

Hyun Jin Moon's Global Peace Foundation: Peace Begins In Places We Overlook

James Flynn
September 8, 2026



Global Highlights

Peace Starts with Knowing Your Neighbor



Peace often begins in the everyday relationships that shape how communities live with difference. Trust grows when people have the chance to meet, listen, and understand one another beyond assumptions.

In Baltimore, a visit with the Sikh community created that space, deepening cultural understanding and strengthening relationships across faiths and backgrounds.

Meet the Community



When Women Have a Voice, Communities Change

In Kilwa, women are challenging the idea that peace is built only in public spaces. By strengthening families and stepping into leadership, they are changing communities from within.

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How Human Connection Breaks Down Prejudice

A temple visit, open conversations, and direct encounters gave 90 young people in Jakarta and Semarang a chance to move beyond stereotypes—building empathy, respect, and friendships across religious and cultural differences.

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Peace Needs Young People in the Room

For young Nigerians gathered at the UN Peace Circle in Abuja, the message was clear: peace needs participation. Leadership, service, advocacy, and courage can turn concern into meaningful community action.

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Turning Dialogue into Shared Action

Across GPF forums, dialogue creates space for leaders, youth, faith actors, and civil society to identify shared priorities, build relationships, and develop partnerships that continue beyond the event.

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Building Peace Before Crisis



Strong communities are better prepared to navigate tension when trust and relationships are built early. GPF strengthens families, education, youth leadership, and local capacity so communities can address differences before they escalate.

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Connecting Cultures in Baltimore — Learning and Engaging with Sikh Community Members

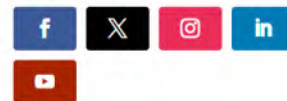
Robin McDonough

September 2, 2026

To recognize our shared humanity, we must also understand our cultural differences. Bringing together diverse people to engage in dialogue, learning, and relationship-building is a core tenet of the Baltimore Community Peacebuilding Committee (BCPC), an initiative of the Baltimore Cross-Community Reconciliation Project convened by the Global Peace Foundation (GPF).

On June 24, Dr. Surinder Singh Gill, chairman of the

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Library to learn more about this religion—the fifth largest in the world with approximately 25 to 30 million followers. Dr. Gill noted that there are roughly half a million followers in the U.S. and, locally, they are concentrated in the Maryland communities of Randallstown, Dundalk, and Silver Spring.



Collaboration and Action

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Participants of the June Baltimore Community Peacebuilding Committee meeting

Outlining the core principles that guide Sikh beliefs and practices, he offered attendees a deeper understanding of the faith's spiritual foundations, including devotion to God, earning an honest living through hard work and integrity, selfless service, and the sharing of resources without regard to perceived differences. Dr. Gill emphasized that Sikhism's Holy Book, the Guru Granth Sahib, recognizes the equality of all human beings and calls on everyone to care for each other. He reiterated, "Your human duty is to care for yourself and to care for others."

He also explored the cultural values and traditions that shape Sikh community life, as well as the challenges and opportunities Sikhs encounter in Baltimore. His remarks highlighted both the contributions of Sikh residents and the areas where greater awareness, engagement, and support could strengthen community relationships. When discussing interactions with law enforcement, Dr. Gill noted the need for stronger connection and trust, commenting, "We have a gap between community and the police. We have to make them closer to us." He further underscored the importance of building collaboration between young people and police officers to develop trust and understanding.



Group photo from the June Baltimore Community Peacebuilding Committee meeting

Leslie Parker Blyther, director of the Baltimore Police Department's Equity Office, voiced her desire to facilitate a discussion between Dr. Gill and police department representatives to deepen their understanding of Sikh culture and religion. Dr. Gill was very receptive to this, and they exchanged contact information to continue the conversation. Ms. Blyther remarked, "I absolutely try to look to be there because you are just one of many people that others have no understanding or knowledge of, and if we can create that opportunity or window where people can just walk through and ask the questions sincerely and learn. that's one step closer to where we want to

and really make the step closer to where we really get to.”

