



## *Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace*

**T**HE Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP), founded by Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon in 1998, was established to build a global network of world leaders dedicated to working together cooperatively for world peace through educational programs, international initiatives, humanitarian projects, and publications.

IIFWP as a global peace movement consists of volunteers, activists, and leaders from diverse religions, nations, and professional fields who have joined together to build a worldwide “*Culture of Peace*” rooted in the moral and spiritual transformation of individuals, families, societies, civic institutions, nations, and international organizations. This new “*Culture of Peace*” movement has its foundation in the practice of unselfish service, which, as it infuses and renews both public and private life, opens the way for harmony, cooperation, and the restoration of relationships.

Advancing its global ethic of “*living for the sake of others*,” IIFWP takes a leading role in preventing and resolving conflict, taking us over barriers that often divide us, bringing about harmony and cooperation. In this way, IIFWP engages the United Nations, its member states, and the world’s religions in developing innovative models of governance that integrate spiritual, political, civic, and moral values to solve critical challenges that face our world.

The IIFWP has chapters throughout the world, each with a core of dedicated volunteers working to establish families, societies, and nations of peace. The International Leadership Seminar series, which began in February 2001, offers programs which contribute to the ongoing education of core leaders and volunteers. These individuals are appointed as Ambassadors for Peace, who represent IIFWP and promote its aims for peace throughout the world.

These aims include:

- ◆ Promoting moral education for youth
- ◆ Strengthening marriages and families
- ◆ Promoting interreligious cooperation and dialogue
- ◆ Supporting the founding vision of the United Nations
- ◆ Overcoming barriers that divide peoples, such as race, religion, culture, and nationality
- ◆ Practicing the ethics of “*living for the sake of others*”

*If you would like more information on IIFWP, please visit our website at:*  
[www.iifwp.org](http://www.iifwp.org)

ASSEMBLY 2003  
PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

## *Leadership Through Service to the Society, Nation and World*

THE *Ambassador for Peace* Initiative was inaugurated at the IIFWP Convocation on “Dialogue and Harmony Among Civilizations: The Family, Universal Values, and World Peace,” which was part of the 7th World Culture and Sports Festival held in New York City, January 2001. At this Convocation, 500 world leaders from 135 nations and representing a wide range of professional fields gathered to explore the United Nations 2001 theme: “Dialogue Among Civilizations.” At the close of the Convocation, a declaration was presented that included several key themes:

- The acknowledgement of the importance and significance of the family as the key to the development and improvement of society
- The awareness and recognition of common universal values that are shared regardless of nationality, race, religion, culture, or civilization.
- The need for dialogue, particularly interreligious dialogue, as an important component of the establishment of peace
- The need to establish and promote an ethic of living for the sake of others

On this foundation, the *Ambassador for Peace* movement was born. Several participants were appointed as *Ambassadors for Peace*, pledging to affirm and practice these principles. Two subsequent leadership seminars were held in Washington, D.C., where *Ambassadors for Peace* were also appointed, followed by eight IIFWP Regional International Leadership Seminars: Miami, Florida, USA for North America; Prague, Czech Republic for Europe; Moscow, Russia for Eurasia; Montevideo, Uruguay for South and Central America; Sydney, Australia for Oceania; Bangkok, Thailand for Asia; Nairobi, Kenya for Africa; and Istanbul, Turkey for the Middle East.

Since then, the *Ambassadors for Peace* movement has grown steadily. To date, 25,000 Ambassadors for Peace have been appointed in over 185 nations.

One receives the *Ambassador for Peace* certificate, not fundamentally as an award, but rather as an appointment or a commission. The Certificate does not so much honor an individual for past achievements, but rather installs or appoints a person to a position that carries new and on-going responsibilities aimed at creating a world of peace for all.



*Ambassadors  
for Peace*





***IIFWP-USA Co-Chair  
Congressman  
Danny Davis***



***IIFWP Co-Founders, Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon  
appoint an Ambassador for Peace***

*“Ambassadors for Peace seek to lead us beyond barriers that divide people, particularly barriers related to differences of race, religion, nationality, or culture.”*

### **AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE CORE PRINCIPLES:**

- *Ambassadors for Peace* uphold the principle of “living for the sake of others” found almost universally in the world’s great spiritual and moral traditions, calling us to look beyond personal or special interests toward the well-being of the larger community.
- *Ambassadors for Peace* seek to lead us beyond barriers that divide people, particularly barriers related to differences of race, religion, nationality, or culture. This includes the need to practice dialogue, cooperation, and respect among all religions, races, cultures, and nationalities.
- *Ambassadors for Peace* are committed to the renewal and health of the family, the most fundamental unit of society. Healthy families yield healthy societies.

