

All about the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace - the IAPP

Thomas G. Walsh
September 2021



The launch of IAPP in London, United Kingdom

The Universal Peace Federation conducted an International Leadership Conference in Seoul February 12–16, 2016, that attracted 340 people, among whom 140 were active members of their national legislature from more than forty nations. Thirteen government ministers also attended. On February 15, in the Korean National Assembly Building, they adopted the following resolution that called for the creation of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP).

Resolution in Support of the Formation of International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace

As we know, our world faces a wide range of problems, including territorial disputes, religious and racial conflict, environmental degradation, climate change, violent extremism, poverty, hunger, nuclear proliferation and corruption. Each of these is a serious threat to human development and to the realization of peace in our world.

As we gather in Seoul, we are especially mindful that division remains on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea continues to develop its nuclear weapons program, raising serious concerns all over the world that military tensions are rising throughout Northeast Asia. Even now, sixty years after the Korean War, it remains impossible to communicate or freely travel between the two nations. It is time for the international community to wholeheartedly contribute to the realization of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The division on the Korean Peninsula cannot be seen as a domestic issue; it is an urgent issue that requires the interest and cooperation of Asia and the entire world. It is time for humanity to embrace universally shared values. Let us work together, going beyond differences of ideology, race, nationality and religion. Let us show the example and pursue the path of mutual cooperation and mutual prosperity, building a world of lasting and sustainable peace that can be bequeathed to future generations.

Therefore, we, the more than 150 parliamentarians, representing more than 40 nations, who are participating in the 2016 International Leadership Conference on "Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: The Role of Governments, Civil Society and Faith-Based Organizations," convened in Seoul, Korea, keenly feel the necessity to form a world-level parliamentary association through which we can work together for peace and human development. Gathered at the Korean National Assembly, we hereby propose and resolve to establish the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace.

IAPP, purpose and background

IAPP is an emerging force within UPF's network of ambassadors for peace, many of whom are activists involved with representative democracy in their nations and regions. Parliamentarians for Peace forums are emerging as crucial to action-oriented peace initiatives. Parliamentarians for Peace forums include:

A trans-religious and trans-national framework for the exchange of ideas, experiences and insights into dealing with the challenges of our times, with particular attention to peacebuilding, reconciliation and development.

An integrated and principled framework for developing effective plans of action and sound

governance capacities.

Access to a range of human development and peace-building programs necessary for durable solutions.

Connections with a broad global network of religious and civil society leaders, government leaders, woman leaders, members of the media, peace-builders and more.



The IAPP launch in Kiribati on December 8 to 9, 2017

Supporting the UN

Seeking to augment the efforts of the United Nations whose objectives it shares, UPF works in over 190 nations with other international, regional and national organizations, as well as with the UN, its agencies and related organizations. Through the Parliamentarians for Peace forums, Ambassadors for Peace are also provided with significant opportunities to strengthen their capacity to achieve and sustain superior performance as leaders and therefore improve the quality of governance of their institutions, nations and organizations.

At the same time, by utilizing the UPF's strategic foci and integrated methodology for peacebuilding and development, Parliamentarians for Peace can leverage their strengths and resources for peace and development within their nations, their region and globally through UPF's Global Peace Council and growing network of regional and national Peace Councils.

Effecting Change

At the end of the day, parliamentarians are faced with the challenges of maintaining the highest standards of leadership while effecting change at the national and local levels on all global issues -- of education, security, development, crime, health, corruption, infrastructure, elections, justice and so much more.

Recognizing the enormity of this complex work, Parliamentarians for Peace are provided significant knowledge, tools and support through the Ambassadors for Peace network; the Global Peace Council and regional Peace Councils; and the UPF's growing alliance of families, religious communities, educational institutions, media connections and affiliated NGOs and civil society organizations.

Key Action Areas

During the February 2017 World Summit in Seoul, Korea, a group of more than 500 parliamentarians convened to explore ways that parliamentarians and those responsible in government can better work together and optimize the strengths, uniqueness and resources of UPF. Those gathered recognize the following as key action areas:

Peacebuilding, inter-religious reconciliation and development

Peace education and character education

Curbing corruption

Strengthening democracy and good governance



The IAPP launch in Kenya on January 10, 2018

Working Strategy

At the 2017 World Summit, Parliamentarians for Peace have the opportunity to identify a number of next steps:

Address the root causes of problems by engaging in and encouraging self-reflection and self-evaluation.

Combat corruption through the exercise of their vote on various budgetary issues and by supporting not only traditional academic education but also values education.

