	<p>DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION</p>  <p>CALL FOR INCLUSIVE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE</p> <p>We the Peoples : Call for Inclusive Global Governance</p>
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In addition to articles, we list virtual events for the culture of peace: Click [here for upcoming events](#). Last month we registered **19 virtual events**.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



Generation
Equality Forum:
Mexico City, 29-31
March 2021

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Latin American
Congress of
Research for
Peace will be held
virtually in August

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Richard Falk: A
Palestinian
Balance Sheet:
Normative
Victories,
Geopolitical
Disappointments

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Brazil: Compaz
invites schools to
the 19th edition of
the book Londrina
Pazeando

English bulletin April 1, 2021

. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY . .

This year's celebration of the International Women's Day was especially strong in Latin America with millions marching in **Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay**.

In Mexico, it was the biggest March 8 protest in the country's history. On March 9, many women walked off the job for "A Day Without a Woman." The primary motor for the protest was the indignation with femicides, which are all too common in Mexico. In 2019 alone, about 10 women were killed every day and thousands more have gone missing.

In Argentina, where marchers demanded abortion rights, a new law to legalize abortion is in process.

Marking International Women's Day across **Europe and Asia**, women shouted their demands for equality, respect and empowerment, with protesters in Spain launching a 24-hour strike and crowds of demonstrators filling the streets of Manila, Seoul and New Delhi.

In **Australia**, tens of thousands of women gathered outside the parliament and across the country calling for gender equality and justice for victims of sexual assault. The rallies were spurred by a recent wave of allegations of sexual abuse, discrimination and misconduct in some of Australia's highest political offices.

The **United Nations theme** this year was “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world,” to celebrate the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to highlight the gaps that remain. **UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** said “During the pandemic, we have seen increased violence against women and girls and lost learning for girls as school drop-out rates, care responsibilities and child marriages rise. We are seeing tens of millions more women plunge into extreme poverty,”

Mlambo-Ngcuka added, “There are breakthroughs to celebrate, where women have taken the helm of organizations such as the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank and we look forward to more such appointments that help to change the picture of what a leader looks like. Yet this is not the norm. In 2020, as a global average, women were 4.4 per cent of CEOs, occupied just 16.9 per cent of board seats, made up only 25 per cent of national parliamentarians, and just 13 per cent of peace negotiators. Only 22 countries currently have a woman as Head of State or Government.”

Women continue to take the lead in the struggle for peace and justice around the world.

In **Belarus**, women are at the forefront of the human rights struggle.

In **Syria**, women are seen as key to the struggle against violent extremism.

In **Palestine**, their leadership can be traced since the the first Arab Women's Congress of Palestine in 1929.

The project "Weaving Alliances for Gender Equality" prepared by the Coordinator of NGOs in Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, highlights examples of women's leadership for peace and justice in **Guatemala, Haiti, Colombia, Bolivia and the Mahgreb**.

In Africa, **Adja Kadije** is highlighted for her work as a peace mediator in the Central African Republic and **Quitéria Guirengane** for her work as an organizer of women. She is based in Mozambique but her work extends to all of Africa.

Participants from 45 African countries took part in the formulation of the **Africa Young Women's Manifesto**, marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The manifesto is reprinted by CPNN with its extensive demands for Generation Equality Forums.

Although the marches and demonstrations remain vital for the movement, there is also an increasing role for virtual meetings. The Africa Young Women's Manifesto was formulated in a series of virtual meetings in five regions on the continent that were followed by CPNN. To celebrate March 8, CPNN readers could take part in **virtual meetings** held by the Pan American Health Organization, the International Labor Organization, UNFOLD ZERO, Youth Fusion and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament. And in the weeks that followed there were four more **virtual meetings** for the 65th Commission on the Status of Women and six others about women's equality and leadership.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY

International Women's Day 2021



International
Women's Day
2021

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Financial Press
Fears Brazilians
Will Be Allowed to
Elect President of
Their Choice

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



In Central Africa,
Villages Join an
Experiment To
Save the World's
Second-Largest
Rainforest

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



The Rotary Club
of Pétion-Ville :
promoting the
culture of peace in
Haiti

In addition to articles, we list virtual events for the culture of peace: Click [here for upcoming events](#). Last month we registered **35 virtual events**.

