

# Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding is different from "peacemaking" and "peacekeeping" in that it focuses on creating a long-term culture of peace, rather than solving existing conflicts or preventing old ones from re-occurring. Peacebuilding activities aim at building understanding and tolerance between individuals, communities and societies and establishing new structures of cooperation. Peacebuilding activities range in scale from personal acts of kindness toward others to global inter-governmental programs.

## Some Definitions of Peacebuilding

- *If you want peace, work for Justice* – Pope Paul VI
- *Peacebuilding is the construction of new environments and new cultures which transform deficient structures and capabilities which unite the strengths of emerging innovations in all pathways of our local-global planetary life. Peacebuilding creates and maintains beneficial conditions for sustainable (life-enhancing) social, economic, political and spiritual development of all peoples.* -- adapted from speech given at UN by PTP and "An Agenda for Peace", a UN Report of the Secretary-General, 1992)
- *Unlike peace-making and peace-keeping, which are related to warfare and settlement of conflicts, "...the concept of peace-building*

*(is) the construction of a new environment --- the transformation of deficient national structures and capabilities, and --- the strengthening of new democratic institutions."* -- Excerpted from "An Agenda for Peace", a UN Report of the Secretary-General in January 1992, which globally and officially recognized the emerging field of peacebuilding.

- *"We need to build not only geographical but spiritual bridges between people and strengthen the intellectual, cultural and communication linkages between our societies. (Let us) stand ready to participate in the effort to promote social integration and create a culture of peace."* -- From UNESCO PRESS Report at World Summit for Social Development by Director-General UNESCO, Frederico Mayo
- *"Where there is peace, there is culture; where there is culture, there is peace."* -- Nicholas Roerich

For information about the UN Peacebuilding Commission, please visit:  
<http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/index.shtml>

# Prayers for Peace

**Reader:** Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to encourage world leaders to replace the politics of war with the politics of peace and say ...

**All:** God, hear our prayer and move us to action.

**Reader:** Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to assist in conserving God's earth and nurturing its people and say ...

**All:** God, hear our prayer and most us to action.

**Reader:** Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to work toward alleviating patterns of unbridled consumption that leads to unendurable poverty and say ...

**All:** God, hear our prayer and move us to action.

**Reader:** Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to show a love that can create a more just and peaceful world and say ...

**All:** God, hear our prayer and move us to action.

**Reader:** Let us pray not to be silent as we seek to urge each other to work tirelessly to promote God's values and say ...

**All:** God, hear our prayer and move us to action.

**All:** Loving God, lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust, from hate to love, from war to peace, now and evermore. Amen.

**All:** God, help your bewildered humanity to understand the futility of war and hatred and violence. Help us to overcome the rationalizations that ultimately end in justification of actions, which inevitably lead to bloodshed and suffering.

As hundreds of thousands of human beings look at their brothers and sisters over the barrels of guns, cannons and missiles, help us to hear our voice that counsels compassion, patience and rational discourse.

Send us your Spirit of peace, understanding and patience, so that one day soon, all people will live in harmony, with trust and confidence in your message. Amen

## ACTIONS

1. Share and discuss this leaflet with your family, friends, coworkers and your faith community.

2. Utilize the prayers with your family, prayer group or in your own private prayer and reflection.

Local contact:

### 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice

A Catholic Faith-based NGO  
for Social Change



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*Note: Other Peace Leaflets produced by the 8th Day Center can be found at <http://www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html> You may wish to use them for your own vigils, in classrooms, etc.*



In 1981 the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution declaring an International Day of Peace. In 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a new resolution declaring 21 September of each year as the International Day of Peace.

The resolution:

- *"Declares that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day...*
- *"Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire."*