



# Many to Many

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co-founders

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*“Many to Many” is a quarterly publication under the aegis of Peace Through Unity as a communicating link between “we, the peoples” of all nations, races, creeds and ideologies offering in the spirit of the preamble of the United Nations Charter an instrument for the furthering of better relationships based on deepening mutual understanding and the aspiration to promote unity and cooperation beyond all differences.*

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Your feedback is welcome. Please visit our website and leave your comments.

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## Editorial

These editorials, although written at an earlier time, have a timeless value and remain quite relevant.

### Who am "I" – who are 'We'?

The rapid collapse of relationships at all levels of the world community is evoking many different reactions from us all. As news media is saturating space with a continuing stream of updates and soundbites from deeply traumatic events suffered within every corner of the planet, it stands to reason that anxious and heated discussions are taking place within and throughout the human family.

Between outbursts of indignation, name-calling and finger-pointing, the attempts to outline possible solutions will often be shot down or slowly dissolve into further arguments and nit-picking around details on plans of action.

This incessant flow of words, whether loud and opinionated or soothing and reassuring, seems to have devalued their content through sheer misuse - or overuse. Added to this, we may also find ourselves becoming less sensitive to ceaseless streams of images of people running away from the burning ruins of their homes; the small boats packed to overflow with people fleeing from the mayhem of war; the intimate close-ups of a child dying of hunger in the arms of an equally malnourished parent; all of these human tragedies topped up with 'fly-over' images revealing the vanishing of forests, the butchering of wildlife, the polluted oceans and rapidly melting

polar ice – all displaying today's state of affairs of our planetary home.

It is hard, near impossible, to respond to - or take in - the sheer magnitude of this systemic condition affecting, it seems, each and every part of our planetary environment. People in power are likely to engage in personal and/or political mudslinging and weapon-rattling, while others can tend to sink into a state of passive, self-indulging, gloom and doom. But throughout the entire human family there is also a rapidly growing number of people of all ages, who are sensing the heartbeat of a new lease of life stirring within their own being; people who are eagerly nurturing this 'source of newness', this groundswell from within themselves and recognised in the eyes of others.

A strong network of interconnectedness is emerging between 'we, the peoples of all nations'; together we are, albeit cautiously and slowly, waking up to the call of our Mother who is and has been preparing the soil for new beginnings. With boundless patience and persistence She teaches us to let go of all our many unsustainable habits and attachments which are nailing us to the past.

Through the ages, humanity has searched for and, step by step, acquired answers to its many questions. Propelled by curiosity and the constant urge to overcome any recognised boundaries has led to continuous explorations of outer

spaces as well as inner spheres of relationships. With youthful zest a wealth of knowledge has been accumulated by the human species, living on this minute and precious planet we call home, journeying around the Sun in accordance with the higher order of things. The time has come for us to mature into adulthood, wake up to the inner sense of purpose and shoulder the responsibility for our actions.

With each day the rising rays of the Sun will bring us further into the Aquarian millennium in which humanity will learn to temper its own cravings with the needs of other lives which are also evolving within other planetary kingdoms. With deepening sensitivity the human being will learn to understand and *express* - and will learn also to *receive* - the kind of Love that asks nothing in return. Thus the human adolescence shall earn the right to become a trusted - trustworthy - co-worker within the greater Whole.

Let us - for the Love of God - grow up!  
Let us resolve to become who we are - *truly* are - and were always meant to be.

The rite of passage goes through  
Heart.

*Gita Brooke, March 2018.*

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*"It is time to take action against those who perceive the world simply as an immense market and the world' inhabitants as mere consumers. It is time to apply our great stock of available knowledge to meet the challenges of a raging environment."*

**(Federico Mayor, 2011)**

## Consciousness and the Culture of Peace

*"To create a new world, we must rise to a new level of consciousness. We are being called to leave behind the separative mind, and to live as conscious, loving souls, aware that we are part of One Life."~ [atreeoflight.org](http://atreeoflight.org)*

The Culture of Peace is a way of life; a harmonic wholeness created by right relations with oneself, others, the planet, and all Life. It is a movement energized by individual and group thought and based on our vision of a better world, *whose future manifestation depends on current actions.*

Many years spent serving both as a peace activist and a student of the Ageless Wisdom have enabled me to see parallels between 'The Culture of Peace', and the coming Age of Light (also known as the Era of Peace) anticipated by many. Both are heart-centric and built on love. In my mind, working for one is working for the other, and in essence, they are the same.

The significance of human consciousness, and its anticipated future evolution, can be found in a recent publication called "*Unveiling the Spiritual Path*" <http://atreeoflight.org/Unveiling> . This brief booklet can be downloaded/viewed as a PDF or as short videos by chapters. Below are some key phrases on consciousness from a few of the

chapters and links to the audio/video presentations of them.

*"Until now there has been a massive gap between the human and spiritual realms of consciousness. But the next stage in the evolution of our Earth depends on closing this gap."*

~ Chapter I  
DISSOLVING THE  
OUTER MASK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXVNIImRQUeE>

*"Until the present, scientists have considered the changing size and complexity of the human brain as the key markers of the evolution of the species. However, brain size which has been equated with intelligence, differs significantly from consciousness.*

*Consciousness is the substance of the soul, which utilizes the brain-mind to become aware of itself. The soul is an evolving organ of awareness that learns to perceive the existence of a realm of Earth's life invisible to the physical senses and unknowable to the concrete mind. The emergence of soul consciousness at this turning of the ages reflects a ripening of the seed of divine mind, the fruit of long*

*phases of evolution in the realm of dense form."*

~ Chapter II THE UNFOLDMENT OF THE HUMAN SPECIES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPKNbjG0NHw>

*"It is a law of evolution that consciousness precedes and shapes form.*

*"...[Humans] eventually became capable of hearing the inner voice of divinity, which begins as conscience – simple awareness of right and wrong."*

*"The planetary shift that has been anticipated by generations of seekers is intimately connected with a radical shift in consciousness – from the ordinary human self, the personality mired in the material world, to the soul – the spiritual being that first awakens in the heart. This being gradually recognizes itself as part of the fabric of our planetary life with a substantial role to play in furthering its evolution. In the new era on a subtler plane of our Earth, human beings will remove the mask and reveal their true identity, becoming co-creators of an entirely new world."*

~ Chapter III A RADICAL SHIFT IN CONSCIOUSNESS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BD-LHZaIJBc>

Iris Spellings, NGO Rep for PTU, UN Department of Global Communications, Civil Society Unit  
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*Creating together the culture of peace – a culture of Heart!*



## Culture Of Peace As A Vision For The Future

The [United Nations Summit for the Future](#), planned for September 2024, calls for a vision for the future. In their proposals submitted to the Summit some have proposed that it should re-commit the UN to the culture of peace.

