

Howard Self
September 9, 2025



September 2025 Global Highlights

See how Global Peace Foundation is driving impact through global leadership, peacebuilding, and community action.

What’s New This Month



Korean Dream Forum and Festa 2025

The International Forum on One Korea 2025 and the Korean Dream Hangang Festa gathered international leaders, civil society, and citizens in Seoul on August 14–15 to mark the 80th anniversary of Korea’s liberation and division.

The Forum addressed policy, human rights, and regional cooperation, while the Hangang Festa concluded with music, performances, and a drone and fireworks show, uniting voices and generations in a call for One Korea.

[Explore the Recap Page](#)

**International Forum on One Korea 2025 and Hangang Festa
Highlights**



In Asia



Uniting Faith for Development: Multifaith
Committee Launched in Rishikesh

GPF India joined faith leaders and partners at Parmarth Niketan Ashram for the launch of the National Multi-Faith Action Coordinating Committee (MFACC). The initiative will unite diverse traditions to advance and promote clean water, health, education, and climate resilience nationwide.



2025 Mongolia Forum Highlights Peace
and Korean Unification

GPF hosted the Mongolia Forum and Retreat in Ulaanbaatar with partners including Blue Banner and One Korea Foundation. Leaders explored pathways to Korean unification and recognized Mongolia’s role in advancing regional peace and climate action.

In Africa



[Video] Great Places to School Awards
Celebrate Education in Kenya

GPF Kenya hosted the fifth Great Places to School Awards Gala in Nairobi, honoring schools that excel in character, innovation, and holistic education. Leaders emphasized the role of transformative learning in shaping future-ready, morally grounded students.



GPF Nigeria Marks Children’s Day with
Nationwide Call to Action

GPF Nigeria partnered with the Nigerian Television Authority to host Children’s Day in Abuja, engaging over 1,500 students from 17 schools. Broadcast nationwide, the event highlighted children’s rights and the need for values-based education and peacebuilding.

In the Americas



Legacy of the Americas: Advancing a New
Vision for Latin America

Legacy of the Americas is a civic movement shaping the regional agenda through principled ideas and democratic values. With the support of eight former presidents and thousands of participants, the initiative continues to inspire leadership and unity across Latin America.



Between Polkas and Guaranias: Honoring
Guaraní Language and Heritage

GPF Paraguay and partners launched the Guaraní Project, featuring the Oremba’e digital library and the bilingual book Che Ñe’ẽ, Che Purahéi, preserving thousands of works in Guaraní, Spanish, and Jopará.



From Escape to Leadership: NKYLA 2025 Inspires New Generation

GPF hosted the North Korean Young Leaders Assembly in Washington, D.C., bringing together 10 young escapees from South Korea and the U.S. Over eight days, they engaged policymakers and thought leaders, strengthening their role as advocates for a free and unified Korea.



Empowering the Next Generation through Youth Leadership

GPF Brazil is investing in young people as moral and innovative leaders to meet today's global challenges. Through education, skills training, and peacebuilding initiatives, programs like JOAJU IT in Brazil are equipping youth with values and tools to shape a more peaceful and prosperous future.

[Explore More Activities](#)

Youth Lead Mongolia's Fight Against Desertification

Plant for Peace One Tree at a Time

A Mongolia Tree Planting Campaign

Your tree is a message. A gesture. A promise of peace.

\$38,500 to goal



Mongolia’s youth are turning dust storms into hope through the **Peace Park Tree-Planting Campaign**. With thousands of trees planted ahead of the UN COP17 Desertification Summit in 2026, the initiative unites young leaders across Asia in climate action and peacebuilding.

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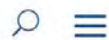


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KOREAN DREAM FORUM AND FESTA 2025

The **International Forum on One Korea 2025** and the **Korean Dream Hangang Festa** came together in Seoul on August 14–15 for a powerful two-day event that combined global dialogue and cultural celebration.

Marking the 80th anniversary of Korea’s liberation and division, the landmark gathering brought together international leaders, civil society, diaspora communities, and citizens to explore pathways to peaceful reunification rooted in the Korean Dream vision. The Forum featured expert panels and grassroots initiatives focused on policy, human rights, and regional cooperation, while the Hangang Festa culminated in an inspiring evening of music, performances, and a spectacular drone and fireworks show over the Han River—uniting voices, generations, and nations in a shared call for One Korea.