*Ambassadors for Peace* seek not only to affirm these ideals but to put them into practice, beginning within their own families and expanding into their communities, nations, and the world.

*Ambassador for Peace* appointees are those who have largely distinguished themselves as leaders in the fields of religion, politics, the media, academia, business, the arts, and civil society. *Ambassadors for Peace* are persons who have shown a consistent commitment to service and the overall good of the society, the nation, and the world.

In nations around the world, *Ambassadors for Peace* have organized, supported, or participated in service and relief projects such as building schools, digging wells, or renovating communities in conflict-torn areas. They participate in and provide leadership in the areas of interreligious dialogue, and they foster practices that contribute to conflict prevention. *Ambassadors for Peace* are active in IIFWP’s HIV/AIDS prevention and character education programs.

In each IIFWP Chapter around the world, the *Ambassadors for Peace* “*Plan of Action*” includes:

- Monthly meetings to strategize, share, and exchange resources, network, fellowship, and plan future and ongoing projects
- Monthly public forums on topics related to peace and the betterment of society
- Quarterly service projects
- Development of regional, national, and local programs and initiatives.

## *Leadership and International Cooperation*

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**N**OT since the end of the Cold War have we found ourselves so deeply immersed in world affairs, dealing with numerous conflicts and problems that greatly affect its own security and prosperity as well of those of its many friends and allies. Preeminent among these international challenges is the global war against terrorism that spans virtually every continent and now finds the U.S. militarily and diplomatically engaged in numerous nations from the Balkans to the Middle East to North-east Asia as the dominant player on the world stage.

### **THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED STATES**

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The IIFWP launched a series of UN-US Symposia to support the United States' ability to meet the actual leadership responsibilities that accompany its superpower position and to increase the capacity of the U.S. and the United Nations to fully address all dimensions of the root causes of conflict and violence. The UN-US Symposium Series is a way to expand mutual understanding so that both might work better together in a time when the actions of each profoundly affect the future of all peoples.

Virtually every action the United States undertakes, or refrains from, has enormous consequences. With such great power and influence comes an even greater responsibility and the urgent need for more effective diplomacy and preventive actions than traditionally conceived and employed. In this unique position, the U.S. increasingly needs the cooperation of the United Nations, other nations, and multilateral institutions, and the need for governance with a global perspective looms large.

For example,

- The Quartet's Middle East Roadmap is being challenged because more is at stake than politics and land. People's worldviews, especially as shaped by their religious views, are being challenged. Politics alone does not have the solutions.
- Nation-building in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and post-war Iraq demands that leadership be more universal in vision and scope.
- The problems of HIV/AIDS and poverty require more than budgets, political will,



*IIFWP at the  
United Nations*





*“The UN-US Symposium Series is a way to expand mutual understanding so that both might work better together...”*

and plans for action — the human heart and behaviors need to be addressed.

- And while terrorism can be contained with information and military might, its roots survive in the absence of initiatives that get to the real heart of the matter.

### AN INTERRELIGIOUS COUNCIL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

The flagship initiative of IIFWP to support the UN’s mission is its proposal to establish an Interreligious Council within the United Nations. This challenging but potent reform, first recommended by the Founder, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, in August 2000, is being perceived by a growing number of people as having the potential to dramatically augment the UN’s current capacity to deal with root causes of conflict and violence by directly addressing religious issues. American support for this visionary proposal is central. Such an Interreligious Council could facilitate:

- Tapping currently underutilized resources of the world’s religions and their organizations
- Taking necessary advantage of the current window of opportunity to address terrorism and violence through interreligious dialogue and cooperation before the tectonic plates of the worlds’ religions drift even further apart, taking with them the hearts and minds of their people.
- Creative, bold, and urgently needed reform of the UN that stays away from the futile efforts of “rearranging” existing balances of power in the various UN organs.

### AN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSIONAL COOPERATION

The IIFWP is exploring ways to concretely support members of parliament worldwide in engaging and understanding other nations and in international affairs. Thus, an international congressional institute is being considered as another way to strengthen international relations through interparliamentary exchange. It will facilitate members of parliaments to “adopt” a particular nation that he or she can become an expert about and, also, serve as the chief interlocutor between that nation and their colleagues in other nations and relevant committees.



