

UNITING for PEACE

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Building Bridges for Peace

My father, Sir Anthony Berry MP, was killed on the 12th of October 1984 in the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton, where the British Conservative Party were holding their annual conference. The Prime Minister at the time, Margaret Thatcher, was the intended target, along with the rest of the Cabinet but survived the bombing. The bomb killed five people and injured over 80 people. It was a massive shock for me, and within an hour of getting the news after hours of waiting, I had to tell my little brother and sister that their dad was dead, and their Mum was injured.

Two days after the bomb killed my dad, I realised I hadn't just lost my father, who I was very close to, but I also felt I was catapulted into a war, into a conflict, and I couldn't go back to being the person I had been any more. Part of me died in that bomb. I could feel the pain of war, the pain of every bomb which went off, the pain of terrorism. I made a very silent, private vow that I would find a way to bring something positive out of what had happened, and I'd find a way to contribute to peace. I would also try and understand those who had killed him. A new journey had started; I had a choice to be revengeful, have an enemy to blame



From left to right, Patrick Magee and Jo Berry

or take responsibility for my feelings, give up having an enemy, and understand those who had killed my dad.

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The Afghan War 2001-2021?

Nothing can justify the illegal war carried out for the past twenty years upon the people of Afghanistan by US/NATO forces. During a visit with an International Peace Delegation in 2012, we witnessed in Kabul the suffering of the Afghan people at the hands of the foreign occupation forces, US drones, the consequences of the invasion.

We also met people who had lost families, homes and livelihoods at the hands of the Taliban.

Many countries, including Ireland, an allegedly neutral country, have been complicit in this illegal armed conflict. The Irish government betrayed the Irish people by allowing the US troops to use Shannon Airport en route to Afghanistan and other wars started by NATO/USA in Iraq, Syria, Libya and other places, in addition to deployment of over 200 Irish troops to Afghanistan under NATO command. This military invasion of a sovereign state did not reflect the desire of the Irish people, most of whom wished to stand in solidarity with their Afghan brothers and sisters and solve the problems by peaceful means.

During August, USA/NATO withdrew their troops from Afghanistan. The war cost hundreds of thousands of lives with the USA spending US \$2 trillion, little of which went to improve the lives of Afghan people, many of whom are hungry, homeless and living in poverty. The Afghan government has fled

and the Taliban has taken over the country. The Taliban have said there will be an amnesty and called on Afghans to help rebuild their country. We hope they will cease all violence and work for peace for all.

Our love, prayers and thoughts go out to the people of Afghanistan who have suffered so much. We call on the international community to stand by the Afghan people offering humanitarian assistance and welcoming refugees and asylum seekers.

God bless Afghanistan and its people.
Salaam,

Máiread Maguire



Máiread Corrigan Maguire, co-founder of Peace People, is a huge supporter of Uniting for Peace. She won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize for her work for peace in Northern Ireland. Her book *The Vision of Peace* (edited by John Dear, with a foreword by Desmond Tutu and a preface by the Dalai Lama) is available from www.wipfandstock.com. She lives in Belfast, Northern Ireland. See: www.peacepeople.com. This article originally appeared on *TRANSCEND Media Service*

World peace is not a utopian dream. It can be realised by overcoming forces of destruction, violence and warmongering. Uniting for Peace, incorporating Action for UN Renewal and World Disarmament Campaign, is a civil society organisation helping to do just that.

Chair: Vijay Mehta * Scotland and Interfaith Secretary: Rev. Brian Cooper

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EDITORIAL - Facing the Global Challenges and Finding Solutions

The late 2021 world faces three key crises: the geo-political shock of the Afghanistan crisis, accelerating climate change, and ongoing COVID-19 menace. Biden and Johnson's disastrous lack of contingency planning made the withdrawal chaotic, endangering thousands of innocent Afghans. The Taliban victory reveals sober reality: despite two decades of Western-style nation-building with great advances notably for women, key elements of the Afghan political elite preferred acceptance of militant fundamentalist Islamism. A huge blow to US-Western hegemonic pursuits, it eerily fulfils Spengler's 'Decline of the West' prophecy a century ago. 'No more overseas wars' must be central to urgent review of UK foreign policy.

Unprecedented wildfires from Siberia to California signal runaway global warming. The upcoming Cop26 Climate Change conference in Glasgow may be humanity's last chance to avert catastrophe in coming decades: drastic lifestyle-changing action

is needed. The COVID-19 menace is especially ravaging less-developed countries with inadequate medical services; for rich nations like UK to stockpile vaccines amid such gross health inequality is morally outrageous. The two latter issues demand a UN globally-coordinated response based on equity and justice.