The Korea Times



The Korea Times



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By Eric Olsen and Hansol Kim Global leaders, policymakers, human rights advocates, and diaspora communities ...

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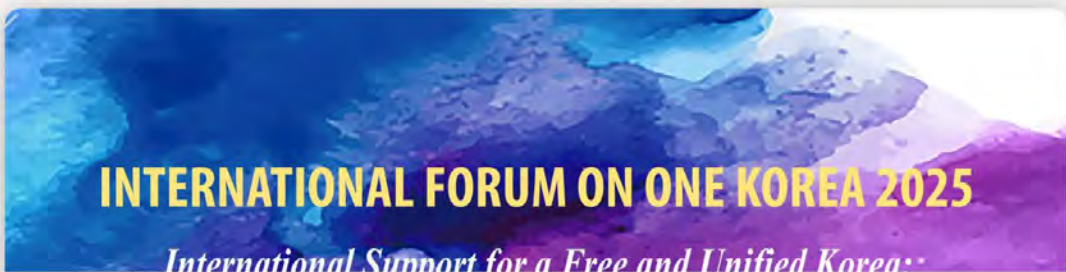
ONE KOREA FORUM AND HANGANG FESTA

AUGUST 2025

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International Support for a Free and Unified Korea
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International Forum on One Korea 2025



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to the Miracle of Unification of the Korean Peninsula

Korean Dream Hangang Festa 2025

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Uniting Faith for Development: National Multifaith Coordination Committee Launched in Rishikesh

Anjali

August 22, 2025



On the sacred banks of the Ganga at Parmarth Niketan Ashram, a milestone in interfaith collaboration was marked with the launch of the National Multi-Faith Action Coordinating Committee (MFACC) on May 29, 2025. Spearheaded by the



Faith leaders in India form the National Multi-Faith Action Coordinating Committee.

spearheaded by the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) in partnership with UNICEF India, the initiative brought together senior faith leaders, development partners, and civic organizations to forge a united front for community

wellbeing and sustainable development.

The committee aims to establish a structured, inclusive mechanism for faith-based action on key national priorities: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition, education, child protection, and climate resilience. Voices from across India's diverse spiritual landscape, including tribal and indigenous traditions, came together in a shared commitment to align values with action.

Representing the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) India, Chairman Dr. Markandey Rai emphasized the need to move from dialogue to development. Quoting the Upanishadic verse "Ekam sat vipra bahudha vadanti" (The truth is one, the wise call it by many names), he underscored the foundational Indian principle of unity in diversity. He added, "We are here not merely to discuss what faith can do, but to define how it will do it."

The day's highlights included a meaningful meeting between Dr. Rai and Hon'ble Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Former President of India. President Kovind acknowledged the MFACC initiative as a timely and necessary step in drawing upon India's spiritual traditions to address contemporary challenges. During the event, two key publications were launched—"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," reaffirming the timeless ethos of global unity, and the "Indo-Pacific Peace Forum Book," a compilation of youth-led peacebuilding efforts across the Indo-Pacific region, curated by GPF India.

Reflecting on GPF India's ongoing commitment to grassroots impact, Dr. Rai also highlighted initiatives that continue to bring faith-based values into direct service. The Facets of Faith platform fosters inclusive dialogue that moves beyond conversation to collective community engagement. The Period Awareness Drive (PAD) promotes sustainable menstrual health practices through workshops, youth outreach, and partnerships with community educators. The Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam Learning Centres provide out-of-school children—especially those from migrant and marginalized backgrounds—with access to quality education and support toward formal school integration. In the environmental space, GPF India engages youth through campaigns focused on tree plantation, clean-up drives, and ecological stewardship, rooted in the teachings of all faiths on the sacredness of nature.





Faith leaders in India form the National Multi-Faith Action Coordinating Committee.

