

# Summer of Peace 2012™: International Day of Peace

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Philip: Hello, everyone, and welcome back to the Summer of Peace. This is Philip Hellmich, the Director of Peace with The Shift Network, and I have to tell you, this is the most amazing session I think we're going to have the entire Summer of Peace. This is Catch the Peace Wave, the International Day of Peace at the United Nations and around the world.

This is a very ambitious call. We have nearly 20 people from around the world who's going to be with us for the next 90 minutes. And I want to give a special acknowledgment to the co-chairs of the International Day of Peace NGO Committee who brought this call together particularly Deborah Moldow with the World Peace Prayer Society.

This call is a reflection of the ambitious work that they and many people have been doing to bring the International Day of Peace to the level where it is now after 30 years, where it is truly in fact a global celebration of peace around the world.

So on this call, you're going to hear from many different people who are doing just incredible initiatives in many parts of the world and working together where together the pieces, the individual pieces form a much bigger puzzle of peace and it's just outstanding. So if you wanted any source of inspiration, this call is going to provide it.

And it is my distinct honor to introduce our first speaker here is Ambassador Chowdhury, as the Honorary Chair of the International Day of Peace NGO Committee of the United Nations. He is also a member of the Wisdom Council for the Summer of Peace. Ambassador Chowdhury is going to provide some introductory comments for us here.

So Ambassador Chowdhury, welcome. Welcome to this incredible Catch the Peace Wave call.

Anwarul: Thank you, Philip. Thank you. And greetings to all of you. This is a very energizing telesummit which is taking place today. And I must thank the committee co-chairs, the committee for the International Day of Peace NGO Committee; and Deborah, Monica, Michael, my very deep association to all of you in pulling this wonderful event together.

I am very happy to join you as your Honorary Chair. I have been associated with this committee for the last five years, and I think it had been a wonderful experience and I'm looking forward to this year's celebration. I think this year, at the United Nations, after a number of years, we are celebrating the day on the day the International Day has been announced by the General Assembly. That is 21st of September.

This day is emerging as the day of oneness, day of unity, day of solidarity, and day of commonality of humanity. I think this is a wonderful occasion when we get energized. And this year, even in the seat of the United Nations in the City of New York, I would be personally speaking at as many as five events which we'll be celebrating this day. So this is wonderful.

And worldwide, I am receiving many advice and information from the grassroots level, nongovernmental organizations, high-level think tanks who are observing this. Some are observing through online participation. Some are observing through their own events in their own countries. This is wonderful.

And the objective, our objective should be to at one point of time, maybe soon, to have all countries, all 193 countries and observer states come together to observe. It does not have to be always happening in the United Nations, in New York. It can happen and it should happen all over the world.

So that is one very deep desire that I have. And also, I would suggest that we should approach all the educational institutions to observe the International Day of Peace in their schools, colleges and universities so that their students are aware of it and can inculcate the spirit of the International Day of Peace in their own lives, in their work, in their interaction with the rest of the humanity.

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So this is my message. And let's remember that this day has been dedicated as a day of ceasefire and nonviolence. These two words have a very special meaning. Ceasefire means physical conflicts should be stopped. Nonviolence means internally each one of us should be uplifted by the spirit of peace and nonviolence.

So I again express my deep appreciation and thanks to you for inviting me to make these opening remarks. Thank you very much.

Philip: Wonderful, Ambassador Chowdhury. Thank you so much. And also, just to acknowledge you for your many years of dedication to creating a culture of peace at the United Nations. You've been a real champion for that, so thank you.

Anwarul: Thank you. Thank you very much. All the best to all of you.

Philip: All right. And now, this is quite again another honor to introduce you to -- we have three people now and possibly one more to join us, people who are the co-chairs at International Day of Peace, the NGO Committee at the UN. These folks are just masters at creating synergies and collaborations with many groups around the world and holding the big picture.

Joining us here, we have Deborah Moldow from the World Peace Prayer Society, Michael Johnson from Pathways to Peace, Monica Willard from United Religions Initiative, and we're expecting Shawn Sweeney from Jane Goodall Institute with us soon. So welcome all of you and let me pass this over to Deborah to facilitate this section here.

Deborah: Thank you so much, Philip. Thank you for making this call possible so that we could really invite the world to share with us the inspiring projects and activities that are being planned for the International Day of Peace. It's going to be really a glorious capstone to the Summer of Peace 2012 that you and The Shift Network have created online.

Our warm thanks to Ambassador Chowdhury. He's truly been a hero of ours at the United Nations for his work on the culture of peace. And of course, that's why he's the Honorary Chair of our International Day of Peace NGO Committee at the United Nations.

I want to say just very briefly before I introduce more about the committee what the word or the term NGO means because I know that when I was new to the United Nations, I had no clue what that meant and people were saying it all the time. And when I finally learned that it meant nongovernmental organization and at the United Nations, that terminology is very specific because the United Nations belongs to the governments. So any organization that's nongovernmental has a different kind of a status. At the United Nations, we are affiliated and any civil society organization can apply to be affiliated with the Department of Public Information at the United Nations.

So just so you know, where we come from with our various organizations that are all dedicated to building a culture of peace together, and especially with the emphasis that we have put in this committee on the International Day of Peace as a platform that's available to the entire world to take one day together and

uplift all of the activities that we do throughout the year for peace, as well as taking a Minute of Silence and holding peace in our hearts together all over the world.

So this committee is made up of people of various organizations affiliated with the UN and the International Day of Peace itself was established by the United Nations in 1981 and first observed in 1982, so this is the 30th anniversary of the observance this year. And then in 2001, the date of the International Day of Peace was stabilized on September 21st by the United Nations. So now we all know exactly when to celebrate it together.

And as Ambassador Chowdhury mentioned, this would be a very rare moment when we can actually anchor these celebrations at the UN with the observances of the International Day of Peace on the International Day of Peace. Often this is a day when the heads of state are coming to the UN for the start of the general assembly, general debate. Frequently we can't hold it on the exact day; but this day, very special this year.

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So this committee, as I said, made up of many NGOs, and those of us who are the co-chairs, represents organizations that have really given a focus to the International Day of Peace over the years.

Pathways to Peace was among the civil society groups that were instrumental in the original resolution way back in 1981. We'll hear more about that later.

The World Peace Prayer Society came on in 1997 when the Department of Public information at the UN decided to have an observance for students, and we stepped in and said, "Could we bring the flag of all nations for the students to hold?" And that began a partnership that has continued with Pathways to Peace and now also with the United Religions Initiative and the Jane Goodall Institute. Jane Goodall is a messenger of peace appointed by the Secretary-General. This is her 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and she is always there along with some of her celebrity fellow messengers of peace as the student observance.

And then on the call today, we will have people representing some of the subcommittees that we've established this year. That's a first. We have peace teams, and especially the Cities Peace Team has been very active and the Music Peace Team, and these are just all ways for us to, as Philip said, synergize some of the amazing things that are happening all over the world for the International Day of Peace.

As I mentioned, we have some anchors for this work. One is the United Nations Observance and the Secretary-General ringing the peace bell first thing in the morning on the International Day of Peace.

But another thing that we have been promoting throughout the year, regardless of the theme, this year's theme is "Sustainable peace, Sustainable future", but every year, we observe a Minute of Silence at 12 noon. And this concept began with Pathways to Peace and I would like to introduce Michael Johnson who is the UN representative to Pathways to Peace and one of our co-chairs to say a little bit more about the Minute of Silence.

Michael: Well, thank you, Deborah, and well said. I really appreciate your introduction and I actually learned some things too but from hearing you, so thank you.

So hello, my colleagues and fellow peacebuilders. My name is Michael Johnson. I live in a little country town called Monterey in Western Massachusetts, and I'm here to talk about the Minute of Silence, moment of peace that we are planning to observe at 12:00 noon in all time zones around the planet.

