



Third Global Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace 21 – 26 September 2007, Kisarazu, Japan

Country Reports

The following countries have replied to the call for sending country written reports until this date. We will send others as soon as they arrive at the Secretariat.

Australia
Brasil
Canada
Congo
Costa Rica
Ghana
India
Italy
Japan
New Zealand
Pakistan
Romania
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Uganda
United Kingdom
United States of America

Australia

1. What is your name?

Biannca D. Pace

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

Ministry for Peace – Australia Ltd
GPO BOX 2450
Sydney 2001 NSW Australia
www.ministryforpeace.org.au

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

Our board consists of 6 members. We also have an Advisory Committee comprised of: Dr. Stella Cornelius Founder of the Conflict Resolution Network, Prof Kevin Clements Director Australian Peace and Conflict Studies University of Queensland and Dr. Keith Suter.

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

Depending on the event.
Peace/Prayer Vigil around 100
Peace Concert hopefully 2000
Peace Forum at Parliament House 100
Committee Meetings anywhere between 5 -20 depending on the event we are organising.

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

A single centre.

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

- 24 Hour Peace Prayer Vigil held on 21 Sep to celebrate the UN International Day of Peace . With over 30 religious organisations and Peace groups participating by giving hourly or half hourly presentations/ reading from sacred texts/meditation/drumming etc.
- Peace Concert held on 24 Sep with Folkloric Dancers from six different countries plus singers, chorus and youth rock band.
- Peace Forum At Parliament House Sydney held on 5 Oct where Parliamentarians Academics and Professionals came together to discuss solutions for peace and non-violence and the possibility of implementing a culture of peace.
- Senator Lyn Allison the Leader of the Australian Democrats has drafted and tabled in the Australian Senate a bill for a Federal Commission of Peace and Non-Violence.
- Presentation at Brahma Kumaris -Annual Peace Conference
- Presentation - Gather the Women International Congress. The theme “ Women and Peace.

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

- People love to give to the common good, and they will become involved and volunteer if they see a positive and obtainable benefit for society or their community.
- It is important for a MFP DOP to reach the different strata of society. i.e. (a)Politicians, Academics, Professional people. (b)General Public .(c) NGO, Charities, Religious organisations and Peace Organisations.
- Important to involve the Youth.
- It helps if people are having fun whilst they work together. It is a good idea to structure events that allow people's creativity to come forth.
- If you are a non –profit organisation check with local, state and federal government to see if there are any grants that may be applied for.
- Set up an easy to navigate website.
- Australia can provide some MFP DOP artwork to interested countries who are setting up their MFP DOP campaigns.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

No

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

Yes

Kindly see 6 above #4 for information on the bill drafted by Senator Lyn Allison.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

Not sure as each country has different needs , different viewpoints, different cultures although I believe that the trainers can give suggestions and ideas that could work in some countries.

Brasil

1. What is your name?

Carlos Alberto Emediato

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

Education for Peace Globalnet – www.redepaz.org – In this form we are reporting from the stand point of the CONPAZ – The Culture of Peace Parliamentary Council of the State of São Paulo – Brazil. We are one of the organizing institutions and member of CONPAZ.

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

Seven in Globalnet and 48 members of CONPAZ

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

We have 40 World Partner Organizations , in each country different numbers and possibilities. CONPAZ did many different activities from Forums and Public Policies Training with 50 to 60 people to larger events and celebrations 300 to 500.

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

Redepaz/Globalnet is a world coalition networking many groups. CONPAZ is a one body institution, also a coalition of NGOs +State Representatives.

If so, how many?

CONPAZ > 36 NGOs + 12 Representatives (effective + 12 substitutes)

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

We are contributing or participating directly in the advancements accomplished by many groups we network or publicize: among them the activities of the CONPAZ > Parliamentary Council for a Culture of Peace of the State Parliament in São Paulo (ppt. and bylaws annexed) The bill creating the Federal Parliamentary Council for a Culture of Peace (law approved in the Constitutional Commission depending now on the Plenary Approval. The Federal Council is an expansion from the State of São Paulo experience, as well as Municipal Councils created in the cities of>

The realization of the Peace Councils Gathering at the World Peace Festival of Florianópolis that generated an Universal Declaration for Peace (project description and Declaration Annexed)

