

How Are GPF Communities Taking Action to Live Together in Peace?

James Flynn

May 19, 2026

Hyun Jin Moon's Global Peace Foundation



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Global Highlights

Taking Action to Live Together in Peace



“The youth will be the leaders of tomorrow, but they need the protections of government today.”

— Jose Villegas

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The Power of “I Am Because We Are”

The Ubuntu Africa Diaspora Summit brought together members of the African diaspora, friends of Africa, leaders, youth, civil society partners, and development stakeholders to strengthen collaboration for peacebuilding, sustainable development, and socio-cultural renewal across the continent.

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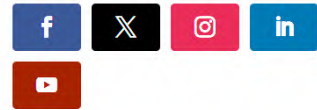


Ubuntu Africa Diaspora Summit 2026 Gallery

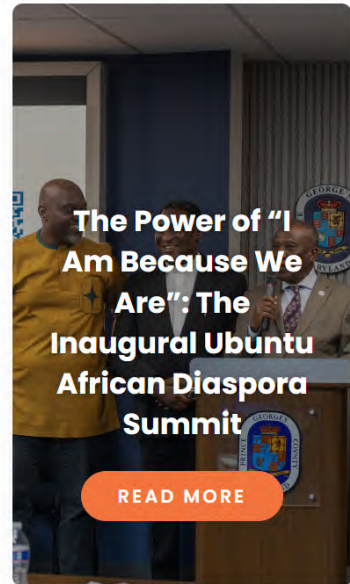
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Rev. Fr. Canice Chinyeaka Enyiaka sharing the overview of summit objectives



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Dr. Claire Nelson and Mrs. Adwoa Smith

Dr. Claire Nelson (left) and Mrs. Adwoa Smith (right)



Interactive session

Interactive session with panelists



Keynote Speaker Dr. Mohammed Camara

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mohammed Camara, chair of African Studies Department, Howard University



GPF Senior Advisor Alan Inman, Daniel Koroma, Imam Albert Sabir, GPF President James Flynn, and Suzanne Williams

From left to right: GPF Senior Advisor Alan Inman, Daniel Koroma, Imam Albert Sabir, GPF President James Flynn, and Suzanne Williams



Participants

Participants exchange warm greetings



Rev. Fr. Canice Chinyeaka Enyiaka (3rd from left), GPF director for African Peace Initiative and Engagement



Closing remarks by Dr. Vincent Agubokwu

Closing remarks by Dr. Vincent Agubokwu, director of Multicultural

with panelists

Rev. Fr. Canice Chinyeaka Enyiaka (3rd from left), GPF director for African Peace Initiative and Engagement with panelists

Affairs, Office of the County Executive for Prince George's County



Mrs. Adwoa Smith

Mrs. Adwoa Smith, founder of Almonds & Apples and a philanthropist



Ubuntu Africa Diaspora Summit 2026

Ubuntu Africa Diaspora Summit 2026



Panelists

Panelists (from left to right) Mr. Martin Ezemma, Dr. Claire Nelson, Mr. Daniel Koroma, and Mr. Jose Villegas



Attendees

Attendees gather to engage in dialogue, learning, and collaboration



Vivienne Sequeira Introduces Panelists

Moderator and Africa Society Executive Director Vivienne Sequeira (left) introducing the panelists

The Ubuntu Africa Diaspora Summit brought together members of the African diaspora, friends of Africa, leaders, youth, civil society partners, and development stakeholders to strengthen collaboration for peacebuilding, sustainable development, and socio-cultural renewal across the continent.

Anchored in the African philosophy of Ubuntu, "I am because we are," the summit highlighted the power of shared humanity, ethical leadership, solidarity, and collective responsibility in addressing Africa's pressing challenges and unlocking its vast potential.

Through dialogue, partnership-building, and practical commitments, participants explored ways to strengthen diaspora-continent partnerships, advance peacebuilding and social cohesion, promote values-based leadership, mobilize impact-driven investment, and create new pathways for youth innovation and leadership.

The gathering served as a call to move from conversation to coordinated action, harnessing the talent, influence, and resources of the African diaspora to support a more peaceful, prosperous, and united Africa.