BCPC sessions offer attendees a “safe and brave” environment to engage in meaningful, and at times, challenging conversations that build trust and foster relationships rooted in a genuine desire to learn about and understand people from different backgrounds. Reverend Kevin Slayton, pastor of Northwood-Appold United Methodist Church, emphasized that “real conversation around peace and how we interact with one another will ultimately begin with truth telling.”

Dr. Gill’s presentation was well received by the attendees, who remained engaged throughout the evening. Paula Frankos, a BCPC member, shared her appreciation, noting, “Thank you. It was enlightening, and I learned a lot.” Closing the session, Kim Burton, BCPC co-leader, reflected on the impact of the discussion, saying, “I know I have been moved in this conversation and enlightened, and I think others feel the same way. We are so grateful that you came to share what you shared.”

If you’d like to learn more about our work—or explore ways to support or get involved—reach out anytime at bcpc-inquiries@globalpeace.org.

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August 31, 2026

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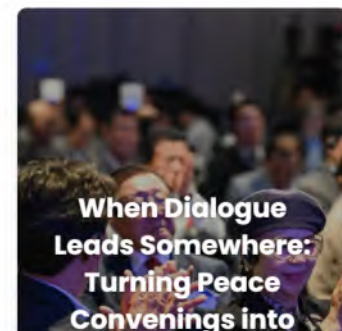
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Participants of the dialogue in Kilwa Masoko

Strong communities are built when everyone has a voice. In Kilwa Masoko,

community members gathered to explore how women's meaningful participation in decision-making can strengthen families, reduce conflict,



In Tanzania, the dialogue brought together local leaders, entrepreneurs, fishermen, and other community members to discuss social issues affecting peace and community cohesion. Through open discussions and shared reflections, participants explored challenges and identified practical solutions to strengthen relationships within families and communities.

Breaking Barriers to Women's Participation

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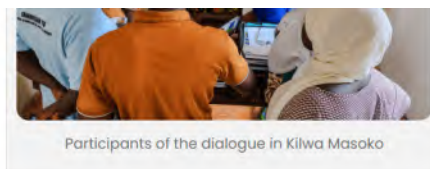
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challenges
limiting
women's
involvement
in
decision-making, including:



Participants of the dialogue in Kilwa Masoko

- Gender norms affecting women's roles in families and communities
- Child marriage and gender-based violence
- Family conflicts

They emphasized that building inclusive communities requires the shared responsibility of both women and men. Discussions focused on strengthening family communication, promoting shared decision-making, supporting women's leadership, and addressing the root causes of conflict and exclusion.



Group photo from the dialogue in Kilwa Masoko

Peace Begins Within Families

A key message from the dialogue was that lasting peace begins at home. Participants recognized that when women and men are equally involved in decisions, families

become stronger and communities are better equipped to resolve conflicts peacefully.

For Ms. Nasibu Kilambo, the dialogue highlighted the importance of everyday actions in building peace:

"When families listen to one another and build strong relationships, they create a foundation for peaceful communities. This dialogue showed me the importance of involving women in decision-making at family and community levels."

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Changing Perspectives, Inspiring Action

The conversation encouraged participants to reflect on the importance of mutual respect and changing social values. Zawadi Omary shared:

"The dialogue showed me how empowering women and promoting mutual respect can strengthen families and address conflicts in our communities."

The dialogue served as a reminder that peace is built through everyday choices – within families, relationships, and communities. By creating spaces where women and men can listen, reflect, and work together, Kilwa communities are taking steps toward stronger families, greater inclusion, and a more peaceful future.

