

CULTURE OF PEACE

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Building a culture of PEACE is a dynamic, complex and multidimensional process, which involves changing values, beliefs and behaviours. It consists of over-coming prejudices and intolerance within the MIND and HEARTS of every human person in all nations and in the global community, of denouncing all forms of violence, and of leading society away from CRUELTY and INHUMANITY towards a genuine capacity of learning society to live together in HARMONY. It embraces the total human environment and the whole complex of features, material and non-material that characterized a group in the search of peaceful solutions to conflict and of ways to promote the total welfare of its individual members without DISCRIMINATION as to GENDER, RELIGION, LANGUAGE, OCCUPATION, or STATUS.

A culture of PEACE recognizes and respects all cultures in their diversity and at the same time seek a common understanding of what encompasses a shared vision of peace that leads to more JUST and FREE, more DEMOCRATIC and a human world order. A genuine culture of peace is founded on the exercise of fundamental freedoms, respect for HUMAN RIGHTS and the dignity of a human person. It cherishes and value "OTHERNESS" and promotes tolerance to a genuine and sustainable culture of peace.

A culture of PEACE acknowledges the responsibilities of solidarity in which the relief of the suffering of any group of people is taken to be the responsibility of the entire community where the people are neither EXPLOITABLE nor EXPENDABLE.

In a culture of PEACE, CONFLICTS needs and not to produced VIOLENCE. Differences would be mediated in a spirit of mutuality and disputes settled in non-violent and creativity and shared human feelings.

To bring about a "CULTURE OF PEACE", persons need to be educated to value human solidarity, mutuality and justice, and to learn the skills that enable them to renounce VIOLENCE and take PEACE as a "WAY OF LIFE".

"PEACE MUST BEGIN WITH EACH ONE OF US", through a quiet and serious reflection on its meaning, new creative ways can be found to foster understanding, friendship and cooperation among people.

It is a truism that one cannot give what he/she does not have. Conversely, one cannot be at peace with others and the world, if he/she is not at peace with himself/herself. Many people find themselves in troubles with others because of their inability to control themselves, an inability to stay calm amidst external pressure. Some people become easily confused, fretful and violent when suddenly under pressure, then wonder afterwards why in the world they have harmed others and why they cannot seem to account for their actions. Reactions of this kind may be

indicative of person's need to look inward-harmonizing thoughts, motives words and actions to get in touch with the inner self where peace, strength and truth reside. Peace from within consists of pure thoughts, pure feelings and pure motives and wishes.

PEACE is rare commodity in today's world. This is evident by the dissatisfactions/worries of individuals and through a lack of proper UNDERSTANDING between people of different nations and communities.

A culture of PEACE is necessary for a "MEANINGFUL LIFE TOGETHER". In a world where there is great diversity in personal, social and a cultural ways of BEING and LIVING, possession of significant human values can overcome these differences and ensures PEACE and SOLIDARITY.

The process of PEACE-BUILDING starts from within the heart of each individual, when it is shared with other groups and cultures, it can lead to "PEACE"...

If there is light in the soul, there will be a beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be ".peace in the world.."