

UPF UK: The New Year Through the Lens of Family and Service

Robin Marsh
January 1, 2026



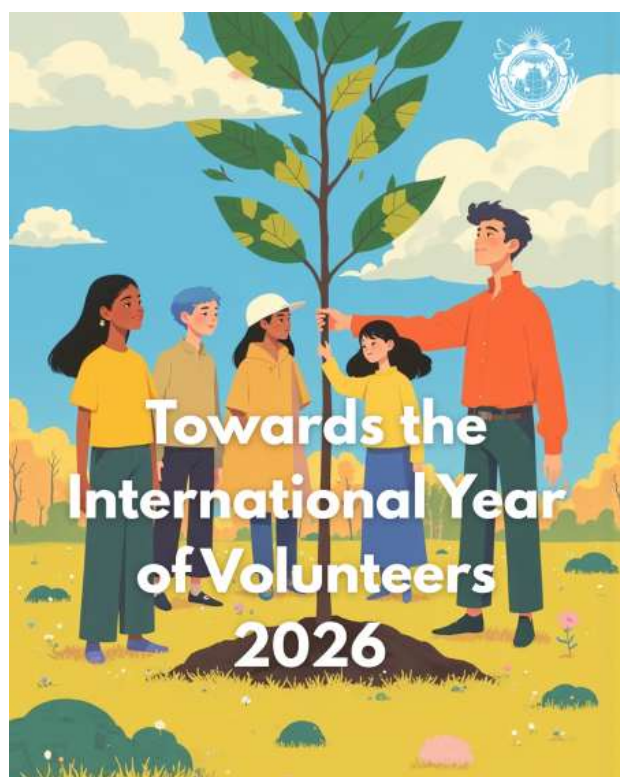
Universal Peace Federation - UK *A Global Network of Peacebuilders*

Week 10 of the 100 Days of Harmony and Hope Highlights how Families Shape Peace as 2026 Begins 26 December 2025 – 1 January 2026



As the world enters a new calendar year, Week 10 of the [100 Days of Harmony and Hope](#), invites reflection on the essential role of family, service, and shared responsibility in building peaceful societies. This period, spanning the days following Christmas and Hanukkah, offers a moment of renewal rooted in compassion, reconciliation, and hope.

The [Universal Peace Federation](#) (UPF) marks this transition by welcoming 2026 as the [International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development](#), designated by the [United Nations General Assembly](#) and affirming the power of service as a foundation for social cohesion, ethical leadership, and lasting peace.



Families at the Heart of Peacebuilding

The first day of the year highlights two significant observances, [Global Family Day](#) and the [World Day of Peace](#). Both call on individuals, families, and institutions to renew their commitment to peace through daily actions grounded in respect, cooperation, and shared responsibility.

For UPF, these observances reflect a central conviction: that peace begins in the family. Strong families cultivate empathy, moral responsibility, and social trust—values that shape citizens, leaders, and communities. When families thrive, societies are better equipped to address conflict, inequality, and division.

[Read our Christmas Newsletter and reflections](#)

Volunteering, Youth Engagement, and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs)

The designation of 2026 as the [International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable](#)

[Development](#) reinforces the vital role of civic engagement in achieving the UN 2030 Agenda.

Volunteerism strengthens social cohesion, supports education and inclusion, and builds partnerships

across sectors.

UPF encourages its [Ambassadors for Peace](#), national chapters, and partner organisations to recognise volunteering as a measurable contribution to peacebuilding, particularly in support of:

[SDG 4](#) Quality Education

[SDG 16](#) Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

[SDG 17](#) Partnerships for the Goals

Through community service, youth engagement, and intergenerational cooperation, volunteers translate shared values into meaningful action.

Family, Food Security, and Sustainable Communities



The [United Nations Decade of Family Farming](#), 2019 to 2028, adds a second concrete dimension to the idea of global family. Family farms represent more than ninety percent of farms worldwide and produce approximately eighty percent of the world’s food, according to FAO estimates. When policies and markets support family farmers through fair access to land, finance, knowledge, and climate resilient practices, societies strengthen food security, rural livelihoods, and environmental stewardship. These efforts relate directly to [SDG 2](#) on zero hunger, as reaffirmed during the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment in 2023, [SDG 13](#) on climate action, and [SDG 15](#) on life on land.

UPF recognises that strengthening families—whether in urban or rural contexts—is inseparable from promoting sustainable development, dignity, and shared prosperity.

UPF chapters can use this week to set clear, local actions that connect families, youth, and community partners. Examples include intergenerational service days, family dialogue circles on social divides, and youth led volunteer projects supported by parents, educators, and local officials. These activities demonstrate [interdependence and mutual prosperity and universally shared values](#) in daily practice .