During the MFACC deliberations, Dr. Rai proposed a set of actionable steps to operationalize and strengthen interfaith collaboration. These included mapping existing faith-based initiatives aligned with national development goals; developing joint toolkits on hygiene, education, and climate awareness; organizing interfaith service activities across communities; and ensuring the active representation of indigenous and underrepresented faith groups. These recommendations were unanimously adopted by the committee, reflecting a shared resolve to build inclusive and value-driven action frameworks.

Importantly, the gathering also coincided with May 28, which is observed globally as Menstrual Hygiene Day. Acknowledging this, Dr. Rai reminded the assembly that no meaningful development agenda can exclude women's voices and needs. He urged that all interfaith efforts must also champion women's health, dignity, and empowerment as central to community transformation.

In addition to these proposals, Dr. Rai recommended further structural enhancements to sustain the committee's momentum. These included conducting more meetings annually, establishing a Secretariat, setting up a designated office, introducing periodic reporting mechanisms, and promoting the publication of best practices from faith-led development efforts. These recommendations aim to build a sustainable, action-oriented platform that delivers real impact on the ground.

The launch concluded with a collective pledge from all participating faith leaders to work together in the service of India's communities. As the sun set over the Ganga, the participants joined the serene Ganga Aarti, a powerful symbol of spiritual unity and shared purpose.

The formation of MFACC marks a significant step forward in aligning spiritual leadership with sustainable development. With a unified vision and a commitment to coordinated action, the committee begins its journey with deep moral grounding and practical intent. GPF India remains steadfast in its resolve to collaborate with partners across sectors, translating shared values into lasting, inclusive change.

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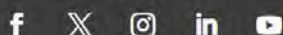
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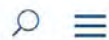
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2025 Mongolia Forum and Retreat: Northeast Asian Peaceful Development and Korean Unification

Global Peace Foundation

August 23, 2025

The Global Peace Foundation (GPF) hosted the “Mongolia Forum and Retreat: Northeast Asian Peaceful Development and Korean Unification” on June 24, 2025, at the Best Western Premier Tuushin Hotel in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Co-hosts included Blue Banner, One Korea Foundation, [Global Peace Leadership Corps](#), and Action for Korea United. In addition to discussing the unification of the two Koreas, Mongolia’s actions to counter climate change were also highlighted.





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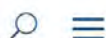
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Great Places to School Promotes Academic Excellence in Africa

Robin McDonough

July 8, 2025

PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The initiative continues to inspire quality education across Africa



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." —Nelson Mandela

Recognizing the value of education as a peacebuilding tool, the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Kenya hosted its fifth edition of the Great Places to School Awards Gala on June 27 at the Panari Hotel, Nairobi. As reported by TV47, "The event brought together educators, policymakers, and stakeholders to honor institutions that are leading in character development, innovation, and holistic education."

GPF Africa Regional Representative and Kenya Country Director Daniel Juma opened the event by highlighting the power of transformative education. As reported by Nyanza Daily, he stated,

“Tonight, we celebrate schools that are not just centers of learning but hubs of excellence, nurturing students who are academically proficient, morally grounded, and ready to lead.”

The winning schools received awards in the following ten categories that promote transformative and holistic learning and exemplify the foundations of GPF’s Blueprint for Transforming Education: A Pathway to National Transformation: Moral & Innovative School Leadership; Values, Character & Peacebuilding; School Safety, Health & Sanitation; Development & Workforce Readiness; Technology & Digital Schools (STEM); Extra-Curricular Activities; Global Competence; Climate Action; Equity & Inclusion; and Scholarship & Corporate Social Responsibility.

The Great Places to School Initiative provides valuable data and research information to schools to benchmark, receive recognition, and continue their transformative journey. The importance of education in changing lives, fostering peacebuilding, and creating social cohesion should never be underestimated.

Learn more about the Great Places to School Awards Gala:

[Youtube: Kenyan schools celebrated during Great Places to School Awards Gala](#)

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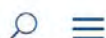
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GPF Nigeria Partners with Nigerian Television Authority in Nationwide Effort to Empower Children for Peace and Progress

Wairimu Mwangi

June 3, 2025

Children's Day in Nigeria is not just a day on the calendar. It is a significant national moment for reflection on the state of the country's youngest citizens, and a call to action for society to protect, nurture, and empower them. The 2025 celebration held on May 26 in Abuja, organized by Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Nigeria in partnership with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), exemplified this purpose. More than a festive gathering, the event

was a powerful platform to highlight the rights, dreams, and dignity of every child, with a clear focus on empowerment, values-based education, and peacebuilding.



