

UPF International May Newsletter

Tageldin Ibrahim Hamad
May 26, 2026



UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

May 2026

UPF chapters around the world celebrated May as the Month of Family, with activities ranging from seminars to soccer games, and from interfaith gatherings to intergenerational chess matches. This month brings to a close our 100 Days of Serving Community, with final events scheduled for June 1, the Global Day of Parents. For more information, visit www.upf.org.

The End of May Speaks in Many Religious Voices

In the closing days of “UPF’s Month of Family,” a series of holy days from different religious traditions forms an unusual sequence. Jewish families gather for Shavuot, Christians celebrate Pentecost, Muslim communities prepare for Eid al-Adha, Bahá’ís observe the Ascension of Bahá’u’lláh. In parts of Asia, Buddhists mark Waisak or Wesak. In each tradition, families will gather, light candles, pray, share meals, give to others, listen to old stories and teach them again to the young...



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Paris Meeting Promotes Families and Living Together in Peace

Paris, France – UPF-France celebrated the International Day of Families and the International Day of Living Together in Peace at the Espace Barrault in Paris on May 16, 2026. Speakers noted the link between these two days, and stressed that family ethics are essential in learning to live together in peace.

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Russian Family Events: Art, Music, and Intergenerational Chess

Moscow, Russia – To mark the International Day of Families, UPF-Russia hosted three lively events from May 15-17. They included a family-themed art exhibition; a chess tournament in which children, parents and grandparents took part; and an interfaith celebration with dialogue, music and poetry.



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Panel Upholds Importance of Family Culture in Latin America

Latin America – On May 15, a group of professionals from South America, Central America and the Caribbean joined a webinar to commemorate the United Nations International Day of Families. Speakers from five different countries discussed policies and practices that can support and strengthen families, which, they all agreed, has vital implications for society.

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Asia-Pacific Webinar Addresses Need to Reduce Polarization

Bangkok, Thailand – The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) organized an international webinar on May 20, to address the growing challenges of polarization. Diplomats, parliamentarians, peace leaders and activists from 21 countries joined the event. Speakers highlighted the need for ethical leadership, mutual respect, inclusiveness and commitment to democratic values.

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Youth Peace Cup in Switzerland Promotes Fair Play and Inclusion

Ticino, Switzerland – On May 1, UPF-Switzerland held the 13th Peace Cup tournament in Ticino. Ten Swiss and two Italian teams of 10- and 11-year-olds took part, cheered on by a large crowd of parents, grandparents, family members and friends.

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THE END OF MAY SPEAKS IN MANY RELIGIOUS VOICES



In the closing days of "UPF's Month of Family," Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Bahá'í and Buddhist observances form an unusual sequence that points toward memory, sacrifice, spiritual renewal and care across generations.

For several days at the end of May 2026, the calendar seems to slow down and listen. One religious tradition after another enters a sacred season. Jewish families gather for Shavuot. Christians celebrate Pentecost. Muslim communities prepare for Eid al-Adha. Bahá'ís observe the Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh. In parts of Asia, Buddhists mark Waisak or Wesak.

These observances do not proclaim the same message, nor should they be blended into a single spiritual narrative. Yet their close proximity is striking. Together, they create a rare moment in which different faiths speak, each in its own voice, about what human beings receive, what they owe, and what they pass on.

At sunset on May 21 Shavuot begins, continuing through the next day in Israel and through May 23 in many Diaspora communities. Shavuot recalls the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. It is a festival of revelation, but also of transmission. What is received from God is not kept as a private possession. It is taught, remembered and carried into the life of a people.

That is why Shavuot belongs naturally in a reflection on family. Families are not only places of affection. They are where language, moral memory and reverence for what came before are handed down.

On May 24, Western Christianity celebrates Pentecost, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. The scene remembered by Pentecost is not quiet withdrawal, but awakening. Those who have been uncertain are given courage to speak. Those gathered in one place are sent outward.