HUMAN RIGHTS



Belarus: Women at the forefront of human rights struggle

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Civil society in northeast Syria promotes women's role to fight extremism

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Danny Glover on Amazon Union Drive in USA, the Power of Organized Labor & Centuries of Resistance in Haiti

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Mexico: Second Edition of the International Festival of Cinema for the Culture of Peace

English bulletin March 1, 2021

AFRICAN UNION AND CULTURE OF PEACE

The African Union (AU) increasingly promotes a culture of peace on the continent.

As described in **a new book by Kathryn Nash**, the African Union has developed, since its beginning at the turn of the century, a conflict management policy that was not available to its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity. Currently, the AU deploys monitors, authorizes peace support operations, and actively engages to resolve internal conflicts.

The 34th Session of the African Union Summit ended on 7 February 2021 with the new Chair, President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), outlining **an ambitious agenda**, including combating climate change, expediting regional integration, investing in human capital, promoting Africa's culture, empowering women and youth, and accelerating the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

One of the priorities mentioned by President Tshisekedi is the "Silencing the Guns" campaign, which has been extended to 2030, and now consists of a roadmap and practical steps to achieve its objectives. There will be a two-year periodic review of implementation.

As part of Youth Silencing the Guns Campaign, the Office of the Youth Envoy (OYE) in collaboration with partners has recently provided grants to **four youth projects**:

- Silencing the Climate Crisis Award to project Ibn El Bitar (Algeria)
- Silencing Gender-Based Violence Award to #ShutItAllDown movement (Namibia)
- Silencing Corruption Award to Citizens Gavel Foundation for Social Justice (Nigeria)
- Silencing Youth Unemployment Award to Garden of Hope Foundation (Kenya)

Another recent initiative of the AU Office of the Youth Envoy has been the virtual meetings of women activists in the five regions of Africa, which resulted in a **Africa Young Women's Manifesto**. The Manifesto is a comprehensive document addressing all aspects of the culture of peace.

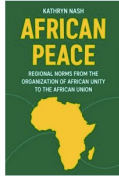
The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), mentioned as a priority for the AU, began operation on January 1, 2021. This may become an important contribution to the culture of peace on the continent as it may transform conflicts across the continent by reducing the incentives for participating in conflicts, via the creation of jobs. AfCFTA has the potential to promote women's equality in Africa as stated in **remarks to the AU Summit by outgoing President Cyril Ramaphosa**. He stated that state parties would report annually on progress made in strengthening women's participation in continental trade matters. "This includes tailor made financial products for women with reliable means to save, access, transfer and borrow money." He called for a "women-led Peace Forum to be attended by Heads of State and Government and to implement decisions of the Peace and

Security Council to institutionalise the office of the special envoy on women, peace and security.”

In his remarks to the AU summit, incoming President **Felix Tshisekedi also confirmed** the AU participation in the 2nd Biennale of Luanda on the Culture of Peace to be held in Angola in September, 2021 (see the **many articles on this in CPNN**). The **strategic objective of the Biennale** is to promote a peaceful and prosperous Africa through the defense and encouragement of actions that prevent conflicts in the management of national and cross-border natural resources on the African continent, as well as to educate a generation of young Africans as agents of peace, stability and development. The theme of the event this year will be: “Art, Culture and Heritage: Levers to build the Africa we want”.

In her **analysis of the African Union**, Kathryn Nash Nash argues that the development of its conflict management policy largely happened within the African context, and international pressure was not a determinant factor in its evolution. If the AU continues its independent development, it has a chance to escape from the culture of war that was imposed by the old colonial powers and that is maintained by the economic exploitation of Africa by the empires of Europe, United States and China. The development of the new continental free trade zone can help protect this independence and enable an Africa in peace.

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Book review:
African peace:
Regional norms
from the
Organization of
African Unity to
the African Union

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Central Africa:
Ambassador Sita
José Analyzes
Luanda Biennial
With ECCAS
Commissioner

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



New UNEP
synthesis provides
blueprint to
urgently solve
planetary
emergencies and
secure humanity's
future

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Colombia: Cultural
spaces for the
construction of
peace

In addition to articles, we list virtual events for the culture of peace: Click [here for upcoming events](#). Last month we registered **23 virtual events**.

