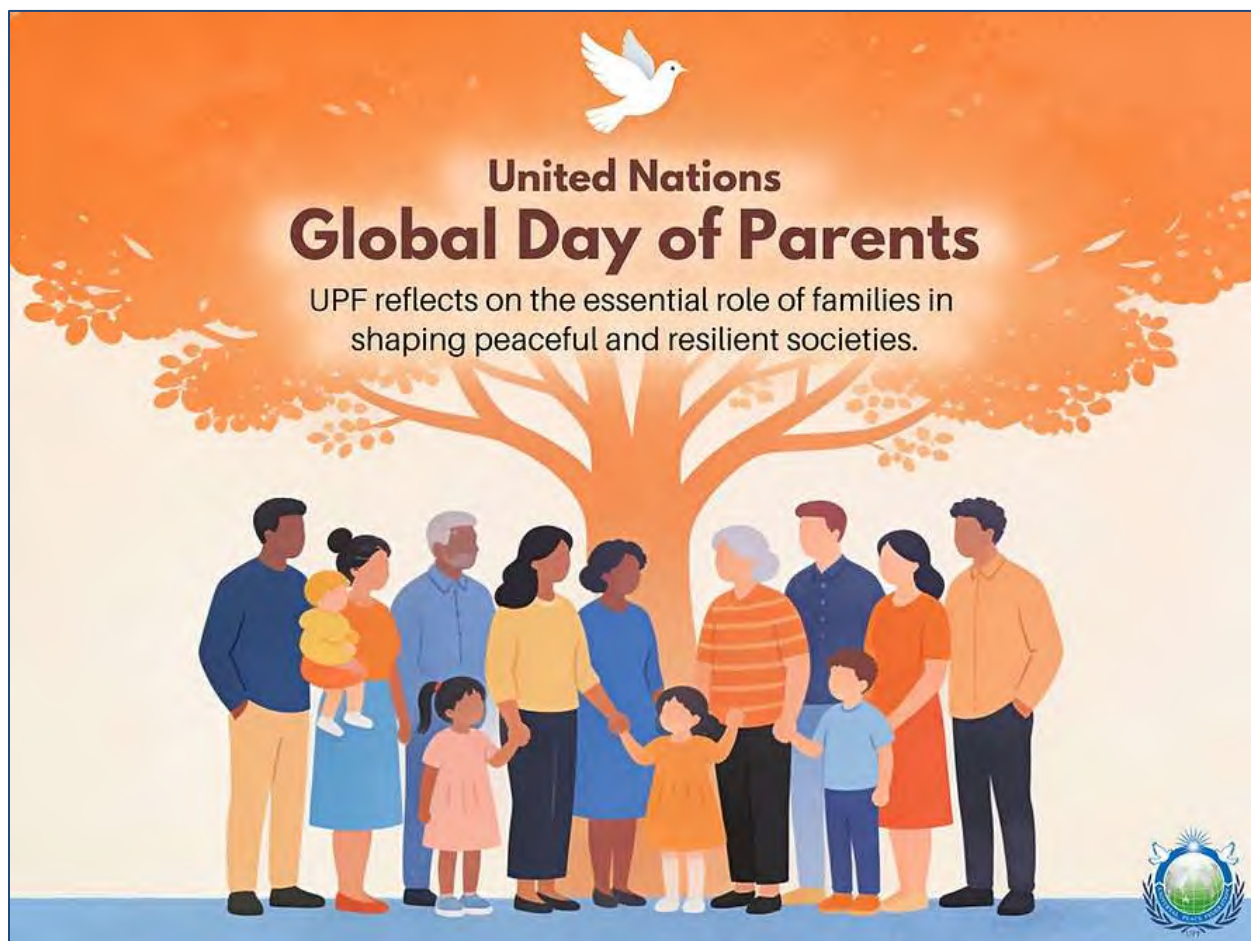


## UPF International: Where Peace Learns Its First Language

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By the time the United Nations [Global Day of Parents](#) arrives on June 1, UPF's 100-day campaign has already passed through many rooms: an iftar table in Washington, D.C., a charity market in Madrid, a remote school in Sri Lanka, a public hall in Lima, a family gathering in Paris, youth service in Asia, celebration of Africa Day in Benin, and community conversations in Latin America and Nepal. In each place, people tried to serve someone beyond their own circle.

This is a fitting way for the campaign to reach its conclusion. After partnerships, service projects, interfaith meetings, youth programs, cultural events and family conversations, the road returns to the place where peace first becomes visible: the home.

Parents rarely call their work peacebuilding. They call it preparing food, staying awake when a child is ill, caring for an elderly parent, holding back a harsh word, teaching patience and keeping the home steady when life outside becomes uncertain. Yet much of civilization rests on these unrecorded acts. Before a child understands institutions, nations or public life, the child learns whether people can be trusted. That first lesson shapes everything that follows.

