

What Does Peace Require Beyond Dialogue?

James Flynn

August 25, 2026

Hyun Jin Moon's Global Peace Foundation



Global Highlights

The Partnership Peace Requires



The **2026 Mongolia Forum** showed that lasting peace and Korean unification will require more than dialogue alone.

International leaders came together to strengthen multilateral cooperation on regional security, nuclear risks, environmental challenges, and the meaningful participation of citizens and youth across Northeast Asia.

[See What It Takes](#)



Guatemala's Peacebuilding Model Wins Top Honors

Guatemala's Ix Balam initiative earned top honors among more than 500 submissions for using education, entrepreneurship, psychosocial support, art, and peacebuilding to expand opportunity and strengthen communities.

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Why Strong Leadership Starts at Home

GPF Kenya's President's Fellowship is helping emerging leaders strengthen more than careers, equipping them with practical lessons on healthy relationships, strong families, character, service, and responsibility for lifelong leadership and impact.

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When Nature Becomes Common Ground

Across Tanzania, women, youth, and communities are restoring mangroves, cleaning coastlines, planting trees, and strengthening livelihoods—showing how caring for shared natural resources can build resilience, responsibility, cooperation, and peace.

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A Community Marches for Hope

Hundreds gathered in Billings for Montana's annual March Against Drugs and Violence, standing together through record heat to champion prevention, recovery, compassion, and hope for safer, healthier communities across Montana.

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What Comes After Freedom?



Through the **4th North Korean Young Leaders Assembly (NKYLA)**, nine young North Korean escapees in Washington shared how freedom has shaped their ambitions in education, healthcare, policy, development, and advocacy.

Their stories point to a larger purpose: preparing themselves to help build a peaceful, unified Korea and contribute to the future they hope to see.

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The 8th Mongolia Forum Puts Multilateral Cooperation at the Center of Peace and Korean Unification Efforts

Wairimu Mwangi

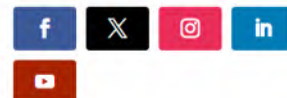
August 17, 2026

The 8th Mongolia Forum on Northeast Asian Peaceful Development and Korean Unification, which took place from June 19–23, 2026, in Mongolia, highlighted the growing need for stronger regional cooperation at a time of rising geopolitical tensions, nuclear risks, and environmental challenges. Bringing together policymakers, experts, civil society representatives, and emerging leaders, the forum highlighted the absence of an inclusive multilateral mechanism in

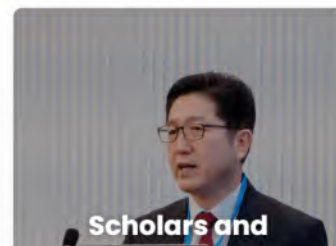
peaceful and ultimately unified Korean Peninsula would contribute not only to regional stability but also to broader international security.

Environmental cooperation emerged as a practical pathway for confidence building, with participants emphasizing that shared challenges such as desertification, climate change, and renewable energy development can create opportunities for collaboration even where political differences remain. Mongolia's leadership through its One Billion Trees by 2030 initiative, preparations for hosting UNCCD COP17 in 2026, and proposals to expand renewable energy and

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and proposals to expand renewable energy and land restoration projects demonstrated how sustainable development can serve as a foundation for peacebuilding, economic growth, and stronger regional partnerships.

The forum's outcomes align closely with the Global Peace Foundation's (GPF) long-standing commitment to advancing peace through collaborative leadership, cross-sector partnerships, and youth engagement. GPF has consistently championed [a vision of a free and unified Korea](#) while promoting practical initiatives that strengthen trust, civic leadership, and regional cooperation across Northeast Asia. As governments, civil society, and international partners seek new pathways for dialogue, forums such as this reinforce the importance of inclusive multilateralism in addressing complex regional challenges.

Read the full commentary by Dr. Enkhsaikhan Jargalsaikhan, chairman of Blue Banner NGO, former Mongolian ambassador to the United Nations, and a leading expert on nuclear nonproliferation and regional security: [Effective multilateralism needed at all levels for peace, unified Korea](#)

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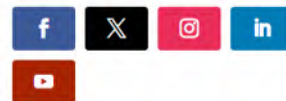


Strong Families, Stronger Leaders: Kenya's President's Fellowship Equips Young Leaders for Lifelong Success

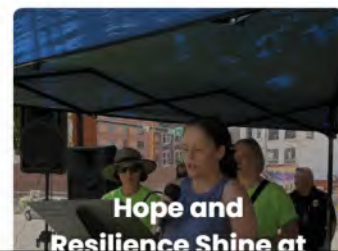
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August 12, 2026

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"If we are to reach real peace in this world, we shall have to begin with the children." — Mahatma



journey begins long before entering classrooms

boardroom

s, or offices. It begins at home, with family.

