

From Partnership to Service: Zero Waste and the Work of Peace

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Key Takeaways

- International Day of Zero Waste 2026 focuses on food waste. Reducing food waste supports SDG 11 and SDG 12 and strengthens community resilience.
- For UPF, zero waste links stewardship with peacebuilding and service.
- April's month of service is a timely opportunity to turn environmental concern into practical action.

UNEP reports that over 1 billion tonnes of food were wasted in 2022, with households responsible for about 60 percent.

As the United Nations marks the International Day of Zero Waste on 30 March this observance closes March, dedicated to partnerships, and opens April as Universal Peace Federation's (UPF) month of service within its 100 Days of Serving Community campaign from 20 February to 1 June 2026.



On 30 March, the [United Nations](#) observes the [International Day of Zero Waste](#), a reminder that waste is not only a technical issue but a human one. In 2026 the day focuses on food waste, placing it squarely within the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), especially [Sustainable Development Goal 11](#) and [Sustainable Development Goal 12](#). It speaks directly to target 11.6 on municipal waste management and target 12.3 on reducing food waste and food loss across supply chains.

According to the [UNEP Food Waste Index Report 2024 Key Messages](#), around [60 per cent](#) of food waste comes from households, while food loss and waste account for an estimated [8 to 10 per cent](#) of global greenhouse gas emissions. UNEP also notes that in 2022, the world wasted an estimated [1.05 billion tonnes](#) of food, nearly one fifth of all food available to consumers. The [United Nations Environment Programme](#) and [UN-Habitat](#) jointly facilitate this day, giving it clear international weight.

For the [Universal Peace Federation](#), zero waste begins with habits. When food, water, materials, and public spaces are treated carelessly, relationships also suffer. A culture of peace values resources as gifts, rejects waste, and restores damaged places. That is why this day closes a month centered on partnership and opens a month centered on service. Environmental responsibility depends on cooperation, but it is proven in action.

This understanding reflects the vision of [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and [late Dr. Sun Myung Moon](#). They taught that

peace grows through responsibility, care, and living for the sake of others. The family is the first school of gratitude, moderation, and stewardship. When those habits enter public life, they strengthen communities and help people see the Earth as a shared home. In that sense, care for resources is one practical expression of [one family under God](#).



UPF chapters have expressed this ethic in clear ways. In Slovakia, UPF-Slovakia used [World Water Day](#) to examine [ocean plastic pollution and microplastics](#), linking local responsibility to global harm. In Kenya, a [Nairobi River cleanup](#) brought together more than a thousand participants to clear waste, plant trees, and take ongoing responsibility for sections of the river. In Mali, [UPF and youth partners](#) combined canal cleanups with tree planting in Bamako. In Argentina, UPF-Argentina's ["Peace With Creation" meeting](#) connected responsible consumption, waste separation, eco-bricks, and reforestation. In Seychelles, UPF-Seychelles marked [World Cleanup Day](#) through service at a children's home. In Russia, UPF-Russia's [EcoGeneration project](#) in Voronezh taught children and adults how to sort waste and build better daily habits.

These efforts show that environmental care is peacebuilding in action. They also resonate with [UN-Habitat's Waste Wise Cities](#) framework and with [UNEP's work to protect rivers and freshwater systems from pollution](#).

The 2026 focus on food waste is especially timely. It is no longer a marginal issue. It stands at the intersection of climate responsibility, resource stewardship, and social ethics. Food waste grows from excess, neglect, and indifference in homes, schools, restaurants, farms, and public events, yet it can be reduced through ordinary choices.

UPF also recognizes the contribution of organizations working seriously in this field, including the [United Nations Environment Programme](#), [UN-Habitat](#), the [Zero Waste International Alliance](#), [Zero Waste Europe](#), and [WRAP](#). Their standards, research, and practical guidance have helped communities move from awareness to action. As April unfolds within UPF's 2026 [100 Days of Serving Community](#) campaign, zero waste can become not only an environmental goal but also a practical discipline of community service, carrying the spirit of March partnerships into the campaign's month of service.

Dr. Tageldin Hamad,

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Featured

One Family Under God: The Vision Behind the Universal Peace Federation

Key Takeaways:

The vision of humanity as **One Family under God** recognises the shared dignity and interconnectedness of all people.

