

Peace Road 2023: USA, Canada and Tri-border of Slovakia, Austria and Hungary

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New York Peace March: A Successful Call for Peace

On May 27, a remarkable peace march took place in New York City. Over 80 individuals, representing various organizations, gathered at Dag Hammarskjold plaza, opposite the UN Headquarters, to advocate for peace.



Led by Bishop Dr. Lubin Moise, Chair member of the NY Peace March Initiative, the participants marched with a shared purpose. Bishop Moise is currently collecting signatures to petition the UN for the construction of a memorial honoring lives lost to conflicts and promoting peaceful conflict resolution. The event saw the active involvement and support of UPF, WFWP, WCLC, YSP, GPA/HUSA, and CARP members. The march was characterized by its non-violent nature, healing atmosphere, and enthusiastic energy.

Reverend Miilhan Stephens, president of IAYSP USA, and Reverend Bruce Grodner of ACLC and WCLC collaborated with Bishop Moise to organize the march. The three-hour event featured impassioned

speeches on the streets of New York City to raise awareness and garner support for the peace initiative. Meanwhile, members of CARP and GPA engaged with individuals, seeking their signatures for the petition.



2023 Peace Road event at the Tri-border meeting point of Slovakia, Austria and Hungary

On June 3rd, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), and the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) organized a Peace Road program at the tri-border point of Slovakia, Austria, and Hungary.

Around 150 participants joined the march. The event began with participants singing the European Union's anthem in their respective languages. Speakers, including Peter Haider from the Austrian Universal Peace Federation and Gabriela Ferenčáková, the mayor of Čunovo, emphasized the importance of peace, gratitude, and cooperation. Mag. Barbara Grabner presented the "European Green Belt" initiative, which protects areas along the former Iron Curtain and promotes unity through nature. The Women's Federation for World Peace and the Youth and Students for Peace Presidents of Austria and Hungary focused on themes of unity and collaboration. Péter Mészáros highlighted the significance of peace and shared personal experiences of border controls. He called for active efforts towards peace.

Participants then embarked on an eight-kilometer journey to a nearby campsite, engaging in discussions, games, and nature exploration. The Peace Road, established in 1981, aims to connect people worldwide.

Projects like an undersea tunnel between Korea and Japan and the Bering Strait Project to unite Alaska and Siberia contribute to the vision of a peacefully reunited Korea. The event celebrated unity and collaboration, inspiring renewed commitment to peace and a better world.

Marching for Unity: Canada's Peace Road 2023 Unification March

Unity, peace, and hope converged on June 4 at the Ontario Parliament Building, Canada, as part of the 'Canada Peace Road 2023 Unification March'. Orchestrated by the National Alliance for Korean Unification and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), this remarkable event saw about 200 participants, including notables such as Labor Minister Monty McNaughton, clergy members, community leaders, and

peace ambassadors.

The gathering commenced with an opening address from the Regional President, setting the stage for an inspiring congratulatory message from Minister Monty McNaughton. It was followed by affirming speeches from an array of religious representatives and peace ambassadors, each lending their voice to a harmonious chorus of unity. The speakers' roster featured an eclectic mix of leaders, including representatives from Christian, Islamic, and Hindu communities, among others. The event was further highlighted by the recognition of three community leaders with certificates of honor, a peace march, and vibrant cultural performances from Colombian, Sri Lankan, and Philippine communities.



In July of 2022, the Peace Road Organizing Committee had marked the 9th Anniversary of the Peace Road Conference in Berlin, Germany, with a strong message -- no country should suffer the division experienced by the Korean Peninsula, nor should Europe erect a new dividing wall.

In tandem, the UPF has propelled a nationwide campaign, aiming to christen the honorific title 'New Peace Road' across the country. This endeavor symbolizes the connection between the energy of German unification and that of the Korean Peninsula, whilst promoting the metaphorical removal of divisive barriers.

Presently, 'New Peace Road' has only been established in Gapyeong County in Gyeonggi Province.

However, the '2023 Unification March' is expected to fuel a more expansive establishment of 'New Peace Roads' across the nation.

Song Gwang-seok, the Chairperson of the National Alliance for Korean Unification, underscored that the drive for unification transcends political barriers, with a collective yearning for unity that remains resilient, despite any tense inter-Korean relations. He also expressed the shared goal to ensure that the significance of Korean unification -- as a key foundation for global peace -- is widely understood and supported by the international community.

The National Alliance for Korean Unification revealed that the 'Peace Road 2023 Unification March' has already kick-started in 160 countries worldwide, earlier this month. Since its inception in 2013 as the 'Korea-Japan 3800km Bicycle Peace Unification March', this peaceful march has evolved into a global event, growing from 14 participating countries in 2014 to an expected 160 countries this year, involving an estimated 400,000 people. This expansion signifies the increasing global support for the unification of the Korean Peninsula.