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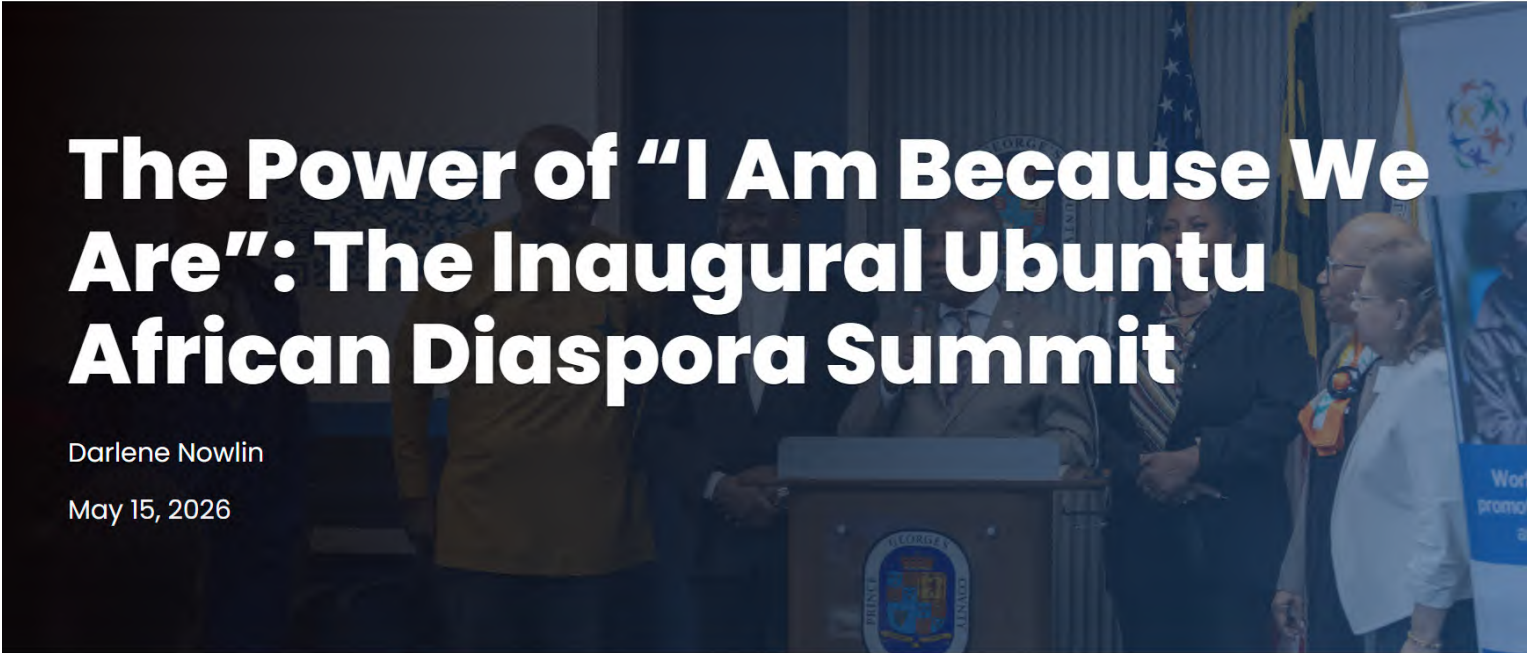
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The Power of “I Am Because We Are”: The Inaugural Ubuntu African Diaspora Summit

Darlene Nowlin

May 15, 2026

The spirit of Ubuntu, the foundational African philosophy often translated as “I am because we are,” took center stage

recently in Prince George’s County, Maryland. The inaugural Ubuntu African Diaspora Summit, convened by the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) in partnership with the Prince George’s County Multicultural Affairs Division, brought together a diverse group of scholars, diplomats, and community leaders.



Ubuntu Africa Diaspora Summit 2026

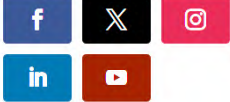
GPF President James P. Flynn welcomed participants, saying, “The Global Peace Foundation proudly calls Prince George’s County home, and we are pleased to partner with the Multicultural Affairs Division to provide this summit. I know you will each contribute vital work toward peacebuilding across the continent and the world.”

The message was clear: the African Diaspora is no longer just a source of remittances, but a strategic partner in shaping the continent’s future.

A Philosophical Foundation for a New Era

“In Africa, being is relational. Ubuntu affirms that human beings are not isolated individuals, but interconnected members of a shared moral community.” Reverend Fr. Canice Enyiaka, GPF’s Director of African Peace Initiative and Engagement, noted that one’s humanity is affirmed through relationships with others expressed

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through relationships with others, expressed through values and moral obligations such as compassion, solidarity, community, and service.

The summit opened with a powerful invocation of identity and interconnectedness by Pastor Christopher Zacharias and Imam Albert Sabir, setting a tone of interfaith respect and shared purpose.

Keynote speaker Dr. Mohammed Camara, Chair of the Department of African Studies at Howard University, explored the depths of Ubuntu, defining it not merely as a sentiment, but as a “relational ethic” that should guide governance.



