

## UPF Statement on UN International Day of Peace 2024

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### **Building a Culture of Peace as One Human Family**

As we observe the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2024, we reaffirm our collective commitment to fostering a world where harmony and understanding prevail. This year's theme, "Building a Culture of Peace," emphasizes the importance of dialogue, empathy, and cooperation in addressing the myriad challenges we face today.

The concept of building a culture of peace has long been a focus for many global leaders and organizations. In 2000, Rev. Sun Myung Moon spoke at UN headquarters in New York, delivering a speech titled "Renewing the United Nations and Building a Culture of Peace." His words still resonate today:

"I believe there is an urgent need today, within the United Nations and through its many activities, to encourage mutual respect and increased cooperation between the world's political and religious leaders."

Rev. Moon's insight highlights an important aspect of peacebuilding that continues to evolve. The United Nations has made significant strides in engaging with diverse stakeholders, including religious leaders and faith-based organizations, in its peace-building efforts. Building on this foundation, there may be opportunities to further enhance the involvement of spiritual and religious voices alongside political leaders in UN initiatives.

As Rev. Moon noted, "At their root, human problems are not entirely social or political, and so social and political approaches will always be of limited effectiveness. Although secular authorities rule most human societies, religion lies at the heart of most national and cultural identities. In fact, religious faith and devotion have far greater importance in most peoples' hearts than do political loyalties."

This perspective underscores the potential for a more holistic approach to global challenges. By continuing to expand its collaborations, the UN can further strengthen its ability to address the complex, multifaceted nature of peacebuilding and promote more comprehensive solutions.

In a time marked by conflict, division, and inequality, we must recall the fundamental identity of all humanity as one family under God. From this perspective, we must prioritize peaceful solutions and reinforce the foundations of justice and respect for human rights. It is our shared responsibility to cultivate environments where diverse voices are heard and valued, and where peace is not merely the absence of violence but the presence of equity and opportunity for all.

Let us take this opportunity to engage in meaningful actions - promoting education, supporting conflict resolution initiatives, and fostering community resilience. By standing together, we can transform our societies and inspire future generations to uphold the values of peace and unity, creating a true culture of peace as one human family.

On this day, we call upon individuals, communities, and nations to renew their commitment to peace and to work tirelessly toward a world where everyone can thrive in safety and dignity. Together, let us create a legacy of peace that transcends borders and generations.