The practice of silence is a very ancient practice. Mystics, musicians, prophets, healers, artists, and yes, business people have all acknowledged and experienced that dropping into a state of silence, amazing infinite possibilities for action, positive action, can happen.

So that's one of the reasons why this observance of the practice of silence is important because we believe individually when people practice silence, they can then tune in to the peace that already exists inside their own being, in their heart.

So that particular practice of silence is actually a practical action that they can take. And it seems simple. As you know, silence is basically sitting still, quiet in your mind and just being fully present in the moment.

Now, when people collectively practice silence together, enter into the silence, I believe that there can be an energetic shift in human consciousness, and I believe that there are organizations that have demonstrated that scientifically.

So the Minute of Silence - Moment of Peace is about this act that everyone can participate in. Sometimes I think about taxicab drivers, restaurant workers, people walking the street, if they're aware of that observance at noon, they can participate in the peace day. And that's the vision that as we proceed toward each year on peace days that the whole planet, the whole world will come into silence at noon on the International Day of Peace.

We call it the Peace Wave. So we've organized an event, an online event through our partners at the Peace Day TV and Mayors for Peace and other organizations that will do collective Minute of Silence - Moment of Peace observances and we're going to... it's going to be covered in video content.

**[0:15:05]**

So you will be able to tune in and to view that on that day. So we've also -- we were all really happy about this. We requested that the Secretary-General put out a video message about the Minute of Silence and we were told that it's happening and we are really happy about that, because as you know, the Secretary-General has a lot of influence.

So mark your calendars, folks, 12:00 noon, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Peace Wave begins I believe it's in the New Zealand area and it's going to flow around the world. So what I would ask, why don't I just lead just a brief moment of silence here so we can all experience it on this call together. I'll just speak briefly.

So I want to ask for everybody, wherever you are, just kind of sit up in your chair with your spine straight. Take a few, long, deep, slow breath in and out very slowly. If you're looking at the computer screen, just turn away for a moment or close your eyes if you can. One more deep breath, and then together collectively, we'll go in, we'll move in to this period of silence.

Shanti, shanti, shanti. May peace be in your heart.

So folks, that's it. I just want to add that as I've said, when we collectively go into the silence together, amazing possibilities can come forth in terms of cooperation and then collective action and projects and ideas to really build the culture of peace in this moment.

So thank you all and looking forward to hearing the rest of everybody's conversation.

Deborah: Thank you so much, Michael, and thank you for that beautiful pause to give us peace in our hearts, and we'd like to recommend that everyone close their Minute of Silence with "May peace prevail on earth." So keep that in mind for the International Day of Peace.

Many people who will be doing that and some of whom will be doing it at their peace polls are members of the United Religions Initiatives in all parts of the world that have been holding this day as one way that people of different faiths

can come together and share this day which is both deeply spiritual and also an opportunity to share everybody's contributions to a culture of peace. The representative to the United Nations for the United Religions Initiative is my dear friend, Monica Willard.

Monica: Hello and thank you, Deborah, for organizing this so brilliantly with the Summer for Peace network. It is just an amazing gathering here on the phone, and to have touched everyone through that moment of silence Michael, thank you.

I have the pleasure being able to tell you what's happening at the United Nations that day. And as has been spoken, the Secretary-General will open the day by ringing the Peace Bell. He will be joined by the new President of the General Assembly and he will be joined by the Messengers of Peace. We know we will have Jane Goodall; we have Monique Coleman and Forest Whitaker and also Elie Wiesel.

Then students will also be at this Peace Bell ringing, holding the flags of all the member states of the U.N. sending out our prayers for peace from this Peace Bell to each country in the world. Most of these students will progress on to the student observance which we do each year. Mrs. Ban will be with us throughout the morning. The Messengers of Peace will talk to the students.

And this year, a new part of the program has been added by having students coming with their posters and actions for peace to really get people motivated in thinking about what is it that they are doing that makes the difference and to share and network with other students who will be in the room.

And we have a bus from Montreal. We have a bus from Vermont. We have students from Virginia. We have students from Pennsylvania as well as the high schools and colleges in the tristate New York area joining us. So there'll be about 500 people. This program is organized brilliantly by the Department of Public Information.

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The theme this year as has been mentioned is Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future, and with the emphasis this year that the UN has had on Rio+20 and the environment and the importance of it and the obvious fact that we cannot possibly have a safe environment if we're bombing. We must, must embrace the oneness of how we live and that we can make a difference. By living sustainably and by living peacefully, we bridge that sustainability gap and help make a difference.

So it is a very exciting theme. And as that is happening at the United Nations for the students, NGOs and friends and community are invited across the street to the UN Chapel to an all day vigil that's going from 8:00 to 3:00, and it's broken out in the half-hour segments with speakers, prayers, musicians, artists with a highlight again of ringing the Peace Bell and having the Moment of Silence at 12:00 noon.

This will run until 3:00. We believe that there is a program on the Culture of Peace by UNESCO at the UN that afternoon. And the UN has embraced the International Day of Peace through the agencies, and I believe that it has made a difference with people around the world really celebrating the International Day of Peace and seeing how this General Assembly resolution has impact lives, has made a difference.

And I just want to share for a minute that project that's going on at UN Headquarters in Nairobi. They are going to be gathering at the Memorial Garden there. They have a peace poll that is also a part of that garden. But what they are using the International Day of Peace for is not only to bring the UN staffs from Nairobi together, but the mayor of Nairobi is using that time frame before to talk about nonviolence, to talk about ceasefires, and hopefully to do something about the small handguns that are available because they are already thinking about the elections in December that caused so many problems the last time in the violence that erupted in the elections.

So they are using the International Day of Peace in Nairobi to help begin to talk about and to train and to look toward a nonviolent election period. This is not just one day. It is a day that can be used as an anchor for projects that go on throughout the year and it can also be used as a review for what you've done. So I am so grateful for all of you. I know we're going to be linked together. As we are also busy that day, to know that we will be praying together and linked in that moment of silence is a gift to all of us. Thank you all for all you're doing.

Deborah: Thank you so much, Monica. As Monica said, we could not do this work at the United Nations without the cooperation and support of the UN Department of Public Information.

And the student observance is organized by a particular Department of Education Outreach, and the chief of that Education Outreach Department of the Department of Public Information has just come on board this year, and she has been just a wonderful beacon of light and has accomplished so much in all the materials that you can get online at the UN website. There is a poster and a postcard for this theme of Sustainable Peace for Sustainable future. And we're going to have some beautiful things happening at the student observance



lecture due to Ms. Natalie Leroy. So we would love to give voice to the United Nations here if Natalie is on the line.

Natalie: Yes, I am. Thank you so much, Deborah, and thank you for such kind words. I'm really very, very peace to be with all of you here today to discuss 2012 observance of the International Day of Peace at the headquarters. I'm being extremely grateful to the International Day of Peace NGO Committee at the United Nations; and to you, Deborah, Monica, Michael and Shawn, it's been a real pleasure to be working with you since I think we started meeting March or something.

You mentioned the poster and postcards. I would like to say also that's thanks to the United Religions Initiative and Monica. We will also have a banner that will reproduce the visual identity that we have selected for the year to illustrate the theme.

**[0:25:20]**

So I think Monica mentioned the theme. You have mentioned the theme Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future and for, of course, a sustainable future can only be achieved through sustainable peace.

The theme aims to highlight the environmental cruelties of many conflicts, with over half of the peacekeeping budget being spent to respond to conflicts that are financed by or fueled by valuable natural resources such as diamonds, gold, oil, timber or water. It is really critical to address the issues of ownership control over and management of these resources. This is really essential to maintain security or restore the economy in post-conflict countries.

