

# International Day of Peace

Bonn, Germany, 14. September 2014



The Bonn chapters of Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and Universal Peace Federation (UPF) provided a platform for people from different nations, belief systems and religions for sharing their ideas on the topic of this year's International Day of Peace as proclaimed by the United Nations: The Right Of Peoples To Peace.

The speakers of the day were:



*Dr. Basharat A. Syed (Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat):  
How can peaceful coexistence succeed?*



*Ulf Gottfriedt (Lutheran Church): Peace – Core of the Christian Message*

In times when the daily news often sound like war reporting, the individual may sometimes feel powerless and helpless. And yet in the course of the Bonn peace day event it became noticeable that the participants understood themselves as factors for peace and thus want to make their own contributions to a peaceful world.



*Ven. B. Samiddhi (Samadhi Buddhistisches Meditationscenter, Bonn): Creating „Peace Energy“ and Sharing It With Others*



*Christina Partuschke-Begnaud: Women and Youth As Key To Peace – Activities of Women’s Federation and UPF*

From their different perspectives they all made it clear that peace is not only a matter of states or political alliances and organizations such as the

United Nations. Rather, peace begins in each individual.

Many of the participants could personally make this experience during a meditation exercise, which was beautifully guided by *Ven. B. Samiddhi*.

*Dr. Basharat A. Syed* vividly portrayed the idea of peace, as upheld in the Ahmadiyya community. This idea can be found in Islam as in other religions. The family plays a special role in it.

*Ulf Gottfriedt*, an activist of the Lutheran Church and volunteer in the Salvation Army, recalled core elements of the Christian message: peace of heart, peace with God and peace in relationships with others.

*Christina Partuschke* met with much approval, as she explained the crucial role of women in the peace efforts of our time and presented many peace activities of the Women's Federation (seminars and peace bridges with women of enemy nations, practical help in areas of conflict, mediation in the Middle East, commitment for the rights of women under the theme "The Dignity of Women" and much more). She also showed by the example of the Religious Youth Service, how young people from different countries are joining together for peace services in many countries.

Meaningful comments from the audience as well as musical contributions completed the official part of the event. Many of the numerous participants took the opportunity to share deeply with each other and also enjoyed cakes and refreshments.

Please note: The Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and also the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) are NGOs with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).