Work to establish bi-partisan peacebuilding committees or caucuses in their legislature.

In nations/regions where conflict is endemic and people have lost hope for genuine peace, conduct Ambassadors for Peace programs and seminars to rebuild hope and confidence.

Work across sectors and as groups to eradicate corruption that knows no boundaries.

Find ways to network and work together with delegates from other nations, perhaps by creating friendship groups or similar clubs.

Support the partnership between religion and politics as a substantive means to target daily behavior for real transparency.

Support character education programs in their nations as a practical way to support peace and development while also addressing the problems of HIV/AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence and the curbing of corruption at the grassroots level.

True Mother's Founder's Message at a February 4, 2017, IAPP Conference

Distinguished guests, esteemed members of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) from 120 countries, it is wonderful to see you all.

We all wish for a free world, a united, peaceful world, however, if you look at the current state of the world, walls exist between religions and cultures, and borders exist between countries. Nations are moving further toward selfishly putting their own benefit first, hindering the pursuit of a united world.

What happened to the wish that you and Heaven held? Originally, the true owner of the world was God.

From all created things to all human beings; all belongs to God, however, humankind does not know that. They do not understand the relationship between God and humanity. That is why, throughout history, countless divisions and wars between nations have occurred. Nations' selfishness in pursuing only their own interests has pushed harmony and unity further away. This has been the history of civilization.



On November 30, 2016, in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington DC, True Mother launched the US chapter of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace amidst numerous US politicians.

When we look at the reality of the world we live in, we worry that we will be unable to say that the future for our descendants is a hopeful one. If that is the case, for you to fulfill your responsibilities is important. Originally, God, the Creator, made every other living thing and then made humankind's ancestors, Adam and Eve. God gave them responsibilities. Consequently, all human beings today are the result of Adam and Eve's inability to fulfill their responsibilities.

However, because of the Principle of Creation, God could not just sit back and watch fallen humankind. Originally, God had a dream for humankind. God wanted to be the true parent to humankind. However, the ancestors of humankind, Adam and Eve hurt God. They thwarted God's dream. Nevertheless, God could not give up on the dream he had when creating human beings, the dream of embracing all humankind as His children.

Therefore, God developed messianism within the fallen world, so that a messiah, able to achieve God's dream and become the successful human ancestor, could come. In order to fulfill Heaven's dream, God chose a people from among those in the fallen world and prepared them for 4,000 years through indemnity, restoration and education. Ultimately, God was able to send His only son, the Messiah, who could fulfill His dream.

However, looking at history we all know what happened to the only son of God. If 2,000 years ago the only son, Jesus, had met the only daughter, they would have become the True Parents of all humankind. They would have realized the dream of one family under God through the great Cain-type empire, the Roman Empire.

As events transpired, the central figures around Jesus, the Israelites; that is, central people within Judaism, could not fulfill their responsibility. Jesus had no choice but to go the way of the cross, saying he would return. Jesus said he would return and hold the marriage supper of the lamb.

Those words meant that after the 2,000 years of Christian history when the Messiah would finally come, he would find God's only daughter and they would become the True Parents of all humankind. When you look at the state of the world today, there is no center. Small nations and larger nations only think of their own interests. In our hearts, we all desire to have a united world -- a peaceful happy united world -- but so many walls block our way.

However, today, we have gathered here under one large dream, which means that you are dreaming the same dream as True Parents are and as God, our creator is. The only path to solving all the difficult problems of the world today is through the manifestation of the True Parents, who can heal all the

problems of all nations, whether rich or poor.

I am saying that all nations, all of you, must attend God, our creator, our Heavenly Parent in your nations in order for world peace to come. God raised True Parents through the long period of 6,000 years through the course of restoration through indemnity. True Parents are the only ones who (as the Bible says) can engraft the wild olive tree to the true olive tree. It is only through that, through receiving the blessing from the True Parents, that you can stand as God's filial children.

Consider this: We who have gathered here today are in a parent-child relationship with God. You are able to be God's children because the mistakes of our first human ancestors, which prevented us from uniting in a parent-child relationship with God, have been rectified through indemnity.

Therefore, together with the True Parents, UPF and IAPP will become the Abel United Nations in name and substance. That means that all the problems of the world will heal in reality through the True Parents. The movement to establish the kingdom of heaven on earth through educating and healing with a parental heart is Cheon Il Guk.

I would like to say today to the members of IAPP from the many nations of the world, please become tribal messiahs of your respective nations. I pray that you will become proud national messiahs who will save the people of your nations by educating them through the teachings of the substantial True Parents.

Will you do that? Thank you.