

SPOTLIGHT
Gadchiroli, India,
Holding a Peace Walk
for International
Women's Day

INTERVIEW
A Seed of Peace
Has Been Sown to
Pitch Youthful Voices
in Ukraine

LETTER TO IPYG
What We Need
the Most,
the Youth has
the Answer

IPYG

NEWSLETTER

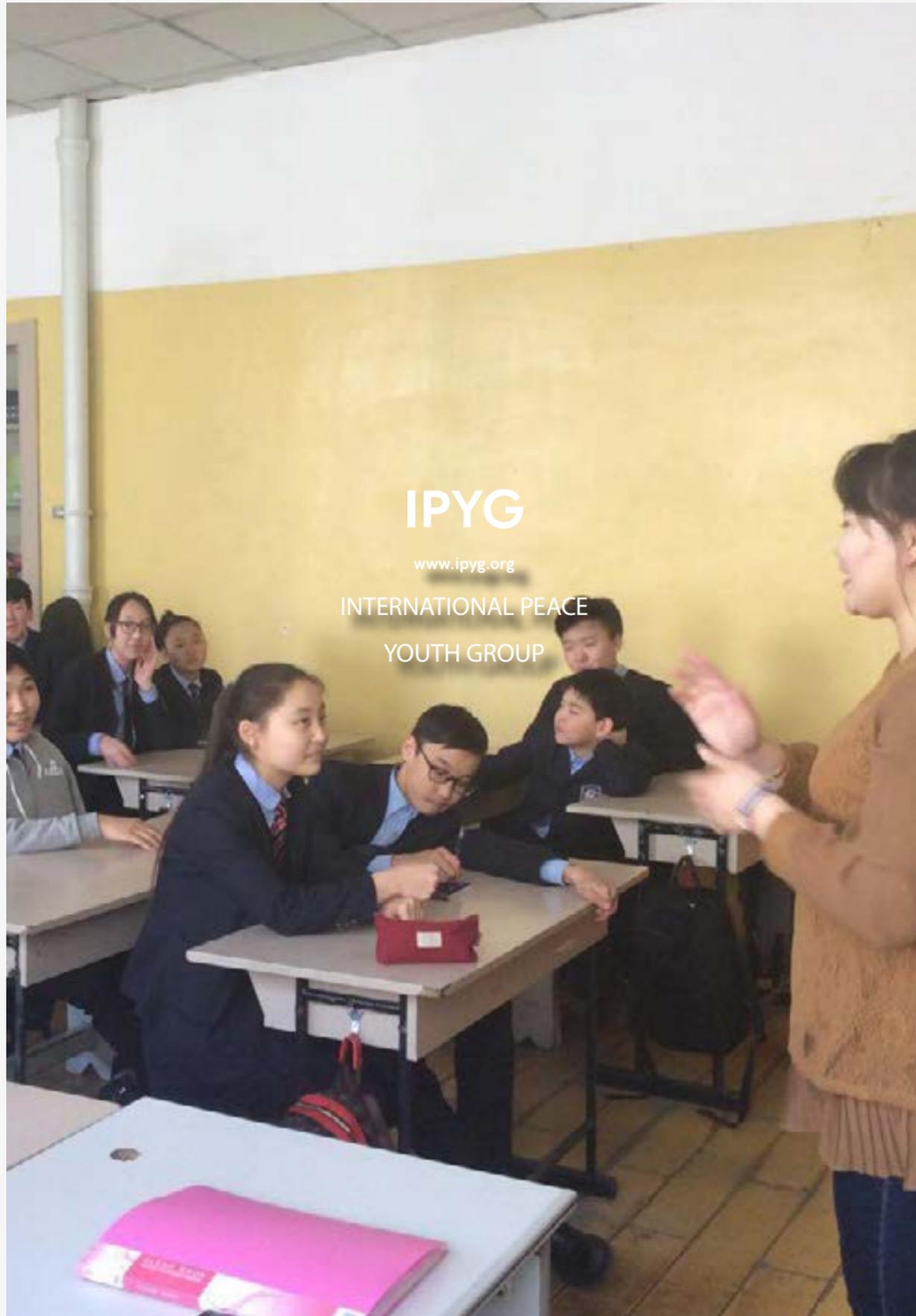


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Female students marching in the peace walk to celebrate International Women's Day

