

UN International Day of Peace 2013 – Education for Peace

Oslo, Norway, 19th September 2013

Steinar Murud



Panel of speakers

In a traditional Norwegian Lutheran Church building in Oslo, the UN International Day of Peace was celebrated on the 19th September.

The MC, Knut Holdhus, chairman of UPF Norway, welcomed and explained the significance of this celebration and read parts of UN secretary general, Ban Ki-moons message for the day.

A panel of six speakers commented on the topic “Education for peace”.

Steinar Murud, secretary general for UPF Norway, presented five principles for peace.

Stein Hardeng, former director of the Family Office in the Norwegian Church, spoke on the title “Peace on the Microlevel”. He emphasized that good relationships should be taught and learned on the family level.

Professor Rune Ottosen, an expert on peace journalism from the Oslo University College, shared valuable insight in how the media can contribute in peace processes.

Hatef Mokhtar, editor of Oslo Times and author of “The Red Wrath”, commented on human rights. These are values that go beyond all cultures and can contribute to bring us together.

Senior advisor Helge Brochmann from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commented on practical experiences where schools could contribute to peace. Schools do not automatically lead to peace, in order to succeed it is important to have good value based content. Trust, tolerance and inclusiveness are some of these values.

The director of Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO) Kristian Berg Harpviken spoke on “International Peacebuilding”. “Will proper education secure peace?” He asked. He pointed out situations where wars were started by highly educated people. He concluded that a basic philosophy of peace need to underlay the education in order for schools to be a positive factor in peacebuilding.

Many questions were raised and comments shared afterwards. Good refreshments concluded the event and gave room for informal talks and sharing among the participants.



A Lutheran Church building – the venue for the day



Mr Brochmann from Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The speakers

Report: Steinar Murud

Photo: Ole Toresen