

# Peace Road in Düsseldorf

25, September 2021

Joy, new hope and confidence were all tangible from the very beginning, as the participants of the Peace Road gathered at various starting points. Most set out to walk from the Rhine terraces to the state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia, while a smaller group covered by bicycle the longer distance starting from Kaiserswerth pier.



It was wonderful to be together in person after the covid restrictions of 2020 and 2021; to greet old friends and new, and to see for the first time the new babies who not only had been born in the previous eighteen months but had already learned to walk.

People from many different countries, world views and religions - adults, toddlers, young people and seniors – all were bringing the motto of the event one step closer to reality. Donning their bright white Peace Road tee-shirts, the participants drew much

attention along the way from passers-by as they distributed leaflets and small flags with information about the Peace Road.



Right on time, to start off the walk, a bright sunshine chased away the clouds and accompanied the whole event.



The time and place of the closing remarks, chosen by the organisers, Anja and Sergio Brina, were very symbolic. For this took place very near the state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia, right beside a memorial with an original piece of the Berlin wall. And this on the day before the German general election!



The speakers highlighted different aspects of the Peace Road, such as the historical developments in a once divided Germany and in today's Korea, the incredible contributions to and plans for world peace by the Peace Road founders, Rev. Sun

Myung Moon and his wife Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, as well as contributions made by people of goodwill from different religions towards peaceful cooperation and the realisation of one world family centred on God. Estelle Belong-Smrtnikova, Frank Bernhardt, Herbert Beyer, Dr. Joachim Reuter and Ender Eker (Mihir Foundation) received much applause for their speeches, as did Heidi Wakayama's musical contribution.



*Report: Gregor Sattler. (English: Catriona Valenta)*