SPOTLIGHT

Holding a Peace Walk for International Women's Day

Footsteps of the Gadchiroli's People toward Freedom

On March 4th, a Peace Walk for International Women's Day was held in Gadchiroli district in Maharashtra, India. International Women's Day officially designated by the UN as an annual commemoration for gender equality has been commemorated on March 8th every year since 1975. Nearly 200 people from civil organizations, Buddhist organizations, and teachers and students of girls' middle and high schools in Gadchiroli district participated in this event. The event was organized

with the hope of citizens in Gadchiroli district, which was the realization of world peace.

This event was organized by Dr. Beniram Koche, Triratna Bouddha Mahasangha Instructor, who attended the 3rd Annual Commemoration of the September 18th World Alliance of Religions' Peace Summit hosted by Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) in 2017, and the International

al Peace Youth Group (IPYG). It was hosted by Mrs. Tarka Jambhulkar, the president of Mulniwasi mahila sangh (indigenous women's organization).

Mrs. Tarka Jambhulkar has been actively working for spreading peace to abolish racial discrimination and eradicate poverty in India. Starting from this peace walk, she promised to hold a Peace Walk Festival annually. In addition, she is planning to expand HWPL Peace Education initiatives by discussing with school principals.

Through this event, Mr. Devanand Jambhulkar, her husband, started enthusiastically discussing implementing HWPL Peace Education to the boarding school in Gadchiroli where he is currently working.

Gadchiroli is now faced with several troubles. Even though the constitution of India guarantees freedom of religion which is also mentioned in Article 8 of the Declaration

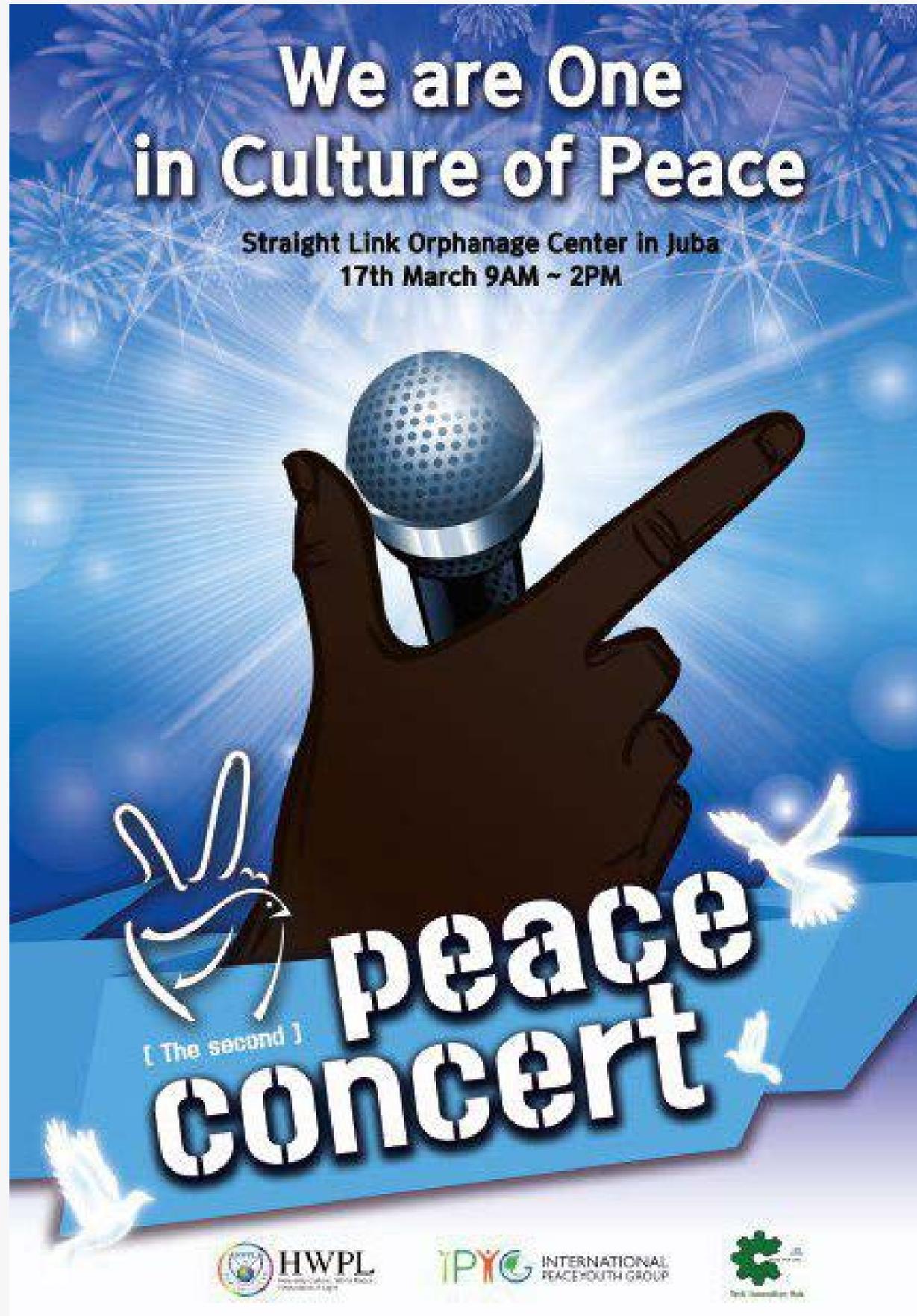
of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW), it is rarely enforced because of the caste system that causes the discrimination of human rights.