Hosted at the NTA Arena in Garki and broadcast live on NTA Knowledge, the event brought together over 1,500 children from more than 17 schools across Abuja, including schools for children with special needs. Millions of viewers from within Nigeria and abroad tuned in to witness a celebration rooted in the shared responsibility of families, communities, and institutions to invest in children holistically, not just financially, but emotionally, morally, and intellectually.

In her welcome address, Mrs. Bukola Da-Silva, General Manager of NTA Knowledge, reminded attendees that the future of any society depends on how well it invests in its children. She praised the event’s collaborative approach and reaffirmed NTA’s dedication to delivering content that educates and uplifts young minds. She added that for her and many others present, Children’s Day is more than a ritual; it is a responsibility.



Several dignitaries echoed this sentiment. Representatives from the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation, the Create That Change Initiative, and the National Council for Arts and Culture delivered goodwill

messages centered on creating an all-encompassing and nurturing environment for all children. Special emphasis was placed on catering to children with disabilities, recognizing their right to equal opportunities for expression, participation, and development.

One of the most powerful messages of the day came from Rev. John Joseph Hayab, Country Director of GPF Nigeria, whose remarks were delivered through the Foundation's Youth and Education Officer. He emphasized that Children's Day should serve as a solemn reminder of the fundamental rights of children, many of which remain unmet across the country. He called on stakeholders, including parents, teachers, policymakers, and media professionals, to recommit to protecting and empowering children to become peacebuilders, leaders, and change agents. "You are the heartbeat of this nation," he said, addressing the children, "Your laughter brings hope, your curiosity drives innovation, and your potential is limitless."



GPF Nigeria celebrates Children's Day with peacebuilding forum.

In line with GPF Nigeria's mission of promoting peace through values education, the celebration featured a series of performances that gave children a platform to showcase their creativity and perspectives. A standout moment was the presentation of "Echoes of Peace," a poetic and musical performance by students from High Grade International School, Mararaba. Their verses championed unity in diversity, mutual respect, and harmony, moving the audience with lines like, "In diversity, we find our strength, united we stand in love..."

The 2025 Children's Day Celebration aligned with GPF Nigeria's broader vision of integrating peace and values education into everyday life and of fostering collaboration among education, media, civil society, and faith institutions. It demonstrated a scalable model of children's programming that centers moral development and civic responsibility. More importantly, it affirmed that children, no matter their background or ability, can be empowered to build a peaceful and united nation.

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Global Peace Foundation's "Legacy of the Americas": A Movement Advancing a New Ideological Vision for Latin America

Mar Martinez Puig

September 5, 2025

Legacy of the Americas was launched in 2020 under the sponsorship of the Global Peace Foundation. More than just a testimonial initiative, it defines itself as a civic



—an active force

committed to influencing the public agenda across the continent through principled ideas and proactive engagement.

The movement is grounded in a clear set of foundational principles: the existence of a Creator, the sacred value of human life, individual rights and responsibilities, free will, universal ethical values, the centrality of the family, character education, republican and democratic governance, economic freedom, ethical and innovative leadership, good governance, and a firm opposition to dictatorship in Latin America.



Legacy of the Americas Panel

Legacy began during the pandemic, starting with a series of online conferences that led to the development of a diploma program. Eight former presidents from across the region participated in these early efforts: Luis

Alberto Lacalle de Herrera (Uruguay), Carlos Mesa and Jaime Paz Zamora (Bolivia), Jamil Mahuad (Ecuador), Laura Chinchilla, Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, and Luis Guillermo Solís (Costa Rica), and Nicolás Ardito Barletta (Panama). More than 2,000 people from throughout Latin America joined these events via Zoom and YouTube.

Following the pandemic, Legacy formally organized its structure and expanded its activities. A governing board was established with members from [Guatemala](#), [Paraguay](#), [Uruguay](#), Chile, Ecuador, [Brazil](#), and Spain. Under its guidance, the Communications Group manages the official website (legadoalasamericas.org), a biannual bulletin, and a dynamic presence on social media platforms including Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and TikTok.