Reporting focus on CONPAZ, for the sake of clarity, highlights are:

1. Public audiences:

1. Disarmament and impact on Public Health and indirect costs

2. Child disarmament
3. Guarapiranga Law – water management
4. Social impacts of violence in the Midia

2. I Cicle of lectures on Culture of Peace for multipliers on Public Policies [mar-jun/2007]
3. Council members organizations: presentation and sharing of experiences
4. Open Open letter to candidates – 2006 elections
5. Meetings for Sharing Meaningful Experiences on culture of Peace and Sustainability.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Not formally for the purpose of creating Ministry or Depts. of Peace, we are always working together as networks and coalitions to form and sustain the activities of the Councils, Public Policies and Projects for Peace.

If yes, name the alliances/coalitions you have formed and the groups that are represented.

In the São Paulo – CONPAZ- 36 NGOs + 12 Parliamentary are represented.

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

Yes. Twelve parties are represented in the CONPAZ, for example.

If yes, please detail.

Considering the case of São Paulo CONPAZ – from the 12 Representative participating formally only three are really committed with the dynamics of the Council.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

Exchanging experiences. Working together. Writing to the President of the Assembly House to support. Publicize the CONPAZ experience.

**BILL CREATING THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY CULTURE OF PEACE COUNCIL
BY MR. WALTER FELDMAN MP
N° 9 OF 2003**

Introductory note:

Despite the bloody conflicts going on in several parts of the world, the ideal of peace is still kindred by most of humankind. Our instinct of survival nurtures the dream of putting an end to conflicts, and keeping alive the hope that better days will come.

Having this in mind, many associations have been forming and spreading worldwide. Acting in isolation or in groups, they need to strengthen the bonds between them in order to dispel the ghost of the enemy.

The legislative branch that is looked upon as a representative of the will of the people, and an agent of its well-being, cannot be left out of this process. It must strengthen these movements in each segment, supporting, encouraging, and giving consistency by means of ideas and activities, to the pressure exerted by mass movements.

This is the reason why we have proposed this bill, hoping its fruit will crown our efforts.

Feb. 25, 2003

Walter Feldman, MP

The Parliament resolves:

Section 1 - The Federal Parliamentary Culture of Peace Council is hereby created, with permanent and deliberative nature.

Section 2 - The Council will design, coordinate, supervise and evaluate parliamentary culture of peace policies and will:

I - establish guidelines, suggest activities that facilitate community and parliamentary manifestations for peace, and take effective steps towards these goals in the social, economic, political, philosophical, religious and cultural levels.

II - suggest and foster governmental action

III - provide support to the legislative branch by giving consultancy and follow-up whenever parliamentary culture of peace activities are being implemented, and also when community culture of peace manifestations are being held.

IV - carry out studies, debate and research conducive to peace and in compliance with international agreements.

V - develop projects that promote and stimulate the participation of society as whole in culture of peace initiatives.

VI - provide support to activities listed above and promote understanding and exchange with local and foreign organizations, and movements that share the same ideals.

VII - establish its By-Laws, ad referendum for the Parliament

Section 3 - The Council will be composed of 48 (forty eight) members and a like number of alternates, who shall be chosen from among representatives of organizations and social movements committed to a Culture of Peace and members of the legislative branch to be appointed by the President of the Federal Assembly, in the following proportion:

I - 36 (thirty-six) representatives of organizations and social movements as mentioned above;

II - 12 (twelve) State representatives.

Paragraph 1 - embers referred to in item II shall be nominated by the party leaders from among those with most affinity to the matter at hand, ensuring, as much as possible, a proportional representation of all parties.

Section 4 - The activity of its members will be considered as relevant public service and not compensated.

Section 5 - The members will chosen for a two-year term, a second term being allowed, under the conditions of the By-Laws.

Section 6 - The council will have a president and a vice-president, chosen among its members, among the member state representatives. The Parliament shall provide the necessary conditions for the activities of the council as regards material and human resources.

Section 7 - This bill shall take effect on the date of its publication.

PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE BY-LAWS

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Section 1 – The Parliamentary Council for a Culture of Peace, established under Resolution No. 829 of December 17, 2002, is a permanent, decision-making council that shall have its seat at the São Paulo State Assembly and shall be governed by these By-laws.

Sole Paragraph – The name **Parliamentary Council for a Culture of Peace** and the acronym **ConPAZ** are equivalent and shall both be used for purposes of reference and communication.

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE

Section 2 – The purposes of **ConPAZ** are as follows:

- I. Develop, coordinate, supervise and assess parliamentary policies with respect to actions conducive to a Culture of Peace;
- II. Mobilize, bring together and create awareness in leaders, authorities, organizations and institutions with a view to engagement in a Culture of Peace based on the guiding principles set forth in Manifesto 2000 sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), namely:
 - a. Respect the life and dignity of each human being without discrimination or prejudice;
 - b. Practice active non-violence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economic and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents;

- c. Share time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression;
- d. Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity, giving preference always to dialogue and listening without engaging in fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others;
- e. Promote consumer behavior that is responsible and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet; and
- f. Contribute to the development of our community, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.

ARTICLE II

Duties, Organization and Bodies of the ConPAZ

Section 3 - The powers and duties of **ConPAZ** are as follows:

- I. Develop guidelines and propose activities conducive to community and parliamentary manifestations that foster peace, as well as take action for the achievement of such goal in the social, economic, political, philosophical, religious and cultural arenas;
- II. Suggest governmental action;
- III. Assist the legislative branch by issuing opinions and following the preparation and implementation of parliamentary action involving community manifestations in support of a Culture of Peace;
- IV. Review bills in light of the criteria for a Culture of Peace and report on such matters whenever required;
- V. Conduct studies, discussions and research related to the pursuit of ideals supportive of a Culture of Peace in the State of São Paulo and to the compliance with international treaties;
- VI. Carry out projects designed to encourage society as a whole to take part in activities in furtherance of the aforementioned ideals; and
- VII. Support the efforts mentioned in items I and V as well as conduct discussions with and promote exchanges between local and international social movements and organizations sharing the same ideals.

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION OF ConPAZ

Section 4 – The Council shall be composed of 48 (forty-eight) members and a like number of alternates, who shall be chosen from among representatives of organizations and social movements committed to a Culture of Peace and members of the legislative branch to be appointed by the President of the State Assembly, in the following proportion:

I – 36 (thirty-six) representatives of organizations and social movements as mentioned above;

II – 12 (twelve) State representatives.

Paragraph 1 - The members referred to in item I above shall be chosen by the relevant organizations or social movements committed to a Culture of Peace, as duly accredited by the Presiding Officers of the São Paulo State Assembly, pursuant to Paragraph 1 of Section 2 of Resolution No. 829/2002.

Paragraph 2 - For this purpose, interested entities shall address an official letter both to the Presiding Officers of the São Paulo State Assembly and **ConPAZ**, enclosing their by-laws or equivalent document, as well as evidence that their activities are in keeping with the objectives listed in Sections 2 and 3 hereof.

Paragraph 3 - The members that are State representatives shall be nominated by party leaders from among those representatives having greater affinity with the matter at hand, and shall be appointed by the President of the State Assembly, who shall as far as possible ensure proportional representation of all parties.

Paragraph 4 - Appointment of representatives may not take place after the first half of the month of April of each biennial period, subject to reappointment as contemplated in Paragraphs 7 and 8 of this section.

Paragraph 5 – In addition to the member organizations that comprise **ConPAZ**, supporting organizations shall also be included in order to further develop activities and bring initiatives to the process, provided, however, that such supporting organizations shall not have a right to vote in the Plenary Assembly.

Paragraph 6 – Service as a member of **ConPAZ** shall not be compensated but shall be regarded as relevant public service.

Paragraph 7 – The members of **ConPAZ** shall have a term of office of two years, one consecutive reappointment being permitted.

Paragraph 8 - Reappointment as stated in Paragraph 7 shall be determined by a drawing of lots, provided that 2/3 of the members shall retain their offices at the end of a first term of office and 1/3 shall retain their offices at the end of a second term of office, on a successive and alternating basis.

Paragraph 9 - Should there be no other organizations interested in joining **ConPAZ**, such rotation shall be suspended and member organizations shall serve for another term of office.