UfP's awareness-building on these issues includes exhibition stands at Labour and Green party conferences; an event at the latter on **"United Nations: 21st Century Global Challenges and Prospects for Peace"** [22 October, Birmingham]; a UfP-World Federalist Movement conference on **"Building Peace, Security and Justice through the Rule of Law and Global Governance"** [29 October, online]. We urge your continuing support for UfP efforts towards world peace.

Vijay Mehta [UfP Chair] & Brian Cooper [UfP Vice-President]

"War Is The Greatest Scam of All"

Ponder this. When considering the greed and corruption behind telephone and internet scams, most ordinary people who have become victims of such criminal behaviour would be of one mind, sharing a desire to eliminate such practices. Even so, one can wonder how many of these people would see war in the same light? One might be surprised to learn that one person who did consider this was Major General Smedley Butler of the United States Marine Corps. It was eighty-eight years ago, in 1933 that Butler wrote an essay "War Is A Racket" in which the opening section reads:

"War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people. Only a small "inside" group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many. Out of war a few people make huge fortunes.

In the First World War a mere handful garnered the profits of the conflict. At least 21,000 new millionaires and billionaires were made in the United States. How many other war millionaires falsified their tax returns no one knows. How many of them spent sleepless, frightened nights, ducking shells and shrapnel and machine gun bullets? How many of them were wounded or killed in battle?

Out of war nations acquire additional territory, if they are victorious. They just take it. This newly acquired territory promptly is exploited by the few – the selfsame few who wrung dollars out of blood in the war. The general public shoulders the bill. And what is this bill? This bill renders a horrible accounting. Newly placed gravestones. Broken hearts and homes. Economic instability. Depression and all its attendant miseries. Back-breaking taxation for generations and generations. For a great many years, as a soldier, I had a suspicion that war was a racket; not until I retired to civil life did I fully realize it. Now that I see the international war clouds gathering, as they are today, I must face it and speak out - to hell with war!"

Limits of space here do not allow for a full exposition of Butler's profound insight into the cruelty and barbarism of war. However, I believe his essay should be read today, particularly by the politicians and industrialists who are complicit in the deceit and corruption that give rise to this great evil, that now costs hundreds of billions of dollars, hundreds of thousands of lives, whilst the real profits are garnered by a few - arms manufacturers, banking institutions, military contractors, security services and corporate speculators, all of whom fare well from the misery they inflict upon others as a result of their pathological greed and narcissism. Such is the evil of this age.

What Butler was saying all those years ago is equally true of the situation that persists up to the present time. Regarding the 20 year war in Afghanistan, back in 2015 Wikileaks founder, Julian Assange, explained that the Afghan War was no more than a money laundering operation, draining revenue from the tax bases of the USA and Europe to be washed into the coffers of the military industrial complex, its lobbyists, contractors and manufacturers purely in the interests of keeping the war going in order to maintain this massive corruption, this great scam. Furthermore, those literally 'hell bent' on this iniquity, included many congressmen and their spouses who had seats on the boards of arms manufacturers, who had millions of dollars in shares, which rocketed in value with the prosecution of every belligerent adventure. Furthermore it is the same neo-liberal, warmongering imperialist elites, who for over half a century now have conspired to put a stop to any progressive movement in other countries who wished to achieve self-determination and self-reliance, enjoying the benefits of their own human and natural resources. These are the birthright of all nations, including the USA itself, keeping people free from the interference and tyranny of hegemonic interests who continue their ruthless drive to snuff out any movement for social justice by perverting the democratic process. Since 1954 the USA helped by Western proxies, have backed right-wing military coups in Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Argentina and Ukraine, not to mention the destruction committed in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia and Afghanistan. Legitimately elected leaders have been

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Uniting for Peace Spring Conference 2021

Explores Post-Covid Peace-Building

26 June 2021 saw Uniting for Peace break new ground with a successful Zoom AGM which reviewed activities 2019-2021, followed by a 'virtual' Spring Conference exploring "**Peace-Building in a post-Covid-19 World**". The virtual conference was chaired by **Rita Payne**, President Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists' Association. It involved six speakers' perspectives on global challenges in the pandemic context.

