



Föderation für Weltfrieden Interreligiös und International Universal Peace Federation

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The Hope of All Ages, a unified World of Peace

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) was founded in the hope of building a world in which peoples, cultures, races, religions, and nationalities could live together in harmony, mutual respect, cooperation, and universal prosperity. This vision of world peace underlies all the programs and activities of UPF.

UPF recognizes that the task of achieving genuine peace requires an integrated, cross-disciplinary, and collaborative approach among all disciplines, various organizations, cultures and peoples. That is, peace cannot be established merely by academics, by politicians, or by religious leaders alone. Therefore the tendency for peace efforts to be fragmented and disunified has to be overcome.

A unique feature of UPF's vision is the inclusion of the world's religious leaders, who bear the wisdom of their respective traditions, in the pursuit of peace. This affirmation of religion's contribution is fully interreligious in spirit, welcoming the participation of all the world's great religious traditions.

As we stand at the dawn of the twenty-first century and a new millennium, peoples of all nations, races, and creeds share a common hope for a world of peace, justice, and prosperity. Whereas the past has been marked by war, conflict, famine, poverty, and injustice, we long for a future in which these tragic occurrences can be eliminated.

However, we all know that the eternal dream of world peace cannot be achieved on the basis of hope alone. The ideals of peace and the harmony of humanity have been expressed throughout the ages by statesmen, religious leaders, poets, philosophers, and scientists. The world has had no shortage of a desire for peace or the rhetoric of peace. Yet the hope remains unfulfilled.

If we consider institutions such as the United Nations or its predecessor, the League of Nations, we see that the political quest for peace interpreted politically is inadequately attentive to the cultural, religious, or ethnic roots of many conflicts between peoples and nations. Religious leaders, on the other hand, often spiritualize the quest for peace and remain aloof from unseemly political and practical realities.

If the human aspiration for peace is truly to be achieved, it will require a great confluence of ideas, opportunity, fortune, hard work, and, most of all, the willingness to allow the goal of peace to take precedence over those aspects of human civilization that have frequently kept us divided: race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, ideology, as well as the pursuit of economic or political self-interest to the detriment of others. UPF seeks to chart a course and establish a format for both dialogue and practical action that provide a major new contribution to "the hope of all ages, a world of peace."

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations
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