In her proposal, [Anne Creter](#) says that “Culture of Peace is a comprehensive, UN established “blueprint” or “roadmap” of actions necessary at all levels of existence to manifest sustainable peace.” She sites in particular the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace A/RES/53/243 adopted by the General Assembly (GA) in 1999, saying that it “must be integrated into A Pact for the Future.”

In her proposal, [Myrian Castello](#) calls for “future characterized by sustainability, inclusivity, and a culture of peace.” She promotes specifically the Declaration for the transition to a culture of peace in the XXI Century.

In their proposal, the [International Alliance of Women](#) “recalls the banner in front of the NGO peace tent in Huairou during the 4th UN World Conference on Women 1995 reading “Change the Culture of War to a Culture of Peace”.

And in his proposal, [Paul Malliet](#) asks for a UN Council of Peace that could eventually make up for the impotence of the Security Council. He calls attention to the UN A/RES/52 -243. “Declaration and Programme for a culture of peace”; as an existing

initiative that requires structure to be effective.

A vision of a transition to a global culture of peace through radical reform of the United Nations is provided in the utopian novella, [I have seen the promised land](#).

The countries of the Global South plan to play a major role in the UN Summit. Concluding from [their Summit](#) that took place in January in Kampala they says (sic) that the more than 100 countries involved “hope to play an influential role in shifting the balance of the geopolitical landscape from conflict, confrontation and mistrust to diplomacy, dialogue, peace and understanding.”

Although [the outcome document](#) of the Summit of the Global South is devoted primarily to economic reform, it does make explicit reference to the culture of peace: “We reaffirm that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. We stress the importance of building a culture of peace by strengthening multilateralism based on international law...”

News of the Summit of the Global South was reported in English in at least 33 countries of the Global South, and probably many others in local languages. However, despite the participation of high-level representatives of more than 100 countries, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the UN General Assembly, the Summit received ABSOLUTELY NO mention by the major English-language news



agencies of Europe and North America! As published in French in the journal [L'Humanité](#), it was "un événement totalement passé sous silence dans les pays occidentaux."

Among other visions, youth participants in the [Luanda Biennale Pan-African Forum for the Culture of Peace](#) say that "The spirit of the Biennale of Luanda inspires a new generation of young Africans that paved the way towards a peaceful and prosperous Africa."

The culture of peace as a vision for the future is promoted in the recent book published in Norwegian by Ingeborg Breines: [The Culture of Peace – Utopia or Alternative Security Policy?](#) The author brings to the forefront a series of guiding documents, inspiring projects and publications such as the International Year for a Culture of Peace, the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, the Manifesto 2000 on a Culture of Peace, the Seville Declaration on Violence, the Statement on Women's Contribution to a Culture of peace, the Declaration on the Right to Peace and not least the Constitution of UNESCO.

[Vince Two Eagles](#) writes from the Sioux Indian Reservation of South Dakota that "In 1999, the General-Assembly adopted, by resolution 53/243, the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, which serves as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, to promote a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits

all of humanity, including future generations."

Readers are invited to sign declarations and manifestos for peace.

The most recent is the [Manifesto for Peace Media in the XXI Century](#) which includes among its demands to "Carry out a preventive, slow and contextualized journalistic work that contributes to the de-escalation of conflicts and prioritizes the prospects for peace, before, during, and after the outbreak of violence." The Manifesto is [open for signatures here](#).

A [Declaration of Peace](#), conceived and promoted by the organization [World Beyond War](#), has now been signed by people in 196 countries. It says "I understand that wars and militarism make us less safe rather than protect us, that they kill, injure and traumatize adults, children and infants, severely damage the natural environment, erode civil liberties, and drain our economies, siphoning resources from life-affirming activities. I commit to engage in and support nonviolent efforts to end all war and preparations for war and to create a sustainable and just peace." The Declaration is [open for signatures here](#).

And specific for a culture of peace, the [Declaration for the Transition to a Culture Of Peace in the XXII Century](#) describes strategies in two simultaneous routes: local and global. The local route is fundamentally pedagogical and is carried out mainly by organized civil society with the support of local governments. The global route involves the expansion of the UN General Assembly, along with

the formation of an international security council of mayors that would issue regular press releases demonstrating that the culture of peace could be achieved if the United Nations were governed by “we the peoples.” The Declaration is [open for signatures here](#).

As discussed in a [blog](#) this month, during times of radical change, a collective vision for a new social order, such as that for a culture of peace, could give shape to the future.

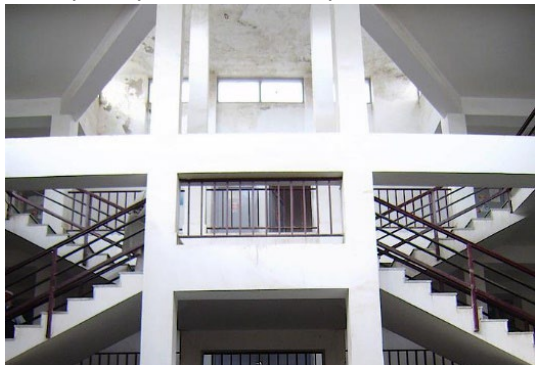
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## A Vision For The Future Whose Time Is Now

### *New-Paradigm Peacebuilding Concept of "Infrastructures for Peace"*



(photo from Berghof Foundation)

The advanced concept of “infrastructures for peace” (I4P) is relatively new in the field of peace studies as an evolutionary, multi-dimensional systems approach to peacebuilding. I4P are structures and processes aligned with the science of nonviolence, designed at all levels to facilitate nonviolent resolution of conflict that actualizes the Culture of Peace. As I4P promote, strengthen and build the Culture of Peace. *It is self-evident that the Culture of Peace requires a robust architecture to be sustainable. Yet effective, institutionalized peace structures (i.e. departments, ministries, councils etc.) known to undergird and sustain peace are still not the norm.* Milestones in the conceptual development of I4P foretell the logic of I4P’s ability to prevent and reduce violence. **Thus, in this unprecedented age of polycrisis, I4P must become normalized in order to transcend and transform from our existential culture of violence into the Culture of Peace.**

The term I4P was originally formulated in the 1980s by John Paul Lederach, a visionary who came to see through his

peace work that *preventive, comprehensive, strategic systems are needed both locally and globally for peace to occur. As I4P provide the missing platform structure necessary to enable the “capacity” for peace to take hold. Thus, the groundbreaking peacebuilding idea of I4P was planted in human consciousness.* Over the next decades, this new concept took root in an ever-growing global movement of governments and civil society organizations (CSO) coalescing around the need for I4P.

