



August 2025 Global Highlights

See how Global Peace Foundation is driving impact through global leadership, peacebuilding, and community action.

What's New This Month



GPF Celebrates Young Leaders on International Youth Day!

As we approach August 12, GPF joins the world in preparing to honor International Youth Day 2025 under the theme **"Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond."** This year, we're highlighting the incredible impact of young people driving grassroots solutions in their communities. From climate action to education reform, youth across the GPF network are proving that local leadership advances global progress.

See how young people are leading change with GPF's support. Do you have your own story? We'd love to hear how you're making a difference. Submit your story on the page below.

[Read Youth Stories](#)

In Asia



Filipino Students Champion Korean Dream of Unity

University youth in the Philippines are joining GPF's campaign to support Korean reunification. Through campus events and formal declarations, students are advocating for peace on the Korean peninsula and reaffirming the historic ties between the Philippines and South Korea.



GPF India Reaffirms Support for Korean Peace at Mongolia Forum

Dr. Markandey Rai represented GPF India at the 2025 Mongolia Forum, advancing civil society dialogue on Korean reunification. The gathering fostered cross-border collaboration rooted in shared values, cultural exchange, and the principle of "living for the benefit of all humanity."

In Africa



GPF Nigeria Promotes Dialogue for Peaceful Coexistence

To mark the International Day of Dialogue, GPF Nigeria hosted a roundtable in Kaduna with religious leaders, youth, and community members. The event emphasized mutual respect and shared values as tools to strengthen unity and prevent conflict.



Youth Lead Climate Action at Wareng High School

GPF Kenya joined the launch of "Mbogi Green ya Wareng," a student-led tree nursery supporting Kenya's 15 Billion Tree Campaign. The initiative empowers youth to tackle climate change and foster environmental stewardship in their communities.

In Latin America



Latin American Leaders Convene in Costa Rica for Geopolitical Reset

The Latin American and Caribbean Presidential Mission hosted a high-level forum to chart the region's path amid global power shifts. With calls for integration, innovation, and strategic partnerships, leaders emphasized Latin America's potential as a key actor on the world stage.



GPW Uruguay Empowers Families of Children with Autism

Global Peace Women hosted a workshop in Montevideo to support parents of children with ASD. With expert guidance and a shared vision, families are now laying the foundation for a nonprofit center offering long-term care and rehabilitation services.

In North America



Grassroots Peace in Montana: Billings Marches for Change

Hundreds joined the 26th March Against Drugs and Violence, led by GPF and local partners. Personal stories and community solidarity took center stage, showing how grassroots leadership fosters healing and safer neighborhoods.



Honoring Dr. Edwin J. Feulner's Legacy of Freedom

A longtime advisor and thought leader, Dr. Feulner helped guide the Reagan era's conservative vision. His leadership at Heritage Foundation left a lasting mark on American policy, grounded in freedom, faith, and opportunity for all.

Explore More Activities

New Release: "Korean Dream, Oh Glory of Light"



A powerful new anthem of hope and unity was released in celebration of the **80th anniversary of Korea's liberation** and the **10th anniversary of the New Era Unification Song Campaign**.

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International Youth Day 2025

August 12, 2025

August 12, 2025

International Youth Day 2025

International Youth Day, observed annually on August 12, highlights the vital role of young people in global development and peacebuilding. In 2025, under the theme "Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond," the Global Peace Foundation celebrates youth leadership and reaffirms its commitment to empowering young changemakers to drive sustainable, community-based solutions.

About this event

Each year on 12 August, International Youth Day brings worldwide attention to the challenges and transformative potential of young people. Spearheaded by the United Nations, this international holiday celebrates youth contributions across all pillars of global development and peacebuilding.

The 2025 theme, “Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond,” aligns closely with the Global Peace Foundation’s mission to uplift youth as moral and innovative leaders. As the world works toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), youth are not just stakeholders—they are essential partners in translating global commitments into meaningful, local action.

Young people bring creativity, grassroots knowledge, and a strong sense of purpose that can bridge the gap between policy and practice.

For the Global Peace Foundation, International Youth Day is a time to celebrate young peacebuilders, amplify their stories, and create pathways for them to lead. We stand committed to advancing youth-led solutions, intergenerational collaboration, and community-driven leadership that foster peace and shared prosperity.