Molly Scott-Cato, Professor of Green Economics at Roehampton University and former Green Party MEP, said in UK the pandemic experience had prompted a revival of community, 're-thinking of values', recognition of the value of key workers, and awareness of the 'institutional violence' of global inequalities. The post-Covid world had to tackle accelerating climate change and migration crises, mostly caused by the rich world's CO2 emissions and the West's foreign policy disasters. Young people's knowledge and activism on these issues and determination to build a more just world order, was a source of great hope for the future.

UfP Chair **Vijay Mehta** emphasised global problems need global solutions. To confront and overcome the virus, political leaders and governments LRBA - needed to consider not just themselves, but people in the poorer countries and be generous and compassionate enough to supply them with vaccines free of charge so that the developing countries could make a real effort to ramp up the fight against COVID-19 and save as many lives as possible. It is worth noting that only 2% of sub-Saharan Africa is vaccinated against 60% of UK and US populations. So viruses and mutations can break anytime if the whole world population is not vaccinated. We can only be safe if everyone is safe.

In the Peace Movement, we have to explore alternatives to war including exploring the role of UN, conflict resolution, international law, war tax resistance, a conversion of arms to peaceful purposes, reducing the activities of armed forces and their carbon footprint and finally establishing Departments / Ministries for Peace in every country for creating architectures for a safer and more harmonious world.

The Departments for Peace would establish peace centres which would work for building a Culture of Peace.....non-violence, and social justice for creating blueprints for non-violent countries and cities.

Keith Best, Chair of Charity 2020, Executive chair of World Federalist Movement and former member of UK parliament, said tackling Covid-19 had revealed the great gap between rich and poor nations, the danger of 'vaccine nationalism', and the importance of sharing through the UN-Covax scheme to achieve worldwide vaccination. "No one is safe unless everyone is safe." Such sharing of science was a very positive example for future global cooperation in dealing with other problems. Democratic governance, states' leaders accountability, effective international law, and rejection of isolationism, were all "vital for world progress". He stressed: "unfettered sovereignty does not exist" and "alliances can enhance, national capacity, not diminish it."

Rev. Brian Cooper, UfP Inter-Faith Secretary, said the G7 "self-declared leading democracies" [but lacking India, Indonesia, Nigeria, and other populous ones], on past experience was unlikely to fulfil extravagant promises of global aid. Anyway, "global problems should not have solutions attempted by self-appointed groups, but be dealt with through UN, which G7 de facto sidelines". Global solutions required participation of China and Russia, but G7 and NATO had declared a 'new Cold

War' against them. Yet if the Biden-Putin summit led to progress in Arms Control, world peace would be advanced. The Peace Movement had to press them to achieve significant arms reduction and limitation treaties within a UN framework, and push to strengthen UN as global peace-building forum.

World religious leaders e.g. Pope Francis, declared the moral imperatives of the pandemic must be learned. Condemning rich nations pursuing narrow self-interest, the Pope urged a world based on solidarity in tackling human need. A new covenant with Nature - responsible stewardship instead of profit-driven exploitation - was another urgent challenge, as was tackling gross global inequalities. "Without real progress in reducing the latter, religious and political extremisms will proliferate and conflicts multiply."

Frank Jackson, UfP Vice-President, recalled the 1945 UN foundation Charter pledge "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" - and the first General Assembly resolution [1946], unanimously calling for a total ban on nuclear weapons. Such high hopes for peace in the aftermath of World War Two sadly did not materialise, in his view mainly due to the failure of UN Security Council's five permanent members to fulfil their mandate for "the protection and promotion of global peace and security", and lack of means "to bring them to account". The consequence was today's situation of 13,000 nuclear weapons held by nine states, the 'Doomsday Clock' at 100 seconds to midnight, 2020 global military expenditure of almost 2 trillion dollars, and military activities causing 6% of global CO2 emissions.

Bringing Covid-19 under control, essential for humanity's future, required a "massive increase in aid to poorer countries": "common interest in human survival should enable a minimum level of cooperation" on this and other global challenges such as climate change and gross inequality. Presidents Biden and Putin had reaffirmed the Reagan-Gorbachev adage - "A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought" - so immediate steps towards complete nuclear weapons abolition was the "only logical conclusion".

Dr. Ahmed Shahidov, Chair, Azerbaijan Institute of Democracy and Human Rights, gave an account of the 2020 Armenia-Azerbaijan War over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, from his national viewpoint. He said the two states had been in a state of war since the break-up of the USSR. He emphasised that Azerbaijan wanted and worked for friendly relations with all states in the Caucasus region.

