



# *The United Nations and You*

September 2013

## International Day of Peace

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The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in 2001 declaring the 21<sup>st</sup> of September each year as the International Day of Peace. By creating the International Day of Peace, the UN devoted itself to worldwide peace and encouraged all of humankind to work in cooperation for this goal. During the discussion of the U.N. Resolution that established the International Day of Peace, it was suggested that:

*“Peace Day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples...This day will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace.”*

The theme for this year’s International Day of Peace is **“Educate for Peace.”**

### Suggested Actions

1. Express “Peace” in artistic media or poetry
2. Read and reflect on Pope John XXIII’s encyclical, *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)* during this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the document
3. Write a prayer for peace and/or plan a prayer service for peace
4. Contact a local government official and ask what s/he plans to do in the civic community to celebrate the International Day of Peace
5. Write a letter to the editor expressing your hopes for peace in your local community and/or the world
6. Plant or re-dedicate a peace pole at your community, school, parish, etc. [www.peacepoleproject.org](http://www.peacepoleproject.org)
7. Plant a rock for peace [www.plantingrocksforpeace.org](http://www.plantingrocksforpeace.org)
8. Write peace statements on paper and turn them into objects of art
9. Educators go to [www.haguepeace.org/resources/PEACE\\_LESSONS\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.haguepeace.org/resources/PEACE_LESSONS_FINAL.pdf) for a free 144 page booklet on “Peace Lessons from around the World”
10. Reflect on a peace quote (see Peace Quotes, separate attachment / link)
11. Join with people throughout the world for a one minute “Pause for Peace” in your geographic location



# International Day of Peace: Possibilities for Educators

1. Spend extra time and reflection on this particular Characteristic of Marianist Education:  
**“Education for Service, Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.”**
2. Download a 144 page resource on *Peace Lessons from around the World* at [www.haguepeace.org/resources/PEACE\\_LESSONS\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.haguepeace.org/resources/PEACE_LESSONS_FINAL.pdf)
3. Build a peace bulletin board with statements/art about peace
4. Organize a peace day event (rally, prayer service, etc.) for peace on campus
5. Organize a concert and invite student musicians to play songs for peace
6. Become involved in the Culture of Peace News Network (CPNN), where readers can exchange information about events, experiences, books, music and news that promote a culture of peace
7. As a group, create a human formation of a peace dove, take a picture
8. Light a candle or lantern for peace
9. Do a silent meditation for peace at noon
10. Organize a peace walk through your town/city
11. Plant or re-dedicate a peace pole on campus [www.peacepoleproject.org](http://www.peacepoleproject.org)
12. Create peace posters in multiple languages
13. View a peace video at <http://peaceoneday.org>
14. Create a student-made peace video. Share on the web
15. Visit any of the following websites for more resources for educators:  
[www.pathwaystopeace.org](http://www.pathwaystopeace.org)                      [www.plantrocksforpeace.org](http://www.plantrocksforpeace.org)  
[www.cultureofpeace.org](http://www.cultureofpeace.org)                      [www.internationaldayofpeace.org](http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org)  
[www.worldpeace.org](http://www.worldpeace.org)                      [www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus](http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus) (activities available in  
[www.unmeditation.org](http://www.unmeditation.org)                      multiple languages)

# Peace Quotes

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Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that. - Martin Luther King Jr.

An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind. - Mahatma Gandhi

Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without. - Siddhārtha Gautama

World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not just mere absence of violence. Peace is, I think, the manifestation of human compassion. - Dalai Lama XIV

Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire.

- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Peace is not the absence of war; it is respecting and accepting each other and promoting human rights.

- Miss Nida Ashfaq, International Young Catholic Students (IYCS), Pakistan

Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace. - Buddha

We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. - General Omar Bradley

Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are. - Hafsat Abiola

The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize that at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that this center is really everywhere, it is within each of us. - Black Elk (1863-1950)

Peace, to have meaning for many who have only known suffering in both peace and war, must be translated into bread or rice, shelter, health and education, as well as freedom and human dignity.

- Ralph Johnson Bunche (1904-1971)

Peace, in the sense of the absence of war, is of little value to someone who is dying of hunger or cold. It will not remove the pain of torture inflicted on a prisoner of conscience. It does not comfort those who have lost their loved ones in floods caused by senseless deforestation in a neighboring country. Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free.  
- Dalai Lama

If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.  
- Moshe Dayan (1915-1981)

I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it. - Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)

We look forward to the time when the Power of Love will replace the Love of Power. Then will our world know the blessings of peace. - William Gladstone (1809-1898)

But peace does not rest in the charters and covenants alone. It lies in the hearts and minds of all people. So let us not rest all our hopes on parchment and on paper, let us strive to build peace, a desire for peace, a willingness to work for peace in the hearts and minds of all of our people. I believe that we can. I believe the problems of human destiny are not beyond the reach of human beings. - John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)

If there is to be peace in the world,  
There must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,  
There must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,  
There must be peace between neighbors.

If there is to be peace between neighbors,  
There must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,  
There must be peace in the heart.

- Lao Tzu (570-490 B.C.)

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God. - The Gospel of Matthew

The more we sweat in peace the less we bleed in war. - Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit (1900-1990)

To reach peace, teach peace. - Pope John Paul II

If you want peace, work for justice. - Pope Paul VI (1897-1978)

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1993

Peace is not the product of terror or fear.

Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.

Peace is not the silent revolt of violent repression.

Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution  
of all to the good of all.

Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity.

It is right and it is duty.

- Bishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980)

It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it. - Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)

If you yourself are at peace, then there is at least some peace in the world. - Thomas Merton

This is the way of peace: overcome evil with good, and falsehood with truth, and hatred with love.

- Peace Pilgrim

What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family. - Mother Theresa

Those who are at war with others are not at peace with themselves. - William Hazlett

The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it. - Albert Einstein

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

- Mother Teresa

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind. - Mahatma Gandhi

The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace. - Carlos Santana

We must see that peace represents a sweeter music, a cosmic melody, that is far superior to the discords of war. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room.

- Anita Koddick

You protect what you love. You love what you know. You know what you're taught.

- African Proverb

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world -- indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. - Margaret Mead

We've learned how to destroy, but not to create; how to waste, but not to build; how to kill men, but not how to save them; how to die, but seldom how to live. - General Omar Nelson Bradley

We have an extraordinary God. God is a mighty God, but this God needs you. When someone is hungry, bread doesn't come down from heaven. When God wants to feed the hungry, you and I must feed the hungry. And now God wants peace in the world. - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

We used to wonder where war lived, what it was that made it so vile. And now we realize that we know where it lives, that it is inside ourselves. - Albert Camus

If war is a necessary evil, why not create peace as a necessary good? Build it, and everybody will come. - Swami Beyondananda

While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart. - St. Francis of Assisi

The means by which we live have outdistanced the ends for which we live. Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

Someday they'll give a war and nobody will come. - Carl Sandburg