To engage the next generation, a Legacy Youth Committee with 40 active members was created. It organizes the Youth Conference of the Americas, an open forum that addresses key issues affecting young people and features prominent voices from various sectors. The conference has already held five successful editions.

Legacy set three major goals for this year. The first initiative was the establishment of an Academic Advisory Council, chaired by former Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle de Herrera and comprising 20 respected leaders and thinkers from across the



Legacy of the Americas Panel

region. The second goal was the continued growth of one of Legacy’s flagship initiatives, America: Quo Vadis? — a high-level dialogue series featuring influential continental leaders, expert analysts, and an accompanying podcast.

The latest session, held on July 1, featured Argentina’s Minister of National Security, Patricia Bullrich, alongside Uruguay’s former Interior Minister, Nicolás Martinelli, Paraguay’s Permanent Secretary to the National Security Council, Admiral Cibar Benitez, and former Argentine Congresswoman Cornelia Schmidt.

A third and long-awaited milestone was also achieved this year: the launch of the Legacy of the Americas Academy of Advanced Studies. Led by former Chilean Senator Dr. Carlos Cantero and Uruguayan psychologist Nibia Pizzo, the Academy began its first session on July 14 and will run for six months, offering weekly classes. The distinguished faculty includes former presidents, ministers, university professors, and international experts. The inaugural class includes 70 students—mainly in their twenties—representing a wide cross-section of Latin America. Participants come from diverse backgrounds, including university students, professionals, business leaders, and media communicators.

Today, Legacy of the Americas has active national chapters in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, the United States, Guatemala, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, and Uruguay—demonstrating its growing reach and continued commitment to shaping the ideological future of Latin America.

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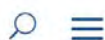
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"Between Polkas and Guaranias": A Tribute to the Guaraní Language and Paraguayan Cultural Heritage

Martin Perez

September 3, 2025





GPF Paraguay partners in preserving historic art in the Guarani Project – Revista Ysyry

On Monday, August 25, the Ignacio A. Pane Municipal Theater hosted a historic evening: *Between Polkas and Guaranias, Tribute to the Guaraní Language*, organized by Global Peace Foundation and Instituto Patria Soñada, with the support of the National Secretariat of Culture.

The event coincided with three major commemorations: Guaraní Language Day, the centenary of the Guaranía, and the 170th anniversary of the Municipal Theater itself. Within this framework, the Guarani Project – Revista Ysyry (1942–1995) was officially presented. Declared of cultural interest, it rescues more than 14,000 poetic and musical works in Guaraní, Spanish, and Jopará.

Thanks to a digitization process launched in 2023, this valuable collection is now available in two complementary formats:

- The virtual library **Oremba'e** ("what is ours") offers free and open access to the materials. orembae.org.py
- The bilingual book **Che Ñe'ë, Che Purahéi** ("my word, my song"), which gathers a curated selection of nearly 200 representative works. [See book](#)

The night was filled with music and memory, featuring performances by renowned artists such as Los Alfonso, Spirit and Sound Orchestra, Rebecca Arramendi, Cristina Bitiusca, Alcides Ovelar, Julia Rosa Tarabal, and the duo Vocal Dos.



Musicians perform during an evening celebrating the Guarani Project – Revista Ysyry.

The tribute also welcomed former U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay James Cason, who spearheaded the recovery of *Revista Ysyry* and was recognized as an Illustrious Visitor of the City of Asunción.

A special highlight was a message sent by international singer Gloria Estefan, who celebrated the value of the initiative and

Olivia Estigarribia, who celebrated the value of the initiative and expressed her admiration for the richness of Paraguayan music, which will inspire part of her upcoming Broadway musical.

The event gathered more than 500 attendees, reflecting the deep public interest in safeguarding Paraguay’s cultural memory.

For the Global Peace Foundation, this event reaffirms our commitment to preserving the Guaraní language, strengthening Paraguayan cultural identity, and building bridges that unite generations.

As Dr. María del Carmen Giménez, of Instituto Patria Soñada, expressed:

“This project not only promotes the Guaraní language, it also connects us with the feelings and values of those who, through Ysyry, left testimony of their time and their love for Paraguay.”