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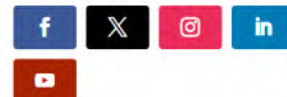
Peace! Project Strengthens Interfaith Understanding Through Community-Based Activities in Jakarta and Semarang

Miftahul Khoir

September 5, 2026

Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Indonesia, through its Peace! Project initiative, continued its commitment to promoting peace, tolerance, and social cohesion by organising two meaningful activities in Jakarta and Semarang. Bringing together a total of 90 participants, these programs provided safe and engaging spaces for young people to experience diversity through direct interaction, dialogue, and

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Participants of the Peace!Project event in Semarang

On June 7, 2026, Global Peace Youth Indonesia (GPYI) Semarang organised the Peace! Project: Sekolah Moderasi + Visit to Tay Kak Sie Temple at Komunitas Harapan, Semarang, with 65 participants. Through the Sekolah Moderasi (School of Moderation) program, children and young people learned about

Convenings into Collaboration and Action

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tolerance, respect for diversity, and the importance of building a culture of peace from an early age. The program featured interactive and enjoyable activities, including creative learning sessions, discussions, and collaborative games designed to encourage empathy, understanding, and appreciation of different backgrounds.



Participants of the Peace! Project event in Semarang

The program also included a visit to Tay Kak Sie Temple, where participants gained first-hand exposure to Indonesia's rich religious and cultural diversity. By

experiencing different traditions directly, participants were encouraged to develop greater respect and openness towards people of different beliefs. The activity reflected GPYI Semarang's belief that peace is nurtured not only through discussion but also through sincere encounters that open hearts and minds to diversity.

Meanwhile, in Jakarta, the Peace! Project partnered with the Eden Community to organise an interfaith and cultural exchange program involving 25 participants. The activity created opportunities for meaningful conversations between participants and members of the Eden Community, enabling them to better understand one another through direct interaction rather than stereotypes or assumptions. Through open dialogue and shared experiences, participants explored the values of mutual respect, empathy, and peaceful coexistence.

One participant, Welly, shared how the program transformed his perspective:

"Before joining this visit, I had many misconceptions about the Eden Community. Meeting the community members directly changed my perspective and reminded me of the importance of learning through dialogue instead of assumptions. It was a truly eye-opening experience."

The Jakarta program demonstrated how personal encounters can effectively



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effectively

break down

prejudice and

strengthen mutual understanding among people from different communities. By creating spaces for honest dialogue and cultural exchange, participants were encouraged to become ambassadors of peace within their own communities.

Through these initiatives in Jakarta and Semarang, the Peace! Project continues to demonstrate that sustainable peace begins with meaningful human connections. By empowering young people to embrace diversity, challenge prejudice, and build friendships across differences, Global Peace Foundation Indonesia remains committed to cultivating a generation of peacebuilders who contribute to a more inclusive, harmonious, and united Indonesia.

Participants of the Peace!Project event in Semarang

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When Dialogue Leads Somewhere: Turning Peace Convenings into Collaboration and Action

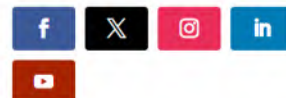
Wairimu Mwangi

September 6, 2026

Dialogue can bring people together. Its value, however, depends on what follows. A conference can bring presidents, policymakers, faith leaders, young people, and civil society representatives into the same room, but lasting peacebuilding requires those relationships to continue beyond the event.

Across the Global Peace Foundation's (GPF) convenings, dialogue has been used to build

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initiatives demonstrate different ways that convening can connect discussion with practical action.

From the Meeting Room to Shared Purpose



International experts discussed the challenges of peace, education, and culture in Latin America.

Peacebuilding often brings together people with different forms of influence.



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Political leaders have institutional experience. Faith leaders have community trust. Young people bring new perspectives and networks. Civil society organizations often have direct experience with local challenges.

A well-designed convening can connect these strengths around shared priorities. The [2023 Latin American Forum of Ideas in Paraguay](#) brought former presidents and national leaders together to discuss democracy, prosperity, regional cooperation, and peace. The forum demonstrated how dialogue among experienced political leaders can create space for continued engagement around regional challenges. The important point is not simply that influential people were brought together. It is that the convening created a platform where different experiences and perspectives could inform a common discussion.