Pentecost therefore carries an unmistakable public meaning. Spiritual life is not complete when it remains enclosed within the individual. It matures when it becomes service, witness and responsibility for others. In a month devoted to family, Pentecost adds another dimension: a healthy home is not a closed circle, but a place from which concern for the wider world can grow.

A few days later comes Eid al-Adha, expected on May 27 in many Muslim countries, with national dates determined through moon-sighting authorities and therefore subject to variation. The Feast of Sacrifice recalls Abraham's obedience to God and is lived through prayer, family gathering, generosity and care for those in need. Eid al-Adha brings sacrifice out of abstraction. It is expressed through hospitality, sharing and attention to people who might otherwise be left at the edge of celebration. In that sense, it speaks directly to one of the deepest truths of family life: love becomes credible through what people are willing to give.

The sacred rhythm continues. Bahá'í communities observe the Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh on May 29, commemorating the passing of the founder of the Bahá'í Faith in 1892. Marked with prayer, reflection, and quiet reverence, the observance honors a life dedicated to spiritual unity, peace, and the oneness of humanity.

Eastern Orthodox Christians celebrate Holy Pentecost on May 31. On the same date, Buddhist communities in Indonesia and Malaysia mark Waisak or Wesak, part of the broader Buddhist commemoration of Vesak as an observance honoring the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and passing away, while the date of Buddhist celebrations varies across national and religious calendars.

These later observances widen the frame. The final days of May are not shaped by one faith alone, or even by the three Abrahamic traditions alone. They show a world in which distinct spiritual calendars continue to form the inner life of communities across regions and civilizations.

Seen separately, each observance has its own theology, memory and ritual life. Seen together, they reveal something else as well. They show that religions still carry moral vocabularies that secular language often struggles to replace. Covenant. Spirit. Obedience. Sacrifice. Love. Compassion. Remembrance.

These are not decorative words. They describe ways in which human beings are formed. They shape how parents teach children, how communities honor elders, how generosity is practiced, and how people learn that life is larger than individual preference.

This is why the late month of May sequence fits so naturally with the close of UPF's Month of Family within the "100 Days of Serving Community" campaign, leading toward the [United Nations Global Day of Parents](#) on June 1. A family is often the first place where sacred memory becomes ordinary life. Children see whether gratitude is practiced, whether elders are heard, whether celebration includes generosity, and whether faith makes people more attentive to one another.

Long before values are discussed in public forums, they are quietly learned around tables, in prayers, in acts of care and in the way one generation receives the next.

That is also why interreligious understanding matters. The United Nations has recognized this through [World Interfaith Harmony Week](#), and UPF has sought to nurture it through the [Interreligious Association for Peace and Development](#). Yet the deepest reason is simpler than institutional language alone can express.

When people of different faiths meet with seriousness and respect, they discover that the other is not merely a representative of a tradition, but a person carrying memories, hopes, griefs and responsibilities much like their own. Dialogue begins there, not in agreement on everything, but in the refusal to let differences become estrangement.

The peace vision advanced by UPF founders [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and the late [Rev. Sun Myung Moon](#) speaks to this human closeness through the idea of One Family under God. It does not ask religions to lose their distinct voices. It asks people to hear those voices without fear, and to recognize that reverence for God, care for family and concern for one another can open a shared moral space.

The end of May therefore feels less like a crowded calendar than like a conversation moving from home to home across the world. In synagogues, churches, mosques, Bahá'í communities and Buddhist temples, people will remember revelation, spirit, sacrifice, love, sacred history and awakening. They will gather with family, light candles, pray, share meals, give to others, listen to old stories and teach them again to the young.

These gestures will look different in every tradition. Still, taken together, they say something quietly important. Peace begins wherever people learn to receive life with gratitude and to answer it with care.

Dr. Tageldin Hamad, President, UPF-International
May 22, 2026

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May 16 · 3 min read



PARIS MEETING PROMOTES FAMILIES AND LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE



Paris, France – In conjunction with the International Day of Families and the International Day of Living Together in Peace, celebrated by the United Nations on May 15 and 16, respectively, the UPF-France and the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) France organized a gathering on the theme, "Living Together in the Family and in Society" at the Espace Barrault in Paris on May 16, 2026.