UPF's "[100 Days of Serving Community](#)" campaign, running from February 20 to June 1, 2026, moved through three related themes: partnerships in March, community service in April, and family and values-based education in May. The movement was practical. Cooperation became service. Service led back to the family, where care becomes a habit before it becomes a public value.

March opened with partnership around the table. On March 1, [UPF-USA hosted an interfaith iftar dinner](#) in Washington, D.C., during Ramadan. Christians, Muslims and people of other faiths shared a meal after sunset and learned from one another's traditions with respect. On March 2, UPF and the [International Association of First Ladies for Peace](#) convened the webinar "[No Peace Without Women](#)", with women from 22 countries reflecting on peace, security and the role of women in public life. These were not partnerships on paper. They were moments where trust had a face and a voice.

In Cameroon, [UPF-Africa gathered more than 250 leaders in Yaoundé](#), including traditional chiefs, religious leaders, youth representatives and civic partners, and called Ambassadors for Peace toward measurable community service. In Kenya, [IAFLP Africa convened a continental leadership forum](#), linking women's public leadership with service, family responsibility and community stability.

Service also took concrete form in the early days of the campaign. In Madrid, [UPF-Spain helped organize a charity event for children in Cameroon](#). Donated clothes, household items, food, handicrafts and music became support for the education of children from families with limited resources. In Sri Lanka, [Religious Youth Service volunteers visited a remote school](#) in the Rathnapura District, repainted school buildings, organized games, shared lunch and gave children warm jackets, stationery and sweets. There was no grand language needed. The school became brighter. Children felt remembered. Young people learned that service is not an idea, but work done with their own hands.

April carried that same spirit into wider community life. UPF's reflection on [April as the Month of Service](#) described service as more than charity. It spoke of reducing isolation, renewing shared spaces, supporting vulnerable families and strengthening trust. In Sydney, [UPF-Australia gathered Ambassadors for Peace](#) to consider peace through interfaith understanding, community wellbeing and youth service. In Lima, [UPF-Peru marked International Mother Earth Day](#) at the Congress of the Republic, connecting care for the natural world with civic responsibility. These activities mattered because they brought peace back to a human scale: a room, a park, a school, a family, a neighbor, a shared responsibility.

May brought the question home. UPF's article "[Celebrating May as the Month of Family](#)" connected the campaign with the United Nations International Day of Families and its 2026 theme, "Families, Inequalities and Child Wellbeing." In Paris, UPF-France and the [Women's Federation for World Peace \(WFWP\)](#) France held a gathering on "[Living Together in the Family and in Society](#)", bringing family, culture and civic life into one conversation. In Russia, [UPF family events included art, music, intergenerational chess in Moscow, and interfaith cultural programs in Kazan](#). In Latin America and the Caribbean, professionals gathered for a webinar on "[The Family as a School of Love and Peace](#)." In Nepal, educators met under the theme "[Families as the First School of Peace](#)". Different countries used different forms, but the concern was the same: what kind of human being is formed in the family, and what kind of society grows from that person?

Most parents will never appear in a public report. No one records the night when a mother does not sleep, the restraint of a father who chooses patience, the grandparent who tells the same story again and again because memory itself is a form of love, or the caregiver who continues after everyone else has gone home.

Yet these acts carry moral weight. They form the first language of trust.

The United Nations [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) speaks about poverty, health, education, equality, peace and partnerships. Families touch these realities before policy reaches them. They care for children, the elderly, the sick and the lonely. They carry the hidden weight of economic pressure, migration, grief, disability, addiction, conflict and social change. When families are supported, communities become more resilient. When parents are left alone, society pays the price later.

The Global Day of Parents honors mothers and fathers, but it also tells communities that parents need support. No parent raises a child alone. Teachers, neighbors, faith communities, youth organizations, civic leaders, cultural workers, media and public institutions all help create the atmosphere in which children grow. A society that honors parents offers more than praise. It offers friendship, time, respect and practical partnership.

For UPF, this understanding comes from the vision of Dr. Hak Ja Han and the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who placed the family at the center of peace. Their teaching affirms that every person carries sacred value before God and belongs within a wider human family.

As UPF's "100-Day Campaign: Serving Community" reaches its conclusion, the invitation remains open to families, Ambassadors for Peace of the Universal Peace Federation, civic leaders, faith communities, educators, youth and partners of goodwill. A visit to someone lonely, a family dialogue, a youth service project, a meal shared across difference, a public program for parents, or a concrete act of care for a family under pressure can carry the campaign forward beyond its closing date.

Peace often begins without an announcement. It begins when someone is heard. It grows when someone is served. It becomes credible when a child sees adults serving without seeking attention, listening before judging, and caring for someone outside their own household. What becomes memory in childhood can become character in adulthood.