



## Householders' Options to Protect the Environment Inc.

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Think Globally. Act Locally!

## MEDIA RELEASE

### International Day of Peace - Monday, 21 September 2020

#### What is International Day of Peace?

The International Day of Peace was formed in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. In 2001, the Day was further established as a day of non-violence and cease-fire. Every year the International Day of Peace is held on September 21, a day dedicated to supporting and highlighting the principles of peace.

The theme for International Day of Peace in 2020 is “Shaping Peace Together”. With the onset of COVID-19 and a global pandemic, it is clear that humanity’s worst enemy is not each other, but a virus that impacts everyone. The United Nations has called for countries to lay down their weapons against each other and work together to fight this virus. This year the International Day of Peace is dedicated to facilitating discussions around peace and gathering ideas on how to achieve peace. Everyone is invited to share their ideas on how to foster peace for humanity and the environment.

It is also the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Day of Peace and the United Nations is holding a campaign called “UN75” to start an international discussion around building a peaceful future.

To read more on UN75 and how to get involved, visit:

<https://www.un.org/en/un75>

To read more on International Day of Peace and how to get involved, visit: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>



Image via United Nations

#### Environmental Sustainability and Peace



In 2019, the theme for International Day of Peace was ‘Climate Action for Peace’. It highlighted the relationship between environmental health and human rights. The 2019 campaign transformed the meaning of peace from stopping acts of violence on people to expand to stopping acts of violence to the environment and other species. It established the concept of peace as the wellbeing of the planet and every specie that lives in it.

To read more on this topic, visit:

<https://www.humanium.org/en/world-peace-day-2019-makes-a-call-for-climate-action/>

Photo of tree planting activity to celebrate **International Day of Peace in Brisbane**, highlighting the **Climate Action for Peace** theme of 2019. (Image via [rootandshoots.org.au](http://rootandshoots.org.au))

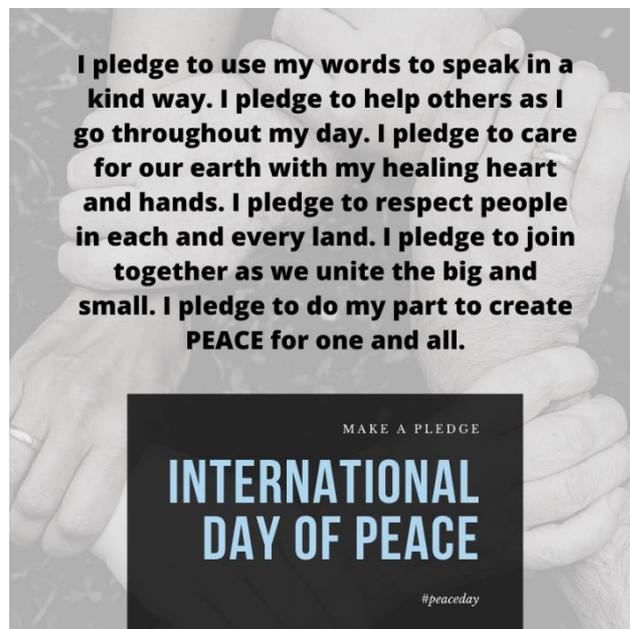
## How to Celebrate International Day of Peace: Ideas for communities, schools and churches

### 1. Minute of Silence, Moment of Peace: The Peace Wave

Hold a pause for a minute at noon in your local time zone to commemorate International Day of Peace and create a wave of peace across the world. Use the image to the right to help promote a Peace Wave!



### 2. Have your group take the below Peace Pledge to commit to promote peace in every action.



### 3. Ask everyone wear white to show solidarity in promoting peace.

### 4. Plant Trees for Peace.

Hold a (socially distanced) tree planting event to inspire people to be peaceful and kind to the environment.

### 5. Ask students to envision a world of peace, draw and explain what they think a peaceful world would look like and share with the class.



6. **Think, pair, share, discuss the below words and what they mean in an Australian context and in a global context.**
  - Intolerance
  - Hostility
  - Conflict
7. **Visit <https://www.peaceday.org/Main/Education> to access a variety of peace day activities for classrooms.**
8. **Organise a UN75 Dialogue to start a discussion in your group about conflict and how to achieve peace.**  
Organise it via: <https://www.un.org/en/un75/join-conversation>
9. **Read and discuss this UN paper on global conflict and violence:**  
[https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un75\\_conflict\\_violence.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un75_conflict_violence.pdf)
10. **Share all your activities with the hashtag #peaceday to promote International Day of Peace!**

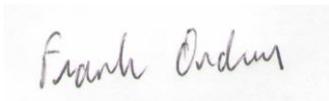
#### **Peace Quotes to Share and Discuss:**

"True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice." – Martin Luther King Jr

"Until we have peace and harmony with the environment ,we will never have peace." - Dr. Jane Goodall, UN Messenger of Peace

"Clean air and a liveable climate are unalienable human rights. The time to answer humankind's greatest challenge is NOW." – Leonardo DiCaprio, UN Messenger of Peace

"Until you start focusing on what needs to be done, rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. We can't solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground, and we need to focus on equity. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself." – Greta Thunberg



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