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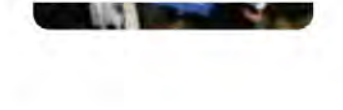
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Philippines Joins In Solidarity to Support the Korean Dream of Reunification

Robin McDonough

July 7, 2025



The power of young people as a driving force to achieve positive change is unlimited. This is evident in the drive by young Filipino university students to advocate for the aspirational dream of a unified Korea. For the past year, the [Global Peace Foundation \(GPF\) Philippines](#) has continued to partner with universities, civic groups, and government offices to promote the Korean Dream 10 Million Signature Campaign, which aims to increase global support for the unification of South Korea and North Korea.

The young people's desire, energy, and enthusiasm for peaceful coexistence create an unwavering foundation for building support for the Korean Dream of peaceful reunification. The two countries' history is deep and meaningful, dating back to the Philippines' support of South Korea during the Korean War. This advocacy continues today in the actions of young

Filipinos to broaden their outreach to increase support for the [One Korea Global Campaign](#) through various campus activities.

The University of Makati, Universidad de Manila, Technological University of the Philippines-Manila, and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig are among the schools that are supporting the initiative. To show their formal support, each has signed the Declaration of Solidarity for Korean Reunification as a Model for Global Peace and Unity.

Peacebuilding is not restricted to just the young, though; it is everyone's responsibility. In addition to their campus outreach, GPF Philippines partners with other organizations, such as the National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP), to spread the word about the campaign and gain additional support. With every worthwhile endeavor, strength in numbers creates a solid base of advocacy that reverberates around the world to show unity for a cause that can only be achieved through global support.

To join the 10 Million Signature Campaign and learn how you or your organization can get involved, visit

<http://globalpeace.info/ph-for-one-korea>



A participant in the Korean Dream 10 Million Campaign in the Philippines.

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India Supports Advancing Peace and Korean Unification in Annual Mongolia Forum

Anjali

July 20, 2025

Dr. Markandey Rai, Chairman of the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) [India](#) and President of the [Indo-Pacific Peace Forum](#), recently participated in the Mongolia Forum on Northeast Asian Peaceful Development and [Korean Unification](#), held from June 20 to 24, 2025, in Ulaanbaatar. His presence at the forum symbolized not only India's enduring commitment to regional peace and reconciliation but also the growing role of civil society in facilitating a new paradigm of cooperation grounded in shared values and people-led initiatives.

The early part of Dr. Rai's visit was spent in the scenic outskirts of Ulaanbaatar, where a two-day retreat was held in traditional Mongolian gher accommodations. Far from formal diplomacy,

Mongolian guest accommodations. Far from formal diplomacy, this setting allowed for meaningful informal exchanges among global delegates and local youth. These conversations centered on alternative strategies for the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula and the socio-economic upliftment of Northeast Asia. The retreat included a series of cultural and community-building activities—most notably, traditional horse riding, storytelling, and a symbolic gathering under Korea’s principle of *Hongik Ingan*—“to live for the benefit of all humanity.” The idea was to create a value-aligned global team, one that could work together across borders in the years to come.



An international team arrives in Mongolia for an annual forum and leadership program focusing on the peaceful reunification of Korea.

One of the significant highlights of this segment was Dr. Rai’s active participation in an environmental initiative—a tree plantation drive organized in collaboration with “My Club,” a program by [Global Peace Foundation Mongolia](#). This initiative was part of Mongolia’s ambitious One Billion Tree Plantation Program. Dr. Rai planted trees in the Cobi Desert Peace Park, reaffirming his commitment to climate action as an integral part of peacebuilding. His participation underlined the role of civic partnerships in addressing environmental challenges and promoting ecological harmony as a pathway to long-term regional stability.

Following the retreat, the forum’s formal proceedings commenced at the Best Western Premier Tushin Hotel, where international delegates gathered for two days of structured discussions, tributes, and strategic planning. The forum opened with a moving tribute to the late President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat, Mongolia’s first democratically elected leader. His vision for democratic values and regional peace was remembered as a guiding light for the work undertaken at the forum.

In his keynote address, Dr. Rai delivered a powerful message on the theme of “Dream and Challenges.” He emphasized the crucial interplay between vision and action, offering a four-point reflection that resonated deeply with the audience: “Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision is a waste of time. Where there is no action, dreams remain wishful thinking.

