

## FFWPU USA: 18th Anniversary of Universal Peace Federation - A truly revolutionary project

Demian Dunkley  
September 13, 2023



*Photos courtesy of UPF*

"The Universal Peace Federation ([UPF](#)) is a truly providential and revolutionary project," True Father said during his founder's address on Sept. 12, 2005. Nearly two decades later, UPF's impact can be seen worldwide through its global network of peace ambassadors, heads of state, politicians, clergy, and leaders from different sectors of society who all support its core principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values.



UPF's inaugural convocation in New York City included 376 delegates from 157 nations who gathered at the Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. Since then, through several global peacebuilding initiatives - including the renowned [World Summit](#) and [Rally of Hope](#) series - UPF has reached hundreds of millions

of people from around the world using advanced hybrid technology.

Earlier this year, more than 80 international leaders convened with Unificationists in person and virtually for Peace Summit 2023 - held in Seoul, South Korea, from May 2 to 6 - to discuss and exchange strategies for developing a world culture of peace and reunifying the Korean Peninsula.

"Peace is not just the absence of war; it also proceeds from the achievement of economic security; social security and justice; environmental, health, and food security. It is the manifestation of humanity's aspiration to common life and shared well-being," said summit speaker H.E. Brigi Rafini, former prime minister of Niger, in his remarks.



UPF's 2023 summit featured a new Elders' Roundtable, as well as the 6th Think Tank 2022 Forum, a IAYSP Conference, and True Mother's 80th birthday celebration. A [new chairman](#) of UPF International, Dr. Chang Shik Yang, was also announced shortly thereafter, succeeding longtime chairman Dr. Thomas Walsh who served in the role for 17 years.

UPF's mission, True Father said, is to provide a "new level of leadership in the global arena." He also proposed what is now part of UPF's [Peace Road](#) project - to build a bridge tunnel for transport

across the Bering Strait. True Father described this as a crucial "link" creating an international highway system that connects the world as a single community.



Over the years, UPF's eight primary associations have steadily grown to comprise a summit council, parliamentarians, first ladies, faith leaders, the media, scholars, as well as leaders in business, and the arts and culture. UPF has also led the Unification movement's Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI), which sponsors interfaith "Pilgrimages for Peace," and its Northeast Asia Peace Initiative (NEAPI), which supports Korean reunification.

In True Mother's [opening remarks](#) during the 2023 Peace Summit, she said we "cannot rely on a human-centric approach" to address the world's problems. "Although all religions move in the direction of goodness, they have not been able to find the right answer," she said. "The sole path to resolving [global] issues and safeguarding our future is attending Heavenly Parent as our center and working together."

You can learn more about the history and ongoing peace work of UPF [here](#).



**UPF-FRANCE AND WFWP DISCUSS "UPF'S VISION AND PRINCIPLES OF PEACE"**

A diverse group from all over France gathered to study the UPF Principles of Peace.

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«< September 2023 >»						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- SEP 16: UPF-Finland: Peace Road 2023
- SEP 17: UPF-France: Partage interreligieux «Cultivons le pardon» (French only)
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Peace Education

**UPF-Mexico Holds Peace Road 2023 Event to Commemorate UN International Day of Friendship**

**Mexico City, Mexico**—A Peace Road event, "One Heart Rolling for Peace," was held in commemoration of the UN International Day of Friendship.

[Read more ...](#)



International Media Association for Peace

**IMAP/UPF-USA Holds Webinar on New Religions and the Media**

**United States**—IMAP/UPF-USA held its monthly webinar entitled "New Religions, Cult Experts and the Media."

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Interfaith Programs

**UPF-France Holds Scripture Reading on Topic of Humility**

**Paris, France**—The 27th interfaith scriptural sharing had participants from many Francophone nations.

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**CHAPTER REPORTS** [View All Chapters](#)



Austria

**Three European Nations Gather for Peace Road Event**

**Central Europe**—Austrians, Czechs and Germans held their third Peace Road event at a border triangle.



United Kingdom

**UPF-UK Invites 'Global South' Viewpoints**

**London, United Kingdom**—The speakers were from nations whose viewpoints often are overlooked.



Argentina

**"Mental Health" Theme of UPF-Argentina's Meeting**

**Argentina**—"What Is Mental Health?" was the second theme of a new educational cycle launched in June by UPF-Argentina.