Paragraph 10 – When choosing new member organizations, preference shall be given to those which have participated as supporting organizations for at least one year.

ARTICLE IV

BODIES OF ConPAZ

Section 5 – The bodies of the **ConPAZ** are as follows:

- I. Plenary Assembly;
- II. Executive Commission;
- III. Special Commissions; and

IV. Theme Commissions.

PART I

PLENARY ASSEMBLY

Section 6 – The Plenary Assembly shall be organized according to the provisions of Section 4 hereof and its members shall have the following powers and duties:

- I. Review, discuss and take action, where appropriate and relevant, on matters brought before ConPAZ;
- II. Submit proposals for initiatives with respect to a Culture of Peace to the legislative, executive and judicial branches and to the community;
- III. Request for examination any relevant documents being considered by any body, whether already approved or otherwise;
- IV. Request that the Executive Commission call a special meeting to review any relevant issues, according to Section 9 below;
- V. Propose the inclusion of any item in the agenda for meetings, including any subsequent meetings, as well as discuss beforehand any items included in such agenda, where justified;
- VI. Propose the creation of Special and Theme Commissions;
- VII. Record in the minutes any dissenting view, where the opinion of his or her entity or body, or his or her opinion, is at variance with majority opinion;
- VIII. Suggest that invitations be made to persons capable of making significant contributions to the issues dealt with by **ConPAZ**;
- IX. Propose new organizations to join **ConPAZ** as supporting members in furtherance of Sections 2 and 3 hereof, so as to broaden the scope of the Culture of Peace network; and
- X. Approve, according to Paragraph 5 of Section 9 hereof, a motion for amendment to these By-laws, upon a request by 1/3 of its members.

Sole Paragraph – Addition of supporting organizations shall take place according to criteria that make for diversity so as to avoid a concentration of power. Such addition shall follow specific regulations.

Section 7 – The absence of any acting members and their alternates shall be justified to the Executive Commission.

Section 8 – The Plenary Assembly shall take action on the termination of any acting member or alternate that during his or her term of office fails to attend, without justification, four consecutive plenary sessions or four nonconsecutive plenary sessions.

Paragraph 1 - Terminated members shall be replaced by individuals from supporting organizations that have been working alongside **ConPAZ** for the longest periods of time, according to a resolution of the Plenary Assembly.

Paragraph 2 - Any State representative members that are terminated shall be replaced by other representatives appointed by the Presiding Officers of the State Assembly, subject to Paragraph 3 of Section 4.

Paragraph 3 – A terminated member shall be replaced within no more than 60 calendar days from date of termination by nomination of a new organization from among those accredited by the Presiding Officers of the State Assembly.

Paragraph 4 – If a member organization is terminated, replacement shall be made by appointment of the Plenary Assembly at a session next following the date of termination.

Paragraph 5 - The proposals presented to the Plenary Assembly and any commissions shall preferably be approved by consensus of those in attendance. Discussions prior to such consensus may not occupy more than two successive meetings of the Plenary Assembly and/or any commission. If a consensus is not reached, the proposal shall be put to a vote and shall be approved by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members present.

Paragraph 6 - The quorum for the Plenary Assembly and its commissions to transact business shall be an absolute majority of the members thereof.

PART II

EXECUTIVE COMMISSION

Section 9 – The Executive Commission has the following powers and duties, in addition to others stated in these By-laws or arising from their functions or prerogatives:

- I. Represent **ConPAZ** and/or propose to the Plenary Assembly the nomination of a representative;
- II. Coordinate plenary sessions and record the minutes thereof;
- III. Be in charge of the internal and external communications of **ConPAZ**;
- IV. Speak to the press and/or act as liaison between **ConPAZ** and the media;

- V. Centralize and disseminate information on **ConPAZ**, serving as a source of reference for members and interested parties seeking information;
- VI. Monitor the activities of Special and Theme Commissions;
- VII. Monitor the Special Commission in charge of proposing amendments to or revisions of the By-laws;
- VIII. Collate information from documents and letters of interest to **ConPAZ**;
- IX. Initiate the organization of events;
- X. Serve as liaison between members, supporters and leaders in the State Assembly and the community at large;
- XI. Invite individuals or organizations to take part in plenary sessions without a right to vote;
- XII. Issue invitations to individuals or organizations to take part in the meetings of Theme Commissions, with a right to submit motions. Such motions may only be presented to the Plenary Assembly after discussion and approval by Theme Commissions; and
- XIII. Take urgent measures, submitting them to confirmation by the Plenary Assembly at the next following session.

