

# UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION



Peace

Principles

Spirituality

Service

Dialogue

Interfaith

Family

Cooperation

Reconciliation

Partnership





# Introduction to UPF



Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) was founded by the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon in 2005 and represents the fruit of more than forty years of his investment and efforts for the sake of world peace. It builds directly upon the work of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace, founded in 1999, and earlier initiatives which engaged leaders in the sciences, arts, academia, and interreligious fields.

UPF is in special consultative status with ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council at the United Nations. The Secretariat is based in New York, and there are currently 12 regional offices and more than 150 active chapters worldwide. Each chapter is entitled to nominate a representative to the UPF Global Peace Council. Individual members of UPF are called to be Ambassadors for Peace.



UPF World Assembly in New York City.

## Goals

- Partnerships among governments, religions, and civil society that foster peace and development grounded in universal values
- Promoting a culture of peace through education, service and a commitment to good governance
- Creating a framework for interreligious dialogue and cooperation
- Renewal of the United Nations, and in particular the creation of an interreligious council within the UN system
- Conflict prevention and post-conflict reconciliation and peacebuilding

*By practicing the ethics of living for the sake of others we can reconcile the divided human family. In this way, we become other-centered rather than self-centered.*



## Ambassadors for Peace

Launched in 2001, Ambassadors for Peace are the world's largest and most diverse network of peace leaders. They come from all walks of life representing all races, religions, nationalities, and cultures, and commit themselves to:

- Stand on the common ground of universal moral principles, committed to overcoming barriers and promoting reconciliation and peace.
- Constitute a global network of leaders representing the religious, racial, and ethnic diversity of the human family as well as all disciplines and sectors of human endeavor.
- Engage in peace initiatives and programs that promote reconciliation and cooperation beyond traditional boundaries of religion, race, ethnicity, and nationality.
- Promote and practice the ethic of "living for the sake of others" as the guiding principle for building world peace and a global community.

## Guiding Principles

- We are one family under God.
- The highest qualities of the human being are spiritual and moral in nature.
- The family is the "school of love and peace."
- By practicing the ethics of living for the sake of others we can reconcile the divided human family.
- Lasting peace cannot be achieved through political compromise alone but must involve a commitment to personal change.

## Areas of Focus

- Interfaith activism for peace
- Establishment of an Interfaith Council at the United Nations
- Humanitarian Relief
- Conflict Prevention
- Marriage and Family
- Environmentalism and Conservation





# UPF's work with the United Nations

## ECOSOC Consultative Status

As an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council, UPF seeks to support and strengthen the UN and advance the Millennium Development Goals. Our focus includes:

- Advocating for an interreligious council that works in cooperation with member states, as a forum for promoting spiritual values and resolving conflict.
- Strengthening the family as the school of love and peace.
- Promoting a culture of peace through seminars and interfaith dialogue, intercultural programs, and service learning.



Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, Rev. In Jin Moon greet Alexander and Christopher Haig at the UN.



Speakers at the celebration of the International Day of Families at the United Nations.

## Advocacy for an Interreligious Council at the United Nations

While most often a source of wisdom and moral guidance, religion has also been a source of division and conflict. Through dialogue, good leadership, and cooperation, religions have the potential to foster forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration, and peace among millions of followers, bringing an end to cycles of resentment and violence.

In 2000 the UPF Founder Dr. Sun Myung Moon went to the United Nations to advocate the formation of an interreligious assembly or council within the structure of the UN. He said,

*The United Nations may be regarded as a congress where the interests of each member nation are represented. I submit that serious consideration should be given to forming a council of religious representatives within the United Nations, composed of respected spiritual leaders in fields such as religion, culture, and education.*

*The members of this interreligious assembly must have the ability to transcend the limited interests of individual nations and to speak for the concerns of the entire world and humanity at large.*

*The chambers, working together in mutual respect and cooperation, will make great advances in ushering in a world of peace. The wisdom and vision of great religious leaders will substantially supplement the political insight, experience and skill of the world's political leaders.*

Since 2000, three resolutions promoting interreligious dialogue have been passed by the General Assembly, and a Focal Unit was established in the UN Secretariat to handle interreligious dialogue. UPF National Chapters are convening high-level consultations to suggest ways to advance the proposal.



UPF Chapters worldwide observe many UN Commemorative Days, including—

- Women
- Water
- Environment
- Youth
- Non-violence
- Tolerance
- AIDS
- Human Rights
- Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking



## International Day of Peace

Each year the Universal Peace Federation and its Ambassadors for Peace around the world join with UN agencies and with other NGOs in observations and celebrations of the International Day of Peace. Violence is a symptom of a moral and spiritual failure. If we are to eliminate violence and weapons of mass destruction, we must commit ourselves to a moral and spiritual awakening.