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From Escape to Leadership: North Korean Young Leaders Assembly 2025 Inspires a New Generation

Hyun Seung Lee

August 10, 2025

Washington, D.C. — August 8th, 2025

For ten young North Korean escapees, this July was more than a trip to the United States—it was a journey from survival to statesmanship. Over eight days, the North Korean Young Leaders Assembly (NKYLA) immersed participants in the heart of American democracy, diplomacy, and dialogue. They met policymakers, engaged with thought leaders, and reflected on their own extraordinary paths from the world's most closed society to the global stage.

Since its founding in 2023, NKYLA has trained emerging leaders from the North Korean escapee community to become credible advocates for a free and unified Korea. Hosted by the Global Peace Foundation, this year’s assembly brought together eight participants from South Korea and two from the United States, each with a personal history as compelling as the cause they champion.

From Military History to Defector Day



Mr. Hyunseung Lee speaks during North Korean Defector Day hosted by AKU Washington

The program began on July 13 at the National Museum of the United States Army, where participants learned about the history and values that shape America’s armed forces. Later that day, at the Alliance for Korea United’s “North Korean Defector Day” event in Virginia, NKYLA founder Hyunseung Lee outlined the assembly’s mission, and Fullbright scholar, Jihyang Kim shared her remarkable escape story—a childhood in the North, a perilous journey through China, and an unshakable belief in the power of truth.

Her words echoed across the room: *“I survived, but survival is not the same as freedom. Freedom must be learned, protected, and shared.”* [Read her full story on UPI.](#)

Leadership, History, and the Long Road to Unification



GPF International President James Flynn speaks to the North Korean Young Leaders Assembly.

On the designated Policy & Leadership Day, GPF International President Jim Flynn challenged participants to think of unification not as a political slogan but as a long-term nation-building project. A private roundtable with the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK) deepened the conversation, exploring strategies to break the information blockade that sustains the Kim regime.

The next day's Diplomacy & History Day was a study in contrasts: the elegant Old Korean Legation Museum—once a symbol of Korea's sovereignty—followed by the solemn Korean War Veterans Memorial and Lincoln Memorial. Standing before the etched names of the fallen, participants were reminded that freedom always has a price.

Capitol Hill Conversations



An NKYLA participant (left) speaks at the Rayburn House Office Building beside Dr. Suzanne Scholte (right).

Capitol Hill Day on July 16 placed NKYLA directly inside America's legislative heartbeat. At a congressional luncheon hosted at the Rayburn House Office Building in collaboration with Dr. Suzanne Scholte and the Defense Forum Foundation, members met policy influencers and staffers who shape U.S. policy on the Korean Peninsula.

For Tom Dokko, the moment was surreal. A former soldier in the Korean People's Army, Dokko defected by crossing the heavily militarized DMZ—an act so rare it made international headlines. *"In North Korea, I was trained to see Americans as enemies,"* he reflected. *"Today, I share a meal with them, discussing how to bring freedom and democracy to my homeland."*

For the full testimonies of NKYLA members at the luncheon, [watch here](#).

Faith, Freedom, and the Lessons of History



NKYLA participants spoke at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

July 17 blended interfaith dialogue and historical reckoning. In the morning, participants joined a roundtable at the Religious Freedom Institute with American youth leaders, hosted at Pepperdine University's Washington office. The discussion underscored how religious liberty, often denied in North Korea, is a cornerstone of human dignity.

In the afternoon, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation hosted a panel featuring NKYLA members, GPF, and HRNK, where stories of survival met the policy frameworks needed for change.

Behind Closed Doors at the State Department



NKYLA at the U.S. State Department.

Perhaps the most consequential meeting came on July 18, when NKYLA members met privately with U.S. State Department officials. The conversation covered human rights, sanctions enforcement, and the role of escapees in shaping future policy.