## *Faith-Based Leadership Promoting Peace in Our World*

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### **INTERRELIGIOUS COOPERATION: AN IMPERATIVE TODAY**

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**I**NTERRELIGIOUS dialogue and cooperation are cornerstones of the work of the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace. IIFWP holds that political, economic, and military approaches to peace and a better world can only benefit from inclusion of another core aspect of human life and relations, namely the religious and the spiritual. For this reason, all IIFWP programs include a dimension of interreligious cooperation, and a significant number of IIFWP Ambassadors for Peace are religious leaders.

Since religious identity influences human behavior as strongly as national and ethnic identity, if not more so, religion has great potential to divide and engender conflict. Historically and in the present day, there are all too many examples of this: Kosovo, Northern Ireland, the Philippines, the Middle East. Conversely, religious traditions are the repository for the highest of human ideals, and ultimately it is only through the proper channeling of these commitments and traditions that we have the hope to see a better world. For this reason, interreligious dialogue and cooperation are indispensable.

Secular leaders must acknowledge this and find ways to integrate spiritual and religious elements into their processes and leadership. Likewise, religions and spiritual traditions must find the way to harmonize and unite with and cooperate with one another. Only in this way will it be possible for secular leaders to include them in a unified effort at leadership for peace.

### **MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVE**

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The IIFWP is heavily invested in activities for peace in the Middle East, through an ongoing, major initiative. This includes such activities as the recent conference: “Beyond Co-Existence toward a New Culture of Peace: Launching the IIFWP Middle East Peace Initiative,” in which 120 participants — including leading figures in religion, politics, the United Nations, the U.S. government, the media, academia, and civil society, and with balanced representation of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim perspectives — gathered in Washington, D.C., on February 26 to March 1, 2003, to explore ways to address and work toward solutions to the critical problems in the region.

This conference achieved enormous results through intense scholarly and leadership panels, plenary sessions, and working groups, leading to the signing of the Arlington Resolution in which participants pledged to: “pursue peace and prosperity through processes embodying mutual respect, appreciation, and affection, even where hatred and historical conflict have hitherto prevailed.”



*Toward peace in the Middle East*

*“...political, economic, and military approaches to peace and a better world can only benefit from inclusion of another core aspect of human life and relations, namely the religious and the spiritual.”*

They also proposed to:

- Establish interreligious and international councils at the local, national and international levels;
- Develop local, national and international educational projects and programs to strengthen moral and spiritual leadership;
- Develop service projects in the region with a special focus on peace education, youth and sustainability;
- Support an interreligious and international fact-finding tour to the region that will present its findings to IIFWP members and to relevant sections of the United Nations and its family of organizations; and
- Further develop the proposal to establish an Interreligious Council at the United Nations as part of a comprehensive strategy for peace and security for all.

### INTERRELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

As part of its longstanding and multi-pronged initiative for peace in the Middle East, the IIFWP most recently cosponsored with the American Clergy Leadership Conference one of the grandest and most challenging efforts at interreligious reconciliation in modern, interfaith history. On the foundation of over 20 years of work with the religions of Abraham, the IIFWP could come to this point at which over 500 religious leaders from these great faiths met in a commitment to peace in Jerusalem.

The goal was for Christian and Jewish leaders to meet in Jerusalem and repent together before God and one another for our histories of resentment and wrongdoing toward one another. In a sincere effort to end the division between Jews and Christians around the symbol of the cross, 132 American Christian pastors of the ACLC took the crosses down from their churches prior to the pilgrimage. Then, with bombs at times literally only yards away, these religious visionaries risked all to end a painful history. With courage and humility, hundreds of Christians, Jews, and Muslims embraced, prayed together, and signed the historic “Jerusalem Declaration,” pledging themselves to unite and work together for peace.

This is just one such event in IIFWP’s long-term commitment to peace in the Middle East. Major international conferences continue for the region, not only on site, but also in such centers of influence as Washington, D.C., where policy for the region must reflect deep understanding of the religions and cultures involved.

#### *Interreligious Pilgrimage*



## *Strengthening Marriage and Family*

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**I**FWP understands that the bedrock of any great civilization lies in the stability of the individual families within it. Husbands and wives who commit solely to each other for a lifetime, those who keep the marriage commitment as a solemn vow before God, build a personal foundation upon virtues and character that nurture safe and happy children. An exemplary couple that lives for the greater good creates stability in the family and happiness among the family members.

In recent decades the concept of the strong and vibrant two-parent American family has come under serious challenge and even outright attack. An effort has emerged to “redefine” the family as a simple group of co-habitants, unbound by the mores of the great religious traditions. Extremists at the core of this movement strive to change the social climate through legislation where they fail to alter it by popular consent.

