

International Day of Peace 2021

Report from UPF Düsseldorf

On 21 September, to mark the 'International Day of Peace', UPF Düsseldorf held an event on the topic: *improving the recovery of a fair and sustainable world*. The event was attended by sixteen participants and about a further twenty participated online.

The programme was moderated by Anja Brina, who explained that traditionally the annual meeting of the UNO takes place on the third Tuesday in September. In 1981, the General Assembly decided that this day, September 21: *should be officially named and celebrated as International Day of Peace and be used to observe and strengthen the idea of peace, not only between countries but also amongst their citizens*.



Following this introduction, Dr. Reuter shared some thoughts with us. After a long phase of development during which natural science favoured materialism, leaving increasingly less space for spirituality and religion, quantum physics was now opening new possibilities for the unity of faith and reason. The realisation that material is ultimately energy could produce a new awareness about the existence of a transcendental world. In order to realise a peaceful world, it is necessary to reconcile religion and science and to find a common language. In this way, a just and sustainable world can come about.



Sergio Brina, deputy chairman of UPF Germany then showed a short video from the General Secretary of the UN, António Guterres, giving us an impression of life in a sustainable world. Food, for example, should not only be a commodity, but a human right, and the expansion of renewable energy should be promoted.

Mr. Brina stated that there should be a better international distribution of COVID19 vaccines. At present, it appears that the Western countries are throwing unused vaccines away, although there is an urgent need in Africa. Bureaucracy is often an obstacle to improved and fair distribution.

He went on to pose two questions to the participants:

1. How can I, as an individual contribute to peace? There were a variety of answers such as: dealing with each other in a more tolerant and understanding way; in the case of family conflicts to give each other the chance to reconcile.
2. What can I personally contribute towards a more sustainable world? The answers ranged from: ensuring that each person correctly disposes of his rubbish /waste, to eat less meat, use less plastic, and to buy fair trade products.

These questions provoked lively discussion. One certainty is that it is possible for everybody to individually contribute towards peace and sustainability in this world.

Mr. Brina informed the participants about international UPF events such as the Rally of Hope, Think Tank 2022 on the reunification of Korea, as well as projects which Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon has initiated.

To close, Anja Brina led a meditation during which, at least for a short time, each of those present could find their own inner peace and send positive energy to the world.

It was a very pleasant get-together and further interesting conversations developed as refreshments were served and enjoyed.

Anja Brina (English: Catriona Valenta)