## World Interfaith Harmony Week

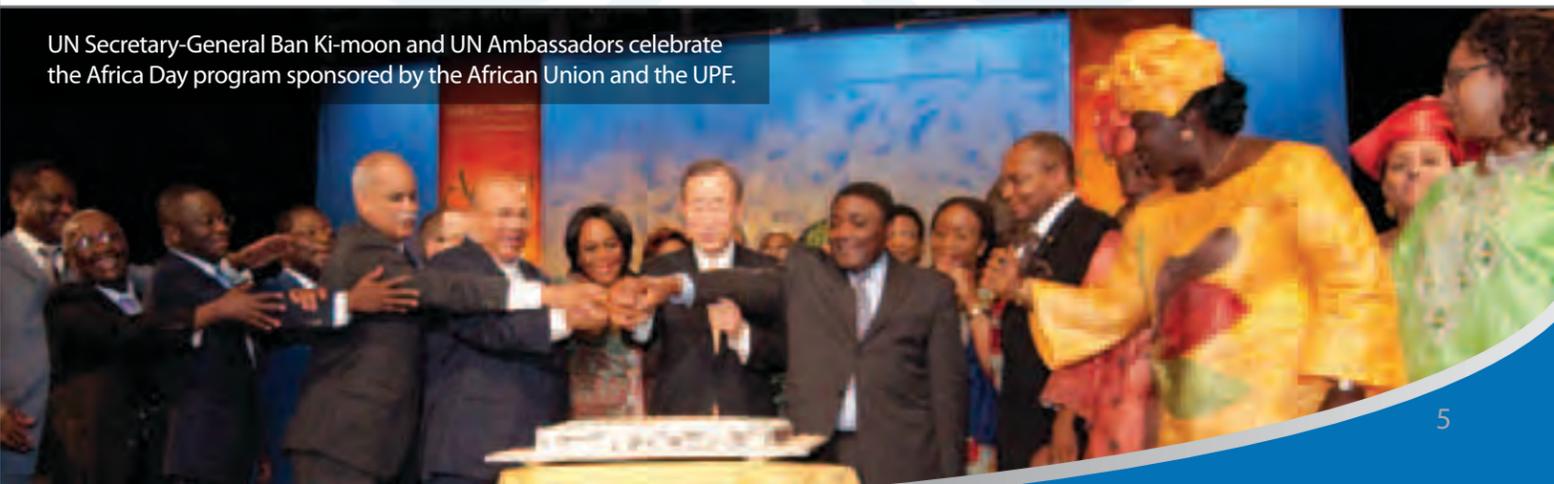
In 2011, in response to a resolution passed by the General Assembly, the United Nations held its very first observation of World Interfaith Harmony Week. UPF chapters supported this initiative in more than 20 nations including a major, week-long celebration in the UN Secretary-General's homeland of South Korea.

## International Day of Families

The family is the primary school of love and character and the central building block of society. Research has shown that stable, nurturing families that contribute to the well being of others are valuable assets to the larger society. Each year, UPF chapters and Ambassadors for Peace organize commemorations of the United Nations' International Day of Families. In 2010, the focus was upon the special challenges caused by migration.

## Africa Day

The New York City celebration of Africa Day, May 25, 2010 was hosted by the African Union in partnership with the Universal Peace Federation. At the event, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that peace and sustainable development in Africa was one of the world body's top priorities. Following the celebration, UPF signed a memorandum of understanding with the African Union to work together to combat sleeping sickness in Africa.



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN Ambassadors celebrate the Africa Day program sponsored by the African Union and the UPF.



# UPF Peace Initiatives

## Religious Youth Service

RYS offers experiential, service-learning projects with a special focus on developing personal leadership and peacemaking skills. Young people live together and provide altruistic service within a community, showing it is possible for our global human family to live together in peace.



## Northeast Asia Peace Initiative

Civil society initiatives support the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula through tourism, cultural exchanges, and a variety of person-to-person connections. Conferences bring together leading diplomats and scholars to offer insights into prospects for improved relations among the countries of the region.



## Parliamentarians for Peace

UPF holds conferences in National Parliaments and Assemblies for parliamentarians, diplomats, jurists and scholars. These seminars focus on topics such as good governance, interfaith dialogue, and ways in which religion can join civil society in partnership with governments and the UN for the sake of peace.



## South Caucasus Peace Initiative

Through people-to-people diplomacy in this region of recurring conflict, the South Caucasus Peace Initiative builds understanding among the people of Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. It also promotes collaboration among governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector.



## South Asia Peace Initiative

The work in Nepal brings together leaders from all political persuasions for dialogue based on universal values. This began a process of reconciliation which helped bring militant insurgents into the political mainstream. Such dialogues are complemented by grass-roots education and service-learning projects.