ARTICLE III

SPECIAL COMMISSIONS

Section 10 – Special Commissions shall be created by a resolution of the Plenary Assembly. They shall be coordinated by one or more members of ConPAZ, shall have specific functions and shall be terminated once their objectives have been achieved.

Paragraph –Special Commissions may invite outside persons and organizations to offer supporting materials and information.

Section 11 – The reports, opinions and proposals generated by the proceedings of Special Commissions shall be brought before the Plenary Assembly of **ConPAZ** by the relevant reporting member.

Sole Paragraph – A Special Commission shall elect its reporting member.

ARTICLE IV

THEME COMMISSIONS

Section 12 – Theme Commissions shall be created by a resolution of the Plenary Assembly and shall be composed of **ConPAZ** members in the exercise of their powers and duties under Section 3 hereof.

Sole Paragraph – The resolution of the Plenary Assembly that creates a Theme Commission shall define its functions and composition.

Section 13 – The reports, opinions and proposals generated by the proceedings of Theme Commissions shall be brought before the Plenary Assembly of **ConPAZ** by the relevant reporting member.

Sole Paragraph – A Theme commission shall elect its reporting member.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES

Section 14 – The meetings of the Plenary Assembly shall take place once a month. Special and Theme Commissions shall meet according to a timetable established in advance.

Section 15 – Minutes shall be kept of each meeting, as prepared by the Executive Commission and signed by all members present, such minutes to be read and approved at the next following meeting.

Sole Paragraph – The Plenary Assembly may waive the reading of the minutes.

Section 16 – Cases with respect to which these By-laws are silent shall be disposed of by the Executive Commission and shall then be submitted to a decision by the Plenary Assembly.

Section 17 – These By-laws shall take effect on the date of their publication.

Canada

1. What is your name?

Saul Arbess

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

Canadian Department of Peace Initiative

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

35

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

Events(up to 250), meetings(10)

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

8 chapters plus National Board

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

2006-2007 ACTIVITY REPORT UPDATE

There are now 8 chapters across Canada: Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, London, Hamilton, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montréal.

In 2007:

- ✓ **Gained** the endorsement of the New Democratic Party's Federal Caucus and the Green Party
- ✓ **Convened** the first Pan Canadian DoP Conference, Ottawa, April 2, 2007
- ✓ **Chaired** the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace Steering and Japan Summit Planning Committees. The Alliance numbers 24 countries.

In 2006:

- ✓ **Hosted** the Second Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace, at Royal Roads University, June 21, 22, with 18 countries present. The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, of which we are a founding member, now numbers 24 countries around the world.
- ✓ **Coordinated** the Working Group for Government Initiatives, at the World Peace Forum, held June 23-28 in Vancouver. On June 24, the working group organized a panel of parliamentarians supporting departments of peace with 8 countries represented and a series of 6 workshops on related topics.
- ✓ **Initiated**, during the last federal election, an open letter by the Hon. Lloyd Axworthy and the Hon. Doug Roche calling for a DoP and urging all national leaders to support it.
- ✓ **Developed** a Celebration of Peace Festival in Victoria for hundreds of participants in Victoria, Sept. 23, around the International Day of Peace.
- ✓ **Augmented** our list of supporting organizations with the World Federalist Movement- Canada, Physicians for Global Survival and Canadian Federation of University Women representing around 15, 000 Canadians in addition to the nearly 100, 000 Canadians represented by previous organizational endorsements.
- ✓ **Lobbied** various federal political parties and individual MPs for a DoP.
- ✓ **Presented** the DoP initiative to various organizations and at conferences including the 5th Annual Conference on Peace Education, McMaster University.
- ✓ **Received** increased media attention including: the San Francisco Chronicle and the Chicago Tribune(Robert Koehler, Syndicated columnist), NOW Magazine(Toronto), Science for Peace Magazine, Peace Magazine, Mondial(World Federalist Newsletter), Conscience Canada Newsletter, Ahimsa Nonviolence Journal, Focus Magazine and Monday Magazine(Victoria), radio stations in Ottawa and Calgary, interviews on Channel M(Vancouver).

