

UPF UK: Shared Responsibility for Human Life and Dignity

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Universal Peace Federation - UK *A Global Network of Peacebuilders*

20 Years since the Adoption of the Responsibility to Protect (2005 - 2025)

As the world marks twenty years since the adoption of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) at the 2005 United Nations World Summit, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) reaffirms its commitment to shared responsibility, human dignity, and global solidarity as foundations for peace. Adopted by all UN Member States, R2P represented a transformative moment in international cooperation - asserting that sovereignty carries moral and legal responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. This principle resonates deeply with UPF's vision of "One Family under God," where leadership, compassion, and cooperation safeguard the value of every human life.



Photo from February 1st, [2010 UPF UK event](#) in the House of Lords, hosted by the late Lord Tarsem King, at which David Wardrop, then Chair of Westminster UNA, addressed the promise and the challenges of 'Responsibility 2 Protect'. David Wardrop spoke of the UN Resolution that established the 'Responsibility to Protect' as well as the International Criminal Court current situation. He added that both were weak but that at least they were on the agenda and could be strengthened. He explained that 'We the people' must challenge Governments to champion the role of 'Responsibility to Protect' provisions. He concluded that civil society and media have an important role to play in developing the capacity of the international community to act in the case of an ongoing genocide.

A Global Commitment to Prevent Atrocities

The Responsibility to Protect was endorsed by the UN General Assembly through the World Summit Outcome Document ([A/RES/60/1](#), paragraphs 138 - 139), marking a global commitment that the protection of populations from mass atrocities is a fundamental international concern. It established three pillars: first, the responsibility of every state to safeguard its population; second, the duty of the international community to assist states in fulfilling that role; and third, the collective commitment to strengthen international cooperation for the prevention of atrocities as well as capacity-building. These

principles continue to guide international discourse on prevention and human security in ways that respect sovereignty, dialogue, and partnership.

UPF's Moral Framework: Interdependence and Shared Responsibility

The [Universal Peace Federation](#) upholds that the Responsibility to Protect reflects the spiritual truth that all people are interconnected and that the value of human life transcends borders. Our founders, [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and [Dr. Sun Myung Moon](#), taught that genuine peace arises from recognizing humanity as one extended family. From this perspective, the protection of life is a matter of moral conscience and shared responsibility, where true leadership means taking responsibility for those who suffer. In the thought of our founders, a nation itself should function as an extended family, where leaders and citizens care for one another, recognizing that the strength of any country lies in its capacity to protect and nurture its people.

These values are also expressed in one of the Federation's founding principles, interdependence, which teaches that human beings and nations exist in mutual relationship and shared responsibility. This principle emphasizes that sustainable peace arises when individuals, families, and states act not in isolation but in cooperation recognizing that the well-being of one supports the well-being of all.

Lord King of West Bromwich in his opening remarks emphasized that UPF believes that humankind is 'One Family Under God'. He explained that Father Moon had suffered greatly to find the heart to love all people. He added that loving families would be at the core of peace in the future. Such families would form peaceful nations and a peaceful world.

Building Prevention through Dialogue and Cooperation

Through its global programs - such as the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development, and the worldwide Peace Road initiative - the Federation advances dialogue, education, and ethical leadership as foundations of prevention. This preventive approach has deep roots in our organization. For decades, projects like the Religious Youth Service ([RYS](#)) have fostered community solidarity, service learning, and reconciliation among youth from different backgrounds, embodying the preventive and humanitarian spirit that R2P seeks to achieve. We urge all governments, faith leaders, and citizens to strengthen early warning, support peacebuilding, and uphold justice through cooperation and mutual respect.

Toward a World of Harmony and Mutual Respect

These initiatives echo the deeper spirit of R2P: preventing suffering through reconciliation, inclusion, and respect for human dignity. On this twentieth anniversary, we call for the Responsibility to Protect to be further operationalized through stronger early warning systems, diplomatic prevention, and peacebuilding guiding humanity toward a world of harmony and mutual respect.

In alignment with this vision, the Universal Peace Federation supports international frameworks that unite major powers and developing nations around shared humanitarian principles, including the UN's framework for the [Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict](#) and the UN Charter's commitment to peaceful settlement of disputes. The Federation's programs complement the work of the UN Office on [Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect](#), emphasizing cooperation, sovereignty, and non-interference while advancing collective efforts to prevent mass suffering.

Through educational, interfaith, and parliamentary cooperation, UPF promotes a preventive and inclusive spirit acceptable to all nations placing moral responsibility and the protection of human dignity at the heart of peacebuilding.