The family is the first school where people learn responsibility, love, respect, and many other values that shape their character and influence how they interact with the world around them. When families are healthy, communities are



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stronger. When relationships are built on trust and respect, societies become more resilient.

This simple but profound truth was at the heart of a recent learning session organized by Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Kenya.

As part of the President's Fellowship–Chandaria Legacy Award, fellows participated in an interactive training session on building great families and marriages. The session emphasized that developing and nurturing personal relationships is just as important as cultivating professional relationships.

Facilitated by Arthur Oyange, a renowned family expert, the session aimed to develop well-rounded leaders whose personal values are as strong as their professional aspirations.

While leadership discussions often focus on governance, innovation, and professional success, Oyange guided participants through practical principles for building healthy marriages and resilient families. He emphasized that lasting relationships are built intentionally rather than accidentally.

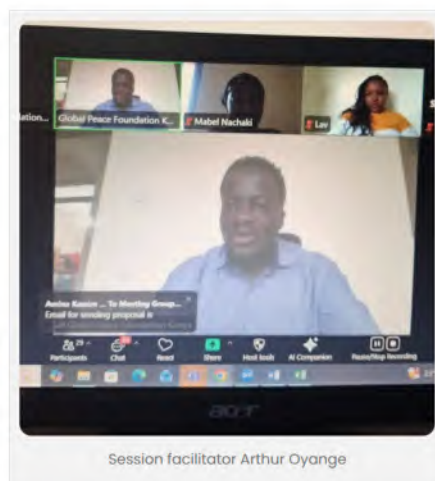
Oyange challenged the fellows to become ambassadors of strong family values by embracing the principles of service, respect, partnership, and purposeful love in their personal and professional lives.

"As future leaders, our ability to build strong families and healthy relationships directly influences the kind of society we create for future generations," he said.

Beyond personal relationships, the session reinforced a broader social reality: strong families are essential to peaceful and prosperous societies. Participants explored practical strategies for nurturing meaningful relationships, strengthening communication, and cultivating the values needed for lasting family success.

The President's Fellowship–Chandaria Legacy Award is preparing young leaders not only to excel

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professionally but also to lead lives rooted in character, service, and responsibility. By investing in the whole person, the program is helping shape leaders who can create lasting change within their families, communities, and nations.

GPF is proud to contribute to programs like this, where emerging leaders gain important lessons that are often overlooked in formal education. To support initiatives that develop young leaders with a strong emphasis on values, families, and healthy relationships, visit <https://globalpeace.info/youth-leadership-development>.

Every contribution expands opportunities for leadership training, mentorship, and community engagement, creating ripple effects that can benefit generations to come.

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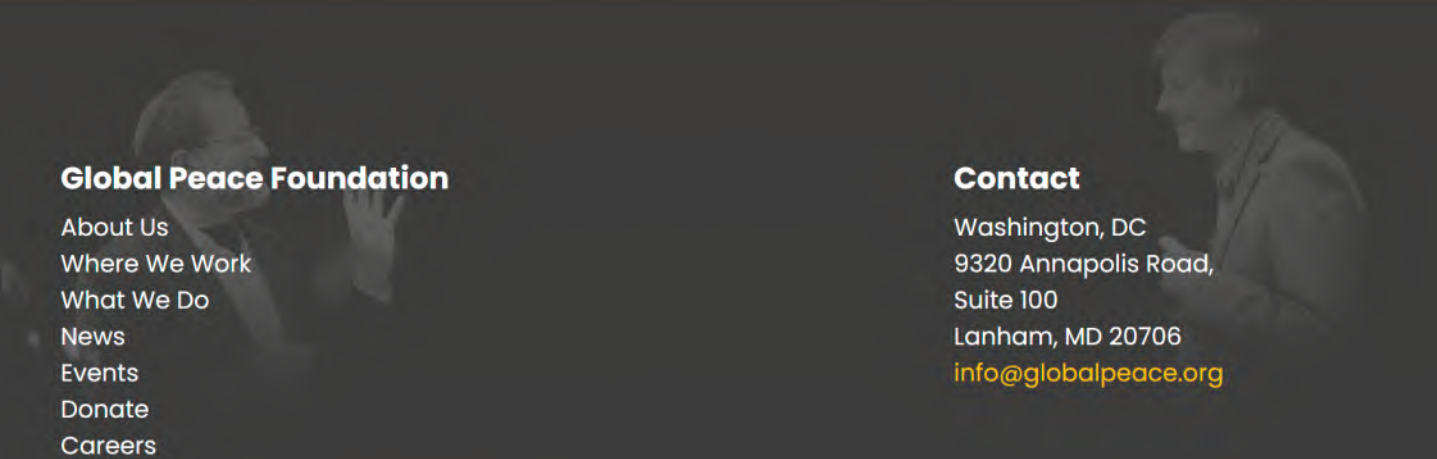
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Hope and Resilience Shine at Montana's Annual Community March Against Drugs and Violence