Good natural resource management can play an essential role in building sustainable peace in post-conflict societies. And this is what we've been trying to highlight this year. We've been trying to highlight this in the message that the Secretary-General issued for the 100-day countdown. He issued a message and urged everyone between 13 June and 21 September to think about how they could contribute to the peace.

It's already been mentioned, I believe by Monica and Michael, I think, we're also going to have a video message and a message for the day. The video message, I believe, is going to be made available on the website very shortly, I think today or tomorrow. And the Secretary-General does call people around the world to observe a Minute of Silence at 12:00 noon on 21 September.

I would like to go back shortly to some of the events that are happening at the headquarters. The Peace Bell Ceremony, as you mentioned, it will be in the presence of the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, Messengers of Peace Jean Goodall and Elie Wiesel, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Forest Whitaker, and the UN Foundation Girl Up Champion, Monique Coleman. And as you mentioned also, they will be joined by 194 students who will be holding the flags of the United Nations and each one of the member states.

The student conference will be attended by over 500 students, and Monica has told us about that. And we will be linked to two peacekeeping missions -- UNMIL in Monrovia, Liberia and UNMISS in Juba, South Sudan. We felt it's extremely appropriate this year to have Liberian Students join us on the conference as two of the co-recipients of the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize are Liberian women, President Sirleaf Johnson and peace activist, Leymah Gbowee. And we also felt it extremely appropriate to have representatives from South Sudan join us since it's the latest member states to have joined the organization.

In addition to the presence of the Messengers of Peace, we will have video messages. Her Royal Highness, Princess Haya bint Al Hussein of Jordan and also Jeremy Gilley of the Peace One Day initiative will be sending video messages.

There will be at the end of observance the Minute of Silence ceremony will be presided over by Madam Ban, Mrs. Ban. And we will be linked to the ceremony at Montreal City Hall where we will have the short video showing the Peace Wave and showing the various observance of the Minute of Silence around the world.

I also wanted to mention some of the events that are happening around the world. MINISTA in Haiti, the peacekeeping mission there is organizing several events in popular neighborhoods with Viva Rio which is a Brazilian NGO that execute projects in four key areas such as health, education, the environment and community safety.

UNAMI, also, there is going to be a big, big concert in Iraq, in Baghdad with the renowned Iraqi musician, Naseer Shamma, and this is organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Iraq.

UNMIL, we've mentioned it is going to be working with us, but it will be joined to the observance. But in vision, they're starting on 3 September an outreach program which is called 21 Days of Activism on Volunteerism for Peace and Development which targeted four counties outside of the capital. The events will of course culminate with the student observance as well as a forum.

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We have heard also from some of the UNICs, some of the UN information centers such as for example Port of Spain is supporting one of the government ministries in Trinidad and Tobago with information material they are going to issue, especially newspaper supplement on the International Day of Peace.

You also mentioned the UNESCO event. Actually, I've just received this morning the provisional program and we know that it will be opened by the Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs. Bokova. The Secretary-General will be present, as well as the President of the General Assembly. We know that Michelle Bachelet, the UN Women Executive Director, Elie Wiesel, Forest Whitaker, and I believe Wole Soyinka will also be present.

Finally, and I think this goes -- I want to go back to the UNON, the commemoration in Nairobi because Monica gave enough details about that. We are receiving gradually more and more information.

One more thing I wanted to say is that we are also working with our partners, and as part of the commemoration, we are going to be playing a video which will be sent to us by Kyung Hee University; and as you may know, it was the President of Kyung Hee University who addressed the International Association of University Presidents in 1981 and introduced the idea of the International Day of Peace and then it was literally presented to the General Assembly.

Kyung Hee University is organizing a whole day of conference, cultural events, and it will be attended by Immanuel Wallerstein as a keynote speaker. So they will have a concert and so they are going to send us a clip of the concert, which will be shown at the beginning of the commemoration.

So this is just a quick overview of what is happening around the world with the UN and we will be posting on the website additional information. Thank you very much.

Deborah: Thank you, Natalie, for that trip around the world. It's just so inspiring to know these outposts of the United Nations, so she was describing UN information centers and various UN peacekeeping missions all over the world that are going to be celebrating the International Day of Peace, observing it in so many different ways with different kinds of events, and that's what we've been promoting around the world, some with music, some with community service projects, hopefully building up to the idea of a true ceasefire in every part of the world.

Thank you, Natalie, for managing to hold all of this information, which is just extraordinary. I know it's only a piece of your job and we're so grateful to you for everything that you've done to empower this day.

Now, we're going to talk a little bit with some special pioneers of the International --

Philip: Deborah, just to let you know, it looks like Jeremy Gilley is on the call. It looks like he or one of his colleagues may be on the call for these sections also.

Deborah: Yes, thank you. That's great. We're very excited to hear from Peace One Day, but we have one guest before that who was involved in the earlier history. So Natalie told us that the idea came from a university in Korea prior to the original UN Resolution in 1981. And one of the things that was very special about the resolution for the International Day of Peace is that it was supported from the very beginning by civil society.

So the UN Charter starts with the peoples. That's us, all of us on this call, and everyone around the world. So instrumental in promoting this initiative among civil society from the very beginning was Pathways to Peace. We are hoping to have Avon Mattison, its co-founder, on this call but she's flying today to New York to be at an event on the Culture of Peace on Friday that Ambassador Chowdhury is organizing, but we are fortunate to have David Wick of the Culture of Peace Initiative to give us a little taste of that early history.

**[0:35:05]**

David: Good morning and I'm delighted to join everyone here. It is a wonderful reflection of how the International Day of Peace has grown around the world that we're all here. This is fantastic.

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by UN Resolution 3667 to have the United Nations General Assembly to coincide with opening sessions which were held at that time annually on the third Tuesday of September.

The Assembly's resolution was initiated by Ambassador Emilia Castro de Barish from Costa Rica, a leader in this, and Avon Mattison of Pathways to Peace was very much engaged in the 1981, actually before, working behind the scenes with the Assistant Secretary-General Robert Muller and Ambassador John McDonald to bring this forward to encourage the nation states to adopt this resolution, which they ultimately did.

And in parts of the resolution, it says to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its member states as well as the whole of mankind to promote the ideals of peace and giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all visible ways.

The first International Day of Peace observance was September 21st in 1982. And this was on the opening session of the General Assembly. And at the start of the session, the delegates stood for a Minute of Silence in observance of the day.

And moving forward, it was clear to Robert Muller, against his Secretary-General, and working with Pathways to Peace, and he knows how important it was to move this out to the world for civil society on all levels to be engaged, and that is what they did, moving into 1983 which is engaging organizations, diverse organizations around the world, beginning the communication and engagement.

And this was in 1983 actually was when the idea of the Peace Wave was initiated; that the peace idea acknowledgement would be held in all time zones coming around the world. And the focus was to engage the larger society to benefit their local community and this was to be intergenerational and intercultural.

And the larger engagement of all, which took place in 1983, in 1984, and this was September 18th of the International Day of Peace, Pathways to Peace was instrumental in having a major event. This is the first large city event in the world was in San Francisco, the birthplace of the United Nations.

I joined Pathways to Peace in 1983, so I've been involved with all of these from the beginning. And in 1984, we had a significant event in San Francisco where at noon time, in the Minute of Silence, we had a major -- managers stopped their cash registers for a Minute of Silence. Major television stations stopped their programming and ran the screen about the International Day of Peace for the whole Minute of Silence. There are many observances around the city. It was a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors. Dianne Feinstein was then the mayor of San Francisco. So it was a significant engagement which then at that point we had 70 countries involved with this kind of observance around the world.