The lively **Open Forum** ranged over several major issues, including the need to re-affirm the authority of UN, the importance of re-establishing 'constructive dialogue' between Russia and the West, securing ongoing peace in Northern Ireland by revising the Protocol in accord with the Peace Process, and promoting the 'Green New Deal' concept to help tackle climate change. Brian Cooper quoted the concern of the head of the Armenian Church for protection of its holy sites in Nagorno-Karabakh. Keith Best spoke of the "failure of the Security Council" to prevent conflicts, urging its reform as necessary for world peace. In concluding the conference, Vijay Mehta stressed that international cooperation as the only way to solve global problems, had been a consistent theme of the event.

Brian Cooper, UfP Vice-President

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After the peace process in 1998, I decided to meet the only person charged for planting the bomb, Patrick Magee. In November 2000, I went to meet him in Dublin in a private house without any facilitators. I remember him walking into the room, and straight away, he said, 'Thank you for inviting me.' We started talking, just the two of us in a room, without anyone else there. I shared a poem I had written for him in which I acknowledge the suffering of his community and apologised for the harm done by England towards Ireland for hundreds of years. I listened to him; I was curious, who was he beyond the labels he had been given.

He started by giving me a lot of political justification. I had met men before who had been in the IRA, and I'd met people from Sinn Féin, and I was familiar with the political reasons. I was thinking that I probably wouldn't come back for a second time as he was justifying the killing of my dad, but at the same time, I could see he had some care for his community and I was putting a human face to the enemy, which was helping my healing. Then something happened: he stopped talking and said to me, 'I don't know who I am anymore, I don't know what to say. I want to hear your anger and your grief, and what can I do to help? I have never met anyone as open as you and with so much dignity.'

He had taken off his political hat; he had opened up and became vulnerable. He shared something very different for the next hour and a half. Our conversation had changed; no longer was it about my need to see him, but it was also about his need to meet me. A new journey started a journey that I'm still on. I was scared and, at the same time, embraced this opportunity as this would bring me healing.

He later said my empathy disarmed him, and he would have found it easier if I had argued from a position of being right and him wrong. Then he could have stayed in a safe, familiar place of righteousness; instead, his heart was touched.

Patrick and I have spoken together over 300 times in many countries and different locations; I now call him my friend; it's a

profound friendship that is transforming me. I didn't meet him to change him but to change myself. I am grateful to him for many things, for his courage to meet me even when it is difficult, for his trust in me, for his openness to feel the effects of what he did. And to work with me to bring something positive out of this. I am learning all the time about my responses and my blame response which is still there. I am learning about what non-violence means when emotions are involved. I am learning and feeling my humanity. We now have a shared experience for the last 20 years; we have been together so much. I care about him. I think back to the young me, and still, every day, I wake up to want to bring something positive out of it, see the humanity in everyone, and work for peace. I am transforming my pain into passion for peace, and my heart is slowly opening more and more as I see more humanity in others, letting go of my judgement, my need to be right, my fear and allow more love to flow through me. My heart can contain complex viewpoints, hold differences of opinion, and see the truth on all sides. We are all capable of hurting others, and we all have the potential to transform our pain with the proper support and conditions.

I believe in the power of empathy, for when I empathise with you, I want for you all I wish for my loved ones and me. Being empathic is a call for action. When we see beyond the individual situation, when we are not attached to any truth, when we know the truth of all narratives, we create a new story for the world. This new story sees humanity in all and asks us to challenge behaviour without blaming, judgment, or violence. Then the question is how we prevent violent conflict, heal conflict, and build bridges across the divide. How do we create a peaceful world?

Jo Berry is the Founder of Building Bridges for Peace and an Executive Committee Member of Uniting for Peace

NATO - Cold War Relic still causing Havoc

The question "What's wrong with NATO?" prompts a ready Peace Movement response. It undertakes military actions without UN mandate [eg. against Serbia over Kosovo, 1999]; it redefines geography, extending its 'North Atlantic' remit to Libya, Syria and, bizarrely, Afghanistan; it failed to create a post-1989 new "European security architecture" with Russia or even the more limited "strategic partnership"; its post-Cold War expansion to Russia's borders [revoking assurances to the contrary] ended attempts to build mutual trust; declarations of future NATO membership for Georgia and Ukraine substantially created Russia's crises with both. In short, rather than being an alliance promoting peace and stability, since 1989 its record has been aggression, instability and discord. Of course, its fundamental 'wrong' is its very existence: the Warsaw Pact wound up when the Cold War ended; NATO, a Cold War construct, should have done likewise. Instead it has lingered on, primarily a vehicle for US geo-strategic interests, yet doing that chaotically: its Afghanistan 'mission' has brought Taliban into power, and its Libyan intervention caused civil war and a trans-Mediterranean refugee crisis.

