

UPF-Israel: Interfaith Group in Israel Affirms Shared Commitment to Peace

Hod Ben-Zvi
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Akko, Israel - On a late summer day in the ancient harbor city of Akko, a group of 17 ambassadors for peace gathered to participate in the Peace Road project, a global initiative that is celebrated by UPF chapters around the world. Despite recent challenges, their commitment remained unwavering.



Just days before the August 31 gathering, Akko had experienced damage from rocket debris due to the ongoing war at the northern border of Israel. However, this adversity only strengthened the participants' resolve. We came together to show solidarity with Akko's resilient residents, transcending religious and cultural boundaries.

The group represented a fairly equal mix of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish ambassadors for peace. Their shared commitment to the cause of world peace bridged differences and emphasized our common humanity. It was a powerful reminder that peace knows no borders.

This gathering marked a significant moment; it was our first assembly since the outbreak of war on

October 7, 2023. Despite the grim situation, everyone arrived with eager hearts, ready to communicate wholeheartedly and generate hope for the future.

To gain a clear perspective on the Peace Road initiative, we turned to the wisdom of UPF founder Dr. Sun Myung Moon. In a heartfelt session, we read the last chapter of his autobiography, drawing inspiration from his vision for a harmonious world. His legacy fueled our determination.



Further insights came from UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Her recent speech provided a wider scope of UPF's current plans to advance world peace. We discussed her promotion of peace education among students, and brainstormed creative ways to pursue that agenda in our own context, as a vital step in building a more compassionate and understanding global community.



As the sun dipped toward the Mediterranean horizon, we concluded our gathering with a delicious lunch overlooking the serene sea at Haifa Bay. The waves whispered their message of hope, and we left with a renewed purpose.

Amid the ongoing conflict, we stood together, reaffirming our commitment to walk on the Peace Road, transcending borders, ideologies and religions.