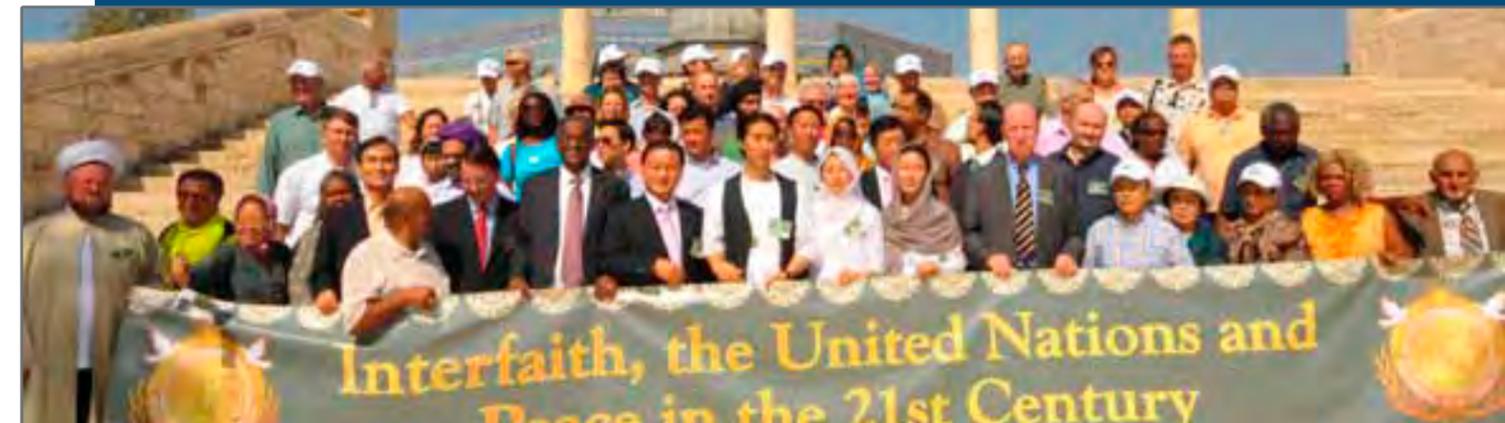
## Sports and Youth

UPF believes in the power of sports to foster peace, especially among young people. The popular “play soccer, make peace” brings together youth from divided communities, and international sports festivals promote good sportsmanship as well as personal and team excellence among young men and women.



*Visiting the historic and holy sites of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, participants gain a first-hand understanding of the history and spirituality of the Abrahamic faiths.*

## Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI)



On the foundation of decades of interfaith efforts, UPF's Middle East Peace Initiative began in 2003, in the heat of violence of the second Intifada. It offers a range of programs from interfaith pilgrimages to fact-finding tours, leadership consultations, and grass-roots encounters. Visiting the historic and holy sites of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, participants gain a first-hand understanding of the history and spirituality of the Abrahamic faiths.

Briefings, dialogues, and opportunities to interact with the variety of people in the region give unique insights into current events as well as opportunities to serve as ambassadors of goodwill who build lasting relationships with people of diverse cultures.



## UPF recommendations for peace in the Holy Land include:

- Establish an interreligious council among respected spiritual leaders representing Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and drawing from Palestine, Israel, and other nations.
- Convene the interreligious council during peace talks.
- Convene special council sessions with heads of religious bodies outside the region.
- Bring together young people from the region's faith traditions to build bonds of trust and cooperation.
- Develop a curriculum that respectfully teaches the core values of the region's diverse faith traditions.
- Encourage interfaith prayer and cooperation.





*The UPF offers trainings for educators who wish to develop a character education curriculum in their schools and communities.*

# UPF Programs



## Interfaith Peacebuilding

UPF invites religious leaders from various traditions to engage in interfaith dialogue and cooperative action for peace. Such programs are carried out in one's community or any place where misunderstanding, tension and conflict are related to religious differences.

World peace can be fully accomplished only when the wisdom and efforts of the world's religious leaders, who represent the internal concerns of the mind and conscience, work cooperatively and respectfully with national leaders who have much practical wisdom and worldly experience. Lasting peace depends on cooperative partnerships between governments and religions, as well as NGOs and representatives of the private sector. The United Nations can benefit from a council of religious and spiritual leaders to bring broad vision and wisdom to the effort to address critical global problems.

## Peace Education

The Universal Peace Federation's International Leadership Conference series focuses on the urgent need for new vision and moral leadership. Presentations offer a comprehensive framework for peacebuilding and development grounded in core values and universal principles. The program includes an in-depth analysis of root causes of conflicts, providing a sound basis for evaluating development and peacebuilding efforts and for fostering interreligious and intercultural harmony and cooperation.

National chapters offer this curriculum to leaders in government, education, religion, and civil society. Peacebuilding initiatives are developed based on collaborations among governments, religions, NGOs and the private sector.