Wairimu Mwangi

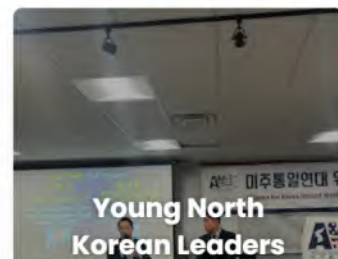
August 19, 2026

The 2026 March Against Drugs and Violence brought hundreds of community members together in Billings, Montana, despite record-breaking temperatures, to stand for prevention, recovery, and safer communities. Co-organized by the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) alongside local partners, the annual event reflects nearly three decades of grassroots peacebuilding, uniting families, law enforcement, recovery advocates, faith leaders, and community organizations to

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Young North Korean Leaders

mobilizing communities to address the root causes of violence and build lasting peace.

This year's march featured inspiring community leaders, recognition of long-standing partnerships, and a powerful keynote from Michelle Laviolette, whose journey from addiction to recovery reminded attendees that healing is possible when communities choose compassion over judgment.

Read the full story: [Hope Endures Through Historic Heat at the 2026 March Against Drugs and Violence](#)

Discover more about the Global Peace Foundation's ongoing work in Billings, including coverage of the 2025 March Against Drugs and Violence event: [Billings March Against Drugs & Violence 2025: Grassroots Peace in Action](#)

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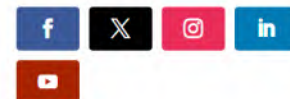


Young North Korean Leaders Commit to Building a Better Future for a Unified Korea

Kiho Sano

August 14, 2026

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An event sharing the experiences and visions of young North Korean escapees was held on July 5 at the Korean Community Center in Washington.



Scholars and Researchers from Seven Countries Participate in the

Washington, D.C. on July 5 to share their personal journeys and their vision for contributing to a future unified Korea. The event brought together students and young professionals who have rebuilt their lives after escaping North Korea and are now preparing to serve society through education, healthcare, public policy, international development, and human rights advocacy.

Although each participant followed a different path, they shared a common belief: freedom is not simply the end of oppression—it is the beginning of a greater responsibility to help others and prepare for the future of a unified Korean Peninsula.

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Transforming Personal Experience into Professional Leadership

The participants explained how their life experiences have inspired them to pursue careers that will contribute to rebuilding North Korea after peaceful reunification.

Jang Eun-sook, a Fulbright Scholar currently studying international development, hopes to apply her experience living under both North and South Korean systems to support North Korea's reconstruction and improve the lives of its people.

Kim Ji-hyang, a graduate student in education, shared her vision of helping marginalized children—including North Korean escapees, children from multicultural families, and disadvantaged youth around the world—achieve their dreams through education.

Park Mi-kyung, who studied dentistry, expressed her hope of helping establish a healthcare system that would allow all North Korean residents to receive regular dental care after reunification.

Another participant, Chae Yoon-seo, who previously worked as a nurse in North Korea and now studies accounting, said she intends to continue advocating for North Korean human rights while pursuing her professional career.

Together, these young leaders demonstrated that preparing for a unified Korea requires expertise in many fields, including education, healthcare, international development, public policy, and human rights.

Beyond Survivors: Future Leaders of a Unified Korea

The speakers emphasized that young North Korean escapees should not be viewed simply as survivors or recipients of assistance, but as future leaders capable of helping shape a unified Korea.

Lee Hyun-seung, head of the North Korean Youth Leaders Assembly, encouraged continued support for young escapees as they develop both professional expertise and leadership for the future.

Kim Geum-hyok highlighted the importance of ensuring that North Koreans one day enjoy the same freedoms that many others take for granted—including freedom of education, occupation, and religion. He expressed hope that these freedoms would enable North Korean citizens to build a brighter future after reunification.

Freedom as the Beginning of Service

Many participants reflected on the hardships they

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endured—from escaping North Korea to overcoming prejudice and adapting to a new society. Yet rather than allowing those experiences to define them, they have chosen to dedicate their lives to serving others.