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mohammed Camara, chair of African Studies Department, Howard University

African Humanism: The belief that human dignity is a transcendental inheritance.

The Global African Collective (GAC): Dr. Camara introduced this term to move beyond the sometimes-divisive concept of “Diaspora,” aiming to unite Africans born on the continent with those in the Americas, Asia, and Europe.

Relational Ontology: The idea that a person is a person through other persons. When one member of the community is diminished, the entire community suffers.

The Diaspora: Africa’s “Sixth Region”



Panelists (from left to right) Mr. Martin Ezemma, Dr. Claire Nelson, Mr. Daniel Koroma, and Mr. Jose Villegas

With over 170 million people globally and 50 million in the United States alone, the African Diaspora represents an

unparalleled reservoir of intellectual and financial capital. The summit highlighted that the African Union officially recognizes the Diaspora as the “Sixth Region” of the continent under its Agenda 2063.

A dynamic panel moderated by Vivien Sequeira showcased the practical application of Ubuntu principles across various sectors:

1. Economic Development

Martin Ezemma, director of International Business Development for Prince George’s County, discussed creating trade bridges between Maryland and nations such as Nigeria, Korea, and the UAE. He emphasized the opportunity to leverage the county’s strong base of African professionals, including PhDs, engineers, and entrepreneurs, as a

force for global economic development.

2. Diplomacy and Community

Adwoa Smith, philanthropist and spouse of the Ambassador of Ghana, emphasized the need for servant leadership within the diplomatic corps, urging leaders to be accessible to their citizens and to move from “talking” to “action.”

3. Human Rights and Youth

Jose Villegas, executive director of the Office of Human Rights, highlighted the need to protect vulnerable communities, including victims of human trafficking, while also strengthening civic engagement among young people. “The youth will be the leaders of tomorrow,” he noted, “but they need the protections of government today.”

4. The Future: Space and Cyberspace

Dr. Claire Alicia Nelson provided a forward-looking vision, emphasizing that Africa’s thriving depends on mastering the “three guardrails”: Ocean Space, Outer Space, and Cyberspace. She shared initiatives supporting African students in satellite development, underscoring the need for Africa to be fully engaged in the technologies shaping the 21st century.

Looking Toward 2027



Closing remarks by Dr. Vincent Agubokwu, director of Multicultural Affairs, Office of the County Executive for Prince George's County

The summit concluded with a commitment to growth. While this inaugural event was a milestone, plans are already underway for the 2027 Ubuntu Africa Diaspora Summit.

Representing County Executive Aisha Braveboy, Chris Osuji invited the community to a new state-of-the-art conference facility for the next iteration, with hopes for expanded participation from government, community, and international partners.

As the inaugural gathering came to a close, the message was clear: when the African Diaspora and the continent are connected through the spirit of Ubuntu, they become a powerful force for dignity, healing, peace, and progress.