But vision with action can transform the world.” His words served not only as philosophical insight but also as a call to urgent and coordinated global efforts for peace.

Dr. Rai further contributed to the academic depth of the forum by presenting a paper titled *“Role of India in the Peaceful Unification of Korea.”* In this comprehensive presentation, he traced the deep civilizational and diplomatic links between India and the Korean Peninsula—from the legend of Queen Heo Hwang-ok of Ayodhya to India’s balanced relationships with both North and South Korea. He emphasized India’s unique position as a trusted neutral partner that has historically supported dialogue, humanitarian aid, and people-to-people diplomacy over coercion and isolation. His presentation illustrated how India’s cultural diplomacy, technological capacity, and principled foreign policy could meaningfully support a peaceful and democratic reunification process in Korea.

Dr. Rai also played an important role in engaging with the forum’s youth delegates. Drawing from decades of experience in global peacebuilding, he conducted a focused session on “How to Become a Peace Ambassador.” This training was deeply rooted in Indian values and Gandhian ethics. He spoke of moral leadership as the foundation of lasting peace and called upon the youth to lead with courage, compassion, and character. Referencing qualities like *Dhriti* (steadfastness), *Kshama* (forgiveness), and *Indriya-Nigrah* (self-mastery), he challenged participants to view peace not merely as the absence of conflict but as the ongoing work of building understanding, restoring dignity, and leading by example in their communities. His session drew inspiration from Indian legends such as Nachiketa and Abhimanyu, invoking a sense of cultural continuity in modern leadership.

Several key outcomes were finalized at the conclusion of the forum. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Global Peace Foundation and the Government of Mongolia, committing to long-term collaboration for peace and environmental sustainability. Additionally, Dr. Rai confirmed GPF India’s support for two major upcoming initiatives: the Mongolia Forum in August 2026 and the 10 Million Walk for Korean Unification, which aims to mobilize civil society across the globe. Dr. Rai also announced that a book authored jointly by GPF India and its partners—focusing on Peace and Security in the Indo-Pacific—would be officially released on August 15, 2025, marking Korea’s Independence Day with a message of unity, resilience, and regional cooperation.

Dr. Markandey Rai’s engagement in Mongolia stood out as an embodiment of integrated leadership—where environment, diplomacy, youth engagement, and moral conviction intersected in a shared global endeavor. His presence was not just diplomatic—it was deeply personal, human, and hopeful. Through his words and actions, he reasserted the belief that peace is not merely a policy—it is a commitment lived each day, nurtured

through relationships, and rooted in values that transcend borders.

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Fostering Mutual Respect through Dialogue and Shared Values in Nigeria

Robin McDonough

July 25, 2025

Dialogue is an effective means for people from diverse cultural and ethnoreligious backgrounds to engage in a respectful manner to avoid conflict as well as address existing conflicts. On June 11, 2025, the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Nigeria partnered with the Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC) to commemorate the International Day of Dialogue among Civilizations with a roundtable titled “Fostering Mutual Respect through Dialogue and Shared Values” at Bajju Hall in Hayin Banki, Kaduna.

Over 60 people attended the event, including religious and traditional leaders, women, youth, and executives of the Hayin Banki Peace and Reconciliation Committee. The roundtable centered on the importance of dialogue and shared values in promoting social cohesion and unity in families, communities,

and society at large.



GPF Nigeria hosts peacebuilding dialogue forums to foster peace in Kaduna.

Rev. John Joseph Hayab, country director of GPF Nigeria, welcomed the attendees, highlighting the organization's vision of "One Family Under God" and our shared humanity to eliminate division. He also stressed the importance of dialogue as a way of life that provides the path to peace and understanding, stating, "At Global Peace Foundation Nigeria, we believe that dialogue is not just a tool; it is the foundation of peaceful coexistence." Rev. Hayab further remarked, "It gives us a platform to listen, to learn, and to humanize one another." He further challenged the attendees to be "ambassadors of dialogue" in all daily interactions.