In front of a full audience representing a particularly diverse public, three speakers enthusiastically celebrated the shared values of family and living together. Their presentations shed light on family policy in France, the philosophical and academic foundations of these values, and the richness of African family culture.

The meeting was introduced by **Ms. Brigitte Wada**, president of WFWP France, who presented a brief history of these two UN International Days while emphasizing their complementarity and convergence.

The first speaker, **Ms. Christine Jouan-Bruneau**, an academic and honorary deputy mayor of Boulogne-Billancourt, shared the experience she gained through her many years of public service overseeing family affairs in a major city in the Paris region.

Ms. Jouan-Bruneau discussed the challenges families face today: the consequences of the erosion of family values on social, educational and emotional levels; the rise in violence among young people; and the difficulties experienced by single-parent families. While recalling the social factors contributing to this situation, she emphasized what she considers the heart of the problem: the weakening of family ties, especially marriage, as well as the decline of parental authority.

The second speaker, **Dr. Laurent Ladouce**, approached the issue of the family from a philosophical perspective. Dr. Ladouce traced the origins of the concepts of "living together" and altruism in the thought of the influential French philosophers Ernest Renan and Auguste Comte. He also referred to sociologist Frédéric Le Play, a pioneer in family studies, who highlighted the influence of family systems on social and political structures.

Comparing the natural order of the universe with that of the family – recognized by the United Nations Charter as the fundamental unit of society – he proposed a psychological and emotional interpretation of the family. Drawing on certain Eastern concepts of family order, he connected them with Austrian Israeli philosopher Martin Buber's notion of "homo dialogus," describing the four fundamental spheres of the emotional and ethical development of the human being: filial, fraternal, conjugal and parental love.

The third speaker, **Mr. Patrick Mangala**, a journalist and member of Club RFI (Radio France Internationale), a humanitarian branch of France Médias Monde (France Media World), took the audience on a fascinating exploration of African family culture.

Originally from Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo, he highlighted the characteristics of the African family: its extended and supportive structure, its fundamental educational role in society, and its economic importance in individual development.

He recounted his journey as a young African confronted with a very different French culture, where family values seemed to him to be weakened by individualism. With passion and humor, he described his initial confusion, his gradual adaptation, and the conviction he ultimately reached: despite social changes, the family remains the guardian of cultural identity. As an essential pillar of African society, it is a force for cohesion, education and collective solidarity, and thus represents a major foundation for the future of the African continent.

The presentations then sparked discussions and questions, enriched by the diversity of the participants' backgrounds, sensitivities and family experiences, particularly concerning the differences and convergences between African, European and Eastern models.

In concluding the event, **Mr. Jacques Marion**, president of UPF in France and the Europe-Middle East region, returned to several key points raised during the conference. He notably emphasized the inseparable link between living together and family ethics. Recalling the guiding principles of UPF – interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values – he stressed the need for a form of living together based both on the sharing of economic resources, political cooperation aimed at common prosperity, and a strong family ethic. He explained that this ethic forms the foundation of democratic ethics and fraternity, which today face the challenges posed by the fragility of marital bonds and the weakening of the parental role, both essential in the upbringing of young people.

The meeting concluded with the presentation of Ambassador for Peace certificates to three participants, encouraging them to continue their commitment to intercultural and international dialogue by joining UPF's global network of peace ambassadors.

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May 17 · 5 min read



RUSSIAN FAMILY EVENTS: ART, MUSIC & INTERGENERATIONAL CHESS



Moscow, Russia – An evening program, "Time of Family Happiness," was held at the Peace Embassy in Moscow on May 16, 2026, dedicated to the International Day of Families. The event opened with a formal address by **Ms. Tatiana Kuznetsova**, coordinator of the International Association of Arts and Culture for Peace (IAACP) in Russia.

Ms. Kuznetsova shared her understanding that an ideal family requires the presence of God, and that God awaits an invitation to enter every home where He is welcomed. She offered practical guidance on how to build harmonious and truly happy relationships between spouses, as well as between parents and children.