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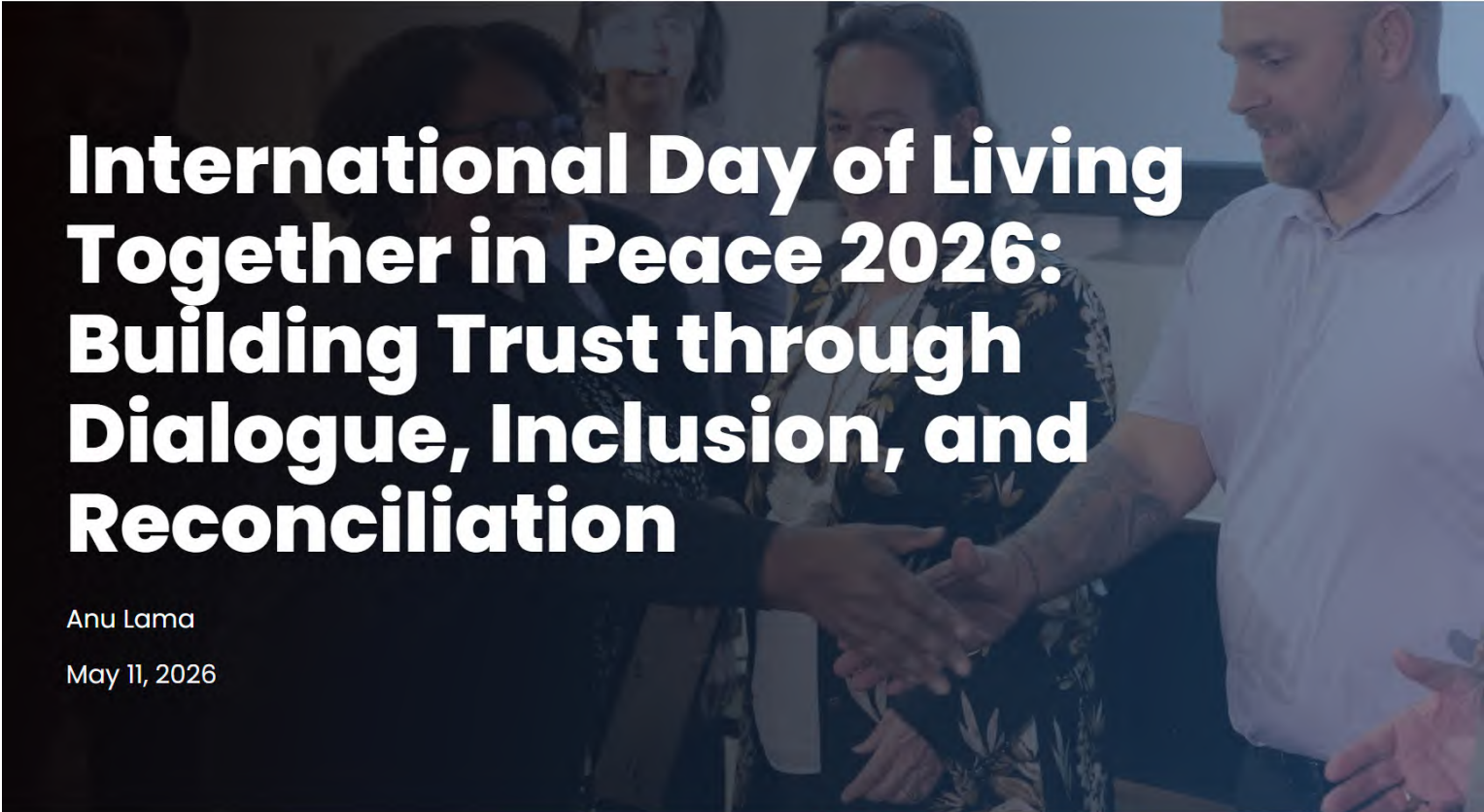
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International Day of Living Together in Peace 2026: Building Trust through Dialogue, Inclusion, and Reconciliation

Anu Lama

May 11, 2026

Every year on May 16, the world observes the International Day of Living Together in Peace, a day that reminds us that peace requires continued effort. This year’s theme, “Building Trust through Dialogue, Inclusion, and Solidarity,” could not be more timely.

At a time when wars, intolerance, uncertainty, and mistrust continue to affect many parts of the world, this year’s theme invites us to ask important questions:

How do we continue living together and advocating for peace when division feels easier than dialogue? Where does peace start? Where do we begin building peace, and how?

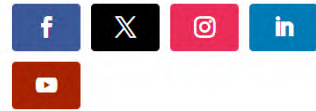


Participants of the interfaith fast-breaking

While there may be no simple answer, peace often begins in the most ordinary places:

families, neighborhoods, schools, faith communities, and streets. It begins where people consciously choose to live beside one another with tolerance, trust, and respect. In places where relationships have been broken, peace begins when communities take steps to mend

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ties, rebuild trust, and pursue reconciliation.

Take the Hayin Banki community in Kaduna, Nigeria, for instance. For years, the community lived with the quiet tension that often follows division: suspicion between neighbors, distance between faith communities, and conversations left unfinished. People shared the same streets, but not always the same sense of belonging.

Recognizing the need for healing, Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Nigeria partnered with Bethel Candle of Hope for the Vulnerable (BCHV) to sponsor the formation of the Hayin Banki Peace and Reconciliation Committee in 2024. Since then, the committee's work has focused on something deceptively simple: bringing people back into the same room through dialogues, workshops, sports, and other community activities. At the heart of these initiatives is the same goal: helping people come together for honest conversation and to see beyond their differences.

Recently, the Hayin Banki Peace and Reconciliation Committee, together with GPF



Nigeria, brought together Christian and Muslim leaders and residents in Hayin Banki for an iftar gathering, creating space for dialogue, direct interaction, and relationship-building. The program reinforced social cohesion shaped by religious diversity. Held under the theme "Unity in Diversity: Strengthening Peace Through Shared Faith," the program was successful, with Rev. Bulus thanking GPF Nigeria and noting that the gathering "fostered togetherness among people of different faiths." He added, "Witnessing Christians and Muslims sharing a meal has profoundly strengthened our commitment to peaceful coexistence in Hayin Banki."

Rev. John Joseph Hayab, Country Director of GPF Nigeria, reflected on these efforts to bring communities together for peace, saying, "Dialogue is not just a tool; it is the foundation of peaceful coexistence."