Even on its own terms, its record has been dismal; its promotion of a "new Cold War" against Russia and China is deeply dangerous. Its hypocrisy in conducting huge-scale military exercises close to Russia's borders while condemning Russia for doing

likewise within its own territory, is blatant. Also, imposing a new Cold War on member states wanting a more independent line towards Moscow [Hungary, Italy, some Balkan states], belies its democratic claims.

Few of these criticisms are addressed in a new triple-authored book on NATO'S failings, which mainly worries over its tensions and under-funding. Amid lacklustre justification of NATO's continued existence, the authors at least acknowledge the urgent need to rebuild NATO-Russian mutual understanding and security assurances. Advocating a 'tacit' rather than formal structure for the latter, they are unimaginative: what is needed is revival of the kind of mutual security measures which sought to control Cold War dangers. Nuclear and conventional arms limitation treaties, "confidence building measures" such as mutual observation of military exercises, regular East-West dialogue summits, and "people-to-people" friendship links [NGOs, town-twinning, etc], would be a good start - as would a NATO commitment never to act contrary to UN resolutions.

M. Webber, J. Sperling & M.A. Smith - 'What's wrong with NATO and how to fix it' - polity books paperback £17.99 - ISBN: 9780745-682624

Brian Cooper - UfP Vice-President

overthrown, assassinated or exiled and replaced by sock puppets of the Deep State who do the bidding of their masters. Shady deals are done behind closed doors by anonymous figures and secrecy is maintained under the pretext of 'national security'. Enormous amounts of money are conjured out of thin air by the corrupt and for those who fall to corruption, whilst any attempt to report on any of this is dismissed as either 'fake news' or 'conspiracy theory' by the 'reliable stenographers of the permanent state' whilst journalists worthy of the appellation are marginalised, threatened, or jailed.

Whilst things appear to be going from bad to worse, it would do well to look at the future with hope, particularly in light of the fact that it is a delusion to think that real power rests only in the hands of the wealthy elites and ruling classes at a time when the globalist empire is conspicuously in decline and mass movements are on the rise. In Ireland right now there is a People's Movement (Glúaiseacht an Phobail) - an Irish pressure group which campaigns on a number of issues such as protecting Irish neutrality and against greater European Union integration. Furthermore, in Europe there is a growing grass-roots movement known as "Carpe Diem25" - the movement for Democracy In Europe led by Yanis Varoufakis, which is supported by peace activist, Jeremy Corbyn who was so egregiously betrayed by his own party four years ago.

Over recent years both Republican and Democrat parties have merged into one massive block against any really progressive movement. The USA voting system has been rigged to maintain the stranglehold of corrupt politicians, billionaires, war-mongers and their lobbyists. However, the great hope to push back against this neo-liberal imperialist cartel, has now manifested in the emergence of a third party, the Movement for People's Party

(MPP), the mission of which is to unite as many pro-democracy forces as possible in the United States. The MPP declares that "The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) represents "the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic and most imperialist elements of finance capital". The MPP is a progressive American political organization aimed at "forming a major new political party free of corporate money and influence" in 2021. It was formed by Nick Brana after the 2016 presidential election and held a virtual People's Convention on August 30, 2020. The convention was covered live and viewed by 400,000 people on various platforms. Speakers at the convention included former Democratic Party 2020 presidential candidate Marianne Williamson, Cornel West,, former Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura, the comedian/political commentator/-satirist Jimmy Dore, journalist, author and prison chaplain Chris Hedges and podcaster Ryan Knight.

What all of these movements advocate is to put humanitarian values before amoral economic ones, and is an assembly of hearts and minds of millions of people no longer willing to go along with systems that devolve rather than evolve our life on earth. This philosophy which expounds the truth that we either evolve as a species or face our own extinction has also been propounded by "futurist visionaries" such as Hazel Henderson, Fritjof Capra and Federico Mayor Zaragoza and Daisaku Ikeda. I believe that the aspirations of Uniting for Peace are entirely congruent with the views of such enlightened people, and that we should work hand in hand, transcending our perceived differences, in order to establish an indestructible unity in the interest of peace, prosperity, security and happiness for the peoples of all nations.