For this matter, Dr. Beniram Koche and Mrs. Tarka Jambhulkar promised to work with HWPL as messengers of peace. They firmly determined to become one and to cooperate not only for peace in India but also for world peace.

Meanwhile, with the contribution of organizers' enthusiastic and active management of the event and their dedication, this event was successfully carried out despite limited Internet access. In addition, the participants promised to actively join peace activities, yearning for a positive and hopeful future of peace.



Students lined-up before peace walk



Poster of the 2nd IPYG peace concert

SPOTLIGHT

Small Peace Festival Held in South Sudan

We are One in the Culture of Peace

Amidst the reality that the conflicts and disputes caused by the politics and power have consistently occurred in South Sudan, a lot of people are longing and looking for peace. Then, what is the role of youth to achieve peace under these circumstances? Youth should put effort to make known to all people that they want peace and encourage everyone to have the heart to love peace. Thus, on March 17, 2018 in Juba, South Sudan, the 2nd IPYG Peace Concert was held by Junub Open Space and the IPYG to spread a culture of peace, which is in Article 10 of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW).

At the 2nd IPYG Peace Concert, through colorful performances, performers who have a desire for peace spread a culture of peace to all citizens in Juba. Starting from the traditional dance of South Sudan and a welcoming song sang by Orphanage Straight Link Center (OSLC), the event continued with a song and a poem carrying the hope of having a peaceful world, as well as a drama showing the pain of war. In between programs, prominent figures delivered speeches displaying their heart for peace which planted passion and aspiration for peace in the minds of Juba citizens who participated in the concert.



A large audience at the concert

Around 3,000 people including government officials, principles, and directors of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) participated in this concert. Those who attended the event united as one in the culture of peace, transcending age, gender, race, and position. At this time they could experience a peaceful world without war.

Hellen Duku, the president of Junub Open Space, who prepared the event said, "Thanks for the work. The concert was so beautiful. I can feel how much we stand for peace. We have the courage to pursue peace in South Sudan". Furthermore, Justoson Victor Yusa, Executive Director of the People's Empowerment Center South Sudan also stated, "Thanks for supporting in carrying out peace

events where the country needed it most. We would like to extend such campaigns for peace outside Juba", making a promise to carry out a variety of peace events with the IPYG from now on.