**In 1999 former United Nations (UN) Assistant Secretary-General Dr. Robert Muller proposed that the U.S. create a Ministry of Peace** as President Eisenhower did after World War II when he briefly appointed a Secretary of Peace in his cabinet. The UN and CSO’s who recognized the promise of this idea began experimenting with I4P practices which showed encouraging results in violence reduction. The **UN Development Program (UNDP)** became the international governmental authority on I4P. Among CSO’s who were interested in I4P, the **Global Alliance for Ministries & Infrastructures for Peace (GAMIP)** was formed in 2005 to lend civil society support to building I4P in all countries. Now this trailblazing concept has progressed to full maturity as an innovative antidote to violence, having recently become *enshrined in the 2023 UN New Agenda for Peace, which recommends that “national I4P must be established and strengthened!”*

The UN “Our Common Agenda” Policy Brief 9: **A NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE** Action 3 recommendation says to:

*“develop national prevention strategies to address the different drivers and enablers of violence and conflict in societies and strengthen national infrastructures for peace” including that the UN provide a “tailor made package of support and expertise” to member states in developing I4P. It is too early yet to know how the UN will address this bold recommendation. We hope the UN re-institutes its former UNDP I4P initiative (as rumor has suggested). Its ambitious offer of support for I4P creation strongly suggests the UN’s full intention of significant future I4P development.*

The upcoming **UN Summit of the Future** planned for September, 2024 calls for a “vision” for the future. *We trust I4P will be highlighted there as a galvanizing vision for the future, a new-paradigm UN reform capable of bringing a lasting Culture of Peace to the planet.* Because our precious earth is in unprecedented peril now with nations gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction of chronic turbulence, desperately in need of new ways to wage peace instead of war. These darkest of times can be the beginning of a new age of enlightenment if humanity can make the necessary consciousness shift to a new way of thinking beyond war before it is too late. **So let the future stand revealed in the building of I4P’s worldwide at all levels from local to global to manifest the Culture of Peace. For this is a vision whose time has come!**

*"Love for peace is not enough. Beyond it we need a vision of peace, a science of peace, a strategy for peace and innumerable actions for peace."*

*Dr Robert Muller (Prophet of the UN)*

Anne Creter, [annecrets@aol.com](mailto:annecrets@aol.com)

Peace Through Unity UN NGO Rep.

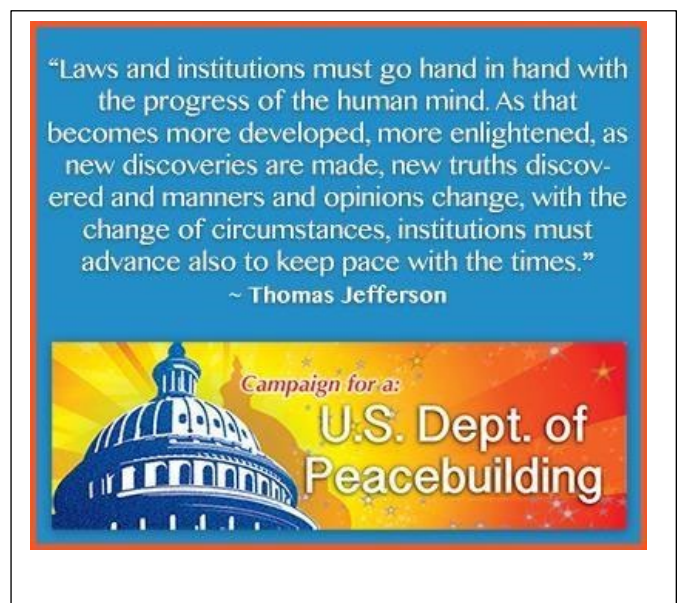
[www.peacethroughunity.org.nz](http://www.peacethroughunity.org.nz)

GAMIP UN Committee [www.gamip.org](http://www.gamip.org)

Peace Alliance Department of Peacebuilding

Campaign [www.peacealliance.org](http://www.peacealliance.org)

Westfield Friends Quaker Meeting Peace Committee



## A PACT for the Future “Culture of Peace” Recommendation

Organization Logo:



Peace Through Unity



**Organization Name:** Peace Through Unity Charitable Trust

**Organization Website:**

<https://peacethroughunity.org.nz>

**Organization Focal Point:** Anne Creter, Alternate UN NGO Representative Peace Through Unity, [annecrets@aol.com](mailto:annecrets@aol.com)

**Chapeau:**

The “actionable” evolutionary UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace A/RES/53/243 adopted by the General Assembly (GA) in 1999 must be integrated into A Pact for the Future (PACT) for greater UN innovation

and synthesis, as it can provide a missing link helping the UN fulfill its mission to “end the scourge of war.” Aligned with the science of nonviolence, **Culture of Peace is a comprehensive, UN established “blueprint” or “roadmap” of actions necessary at all levels of existence to manifest sustainable peace.** If utilized in the PACT, **Culture of Peace** could provide a new, unified global structure for the UN to connect and coordinate worldwide peace actions for greater synergy and effectiveness. War will be inevitable until a better, rational, productive system is solidly in place providing the structure and platform for conflict resolution to routinely happen.