The honorary guest of the evening, Peace Ambassador **Mr. Sergey Bayazitov**, highlighted the importance of strong and happy families for the country. He also shared his admiration for the artworks presented in the exhibition "With Love for Beauty," which was held as part of the program.

Ms. Maria Konakhina, an artist whose works were on exhibit, also addressed the guests. She noted that an elevated sense of beauty, shared within families and society, can help in building harmonious relationships. The evening continued with a beautiful concert. The talented singer **Ms. Natalia Samarina** performed romantic songs "Imagine" and "I Will Always Be with You." **Ms. Karina Karine** presented her poetry, and the audience was pleasantly surprised when she also performed songs "Mom" and "Love Story," touching listeners with her heartfelt delivery.

A special highlight of the concert was the bright performance by children from the Elephant Music Studio. Their songs deeply moved the audience and touched the hearts of all guests. A special certificate of appreciation was presented to **Ms. Irina Fil**, director of the studio.

After the concert, guests were invited to an exclusive tour of the exhibition "With Love for Beauty," where the artists spoke about their works and answered questions from the audience. This created a lively dialogue between artists and visitors. Thanks to the active involvement of the family of artist **Ms. Irina Getman**, a small fair of souvenirs, books and postcards was organized, allowing guests to take home a memorable keepsake from the event.

The program continued with a tea gathering, which unexpectedly turned into an impromptu concert involving all guests. A family of one of the students from the Elephant Music Studio brought a guitar; the father played while the mother and guests collectively sang well-known and beloved songs. Inspired by the atmosphere, another guest recited a poem he had written after being moved by one of the exhibited paintings.

The creative evening turned into a true family celebration. The atmosphere was warm, bright, and deeply heartfelt. No one wanted to leave, and all participants shared their impressions and gratitude with great enthusiasm, describing the evening as a breath of fresh air in the desert.

By Tatiana Kuznetsova, Coordinator, IAACP-Russia
May 16, 2026

Three Generations Join Chess Tournament

Moscow – An annual chess tournament at the PandaClub Family Center took on a new and truly family-oriented dimension. The event was held on May 16, 2026, in conjunction with the International Day of Families. In honor of the day, the organizers decided to broaden the usual format. Not only children, but also parents and grandparents took their seats at the chessboards. Altogether, 26 participants joined the tournament: 21 young players and five adults.

At the opening ceremony, UPF-Moscow highlighted the unique format of this event. This time, chess became not only a children's competition, but a shared family occasion: children, parents and grandparents played side by side, and some families were represented by three generations at once.

The director of the PandaClub Family Center also delivered a welcoming speech, noting that such tournaments are becoming a valued tradition of the club. Children gain meaningful competitive experience, parents can see their progress, and the atmosphere remains lively, supportive and friendly.

The children's tournament was held in two groups using a five-round Swiss system, allowing each participant to play several games against opponents with similar results. This year, there were many newcomers: 10 children tried tournament play for the very first time. For some, it was their first serious experience; for others, another opportunity to test their skills. For everyone, it was an important step forward.

A separate adult group competed in a round-robin format, which added a special dynamic to the event, as children watched adult family members taking part in the competition.

In one family three generations met at the chessboard: the youngest member won first place in the junior

...the family, three generations met at the chessboard and the youngest member took first place in the junior group, the father took third place among adults, and the grandmother participated in a tournament for the first time in her life. Another family also featured three generations: while the mother opened the tournament as the club's director, the grandfather went on to win the gold cup in the adult category.

When children, parents and grandparents sit down at the same chessboard, chess is more than a club activity or a competition. It becomes part of family culture – a space for communication, support and shared growth.

By Dmitry Samko, President, UPF-Moscow
May 16, 2026

Programs Highlight Spiritual Roots of Strong Families

Kazan, Russia – From May 15 to 17, 2026, a series of programs dedicated to the International Day of Families took place at the Universal Temple in Kazan – a multifunctional interfaith cultural and dialogue space designed to bring together representatives of different religious, cultural and social groups in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation.