Next, IMC representatives Rev. Bitrus Dangiwa and Samson Auta gave the keynote address on "The Role of Dialogue in Peace." They emphasized the importance of institutions learning effective dialogue techniques, such as establishing a

conducive environment, honesty, equity, and respectful interaction. Using interactive techniques such as experience sharing and highlighting practical examples of local peacebuilding activities, they underscored the role of proactive engagement to achieve sustainable peace.



GPF Nigeria hosts peacebuilding dialogue forums to foster peace in Kaduna.

A number of notable guests endorsed the event and the importance of dialogue in creating an environment based on mutual respect and cooperation. They included Rev. Caleb Ma'aji, chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), and Mallam Ibrahim Kufena, secretary general of Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI), who also commended GPF Nigeria for their peacebuilding activities, which foster interreligious harmony in the region.

Further several religious and other leaders praised GPF Nigeria

Partner, several engrossed and other leaders praised GPF Nigeria for the organization's continuing engagement in the community and the focus on the value of dialogue in easing community tensions. Mallam Abubakar Abdulsalam, the chairman of the Hayin Banki Peace and Reconciliation Committee and the Chief Imam of Hayin Banki Central Mosque, reiterated the importance of dialogue, as did Rev. Bulus Gida, the pastor in charge of First ECWA Church.



GPF Nigeria hosts peacebuilding dialogue forums to foster peace in Kaduna.

In addition, Alhaji Mahmud Shehu Galadima, the village head of Hayin Banki, said, "It has presented to us a tool for healing when there is misunderstanding as well as putting into our hands the key to lock-out conflict." Community member and Hayin Banki

woman leader, Hajiya Adama Ibrahim, commented, "This meeting today will go a long way in reducing conflicts both within families and the communities, as some issues would be avoided completely through understanding as members interact and dialogue."

The event brought together a diverse group of attendees interested in learning about dialogue and its role in bridging differences by engaging in meaningful discussions, building trust, enhancing relationships, and creating an environment favorable to creating peaceful coexistence. To further the inroads made, GPF Nigeria plans to bring together the Hayin Banki community and another community in the state to share experiences and engage in meaningful dialogue.

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Empowering Climate Champions: GPF Kenya Supports Wareng High School's "Mbogi Green" Tree Nursery Launch

Wairimu Mwangi

July 28, 2025



GPF Kenya works with partner to establish a tree nursery at Wareng High School.

In the face of escalating climate challenges, youth-led climate action has emerged as one of the most powerful forces driving meaningful environmental change. Young people are not only the most affected by the long-term impacts of

climate change, but they also bring fresh ideas, energy, and a deep sense of urgency to the global sustainability agenda. Their involvement is crucial, not just for planting trees or reducing emissions, but for reshaping mindsets, influencing policies, and building resilient communities. When empowered and supported, youth become catalysts for innovation and stewardship, ensuring that climate solutions are not only effective today but also sustainable for generations to come.

In a powerful demonstration of youth-led climate action, Wareng High School in Eldoret City, in Uasin Gishu region of Kenya, on June 3, 2025, unveiled the “Mbogi Green ya Wareng” tree nursery, a major contribution to the country’s ambitious 15 Billion Tree Growing Campaign. The launch at Wareng High School, Kenya’s President William Ruto’s alma mater, was presided over by Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Forestry, Dr. Deborah Baraza, and brought together government officials, civil society leaders, and private sector partners, all united under one goal; to green Kenya through youth empowerment.

The tree nursery, designed to propagate 100,000 seedlings annually, aims to plant 500,000 trees over the next three years. The initiative focuses on fruit and indigenous trees, enhancing food security, biodiversity, and long-term environmental sustainability. During the launch, 10,000 trees were planted, an impactful start for the project and a symbolic gesture of the community’s commitment to the climate agenda.



GPF Kenya works with partner to establish a tree nursery at Wareng High School.

A key partner in this transformative project, Global Peace Foundation (GPF) Kenya, played a critical role in rallying youth and stakeholders around the vision of environmental stewardship as a tool for peace and development. GPF Africa Regional Representative Mr. Daniel Juma Omondi delivered a powerful message to the students, urging them to emulate President Ruto’s journey of leadership and service and view environmental care as a patriotic and moral responsibility.