Bernie Holland – UFP Executive Committee Member

Uniting for Peace mourns the Passing of its Vice President, Lord Frank Judd [1935-2021]

Uniting for Peace mourns the passing of Lord Frank Judd, our distinguished Vice-President. An eminent parliamentarian in both Houses, he was a life-long campaigner for peace, social justice and internationalism, and strong advocate for the United Nations. Born into a politically conscious family - his father was post-1945 Director-General of the United Nations Association - he studied at London School of Economics, later serving as an LSE governor [1982-2012]. After being Secretary-General of International Voluntary Service he entered Parliament in 1966, holding a Portsmouth seat until 1979.

In 1970 Harold Wilson made him his parliamentary private secretary, and they became close friends [though Judd opposed 'Common Market' entry]. In 1974 Wilson appointed him Minister for the Navy [a role, he told me, rather incongruous for a peace activist (!) but he was concerned to better conditions for serving personnel]. Callaghan moved him to Overseas Development, later promoting him to minister of state at the Foreign Office. As a Labour MP he avoided factions, devoting himself to his constituency. After declining a peerage in 1979, he finally accepted one in 1991 from Neil Kinnock, becoming an authoritative frontbencher on foreign affairs, defence and education, then from 1997 on human rights and international development. After 1979 he ran Voluntary Service Overseas, then in 1986 became Director of Oxfam. Deeming it his 'most challenging' role, he served with keen dedication until joining the Lords.

The Council of Europe was another great interest: he was in the UK delegation [1970-73] and assembly member [1997-2005]. Widely respected across the political spectrum, his cheerful manner and inspiring attitude readily endeared him.



When his fellow peer and friend Lord Peter Archer, Ufp President, invited him to become involved in Ufp after its 2010 foundation, he readily agreed, speaking at some events. After Lord Archer's death he became more involved, arranging and chairing conferences in the Lords, and being a key speaker. We were privileged that he agreed to be a Vice-President. He will be greatly missed.

Rev. Brian Cooper, UFP Vice-President

Building Youth Peace Leadership How to Inspire a New Generation of Peacemakers Vijay Mehta – vijay@vmpeace.org

This speech below was delivered at the World Youth Summit for Peace with a worldwide audience of over 20,000, with the participation of high ranking UN Officials, Ambassadors and Peace Activists.

Introduction

Your Excellencies, Ladies, Gentlemen and distinguished gathering,

I am delighted to be invited to speak at World Youth Summit for Peace. Special thanks to Rox and Educating Beyond Borders who are doing excellent work furthering the cause of Education for Peace.

As we celebrate international Youth Day on 12th August, 2021, we should make a commitment to strengthen the power of young people ensuring they become capable future leaders to run the world in a more harmonious and peaceful way. In my latest book, *How Not To Go To War*, I advocated that best way to do that is to campaign for a Department for Peace at the governmental level in each and every country, which will work for building peace, education, capacity building to solve aggression and wars between countries.

Who is a global citizen? A global citizen is one who takes responsibilities for his or her actions to make the world a more peaceful and safer place. A leader is the one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way with absolute passion and integrity. In short, it is in essence ethical leadership standing for what is right and just.

Youth empowerment is a process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness through their beliefs, values, and attitudes.

Obstacles to building peace

The world faces a multi-dimensional global crisis without precedent since 1945. US / West – China / Russia “New Cold War”, out of control arms race, conflicts around the world, including Middle East and North Africa, global COVID-19 pandemic, climate change crisis, poverty and inequality, rise of nationalistic sentiment and populism have resulted in paralysis of international institutions, rule of law and global governance.

Poverty – experiences of discrimination and social segregation, struggle for social justice for a more equitable and sustainable world, is prevalent around the world owing to lack of peace education about world politics, international relations, human rights and conflicts. As a result, marginalisation of the youth is happening as they feel disengaged from the mainstream society.

Igniting the potential of 1.8 billion

Dear friends of World Youth Summit for Peace, to overcome the above obstacles and to realize the dividend, countries must invest in the empowerment, education and employment of their young people. There are 1.8 billion young people in the world today, representing a staggering amount of human potential. Yet too many of them are trapped in poverty, with few opportunities to learn or to earn a decent living.

“We all appreciate the massive waste of human capital in our world when 74 million young people cannot find work,” said Mr. Ban ki Moon, Former Secretary General of United Nations.

“The more young people grow into well-educated adults with fewer dependants and new opportunities to acquire wealth, savings and purchasing power, the more they will be able to accelerate economic growth and development,” said Sam K. Kutesa, President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly.