The Peace Concert was held for the second time since last year. It became an event that many people already would like to attend, though only held twice so far. People who prepared the concert, people who put on the performances, and people who participated in it are already looking forward to the 3rd Peace Concert that will be held next year. They hope for the day to come soon when this event becomes the best peace festival not only in Juba but all of South Sudan.



People gathered at the 2nd Peace Concert



The opening speech of Mr.Emmanuel, the organizer of the concert



South Sudan traditional dance



A song of Peace

FEATURE ARTICLE 1

Mongolian Schools Overflowing with Peace

Movement of Students Hoping for Peace

March was a special month for schools in Mongolia. Three kinds of peace events took place in March; peace was in the air for the whole month. In January of this year, the International Peace Youth Group (IPYG) hosted an event titled "IPYG Peace Wall" through which peace was instilled naturally in the children by painting peace murals. Beginning with this event, the IPYG held the following three events in March: "Film Mirror" on the 1st and 2nd, "Orientation for volunteers" on the 14th, "Plant Peace" on the 15th and 16th. These events took place at four different locations: Ulaanbaatar 31st Kindergarten, Ulaanbaatar Togs Bilig Elementary School, Ulaanbaatar 24th High School, and Ulaanbaatar 57th High School. In the event, "Film Mirror", the way to achieve peace was discussed face to face after watching a movie regarding peace.

"Plant Peace" was an event bringing peace to life by planting beans with the word "peace" written on them. Through keeping a daily record of the plant's growth, participants learned that constant concern is needed to achieve peace just like continuous interest and dedication are needed for the plants to grow.



Children who were being taught 'Kindness'



Peace bean sprouting up



Children planting Peace bean

Students of Ulaanbaatar 57th High School promised to become one with the IPYG and work together for peace at the “Orientation for Volunteers”.

In a school where “Plant Peace” took place, a total of 141 teachers and students signed their support for the implementation of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) drafted by HWPL, which the IPYG is also supporting. After the event, Dugerjav Bolorchimeg, Principal of Ulaanbaatar 31st Kindergarten, gave his moving message by saying, “I support the DPCW and I signed for it. And it was a meaningful time the children can think a lot about peace. I appreciate to work with the IPYG, and I will support and work together.”

Students of Ulaanbaatar 57th High School were so impressed that they even said they wanted to teach their brothers and sisters what they were taught at the event. All the students who attended the event longed for realizing peace, saying that peace would be achieved one day sooner. In the future, painting peace murals with volunteers who promised to join the work of peace is scheduled. In addition, it is planned to widely spread a culture of peace to every corner of Mongolia through the event celebrating the 5th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace and the Peace Walk, which the IPYG holds annually.



Students signing up as volunteers to IPYG

The IPYG, along with schools that co-hosted the event, will actively work for peace, yearning for every school in Mongolia to become an HWPL Peace Academy. Following the flow of peace, the IPYG will not stop working for peace until the day schools in Mongolia as well as schools around the world teach peace.



The principal of 31st kindergarten signed up to support the DPCW



Children signing up to support the DPCW

FEATURE ARTICLE 2

International Peace Youth Group in Busan Hosting “Legacy of Peace”

What the Youth of This Generation Should Never Forget

International Peace Youth Group held “Legacy of Peace” to raise awareness of history and commemorate the 99th anniversary of Korean Independence Movement. With the subtitle, “What the Youth of This Generation Should Never Forget”, the event had programs to recall the story of patriots who were martyred for the country and remind the importance of peace.

Beginning with a video about comfort women taken by Japanese and suffered, the event continued with a speech delivered by Kim Moon Suk, the president of Women and War Busan, and the musical performance “Hero”, which was the story of An Jung Geun, a Korean independence activist.

Urging youth to work for peace movement



Musical Performance, “Hero”



Host and Participants Taking Commemorate Photos after the Event

following the mind-set of these patriotic martyrs, President Kim stated, “I have been working with my whole heart to share the pain that victims went through. Youth, the hope and future of the country, should cooperate so such tragedy will never repeat again. We should never forget the people who sacrificed so we can stand on this land in freedom today.”

