

From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace

The United Nations designated 2001–2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.

A culture of peace, as defined by the United Nations, consists of values, attitudes, behaviors and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes—to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations.



"We call on the human family to address the root causes of violence and build a culture of peace and hope. We know that another world is possible, a world of justice and peace. Together we can make it a reality."

—Nobel Peace Laureates
Centennial Appeal

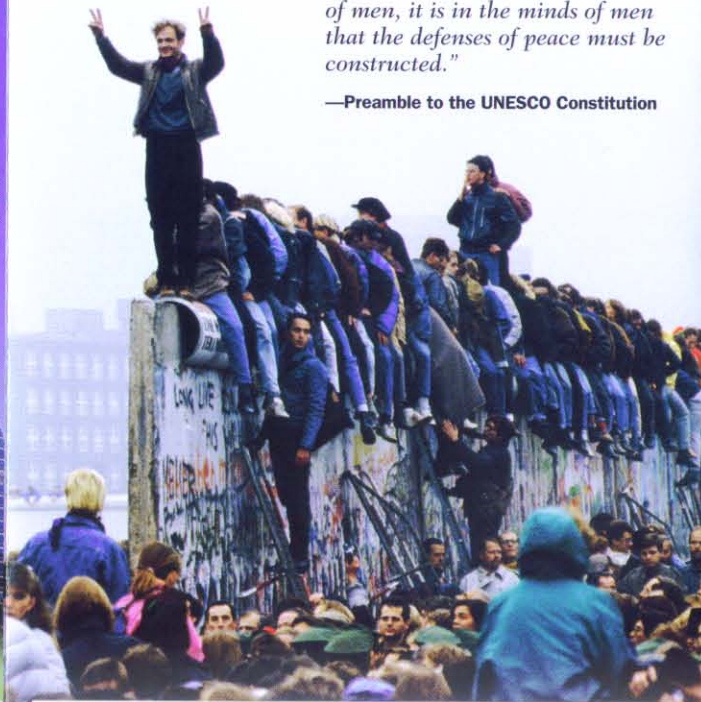
Eight Action Areas for a Culture of Peace

The culture of peace is much more than just the absence of violence and war. It includes the full range of positive values and patterns of behavior needed to replace the culture of war and violence that has dominated 5,000 years of human history.

In 1999, the UN defined eight key action areas necessary to cultivate a culture of peace. Each of these points highlights a critical action that we—nations and individuals—must take to ensure a peaceful future.

- 1 Fostering a culture of peace through education
- 2 Promoting sustainable economic and social development
- 3 Promoting respect for all human rights
- 4 Ensuring equality between women and men
- 5 Fostering democratic participation
- 6 Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity
- 7 Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge
- 8 Promoting international peace and security

People Acting for Peace



"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed."

—Preamble to the UNESCO Constitution

About the Exhibition

From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace: Transforming the Human Spirit was organized by the Soka Gakkai International, a worldwide lay Buddhist association that promotes peace, culture and education through personal change and social contribution. The SGI, as a non-governmental organization accredited by the United Nations, shares the mission of promoting international peace and security. www.sgi.org

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Transforming the Human Spirit

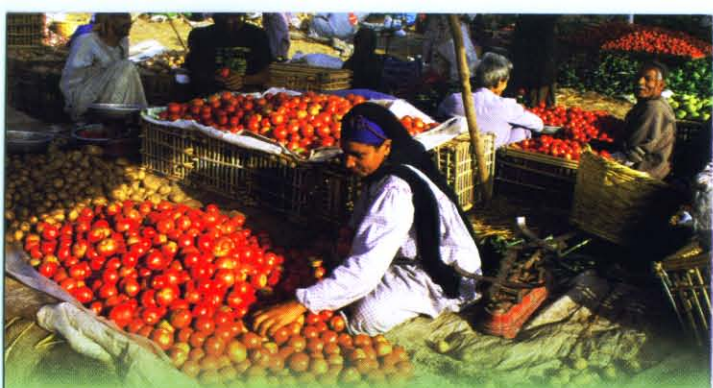
In an increasingly interdependent world, we share responsibility for the security of all human beings. • Is it possible to transform the culture of violence into a culture of peace?