Read more here: <https://globalpeace.org/gpf-nigeria-hosts-interfaith-fast-breaking-in-hayin-banki-to-strengthen-community-led-peace/>

The same lesson on reconciliation can be seen far beyond Nigeria, including in Baltimore, USA.



GPF's Baltimore Cross-Communi

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Baltimore participants in the Cross Community Reconciliation project.

ty
Reconciliation
Project
(BCCRP)
has been
working

to bridge divisions shaped by race, history, economic inequality, and generations of mistrust. Here, conflict is not always loud. Sometimes it takes the form of silence, with neighborhoods existing side by side but rarely together, and communities shaped by inherited assumptions and unfamiliarity.

The project approaches peacebuilding through local reconciliation, creating spaces where people from different backgrounds can meet honestly, confront difficult histories, and imagine a shared future. Its premise is simple but powerful: reconciliation must be relational. Trust does not grow where stories are ignored. It grows where people are willing to hear uncomfortable truths and still remain at the table.

In cities like Baltimore, peacebuilding cannot be separated from justice. Reconciliation is not about forgetting what happened; it is about refusing to let old wounds permanently define what comes next.

Read the full story here:

<https://globalpeace.org/global-peace-foundation-charts-a-new-path-to-peace-and-reconciliation-in-baltimore/>

Living together in peace requires patience and practice in daily life. It is the teacher



Community members, stakeholders, and local law enforcement come together during a dialogue on cross-community reconciliation in Baltimore.

who chooses fairness in a divided classroom, the faith leader who chooses bridge-building over fear, the young person who chooses empathy over hate, and the neighbor who chooses conversation before conflict.

Sustainable peace is built not only through institutions and agreements, but through the daily choices of individuals and communities to recognize shared dignity, rebuild trust, and work together for the common good.

As we commemorate this year's International Day of Living Together in Peace, we are reminded of the impact of GPF's projects in rebuilding trust and fostering peace. The 2026 theme speaks with clarity and purpose, reminding us that peace does not begin when the world changes all at once. It begins when people decide, in small, ordinary, human ways, to make room for one another through tolerance, dialogue, and

one another through tolerance, dialogue, and reconciliation.

GPF is committed to fostering peace that starts in families, communities, and neighborhoods. We reaffirm our commitment to expanding peacebuilding initiatives, strengthening interfaith dialogue, empowering young leaders, and creating spaces where reconciliation can take root and thrive.

If you would like to support our continued efforts for the Baltimore Cross-Community Reconciliation Project (BCCRP), please visit: <https://globalpeace.info/donate-to-bccrp>

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Reflections from the GPCorps South Asia Hub Launch: Empowering Youth for Peacebuilding in South Asia

Bambie Panta
April 23, 2026

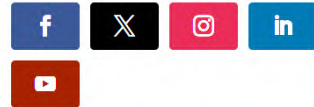
Inspired by the leadership and vision of GPF Chairman Hyun Jin “Preston” Moon, the Global Peace Leadership Corps (GPCorps) was established to inspire and equip emerging leaders to become committed and effective peacebuilders. Through education, adventure workshops, and global networking, GPCorps empowers youth to cultivate character, embrace service, and lead with purpose.

On February 27, 2026, the GPCorps South Asia Hub was officially inaugurated in Kathmandu, Nepal, marking a significant milestone in strengthening youth peacebuilding efforts across South Asia. The event brought together 43 young leaders and supporters from Nepal, India, and the United States, with participants joining online from Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Costa Rica, and the United States. The gathering reflected the global spirit of unity and collaboration that defines GPCorps.

The launch also featured reflections and insights from global leaders, whose messages emphasized the deeper purpose of GPCorps: equipping young people to become catalysts for peace and transformation in an increasingly complex world.



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GPCorps South Hub Inauguration attendees

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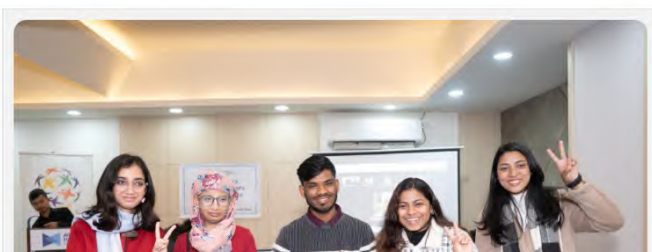
Joining virtually from the United States, Mark Farr, Program Manager of GPCorps, shared a powerful reminder that in turbulent times, new movements rise to challenge the negative spirit of the age, because for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. He emphasized that the gathering was about more than training; it was about becoming catalysts who disrupt cycles of violence through GPF's principles and values of peace.