For Kim Kangwoo, the discussion was deeply personal. As a

teenager, he escaped North Korea—but later risked everything to return and rescue his mother. Against all odds, he succeeded, and today they live together in South Korea. His story, chronicled in The Washington Post, is a testament to courage and the enduring bonds of family. *“I once lived in a place where my voice meant nothing,”* he said. *“Now, people in the highest offices listen.”* [Read his story in The Washington Post.](#)

Reflection, Culture, and Farewell

The final weekend balanced team-building and cultural exploration around Washington, D.C., before closing with gift shopping and tearful farewells. Bonds forged during sharing stories, deep policy debates, and shared meals will now span continents.

A Platform for the Future

NKYLA 2025 was not just a program—it was a living demonstration that the future of a unified Korea will be shaped by those who have endured its division most personally. Each participant leaves not only with new skills and networks but also with the conviction that their voice can influence the course of history.

As Hyunseung Lee summarized in his closing remarks: *“We are not just telling our stories; we are writing the next chapter of Korea’s story.”*



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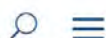
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Empowering the Next Generation: GPF's Commitment to Youth Leadership Development

Wairimu Mwangi

September 5, 2025

"Youth are the leaders of tomorrow, but also of today." These words from former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan capture both the promise and urgency of investing in the rising generation. With the world facing complex challenges; climate change, political polarization, economic inequality, and rapid technological transformation, the role of young people as innovators and bridge-builders has never been more critical. The Global Peace Foundation (GPF) has embraced this reality by making youth leadership development one of its central missions. Through initiatives that combine values education, cross-cultural collaboration, and practical skill-building, GPF is preparing youth to inherit the future, and to shape it.

The GPF Approach to Moral and Innovative Leadership

GPF's youth leadership philosophy is rooted in the idea that young people must be developed as moral and innovative leaders. Moral leadership begins with character; living by universal principles that affirm the dignity of every person, foster trust, and guide decisions with integrity. Innovative leadership, meanwhile,

emphasizes creativity and entrepreneurship to solve the pressing problems of our time. By merging these two dimensions, GPF provides a holistic framework that equips young people to be successful in their careers and also agents of positive transformation in their families, communities, and nations.

GPF's programs around the world focus on creating opportunities where youth can practice this model of leadership. Service projects, peacebuilding initiatives, skills training, and global exchanges allow young people to gain experience in collaboration, problem-solving, and civic engagement. The guiding belief is that when given the right tools and values, youth are not passive beneficiaries of change but active architects of a more peaceful and prosperous future.

Youth Leadership in Action: GPF Brazil

In Brazil, GPF's recent initiatives illustrate how this global vision translates into practical opportunities. The JOAJU IT program, launching in São Paulo, is training young people aged 15 to 25 in information technology and artificial intelligence. The first cohort of 25 students will gain cutting-edge technical knowledge and also be guided by values that prepare them to use technology responsibly. By partnering with Paraguayan NGO NANDUTI TECH, GPF is also creating a model that can be expanded to other regions, with upcoming sessions planned in Tanzania, Goiânia, Goiás, and Rio de Janeiro.

In Goiânia, GPF Brazil is extending its commitment to youth leadership development through a professional training initiative targeting vulnerable women, including survivors of violence, single mothers, and low-income families. While providing technical skills in areas such as construction, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship, the program also emphasizes values and



GPF Brazil hosts youth sports programs for peacebuilding.

dignity, ensuring that participants develop the confidence to lead both in their families and communities.

The GPF Brazil Youth Department has also taken a research-driven approach to youth development by conducting a national study on the needs of young people. The findings revealed that youth often lack avenues to fully express their creativity and ideas. In response, GPF is piloting student-led research initiatives beginning with business faculties, ensuring that youth themselves help shape the programs that will serve them.

Brazilian youth are also making their voices heard on the global stage. At the recent One Korea event in Seoul, Brazilian participants supported digital engagement efforts that helped reach over 90 million people worldwide. Later this year, a Brazilian youth representative will participate in the World Summit for Social Development in Doha, bringing youth perspectives to international discussions on sustainable development.

A Global Vision for Youth Leadership

With over 160 million young people in Latin America and the Caribbean alone, the stakes are high. This is the most connected and dynamic generation in the region's history, and their engagement will determine the course of political, social, and cultural development for decades to come. GPF, working with partners like the Esquipulas Foundation, FUNDAECO, and the Latin American and Caribbean Presidential Mission, is weaving together youth-focused initiatives into a broader ecosystem of social transformation.