"Peace cannot be achieved through violence. It can only be attained through understanding."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

A SPECIAL EXHIBITION



What Does Security Mean to Me?

Human security begins with our basic needs. We need shelter, air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat. • **People need to be safe.** We need to work, to earn, to care for our health, to be protected from violence. • **People need people.** We need community, friends, family. • **We need to be respected;** to have self-respect and to respect others. We need access to love, culture, faith. • **We need a sense of contribution and purpose.** We need the chance to reach our highest potential.



"The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life."

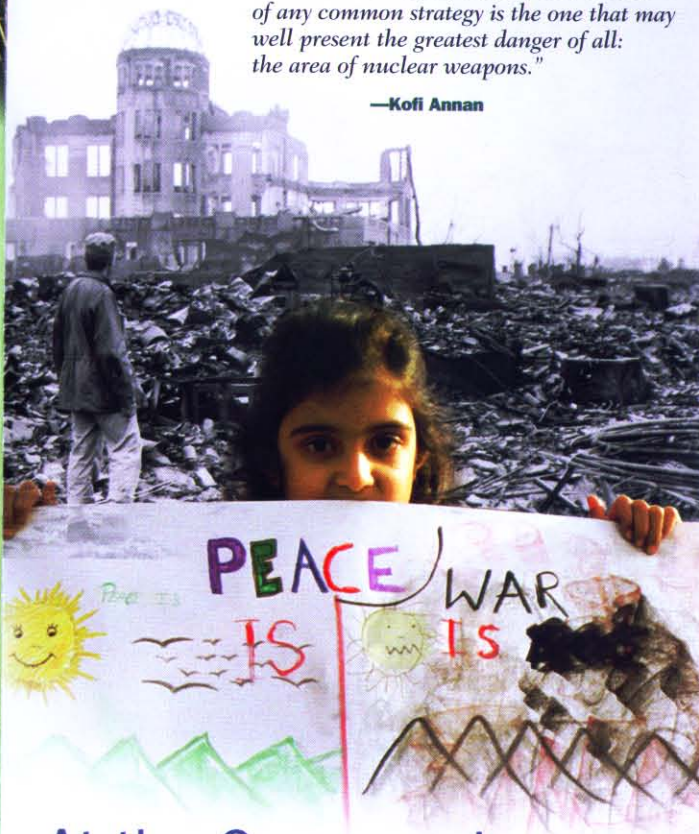
—Jane Addams



The Continuing Threat of Global Destruction

"The one area where there is a total lack of any common strategy is the one that may well present the greatest danger of all: the area of nuclear weapons."

—Kofi Annan



At the Crossroads

The threat of nuclear weapons is not in the past—it is a crisis today. • This crisis is driven by the failure of the nuclear powers to disarm and by the increasing number of other states that seek nuclear weapons. • **There are growing fears** that rogue governments and terrorist groups will acquire nuclear weapons. The doctrine of deterrence means nothing to terrorists. • **It is time to move beyond the myth of nuclear deterrence.** It is time to dismantle existing weapons and ban their further development. • The idea that war can produce real "solutions" to human problems is deeply rooted. Violence is part of the fabric of human civilizations. **It can only be overcome by developing an equally strong culture of peace.**



"We must firmly establish the awareness that no society can found its security and wellbeing upon the terror and misery of another; we must create a new set of global ethics. The theory of nuclear deterrence, in seeking to ensure the security of one state by threatening others with overwhelming destructive power, is diametrically opposed to the global ethics the new era demands."

—Daisaku Ikeda

Transforming the Human Spirit

A new set of global ethics—**creating a global sense of the deep interconnections among people**—is a first step toward true disarmament and world peace. • **To create world peace we need courage and hope.** • We need to be educated and we need to educate others. • **We need to engage in dialogue** with many different peoples, reaching across the barriers that divide us. • **We need to take peaceful action.**