Expressing heartfelt encouragement, he shared: "I just want to say that I am so proud to see you and others around the world begin building this movement that drives change in a new, more purposeful, and peaceful way."

Rumit Walia, Environmental and Youth Portfolio Advisor with GPCorps, traveled from India to present the initiative's vision and opportunities. "The goal of the Global Peace Leadership Corps is to tap into the idealism of youth and equip them with the tools to become moral and innovative leaders who can promote social transformation through service, development, and peacebuilding projects," Rumit expressed. He further highlighted how youth leadership and environmental stewardship can create a positive impact, fostering peace and prosperity for nations, the region, and the world.

David Caprara, International Vice President and Strategic Advisor to GPF, inspired participants as he shared, "Young people today are stepping forward not only to protest unjust structures, but to cultivate moral and innovative leadership within themselves, recognizing that the fight against corruption begins in one's own heart." He emphasized that true transformation begins within, describing the real revolution as a shift from selfishness to unselfishness, rooted not only in changing the system but in nurturing the human capacity to give, love, and serve. He encouraged youth across South Asia to take ownership of building models that connect peace and environmental stewardship, recognizing the rich cultural and natural heritage they possess.

Young leaders Sagar Khadka and Shristika Bajracharya also shared reflections on their experience with the GPCorps online learning platform. They highlighted how the educational modules deepened their understanding of service, strengthened their leadership mindset, and equipped them with practical tools for dialogue and peacebuilding.





GPCorps South Hub Inauguration attendees

Concluding the program, Ram Rohan Panta, GPF South Asia Representative, extended his heartfelt gratitude to all participants and partners for their presence and commitment. He described the gathering as a significant milestone for the region, noting that with participants joining both in person and virtually from across the world, the event truly reflected the spirit of one global family. In his remarks, he emphasized the responsibility of peace-loving citizens to strengthen their nations through nonviolence, service, and active civic engagement, while also growing as global citizens who transcend borders without losing love for their own countries. He highlighted the tremendous opportunity the South Asia Hub presents for young leaders to develop themselves and contribute meaningfully to their communities, nations, and the wider world.

The inauguration of the GPCorps South Asia Hub represents more than the launch of a regional initiative; it signals a renewed commitment to empowering young leaders across borders. Participants left the event inspired and energized, eager to elevate their peacebuilding capacities and connect with a growing global network of changemakers.

This momentum reflects a broader and enduring truth: when young people are equipped with values, vision, and opportunities to serve, they become powerful drivers of peace, unity, and long-term social transformation across cultures and generations.

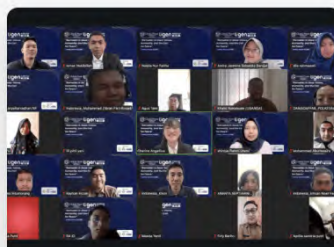
As GPF continues its mission to nurture ethical and service-minded leaders, the GPCorps South Asia Hub stands as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that when youth are empowered, they can shape a more peaceful and united world.

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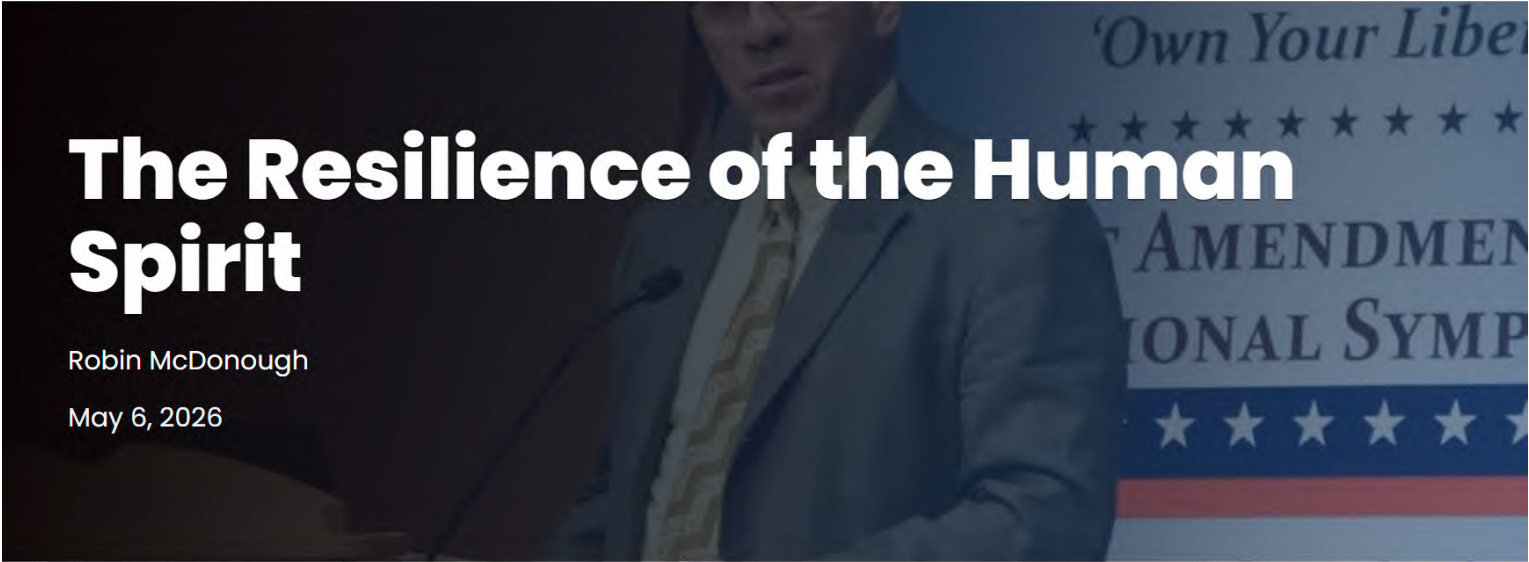
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The Resilience of the Human Spirit