### **Chapter II: International peace and security:**

The UN’s 75-year-old quest “to end the scourge of war” has paradoxically devolved into a worldwide culture of violence at this most dangerous inflection point in history. Thus, it is imperative that the advanced peacebuilding concept of the Culture of Peace be a focal point within this futuristic PACT, for it has received growing understanding and appreciation both at the UN and within civil society in the last 25 years. In keeping with its recently evolved history at the UN, A/RES/53/243 adds clear “actionable” guidance aligned with the relatively new field of peace studies at a time when the world is hopelessly paralyzed by the existential escalation of violence at all levels which, in becoming normalized, threatens even greater planetary peril.

Examples of civil society  
“Infrastructures for Peace” based on  
A/RES/53/243 now making a  
difference in the world are the  
Ashland Culture of Peace  
Commission in Oregon USA and  
Rotary International *showing great  
progress of peace at local city levels.*

The landmark **UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (A/RES/53/243)** was adopted by the GA on 13 September 1999 after nine months of hard negotiations skillfully led by Bangladesh Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN; Founder of the **Global Movement for the Culture of Peace**, who said: *“I believe this document is unique in more than one way. It is a universal document in the real sense, transcending boundaries, cultures, societies and nations. Unlike many other GA documents, it is action-oriented and encourages actions at all levels, be they at the level of the individual, the community, the nation or the region, or at the global and international levels.”* **It defines Culture of Peace as a set of values, attitudes, modes of behavior and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations.** Per the A/RES/53/243 mandate, the Programme of Action by its pure “action” structure speaks to the PACT’s goal of *“action-oriented”* recommendations, citing actions at all levels that are necessary to build the **Culture of Peace** within the following **Eight Areas of Action:**

- 1) Fostering a culture of peace through **education**
- 2) Promoting **sustainable economic and social development**
- 3) Promoting respect for all **human rights**
- 4) Ensuring **equality between women and men**
- 5) Fostering **democratic participation**
- 6) Advancing **understanding, tolerance and solidarity**
- 7) Supporting **participatory communication & free flow of information & knowledge**
- 8) Promoting **international peace and security**

UNESCO was charged with writing the “Declaration and Programme of Action” led by David Adams, Former Director, UNESCO Unit for International Year for Culture of Peace. It is not by accident that the term originated at UNESCO (**the United Nations Educational, Scientific and “Cultural” Organization**) at a meeting in Africa in 1989. For Culture appears in the very name of UNESCO which was established as the UN’s cultural organization. Culture here is defined in the broad anthropological sense, not in the narrow popular sense restricted to music, dance, and other arts. **UNESCO was not concerned with culture for its own sake, but culture for the sake of peace.** It made a distinction between the old concept of peace between sovereign states and a new concept of peace between peoples. UNESCO’s constitution preamble declared in 1946: *“That a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which*



could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind." As UNESCO stated: "Each of these areas of action have been priorities of the UN since its foundation; what is new is their linkage through the culture of peace and non-violence into a single coherent concept. This is the first time all these areas are interlinked so the sum of their complementarities and synergies can be developed."

A/RES/53/243 gives clear guidelines on a new mode of governance which calls on the entire UN system; all governments, and all peoples to work together to build a more free, fair, and peaceful global neighborhood through a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged, and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation. It was a watershed moment when A/RES/53/243 was passed as never before had an "action-oriented" template been created based on the science of nonviolence articulating all the peacebuilding actions needed at every level from inner to international for world peace to take shape. *A/RES/53/243 is innovative because it embodies this new peace knowledge by design*, stating all the multi-dimensional, congruous actions that need to happen for the Culture of Peace to materialize. **These preventative, multi-level actions by individuals and groups must be implemented and monitored in Member States to "end the scourge of war" - a function the UN could oversee by creating a "Culture**

**of Peace Council" equal in status to the Security Council to balance its two main purposes of peace and security through developing national "Culture of Peace" Action Plans.**

**Culture of Peace is a clarion call for individual and collective transformation, indispensable for the safety, security and development of planet earth.** Therefore, to make the PACT truly transformational, the concept of **Culture of Peace** must be integrated within it, reflective of the "new" positive view of peace. "Negative" peace is the absence of violence. Peace has traditionally been thought of simply as that. But we know now that peacebuilding is so much more. *"Positive" peace is defined as the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies*, like better economic outcomes, measures of well-being, levels of inclusiveness and environmental performance. **"Positive" peace is transformational** in that it is a cross-cutting factor for progress. **Use of the word 'Peace' connotes "negative" peace, old paradigm thinking whereas 'Culture of Peace' connotes a new-paradigm "positive" peace mindset.**

Culture of Peace has a recent rich history of evolution at the UN in the last 25+ years since A/RES/53/243 was first adopted in 1999. *We are told it takes between ten to twenty years from the time UN resolutions are passed for them to be fully understood and utilized.* Culture of Peace is no exception. The term was hardly ever used at the UN in the first ten years of its passage (the first decade of the new millennium). It took 12 years before the major breakthrough of the *first*

**High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace took place in 2012.** That big milestone was first conceived back in the year 2000 when the **International Year for the Culture of Peace** was declared, along with its **2000 Manifesto for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence** crafted by Nobel Laureates. Then from **2001 to 2010** there was the **International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World**, producing **Mid-Decade and End-of-Decade Culture of Peace Progress Reports**, including a *continuously running virtual Culture of Peace News Network bulletin of actions taken each month around the world in all eight of the Culture of Peace Areas of Action* <https://cpnn-world.org/new/>. Also, a **UN NGO Culture of Peace Working Group** which morphed into the **Global Movement for the Culture of Peace NGO Coalition**, along with **12 annual Culture of Peace High Level Forums with yearly self-standing GA Culture of Peace resolutions passed.** Now that these milestones have been achieved, it is time for A/RES/53/243 to be fully utilized by being integrated within this forward-looking PACT.

Integrating Culture of Peace wisdom into the PACT would make that document more UN synthesized and wholistically complete, better enabling full implementation of A/RES/53/243. Culture of Peace is a state-of-the-art concept in human consciousness aligned within the powerful new discipline of peace studies. A/RES/53/243 provides a currently missing overarching peacebuilding framework on how to construct true and lasting world

peace. Rendering it essential to the PACT would endow this major futuristic document genuine “new paradigm” relevance. So let Culture of Peace (already existing in the heart of humanity) become the foundation upon which our children and their children’s children can continue building the future civilization. As unleashing the knowledge of how to cultivate world peace in this way will accelerate desperately needed UN reform and transformation.