Vijay Mehta

What is global citizenship?

It is a way of living that recognises our world is an increasingly complex web of connections and interdependencies. One in which our choices and actions may have repercussions for people and communities locally, nationally or internationally.

Global citizenship nurtures personal respect and respect for others, wherever they live. It encourages individuals to think deeply and critically about what is equitable and just, and what will minimise harm to our planet. Exploring global citizenship themes helps learners grow more confident in standing up for their beliefs, and more skilled in evaluating the ethics and impact of their decisions.

Who is a global citizen?

Dear friend of World Youth Summit for Peace, a global citizen is someone who:

- is aware of the wider world and has a sense of their own role as a world citizen
- respects and values diversity and has an ethic of care for the world
- has an understanding of how the world works is outraged by social injustice
- participates in the community at a range of levels, from the local to the global
- is willing to act to make the world a more equitable and sustainable place
- takes responsibility for their actions.

To be effective Global Citizens, young people need to be flexible, creative and proactive. They need to be able to solve problems, make decisions, think critically, communicate ideas effectively and work well within teams and groups. These skills and attributes are increasingly recognised as being essential to succeed in other areas of 21st century life too, including many workplaces. These skills and qualities cannot be developed without the use of active learning methods through which pupils learn by doing and by collaborating with others.

Why is global citizenship education needed?

Education is a must, transmission of culture but also

a provider of alternative views of the world and a strengthener of skills to explore them.

With the interconnected and interdependent nature of our world, the global is not 'out there'; it is part of our everyday lives, as we are linked to others on every continent:

- socially and culturally through the media and telecommunications, and through travel and migration
- economically through trade
- environmentally through sharing one planet
- politically through international relations and systems of regulation.

The opportunities our fast-changing 'globalised' world offers young people are enormous. But so too are the challenges. Young people are entitled to an education that equips them with the knowledge, skills and values they need in order to embrace the opportunities and challenges they encounter, and to create the kind of world that they want to live in. A holistic peace education that supports the development of their mind, body and soul preparing them not just for jobs but to build a more peaceful and safer world.

Steps towards a better future

For a better future for all it is essential to empower women and girls, and ensure their sexual and reproductive health and human rights. This would enable them to determine when and whom to marry and the number of their children. When women and girls are able to make these decisions, they are better able to complete their educations and pursue jobs.

For the empowerment of women, we should follow resolution 1325 which urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.

Countries must also increase employment opportunities for young people. Many young people will be forced to sit on the margins of society, waiting on the train track for a train that may never come, as there is lack of employment options available in many communities.

There is also a critical need to involve young people in decisions that will affect them. We cannot talk about peace and sustainable development without the active involvement of youth. When we give young people decent jobs, political weight, negotiating muscle, and real influence in our world, they will create a better future.

Ideas, key issues and actions to become a youth leader

Dear friends and supporters of World Youth Summit for Peace, below are organisational ideas for peace leadership:

- Youth around the world actively involved in organisations, social movements, civic initiatives and activities for peacebuilding, social justice, human rights and working to address conflict issues and dynamics in our communities, countries and internationally;
- Youth, organisations and movements working to address and overcome violent extremism both in communities and from states and governments;
- Youth, organisations and movements who want to deepen real, practical skills in peacebuilding and working with conflict;
- Youth, organisations and movements working to transform and overcome militarism and war or violent conflict in our communities and internationally;

Key issues and leadership campaigning ideas:

- Campaign for opening Departments for Peace which can work for building peace, education and capacity building to solve aggression of wars between countries.
- The Department for Peace will work for building a Culture of Peace by replacing systems of violence with practices rooted in non-violence, social justice for creating blueprints for non-violent countries and cities.
- Linking together practitioners, activists, organisations and movements working to bring about a fundamental shift in how the world deals with conflicts, replacing war, violence and the global weapons industry with practical and effective means of handling conflicts;
- Inner peace, resilience, leadership and cultivating peace within to empower, strengthen and support our engagement in often difficult and challenging contexts;
- Introducing peace education into our schools, universities and societies

Social Media Activism

Dear Friends, one of the most important developments in the last decade is how your organisation can raise the profile of your campaign and activism by mobilising social media especially Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube.

One of the most important thing I'd like to emphasise is the importance of hashtag, in order to assure your post go viral. One of the examples is SeaLegacy who are doing admirable work by cleaning the oceans and their hashtag is #TurningTheTide. Another one is Extinction Rebellion which has a hashtag of #WhereIsYourPlan which has attracted millions of people. They are doing wonderful work on climate change mitigation and environmental protection.