Robin McDonough

May 6, 2026

From individual trauma to collective suffering, the human spirit's capacity to endure and

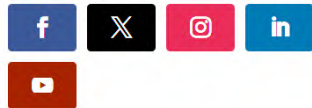


and forgive is evident throughout history. Time and again, people have shown remarkable resilience in surviving immeasurable pain and sorrow and moving forward. Recognizing the inherent value, worth, and dignity of each person, the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) utilizes a values-based approach to peacebuilding that emphasizes universal principles and shared values grounded in our shared humanity. It is in this shared humanity that the promise of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence lies.

In his November 26, 2025, op-ed for The Christian Post, "Despite the Massacres, Nigeria's Church Still Sings," Dr. Paul Murray, international vice president for Religious Freedom Initiatives at GPF, chronicles the ongoing persecution of Christians in Nigeria and their resilience. Recounting the story of Little Ruth, who witnessed the murder of her mother by militants, Dr. Murray notes, "Ruth's family understands both the depths of suffering and the roots of resilience. 'We pray not for revenge, but for forgiveness — for the attackers to find Christ. Only God can change the heart of a man,' says her adoptive father, Danjuma John. 'We've lost so much, but we also know that Christ is with us.'"

As with so many of life's greatest challenges, we need to join forces to create an environment

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need to join forces to create an environment where peace can be achieved and sustained. Only through a united effort can the suffering in Nigeria and elsewhere be addressed in ways that create lasting change. Dr. Murray calls for the “combining of prayer with tangible support,” reminding readers that solidarity must take the form of partnership, not pity.

In addressing conflict, GPF engages in a range of peacebuilding initiatives that highlight interfaith collaboration, moral and innovative leadership, and shared responsibility. Recognizing that peace is everyone’s responsibility and that families serve as the foundation for instilling values, GPF also works to empower youth and women as positive agents of change.

In December 2025, the collective power of interfaith leaders to promote lasting peace and human security in Nigeria was on full display when GPF Nigeria convened a high-level interfaith dialogue under the theme “Building Bridges of Hope: Strengthening Religious Solidarity to End Targeted Violence in Nigeria.” Opening the one-day event, GPF Nigeria Country Director Reverend John Joseph Hayab underscored the urgent need for moral leaders to work together to protect human dignity and foster unity, trust, and national security.

Another recent activity is GPF Nigeria’s commemoration of the International Day of Coexistence, held at the Women Multipurpose Centre in Minna, Niger State, on January 28, 2026. The event brought together more than 160 participants, including religious leaders, government officials, security personnel, civil society representatives, and men, women, and children from diverse communities, centered on the theme “Promoting Tolerance, Inclusion, Understanding, and Solidarity.” The program also emphasized the vital role of families, particularly the important role women play, in shaping the values that foster harmony within communities.

GPF also hosts monthly Global Network Calls through its Global Peace Leadership Corps, a global initiative launched in 2023 to mobilize young people in peacebuilding and service programs at both the local and international levels. These calls attract young leaders from around the world to engage in discussions on diverse topics related to youth character development, leadership, and peacebuilding.

These and other activities create opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to engage in meaningful dialogue, build leadership skills, and participate in a variety of peacebuilding efforts grounded in GPF’s vision of One Family under God. Together, these experiences strengthen the resilience of communities and contribute to positive change and lasting peace.