#### **Chapter V: Transforming global governance:**

**Article 5 of A/RES/43/243** states that “governments have an essential role in promoting and strengthening a culture of peace.” Per the **2023 UN New Agenda for Peace Action #3** - one recommendation is to *develop national prevention strategies to address the different drivers and enablers of violence and conflict in societies and strengthen national “Infrastructures for Peace.”* Further that *Member States seeking to establish or strengthen national “Infrastructures for Peace” should be able to access a tailor-made package of support and expertise.*

Uniting these 2 UN guiding principles “Culture of Peace and “Infrastructures for Peace” together would be an impactful step forward in UN fulfillment of its peace mission. For **Culture of Peace establishes this UN peace vision as normative and prescribes the roadmap of actions needed at all levels to actualize it.** Governmental **“Infrastructures for Peace” such as “Departments and Ministries of Peace” are the roadways or platforms of peace architecture that support essential peace actions (like diplomacy) to readily occur so peace**



**can take root and grow. Coupled together these two constructs give shape, form, and substance to building the “capacity” for peace** by operationalizing and institutionalizing peacebuilding as the missing connective layer needed to sustain peace. Both principles are designed to prevent and reduce violence thus are mutually reinforcing. Integrated within the PACT, their synergistic impact of collaborative connection would facilitate significant UN reform and transformation.

**UN NGO “Global Movement for the Culture of Peace” Signatories:**  
**Peace Through Unity:** Kate Smith, Director; Iris Spellings, UN NGO Representative; Anne Creter, UN NGO Alternate Representative  
**Pathways to Peace:** Tezikiah Gabriel, Executive Director; David Wick, President  
**The Good News Agency - Associazione Culturale dei Triangoli e della Buona Volontà Mondiale:** Georgina Galanis, UN NGO Representative



*"Love for peace is not enough. Beyond it we need a vision of peace, a science of peace, a strategy for peace and innumerable actions for peace."*

Dr Robert Muller (former UN Assistant Secretary-General, Prophet of Hope and Philosopher of the UN)

## Input for People's Pact for Summit of the Future

NGO Major Group Unitive Cluster  
<https://sdgthoughtleaderscircle.org/the-unitive-cluster-at-the-un/>

### Chapeau

While the need for concrete solutions is clear, the current requirement for deep, systemic and lasting transformation is unlikely to be met without factoring intangible elements, including mindset and the inherent oneness of humanity, into planning for the future. The impulse to ignore intangible factors promotes superficial, disparate responses incapable of supporting the unified, systemic changes required at this critical inflection point because focus on concrete factors alone cannot accommodate the deeper drivers of change.

Mindset predetermines motivations, plans and actions as recognized by UNESCO's mission to "Create peace in the minds of men and women." Emergent science is congruent with all major religions and with indigenous wisdom in its demonstration of the fundamental unity of all beings with one another and with the earth itself. Yet, separation-based ideology is so endemic in our global mindset that it forms the basis for policies and practices that preclude both living in accordance with the reality of our oneness and the establishment of new norms that are suited to the purpose of underpinning a peaceful world.

Consciousness is fundamentally causal. Therefore, ignoring the mindset that creates current problems and obfuscates transformational solutions puts the planet at risk of continuing to prioritize tangible, fragmented, project by project strategies that are incongruent with the necessity for deep, systemic transformation. Therefore, mindset must be established as a distinct domain of work and addressed on its own terms throughout all areas of global development.

### Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking." (Einstein) Switching from development work that is founded on competitive norms to work based in mutual wellbeing requires recognizing mindset as a distinct field within development work.

Finance and development initiatives that ignore the deeper drivers of human behavior, like mindset and values, risk prioritization of superficial fixes that result in gratification in the short run but, in the long run, undermine transformative change. Current metrics prioritize short term gratification and so must be expanded to address intangible factors that fundamentally drive long term results. The distinction between change in circumstances and systemic transformation must be made at every level of development.

Given the number of excellent, concrete development projects already occurring throughout the world, but which are moored in separation-based mindsets that are incongruent with a peaceful planet, the evidence is clear that focusing on the concrete alone is a grossly insufficient strategy for development. Although more challenging to address, development strategies must be evolved in such a way as to encompass the full circle of consequences, including intangible ramifications, from any course of action.

The emergent call for not just change but for transformation cannot be heeded on a concrete-only, fragmented, project-by-project basis. The current endemic mindset that proliferates developmental and financial paradigmatic norms must be addressed as the basis it actually is for determining the catastrophic outcomes we currently face. While prevailing mythology dictates that action is the only way to change and so addressing intangibles is inefficient and unrealistic, the reality is that mindset not only precedes and propels action, it ultimately determines the quality and outcomes of development projects. Therefore, time and attention must be built into processes to allow for the slowness it takes to address fundamentals that can fast track actual transformation.

## **Chapter II. International peace and security**

Including mindset as an element of peace building and security is a critical means of evolving from pervasive unconscious win/lose assumptions, which underpin propensity toward violent and inequitable solutions, to win/win foundational global norms.

Addressing the mindset that anchors norms requires expanding security metrics to include tracking of intangibles including values and the consciousness of leaders and populations. Well-proven indices that account for intangibles like mindset and values already exist but must be more robustly deployed while new, more subtle and sophisticated metrics that more accurately account for inner and outer conditions of peace need to be developed.

## **Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**

The results of scientific, technological and innovative solutions are dependent on the mindsets behind their development and that of the people who take them forward. While science and technology are revealing the reality of planetary oneness, most scientific and technological norms are still based in a global competition-based narrative that underpins determination of priorities.

While addressing such intangibles as narrative and mindset is often misconstrued as inconsequential, establishing those factors as domains of work within the science/technology sector is key to shifting away from

using science and technology as means of competition and domination and toward establishing a digital commons as a key to making the best of the extraordinary human capacity to innovate. Establishing a viable digital commons requires simultaneously developing commons consciousness.

The endemic algorithmic proliferation of militarism, competition and “othering” to the point of deadly divisiveness and planetary destruction must be addressed by more accurately accounting for the algorithmic perpetuation of norms that undermine not only digital cooperation, but also species survival. To that end, the impact of algorithms on mindset, and vice versa, must be addressed on its own terms and then factored into digital development policies and practices.