And on it went for years beyond that. An important piece was the Culture of Peace Initiative, which was begun as the Wheel of Peoples Initiative, representing the charter of the United Nations. It began in 1983, but that has evolved into the Culture of Peace Initiative which many of us are engaged in, and that is a year-round ongoing focus of peace and peacebuilding. Part of it is that -- and part of what Pathways did in '84 was to help initiate the Peace Wheel and

looking at all sectors of society that are engaged with peace as such as peacebuilding through education, peacebuilding through business, et cetera.

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So that's why the Culture of Peace Initiative is so important and so important today in what we're doing to help understand what does the culture of peace really mean? How do we live this daily? How do we become more conscious of this in our daily lives? So that's where the Culture of Peace Initiative is important.

For example, the forum that's going to be taking place on the 14th, so we could really begin to broaden our understanding and our practices of peace and peacebuilding so we really engage in a culture of peace. So the International Day of Peace has evolved tremendously where today, which is so fantastic because of the technology that we have. I mean here we are being communication around the world. I do it daily with the Culture Peace Initiative team with Skype and with all the technology that we have. So it's amazing how we can move now. I mean here we are with Philip of the Summer of Peace Initiative through the technology that we have.

So it's really amazing how we are moving forward and it's very exciting. I think this is seminal year in the International Day of Peace and Culture of Peace Initiative, with all of this happening, and we're very excited to be coming together and looking at how can we coordinate even closer to bring larger awareness around the world. So I am delighted to be a part of this.

Deborah: Thank you so much, David. Thank you for the history and thank you for the Culture of Peace Initiative which also stewards the website [internationaldayofpeace.org](http://internationaldayofpeace.org) where anybody can go and post your project for the International Day of Peace. So please, everybody, take a look at that.

And so the next dramatic thing that happens for the International Day of Peace was the new resolution that was passed into 2001. And the pioneer of that resolution was Jeremy Gilley of Peace One Day in the United Kingdom.

We understand that Jeremy's child had a medical emergency this morning, so we hope that somebody in Peace One Day is on to tell us a little bit about what's going on.

Fernanda: Hi, Deborah. This is Fernanda. I'm speaking in behalf of Peace One Day. Thank you so much for this time and I'll be brief. I know that you're expecting Jeremy and it's unfortunate like you said. He had a personal commitment to attend to.

But he did want me just to give a quick update really on what we're doing this year.

So I think the big thing for us to talk about in relation to what we have put together for the day is our Peace One Day celebration which will happen at Wembley Arena in London. And the good news is that the whole world will be able to join us. We invite everyone in this call today, obviously, as we're inviting all the supporters of Peace Day around the world to join us via YouTube live. So there will be information shortly on our website about it. But, basically, if you go to Peace One Day YouTube channel at around 7 p.m. U.K. time on the day, you'll be able to watch this concert live.

We're delighted that we have Elton John headline in this concert for us which is amazing because that's only it's the biggest concert we've ever done. And it will certainly help reach a new audience and a large audience around the world to really promote the day and promote all the efforts for the day from around the world.

Aldo joining Elton John is James Morrison and 2Cellos. That's the musicians that will be playing. And then Jude Law who is our Peace One Day ambassador and also model Lily Cole will support Jeremy in introducing guests and contributions during the event.

So, like I said, we invite everyone to join. And then just another quick update, in relation to this year, we have been building networks with different activist society coalitions to again gather further support for the day and really make sure that there's support in every sector of society, in every country of the world, like everyone here is doing.

So hopefully, we are making our contribution to really raising awareness of the day. And one of the objectives of our organization is to institutionalize the day so hopefully we're playing our part in doing that. And so again, we invite everyone here. I know that some of you are already -- we're already in touch with so many of you, but we invite everyone to kind of join this coalition so we can keep that communication between ourselves always, knowing what each other are doing, and so also we give an opportunity to highlight all your work on our website which is really what we want to be using our website for more and more as to highlight what everyone is doing around the world.

**[0:45:18]**

So if you visit the Global Truce section on our website, which is the name of the campaign for this year, which is again just really raising awareness of the fact

that Peace Day is a day of nonviolence and ceasefire, so really calling for that ceasefire and a day of nonviolence, then we're more than happy, please do send us you know any information about your events. We're more than happy to put that on our website and promote it on our social media channels to make sure that the support base that we have around also hear about what everyone else is doing.

I think that's all I have to say really and thank you so much again for always including us and for all your efforts.

Deborah: Oh, Fernanda, that's just awesome. And please, everybody, know it's [peaceoneday.org](http://peaceoneday.org). Go to their website and see the amazing things that they're doing, and perhaps your organization might like to be a supporter of the Global Truce and that opportunity is available online.

And our prayers are with Jeremy for his daughter. We hope that that's going to resolve itself perfectly and quickly.

We wanted to also share with you today two other people we're calling pioneers of this movement, two people who have been really instrumental in using the internet to spread the word and to increase participation in the International Day of Peace. The first is Rick Ulfik. He's the founder of We, the World and he has created something called 11 Days of Global Unity that I would love to have Rick share with us today.

Rick: Hi, Deborah. Thank you. It's an honor to be on with everyone. And many thanks to you Deborah and Philip Hellmich and everyone who contributed to making this exciting and inspiring teleconference today. It's really incredible. And of course, for all the ongoing work that you are doing.

My name is Rick Ulfik. I'm the founder of We, the World and the We Campaign at [we.net](http://we.net).

And as you said, Deborah, We, the World launched 11 Days of Global Unity in 2004 with the support of Desmond Tutu, Jane Goodall, Deepak Chopra, Barbara Marx Hubbard, Robert Thurman and many of the people on this teleconference including yourself, Deborah. I'll just give a little bit of background about it.

The reason that we created it is because back in 2001, the International Day of Peace was still officially on the opening day of the UN General Assembly because the resolution hadn't taken effect yet. So actually, on Tuesday, September 11th, when the tragedy took place, that was the International Day of Peace in 2001. Moving the International Day of Peace to September 21st led us to create 11



Days of Global Unity, the time from September 11th through the 21st to really symbolize the transformation of a culture of fear to a culture of peace.

So now, participants take action with as many as 700 associated events in over 60 countries and it's been growing every year since 2004. Eleven Days has in effect become the final countdown to the International Day of Peace.

Last year, in collaboration with the World Peace Prayer Society, United Religions Initiative, Pathways to Peace and many others, we actually developed 11 themes of change to go with the 11 days. And the themes are unity, interdependence, environment, economic justice, health, children and youth, women, human rights, freedom, disarmament and peace with the International Day of Peace.

As hundreds of organizations are now taking action within one or more of these themes, they're beginning to become year-round campaigns actually, each one almost like their own entities which together form an inspiring blueprint for a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

**[0:50:03]**

You can sign up your group to take part in 11 Days of Global Unity by going to [we.net/11days](http://we.net/11days). It's pretty simple to do that.

Deborah: Thank you so much, Rick.

Rick: Yes, so thank you all for everything that you're doing and let's keep going forward.

Deborah: Excellent! This is Rick telling us the kind of networking that builds from the International Day of Peace that includes your projects for the day and beyond, beyond, beyond. The internet, of course, is what makes all of these networks possible. We have something really unique on the internet now which is [peaceday.tv](http://peaceday.tv) and Stephen Fantl is going to tell us the amazing work that's going to happen on the International Day of Peace online for everyone to participate in.

Stephen: Thank you, Deborah, and everybody. So this is definitely quite a year. There will be about 40 locations that are participating live in this year's broadcast to document and share the various activities of the peacebuilders around the world. The purpose here really is to connect and share the energy so that people can feel like they're there, that they're connecting with all these various cultures.

This year, I'm so grateful that Peace Day falls on a Friday versus a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday as it has in the last few years. What we'll be doing this year is starting to broadcast the official broadcast actually in GMT or universal time just a few minutes before Peace Day starts, which is actually 12:00 noon in New Zealand. So we'll start there with the Maori elders and they will introduce the first Moment of Silence for noon in that time zone, GMT +12.