## Marriage and Family

UPF is committed to programs that nurture and strengthen marriages and families as social institutions that are essential to human development. In addition to educational programs and seminars, UPF sponsors the "World Peace Blessing" programs that are dedicated to the renewal of marriages and family life in accordance with universal values and principles.



## Humanitarian Service

UPF's experiential, service-learning projects focus on meeting community needs and helping participants develop leadership and peacemaking skills. Projects offer opportunities for people to better understand themselves and challenge their limitations. Participants are challenged to take initiative and build relationships of cooperation, trust, and friendship with people from diverse backgrounds.

Religious Youth Service gives opportunities to young people from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds to live and work together. It has carried out projects in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Oceania. Participants can express and further deepen their faith, as well as share the best qualities of their faith with people of other faiths.

Service activities are often part of UPF's peace initiatives, UN Commemorative Day observances, and character education programs.

## Character Education

The UPF Character Education curriculum offers a comprehensive approach to character education. It focuses on universal values and core ethical principles common to all cultures.

The DISCOVERING THE REAL ME curriculum is available in different versions for different age groups, and provides opportunities for participants to learn how to make good choices to achieve three basic life goals:

1. To grow and become a person of mature character.
2. To build healthy relationships and a loving family.
3. To make a positive contribution to society through learning practical, social, and economic skills.



The UPF offers trainings for educators who wish to develop a character education initiative in their schools and communities.





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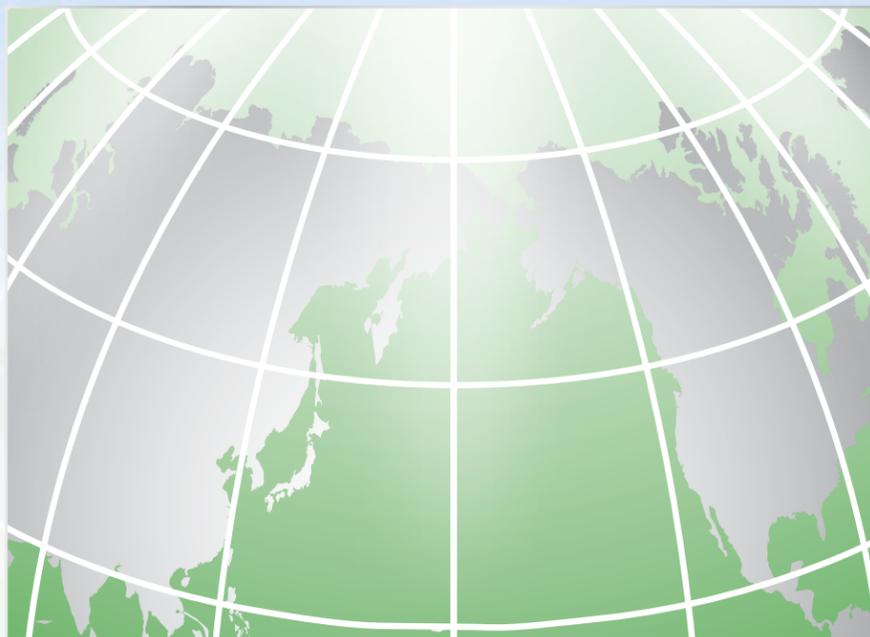
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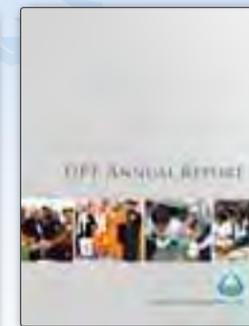
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**UPF TODAY**  
Did you know that UPF TODAY is now available in French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean as well as English?



**UPF ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010**  
An exciting, full color account of the most recent successes of UPF and the work of Ambassadors for Peace.



**VISIONS OF PEACE FOR AFRICA**  
African Heads of State reflect on the challenges facing the continent and the task of forging peace in this collection of UPF conference presentations.



**DIALOGUE & ALLIANCE**  
A journal of the Universal Peace Federation promoting dialogue and alliance among people of faith for the cause of peace and development.



**AS A PEACE-LOVING GLOBAL CITIZEN**  
UPF Founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon shares about his private and public life and work in this newly published autobiography.

UPF Website — [www.upf.org](http://www.upf.org)

The screenshot shows the UPF website homepage with a navigation menu at the top. The main content area features several news articles with photos and headlines, such as 'Kosovo Peace Council is Inaugurated', 'Bringing Cheer to Albanian Orphans', and 'International Day of Navruz marked in Siberia'. There is also a section for 'Global Impact' with a photo of a group of people. At the bottom, there are banners for 'Water for Life Japan' and 'World Interfaith Harmony Week'. A sidebar on the left offers language options and an e-newsletter sign-up.





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天宙平和聯合會  
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True Love is the Ideal and the Guiding Principle of the Universal Peace Federation