It calls for cooperation among cultures, nations, religions, and generations.

The vision is expressed practically through the principles of [interdependence](#), [mutual prosperity](#), and [universal values](#).

The Universal Peace Federation advances this vision through dialogue, leadership initiatives, and [partnerships](#) aligned with the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#).



Join the UPF Peace Network

If the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values resonate with you, stay connected with the Universal Peace Federation for invitations to peace dialogues and initiatives advancing a culture of peace.

[Join the Peace Network](#)

Introduction

The vision of “**One Family under God**” lies at the heart of the work of the [Universal Peace Federation](#) (UPF), which is an international NGO dedicated to peacebuilding, dialogue, and ethical leadership. It is the first of the [five principles](#) underlying Universal Peace Federation's peace building work.

This simple but profound idea expresses a universal truth: humanity shares a common origin in a loving Heavenly Parent, a shared dignity, and a collective responsibility to build a peaceful and just world together.

In a time marked by geopolitical tensions, economic inequality, and cultural division, the concept of **One Family under God** offers a powerful framework for cooperation, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. It calls individuals, communities, and nations to move beyond narrow interests and recognise the deeper bonds that unite the human family.

The founders of UPF, [Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon](#) and his wife, [Dr Hak Ja Han](#) articulated this vision as the foundation for a culture of peace—one grounded in universal values, loving families, and responsible leadership.

What Does “One Family Under God” Mean?

The phrase **One Family under God** expresses the idea that all human beings share a common spiritual origin in a loving Heavenly Parental figure and therefore belong to a single global family. The phrase 'Humanity is One Family Loved by God' is more explanatory.

This vision does not erase cultural, national, or religious differences. Rather, it recognises diversity as a source of richness within a larger human community.

Just as members of a family may differ in personality and perspective while remaining bound by shared identity and responsibility, humanity can embrace diversity while recognising its deeper unity.

The concept encourages:

- Respect for the dignity of every person
- Recognition of shared, sibling responsibility for the wellbeing of others
- Cooperation across cultural, religious, and national boundaries
- A commitment to peace and mutual flourishing

This vision stands in contrast to ideologies that emphasise division, competition, or domination. Instead, it promotes a **culture of heart**—a culture rooted in empathy, responsibility, and service to others.

Why the Vision Matters in Today's World

The challenges facing humanity today are global in nature.

Climate change, economic instability, armed conflict, migration, and technological transformation affect societies across borders. No nation can address these challenges alone.

The vision of **One Family under God** encourages a shift from competition to cooperation. It recognises that the wellbeing of one community is linked to the wellbeing of others.

This perspective aligns closely with the goals of the international community, including the [United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), which call for collaboration across nations, sectors, and cultures.

By recognising humanity as a single family, leaders and citizens alike are encouraged to pursue solutions that benefit not only their own communities but the wider global society.

The Peace Principles: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values

The vision of **One Family under God** is expressed practically through three guiding principles, [Interdependence](#), [Mutual Prosperity](#), and [Universal Values](#), that shape the work of the Universal Peace Federation.

Interdependence

Interdependence recognises that individuals, communities, and nations are deeply interconnected.

Economic systems, environmental challenges, health issues, and security concerns transcend national borders. Cooperation and shared responsibility are therefore essential.

Interdependence encourages

- Dialogue between nations and cultures
- Partnerships between governments, civil society, and faith communities
- Shared learning and innovation for the common good

Through conferences, educational initiatives, and international networks, UPF promotes collaborative solutions to global challenges.

Mutual Prosperity

Mutual prosperity affirms that true prosperity should benefit all members of society.

Economic development that leaves large segments of society behind creates instability and social fragmentation.

The principle of mutual prosperity encourages:

- Inclusive economic development
- Fair access to education and opportunity
- Ethical economic practices that serve communities

This vision aligns with international efforts to reduce poverty, strengthen social cohesion, and build sustainable economies.

Universal Values

Universal values provide the ethical foundation for peaceful coexistence. Across cultures and religions, societies recognise core values such as:

- Respect for human dignity
- Honesty and integrity
- Compassion and responsibility
- Commitment to justice and peace

UPF promotes character education and ethical leadership as practical ways to cultivate these values within individuals, communities, and institutions.