In his op-ed, Dr. Murray stresses that lasting change in Nigeria requires us to “walk the talk.” He writes. “Let prayer be combined with

advocacy and practical support, not to ‘save Nigeria,’ but to walk alongside and learn from its struggling faith communities.” Let us learn from stories like Ruth’s and others — where pain and suffering are met with resilience and a determination to survive — as we actively engage in values-based peacebuilding at both the local and global levels.

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One Family, One Future: Freedom of Conscience as the Foundation of Peace

Anu Lama

April 9, 2026

“The combination of love and conscience can unleash everywhere a powerful collective force of transformation for social change, world peace, and human evolution.”

— UN Resolution 73/329, International Day of Conscience

Peace does not arrive by decree; it does not begin in summit halls or foreign policy papers. It begins in the places where people actually live: neighborhoods, markets, schools, and family homes, in the ordinary moments where trust is either built or quietly broken.

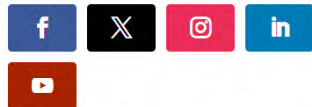


Graduates receiving their certificates from GPF and CCR representatives.

The United Nations established April 5 as the International Day of Conscience to remind us that peace is never the work of institutions alone. At its core, this observance underscores the need for societies to uphold the fundamental freedoms that allow individuals to live with dignity, including freedom of conscience, religion, and belief.

Freedom of conscience, religion, and belief is among the most essential of all human rights and is one of the deepest expressions of human dignity and freedom. When this foundational freedom is not respected, other human rights are unlikely to be protected.

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This is why Global Peace Foundation’s work is so relentlessly local. GPF recognizes that sustainable peace depends on safeguarding this fundamental freedom in everyday life and ensuring that individuals and communities can live according to their beliefs without fear, exclusion, or coercion. Across 22 nations, GPF does not simply advocate for peace; it builds the conditions that make peace possible, one community at a time.



Leaders participate in “Conversations that Connect” to foster peacebuilding in Brazil.

In Baltimore, GPF’s Cross-Community Engagement Project is

quietly connecting communities separated by race, distrust, and decades of unaddressed grievance. By creating spaces where individuals can openly share perspectives shaped by their beliefs and experiences, the initiative helps foster trust while respecting differences. In Montana, a pilot of the same model is building unexpected relationships in a region where political and cultural divisions have deepened. Read about the [Cross-Community Engagement Project](#)

In Brazil, “Conversations that Connect” gatherings are creating spaces where people who would never otherwise sit in the same room are discovering their common hopes for their families and country. These dialogues demonstrate that protecting the freedom to express one’s beliefs does not divide communities; it strengthens them when grounded in mutual respect and shared humanity. Read about [“Conversations that Connect”](#)

These efforts reflect a central principle: peace is not built by enforcing agreement, but by protecting the freedom that allows diverse beliefs and identities to coexist with dignity.

Likewise, over a decade ago, GPF’s Global Peace Development (GPD) program offered a compelling



GPD Workshops with the community of El Cidral

g illustration of how material improvement and social cohesion are not separate goals; they are the same goal approached from different angles. What began as a solar lamp distribution effort in underserved African communities grew into a comprehensive model for family self-reliance. When a family has light after dark,

children can study, adults can grow small businesses, and security improves.

These programs are not dramatic, nor do they rely on large-scale policy alone. They do not make headlines, yet they make societies more peaceful by strengthening trust, participation, and inclusion at the community level. When individuals are free to live out their beliefs and engage across differences, the forces that divide communities begin to lose their hold. When people know each other, when they have shared meals, worked on projects together, and heard each other's stories, the rhetoric that dehumanizes them loses its grip. Peace is not built by enforcing uniformity, but by fostering tolerance and respect so that differences can coexist with dignity.

Beyond community work, GPF advances freedom of conscience, religion, and belief through global advocacy and multilateral engagement. Through its initiatives, GPF promotes education, awareness, and action to address both international violations of religious freedom and domestic infringements on religious liberty.



As a long-standing advocate in this space, GPF serves as co-chair of the International

Religious Freedom Roundtable, co-chairs the U.S. Capital Area Coalition on Religious Liberty, and has engaged with the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships to support protections for religious freedom in the public square.

April 5 is an invitation to look at the people around us and ask honestly whether we are contributing to communities where others can live freely, safely, and with dignity. It is a call to uphold in everyday life the freedom of conscience, religion, and belief, not only for ourselves, but for everyone. The path to peace is not found in uniformity, but in the protection of freedom and in the daily work of building communities where that freedom is respected, shared, and sustained.

Support GPF's work to advance these values through practical, community-based initiatives around the world. Donate to [Global Peace Foundation](#).

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