

## Human Dignity and Rights - Week 6 of UPF UK's 100 Days of Harmony and Hope

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**Universal Peace Federation - UK** *A Global Network of Peacebuilders*

As the 100 Days of Harmony and Hope campaign enters its sixth week, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) highlights human wellbeing and essential freedoms by emphasizing each person's worth, attention to marginalized groups, awareness of past injustices and a constructive context for international engagement. From November 28 to December 4, this theme invites the international community to recognize that lasting peace grows from respect for human life and inherent value. A series of [United Nations](#) observances during the week underscores these principles. This week is part of the 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) starting from November 25th to Human Rights Day on December 10th.

November 29 is the [International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#), established in 1977 to affirm support for the rights and self-determination of Palestinians, as affirmed in United Nations General Assembly resolution [A/RES/32/40 B](#). It serves as a reminder that empathy and international commitment are essential for resolving longstanding conflicts through dialogue and recognition of shared interests. UPF's Middle East Peace Initiative ([MEPI](#)) has for many years created opportunities for informal diplomacy by bringing Israelis, Palestinians and international delegates into direct conversation. These exchanges have shown that practical dialogue can soften mistrust and help communities understand one another's concerns and practical needs.

December 1, [World AIDS Day](#), focuses on public health and human rights as recognized in the UNAIDS global strategy by supporting those living with HIV or AIDS and challenging stigma. It emphasizes that no illness should result in exclusion and that access to healthcare is a basic responsibility of society. In many countries UPF and its partner organizations have conducted [educational programs](#) for youth that encourage responsible choices and awareness about preventing the spread of HIV. These initiatives helped young people understand how health, respect and informed decision making contribute to wellbeing and safer communities.

December 2, the [International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#), calls for decisive action against modern forms of exploitation including human trafficking, forced labor and child servitude. During the 2018 [Africa Summit](#) in Senegal [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) visited Gorée Island, a historic departure point of the transatlantic slave trade, to join a prayer for the victims whose lives were taken by slavery. The visit also aligned with UNESCO's [Routes of Enslaved Peoples](#) initiative and underscored the importance of acknowledging historical suffering and reaffirming a commitment to human wellbeing and freedom.

December 3, the [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#), promotes accessibility so that people of all abilities may participate fully in community life. In several regions youth volunteers connected with UPF have organized service projects that supported children and adults with disabilities through tutoring, recreational activities and assistance with daily tasks. These programs provided young participants with practical experience and encouraged cooperation between families, schools and community groups.

December 4, the [International Day of Banks](#), recognizes the role of financial institutions in sustainable development and poverty reduction. The day offers an opportunity to note the work of leaders who have used finance to expand opportunity, including [Akinwumi Adesina](#), a development banker who received the Sunhak Peace Prize for programs that supported young and beginning entrepreneurs in Africa. His approach demonstrated how access to finance can help communities build resilience and participate fully in economic life.

Together these observances affirm that every member of the human family deserves respect and an opportunity to thrive. Principles at the heart of these international days echo the norms expressed in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), the seventy fifth anniversary of which was recently observed by the international community. This message echoes UPF's core vision that humanity is "one family under God," where each individual's value is irreplaceable. UPF's founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han and [Dr. Sun Myung Moon](#), consistently taught that reconciliation is possible when people choose understanding over division and when moral responsibility guides public life.

Between November 28 and December 4 several significant historical moments in the life of UPF and its predecessors took place.

From November 28 to 29 in 2019 leaders gathered for the [Africa Continental Summit](#) in Niger to address peace, governance, and the wellbeing of vulnerable communities across the Sahel. Hosted under the

patronage of President Mahamadou Issoufou, the summit brought together heads of state, traditional authorities and policy experts for discussions on regional stability, preventing violent extremism in line with relevant United Nations frameworks and strengthening coordination among Sahel nations.

On November 30 in 1998 the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace ([IIFWP](#)), founded as a predecessor to UPF, was established. UPF founders presented a vision in which interreligious dialogue supports conflict prevention and complements the work of national governments.

From November 30 to early December in 1991 the founders visited Pyongyang. This visit opened channels of communication between North and South Korea that had been closed for decades. It included discussions on cultural and economic exchange as well as humanitarian concerns affecting divided families, showing how respectful engagement can support stability.

The United Nations notes that inclusive societies, equal participation, and protection of vulnerable groups form the basis of sustainable development. UPF's work this week, from supporting UN observances to organizing educational and interreligious programs, contributes to these aims. By promoting ethical leadership and cooperation, UPF and its partners help advance conditions in which every person can pursue a dignified and secure life.

As the campaign looks ahead to Week 7, which will highlight humanitarian service and the continued protection of essential freedoms, we are reminded that these responsibilities require steady and thoughtful engagement. A practical step forward is for communities and institutions to strengthen cooperation wherever shared wellbeing and inclusion can be advanced.

Keep Reading:

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

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

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

[Fostering Dialogue and Reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula](#)

[The United Nations at 80: A Partner for Peace and Sustainable Development](#)

[UPF - UK Youth Service Project July 9th 2023](#)

[Young Achievers Awards Ceremony - House of Commons, November 22nd 2022](#)

[Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls - UPF UK 2024 Event in the Lords](#)

Call to Action

[Become an Ambassador for Peace](#) - Join a global network of leaders, changemakers, and community builders committed to advancing peace, dialogue, and moral leadership.

[Get Involved in UPF - UK's Charitable Work](#) - Support our programmes in interfaith cooperation, youth leadership, gender equality, and community service. Your participation helps build bridges across cultures and strengthens social cohesion in the UK.

[Become a Supporter of UPF - UK](#) - Stand with us by contributing regularly to sustain our mission. Your support enables long-term peace initiatives, leadership training, and the growth of the Ambassadors for Peace network.