Ethical Leadership and Intergenerational Responsibility

Ethics and citizenship education builds on this by promoting ethics education that turns values into public action. UNESCO promotes ethics education together with global citizenship and peace education to help communities translate values into responsible public action. UPF’s founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han and Dr. Sun Myung Moon, consistently emphasized that the family is the first school of love and the foundation of lasting peace in society. This is why Week 10 highlights the [International Association of First Ladies for Peace](#) and the [International Association of Youth and Students for Peace](#) as complementary platforms advancing family wellbeing, ethical leadership, youth service, and intergenerational solidarity.

A Legacy of Peacebuilding and Global Engagement

The end-of-year period also recalls key milestones in UPF’s history that reflect the enduring link between culture, dialogue, and peace:

1973 – The Little Angels Children’s Folk Ballet of Korea performed at the United Nations, sharing a message of harmony through culture.



1976 – The launch of The News World in New York City advanced responsible journalism and public discourse.

2002 – The [Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace](#), (a precursor of UPF) convened 'God and World Peace: An Exploration of the Significance of God for a World in Crisis'

2006 - 180 Nation Universal Peace Federation World Speaking Tour concluded in late December. Presentations were initially delivered by Dr. Hak Ja Han and later by international leaders, clergy, and Ambassadors for Peace, underscoring a sustained global commitment to family centered peace education.

2019 – A [World Christian Leadership Conference](#) Clergy Rally for a New Hope in Newark, New Jersey, strengthened faith-based collaboration for peace.

These initiatives reflect Co-Founders, [Dr Hak Ja Han](#) and [Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon's](#) and UPF's long-standing commitment to moral leadership, dialogue, and service.

A Call to Action for 2026

As Week 10 concludes, UPF invites families, young people, educators, faith leaders, and community partners to make 2026 a year defined by service, solidarity, and shared responsibility. Through local action and global cooperation, communities can bring to life the vision of *One Family under God*.

Be part of building a culture of peace

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

[Join the UPF-UK Peace Network with Email Updates](#) – thoughtful insights, invitations, and ways to serve.

[Become a Monthly Supporter of UPF - UK](#) – sustain 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 UPF - UK's Charitable 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:

[The New Year Through the Lens of Family and Service](#)

[Strengthening Communities Through Volunteer Action](#)

[100 Days of Harmony and Hope](#)

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](#)



Universal Peace Federation (UPF) UK Monthly Newsletter

Season Greetings

In November, we reflected on two decades of UPF's peacebuilding efforts while carrying forward programmes that deepen our commitment to interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values.

Highlights

20th Anniversary Gala Dinner

On 15 November, peacebuilders, community leaders, and long-standing supporters gathered at the Hilton London Kensington to celebrate UPF UK's 20th Anniversary. The evening honoured two decades of bridge-building and the shared dream of "One Family under God," with inspiring messages, beautiful music, and recognition of dedicated partners.

[Click here for the full article](#)



Gala Dinner



Appreciation Award



Gala Dinner



Table Photo

[Click here for more images](#)

Women Empowerment

On 19 November, Jeremy Blain launched the [Male Allies of Gender Equality \(MAGE\)](#) initiative at UPF UK HQ. The programme focuses on four key areas—Government, Communities and Families, Business, and engaging positive Creators. Small working groups contributed insights and practical steps to take the campaign forward.

A week later on 26 November, UPF UK hosted a powerful evening dedicated to the [Elimination of Violence Against Women](#), with a special emphasis on *Digital Safety* as part of the UN's **16 Days of Activism** campaign. Julian Fox offered practical guidance on staying safe online to which Lorna Marah added her personal insights, while Jeremy Blain and Kostas Kapelas highlighted the importance of the newly launched MAGE network.

Robin Marsh noted that UPF UK, inspired by Margaret Ali's long-standing passion, has held [annual activities](#) for the Elimination of Violence Against Women for the past 12 years. [Read full article here:](#)



Jeremy Blain's launch of [MAGE](#)



Small groups focus on MAGE goals



Insightful speech from Mrs Itty Bawa about digital safety online

[Video link:](#)



Some participants in a group photo

Ambassadors for Peace and UPF UK Partnerships



Duchess Nivin ElGamal—UPF UK Patron, Ambassador for Peace, and Regional Representative of the US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights (USIDHR)—shared her thoughts on the partnership between USIDHR and UPF UK:

"The partnership between the US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights and UPF UK represents an important and promising step toward advancing our shared mission of peace, education, and human dignity."

Together, we aim to serve youth, community leaders, families, faith groups, educators, policymakers, and the wider public—empowering people from all backgrounds to understand their rights, uphold their responsibilities, and participate in building a more peaceful society."