Over three days, the Temple hosted meetings, dialogue and creative activities organized by UPF-Kazan and the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, under the theme "The Spiritual Roots of a Strong Family." On May 15, guests were welcomed by an exhibition of works dedicated to family values and spiritual traditions. A program titled "Together Forever" celebrated married couples, and family photo sessions were held. The atmosphere set a warm, open and unifying tone for the entire program.

The next day, the central event was a round table discussion with representatives of the Lutheran Church and the Bahá'í community, as well as two religious studies scholars. In open, sincere and informal conversations, participants shared their personal beliefs and reflected on how different religious traditions can cooperate, work together on social issues, and serve society and one another. The discussion was so engaging that after the official part, participants moved to a tea room to continue the conversation.

A shared conclusion emerged: If common goals and priorities are identified, and if judgment and doctrine are set aside, interfaith cooperation is not only possible but can be highly productive. Participants noted that different traditions truly have much to learn from one another.

On the same day, a creative poetry and music open-mic meeting was held in the Catholic Hall, where participants shared inspiration, reflections and artistic performances.

The final event, on May 17, focused on the role of spiritual traditions in strengthening the family. Participants discussed how faith, culture and generational continuity help maintain inner stability in the modern family. A beautiful concert by the Askar Gumerov Violin Ensemble concluded the Family Days at the Universal Temple.

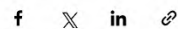
These programs demonstrated how the theme of family can bring together people of different views, cultures and religious traditions. Through dialogue and shared experiences, participants were able not only to better understand one another but also to outline future directions for cooperation.

By Anastasiya Ogorodova, President, UPF-Kazan
May 17, 2026

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May 15 · 3 min read

PANEL UPHOLDS IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY CULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA



South and Central America – On May 15, 2026, a group of professionals from South America, Central America, and the Caribbean joined a webinar to commemorate the United Nations International Day of Families, under the theme “The Family as a School of Love and Peace: Inequalities and Child Wellbeing.”

The event was organized by UPF and three of its associations – the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP), and Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) – and moderated by **Mr. Mario Salinas**, regional secretary general of UPF for Latin America and the Caribbean.

UPF regional president **Mr. Eliecer Araya**, in his welcoming words, highlighted the importance of “remembering that the family is the first place where we learn to love, to serve, and to build peace. In every home, the seeds of the future society are planted; it is there that the values sustaining harmony among generations and peoples are born.”

Participating from Brazil, continental president of FFWPU for Latin America and the Caribbean **Rev. David Dong Woo Kim** praised UPF’s efforts in marking this important date. He recalled that the Christian family model served as a lifeline during the fall of the Roman Empire, a period marked by the moral and cultural decline of its people and, in particular, its leaders and rulers. In light of the challenges we face today, called for the restoration of family-centered values and principles.

Dr. Azucena Castillo de Solano, a former congresswoman and government minister from Nicaragua, stated: “Although the structure of the traditional family has historically been the natural and fundamental element of protection of society – and therefore has the right to the protection of society and the state – this protection has not been properly upheld, neither by the United Nations nor by many governments in Latin America. It has been the family’s own resistance and resilience that have allowed it to survive.” She voiced the need to resist “activists of new ideologies seeking to replace the role and purpose of the family with that of the state.”

Mr. Edgardo Martínez Zimarióff, director of the Association of Human Potential Facilitators in Uruguay, said: “The family shapes the future of children. It is there that they learn their first values, principles, and basic notions of life ... Various studies show that we learn 20% when we read, 30% when we listen, 90% when we act. This confirms that the family, as a space of daily practice, becomes the most powerful school for character formation, the acquisition of values, and the emotional development of every human being.”

Dr. Amavelia Morales Díaz, a psychotherapist, family mediator with Peru’s Ministry of Justice, and founder of the Seeds of Love Program, explained, “When there is an environment of love, respect, and emotional stability, individuals develop greater psychological well-being and stronger social skills. Within the family, we receive unconditional love that allows us to feel safe and permanently cherished.”