But the most popular is the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter which is depicted in films, songs, TV, literature and visual arts highlighting materials related to racial injustice. Their reach across UK and USA is amazing.

Conclusion

There are 1.8 billion youth in the world who need empowerment to actively involve in organisations, civic initiatives and activities in peacebuilding, social justice, addressing and overcoming violent extremisms and hate in communities. Best way to organise that is to campaign for a Department for Peace which will have resources and capacity to overcome conflicts and tensions in society.

In conclusion let me say what we need, is an outline of practical steps to understand that all human and planetary life is sacred. We need the historic transition from the reason of force to the force of reason to trigger the changes urgently needed. Let us invent the future where every human being has the courage and dedication to build global peace and commit ourselves to make our world a better place. We must visualise every day in our minds that there is no challenge which is beyond our unique capacity as human beings. The future belongs to optimists who can grab the opportunities that exist and help to build a world of hope, joy, tolerance and solidarity.

Vijay Mehta - Author and UfP Chair, Vijay Mehta's new book *How Not To Go To War: Establishing Departments for Peace and Peace Centres Worldwide*. The book has been endorsed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Jeremy Corbyn, and many world luminaries.

UNITING FOR PEACE AT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE, BRIGHTON, 25-29 SEPTEMBER 2021

After a year with only an online conference, the Labour Party returns in 2021 to an in-person conference. Uniting for Peace will be exhibiting, in partnership, as usual, with Labour Action for Peace, and under the banner of Peace and Disarmament Centre. The central focus will be the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' "Doomsday Clock", set at 100 seconds to midnight since January 2019, the closest it has ever been. The two existential threats that lead to this assessment, climate crisis and nuclear holocaust, exacerbated by the COVID pandemic, are not being addressed with the urgency needed. Despite the ever-growing evidence of extreme weather events – wildfires from Australia to California, floods and droughts, Arctic ice melting - the industrialised countries, including the UK, which bear the major historical responsibility for global heating, and the new economic super-power, China, are still focused on growth. This must be reversed, and soon. The UK should be taking a lead, especially as it is the host and chair of the COP-26 conference in Glasgow in

November. One priority must be to stop all new investment in fossil fuels. Of course the Labour Party is not in power and cannot itself implement this or any other policy. But it should be putting forward a truly radical vision of a better world and practical policies for achieving that vision. UfP will use its presence at the conference to promote such a vision and such policies. In addition, Uniting for Peace will be conducting "Test Your Knowledge of Peace Quiz" with questions on Nuclear Weapons, Afghanistan Conflict, UK Arms supply to Saudi Arabia, Global Military Spending, Abolition of War and much more making interactive dialogue with delegates attending the conference.

Any members or supporters who are in attendance at the conference are warmly invited to call at our stand, number 65 in the Third Sector Zone.

Frank Jackson, UfP Vice President

DATE: **22 OCTOBER,
2021**

TIME: **15:15 - 16:30**

VENUE: **THE EASTSIDE
ROOMS, WOODCOCK
STREET,
BIRMINGHAM B7 4BL**



UNA BIRMINGHAM

SPEAKERS:

**FABIAN HAMILTON
VIJAY MEHTA
MOLLY SCOTT-CATO
CHRIS WALLACE
RAVI KUMAR
AHMED SHAHIDOV**

UNITED NATIONS: 21ST CENTURY GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS FOR PEACE



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Building Peace, Security and Justice Through the Rule of Law and Global Governance

Date & Time:

**Friday, 29th October, 2021
14:00 (GMT) / 10:00 (EST)**

Contact: vijay@vmpeace.org

Online Conference Hosted by Uniting for Peace and World Federalist Movement

Speakers:

Keith Best-Executive Chair of World Federalist Movement and Former Member of UK Parliament
Vijay Mehta-Chair of Uniting for Peace, Founding Trustee of Fortune Forum Charity and Author of How Not To Go To War
David Swanson- Executive Director of World Beyond War and Author of War is a Lie
Stephen Hockman QC-Barrister Six Pump Court Chambers
Jennifer Trahan- Professor at New York University's Center for Global Affairs and Director of Concentration in International Law and Human Rights
Marjolijn Snippe-Executive Committee Member, WFM/IGP and Founding Member of the Centre for United Nations Constitutional Research (CUNCR)
Jojo Mehta-Executive Director, Stop Ecocide International

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