The event concluded with a shared commitment from the participants:

"Freedom is not simply the result of leaving North Korea. It is the starting point for taking on greater responsibility. We will continue developing our abilities in our respective fields so that we can improve the lives of North Korean people and help build a new society after reunification."

Their stories reflect the growing leadership of a new generation committed to advancing freedom, human dignity, and peaceful reunification. As these young leaders continue to develop their talents and serve their communities, they offer renewed hope for realizing the vision of One Korea.

Read the original article in [Korea Times \(Korean\)](#).

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Guatemalan Initiative Wins Top Prize at Ibero-American Human Rights Education Award

Eddy Simaj

July 22, 2026

BILBAO, Spain, June 20, 2026 — Among more than 500 submissions from over 20 countries across Ibero-America, Ix Balam, a community-based initiative led by Guatemala's Perbiperse Association, was awarded first place in the sixth edition of the **"Óscar Arnulfo Romero" Ibero-American Human Rights Education Award**, presented by the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI).

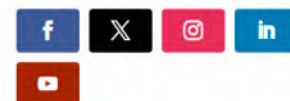
The award was presented during the Ibero-American Human Rights Education Conference, held at the University of Deusto in Bilbao, Spain. The event

across the region.

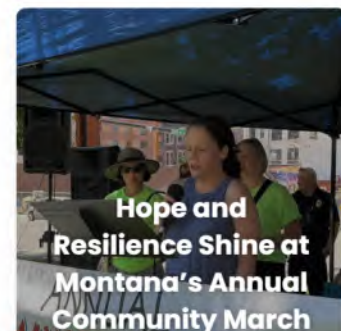
The Guatemalan project was recognized for its community-centered work aimed at preventing violence and creating opportunities for young people, women, and children living in contexts of social exclusion.

Implemented in the municipality of Mixco through the *Casa Abierta Comunitaria* (Community Open House), Ix Balam promotes educational programs, psychosocial support, youth entrepreneurship, and values-based learning. The initiative uses art, culture, and peacebuilding as tools to strengthen social cohesion and community development

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According to the international jury, the project offers an effective response to the violence affecting many communities throughout the region by creating spaces for learning, participation, and social transformation grounded in a human rights approach. The initiative currently benefits nearly 1,000 people each year.

The distinction is particularly significant given the scale of the competition. This year's edition of the award received more than 500 nominations from across Ibero-America. Since its creation in 2015, the award has highlighted initiatives that promote a culture of peace, social inclusion, democratic citizenship, and the defense of human rights through education.

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Guatemala Represented on the International Jury



Guatemalan leader Olinda Salguero participates as a member of the international jury of the VI Ibero-American Human Rights Education Award in Bilbao, Spain.

Guatemalan leader Olinda Salguero, chair of the board of directors of Fundación Esquipulas and Central America regional representative of Global Peace Foundation, served on the international jury responsible for evaluating the initiatives submitted to this year's competition.

Salguero joined a panel of experts and institutional representatives from several countries selected by the OEI to identify the most innovative and impactful experiences in advancing human rights through education.

"Initiatives such as Ix Balam demonstrate that human rights education can transform communities, create opportunities for young people, and strengthen democratic coexistence at the local level," Salguero said during the conference in Bilbao.

The presence of Guatemalan representatives both among the award recipients and within the international evaluation process reflects the country's continued contribution to regional discussions and experiences related to education, citizenship, and peacebuilding.

Education as a Tool to Strengthen Democracy

The award ceremony was attended by OEI Secretary General Mariano Jabonero, Spain's Ombudsman Ángel Gabilondo, representatives of the Basque Government, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the University of Deusto, and other institutions committed to the promotion of human rights.

Throughout the conference, participants emphasized that education remains an essential tool for strengthening democratic coexistence, fostering social inclusion, and addressing contemporary challenges such as polarization, disinformation, exclusion, and hate speech.

The recognition granted to Ix Balam represents encouraging news for Guatemala and highlights the impact that community-based initiatives can achieve when they place human dignity, participation, and a culture of peace at the center of their work.

For the Global Peace Foundation, initiatives like Ix Balam reflect how peacebuilding begins at the community level—through education, shared values, and practical opportunities that help young people, families, and local leaders build trust, strengthen dignity, and work together for the common good.

Based on information provided by the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI). Photographs courtesy of the OEI

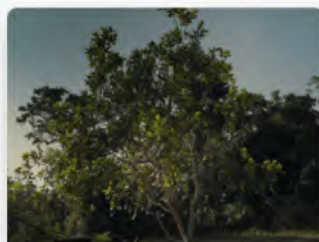
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For many children, being seen is the first step towards believing that they matter. This



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