

UPF International: October 27 - Milestones of Peace in UPF Founders' History

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UPF Founders Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han

As the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) launches the "100 Days of Harmony and Hope" a global initiative bridging United Nations Day and World Interfaith Harmony Week, we pause to reflect on key historical moments that have shaped UPF founders public mission.

Across the decades, events that occurred on October 27 reveal how the ideals of interfaith cooperation, human dignity and service, championed by UPF and its Founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and her late husband Dr. Sun Myung Moon have been expressed in action.

1984 Defending Freedom of Conscience

On October 27, 1984, the Professors World Peace Academy of Korea concluded a ten-city series of academic seminars, one of which was held in Seoul examining the U.S. tax case that led to the unjust imprisonment of Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

Hundreds of scholars, educators, and civic leaders gathered to raise concerns about due process and to affirm freedom of conscience as a universal principle. The effort culminated in a national signature appeal endorsed by professors, parliamentarians, and public figures.

In retrospect, this initiative became a landmark Korean contribution to the global discourse on freedom of religion or belief, underscoring the moral responsibility of democratic societies to protect that right.

2006 Guiding Ambassadors for Peace

On October 27, 2006, Dr. Sun Myung Moon personally addressed 120 Ambassadors for Peace in Chung Pyung, Korea, offering profound guidance on interfaith cooperation and moral responsibility.

Participants represented religious, academic, and civic sectors from multiple nations. The meeting emphasized dialogue that builds trust, projects that foster reconciliation, and leadership grounded in service to others.

2012 Empowering Women as Peacebuilders

On October 27, 2012, more than 1,200 women leaders convened in Las Vegas, USA, for the 20th Anniversary National Assembly of the Women Federation for World Peace (WFWP).

Messages from government officials recognized WFWPs impact in education, health, and community development. In her keynote address, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon urged women to lead with compassion, strengthen the family as the foundation of peace, and transform care into civic engagement. The event reaffirmed that women's leadership is essential to sustainable peace and social progress.

2019 Building Peace in Southeast Europe

On October 27, 2019, the Southeast Europe Peace Summit concluded in Tirana, Albania, under the patronage of the Prime Minister. The gathering brought together heads of state, parliamentarians, faith leaders, and civil society representatives from more than fifty countries.

Serving as Chair of the Summit, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon delivered a keynote address emphasizing peace, security, and human development. The three-day event (October 25-27) featured sessions on family values, migration, interfaith harmony, media ethics, and economic cooperation, offering a practical roadmap for peace in a region historically marked by division.

A Shared Legacy of Faith and Freedom

October 27 also holds global significance as Freedom of Religion or Belief Day, marking the passage of the U.S. International Religious Freedom Act (1998) and reaffirming the universal principles enshrined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

For UPF, the day is a reminder that the right to believe, change belief, and practice faith freely must always be defended within a culture that balances freedom with responsibility and mutual respect.

Continuing the Vision

Together, these milestones trace a consistent moral vision: in 1984, scholars defended conscience; in 2006, leaders fostered interfaith trust; in 2012, women strengthened the moral fabric of society; in 2019, nations renewed their commitment to dialogue and peace.

Today, as UPF's 100 Days of Harmony and Hope unfolds, we invite Ambassadors for Peace, policymakers, educators, and youth to carry forward this living legacy, building bridges across faiths and cultures, nurturing the spirit of one global family united in dignity, compassion, and lasting peace.

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