GPF Kenya’s involvement in this initiative highlights the

organization's long-standing commitment to rostering youth leadership and community-driven development. By empowering students to take ownership of climate action, GPF Kenya is helping to build a generation that not only understands environmental challenges but actively contributes to solutions. With support from partners like the Chandaria Foundation, KCB Foundation, SMACHS Foundation, and Mama Doing Good, this effort aligns with Kenya's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), showcasing how collective action can achieve both ecological and economic impact.



As highlighted by Uasin Gishu Deputy Governor Evans Kapkea, the county's record of planting over 28 million trees positions it as a national leader in climate response. The launch of the Mbogi Green tree nursery adds a fresh and hopeful chapter to this legacy.

For GPF Kenya, this initiative reflects more than just environmental action. It is about nurturing ethical leaders, strengthening communities, and advancing peace through shared responsibility.

Supporting tree planting not only restores landscapes but also fosters unity, purpose, and long-term resilience. Global Peace Foundation continues to champion such grassroots innovations that uplift lives, safeguard the planet, and build the foundation for lasting peace in Kenya and beyond.

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Latin America in the New Global Geopolitics: Former Presidents Lead a Strategic Call from Costa Rica

Eddy Simaj

July 29, 2025





Official photo of the Strategic Forum “Latin America in the New Global Geopolitics,” held in San José, Costa Rica. The image features former presidents, experts, and representatives of regional and international organizations who took part in the event.

More than 150 high-level leaders gathered in San José for the Strategic Forum organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Presidential Mission.

July 2025, San José, Costa Rica—In a world where global powers compete for economic, technological, and diplomatic dominance, Latin America has yet to define a common path forward. From Costa Rica, a group of regional leaders has decided to change that narrative. More than 150 individuals—including former presidents, ambassadors, academics, and representatives of multilateral organizations—gathered at the Intercontinental Hotel in San José for the Strategic Forum: *Latin America in the New Global Geopolitics*.

Convened by the [Latin American and Caribbean Presidential Mission](#), the event aimed to answer a critical question: *What role should Latin America play in the new global order?* The opening session featured Thomas Field, President of the Mission and Latin America Representative for the Global Peace Foundation, who emphasized the need for the region to act with its own vision and a proactive stance in the face of global challenges.

The forum brought together five prominent regional figures in person: former Costa Rican presidents Rafael Ángel Calderón, Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, and Luis Guillermo Solís; former Guatemalan president Vinicio Cerezo; and former Paraguayan vice president Luis Alberto Castiglioni. They agreed on the urgent need for a coordinated regional voice capable of strategically engaging with the most pressing global issues.

“With vision, responsibility, and unity, Latin America can—and must—be a relevant actor in the new global scenario,” stated Vinicio Cerezo. “Integration is no longer a romantic aspiration of the past—it is a historical necessity of the present.”

“I have always believed in the ‘Patria Grande,’ the great Latin American homeland envisioned by Bolívar,” said Rafael Ángel Calderón, reinforcing the forum’s call for deeper regional unity.

Miguel Ángel Rodríguez raised alarms about Latin America’s democratic backsliding: “We are worse off than we were 25 years ago,” he said, pointing to the increase in political prisoners as evidence. Yet, he expressed hope for the region to reclaim global leadership by drawing on its unique blend of democratic values, Greco-Roman and Judeo-Christian traditions, and Indigenous cultures—and partnering strategically with Europe to defend freedom and the rule of law.

Luis Guillermo Solís underscored the economic barriers to regional integration: “That cart won’t move forward on good intentions alone,” he warned, referring to the absence of

compensation mechanisms between countries at different levels of development. Without strong economies and equitable access to dynamic markets, he argued, integration efforts will remain merely declarative and ineffective.

Former presidents Carlos Mesa (Bolivia) and Laura Chinchilla (Costa Rica) also contributed virtually, offering insights into Latin America's position in a multipolar world. Both emphasized that any integration agenda must prioritize democracy, sustainable development, and shared leadership.

Dr. Evan Ellis, a research professor at the U.S. Army War College, delivered the keynote address. Ellis examined China's growing influence in Latin America and the region's strategic posture. In his view, the current challenge is not only economic or technological but geopolitical.

The forum addressed themes such as nearshoring, the energy transition, and the region's limited presence in artificial intelligence. According to ECLAC, Latin America receives less than 2% of global investment in AI and produces only 0.6% of related academic publications.