And then we'll go from time zone to time zone around the world with various cultures introducing the Moment of Silence for that moment. So we'll be going from New Zealand to China to Hiroshima, Japan with the World Peace Prayer Society activity there, then to China where Deborah Moldow and David Wick will be, who are on the call earlier.

We move on to Bangladesh and Nepal, India, Israel, Ghana, Spain, all the way around the world to the United Nations will be picking up the feeds from the United Nations for the Peace Bell Ceremony earlier in the day, and then Mrs. Ban with the ceremony at noon and the kids' coverage. We're grateful to you and DPI and others who are allowing us even to pick up their feeds for people who aren't plugged right in to our studio.

So we'll be documenting and sharing all of these activities around the world, and as we do each year, we'll be interspersing them with videos that give people an update on where we are in reaching the millennium development goals. That's pretty much been the theme of the broadcast regarding Peace Day each year is to try and give people a state-of-the-world address on where we are in reaching the millennium development goals. We're just grateful to everyone.

Deborah: Can you tell people how they can contact you if they want to provide a video or a live feed from their own event?

Stephen: Sure. We're pretty full to be quite honest, particularly for Peace Day itself, and then we'll continue the broadcast Saturday and Sunday. But they can contact us at [peaceday@comcast.net](mailto:peaceday@comcast.net). That's at least my direct email, and Comcast.net is C-O-M-C-A-S-T dot N-E-T and it's peaceday before that.

And yeah, we'll also be broadcasting before Peace Day the 11 Days of Global Unity, some of those events taking place. The thing on the 14th, we'll pick that up from the UN webcast. And for the peacebuilders on the call, anytime during the year that you have something that you would like to be shared with the world, that's what this channel exists for, is to serve in building a culture of peace.

Deborah: Thank you, Stephen. It's a wonderful thing.

I want to encourage anybody who's listening to this call on the internet to be part of our chat room there too. You can make your voice heard that way as we hear all these voices around the world.

Stephen: One last thing here, the other people on the call from your great subcommittees, I should have mentioned all the concerts but I'll let them do that, but things actually will be covered in the broadcast because your mayors and peacebuilders and at least everyone, they're providing the content.

Deborah: Thank you. Michael Johnson, did you want to say a few words about the peace teams this year?

**[0:55:03]**

Michael: Sure, yeah. Thank you. And I was just reflecting on back in the day when fax machines and mimeograph machines were the way to spread the word, and we've taken a huge leap with technology. So thank you, Stephen, for your work in that way.

So the peace teams, how the peace teams came about was individuals who have a very passionate sense of peace in their hearts and wanting to contribute to the Peace Day and International Day of Peace and building a global network of peace came together and decided we needed to have a little more organizational structure. That came about in a good way.

I think it was in February when we had our first meeting. Ambassador Chowdhury chaired that meeting and from that several peace teams came together to help organize this year's International Day of Peace, Jean Trudel from Circle of Peace, Lisa Parker from Peace Day Philadelphia and Aliza Hava from Jerusalem. So that's the peace teams, and I want to thank you guys for your devoted efforts in making this year's International Day of Peace the biggest observation ever. Thank you.

Deborah: So we're coming up on an hour on this call. We want to have time for everybody. So we just have to ask everybody to be really brief, but we want to hear from you. So Jean Trudel of Circle of Peace, Cercle de Paix Canada, what's happening there?

Jean: Thank you, Deborah, and thank you, everybody. Most of the information that was shared I won't repeat, but I'm thrilled to be working on of these -- two actually of these peace teams. One is I'm working as a -- very honored and proud to work as a co-chair with Michael Johnson on the Minute of Silence - Moment

of Peace subcommittee and also just as proud and honored to work with Lisa Parker on the Cities Peace Team subcommittee and I'll let her speak about that one. I'll stick to the Minute of Silence - Moment of Peace Ceremony Peace Team if you don't mind. Also, we're thrilled on the Cities Peace Team to have Fred Arment join us from the International Cities of Peace.

And it is due to this type of networking and working along with other NGOs that we were able to build this opportunity with our partners at the Peace Day TV. And thank you again, Stephen, for the amazing platform that you created this year to enable all of us to promote Peace Day in a culture of peace in such a huge way. You and your team have been just instrumental and truly amazing in all the work you've done just these past years. It's phenomenal. Thank you.

I also would like to reiterate what Stephen said and thank Natalie Leroy in her announcement this morning that we will be going live onto the program of the student observance ceremony just prior to the noon Peace Bell ringing. So again, thank you so much, Natalie and Bill Yoder. Please give my best regards to Bill. And thank you for being so open and enabling us to do this.

So as Stephen also mentioned, let me just share with you the organization NGOs. Besides Fred Arment's International Cities of Peace, we are working very, very closely with Mayors for Peace this year. And thanks to them, on June 13th, Mayor Tremblay who is set as one of the 18 mayors on the Executive Committee of Mayors for Peace was able to send out a letter to all 5312 of these colleagues around the world and that information was sent out from the Mayors for Peace secretary in Hiroshima.

And we've received many responses from various areas of the world. Just to name a few, we got China on board. We've got India on board. We've got Kabul, Afghanistan, South Africa. And we've reached out a few weeks ago to our colleagues in Europe, and I'm very happy that Fernanda's on there. We've been reaching out to the Global Truce NGO Coalition, and we hope to have your cities represented in Cairo, of course, Geneva, Amsterdam and London. Hopefully Jeremy will be able to come on board on that webcast at 12:00 noon and we'd give Jeremy an opportunity of course to promote his POD concert that same night.

**[1:00:00]**

So still waiting for a few confirmations but working very closely with Stephen Fantl and the Peace Day TV team to put together an amazing event. Once it reaches the East Coast, we will be live, of course, on Peace Day TV for a one-hour

program starting at 11:30 here in Montreal and New York time zone all the way to 12:30.

And following that one-hour program, we will pass on the talking sticks so to speak to the next time zone that will include, of course, Winnipeg and Chicago and hopefully other cities in that time zone that we're working with Fred on. In the following time zone, we've got Calgary lined up up here in Canada and other cities that Fred and Rotary Club International and MedMob International and all our other partners are working on.

And finally, of course, on the West Coast, Peace Day TV and Steve and his team will be taken over with our friends in Oregon, of course. Ashland is involved with Dave Wick and Eugene and in Los Angeles and San Francisco. So again, thanks to our partners; Mayors for Peace, Rotary International, MedMob and hopefully the Global Truce NGO Coalition in Europe.

We'd love to bring you on board for this Minute of Silence-Moments of Peace ceremony. And we still have a few days to set that up. So please get back to us on that. We'd love to have you on board.

Thank you, Deborah.

Deborah: Thank you so much, Jean, and thanks to your Mayor Gerald Tremblay for what he's doing in Montreal, and reaching out to the other mayors is very important.

We want to hear from Lisa Parker. She coaches the Cities Peace Team and she has something incredible going on in Philly. So Lisa, please tell us what's going on in Philly.

Lisa: Thank you so much. I'm really appreciative for the opportunity. I'm honored to co-chair with Jean Trudel the Cities Peace team. We currently have 14 members focused around the world. And the purpose of the Peace Team is to share idea and resources for the mutual enhancement of our Peace Day activities.

And just briefly, we've been discussing for the future parallel Peace Day activities that we can share with each other as well as more coordinated messaging, and I hope that this fall week going to explore these items with guidance from Peace Day pioneers and Peace Day leaders at the UN.

As you mentioned, Deborah, I coordinate Peace Day Philly which is a volunteer initiative to promote local participation in Peace Day here in Philadelphia. This is our second year. And I was inspired to learn more about the International Day of Peace and create this initiative after watching Jeremy Gilley's film.

