



## UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2011



### **AFTER THE CONFLICTS: HOW CAN DEVELOPMENT BUILD PEACE?**



21<sup>st</sup> of September 2011, Uniting for Peace celebrated UN International Day of Peace at Friends House London. It was a well attended meeting with people from all spheres of life including, education, stakeholders from politics, representatives from leading NGOs, civil society, business and public sector etc.

Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP, Former Secretary of State for International Development spoke on “After the Conflicts: How Can Development Build Peace”. In his speech he discussed most of the intractable challenges that directly or indirectly affect us such as poverty reduction and international development, climate change, peace and security. He also discussed the key findings of the World Bank Development Report 2011 which examines conflict, security and development which makes the connection between militarism,

resource theft and poverty. At the end he shared how this situation can be turned around by creating a level playing field for the developing world.

On this International Day of Peace, he urged countries to stop waging wars and explore opportunities for a strong and equitable world where individuals, organisations and nations can implement solutions for peace and development.

John Hilary, Director War on Want, thanked Uniting for Peace for observing the Day of Peace and engaging a variety of people for a noble cause. He added that we have to stop waging war if we want peace, the countries who have been involved into wars and conflicts have never achieved development.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vijay Mehta, Chair Uniting for Peace who in his speech highlighted its importance by saying that we have just passed the ten years mark for the completion of the MDGs which are seriously underfunded. He said that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century why people live on \$2 a day and should die of hunger, disease and denied the right to education and health. Trillions of dollars are being spent on bailing out the banks and on the on-going war in Afghanistan, while there is a staggering shortfall of funds for the completions of MDGs to the tune of \$155 billion.

He introduced Uniting for Peace and its new campaign 4D for World Peace to the audience and thanked volunteers and staff for making the event a success.