From left to right: Olinda Salguero, Rafael Ángel Calderón, Josette Altmann, Miguel Ángel Rodríguez, and Luis Alberto Castiglioni during Panel 2 of the Strategic Forum Latin America in the New Global Geopolitics, held in San José, Costa Rica.

Key panelists included Olinda Salguero, Executive Vice President of the Mission; Josette Altmann, former Secretary-General of FLACSO; Carolina Rueda, from CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean; Rosmery Hernández, from the National University of Costa Rica; Alberto Mora, from the State of the Region program; and Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector of the University for Peace. Virtual contributions came from Christian Asinelli, CAF's Corporate Vice President of Strategic Programming, and Alberto Brunori, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation. The forum was moderated by journalist Isabel Bucaram, a former CNN en Español executive.

"In a world that is rapidly transforming, taking the time to think together about Latin America is not a luxury—it is a strategic urgency," said Olinda Salguero in her opening remarks. "Latin America, so often treated as the periphery, can now become a renewed center of ideas, solutions, and global relevance."

Echoing that view, Josette Altmann argued that the structural changes facing the region require an educated and engaged citizenry. “The only way to achieve the transformations Latin America needs is through education,” she said. “A public that understands political processes and identifies their weak points is key to strengthening democracy. That is precisely why populist governments tend to slash budgets for education, health, and public policies that encourage critical thinking.”

The forum concluded with a reflection that captured its essence: the need to continue this collective effort with regional vision, analytical depth, and political commitment. In his closing remarks, Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector of the University for Peace, noted that while the issues discussed were dense and complex, it is only through sustained dialogue that Latin America can shape its role in the new global architecture.

The Latin American and Caribbean Presidential Mission, along with its allied organizations, reaffirmed its commitment to advancing this agenda. In September, Guatemala will host the 12th edition of the Esquipulas Regional Forum, marking 40 years of democracy in Central America. And in 2026, Paraguay will host the third edition of the [Latin American Ideas Forum](#), continuing to build strategic thinking from the south of the continent.

With participants from Paraguay, Costa Rica, Panama, and across the region, the forum reaffirmed that thinking collectively about Latin America’s global role is not a privilege — it is a strategic necessity. The diverse perspectives, shared insights, and commitment to meaningful integration confirmed that the path toward a more just, cohesive, and visionary region is already underway.

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GPW Strengthens Families to Support Children with Autism in Uruguay

Wairimu Mwangi

July 18, 2025

Strong families are the bedrock of resilient communities, especially when facing the unique challenges that come with raising children with special needs. Recognizing this, Global Peace Women (GPW) continues its global mission to empower families as agents of peace, care, and social change. In Uruguay, this vision recently came to life through a meaningful workshop organized for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), offering both practical support and a message of hope.





Families with children with autism in Uruguay join a workshop hosted by Global Peace Women.

Held on June 19, 2025, the workshop brought together concerned parents who are grappling with what they describe as a growing number of autism diagnoses in their communities. Although Uruguay lacks an official national census on autism, it is estimated that approximately 1 in 88 children may be on the spectrum. This equates to roughly 30,000 to 35,000 individuals nationwide, adding to the estimated 1% of the global population on the spectrum, according to data from the Autism Federation of Uruguay. These parents, united by shared experiences and concerns for their children's futures, are now laying the groundwork for a nonprofit civil association that will provide long-term support for individuals with ASD.

The proposed center, envisioned as a daytime community hub, would accommodate up to ten individuals and offer multidisciplinary rehabilitation services to improve the quality of life for people with autism. The workshop provided a valuable platform for dialogue, where legal expert Manuel Nion offered insights into the legal processes of establishing a nonprofit, while psychologists Gabriela Peinado and Nibia Pizzo, GPW Uruguay president, addressed the emotional and social aspects of supporting children with ASD.

Central to the discussion was the pivotal role of families in nurturing and advocating for children with autism. The psychologists emphasized that every family has the responsibility and the power to create an environment of dignity, stability, and love, which is especially vital for children on the spectrum. The session concluded with the distribution of GPW's "Peace Begins in the Home" brochure, reinforcing the idea that peace, care, and understanding start within the family unit.

