

UPF International: Respect for Diversity and Shared Understanding

Tageldin Hamad
November 16, 2025



On November 16, the United Nations commemorates the [International Day for Tolerance](#), proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1996. At a time when mistrust, polarization and targeted misinformation strain relations within and between societies, this observance calls on states, educators, media and civil society to strengthen learning, law and public life in a way that allows people with different convictions and histories to coexist peacefully. It also supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular quality education, reduced inequalities and more inclusive public institutions.

On this day, the Universal Peace Federation recalls that its founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han and the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, described diversity in culture, language, and belief as a resource for shared progress. They explained tolerance as respectful engagement with human differences, recognizing their worth rather than fearing them. UPF founders taught that God intended human culture to unfold in diversity, with differences creating contrasts and relationships that reveal beauty and goodness.

This emphasis on diversity, expressed in messages from interreligious dialogues of the 1980s, informs guidance on creation's purpose and human civilization's development. They taught that caring for individuals' inner and outer dimensions is essential for social progress, beginning when people see one another as members of one human family under God. This conviction underlies UPF principles emphasizing the family's role, a life oriented toward others' wellbeing and leaders' responsibility to build frameworks for inter-traditional meetings; it resonates with the UN message that communities flourish by accepting a common destiny and acting in solidarity.

Across the world, UPF chapters and partners have implemented programs highlighting tolerance and respect for diversity. In Asia, UPF-[Nepal](#) commemorated the UN International Day for Tolerance with an Ambassadors for Peace seminar in Kathmandu on November 4, 2022, drawing about 100 participants from various sectors. In Africa, a special convocation in Abuja, [Nigeria](#) marked the UN World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development on May 23, 2014, bringing together diplomats, educators and civil society leaders at the Yar'adua International Conference Center to celebrate harmonious coexistence. In Europe, UPF-[Norway](#) hosted a "Nordic Seminar" in Oslo on November 12, 2022 - uniting participants of 15 nationalities under the theme "Principles of Peace" - to observe the International Day for Tolerance and promote greater intercultural understanding.

In the [Americas](#), UPF's Interreligious Association for Peace and Development held a regional webinar on December 10, 2022, emphasizing the need to uphold freedom of belief and "strongly oppose all forms of intolerance," while urging communities to "embrace the diversity" of backgrounds as a foundation for peace. In Oceania, UPF-Oceania organized a "Peace Road and Multicultural Peace Festival" in Sydney, [Australia](#) on September 28, 2025, which celebrated cultural diversity and unity - featuring a peace walkathon and vibrant performances by Vietnamese, Nepalese, Russian, Filipino, Mongolian, Chinese, and Korean community groups, all embodying the spirit of "unity in diversity." Each of these initiatives shows how UPF-affiliated programs foster tolerance and mutual respect across religious, ethnic, and cultural lines, in every corner of the globe.

These efforts align with UN programs promoting respect and understanding, including UNESCO's [Global Citizenship Education](#), the [UN Alliance of Civilizations'](#) intercultural dialogue, the [UN Plan of Action to Combat Hate Speech](#), and [SDGs 4.7](#) and [16](#) under the [2030 Agenda](#).

On this International Day for Tolerance, UPF calls its Ambassadors for Peace, officials, educators, media professionals, and youth leaders to deepen cultural learning, protect spaces for honest dialogue, and anchor policies in coexistence. In pursuing the 2030 Agenda, this commitment transforms differences into a foundation for security and stability.



UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

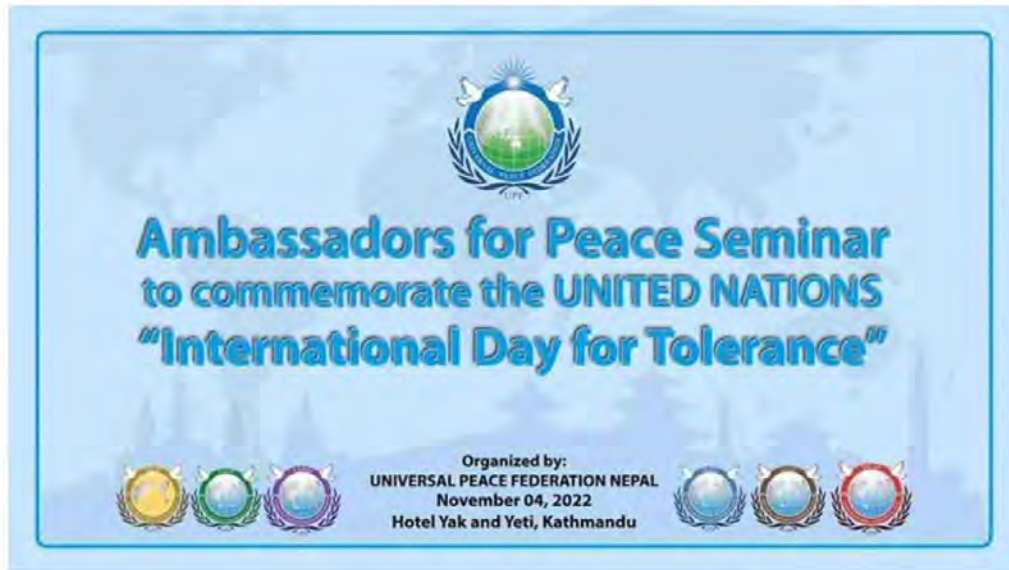
A Global Network of Peacebuilders



UN INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE OBSERVED IN NEPAL

Friday, November 04, 2022

Written by: Mr. Binod Dang, secretary general of UPF-Nepal



Kathmandu, Nepal—UPF-Nepal commemorated the UN International Day for Tolerance with an Ambassadors for Peace seminar, held on November 4, 2022 at Hotel Yak and Yeti in Kathmandu. The program was attended by 102 people, including five members of parliament, four generals, nine professors, medical doctors and Ambassadors for Peace. UPF-Asia lecturer, Mr. Richell Jalipa, served as the emcee.

The event began with an invocation offered by Buddhist leader Ven. Hueiguang, chief incumbent of Bodhisattva Vihara in Budhanilkantha, with his team.

The opening remarks were given by Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, a former minister of the government of Nepal and chairman of UPF and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) in the Asia-Pacific. He pointed out that development is possible only if there is peace and emphasized the need to develop religious tolerance and harmony in society.

A presentation about UPF given by Mr. Santosh Kumar Paudel, deputy sub-regional director of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) Asia-Pacific 1, highlighted its activities worldwide and the founder's vision for peace.

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, chairman of UPF International, gave the special greetings virtually.

The Ambassador for Peace award ceremony followed, with Prof. Dr. Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya, vice-chancellor of Lumbini Buddhist University; a Buddhist leader; and a professor receiving awards.

Congratulatory remarks were given by Mr. Demian Dunkley, regional president of FFWPU Asia-Pacific 1. He stated that peace and a habit of tolerance starts within the family. Just as the husband tolerates his wife, the wife tolerates her husband; similarly, parents tolerate their children and vice versa.

A congratulatory song was sung by Mr. Ananda Karki, a Nepalese singer.

Then, newly-appointed Ambassador for Peace Dr. Bajracharya gave remarks on behalf of all the Ambassador for Peace awardees.

The chief guest remarks were given by Hon. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, chairman of the National Assembly of Nepal. He said that forgiveness is a big factor for peace. "If the existence and rights of others can be respected in the society, conflict will be minimized, so forgiveness is great."

He went on to say that no religion accepts violence, nevertheless wars and violence are happening all over the world in the name of religion—and that the world wants peace.

Mentioning that Nepal is the birthplace of Buddha, Hon. Timilsina said that every peace-loving citizen of the world should be inspired to visit the country. He praised UPF for the work it is doing locally and internationally.

The closing remarks were given by Prof. Narayan Sharma Gajurel, vice chairman of UPF-Nepal. He said that UPF is promoting a world of peace through family values education and uniting people from different sectors across the world.

If you find this page helpful and informative please consider making donation. Your donation will help Universal Peace Federation (UPF) provide new and improved reports, analysis and publications to you and everyone around the world.

UPF is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and all donations are tax deductible in the United States. Receipts are automatically provided for donations of or above \$250.00.

Donate to the Universal Peace Federation: *Your donation to support the general programs of UPF.*

Donate

Donate to the Religious Youth Service (RYS): *Your donation will be used for service projects around the world.*

Donate

Donate to UPF's Africa Projects: *Your donation will be used for projects in Africa.*

Donate

FOLLOW US



DONATE



WORLDWIDE CHAPTERS



NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

Search

Search ...

UNITED NATIONS RELATIONS

- [Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Interfaith Council Proposal](#)
- [International Day of Peace](#)
- [International Women's Day](#)
- [Interfaith Harmony Week](#)
- [International Day of Families](#)
- [Global Day of Parents](#)
- [Japanese Tea Ceremony](#)
- [Other Reports on the UN](#)
- [Partners](#)

LANGUAGES

- [Français - French](#)
- [Español - Spanish](#)
- [русский - Russian](#)
- [Italiano - Italian](#)

ABOUT UPF

- [Donate](#)
- [Mission](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Principles](#)
- [Founders](#)
- [Global Peace Council](#)
- [Board of Directors](#)

TOOLS

- [Downloads](#)
- [Guidelines for Reports](#)