She pointed out that not all families have the same opportunities or conditions, adding, “Family well-being does not mean the absence of problems; it means having the emotional and relational resources needed to face difficulties in a healthy way. A family that promotes well-being is often characterized by assertive communication, emotional listening, healthy boundaries, mutual support, and respect for individuality.”

Ms. Elisenia Sánchez de Pineda, a prominent community leader and member of the Family Federation in Panama, gave the final presentation. She stressed the need to support and bolster families, to ensure that every child receives love and care within the home. “When these experiences are absent or weak, emotional wounds arise that affect child well-being. Today we see profound inequalities that impact millions of children: poverty, lack of access to education, domestic violence, emotional neglect, and the absence of healthy role models. These inequalities are not only economic. Many times, there is an even deeper poverty: relational poverty, when a child has material resources but lacks attention, listening, affection, or moral guidance.”

All panelists voiced their appreciation for this opportunity to share their views on a topic that deeply concerns them, and has vital implications for society.

By Mario Salinas, Secretary General, UPF-Latin America and the Caribbean
May 15, 2026

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ASIA-PACIFIC WEBINAR ADDRESSES NEED TO REDUCE POLARIZATION



Bangkok, Thailand – The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), a UPF initiative, organized an international webinar on May 20, 2026, under the theme "The Role of Parliamentarians in Reducing Polarization: Advancing Unity Beyond National, Religious, Ethnic and Political Divides."

The event brought together distinguished parliamentarians, peace leaders, diplomats and participants from diverse regions to address the growing challenges of polarization and explore the role of parliamentarians in fostering peace, unity, democratic governance and social cohesion. A total of 140 participants from 21 countries registered, including 13 parliamentarians.

The webinar was moderated by **Mr. Santosh Kumar Paudel**, coordinator of IAPP-Asia Pacific, who welcomed all distinguished speakers and participants and emphasized the importance of dialogue and cooperation in overcoming political, religious, ethnic and ideological divisions. He highlighted the need for parliamentarians to work collectively to strengthen peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding in today's increasingly polarized world.

Ms. Ursula McLackland, president of UPF-Asia Pacific, expressed sincere appreciation to participants joining from different parts of the world despite the challenges of varying time zones. She noted that polarization is a global issue arising from political divisions, religious and racial motivations, and generational gaps. She stressed that peaceful conflict resolution depends on dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect, aiming for "win-win" solutions that address all grievances. Ms. McLackland further highlighted the role of UPF and IAPP as facilitators of open, heart-to-heart communication designed to build trust and foster cooperation among conflicting parties.

The keynote address was delivered by **Hon. Dan Burton**, global chairman of IAPP and former U.S. congressman. He thanked the founders and organizers of IAPP and UPF for their long-standing commitment to peacebuilding efforts around the world. He argued that wars only worsen economies and cause unnecessary loss of life, stressing that problems must instead be resolved through dialogue. He emphasized that peace requires moral leadership, trust, and the courage to build bridges rather than barriers, rejecting the notion that peace signifies weakness. According to Burton, true peace demands strength, wisdom and prioritizing humanity over politics, and he highlighted that parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to spread this message as they directly represent and communicate with their constituents.

Dr. Michael Jenkins, global coordinator of IAPP, expressed appreciation for the growing involvement of parliamentarians in the global peace movement. He shared that IAPP has established strong parliamentary networks across Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East, including parliamentary offices in several African nations. He emphasized Asia's critical role in shaping future global peace and prosperity due to its vast population.

Dr. Jenkins identified the family as a central pillar of peace, noting that strong families instill loyalty, tradition and trust in children. Jenkins also highlighted the importance of coalitions of nations in leading the way to peace and influencing major powers such as the United States. Furthermore, he stressed the need to engage intentionally with diversity through forums and summits, which provide opportunities to embrace different cultures and foster peaceful coexistence.

Mr. Larry Moffitt, secretary general of UPF-North America, conveyed brief greetings and expressed gratitude to the organizers and participants for their commitment to peacebuilding and international cooperation. He appreciated the distinguished gathering and encouraged continued collaboration and future dialogue initiatives.