Across London, USIDHR volunteers and UPF Ambassadors for Peace are already working side by side to deliver awareness sessions, engage with local institutions, and support grassroots initiatives that strengthen communities. Full article [here](#)



Appreciating Ambassadors for Peace During the Gala Dinner

Become an Ambassador for Peace

Join a global network of people dedicated to dialogue, service, and cooperation. If you—or someone you know—are working to uplift your community, we welcome your application.

[→ Apply to Become an Ambassador for Peace](#)

Support UPF UK with a Monthly Gift

Monthly donors provide the steady foundation that allows UPF UK to plan confidently, support youth and community initiatives, and respond quickly to emerging needs.

Look [here](#) to find benefits of being a donor of UPF – UK.

Your monthly support helps us to:

- Deliver national peacebuilding programmes
- Train and empower young leaders
- Strengthen local and national partnerships

Even a small monthly gift has a meaningful impact.

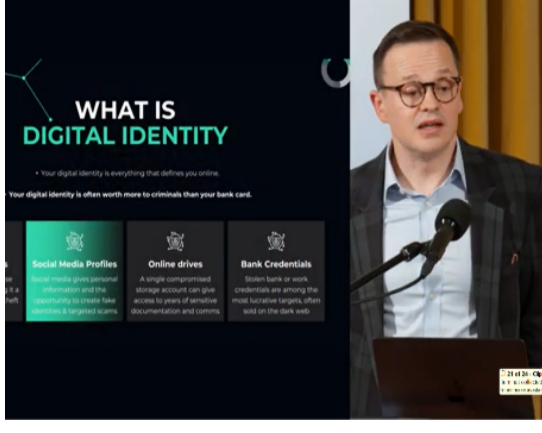
[→ Become a Monthly Donor](#)

More hosted events and posts from this month

We host several events each month with our affiliated associations and Ambassador for Peace Network.



Dr Sangita Shrestha, Chair of IAACP – International Association of Arts and Culture for Peace hosted an event ['Leading Through Stories: Creativity and Culture for Global Impact'](#) featuring culture and stories from several themes including the Tamil traditional dancers above.



['Building Trust in a Digital Age: Blockchain, AI, and Cyber Security'](#) hosted by Kostas Kapelas, Chair of IAED – UK. Julian Fox, the mind behind Techrelate, explained how to protect our #digital identity online". Sam Sharma spoke of creating ai first businesses.



[A Call for Moral Leadership and Unity at the UN As the Second World Summit for Social Development takes place in Doha, the Universal Peace Federation \(UPF-UK\) renews its call for the creation of a United Nations Interfaith Council — a body to bring the world's faith traditions together in dialogue, peacebuilding, and shared ethical leadership.](#)

Read more [here:](#)



[Freedom of the press is the foundation of democracy.](#) Broadcaster and journalist and Universal Peace Federation UK Patron, Ian Pelham Turner, shares his message for the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, calling for action to protect journalists.

[Video link:](#)

Read more [here:](#)



On 15 November, the UPF UK National Interfaith Week event in Birmingham brought together over 150 people from

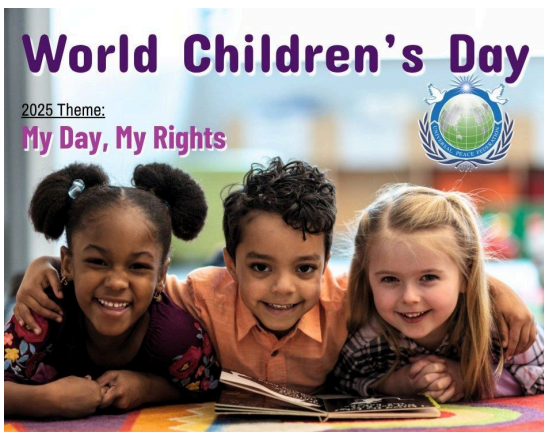
diverse faiths and backgrounds for an evening of prayer, reflection, and unity. Led by IAPD-UK Chairs Dr David and Patricia Earle, the programme featured multi-faith readings, inspiring community speakers, and the appointment of new Ambassadors for Peace, concluding with fellowship that reflected UPF's vision of One Family under God.

Read more [here:](#)

Some of our popular Social Media posts

We support international days, causes and partners on social media.

Visit our Facebook page [here:](#)



World Children's Day - 20th of November



International Day of Tolerance - 16th of November



A post from one of our partners - [The Earth and I](#)



A quote from Dr Hak Ja Han Moon - UPF co-founder

Upcoming events



Community Mental Health Awareness

[Click here for more information](#)



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Universal Peace Federation - UK

A Global Network of Peacebuilders

UK Charity Number: 1185412