HUMAN RIGHTS



New ICC ruling 'opens the door' for justice in occupied Palestine – Independent UN expert

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



'Women and girls belong in science' declares UN chief

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



G5 Sahel: Heads of State announce Prize for the promotion of the culture of peace

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Brazil: Culture of Peace in schools will be the subject of a webinar on February 18th

English bulletin February 1, 2021

TREATY ON PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The **Red Cross**: “For more than 75 years, almost half of the ICRC’s 158 years of existence, we have been advocating for the elimination of nuclear weapons for one simple reason: We do not believe they can be used without inflicting significant death and suffering among civilians. That is why January 22, 2021, is such a momentous day for us. It is the day the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) comes into force. This day is nothing short of a victory for humanity.”

This month, many others joined with the Red Cross in celebrating the Treaty.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres commended the States that have ratified the Treaty and welcomed the “instrumental role of civil society in advancing the TPNW’s negotiation and entry into force Nuclear weapons pose growing dangers and the world needs urgent action to ensure their elimination and prevent the catastrophic human and environmental consequences any use would cause The elimination of nuclear weapons remains the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations.”

The **Foreign Minister of the Vatican**, speaking on behalf of the Pope, welcomed the Treaty as a step toward a “nuclear weapons-free world,” saying that nuclear deterrence gives a “false sense of security,”

Members of the [World Future Council and Right Livelihood Laureates](#) issued a joint statement celebrating the Entry-into-force of the Treaty and listing further steps that are needed towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

On January 13, the organization [Ploughshares Calgary \(Canada\)](#) held a webinar explaining the treaty featuring Earl Turcotte, the Chairperson of the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

On January 21, a [Global Health Webinar](#) was held by health professionals to mark the Treaty, co-sponsored by the International Council of Nurses, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Medical Students' Association, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, World Federation of Public Health Association, and World Medical Association.

On January 22, the [International Peace Bureau](#) held a celebration for the Treaty, calling on members of the IPB family, our friends and all peace lovers to celebrate this historical step, and deliver this great news with noise and fun in your countries all across the globe, as the road to a world free of nuclear weapons is now wide open!

On January 25, a [webinar](#) was held with discussion by experts and activists on the political openings for global nuclear disarmament and the vital roles being played by the United Nations and civil society. It was sponsored by the Basel Peace Office, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Right Livelihood Foundation, UNFOLD ZERO, World Future Council and Youth Fusion.

In France, demonstrators gathered near the French National Assembly and in front of the embassies of the 4 other nuclear-weapon States and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (Russia, USA, Great Britain, China) to celebrate the Treaty and demand their adherence.

As the Red Cross concludes, “But it is only the beginning of the world’s journey to eliminate nuclear weapons. The end comes when those 13,000 nuclear weapons no longer exist.”

Many of the organizations above make demands of the nuclear states to begin the process of nuclear disarmament. And people are invited to sign appeals to these governments such as the [Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#).

But there is no indication that the nuclear powers are listening., We must do more than that, as argued in the blog, [APPEALS ARE NOT ENOUGH](#).

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Red Cross:
Nuclear Weapons
Are Finally
Outlawed, Next
Step Is
Disarmament

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



World Social
Forum 2021

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Irate farmers
storm Delhi on
tractors as tear
gas deployed and
internet cut off in
scramble to
defend Indian
capital

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Who to Believe
about Venezuela's
Election: Firsthand
observation
or PBS
Newshour?

In addition to articles, we list virtual events for the culture of peace: Click [here for upcoming events](#). Last month we registered **23 virtual events**.

HUMAN RIGHTS



Israel to ban
human rights
groups from
school visits

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



In Malawi, Chief
Theresa
Kachindamoto
Fights against
Child Marriage

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



Pan-African Youth
Network for the
Culture of Peace

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



Spain: Movimiento
por la Paz
produces
educational
material for
secondary schools
on the culture of
peace

English bulletin January 1, 2021

. CULTURE OF PEACE IN MEXICO .

Six years ago we carried in CPNN **an article about Mexico by the great peace researcher Johan Galtung**. He said, among other things, “At the national level an overarching program to prevent violence has been designed and enacted . . . grounded in a legitimate peace philosophy –one in which peace is constructed through the satisfaction of basic human needs- and is well equipped in scope and with enough budget and personnel to achieve transcending results by construction of peace infrastructures (i.e. mediation centers, academic degrees in peace for civil servants, etc.) and the buildup of a mediation-dialogue-conciliation culture. . . ”

Recent articles in CPNN show that the peace programs described by Galtung are continuing to develop.

Many initiatives are underway in the educational systems of Mexico.

