

## Ambassadors for Peace and UPF- Russia celebrate International Day of Families

Dmitry V. Samko  
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Moscow, Russia—Ambassadors for Peace and other distinguished guests joined UPF in celebrating International Day of Families 2016.

Dmitry V. Samko, secretary general of the UPF chapter of Moscow, moderated the meeting, which was held on May 14 in the Moscow Peace Embassy. He spoke about the importance and the history of this day and its role in Russia.

In his short speech, Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, regional chair of UPF Eurasia, emphasized the importance of strengthening traditional family values in society, despite many challenges in this issue currently facing the international community.

Konstantin V. Krylov, regional secretary general of UPF Eurasia, gave a presentation on family values. After mentioning the deplorable statistic that 89 percent of husbands and wives in Moscow are unfaithful to each other, he pointed out that the husband and wife relationship is the key to solving many social issues. That is why the activities of UPF include many programs aimed at not only strengthening the family institution but also promoting moral education.

The audience also listened with interest to Vedagar Morgunov, an Ambassador for Peace who is the director general of the NGO known as Partnership, Integration Plus, as he spoke about the activities of his organization and his training courses. Also Soyun Sadykov, the honorary president of the NGO AzerRo, in his speech stressed the importance of UPF in the field of family values and traditions.

The meeting ended with the ceremony of awarding Ambassador for Peace certificates. The two honorees were journalist Yuriy Belkin, and Ingrid Kim, a journalist and director of a women's soccer team.

The UN General Assembly established International Day of Families in 1993 with its Resolution 47/237. Occurring on May 15 every year, the day is meant to focus the attention of the international community on the family. It thus raises awareness of issues relating to families and reveals information of the socio-economic and demographic processes affecting the situation of families.

This year's worldwide theme of International Day of Families is "Families, healthy lives and sustainable future."

UPF carries out work aimed at promoting cooperation and cultural interaction in the framework of peace initiatives around the world. UPF supports traditional family values, healthy lifestyle and volunteering.