The first panel presentation was delivered by **Hon. Sir Iakoba Taea Italeli**, speaker of the Parliament of Tuvalu and former governor-general of Tuvalu, who spoke extensively on the role of parliamentarians in reducing polarization and advancing unity. He described polarization as a defining challenge of the era that erodes trust in institutions and hinders development. He identified its root causes as economic inequality, identity politics, disinformation and unresolved historical grievances. To counter division, he proposed legislative measures such as inclusive laws protecting minority rights, equitable resource allocation, and educational curricula promoting tolerance. Mr. Italeli also advocated for cross-party caucuses and interfaith dialogue platforms as means to foster greater understanding and unity.

Hon. Dave Akbarshah Fikarno Laksono, vice chairman of Commission I of Indonesia's House of Representatives, presented the Indonesian perspective that unity is achieved not by eliminating differences but by managing them through mutual respect and inclusiveness. Using the humanitarian situation in Gaza as an example, he stressed that sustainable peace requires political will, tangible support, and adherence to international law

rather than confrontation. He urged parliamentarians to lead by example, showing that disagreements should strengthen democratic dialogue instead of causing division, and emphasized parliamentarians' role in providing moral leadership that promotes social cohesion.

Drawing from Indonesia's experience, he highlighted diversity as a source of strength when managed with inclusiveness and shared commitment to the common good. Mr. Laksono also outlined Indonesia's consistent support for ceasefire efforts, humanitarian assistance and peaceful negotiation in international conflicts, underscoring that lasting peace can only be achieved through dialogue, communication and mutual understanding.

An interactive question-and-answer session followed, during which participants raised important questions concerning democracy and governance in developing countries, lessons from Sri Lanka's past conflicts, ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, freedom of expression and divisive political rhetoric, interfaith dialogue, grassroots representation, regional disputes such as the Cambodian–Thai border issue, Indonesia's role in promoting international peace, and global cooperation for improving the living standards of humanity. The active engagement from participants demonstrated strong international interest in promoting democratic governance, peaceful coexistence and international cooperation.

The webinar concluded with closing remarks by the moderator, who thanked all distinguished speakers, parliamentarians, organizers, and participants for their valuable contributions. The program reaffirmed the importance of ethical leadership, inclusiveness, democratic values, mutual respect, and international cooperation in building peaceful and resilient societies. Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to exchange perspectives and strengthen collaborative efforts toward achieving a more peaceful, united and prosperous world for future generations.

By Santosh Kumar Paudel, Coordinator, IAPP-Asia Pacific
May 20, 2026

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May 17 · 1 min read

YOUTH PEACE CUP IN SWITZERLAND PROMOTES FAIR PLAY AND INCLUSION



Ticino, Switzerland – On May 1, 2026, UPF-Switzerland held the 13th Peace Cup tournament in Ticino, promoting fair play and inclusion among young athletes. The event brought together ten Swiss and two Italian teams of 10- to 11-year-old football players.

In his opening remarks, regional UPF President Mr. Giuseppe Termine, a social educator, encouraged the participants to make the most out of their football experience. "Today we are not just opening a football tournament. We are beginning a journey of respect, fair play and friendship," he said, addressing the young players. "Being a champion means respecting your opponents, the referee, your coaches, adults and parents. It means knowing how to win with humility and lose with dignity."

Mr. Termine also addressed the theme of solidarity among peers: "Help one another, never leave anyone behind. Every gesture of loyalty, every outstretched hand, every smile can become a message of peace."

Indeed, all twelve participating teams upheld the tournament's principles, which emphasize respect, inclusion and fair play.

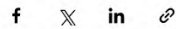
The tournament was won by Chiasso Base 10; the Peace Cup fair play trophy was awarded to Rapid Lugano for their conduct on the field; and a special prize went to the Insema team.

The event, which took place before a large audience of parents, grandparents, friends and family members of the young football players, received a very positive report in the local newspaper, Corriere del Ticino, on May 6, under the headline: "Peace Cup, fair play wins: Twelve teams compete in sport and inclusion."

By Seraina Termine, UPF-Ticino
May 2, 2026

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