

## 2016 International Day of Peace was celebrated by UPF St. Petersburg , Russia

Tatyana N. Krasnosumova  
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The International Day of Peace celebration was held in the beautiful auditorium of the "Festival Plus" private school. Among the participants were pupils of the 5th to 11th school years.

The president of the school, Nikita Hibin, an 11th-year pupil, opened the meeting. He declared that this was the most important holiday of the United Nations, and spoke about its history. He read aloud the words of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with its appeal to stop murder and destruction and to create conditions for lasting peace. In his slide presentation, Nikita showed the Bell of Peace, established in the central office of the United Nations, and explained the significance of the ringing of this bell. He also showed an image of the monument symbolizing prohibition of war, which is mounted in front of the UN headquarters in New York, and the famous bronze sculpture "Against Violence"—a revolver with the barrel tied in a knot. Today there are 20 such sculptures worldwide.

Mrs. Tatiana Krasnosumova, the teacher-organizer of the school and an Ambassador for Peace, read the results of a survey of students, teachers and parents on the subject of peace. She noted that all of the survey participants were unanimous in their response:

Peace begins with one person and includes good understanding and friendship.

A peacemaker is a person who brings peace and goodness, and makes the world better.

Peacemaking begins in the family with compassion and kindness.

To establish world peace, we need to act thoughtfully and be responsible for our actions, live according to our conscience, and recognize the value of life.

Then the music video, "The World That I Need," was shown.

The participants agreed that it is necessary to live in peace with others, so that world peace and prosperity will prevail. To do this, we need to abide by the rules (principles) of life, which should be uniform for all the inhabitants of the earth. We need people to promote these rules and implement them. Such people are called peacemakers or Ambassadors for Peace.

Mrs. Krasnosumova explained about the Ambassadors for Peace movement initiated by the Universal Peace Federation, and introduced Ambassador for Peace Gennady Valugin, who spoke about participating in marathon relay races related to the promotion of peace, among them:

An annual children's marathon through the Golden Ring cities of Russia

Marathon for Peace, St. Petersburg to Kaliningrad (via the Baltic countries)

Peace Road St. Petersburg to Vladivostok.

Finally the participants watched the music video "On Peace."

—Tatyana N. Krasnosumova, teacher-organizer, Ambassador for Peace