This initiative in Uruguay reflects how Global Peace Women's efforts to strengthen families directly contribute to building more empowered and compassionate communities. It also complements the broader work of the Global Peace Foundation (GPF), which works across continents to promote universal principles, shared values, and innovative, community-driven solutions to today's social challenges. By equipping parents with knowledge, legal tools, and emotional support, and by reinforcing the family as society's first school of love and peace, GPW and GPF are empowering families to be at the heart of sustainable peacebuilding. As these families come together to support children with autism, they are not only advocating for their loved

ones but becoming part of a global movement where strong families are recognized as essential to creating a world of dignity, opportunity, and peace for all.

Learn more: [Global Peace Women](#)

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Billings March Against Drugs & Violence 2025: Grassroots Peace in Action

Naomi MacMurdie

July 23, 2025





Hundreds march in downtown Billings to show support for the 26th annual March Against Drugs and Violence.

BILLINGS, MONTANA — On July 12, 2025, hundreds of Billings residents donned purple shirts and gathered on the Yellowstone County Courthouse Lawn for the 26th annual March Against Drugs and Violence (MADV). As one of the event's core organizers, the Global Peace Foundation joined partners to lead a deeply impactful day of activism grounded in community healing and solidarity.

This march is more than a symbolic gesture—it embodies community-based peacebuilding, where local voices shape collective healing. The MADV was founded by State Sen. Michael Yakawich in the 1990s after a drive-by shooting in his neighborhood; over time, it became a vehicle for connecting everyday citizens in the pursuit of safe, supportive neighborhoods.

The annual march demonstrates how local leadership and stories of resilience can mobilize change—and show that peace thrives when people stand together.

At the heart of MADV is the power of personal testimony. Mina Crenshaw, now three years sober, shared her journey through addiction and incarceration. She spoke of her transformation—catalyzed in county jail and through a 12-step recovery path—and now dedicates her life to advocating for systemic reform in how society treats offenders and addicts. “People can recover and people can change,” she told the crowd.



Ilene Upshaw shares her story at the 26th annual March Against Drugs and Violence.

Ilene Upshaw, a program participant in Passages correctional facility, spoke for the first time publicly. She shared her story of breaking a decade-long cycle of violence and substance abuse, crediting support programs for her clean record: “If I can do it, they can do it.”

These voices reflect a foundational peacebuilding principle: individuals' vulnerability has the power to break stigma and build

deep community empathy.

More than 300 purple T-shirts were handed out, along with a free barbecue and prize giveaways hosted by nonprofits such as Rimrock Foundation, STEP, Alternatives, Bridgemont, and the Boys & Girls Club. These organizations provided meaningful outreach and ongoing recovery resources to attendees.



(From Left): Montana State Sen. Michael Yakawich, former Billings City Council member Jim Ronquillo, artist Tyson Middle.

Nick Enslow, emcee and program director for Boys & Girls Club, reinforced the event's broader mission: to empower people to connect with resources and inspire nonviolence through visible solidarity. "We just want people to be aware of resources within the community that they can find for recovery as well as approaches for nonviolence."

The march paused to mourn the loss of Kari Daily, a young woman killed in an alleged domestic violence incident on July 4. Her friend, Sharee Byrne, held Kari's photo aloft, insisting society remember her for her light, not her death: "More than a victim... she was the best person I knew." Such moments underscore the emotional depth and communal care woven into the event.



Families march together in Billings, Montana, against drugs and violence.

MADV exemplifies peacebuilding rooted in community action, personal testimony, and sustained local partnerships.

Together, Global Peace Foundation and local allies transformed a concern about neighborhood safety into a multi-generational movement of hope. As Yakawich puts it,

what started as his event has become “our event” powered by the community—a signifier of peace anchored at the grassroots level.

This year’s event reaffirmed that peace is cultivated by lived experience and collective courage. When survivors speak, when organizations gather, and when communities march together, barriers collapse, and healing begins.

At the Global Peace Foundation, we celebrate the transformative potential in everyday people: those who choose vulnerability, advocacy, and solidarity. The Billings March reminds us that peace doesn’t happen from the top down—it grows up, one courageous story at a time.

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Honoring Dr. Edwin J. Feulner

Global Peace Foundation

July 25, 2025

Honoring Dr. Edwin J. Feulner

Remembering a Lifetime Champion for Freedom and First Principles

(1941-2025)

Dr. Edwin J. Feulner, true patriot and friend of America, Korea, and the world, passed away recently at the age of 83, following a lifetime of championing freedom, faith, and family moored in first



principles that empower civil societies and affirm their source in the Creator.