The American Leadership Initiative and its affiliates work together to inform, link, and educate American leadership at every level regarding the sanctity of marriage and the significant consequences of broken marriages on children and families.

### ***PARENTS’ DAY***

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In 1994 the U.S. Congress unanimously passed the law establishing the fourth Sunday of every July as Parents’ Day, a perennial day of commemoration similar to Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. According to the Congressional Resolution, Parents’ Day is established for “recognizing, uplifting, and supporting the role of parents in the rearing of children.”

*Parents’ Day 2001*



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*“...the bedrock of any great civilization lies in the stability of the individual families within it.”*

Parents’ Day provides an opportunity to recognize and promote parenting as a central vocation for our families and communities. It is a chance to create a positive tradition based on a core axiom — that the role of the parents is crucial in the nurturing and development of children, and thus requires investment, focus, and commitment.

On Parents’ Day, exemplary parents are lifted up for the special recognition they deserve in ceremonies and special activities across the land. At the same time, all parents are encouraged to reflect upon their dedication to be good and effective parents to their children.

### **WORLD PEACE BLESSINGS**

The Interreligious and International Marriage Blessings have provided the venue for couples from all over the world to establish or renew their commitment to lasting love and the building of true families. The Blessings are a celebration of world peace as well, with participants from every race and nationality dedicating their marriages to overcoming racism and religious bigotry.

In 2002, IIFWP cosponsored with the American Clergy Leadership Conference the blessing of 144,000 clergy couples in America, later expanding it to millions worldwide. Leaders from major faiths concelebrated these ceremonies, offering prayers for couples from all religions, races, and nations. Clergy of many denominations have held Marriage Blessing ceremonies in their churches, mosques, and temples, challenging men and women to be true parents to their children, to never divorce or be unfaithful, to raise their children to maintain purity before marriage and fidelity in marriage, and to lift up these ideals for the entire human family.

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**World Peace Blessings**



# *Serving Our Neighbors: Programs for Youth Around the World*

## **HIV/AIDS PREVENTION**

**T**HE Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP) advocates and promotes character education, including issues relating to sexuality, marriage, and family. Chapters of the organization and their network of affiliated NGOs, including the International Relief Friendship Foundation, have been working tirelessly throughout Africa over the last decade to deal with the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which IIFWP views as a moral problem. Educational projects and initiatives have been implemented in Cameroon, Nigeria, Zambia, South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Benin, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

IIFWP representatives teach the “Healthy Lifestyle Series: Living AIDS Free, A Zero-Transmission Lifestyle.” Currently, volunteers from the organization are educating teachers, who in turn educate their students. In Nigeria, Mrs. Chibueze, guardian counselor at the Ideal Girls High School, said, “Truly speaking, if there is any organization that can transform the decadent situation of this age, it is the programs of IIFWP.”

## **TWO DECADES OF PROMOTING INTERFAITH COOPERATION THROUGH SERVICE**

An affiliate organization of IIFWP is the Religious Youth Service (RYS). Since 1985, RYS has provided services to more than 120 communities in 43 nations.

*RYS volunteers  
in Guatemala*





*This model is extremely important in helping people to heal past wounds and gain their own vision of how to rebuild their communities.*

**HIV/AIDS prevention in Africa**

The RYS model of service includes a religiously and culturally diverse service group dedicated to the basic spiritual principle of living for the sake of others. RYS models fruitful cooperation based on this principle. This model is extremely important in helping people to heal past wounds and gain their own vision of how to rebuild their communities. The organization has often worked in zones of conflict: Sri Lanka, Southern Philippines, Belfast, the former Yugoslavia, Uganda, India, and South Africa. It has inspired individuals to lay down their arms, put aside resentments, and begin to make the necessary changes for peace.

**PROMOTING A CHARACTER-BUILDING EDUCATION SYSTEM**

The early 1990s was a particularly turbulent time in the former Soviet Union. The speedy abandonment of Marxist ideology left a vacuum in education. The International Educational Foundation, an affiliate of IIFWP, sent international volunteers to assist in the development of a virtues-based curriculum for schools. My Journey in Life, used in approximately 10,000 schools throughout the region today, has met with enthusiastic acclaim.

*“This course is extremely valuable as it is devoted to an eternal problem: the preparation of young people for marriage and family life. The structure and content of the course are well thought out and are permeated with the general idea of moral choice based on values.”*

— Dr. A.S. Belkin, Chairman of the Department of Pedagogics, Urals Pedagogical Institute.