This year we'll have the participation through a wide range of peace and non Violence activities from police districts across the city, dozens of free libraries, many public and private schools and now over 50 diverse organizations.

In addition to the activities that the police districts, the libraries and the schools are offering, there will be over 25 public events which you can see on our website, [peacedayphilly.org](http://peacedayphilly.org). We will be holding a public event on the 21st and we expect the Mayor and several other public figures to attend and that will include the Minute of Silence-Moment of Peace.

This year in Philadelphia, we focused our initiative on outreach to organizations stressing that although this is a global day and we encourage people to learn about what's going on in the world, it's a day of opportunity for our city and local communities, and that participation can take whatever form is meaningful to an organization or a group. We also stressed Peace Day is a platform for sharing ongoing peace work. Our website has been invaluable to share information about Peace Day as well as specific ideas, and we will be continuing to evolve that website.

In closing, I just wanted to say that I hope that a forum could take place perhaps on a quarterly basis where Peace Teams can share information and ideas and ask questions and receive guidance from the Peace Day leaders at the UN and Peace Day pioneers. In such a forum, I think we could discuss and request various video messaging and other resources that could really help organizers across the world be more effective and coordinated. And likewise, I'm suggesting the possibility of a global media team to work on better using social media and communication technology to support all of our work.

**[1:05:00]**

Thanks so much for this opportunity.

Deborah: Super! That will take us right into next year's International Day of Peace.

We'd like to hear now from Aliza Hava who's been heading the Music Peace Team and she's joining us from Jerusalem.

Aliza: Thank you so much, Deborah, and I want to just say hello to everyone who's on the call and also all of my colleagues in the International Day of Peace Community. It's been really an honor and a privilege to work with everyone over the past year and also several years leading us to 2012, which is really becoming a serious movement around the world. I think it's an incredibly inspiring time

and I think that this year is going to help catalyze a greater acceleration towards a culture of peace for many years to come. So it's really a blessing to be a part of this movement.

In terms of the Music Peace Team, what's exciting about what's happening is that there are concerts happening all over the world that are going to be over the weekend from September 20th through September 23rd, and we're essentially creating a united front of musical events that are going to be linked up through the website and through [peaceday.tv](http://peaceday.tv) where we will be broadcasting live events from Bangladesh, from New Orleans, from Los Angeles, from New York City.

There's just more and more people writing to us everyday saying, "We'd love to broadcast live from Serbia, broadcast live from Sedona..." so it's really been wonderful to work with Stephen and think about how are we going to schedule all of these organizations and concerts who want to be heard around the world.

So a project that has emerged from the Music Peace Team is called Peace Day Live and the concept is to go live on Peace Day. And so you can check more of the concert on [peacedaylive.org](http://peacedaylive.org). We've partnered with some really incredible organizations like Earthdance International. They have been for the past 14 years promoting the Global Festival for Peace **[1:07:23]** **[Indiscernible]** the International Day of Peace.

We've also partnered with Playing for Change Foundation, which they create beautiful, inspirational videos of artists from all over the world that come together in songs of peace, humanity and inspiration. They have their annual Playing for Change Day that weekend which right now, there are about 227 registered concerts that are going to be taking place on that Saturday, and some of which are also going to be streamed on Peace Day TV.

So really what's so beautiful about it is that music is one of the most powerful ways to spread a message and to inspire people to come together across divide. And also, it's an educational tool for intercultural understanding because so much of the dissonance that we experience as well has to do with prejudice and a lack of tolerance. If only we understood each other better and cared about each other more, we would be able to really live in a culture of peace. So I think that music is one of the most powerful tools for helping to really lower people's walls in their hearts and to help connect people through empowered sound and empowered music.

Deborah: Thank you, Aliza, for all of these efforts toward harmony. Where is the website where people can find out about your work and all the concerts you might have?

Aliza: Peacedaylive.org.

Deborah: Peacedaylive.org. Okay, thank you so much.

I'm sorry to be rushing you all but we only have 20 minutes left on this call and we have people from all over the world to hear from, so we're going to have a round-robin of Peace Day activities from all different corners and I'm going to ask Philip Hellmich of the Summer of Peace to moderate this. And everybody, I think your two minutes has shrunk to a minute and a half, so you're going to have to be really, really brief, but we want to hear from every one of you.

Philip: Sure, sure. Thank you, Deborah. I'm just amazed at everything that's happening. My heart really goes out to everyone who had spoken. Thank you for the commitment.

Shawn Sweeney is joining us. He wasn't here earlier. Shawn, do you want to just say in 30 seconds or a minute about Jane Goodall's initiative? Shawn, are you there? Okay, we don't have Shawn.

Deborah: We'd get him on. Shawn, are you there?

**[1:10:00]**

Shawn: Yup, I'm here. Can you hear me?

Deborah: Oh, great!

Philip: Yes. Go ahead, Shawn.

Shawn: Oh, great! Well, hi everybody. Thank you so much. I'm sorry I missed the segment earlier. So I've been working this year on Day of Peace with Monica and Deborah and Michael at the UN. We have a very exciting student observance coming up next week on the actual Day of Peace, lots of new things going into the student observance there including bringing back our connection with the remote sites in Liberia and South Sudan, having speeches from goodwill ambassadors and Dr. Goodall herself. We'll be addressing those students as well as 500 other students that are at the UN next week.

The theme, as you all know, is Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future this year and the specific focus that we've taken for the student observance at the UN is focusing on how natural resource extraction is connected to conflict, and having a nice emphasis on that.



We also have an event with Dr. Goodall at the 9/11 Memorial in New York City next week as well, so we'll be doing a ceremony with her there to recognize Day of Peace, that very important place for us here in the US, and talking about this connection that we're highlighting this year, Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future.

Deborah: Shawn, can you also tell about the Peace Doves and Roots & Shoots?

Shawn: Absolutely. We have our youth program, Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots, and every year following Dr. Goodall's lead as a messenger of peace, our members around the world celebrate Day of Peace by building these 20-foot wingspan giant peace doves and doing parades and flying them on locations all over the world. They've been flown on the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro as well as the top of Belvedere Castle in Central Park, and the Teton Mountains, all over the place.

Jane's vision for the dove is that on the Day of Peace, at some point in the future, we'll have a critical mass of young people that are flying these doves; and if you look at Google satellite images of the Earth on that day, there will be so much white fabric being flown high that the whole world will be covered in white.

Philip: Wonderful. Thank you, Shawn.

Shawn: Sure!

Philip: Thank you so much. Thank you, and thank you to the Jane Goodall Institute and Roots & Shoots.

I want to pass it on now to our next one. We just got about ten more people around the world here, so let's jump to David Nichol, my good friend. Tell us about BeThePeace.

David: Yeah, thanks, Philip and Deborah and everyone. It's really an honor to be in this esteemed crowd and feel the light and love that's pouring in to this day.

So BeThePeace is a really exciting, globally synchronized meditation event happening on Peace Day, and building on and synergizing with the Global Peace Wave as Michael was talking about before. It will involve live events in hundreds of cities around the world from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. local time zones, three global achievements for peace via teleconference and webcast at the beginning, middle and end of the day where people will tune in at the same time and go into a deep meditation together.

And then, a Global Care Room which is a beautiful, simple, internet technology developed by the Institute of HeartMath where folks around the world will be able to see each other as points of light on a spinning Google Earth map and there will be a guided meditation in that room to amplify the connection.

So it's incredibly exciting. We've got a huge array of peacebuilding organizations who are collaborating with us on this, including Pathways to Peace, Institute of HeartMath, The Shift Network, Evolver Network, many others. The latest, most exciting connections were the Occupy Movement who are going to put it out to their networks next week, and it's very exciting and appropriate for us because we consider this work a form of subtle activism creating the conditions at a deep level of consciousness for a shift in the world. So you can find out all the information at [bethepeace.com](http://bethepeace.com) and we'd love everyone to join us.