Participants who saw the musical performance, “Hero”, even shed tears of gratitude for the ardent patriotic spirit of An Jung Geun’s who laid down his life for the independence of the nation. A speech by an IPYG member marked the end of the event. It stressed on the role of youth who have to achieve peace by having correct understanding of history, the speaker said, “I tell you, the youth of this generation who are living in a country that was emancipated by the sacrifices of patriots. Let us become the heroes of the future who achieve peace together, not victims of war that no one can expect when to break out.”

All the youth who participated in the event promised to carry out various practical peace activities with a heart longing for peace.



Kim Moon Suk, the president of Women and War Busan delivering speech



Participants brightly smiling while holding a poster they made about the cessation of war

FEATURE ARTICLE 3

The Wind of Peace Blown to the South Pacific Country of Fiji

Youth of Fiji Learn the Value of Peace in Suva and Navua.

The International Peace Youth Group (IPYG) hosted a series of events in Fiji last March, namely the Youth Peace Workshop, Peace Letter, and the Youth Peace Dialogue Forum.

On March 9th, 2018, the IPYG Youth Peace Workshop was organized by Wessley Manasa, Executive Board Member of the National Youth Council of the Fiji Islands (NYCF). The topic of the workshop was “What is peace to Fiji?”

Ms. Vani Catanasiga, the youth leader stated how Fiji was indifferent to peace. She said, “We must change the way we think and must be the one to take action to change the world. And even though winds blow, we must be like those coconut trees where it does not fall but takes a stand and is firm.”

Stating that a war can break out in Fiji at some time or another, Avikesh Jai Kumar who had attended the 3rd Annual Commemoration of World Alliance of Religions’ Peace (WARP) Summit mentioned the importance of IPYG peace activities and determined to join the work.

At the event, 31 youths gathered with NYCF and they showed their anticipation for the next peace event.



Participants writing a peace letter that advocates peace



IPYG member, Avikesh, introducing IPYG to participants

On March 23rd, 2018, the 2nd Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) was held in the same city as before. At this event, participants had the time to listen to the significance and importance of the DPCW, and participants wrote peace letters to urge the prime minister of Fiji to support the DPCW.

Among more than 40 youths at the event, Divisha Deepti, a student of the University of South Pacific (USP), determined, "I wrote the peace letter longing for the cessation of war and I could understand why youth have to join the work of peace. I will put effort to actively support the DPCW."

On March 26th, the Youth Peace Dialogue Forum was held at Navua, another Fijian city. Participants had a discussion based on the topic, "What should youth do to bring peace in Navua?". This forum was organized by 11 youths, mainly Avikesh Jai Kumar and Joe Tuqiri, the youth administrator of Fiji Ministry of Youth and Sports who also attended the forum. Expressing his passion for peace activity, he said, "I would like to join in promoting the IPYG's peace activities in Fiji with Avikesh Jai Kumar."

After this, the IPYG is planning to organize various peace activities with the youth of Fiji such as peace mural painting activities.



Youth of Fiji united in peace



Participants making the victory sign determining to achieve peace

The three events were organized with the cooperation of Fiji University and members of more than six youth organizations. From these events, it is expected that the peace activities of Fiji youth who unite as one with the IPYG will be carried out throughout the South Pacific region.



Participants of the forum presenting their discussion

INTERVIEW

A Seed of Peace Has Been Sown to Pitch Youthful Voices in Ukraine

Why the DPCW is needed in Ukraine

Nataliia Bozhko is the Head of International Education and International Relations Direction in the Ukrainian Bar Association Students' League. She is currently willing to spread the Peace Letter campaign to her community. In regards to the peace letter, she also shared her idea that the letters can be written online as a petition to support the DPCW and can be delivered to the president.

Q1. How did you get involved in the issues of the youth and peace?