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

- Engage all political parties
- Capitalize on personal contacts people have among opinion and political leaders
- Build your chapter or local bases across the country
- Work at the local, national and international level at the same time so each level reinforces the others

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

This year, we have engaged and gained the endorsement of many disarmament groups that see a DoP as a way to highlight disarmament issues.

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

Among federal political parties, we have gained the endorsement of the New democratic Party parliamentary caucus(29 members) and the Green Party. In addition, there are individual members within the Liberal Party, but, although one of our members was in direct talks with the ruling Conservative Party, we do not have their endorsement as yet.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

We are especially interested in media, strategies to engage politicians and building the movement at the grass roots.

Congo

1. What is your name?

Jean-Pierre Mfuni Mwanza

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

CENTRAL AFRICA CONFLICT PREVENTION ASSOCIATION (CACOPA)

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

20

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

More than 120

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

WE HAVE FOUR CENTRES: Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Kananga and Durban.

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

- Talk and discussion with some MPs on the Establishment of the Ministry of Peace in country April 2007
- Give some talks on the Local radios and televisions on the importance of the Ministry of Peace in the country.
- Meeting with Maitre Kasongo, the Link between the government and the MONUC, the UN Peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Conference on “Obstacles to Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo” in Kinshasa January 2007
- Workshop on “The challenges of Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo” in Kinshasa June 2006
- Conference on the Importance of a “Ministry of Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo” organized at the Institut facultaire Maria Malkia in Lubumbashi in December 2006.

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

The example of countries which have already established a Ministry of Peace or a similar Institution is strong case to support the meetings.
The situation of Conflict in the country: People are tired with Conflict; it is time to build Peace.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

N/A

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

There are many political Parties and Politicians who would like to work with us but we didn't yet take a decision.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

- They will assist us:
- To organise Trainings in the country in Peacebuilding and Peacemaking
- To organise workshops and conferences on the importance of the Ministry of Peace in the country
- To organise strong alliances on the continent which will be effective way for lobbying .
- Other

Costa Rica

1. What is your name?

Rita Marie Johnson

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

Rasur Foundation's Peace Army ritamarie@rasurfoundation.org 506-282-4041

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

25

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

We have not had a need to have events for our work on the Ministry for Peace. For normal Peace Army meetings where we involved the group in writing our initiative, we have about 20 per meeting.

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

Centre

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

Highlights: Our major achievement is that our initiative for a Ministry for Justice and Peace is now a bill that is going through the process of becoming a law. We have lobbied every political party and there is no opposition to our bill so it just has to complete the process to come up for vote with the Legislative Assembly. The bill is currently being studied by a Sub Commission of the Human Rights Commission that will give it a "green light" to go forward for the vote. The bill will establish a National System for the Promotion of Peace that includes three offices: Alternative Resolution of Conflicts, Peace Promotion (projects) and Public Events. The Rasur Foundation, whose mission is to inspire, educate and facilitate toward a worldwide culture of peace, beginning with a countrywide model in Costa Rica, will work closely with the Ministry for Justice and Peace. Our project, the Peace Army of Costa Rica, will work hand in hand with this ministry and will be the main education arm.

Problems: The Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) is very controversial in Costa Rica and has not been signed. Therefore, Costa Rica will have a national referendum on this issue on October 7. President Oscar Arias has new bills that relate to this issue that have delayed our bill. However, our bill can not fall through the cracks because it is one of the few bills that, by Presidential decree in the National Gazette, must come to vote. So we are waiting our turn....

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

We listened carefully to experienced people in Costa Rica in regard to what they wanted and what they didn't from a Ministry for Peace. Then we designed an initiative that did not cost a lot, since Costa Rica's government has very limited resources. In all of our interactions, we use the *Peace Army Way* (HeartMath and Nonviolent Communication) as our method for being both efficient and communicative, therefore maximizing the sense of connection with the other person.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

It has not been necessary. However, as soon as the bill is passed, part of the National Plan is for the new Ministry of Justice and Peace to facilitate an alliance of NGOS' for Peace so that we can work together more effectively.