Together, these three principles—interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values—provide a practical framework for realising the vision of **One Family under God**.

Applying the Vision: How UPF Advances a Culture of Peace

The Universal Peace Federation advances this vision through a wide range of initiatives that bring together leaders from many sectors of society. These initiatives include:

- Dialogue among religious leaders promoting interfaith cooperation ([Interreligious Association for Peace and Development - IAPD](#))
- Parliamentary engagement through international networks of legislators ([International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace - IAPP](#))
- Character education programmes encouraging ethical leadership (Nigerian Character Education)
- Art and cultural programmes drawing upon diverse cultures ([International Association of Arts and Culture for Peace - IAACP](#))
- Youth leadership initiatives and service projects (Religious Youth Service and IAYSP)
- 'Peace Road', a vision of an international highway network connecting the world. ([Peace Road](#))

Through these efforts, UPF works to translate ideals into practical action that contributes to peace and sustainable development.

A Global Movement for Peace

Since its founding in 2005, the Universal Peace Federation has convened conferences, leadership dialogues, and global forums dedicated to advancing peace and cooperation. Its initiatives bring together policymakers, scholars, religious leaders, civil society

representatives, and youth leaders to address shared challenges and explore constructive solutions. These efforts aim to foster a culture of peace grounded not only in diplomatic agreements but also in ethical leadership, strong families, and responsible citizenship.

The vision of **One Family under God** provides a moral compass for these efforts, reminding humanity that peace begins with recognising the dignity and value of every person.

Towards a Culture of Heart

At its deepest level, the vision of **One Family under God** calls for a transformation of perspective. It invites people to see others not as strangers, competitors, or adversaries, but as members of a shared human family. Such a perspective encourages empathy, cooperation, and a shared responsibility.

A **culture of heart**—a culture rooted in compassion and service—creates the social foundations necessary for lasting peace.

Through dialogue, education, and partnerships, the Universal Peace Federation continues to promote this vision across nations and communities.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does “One Family under God” mean? The phrase expresses the idea that all people share a common spiritual origin from a loving Heavenly Parental figure, and therefore belong to one global family. It emphasises human dignity, unity in diversity, and shared, sibling responsibility for peace.

Who introduced the concept? The concept was articulated by the founders of the Universal Peace Federation, [Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon](#) and [Dr Hak Ja Han](#), as a guiding vision for global peacebuilding.

How does UPF promote this vision? UPF advances this vision through international dialogue, leadership education, interfaith cooperation, youth programmes, and community service initiatives.

How can individuals contribute to this vision? Individuals can contribute by promoting understanding, strengthening families and communities, and supporting initiatives that encourage dialogue and cooperation.

Be part of building a culture of peace

If this message resonated with you, take the next step:

Join our Peace Network

Email updates with thoughtful insights, invitations, and ways to serve.

Become a Monthly Supporter

Help sustain our long-term peace initiatives and leadership development.

Become an Ambassador for Peace

Join a global network of ethical leaders and bridge-builders.

Get Involved in our Work

Interfaith cooperation, youth leadership, gender equality, community service.

Most relevant next reads

Continue exploring how peace, dialogue, and ethical leadership are shaping a more just and harmonious world:

[UPF Principles of Peace October 4th 2025](#)

[Strengthening Communities Through Volunteer Action](#)

[100 Days of Harmony and Hope](#)

[Should we Mourn the Demise of the International Rule of Law or Find Another Way](#)

Broader UPF context

[UPF Celebrates 20 Years of Global Peacebuilding](#)

[Dr Hak Ja Han - Mother of Peace, A Life Dedicated to Unity, Family, and Global Peacebuilding](#)

[Universal Peace Federation Declares Spiritual Unity and Religious Freedom](#)

[Honouring a Legacy of Peace - Rev Dr Sun Myung Moon](#)

#OneFamilyUnderGod
#UniversalPeaceFederation
#CultureOfPeace
#Interdependence
#MutualProsperity
#UniversalValues
#Peacebuilding
#EthicalLeadership
#SDGs

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