Collaboration Starts with Common Ground

Dialogue becomes more useful when participants can identify an area where they can work



Dr. Markandey Rai (left) presents gifts to speakers at the Indo-Pacific Peace Forum 2025.

together despite their differences. The Indo-Pacific illustrates this approach. The region brings together diverse political systems, cultures, and strategic interests. Complete agreement is unlikely, but cooperation can begin around specific challenges. At the [2025 Indo-Pacific Peace Forum](#), more than 250 experts, diplomats, policymakers, social workers, and youth leaders examined regional peace and security through diplomacy, development, and cooperation. A [2024 GPF India Forum](#) similarly brought together leaders, diplomats, scholars and defense experts to explore approaches to peace and security in the region.

These forums show why dialogue does not need to eliminate differences before collaboration can begin. Participants can disagree on wider political questions while identifying specific areas of shared interest, from youth and women's leadership to environmental cooperation and regional security.

Connecting Policy with People

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International Forum on One Korea

Peacebuilding also requires connections between policy discussions and communities.

The International Forum on One Korea provides an example. GPF's One Korea forums bring together policymakers, scholars, civil society leaders, North Korean escapees, young people, and diaspora communities around questions concerning the future of the Korean Peninsula. The [2024 International Forum on One Korea](#) brought together participants from more than 30 countries and connected policy discussions with wider civil society engagement. The [2025 Forum](#) expanded discussions to areas including environmental cooperation, peace initiatives, youth leadership and diaspora engagement. More recently, the [2026 Capitol Policy Forum](#) brought policymakers, experts, civil society leaders and North Korean escapees together to examine a freedom-centered approach to Korean unification.

These engagements connect different levels of peacebuilding. Policy ideas can inform institutions, while civil society and community actors can translate those ideas into advocacy, education and public engagement.

From Ubuntu Dialogue to Networks

The GPF Ubuntu initiatives offer a further example of dialogue developing into

continued cooperation. Ubuntu provides a framework for discussing human dignity, responsibility and community. GPF's [2026 Ubuntu Africa Interfaith Virtual Summit](#) brought together more than 430 participants from 56 countries, including faith leaders, traditional authorities, policymakers, youth and civil society representatives. The emphasis was on applying shared values through ethical leadership, interfaith cooperation and community action.

This was reinforced by a [Regional Interfaith](#)



Participants of the Regional Interfaith Dialogue on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PVE)

[Dialogue in East Africa](#), which resulted in the launch of a regional faith-based network. Participants committed to sharing good practices, coordinating community initiatives and developing local peacebuilding leadership.

Here, dialogue produced something that could continue after the meeting: a network with areas of cooperation and shared responsibilities.

What Makes Dialogue Lead to Action?

Across these examples, several elements stand out.

1. **A shared objective:** Participants need a clear issue around which they can work together.
2. **Specific areas of cooperation:** Broad commitments to peace need to lead to practical priorities.
3. **Relationships that continue:** Networks, partnerships and follow-up engagements help maintain momentum.
4. **Clear roles:** Participants need to understand how they can contribute after the convening.
5. **Visible outcomes:** A new partnership, policy recommendation, network, campaign or community initiative provides a tangible indication of progress.

These elements turn a convening from a one-time exchange into part of a longer peacebuilding process.

The Real Test Begins After the Event

The measure of dialogue should extend beyond attendance, speeches, or the number of issues discussed. A stronger measure is whether participants leave with shared priorities, new relationships, and a reason to continue working together.

That is the progression GPF's convenings seek to support:

Dialogue → shared understanding → common priorities → collaboration → action → sustained engagement.

Dialogue does not require complete agreement to produce cooperation. People with different perspectives can still identify shared interests and work together where their goals overlap.

The real question after a peacebuilding convening, therefore, is not only what was discussed. It is what participants are prepared to do together next. That is where dialogue begins to create lasting impact

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