Dr. Feulner founded The Heritage Foundation in 1973 and propelled the “big tent” conservatism of the Reagan

Administration’s initiatives to champion families and to defeat the tyranny of communism around the world. President Reagan appointed Dr. Feulner to lead the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy and implemented many of the recommendations in the foundation’s signature “Mandate for Leadership”. Dr. Feulner and his fellow Reagan “happy warriors” propelled bold market-oriented economic reforms and affirmed first principles in Heritage’s mission of “building an America where freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and civil society flourish.”



Dr. Edwin Feulner gives remarks at the Dirksen Senate Building during the 2017 International Forum on One Korea.



Dr. Edwin Feulner (right) beside Dr. Hyun Jin Moon at Carnegie Institution for Science in Washington DC during the 2018 International Forum on One Korea.

With his longtime friend and conservative leader Lee Edwards, Dr. Feulner later co-founded the bipartisan Victims of Communism (VOC) Memorial Foundation, chartered by Congress. In a poignant reminder of the ongoing impact of his work, on the eve of Ed’s passing the Victims of Communism Museum hosted a forum with the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) and the Committee on Human Rights for North Korea (HRNK) featuring North Korean young leaders and escapees, reminding all participants of the egregious violation of fundamental rights exacted by totalitarian regimes to this day.

Dr. Feulner once stated that the cause of Korea and the US-ROK Alliance was one of his most important personal international policy priorities. He travelled to Seoul countless times and was a dear friend and advisor to Global Peace Foundation’s Korean-

born Founder and Chairman, Dr. Hyun Jin Preston Moon. He penned the foreword for Dr. Moon's landmark "Korean Dream" book and spoke at numerous GPF forums on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., and in Seoul.



Dr. Edwin Feulner (center) at the 2024 Korean Dream Grand March for Korea United at the DMZ in South Korea.

One memorable highlight in Korea just last year was at Imjingak Park alongside the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea. Dr. Feulner joined Dr. Moon in addressing this massive people power festival for One Korea, convened by Action for Korea United (AKU). Its calls for freedom and human rights for all Koreans were written in the night sky by a remarkable drone show finale visible to North Korean towns nearby. An ardent proponent of an informed and proactive civil society, Dr. Feulner reflected at various GPF convenings in Seoul on the large array of civil society forces gathering through the AKU civil movement to make real the promise of a free and unified Korea led by the Korean people.



Dr. Edwin Feulner speaking at the 2024 Korean Dream Grand March at the DMZ in South Korea.

Korea's founding fathers linked their 1919 Independence movement to America's founding, holding a historic rally at Philadelphia's Independence Hall to further connect with the universal ideals of the American Declaration of Independence. Dr. Feulner was a living embodiment of this America-ROK alliance rooted in universal values and principles: he "had the back" of the Korean people and affirmed their steadfast determination to move beyond the failed policies since the Korean War to finally establish a free and unified new homeland that makes the Korean Dream a reality.



Dr. Edwin Feulner (right) receives the Global Peace Award for Innovative Scholarship at the 2017 Global Peace Convention in Manila, Philippines.

Among the many awards he received were the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan, the Gwanghwa Medal, the Order of Diplomatic Service by the President and National Assembly of Korea, and the Global Peace Award for Innovative Scholarship, awarded at the 2017 Global Peace Convention in Manila, Philippines.

The Global Peace Foundation Founder and Chairman, Dr. Hyun Jin Preston Moon, Co-Founder, Dr. Junsook Moon, and all of our staff and supporters around the world offer our prayers and heartfelt condolences to the Feulner family and all who had the blessing to work alongside Ed. Like so many around the world, the GPF family will sorely miss him and is immensely grateful for his authentic, spirited, and humble presence in our lives and ongoing work for freedom and peace. We re-dedicate ourselves to the shared mission to achieve an American renaissance and global rebirth of freedom that Ed tirelessly dedicated his life to – perhaps best summarized in the one word Dr. Feulner always left with friends and audiences throughout the world: “Onward!”



Dr. Edwin Feulner (center) beside fellow speakers at the 2017 International Forum on One Korea.

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