The Global Peace Foundation believes that young people are not a problem to be solved but a resource to be cultivated. As GPF founder Dr. Hyun Jin Preston Moon has said, "The hopes of humanity rest upon our youth. With vision and moral courage, they can transcend divisions and become the pioneers of peace." This conviction underpins every youth program, from AI training to community resilience-building, making GPF's youth leadership work both timely and transformative.

The challenges of today demand leaders who can build trust, innovate boldly, and unite across divides. By cultivating moral and innovative young leaders, GPF is investing in a generation prepared to meet these demands. The commitment to empowering youth today is the surest path to building a more peaceful, just, and prosperous tomorrow.

You can be part of this mission. [Give to Global Peace Foundation's Youth Leadership Development](#) today and help empower the next generation of leaders for peace.

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A Mongolia Tree Planting Campaign

Support the Mongolia Peace Park Tree-Planting Campaign,
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\$623.92 raised of \$38,500 goal



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Each year, Mongolia faces growing desertification and dust storms—threatening communities, ecosystems, and neighboring countries. But hope is growing through the Peace Park: an international tree-planting and peacebuilding project led by youth.

In August 2026, Mongolia will host the UN COP17 Desertification Summit—a milestone for global climate action. The Peace Park is our youth-led contribution: thousands of pine trees planted in Mongolia's heartland by young leaders from Korea, Mongolia, Japan, India, and beyond.

Led by Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Mongolia, in partnership with My Club NGO, GPCorps, and others, this initiative is a symbol of environmental renewal and cross-border unity.

This campaign supports Mongolia's official role at COP17 UNCCD and highlights youth-led climate action aligned with the SDGs and global peacebuilding.

This isn't just about trees. It's about planting peace.

***"When we plant a tree together, we plant peace." —
Youth Leader, GPCorps Mongolia***

Why This Matters:

- Environmental Stewardship: Combat desertification in one of the world's most affected regions
- Peacebuilding: Engage youth from across Northeast Asia in cross-border cooperation
- Sustainable Impact: Track your tree's growth and ecological contribution over time

Be a part of the Green Diplomacy and Action. Contribute to planting hundreds of trees in the Mongolia Peace Park. Your donation will directly fund pine tree planting, maintenance, and water systems for at least 3 years. Together, we grow peace through trees.

What Your Donation Supports

- Tree Purchase and Planting (Mostly Native Pine Species and Some Mongolian Poplar and Salix)
- Fencing, Watering Systems, and other Maintenance (minimum 3 years)
- Youth Leadership and Peacebuilding Programs (via Global Peace Leadership Corps)
- Educational Outreach with Local and International Partners (My Club Online Eco Community, COP 17 UNCCD, and others)
- Global Recognition and Visibility
- Carbon Sequestration and Carbon Storage Calculation
- Photo sharing every year for Each Tree Planted

Why Mongolia?

Mongolia is at the frontlines of environmental degradation—but also holds the key to regional climate and environmental leadership.

- The country loses 60,000 hectares of forest annually.
- Over 70% of land is affected by desertification.
- Dust storms originating here impact Korea, Japan, and beyond.

Yet, Mongolia is also becoming a bridge nation—welcoming youth from Russia, Japan, and even representatives of the North Korean community to plant seeds of peace.

Youth: Planting the Future

Meet some of the amazing youth behind the campaign:





Enkhjin Bayartsogt, a My Club Volunteer from Ulaanbaatar, partnered with North Korean Participants and is mobilising students to plant hundreds of trees.



Jihey Kim, a South Korean student, visited Mongolia during the Mongolia Forum and planted trees alongside participants from 10 other nations.



Kier Aventurado, a GPCorps member from the Philippines, witnessed the green diplomacy and environmental action during his recent engagement with the Mongolian tree planting.

They aren't just planting trees—they're building a network of environmental peacebuilders.

Join the Movement

Your tree is a message. A gesture. A promise of peace.

- Donate
- Share on your social media
- Get your community involved

"In planting this tree, I believe I am healing a land, uniting nations, and growing the future."
— GP Corps Member





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