“From my early childhood, I was worried about the problem of war - when we studied history at school, while watching movies ... In 2014 this problem affected the eastern part of Ukraine. At this point, I was in 11th grade at school. I was scared, I commiserated with people I knew and other people

who were directly affected by this war. And then I thought about how meaningless war looks in the 21st century, and why strangers fight among themselves for other people's interests, because society is becoming increasingly globalized, borders are being erased so that we have the opportunity to communicate with people from around the world...

Young people of the new generation must build a future based on peaceful cooperation between countries.”

Q2. Why is peace work not just for Ukraine but for the world?

“The culture of peace must be one for the whole world. Only if this culture is spread to all countries will mutual understanding be possible between people from different countries, and people will be able to understand common values and a common goal.”

Q3. Do you think the DPCW is necessary in your country? If so, then why?

“Yes, the DPCW is needed. In the eastern part of my country, a war has been going on for several years. People suffer, cities fall, the level of economic development falls. Ukrainians must support the signing of this document by the authorities and show that they are against continuing military actions and in favor of reaching a peaceful compromise (The DPCW is also expected to be signed by Russia). Silence of the citizens will not be able to change anything. The decision must be ours.”

Q4. What kind of plans do you have to make?

“Presentation of the DPCW in schools and universities, thematic screenings of films about the culture of peace in cinemas, and the youth festival, Youth for Peace.”

Q5. Please share any encouraging words for peace to IPYG.

“Dear family of IPYG, I thank you all for spreading the culture of peace. Your work already affects people's minds with the values of world peace, and I'm sure it will influence more and more. I'm glad that our organization, League of Students of the Ukrainian Bar Association, is cooperating with IPYG, because only in peaceful conditions in our lives can we achieve the attainment of all human rights.”



Nataliia Bozhko,
the Head of International Education and
International Relations Direction
in the Ukrainian Bar Association Students' League

As she said, “The decision must be ours.”, this noble right shouldn't be taken by others. We believe that the future of Ukraine will be bright through the voices of youth. Citing Richard Bach's saying that ‘what the caterpillar calls the end of the world, we call a butterfly.’, we expect to hear even greater news in Ukraine from this seed of peace sown by Nataliia.

LETTER TO IPYG

What We Need the Most, the Youth has the Answer

H.E. Elias Chacour, Archbishop /Melkite Catholic



H.E. Elias Chacour,
Archbishop /Melkite Catholic

To whom it may concern: IPYG members

Feel delighted to address this e-mail through HWPL to the youth busy with creating peace around them and further away.

It is most important that the international youth groups realize that their heritage for peace is more profound and more authentic.

When it represents the greatest diversity possible of youth, it is encouraging to see that more and more attention is given to the youth boys and girls.

I am writing to encourage you to go ahead to persevere and to have faith in yourself. And in Almighty God, you will overcome the sectarianism in our world and you can help us realize that we are not originally born with the human qualification or nation of religion or political affiliations but as I pride myself although I am an archbishop.

I thank GOD that I was not born Christian but I was born a baby, with a birth certificate I was created on the image and on the likeness of the creator. You too, every one among you is so precious so unique and highly important. You play a role which is very vital to human sanity.

In our schools, we teach the importance of awareness that the other is not a threat but a new opportunity to discover the beauty of unity within the diversity. Lately, we extended our concern for dropping our young people, I mean those who did not finish their basic education, we wondered if it is worth doing. The center has opened during the first month, over five hundred young adults registered to recuperate what they have missed: the good education.

Now in MEEI we have over 3000 students coming out from various religious groups and nonreligious, from different religions we do not discriminate against any human group. I myself am grateful that I was inspired to dedicate all my life to serving the youth. May I remind you that we together, the youth from everywhere, together we are stronger than any storm which threatens our integrity and our future. Yes together we are stronger than the storm

Yours fraternally,

Abuna Elias Chacour
Melkite Catholic Archbishop em of Galilee

NEW MEMBER

Shabab khir omh Organization

Saudi Arabia

The peace is a great blessing from god.
And the poorest man living in a secure country is better
than the richest man living in an insecure country.
Let us all unite to spread peace in the world.



Othman Al Hashim,
A representative of Shabab khir omh Organization



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