#### **Chapter IV. Youth and future generations**

Ignoring the mindset and spiritual wellbeing of youth and future generations supports a superficial, project-oriented approach to personal development, which is ill-suited to affecting the level of changes necessary to ensure their survival. While spirituality and consciousness are challenging to address, especially given our paradigmatic pre-disposition to discounting such elements, youth is a process of searching for meaning and of developing the intelligence and wisdom for making life affirming decisions. Therefore, work for future

generations must include accountability for such fundamentals.

Along with educational advancement that includes greater SDG literacy, it is imperative that educational systems and methodologies recognize the seminal impact of inner development on personal and social outcomes.

#### **Chapter V. Transforming global governance**

Global governance reflects collective mindset and so innovation must also be addressed at that level by including recognition of the Rights of Earth, the sanctity of all life and that the path to peace is reliant on intangibles like love, dignity and compassion. UN entities and mechanisms need revision to more accurately reflect the reality of how unified the world fundamentally is, despite the divisiveness that prevails in global governance and in individual and collective mindsets.

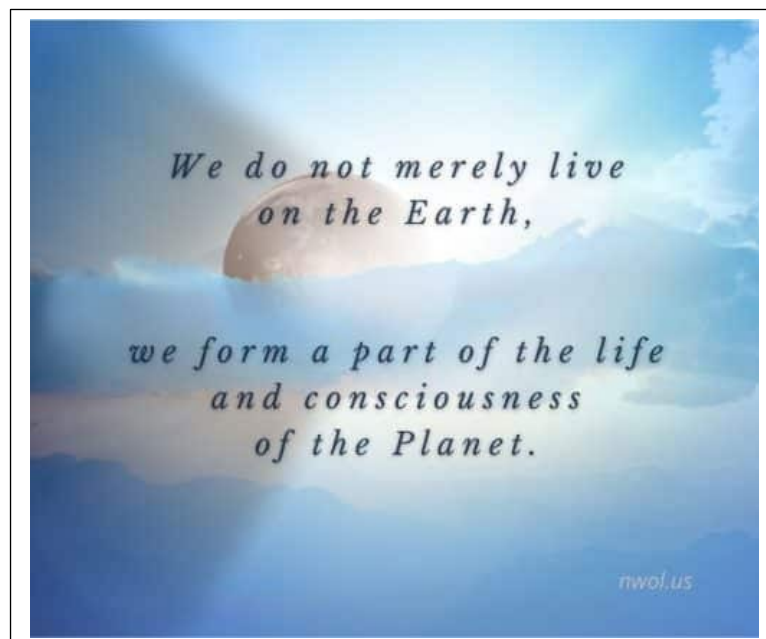
Current unconscious assumptions that proliferate outdated and inaccurate mechanistic models must be made evident and then evolved toward holistic living systems models of governance. Doing so will allow our basic understanding of governance as a means of control to evolve toward understanding it as a means of ensuring mutual thriving, social coherence and new perceptions of possibilities. Win-win strategies that are better suited to addressing global concerns must replace zero sum politics. Governmental accountability needs to be expanded to reflect impact

on all stakeholders, recognizing that, in a world that we now unequivocally know is interdependently co-arising, we are all stakeholders.

NGO Major Group Unitive Cluster  
<https://sdgthoughtleaderscircle.org/the-unitive-cluster-at-the-un/>

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Submitted 12/31/23



## Transition to a Culture of Peace

### The Role Of Vision In History

I begin from the theory of historical change as conceived by [Karl Marx](#), that economic contradictions lead to revolutionary change and that the nature of this change depends upon “ideological forms in which men become conscious of this conflict and fight it out.” Marx considered that “this consciousness must be explained from the contradictions of material life,” but we may also consider how this consciousness may also be influenced by a collective vision for a new social order.

As I have considered in previous blogs, we are entering an era of economic and political contradictions that will lead to revolutionary change. Capitalism, clothed in its cover of bourgeois democracy, is crumbling. This is already [evident in political terms](#) with the rejection of traditional establishment political candidates. But this will have serious consequences as well on a global economy that is precariously devoted to speculation and to the production and sale of armaments while neglecting the real needs of people.

Central to this process is the crash of the American Empire and its currency, the dollar.

As considered in many previous blogs, the crash of the American Empire will open a window of opportunity to change the system of global governance.

Can we hope that there will be a sufficient consciousness on the part of the masses of the people, influenced by a new vision of the future, to seize this opportunity and move from the dominant culture of war to a culture of peace?

As described in [this month's bulletin of CPNN](#), there are some initiatives of culture of peace as a vision for the future that can make a contribution, although they are not yet shared by many people.

Another consciousness-raising initiative proposed in this blog has yet to be realized: an alternative security council composed of mayors who would issue regular press releases about what they would do if they ran the council.

When the window of opportunity arrives, can we hope that the remarkable spread of new forms of communication, including the internet and the widespread use of cell phones, can make it possible to disseminate rapidly and universally a collective vision for a new social order based on a culture of peace? And that such a vision could give shape to the future?

Will this moment arrive soon?

In my book [Psychology for Peace Activists](#), looking at the consciousness development of Nelson Mandela, I wrote “At the present moment of history it is possible that an additional step is being added to those of consciousness development: a step of vision. [Mandela exemplifies a new generation](#) of peace activists whose actions provide a vision for a peaceful



world. Not content to struggle against the vicious, anti-human system of apartheid, Mandela and his fellow activists in the ANC had the courage and foresight to develop the Freedom Charter which provides not only a vision for South Africa, but by extension for the rest of the world as well.”

And in the [conclusion](#) to the monograph [UNESCO and a Culture of Peace](#), I wrote, “When in the course of history there is an accumulation of changes which make possible a revolutionary transformation in social relations, the mobilization and participation of people on a vast scale, a global movement, becomes possible through the development and sharing of a common vision of a new world. The time is ripe for such a movement and vision for a culture of peace.

“The transformation of society from a culture of war to a culture of peace is perhaps more radical and far reaching than any previous change in human history. Every aspect of social relations – having been shaped for millennia by the dominant culture of war, is open to change – from the relations among nations to those between women and men. Everyone, from the centres of power to the most remote villages, may be engaged and transformed in the process.”.