Thanks, Philip!

**[1:15:15]**

Philip: Wonderful, David. And thank you for your leadership there.

And now my friend, Fred Arment. Fred, please tell us about the International Cities of Peace.

Fred: Yes, thank you. Greetings, everyone! Glad to be with you. International Cities of Peace, if you don't know, is an association of cities that are self-defining their communities, valuing peace, the culture of peace and very attuned to the UNESCO's culture of peace, that sort of guideline. We have about 35 cities in the world, the cities in Nigeria, Nepal, Great Britain, the United States, Canada and many, many countries. And we hope to have 50 by the end of the year, and if anyone on the call would like to help in that effort, that would be great.

We are working for the International Day of Peace next week. We have 25 videos from the leaders around the world. I just taped one in Bihać, Bosnia or Herzegovina this morning. These are wonderful people who are doing grassroots work in their area.

So we're going to have these messages given to Stephen Fantl for broadcasting in the couple of days next week. I will be with Philip and Stephen and some of the others, and Jean and Lisa in the lobby of the UN next week and we hope to do live broadcasting from there. And it's just an amazing thing that's happened this year. We've made it up to 35 -- Santa Fe, Sedona, and 9Oakland. They're all going to declare. Next week, in Oakland, there's going to be the mayor on the

steps of the Courthouse declaring a City of Peace, possibly in Montreal and Philadelphia.

And so International Cities of Peace is a platform to work for peace activities throughout the year. The International Day of Peace is very important, but these people are working on conflict resolution and creating a culture of peace in their areas. So it's very exciting for us to be associated with all of you, and I hope to connect and meet all of you personally and work throughout the year. Thank you.

Philip: Wonderful! Again, Fred, thank you for your heart and commitment also.

We have another yet special guest. Maria Ying-Matthews is calling from Hong Kong. Maria, please, go ahead.

Maria: Hello? Can you hear me?

Philip: Yes! Hello, Maria!

Maria: Good evening to you all! This is Hong Kong time, so peace greetings to every one of you. I am very honored to be included in this group and the opportunity to share and especially to learn and hear from every one of you is amazing!

Peace International Foundation actually is actually very young still. We have only four years of experience, so the experience is small and the output is still considerably small compared to many of our counterparts here. We were very blessed, for the first year we had the UN resident coordinator in China who officiated at our first Peace Day ceremony. That includes all the ceremonies like the United Nations, observing the Minute of Silence, ringing of the Peace Bell, saying the Peace Corps Prayer, waving the United Nations flag and also we had international flags from the children.

So these activities have been going on for the last four years, and we will still continue to be practicing the same way of holding the family. So in order to be able to expand further, we have established the Peace Club in 2010 and the Club members have been able to help us to put big projects together, and this is how we are able to have our first biggest project ever is in this year.

This year 2012 is our fifth year in co-hosting the Peace Day with United Nations in China, and the Peace Festival has been extended from one-day Peace Day to a nine-day Peace Festival, the biggest undertaking that I've ever taken on in my life actually, not only just within the Peace Day promotion.

So this includes five major ones, three of which are concerts. The Peace Day ceremony starts with the unique Minute of Silence and afterwards we have the celebration performance on the same day. And this year, we are given a special peace message from the resident coordinator in China and also a special video was given to us to be screened. So the future we want is a video that is to be screened as a continuation of the future campaign launched by the Secretary-General for the Rio 20.

**[1:20:10]**

So just briefly, I'll go to say what we do. So the major thing that we have done is a three-day peace conference that we have operated. So we are going to promote that to all schools, and particularly, one major thing that we do this year is having a PR company to help us to send press release to all the media, and then we are sending invitations to all the schools in Hong Kong, to business establishments in Hong Kong to observe the one-minute silence.

So this is a very, very major task that we have taken on, and then we'll follow it with a Wushu, a Peace Day dinner concert, and then the one big concert that we have this year is The Green Concert with the closing ceremony together with that. This is all we have done for this year and I hope that we can share our experience with many of our colleagues, you know, later on when this is over.

And for following that, we have post event Wushu following and also a paper for the conference that we are going to put together and send to all the schools. So this sums up the history and the project that we have taken on for this year. Thank you for listening.

Philip: Maria, thank you so much for all you and your team are doing there in China. We really appreciate it. I know Deborah and others will be with you.

My friends, we now go to Uganda and I'm pleased to say that we have Despina Namwembe. Pardon me if I'm not pronouncing your name correctly. Despina, please go ahead.

Despina: Thank you, Philip. Thank you, Deborah. In Uganda we are going to celebrate the 50 years of independence on the 9th of October, so most of the activities of the International Day of Peace celebration have been tailored around our independence. We are reflecting on the challenges, the achievements **[1:22:06]** **[Indiscernible]** since the day we became independent.

There are celebrations in the towns, cities and villages and these range from the symbolic events like football matches between the army and religious leaders,

kind of exciting there. In the northern part of the country, we have candlelight walks in towns and traditional dances. We have tree planting, poems, and music by women in the central park plus national events in the eastern part.

We are also going to recognize key people who have been instrumental in the peace process. An example is Archbishop Odama who is also a trustee of the United Religions Initiative from the Catholic Church, an archbishop from the Catholic Church who is going to be given an award for his exemplary work in the mediation process between Joseph Kony of the Lord's Resistance Army and the government and for his work for peace in Uganda and in Africa.

The various Peace Day activities shall start on the 19th and they will end on the 21st. In the regional, the Great Lakes Countries, of course, they are a different works or a membership under the United Religions Initiative that are happening in the different parts of the Great Lakes Countries, and mostly to do with the feel of the war in Malagarasi, Congo, but also there are activities which we are collaborating with the city of 15, Jean Trudel and then Lisa and Deborah and Monica. That's what people are going to do in the city.

And also I'm sure one of my colleagues will be sharing on what would be happening in Nairobi in which I will happily attend. That is it from here in Kampala. Thank you.

Philip: Wonderful, Despina. Thank you so much for calling from Kampala. We really appreciate what you're doing there and being part of this larger peace wave.

My friends, we now go to Ireland where we have Birgit Massem who is with us. Birgit, please pardon me if I'm not saying your name correctly, but welcome. Go ahead.

Birgit: Thanks, Philip. So good afternoon, everybody. A big thanks for allowing Instruments of Peace Ireland to serve under this Peace Wave and to invite me on to this call to share our plans with you. So Rosemarie sends her apologies. She can't be here today since she's been invited to attend a Spirit of Humanity Forum in Iceland, so I'll give you the quick update here.

Following last year's success of the First International Conference of Peace in Dublin, this year's commitment, The World Peace Weekend Festival is focused on inspiring individual peace within the younger generation and particular students and women across Ireland and to portray that peace can be experienced.

**[1:25:03]**

So on Friday, the 21st, we will commence the weekend by uniting a chain of 1000 handshakes to form a Circle of Peace to observe A Minute of Silence-A Moment of Peace. And this will not only mark the 31st International Peace Day, but it will also aim to break the Guinness World Record.

So this tremendous exclamation mark to open this year's UN peace celebrations in Dublin isn't purely about the measurable volume of people attending and the dream of breaking the record. It's about the spirit of the plan, the hearts it will of those attending and the beauty of the unity in silence. And what better place would there be to come together for peace than the historical gardens of Dublin castle. And also the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the President of Ireland are participating in this event as they have been invited.

So on Saturday, the 22nd, the IAP is prepared to launch the Student Peace Award. This is an annually awarded gold medal for peace and a prize money of 10,000 euro. So from 2013 on board on the 21st of September, a university or college student in Ireland will be awarded this prize for their outstanding commitment to peace and the goodness they had demonstrated.

