

## UPF Finland: Peace Road Builds a Bridge across Cultural Divides in Finland

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Helsinki, Finland – On a sunny, windy Saturday afternoon, on October 11, 2025, around thirty people joined in the Peace Road Walk in the heart of Helsinki, Finland. It was a public expression of mutual understanding and cooperation among people of various religions and ethnic groups.



**Mr. Keijo Mikkonen**, a representative of UPF-Finland, the organizer, greeted the public in front of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Cathedral of the Diocese of Helsinki, at the central Market Square, and briefly explained the vision of the founders, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, of an interconnected world through an international highway network. The purpose of the rally was to join in that quest and encourage Finland to continue as a mediator in conflict situations. He



wholeheartedly welcomed everyone to participate in the walk.



**Rev. Lauri Oinonen**, a three-term MP and long-time supporter of the Peace Road initiative, reminded the public that everyone can contribute in their own environment, and that through a relationship with God, will make a positive impact.

He blessed the rally, which then set out for a walk to the Uspenski Cathedral, the main cathedral of the Orthodox Church in Finland. There, **Fr. Teemu Toivonen** and the cantor welcomed our procession, and the priest offered a beautiful liturgy, along with biblical words of encouragement, to inspire us to be peacemakers.



The walk proceeded through Helsinki's bustling, central South Harbour marketplace, passed by a ferry harbor, and made its next stop at St. Henry's (Catholic) Cathedral. There, Adventist pastor **Rev. Veli-Lauri Kotilainen** shared his personal journey from being an atheist and a conscientious objector who, after entering into military service, discovered through a personal experience with Jesus, that Jesus was the most consistent and credible man of peace. This led him to study theology and commit himself to



missionary work and the priesthood.



The walk concluded with reflection and prayer in a nearby park. Though the brisk autumn wind was cold, visiting the three churches and sharing a commitment to the worthy cause of the worldwide Peace Road project with many rally observers, warmed everyone's hearts.