Reprinted with permission of author from CPNN [March 1, 2024](#)

(A French version of the article can be found on the website.)

[THE ROLE OF VISION IN HISTORY | Transition to a Culture of Peace \(decade-culture-of-peace.org\)](#)



## Culture of Peace: Working for peace in turbulent times

Ashland, Oregon, has found the secret! This community demonstrates ageless wisdom for turbulent times: it is coming together around shared values and intentions. It is taking action to manifest a culture of peace. Ashland understands that we (humans) create our own reality and will get more of what we focus on in life.

How is this happening in Ashland? The community formalized the Ashland Culture of Peace Commission – a group that has steadfastly brought citizens together to determine priorities and action steps. This proactive process for living in harmonious relationship with self, others and all life, based on peace education, research, policy and practice, is leading to a demonstration model for all of us to consider. Throughout society we are finding our voices as we take stands against violence in its many forms. Doing so is messy and painful while at the same time necessary and hopeful. In Ashland a proactive solutions-oriented approach is working.

(Daily Tidings, Nov. 6, 2017),  
Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations, stated, “Peace is integral to human existence – in everything we do, in everything we say and in every thought we have, there is a place for peace.

Absence of peace makes our challenges, our struggles, much more difficult.” Peace in its true sense is a state of consciousness. It moves outward from a deep source of our being. Peace urges the building of new structures and modes of expression. The vision of the oneness and the interdependence of all life inspire peace. Peace is a dynamic, progressive state of awareness that manifests in a “environment of sustainability.” This environment provides the living substance from which we may create a new world, a new culture – one that empowers each person to reach their potential and serves every form of life.

Ashland has begun to focus on implementing eight action areas from the U.N. Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (A/RES/53/243 B) at a local level in the USA:

- Actions to foster a culture of peace through education. Education, both formal and informal, shapes society. Over the past few decades, universities around the world have initiated peace education and peace studies programs. Furthermore, educating ourselves in areas such as nonviolent communication, mindfulness and taking personal responsibility provides building blocks for a culture of peace.
- Actions to promote sustainable economic and social development. This action step challenges communities local to global. To see how humanity is seeking to

move through this challenging period to a time of economic and social well being for all, take a look at [sharing.org](http://sharing.org) or the federal law in Bolivia that states that Earth is a sentient being with attendant rights.

- Actions to promote respect for all human rights. Until basic human rights for all beings is a way of life, a culture of peace eludes us. The U.N. is asking the question, "Is Peace a Human Right?"
- Actions to ensure equality between women and men. Dr. Betty Reardon, a leading peace scholar and proponent of UN Resolution 1325, names gender equity as critical in defining and attaining human security. She further identifies structural relationships between gender equity and the war system, and provides scholarly thought regarding a shift from national security to human security. That shift depends upon gender equity.
- Actions to foster democratic participation. In the United States, this is a critical issue right now as we struggle to determine the future of our republic. We as citizens are called upon to share responsibility for determining the structures, institutions, policies and cultural norms that yield either direct violence or peace.
- Actions to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity. Around the world, we are gaining in recognition of the need for loving understanding and

the realization that we are all in this together. In the USA, many communities are shifting to restorative justice policy and trauma resilience practices in recognition of the need for helping one another and standing together as one community.

- Actions to support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge. Transparency is critical in democracy. Every voice and every vote must count. Every individual has the need and basic right of access to information and knowledge.
- Actions to promote international (local) peace and security. Were every community to employ this action step, with the understanding that a culture of peace is human security, the world would transform virtually overnight.

All best wishes, Ashland, as you design and demonstrate a culture of peace. Your success is our success! Keep on keeping on.

*Dorothy J Maver, Ph.D., is an educator and peace builder who inspires cooperation on behalf of the common good. She is a co-founder of the National Peace Academy USA and the Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace.*

Placed in the Ashland Daily Tidings by David Wick, Dec 4, 2017 Ashland Culture of Peace Commission, [www.ashlandcpc.org](http://www.ashlandcpc.org)

[https://c252d723-7393-4a44-8e27-b650c1fba244.filesusr.com/ugd/8557db\\_5a3780b226e54892a2a68301ea3abc3b.pdf](https://c252d723-7393-4a44-8e27-b650c1fba244.filesusr.com/ugd/8557db_5a3780b226e54892a2a68301ea3abc3b.pdf)

## Earth is Our Common Home

In a short pamphlet issued by the Association of World Citizens, (<http://awcunited.org>) entitled "Earth is our Common Home", we are urged to protect it together. This contains much in keeping with the theme of this issue of Many to Many, such as resolution of armed conflicts through negotiation, the importance of human rights, ecological development and a common purpose. The following are a few extracted quotes:

*I believe that the One World which is emerging can come into existence only if a New Man comes into being – a man who has emerged from the archaic ties of blood and soil, and who feels himself to be a citizen of the world whose loyalty is to the human race and to life, rather than to any exclusive part of it, a man who loves his country because he loves mankind and whose views are not warped by tribal loyalties. Erich Fromm. 'Beyond the Chains of Illusion'*

*Great ideas come into the world as gently as doves. Perhaps, then, if we listen attentively, we shall hear, amid the uproar of empires and nations, a faint flutter of wings, the gentle stirrings of life and hope. .... Albert Camus*

Together we work for peace, the respect of each person and life in harmony with nature.

For more details of this, contact [admin@awcunited.org](mailto:admin@awcunited.org)  
Association of World Citizens

True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom and equality not only for Americans but for all people on earth, universal brotherhood and good will, and a constant and earnest striving toward the principles and ideals on which this country was founded.

*Eleanor Roosevelt (1962) Book of Common Sense Etiquette.*

## A World Citizen's Declaration of Faith

*By F Cromphtout*

I shall not believe  
in the law of the jungle  
in the languages of weapons  
in the power of the mighty  
but believe  
in human rights  
in open hands  
in the force of non-violence.

I refuse to believe  
that I am not involved  
in distance events  
but believe  
that the world is my home.

I shall not believe  
that I can fight oppression far away  
while allowing injustice there  
but believe  
that justice is one here and there  
that I am not free  
as long as one human being is kept in  
bonds.

