

UPF International: Partnerships That Deliver for Communities

Tageldin Hamad

March 1, 2026



As March 2026 begins, the Universal Peace Federation launches the first full month of its [100 Days of Serving Community](#) campaign, running from February 20 to June 1, 2026, and culminating on the [Global Day of Parents](#). The purpose is intentionally practical: rebuilding community trust through visible cooperation, hands-on service, and concrete support for family life.

UPF works internationally as an NGO in general consultative status with the [United Nations Economic and Social Council](#). Our work supports the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), with special attention this month to [Sustainable Development Goal 17](#) on Partnerships for the Goals. This aligns with the [2026 ECOSOC Partnership Forum](#), held at United Nations Headquarters on January 27, 2026, which convened stakeholders to accelerate SDG partnerships and build momentum toward the [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#).

Our founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han and the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, have framed peace as a responsibility practiced in public life, and rooted in strong families, as the first school of love and respect. They have taught living for others through practical service, including UPF's long-standing service projects in which youth serve their own and other communities. In this vision of peace, the concept of One Family under God is not rhetoric. It is a daily reminder that every person is a precious child of God, far more than a category, a constituency, or a statistic.

Where social trust is fraying and polarization deepens, partnerships offer a proven alternative. They combine legitimacy, competence, and shared responsibility, and they deliver results that communities can

see and feel.

We therefore designate March as the Month of Partnerships. This is the month to renew relationships, build new ones, and agree on a small number of joint actions that communities can recognize. UPF welcomes cooperation with municipalities and local institutions, civil society organizations, educators and youth networks, faith communities engaged in service, professional associations, and responsible businesses. Partnership, in this campaign, follows a simple discipline: agree on one shared priority, contribute real capacity, and document outcomes transparently, so the public can see exactly what cooperation achieves.

This month aligns directly with key UN observances that lend themselves to local cooperation. [World Wildlife Day](#) on March 3 highlights stewardship of biodiversity. [International Women's Day](#) on March 8 underlines the social value of women's leadership and equal dignity. This focus resonates with the [International Year of the Woman Farmer, 2026](#), highlighting women's leadership in building resilient communities. [The 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW70\)](#), convening at United Nations Headquarters in New York from March 9-19, 2026, places global attention on access to justice for women and girls and on participation in public life.

These gatherings advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and prepare the ground for April's emphasis on visible volunteer service in line with the [International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development](#) and UPF's long-standing Service for Peace projects.

The [International Day of Happiness](#) on March 20 reminds public leaders that well-being is a legitimate policy goal. The [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#) on March 21, alongside the [International Day of Forests](#), reminds us that social cohesion and environmental stewardship are not separate efforts. They require the same ethic of shared responsibility. [World Water Day](#) on March 22, with the 2026 theme [Water and Gender](#), invites partner-led initiatives on water stewardship that advance gender equality, including practical cooperation with women farmers and rural communities. [The International Day of Zero Waste](#) on March 30 offers a practical frame for visible action through schools, local governments, and civic groups.

Alongside these observances, March 2026 includes major UN policy processes where partnerships are tested in practice. The [61st session of the Human Rights Council](#) meets in Geneva from February 23 to March 31, 2026, highlighting the importance of dignity, lawful governance, and social stability. UN forums such as the [69th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#) (March 9-13, 2026, in Vienna) convene during the month. Parallel to the Human Rights Council, the [NERPS 2026 Conference](#) at the United Nations University Headquarters in Tokyo from March 4-7 advances partnerships on how technology can strengthen multilateralism for peace and sustainability.

During March, partners may choose to coordinate a dialogue forum, a service project, a skills-based volunteer initiative, a youth-led community activity, or a family-support program that is feasible to repeat.

These are not one-off gestures. A river clean-up with local government, a skills-sharing workshop with educators, an interfaith dialogue on family support, each builds on proven UPF models. We thank every partner who invests time and credibility in this shared work. April will highlight visible volunteer service, and May will focus on family and values-based education as we approach the Global Day of Parents. In March, the starting point is clear: partnerships that deliver measurable benefit and strengthen trust.

Feb 20 · 2 min read

100 DAYS OF SERVING COMMUNITY



From February 20 to June 1, 2026, UPF invites cross-sector partners to advance community trust through cooperation, volunteer service, and strengthened family life. This period marks UPF's 100-day campaign entitled, "100 Days of Serving Community." The campaign culminates on June 1, the [Global Day of Parents](#).

As an organization in consultative status with the [United Nations Economic and Social Council](#), UPF connects local peacebuilding with the United Nations agenda and the practical spirit of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), including [SDG 16](#) (peace, justice and strong institutions), which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies. This campaign also resonates with the [International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development](#), which highlights volunteer action and civic participation as drivers of social cohesion and resilience.

Through collaboration with UPF, partners can broaden volunteer engagement around local priorities, gain international visibility through UPF communication channels, and strengthen public confidence by placing measurable community benefit at the center of joint activity. Outcomes can be documented in short public updates and visual materials that acknowledge partner participation and make results accessible to wider audiences.

Work across the campaign is organized around a three-month sequence of themes. March emphasizes partnerships, with attention to cooperation with municipalities, civil society organizations, educators, faith communities, youth networks, and local institutions. April emphasizes visible volunteer service that communities can recognize and welcome. May emphasizes families and values-based education, with special attention to the role of mothers and women as the heart of strong families, a theme that resonates with the [International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026](#). This prepares the ground for the [International Day of Families](#) on May 15 and the Global Day of Parents on June 1.