At a national level, the **Ministry of Education** is training teachers, students and parents in violence prevention and school mediation. Recently the Council for School Coexistence (Convive) convened a virtual seminar with teachers to discuss Gender Equality, Human Rights, School Coexistence and Peaceful Conflict Management

In **Baja California**, more than 1,500 preschool, primary and secondary school teachers participated via zoom in the seminar called: “Socio-emotional education, child and adolescent participation and the culture of peace in Mexican schools”, convened by the Ministry of Public Education,

In **San Luis Potosi**, Training workshops and conferences for the elimination of violence against women., both face-to-face and digital, were carried out for 16 consecutive days for all personnel in the educational system.

At the **Maguen David Hebrew School** in Mexico City, high school students took part in a workshop on the natural relationship between the concept of Peace and Education and the importance of their own commitment to take actions in order to build peace. They collaborated in small groups to analyze thoughts and phrases of Martin Buber, Hanna Arendt, Paulo Freire and María Montessori,

At the level of higher education, the Benito Juárez Autonomous University of **Oaxaca** and the Honorable Congress of the State, have ratified a framework collaboration agreement to strengthen the Culture of Peace. And the University Family Development Center of the University of Colima, through the University Program for Culture for Peace, held the virtual forum “University Students Fostering a Culture of Peace”.

Other recent initiatives in Mexico include a General Directorate of Culture of Peace and Human Rights, an international congress on culture of peace by women, a festival of culture of peace, activation of networks of women peace builders, an initiative called “100 actions for peace” and the use of the principles of the culture of peace to prevent violence and care for its victims.

The Government of **Veracruz** has established the General Directorate of Culture of Peace and Human Rights in order to contribute to institutional strengthening through the design, implementation, conduct, strengthening and consolidation of public policies on culture and education for peace.

In **Sinaloa**, the III International Congress “Culture of peace by women: various worldviews; women and men for positive masculinities” involved prominent specialists in these issues.

A fifth edition of its Culture of Peace festival was announced to take place on December 20 in **Valle Dorado**, to support neighborhood youth, “as it is one of the neighborhoods with a high rate of violence” in Mexico City. Culture of Peace workshop were planned, focused on children, and the festival was to conclude with a concert of the Imperio de la Cumbia musical group.

217 members of the **Networks of Women Peace Builders** took part in a meeting convened by the Secretariat for Security and Citizen Protection in order to inform them about the progress in the fight against discrimination and gender violence.

The project “**100 actions for peace**” has been initiated on a national level by the National Council of Civil Organizations for the Culture of Peace, in coordination with the International Committee of the Banner of Peace and the Center for Studies for Peace, Security and Development. The campaign aims for individuals to promise to carry out for each of 100 days, a conscious action that promotes the construction of Peace, with your partner, your family, or in favor of your community and country.

The principles of a culture of peace are being used **to assist victims of violence and prevent its recurrence** in Mexico. To help communities of people who live on the streets and who consume psychoactive substances, students and researchers from the National School of Anthropology and History and the Metropolitan Autonomous University have formed the “Colectivo Psicocalle.” The mental health of journalists, human rights defenders and / or their relatives who have been victims of violence is being addressed by the Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists in Mexico City. And in the context of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Addictions, the National Commission against Addictions and the Chair for Peace at the Guerrero Autonomous University have held more than ten workshops and free online conferences.

The culture of peace, as a way to counteract violence and addictions, confirms Galtung’s analysis quoted at the beginning. As he himself explained: “massive structural violence can only be addressed with massive peace policies.”

EDUCATION FOR PEACE



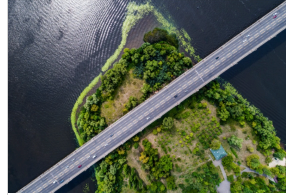
Mexico: Virtual seminar on peace building in schools

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION



Mexico: 100 Actions for Peace; Wilfrido Lázaro

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Broken societies put people and planet on collision course, says UNDP

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Costa Rica: Peace brings together parliamentarians from the world in our country

HUMAN RIGHTS



U.N. rights boss urges withdrawal of article in French draft security law

WOMEN'S EQUALITY



Female victims and ex-combatants graduated as peace activists in Antioquia, Colombia

TOLERANCE & SOLIDARITY



United Nations Alliance of Civilizations : Applications now open for the Youth Solidarity Fund

DISARMAMENT & SECURITY



Global arms industry: Sales by the top 25 companies up 8.5 per cent; Big players active in Global South