I shall not believe  
that hunger and war are inevitable  
and peace beyond the horizon  
but believe in the small deed  
in seemingly powerless love  
in peace on earth.

*Translated from the Dutch by Yvonne Haarsma  
[Editor: there is a pencil sketch to accompany this  
poem which is available on request]*



## Whanganui News

Gita and Anthony Brooke were the founders of Peace Through Unity (PTU). After travelling the world for around 10 years promoting peace in some very troubled areas, they settled in Whanganui, New Zealand and bought their first home.

Gita and Anthony's vision for the use of their home - Te Rangi (paradise or the heavens) also known as Rumah Brooke (Brooke House) after Anthony's role as Raja Muda in Sarawak - was as a venue for spiritual retreat, meditation and general community use for those needing a quiet and peaceful place.

Although later than expected, the group which Gita foresaw has been formed as Friends of Te Rangi. Its members come from all walks of life and bring together a variety of skills and expertise, all of which is focused on keeping Te Rangi and PTU alive and well.

The group meets monthly to discuss planned use by groups or Airbnb visitors as well as general maintenance issues. Events are also planned as are future projects.

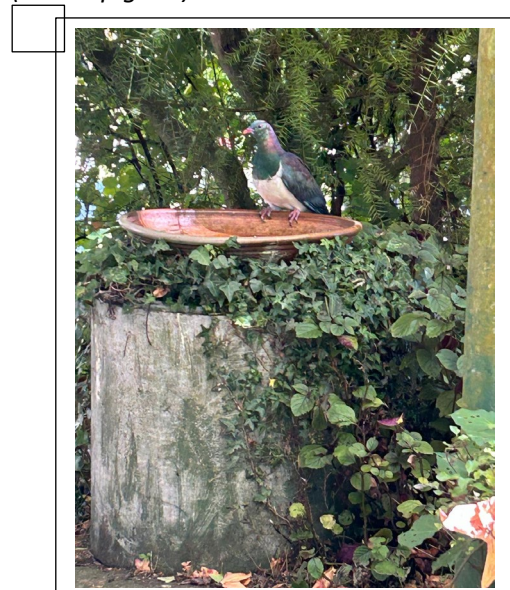
Currently, the lower, back kitchen garden is being restored to productive use. A small band of daring souls cleared away a few years of overgrowth and exposed the garden beds. It was looking very much more like a garden! Initial planting has begun to experiment with what will grow well. There is a long-term opportunity to link the process of planting, growing, harvesting through

to culinary uses of produce in collaboration with the local Community Education service and polytechnic. Any surplus produce may also be added to a sustainable food programme being established in the city.

The use of the house as an Airbnb is going well although this will only be offered in the summer months. The feedback so far has been positive with the feeling of peace and tranquility being experienced by strangers as well as regular Te Rangi users. Planning is under way to celebrate the International Day of Peace in September. The noon vigil will take place as usual at Handspan in Pukenuamu, Queen's Park, which is open to all. Later in the day there will be an event celebrating the arts in music, poetry and perhaps even dance. More on this later.

In later issues, some photos will be added to allow you to follow progress.  
pp Friends of Te Rangi  
Kate Smith

*A regular visitor to the garden, our kereru (native pigeon)*





## Cities for Peace Invitation

Mandar Apte of Cities 4 Peace is offering this invitation to anyone who may be interested/able to join them in a few days.

### SKY Mindful Leadership

Multiple vectors are simultaneously affecting our global society including wars, post-pandemic mental health challenges, unemployment, the impact of climate change, etc. Leaders and organizations are being challenged to simultaneously confront the inherent chaos and transform the unprecedented hurdles into opportunities and solutions that will create systemic change. These complex challenges, however, cannot be solved unless there is a transformation from "within".

You are invited to the special SKY Mindful Leadership to learn profound breathing and meditation techniques that will help reduce stress, enhance mental wellbeing and clarity of mind. The program has helped millions of leaders and changemakers worldwide to reconnect with their purpose and deepen their impact.

#### **Testimonials:**

- Gib Bulloch, Former Partner, Accenture
- Naomi Gardner, Former Head of Innovation, Saputo Inc

**Dates:** April 4-7 (four consecutive sessions)

**Time:** 9am - 11am EST (6.30pm - 8.30pm India time)

**Cost:** Regular Price \$500 per person (Use discount code below)

RSVP: <https://members.us.iahv.org/us-en/course/checkout/a04Vu000002bT5AIAU?ctype=815413&page=c-o>

50% OFF DISCOUNT CODE: 4N26-H7QY

Upon registration a calendar invite and a zoom link will be sent  
*Facilitator: Mandar Apte*

Mandar currently manages Cities4Peace, a strategic consultancy that promotes peace in cities worldwide. Prior to this, he managed Shell's prestigious GameChanger social innovation program. While at Shell, Mandar designed and facilitated an innovation learning program for over 2000 colleagues. Mandar is also the Producer/Director of From India With Love - a documentary film to reinvigorate the message of nonviolence (or Ahimsa) in the world. For nearly two decades, Mandar has studied, practiced, and taught meditation for the International Association for Human Values and the Art of Living Foundation. For more: visit [www.mandarapte.net](http://www.mandarapte.net) and <https://linktr.ee/mandarapte108>

Nominations are Now Open for the Annual Pathways To Peace (PTP)

## Exceptional Women of Peace Awards

Do you know or are you an Exceptional Woman or Young Woman of Peace?

You can nominate yourself or others by clicking on the **Nomination Form**:

<https://pathwaystopeace.org/exceptional-woman-of-peace-award-nomination-form/>

When the online nomination form is received, we will email an application to learn more about the nominee and her work for Peace.

**Nominations will close on May 15, 2024.**

To learn more: [Exceptional Women of Peace - Pathways To Peace](#)



## THE GREAT INVOCATION

From the point of Light within the  
Mind of God  
Let light stream forth into human  
minds.  
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the  
Heart of God  
Let love stream forth into human  
hearts.  
May the Coming One return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God  
is known  
Let purpose guide all little human  
wills  
The purpose which the Masters know  
and serve.

From the centre which we call the  
human race  
Let the Plan of Love and Light work  
out  
And may it seal the door where evil  
dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore  
the plan on Earth.