September the 23rd, we will see the closing ceremony at the launch of peace education initiatives and secondary schools in Ireland. The theme of this afternoon is "Women of spirits and women of peace". And we will see our women speakers discover the truth about peace.

So just in summary, this year's UN celebration in Ireland organized by the IAP follow the IAP's philosophy by achieving peace by combining beauty, goodness and truth.

Thank you very much.

Philip: Oh my God! Beautiful, beautiful. Thank you so much, Birgit, and congratulations for that new world record coming up.

My friends, we now move to Chicago where we have Jennifer Kim. Jennifer, please go ahead.

Jennifer: Thank you so much. I'm with the Peace School in the Chicago Build the Peace committee. In September 7th, 1978, that was the first day that Peace Day was actually celebrated in Chicago. So we have a very long history of Peace Day observances always including that Minute of Silence for Peace.

This year, three major activities are going on tomorrow. We have Peace programming at the Chicago Children's Museum which is the second most visited children's museum in the nation.

The next thing we've done since 2008 when the Build the Peace Committee was formed, we provide packages of materials to every Chicago public school. This is nearly 800 schools and we give them suggested Peace Building activities that they can engage in on the International Day of Peace. And just to mention a few of them, we have Peace Breathing which is a technique we teach at the Peace School. We also have the suggestion of watching the UN webcast live and then building a Jane Goodall dog. So we include many things going on elsewhere in the world.

Our main event this year will be on Friday, the 21st. We do a large outdoor public event in downtown Chicago. We have speakers and performances. We always do the Minute for Peace. We have a large contingency from the Chicago Consular Corps that joins us, public officials, but also reps from many ethnic and cultural institutions, students and other volunteers, and of course a large crowd. We do a World Peace flag ceremony and many people dressed in traditional clothing for the event.

So lots going on in Chicago for a long history of time, and we are certainly looking forward to next year as well which is actually the 35th anniversary of Peace Day in Chicago.

I'm keeping it short. Thank you everybody. Great to be here with all of you. Thank you so much.

Philip: Wow! Wonderful Jennifer! Thank you, thank you, thank you. And 35 years of Peace Day in Chicago, excellent!

All right, folks. We now go back to the UK where we have Lynne Hazelden, Peace in OUR Lifetime. Lynne?

Lynne: Hello! It's such a joy to be here and to listen to all of this extraordinary work that's happening around the world. I did prepare a two-minute thing, but I'm going to try and shorten that. So forgive me if it doesn't quite make sense.

Philip: Take your two minutes, Lynne.

Lynne: Oh, bless you. We're just so blessed to be part of this. We began in 2007. We've started live streaming music events around the world to raise awareness of the Peace Day, and we thought it should be celebrated. So we brought the idea of

celebrating the day that humanity lay down their weapons by conscious choice and that 7 billion people did not kill anyone today.

And we kind of liked that new thought about peace in the world, but every time we started talking about raising awareness, so the ceasefire and the International Day of Peace, people always asked us, "Well, what about peace in our lifetime?"

**[1:30:05]**

So basically we set about how could we actually shift people's attention to see all the piece around us that happens every day, day in and day out by the all the charities and organizations. So we thought if people thank each other on Peace Day and share the outcomes all year, we begin the presence the ordinary people who perhaps have pieces of concepts to actually see that the carers in the street and the firemen and the doctors who save our lives could all be thanked and then we begin to know just the peace there is.

So what we're doing this year is through collaboration with Jammin 4 Harmony, which was founded by **[1:30:42] [Indiscernible]** with Tony Woodroffe who have arranged 32 grassroots concerts around the world which include -- and I have a list here because it's just mind blowing about how they brought this together starting in New Zealand, Australia, then to Japan, India, Vietnam, Italy, France, Denmark, London, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Isle of Man, Dublin, Ireland, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Kenya, New York, Quebec; there's two -- Malibu in U.S., San Diego, Guatemala, Brazil, Hawaii; and prerecorded music events in Ethiopia, Dubai, Nepal and Barcelona which people can watch on Facebook and also on some parts of your own Peace Day TV.

We also have 24 Schools in the UK via Glenda Thornton's World Peace UK if you were going to watch that video, and the video shares Peace One Day's video, PeaceJam, our partners who are Nobel laureates who work with youth through jamming and they're promoting it; and Kids for Peace, YMCA's pre-school and engage children in a way that they actually bring grassroots, to actually do the grassroots dance. So we want to have them dancing on Peace Day and it's a 15-minute video that we have.

We're also taking on the challenge of having a whole city to take on thanking each other. So charities and services organization in Brighton have a connection with 400 service and volunteer networks who we are inviting to send out message to all their members to thank everyone for their support and to share the outcomes. We feel that sharing the outcomes of acts of peace all year so that



people who donate money understand that it's an act of peace, brings it much more real into everyone's life.

We have an event, **[1:32:47] [Indiscernible]** that share an interest in attending for the one-minute silence. We're going to interview people on Peace Day about how they're thanking people for acts of peace.

And what else? There's lots and lots of things that are happening, and we have posters and we invite people to do grassroots videos.

So all in all, in collaboration with our partners which are promoting this, which are Humanities Team, Imagine Peace, PeaceJam and the Nobel Laureates, FOUR YEARS.GO with Lynne Twist and many, many other organizations. We invite people to thank people on Peace Day to raise awareness of all your wonderful work and send them to you to find out what's happening.

Philip: Wonderful, Lynne. Beautiful. Thank you so much. Thank you and that's Peace in OUR Lifetime.

That completes this section around the world. I have a special message also from Dot Maver of Push4Peace and the National Peace Academy. She'd wanted to be with us. She wanted to me to mention that Push4Peace is going to be starting on the International Day of Peace that is going 90 days until Birth 2012 which is December 22nd. And Push4Peace and many of the groups on here are inviting people to sign a P, a Pledge 4 Peace; that's [pledge4peace.org](http://pledge4peace.org); and with the goal of having a billion acts of peace, and this pledge acknowledges that there are billions of acts of peace happening every day.

So we encourage any of the partners who want to download that website, you can. Just go to [pledge4peace.org](http://pledge4peace.org).

And Deborah, I don't know about you, but I just really want to acknowledge everybody on this call and it's clear that there is a spirit of peace, a peace wave rising to give birth or give an expression in the creation of culture of peace. I'm just truly, truly deeply touched by everyone who shared their voices here and all of the others who are not even on the call who are doing things.

**[1:35:00]**

And Deborah, thank you for your leadership, for pulling together this call and bringing all these partners together. So Deborah, back over to you.

Deborah: Thank you. Yes, my deepest gratitude to everybody around the world who are creating these magnificent expressions of the true culture of peace. It's going to show up in this great peace wave around the world. And many thanks to all of you who have shared today and all of you who couldn't be on the call because we just didn't have time for everything that's happening all over the world.

So we invite everybody who's listening to show up for peace on the International Day of Peace wherever you are. If you're in New York, go to Times Square. We'll be raising the flags of all nations for a Minute of Silence. Take it if you're in your home, your school, at work, wherever you are. Join us. Be on Peace Day TV with us live around the world as this great light circles the globe for the International Day of Peace.

Let's close this beautiful call with thanks to the Summer of Peace 2012 and The Shift Network for helping us to share all of our exciting plans today. And let's just close by everybody saying together -- can you open the microphone so that everybody can speak together and say "May peace prevail on Earth"?

Participants: May peace prevail on Earth.

Deborah: May peace prevail on Earth. Thank you for the peace wave.

Philip: Yay! All right. Beautiful, Deborah. Thank you.

Deborah: Thank you, Philip.

**[1:37:00] End of Audio**