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# Summit & Leadership Conference

## Toward Peace on the Korean Peninsula: Toward a World Culture of Peace

August 11-14, 2022 · Jamsil Lotte Hotel · Seoul, Korea

Watch the World Summit Summary video



# A global conference addressing the most critical issues of our time

Thousands of leaders from around the world lend their wisdom and experience to the solution of human conflict.

[View the Schedule](#)



## INTERDEPENDENCE

The ideal of humanity is cooperation for the benefit of all.



## MUTUAL PROSPERITY

When the world is prosperous all nations are prosperous.



## UNIVERSAL VALUES

Humanity's noble qualities are common to every faith, culture and society.

## Leaders from All Sectors of Society

World Summit 2022 will feature several components, including a Global Assembly of Heads of State and Government, an Interreligious Peace Summit, the 2022 Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony, and a Rally for Peace on the Korean Peninsula involving more than one million people. In addition, World Summit 2022 will convene a variety of very high-level special sessions dedicated to the work of UPF's Associations, including heads of state and first ladies, parliamentarians, religious leaders, business leaders, media influencers, academicians, artists and cultural representatives.

[Learn More](#)





Watch LIVE!



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# RALLY *of* HOPE

**Stay Tuned for Future Programs**

Join World Leaders and 1 Million+ Global Participants for this Online Event

**World Peace is happening NOW**

*Become part of the Action!*

Join us in building groundbreaking **partnerships for peace** based on

**1**

**Interdependence**

An economy shared by all people

**2**

**Mutual Prosperity**

Governance where all people can participate

**3**

**Universal Values**

Ethics practiced together by all people

Hosted by **Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon**

*I will devote the remainder of my life to ending war, immorality and greed, and liberating God's heart so that we can build a world overflowing with true peace and love.*

# Total Commitment

to solving **real problems**



Never before has technology given **everyday people** the chance to join a transformative **global movement** effecting **meaningful change** with heads of state, parliamentarians, faith leaders, Nobel Laureates, scholars, health experts, and more.

**A Free Event for Everyone!**



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# PEACE ROAD 2022

## A SAFER COMMUNITY, A SAFER WORLD



*"This tunnel can help make the world a single community at last... Think of how much money the world is wasting on war. The time has come for nations to work together, pool their resources and, as the prophet Isaiah taught, beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks."*

- Father Moon, UPF Inauguration, 2005

### One Unified World

"The vision is for a high-speed transportation artery linking the entire globe. On the day of its completion, much of our world will become one village linked by one road." - Mother Moon



### Paving the Path

"In these [Peace Road] events, people of all ages and nationalities, wearing t-shirts and





carrying a Peace Road flag, ride bicycles or walk to show their support for peace.” - Mother Moon

## Taking a Stand

“Teams of participants walk, cycle or drive along designated routes representing the International peace highway. Their path ends at local government centers where local officials, social and religious leaders speak at rallies, publicly announce their support for the initiative and stimulate publicity in local media.” - Mother Moon



*“To tell this story to the world, from the streets to the senate buildings, I had already created an affiliated project, “Peace Road.”*

- Mother Moon, Mother of Peace

### Universal Peace Federation

3600 New York Ave. NE  
Washington D.C., 20002

Peace Road is a project of the Universal Peace Federation, a 501c(3) NGO in consultative status with the United Nations. For more information visit [us.upf.org](http://us.upf.org)

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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**Speeches**

**H.J.H. MOON: ADDRESS TO PEACE SUMMIT 2023, OPENING PLENARY**

Written by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Co-Founder, UPF International  
 Wednesday, May 3, 2023

*Address to Peace Summit 2023  
 May 2-5, 2023*

Respected leaders from Korea and overseas, I warmly welcome you.

