

Pathways To Peace

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The Pathways To Peace (Pathways or PTP) vision statement is the basis for our work. “Acting in concert, we do make a difference in the quality of our lives, our institutions, our environment and our planetary future. Through cooperation, we manifest the essential spirit that unites us amidst our diverse ways.” The primary work of Pathways is to promote the Culture of Peace and to work with other organizations to make it a reality.

Since 1997, Pathways is one of two NGOs on the planning committee with DPI to create the annual youth event for the International Day of Peace (IDP). The programs change from year to year and fill Conference Room 4 with students. Mrs. Annan opens the event each year. Using the World Peace Flag Ceremony, children send messages of peace to every country. The program has included many dignitaries including Broadway entertainers, Muhammad Ali, the first Lady of Colombia, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Betty Williams.

In 2000, the International Day of Peace was called Millennium Peace Day. Pathways To Peace was instrumental in linking UNESCO to Millennium Peace Day for the presentation of the Manifesto 2000 signatures to the President of the GA.

Through the “WE THE PEOPLES INITIATIVE” and the Internet, the International Day of Peace is well promoted by Pathways To Peace and our 250 partner organizations. It is celebrated in schools, places of worship and communities in over 40 countries.

Pathways To Peace is the international secretariat for the “WE THE PEOPLES” Initiative, a UN Peace Messenger since 1989. Pathways produces and presents the annual report to the Secretary-General. This report carries the highlights from the partner organizations to build a Culture of Peace. Pathways also serves as a resource for the initiative member organizations.

Pathways worked closely with UNESCO to promote the launching at UN Headquarters of the Year 2000 as the Year for the Culture of Peace and continues to be an active partner in the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010.

PTP is an accredited UNICEF NGO an active member of the UNEP Interfaith Partnership, listed in their *Earth and Faith* publication.

Pathways To Peace has held leadership positions within the NGO community serving on the DPI/NGO Executive Committee (1996-1998) and on the Values Caucus Council since 1996 when it formed. The Values Caucus Council organizes monthly meetings for the NGO community, coffees with the Permanent Representatives, and special events such as the Dec. 2000 luncheon with Ambassadors to review the values stressed in the Secretary General’s Millennium Report.

PTP is active on the Committee of Religious NGOs, UNICEF Working Group on Girls, and the Committee for Freedom of Religion and Belief. We are members of the NGO Committees on Youth, Women and the Committee to Teach About the UN.

Pathways is involved in UN Conferences and PrepComs. We attended the annual September DPI/NGO conferences (1997, 98, 99, 2000) and presenting a workshop at the 2000 conference on the Culture of Peace. Pathways was involved in the review process

for Rio (1997) and Beijing (2000); the World Youth Forum in Portugal (1998); Hague Appeal for Peace (1999), and Millennium Peoples Assembly (2000).

Pathways To Peace is committed to promoting the Culture of Peace through Interfaith dialogue. Pathways served on the steering committee for the United Religions Initiative (URI), an outgrowth of the 50th UN anniversary celebration in SF creating a world-wide network of interfaith groups to work together on projects and regional priorities (1995-2000). We presented a workshop on the Culture of Peace at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Cape Town, SA in 1999 and help organize a major Parliament event at Robben Island.

Pathways is a cosponsor and active in the planning for the annual Interfaith Service of Commitment to the Work of the United Nations organized since 1998. This service is attended by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, Ambassadors and open to the public.

Pathways To Peace co-chaired the Interfaith Youth Forum in Support of the Millennium World Peace Summit for Religious and Spiritual Leaders at the UN in 2000. There were 120 youth from twelve different religious traditions, 6 countries, and 8 states working together for two days to experience different traditions and prepare a document for the religious leaders. The youth attended the Summit opening.

Pathways works closely with the World Peace Prayer Society (WPPS) on their annual Peace Festival and special Peace Pole planting events. We worked in India with the students at the Tibetan Children's Village for two weeks in 1997. Pathways and WPPS worked at the UN Habitat office in Nairobi to organize over 1000 local people in a ceremony to plant a Peace Pole to commemorate the Embassy bombing victims, Jan. 1998. In 2000, we planted a Peace Pole in Bethany, Jordan as part of the International

Institute of Peace through Tourism's Summit. This Summit produced the Amman Declaration that was later adopted as a GA resolution.

A Season for Nonviolence, Jan.30-April 4, marks the memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.. Pathways has actively served on the New York City Task force since it began in 1997. The NYC opening and closing events are held annually at the United Nations. A Season for Nonviolence Gandhi-King Award has been presented to Secretary-General Kofi Annan (1999), President Nelson Mandella (2000) and Global Kids (2001). Mahatma Gandhi's grandchildren are founders of this international program and the Martin Luther King, Jr. family is very involved. Pathways began the Gandhi-King Website to promote the Season in 1998.

Pathways co-sponsored an art exhibit at the UN Secretariat, *One Thousand Years of Peace* by Anne Mimi Sammis (1999).