October Newsletter from UPF International

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UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

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In the final quarter of 2026, UPF worldwide seeks to develop practical peacebuilding projects that respond to conditions in local communities in each nation where we work. The activities highlighted here reflect the diversity of these undertakings, from conflict resolution to interfaith cooperation to youth empowerment. As always, we welcome partners and fellow peacemakers to join us. Visit us at www,upf,org.

Restoring Trust Through Peace in Action: Reflections on UNGA 81



The General Debate of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly heard from 194 delegations, speaking from very different national and political perspectives about the world as they see it. Some disagreements were substantial, yet peace stood foremost among the concerns identified in the president of the General Assembly's closing assessment. During the summer, UPF chapters were asking a closely related question: "Restoring Trust: What Can Be Done for Peace Now?" Some programs addressed an immediate practical need; others opened conversations or organized people for future cooperation. Our attention now turns to UPF's October–December 2026 year-end focus: "Invest in Peace: From the Family to the Nation, From the Nation to the World." We are inviting national chapters and their partners to carry at least one useful local program into 2027. UPF welcomes partners who want to help grassroots peacebuilding grow.

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Israeli and Palestinian Peace Advocates Share Perspectives

UPF-EUME – On October 15, 2026, UPF-Europe and Middle East (EUME) held a webinar addressing a seemingly intractable conflict. Entitled "Voices for Peace in the Middle East," the webinar featured two courageous champions of peace, one Israeli and one Palestinian. Both Israeli activist Mr. Tom Wegner and Palestinian activist Mr. Khaled Abu Awwad have worked for decades to promote dialogue and reconciliation, despite profound personal and communal suffering related to the continuing conflict.

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Experts Discuss Northern Sea Route & Russia-Korea Relations



Moscow, Russia – "Peace Road – Korea-Russia" is a new, bilingual webinar series exploring opportunities for cooperation between Russia and the Republic of Korea in the context of Eurasian development. The first program, "The Republic of Korea's Interest in the Northern Sea Route: Opportunities for New Eurasian Cooperation," was published in South Korea on September 30, and in Russia on October 2, 2026. Two Korean experts shared their perspectives on the significance of the Northern Sea Route, which traverses Russia's Arctic coastline; the development of ties between South Korea and Russia; and the prospects for broader Eurasian cooperation.

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Young Leaders' Workshop Empowers Youth in Rural Sri Lanka

Rakwana, Sri Lanka – The "My Day, My Rights" Young Leaders' Summit took place on October 3-4, 2026, at the Rakwana Temple in Rathnapura District, Sri Lanka. The program was organized under the guidance and leadership of UPF-Sri Lanka and Religious Youth Service (RYS) Sri Lanka, with the total project budget raised through generous donors and sponsors. Key activities included interactive lectures, outdoor group dynamics and leadership exercises.

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Zambia Day of Peace Celebration Draws Multisector Audience

Lusaka, Zambia – UPF-Zambia held a commemoration of the UN International Day of Peace on October 1, 2026, at the Peace Embassy in Lusaka. Attendees included ambassadors for peace, senior citizens, youth leaders, representatives of Christianity, Islam and Judaism, leaders of NGOs, students, and others. Participants used the occasion to network, exchange ideas, and strengthen partnerships for future peace initiatives.

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Peace Ambassadors Across Ecuador Mark Day of Peace

Quito, Ecuador – UPF-Ecuador held its annual International Day of Peace event at its headquarters in Quito on September 26, 2026. Participants were primarily UPF ambassadors for peace. In addition to those present in person, many joined via Zoom this year as well. In this way the event served as a reunion for peace ambassadors across Ecuador and an opportunity to brainstorm future activities.

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