*“Truly speaking, if there is any organization that can transform the decadent situation of this age, it is the programs of IIFWP.”*





**Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** This is a network of families, from every race, religion, and culture, united in the belief that, centered on God's love, successful, happy families can solve the problems of every society. Through service and education, local chapters support member families and their surrounding communities. At the grassroots level, FFWPU chapters initiated a worldwide marriage and rededication movement of literally hundreds of millions of couples.



**Federation for World Peace** The Federation for World Peace was formally founded parallel with the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace in August 1991, to provide education that will increase respect and esteem for human rights and values; to gather individuals through forums and conferences in common pursuit of solutions to world problems.



**International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences** Starting in 1972 with 20 participants, ICUS is an interdisciplinary academic forum with two enduring themes: "Science and Values" and "Unity of Knowledge." Now a global network of distinguished scholars, ICUS initiates a board appraisal of today's problems while considering the value implications of the ends and the means of science.



**International Relief and Friendship Foundation** Since its founding in 1975, IRFF has provided humanitarian aid in the form of food, medical supplies, school supplies and clothing to people hit by catastrophe around the world. IRFF has also focused on long-term development projects in the areas of health care and nutrition, literacy, and vocational and agricultural education. IRFF's strength has been the ability to work with people as a means to empower all individuals in order to create an ethos of living for the sake of others.



**Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace** Along with the International Religious Foundation, the IRFWP has invested in the cause of world peace through interreligious dialogue and harmony for over 20 years, by seven Presidents who are leaders from major world religions. In addition to emergency intervention to prevent the outbreak of violence or war, the IRFWP also engages in long-term dialogue and organizes inter-faith pilgrimages, service projects, and relief work.



**Martial Arts Federation for World Peace** The MAFWP is devoted to developing the potential of the martial arts as a moral and cultural force for the attainment of world peace and harmony. Emphasizing self-discipline and respect between master and student, martial arts instructors and organizations are in a unique position to offer a constructive alternative to the self-centered values of today's world.



**Professors World Peace Academy** An interdisciplinary and intercultural network of scholars with chapters in over a hundred countries, the PWPA supports the academic community in the quest for peace, social stability, and prosperity. The PWPA organizes conferences (more than 400 to date), publishes books, and the International Journal of World Peace.



**Religious Youth Service** Initiated in 1985, RYS promotes the twin ideals of inter-religious harmony and public service. Youth leaders of various faiths and nationalities come together for social service projects to serve a needy community. As they offer their time, labor, sweat and tears to help others, they develop deep friendships that transcend their religious and cultural differences. Serving others is the key to interreligious peace.



**Summit Council for World Peace** Founded in 1981, the Summit Council is an organization whose core membership is composed of former heads of state and heads of government. The Council seeks to avail itself of the extraordinary wealth of knowledge, intelligence, and goodwill of these leaders as it studies and seeks solutions to the problems of the planet. This effort has spawned initiatives to promote peace, and develop new equitable economic paradigms for the 21st century.



**The Washington Times Foundation** Established in 1984, WTF is a not-for-profit organization devoted to encouraging the highest ideals in cultural values and public-mindedness. The WTF has developed programs, particularly in the areas of media and journalism, to promote the values of family, freedom, and faith; values that have become confused and weakened in the modern era.



**Women's Federation for World Peace** Since 1992 the WFWP is empowering women to create peace at home and in our communities, cultures, and world. WFWP seeks to focus the unique nurturing skills of women to provide leadership, promote peace, provide service to those in need, and implement changes in society. Granted NGO general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 1997, WFWP facilitates partnerships among women.



**World Media Association** An international forum for media professionals and opinion leaders dedicated to advancing the highest standards of journalistic ethics, it promotes freedom of the press in places where it does not exist, and encourages the responsible use of that freedom where it does. Fact-finding tours and nineteen World Media Conferences since 1978 have examined the media's role in the larger context of society.



**World University Federation** An international, interactive network of institutions and educators, taking full advantage of new information technologies, WUF promotes the integral education of the whole person. Educational institutions must not only train students to be competent professionally, but also to become responsible citizens who can contribute to society and approach the world from a global perspective.



**Youth Federation for World Peace** This global organization addresses the crisis in values among today's youth. Delegates from 164 nations inaugurated the Federation in July 1994, affirming that selfless service to others transcends all human boundaries and is rooted in recognition of God. YFWP programs include scholarships, international exchange, leadership programs, service outreach, and character education.

