

UPF International: Invest in Peace - From Family to Nation, From Nation to World

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On September 21, the United Nations marks the [International Day of Peace](#) under the theme, “Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.” The observance comes one day before the opening of the General Debate of the [81st session](#) of the United Nations General Assembly on September 22, under the theme, “Restoring trust, managing transformation: A United Nations that delivers for all.”

Together, these two themes carry a timely and complementary message: Restoring trust at the global level begins with how peace is experienced and practiced in everyday life.

Trust cannot be created by declarations alone. It grows through experience. It deepens when people feel respected, heard and valued, and when they have meaningful opportunities to cooperate in addressing the needs of the communities where they live.

Peace, therefore, is not only the responsibility of governments and international institutions. It is something in which all people can invest, everywhere and every day, beginning within the family, extending into the community and the nation, and ultimately contributing to a more peaceful world.

From the Family to the World

On this International Day of Peace, the Universal Peace Federation ([UPF](#)) introduces “Invest in Peace: From the Family to the Nation, From the Nation to the World” as its year-end initiative for October through December 2026.

This initiative builds upon the United Nations theme for the International Day of Peace and carries its

spirit forward through sustained local peacebuilding. UPF regards the family as a foundational institution for cultivating the relationships and values that sustain peace. It is within the family that people first learn responsibility, respect, care, empathy and cooperation. From the family, these values can strengthen communities and nations and contribute to wider cooperation among peoples.

UPF chapters around the world will develop this shared theme in ways that reflect the relationships, circumstances and needs of their communities. [UPF Ambassadors for Peace](#) can play an important role in connecting these efforts with partner organizations, public institutions, faith communities and civil society. In this way, the relationships, experience and lessons developed throughout 2026 can become a foundation for continued action in 2027.

Everyday Architects of Peace

The United Nations has described those who advance peace through local action as “[everyday architects of peace](#).” This same spirit shaped UPF’s [Summer Events 2026](#), conducted under the theme, “Restoring Trust: What Can Be Done for Peace Now?” Across many regions, local initiatives translated this global theme into practical peacebuilding rooted in community needs.

The summer provided encouraging examples of what investing in peace can mean in practice.

In [Sri Lanka](#), Religious Youth Service marked its 40th anniversary by bringing young people together in Kalutara District to improve local access to water while learning cooperation through service.

In [San Marino](#), nine Jewish and nine Muslim children from Israel spent a week together through Soccer for Peace, a football program built around dialogue, friendship and shared experience.

In [Benin](#), a [World Humanitarian Day](#) program connected discussion on restoring trust with compassionate action, helping settle overdue hospital bills for eight mothers and eleven babies.

In [Colombia](#), Indigenous, religious and spiritual communities continued a joint dialogue marking the [International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples](#). Through respectful listening, participants explored care for nature alongside peace within families and communities.

In Washington, D.C., the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development ([IAPD](#)) convened [Sisterhood for Peace](#), bringing women from different professions, faiths and traditions together for dialogue on mutual support and peacebuilding.

Though different in setting and approach, these initiatives share a common principle: peace becomes credible when people experience it through relationships, service and cooperation. Such efforts strengthen the social trust upon which wider national and international cooperation depends.

An Invitation to Invest in Peace

As we mark the International Day of Peace, UPF welcomes the participation of partners throughout the United Nations community, public institutions, global civil society and faith communities.

The months ahead offer an opportunity to connect global commitments with practical action that people can see, experience and sustain. Every family strengthened, every relationship of trust restored, every act of service offered and every partnership created represents an investment in peace.

Peace begins close to home, but it does not end there. From the family to the nation, and from the nation to the world, each of us can become an everyday architect of peace.

Let us invest in peace — for everyone, everywhere, every day.