During the campaign period, partners may also choose to align joint activities with widely recognized UN observances, including the [World Day of Social Justice](#) on February 20, the [International Day of Sport for Development and Peace](#) on April 6, and [International Mother Earth Day](#) on April 22.

UPF founders [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and the late [Rev. Sun Myung Moon](#) have taught that lasting peace grows when families are strong, moral responsibility is practiced in public life, and service becomes a living culture that transcends differences. Living for the sake of others is the true source of peace and human dignity. They taught that every act of service is an expression of one's identity as a child of God and a member of One Family under God. In this spirit, by promoting dialogue, partnership, and community service, the campaign serves as a practical contribution to the [2030 Agenda](#).

We warmly invite every partner to join us in this spirit of service, so that together we may strengthen communities, strengthen families, and make constructive contributions that endure beyond the campaign period and contribute directly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr. Tageldin Hamad, President, UPF-International
February 20, 2026

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Global Day of Parents
1 June

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Global Day of Parents serves as a reminder of the vital role families play and underscores the importance of investing in nurturing, playful parenting.
| PHOTO: UNDP Eurasia / Anush Babajanyan

Appreciate All Parents Throughout the World

Since the 1980s, the important role of the family has increasingly come to the attention of the international community. The General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions and proclaimed the International Year of the Family and the International Day of Families. Emphasizing the critical role of parents in the rearing of children, the Global Day of Parents recognizes that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, children should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

Designated by the General Assembly in 2012, Global Day of Parents provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents for their "selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship."

Families, parents and caregivers play a central role in child well-being and development. They offer identity, love, care, provision and protection to children and adolescents as well as economic security and stability. In keeping with the spirit of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, family and parenting support is increasingly recognized as an important part of national social policies and social investment packages aimed at reducing poverty, decreasing inequality and promoting positive parental and child well-being.

2025 Theme: Raising Parents

On the Global Day of Parents 2025, the theme "Raising Parents" draws attention to an essential but often underappreciated reality: parenting is a learned skill. Parents and caregivers require time, resources, and support in order to raise children in a nurturing and positive environment.

As part of this year's observance, UNICEF will launch **Parenting Month 2025** to highlight the importance of equipping caregivers with the knowledge and tools they need. The month-long campaign will feature touching stories about the joys and challenges of parenthood, share practical parenting tips and resources, and call for greater support for caregivers through parenting programmes.



Raising Parents: Empowering every family to thrive

Raising Parents is not just a documentary, it's a call to action.

Parenting is a journey. A journey filled with love, challenges and endless learning. Raising a child is every parent's most

precious task, but too often caregivers around the world are left to do it alone.

Background

During the 1980's, the United Nations began focusing attention on the issues related to the family. In 1983, based on the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development in its resolution on the Role of the family in the development process (1983/23) requested the Secretary-General to enhance awareness among decision makers and the public of the problems and needs of the family, as well as of effective ways of meeting those needs.

In its resolution 44/82 of 9 December 1989, The General Assembly proclaimed 1994 as the **International Year of the Family**, and in resolution 47/237 of 1993, the General Assembly decided that 15 May of every year to be observed as the **International Day of Families**.

In 2012, the General Assembly proclaimed 1 June as the Global Day of Parents, to be observed annually in honour of parents throughout the world.

Did you know?



The infographic features a blue background with three photographs and text boxes. The top-left photo shows a woman holding a baby. The top-right photo shows a man and a woman cutting vegetables. The bottom photo shows a woman sitting at a table with a young child playing with a xylophone. Each photo is accompanied by a text box with a purple footprint icon.

Being a parent is the most important job in the world. But many parents don't get the time and support they need to be with their children.

Parental involvement is widely regarded as an essential factor in children's health and well-being, including academic achievement.

A lack of parental involvement, and inappropriate discipline practices make children more vulnerable to mental health disorders, including substance abuse.

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Related links

- [General Assembly resolution establishing the global Day](#)
- [UN Reports and Resolutions on Family](#)

- [Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention](#)
- [Maternity Protection Convention](#)
- [Equal Remuneration Convention](#)
- [Maternity Protection Convention \(Revised\)](#)
- [Discrimination \(Employment and Occupation\) Convention](#)
- [Workplace Solutions For Childcare](#)
- [Reconciling Work And Family Responsibilities: Practical Ideas from Global Experience](#)
- [Declaration on Social Progress and Development](#)
- [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)
- [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

Related Observances

- [International Women's Day](#)
- [International Day of Play](#)
- [International Day of Older Persons](#)
- [International Day of Family Remittances](#)
- [International Widows' Day](#)
- [World Children's Day](#)
- [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)
- [International Migrants Day](#)

[More observances >>](#)



Support for parenting

Like no one else, parents and caregivers shape the experiences that build their children's brains and set them on a path towards healthy development. Parenting is too big a job for parents and caregivers to do alone. They need support to give their children the best possible start in life.



Families and Parents: Key to Achieving the SDGs

Families remain at the centre of social life, ensuring the well-being of their members, educating and socializing children and youth and caring for young and old. In particular, family-oriented policies can contribute to the achievement of [Sustainable Development Goals](#) relating to doing away with poverty and hunger; ensuring healthy lives and promoting of well-being for all ages; ensuring educational opportunities throughout the lifespan and achieving gender equality.



Why do we mark International Days?

[International days and weeks](#) are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. We also mark other [UN observances](#).