Today we are speaking about peace—peace in our world. Throughout human history people have sought to realize a world of peace, yet we have always experienced war and conflict. How and when will peace come to humankind?

Originally, the Creator's intention was to be our parent. The invisible Creator created a man and a woman in the image of God as our first ancestors. God gave them time to mature and waited for the day when they would perfect their characters. Nevertheless, the man and woman who were to have been our first ancestors failed to uphold God's divine commandment, and their descendants are the fallen human race of the present day.

Over the course of history, the pursuit of goodness has led to the birth of religions that reflect the region in which they originated. Righteous individuals who were committed to goodness emerged from every corner of the globe and pursued their mission. Despite this, when we observe the problems of the world today, we find that conflicts and disputes between religions, wars based on ideological differences, and numerous countries pursuing their own interests, make the word "peace" feel distant, though it is close. Is there really any hope for us in the present time? The issue is that we cannot rely on a human-centric approach. Although all religions move in the direction of goodness, they have not been able to find the right answer.

What I would like to say is this: Would the Creator of the universe, as our Parent, simply watch quietly as the children suffer? I cannot describe the entirety of Heaven's providence in the short time I have to speak, but what God waited and waited so long to see was for central people to emerge from among fallen humanity, a man and a woman who could attend God as their Parent. In other words, God has been waiting for the birth of the True Parents who can save everyone in the fallen world. The result of Heaven's work was that these True Parents were born to the Korean people.

Our Heavenly Parent's dream is to share life in the kingdom of heaven on earth together with good sons and daughters who have received True Parents' Blessing. However, the path to achieve this has not been easy. Yet, through the Korean people and the Korean Peninsula, something like a miracle occurred, and we could see the completion of the heavenly providence and the culmination of human history.

To put it another way, through the True Parents, the dream of our Heavenly Parent who has waited 6,000 years and the desire of all humankind can finally be actualized. This is that, through the dedication of Cheon Won Gung and the Cheon Il Sanctum, Heavenly Parent can reside directly with us.

Many faiths have created temples where they can attend God. However, they have not understood the fundamental nature of the Creator. Heaven's circumstances in relation to the Korean Peninsula after six thousand years...

I know there are many religious leaders present today. To save humankind, God carried out the providence of salvation, and this is clearly in evidence in the Old Testament. Through the people of Israel, Heaven sent the Savior whom God could call "My Son," who would atone for the wrongs committed by fallen humankind.

However, the Son alone is not enough. In accordance with the principles of creation, God created a man and a woman. The only begotten Son was unable to complete that task. The people of Israel, the Jewish leaders, and Mary who gave birth to him, did not recognize the Messiah. In the end he went to the cross. Before he died, Jesus promised to return. Two thousand years have passed since Christian history began with the disciples of Jesus anticipating his return. However, does Christianity understand the essence of Heaven's providence? Yet a miraculous event has occurred on the Korean Peninsula through the True Parents, as they are dedicating a temple from which the Heavenly Parent can directly govern the earthly world.

Today, our planet suffers immensely due to ignorance. Due the lack of rainfall resulting from climate change, one-third of the population of the nation of Somalia, located southeast of the Sahara Desert, have been displaced as migrant refugees and are hoping for aid from the rest of the world. How is it that this beautiful Earth, which God created for humankind, has suffered such changes? All of you gathered here today are righteous people that Heaven has blessed. We cannot merely stand quietly on the sidelines. The sole path to our resolving these issues and safeguarding our future is attending Heavenly Parent as our center and working together.

I gratefully receive the kind hearts of the distinguished participants here who have congratulated me on my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Although it is a small offering, I wish to donate \$800,000 for the sake of the world. [Applause]

We all need to celebrate that we are living in this miraculous time, attending our Heavenly Parent. This is something to take pride in. I pray that we will all join hands together in this historic and providential flow of blessing, and that we will realize the dream of peace for all people and one family of humankind under our Heavenly Parent.

*To go to the Peace Summit 2023 Schedule page, [click here.](#)*

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