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

Yes

If yes, please detail.

We lobbied all the political parties and not one of them has opposed this bill.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

We hope that our bill passes before this year's Summit so that our new Minister of Justice and Peace, Laura Chinchilla, (who is also Vice President of the country), can come to Japan and give a keynote speech. Otherwise, by the time next year's Summit comes around, it will be old news and we will have lost some time in getting more energy behind building a countrywide model of peace in Costa Rica before President Arias leaves office in 2010. So if we get the bill passed before Sept. 21, I hope the steering committee can find a way to put Laura Chinchilla on the agenda at the last moment.

Ghana

1. What is your name?

Bertrand Tientcheu

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

International Center for Conflict and Human Rights Analysis (ICCHRA)
Executive Director: Sammy Jacobs Abbey, tel: +233-244-666-045
Director for Conflict and Peace Recovery: Bertrand Tientcheu tel: +233-246-997-623

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

N/A

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

100

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

10

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

We are still at the initial stage of launching the Campaign in Ghana. So far we have initiated various activities that can serve as starting block for more coordinated activities related to the campaign.

1. E-Courses on:

- Youths and the challenges of Africa's Development MDG's, NEPAD and Possible Scenarios
- Human Rights, Democracy and Governance

2. International of Peace Celebration, 21st September 2006

3. Public education on African Union

4. Youth Human Rights Leadership Forum in partnership with Youth for Human Right International

5. Advocacy to introduce Human Right and Peace education in the curriculum of secondary schools in Ghana

6. Creation and support of Youth peace clubs in Ghana

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

- E-learning and video: using internet facilities is a very reliable and less expensive way of connecting people and organizing meetings. It is more interactive, less directive and hierarchical and gives room to different views and contribution.
- Interactive Radio debate with the public
- Panel discussion and public debate
- Essay writing competition
- Art, Poetry and music
- Working and networking with young people

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Yes

If yes, name the alliances/coalitions you have formed and the groups that are represented.

CHRAJ (Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice) NGO Forum. ICCHRA is part of that Forum that comprises Human Rights and peace NGOs, Development NGOs, Youth and Women Groups

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

Yes

If yes, please detail.

We have the support of some government official in our endeavors to promote human rights and peace education in school
Being part of the CHRAJ NGO Forum, we have established a strategic connection with Government. We work in collaboration with several Ministries: Youth and Sport, Education, External Affairs, NEPAD and AU.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

Support to the newly created Department for Conflict and Peace Recovery which will be operating as a nucleus for the development of the Campaign in Ghana.

Medias and communication Strategy (Working with Media)
Campaign strategy and organization, Advocacy and lobbying plan
Fund Raising strategy for the campaign in Ghana.
Understanding the nature and functioning of Ministries and Department of Peace.
Advanced knowledge on peace building and Conflict Transformation
Understanding peace as a political issue.

India

1. What is your name?

N. Vasudevan

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

Indian Initiative for Department of Peace

(In Association with The Indian Council of Gandhian Studies)

Contact addresses:

- a) Indian Council of Gandhian Studies
MGRA 30, Marappalam Gardens, Pattom
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
Ph. + 91-471-2534397; + 91-9447047100

- b) Indian Council of Gandhian Studies

19 Rajghat Colony
New Delhi 110002
Ph: + 65368212; 0-9810643550

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

100 (nation-wide)

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

100 to 150 in each Centre

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

12 (twelve) Centres/Groups

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

1. Decided to enlarge the interim Working Group to 101 members by co-option after getting their consent.
2. Arranged a meeting of this Working Group on August 9, 2006 – that is, the anniversary of the “Quit India” Movement at IIPA, New Delhi.
3. Organized a National Meet on DoP on Gandhi's birth anniversary on October 2, 2006 in Delhi involving senior political leaders and others. This was done later as part of a National Dialogue on the theme “India Without Hunger and Violence” at Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi on 27–28 January 2007.
4. Wrote letters seeking the support of Members of Parliament in India.
5. A national discussion was held to highlight the DoP Campaign's objectives, on 14 October 2006 at the Annual Conference of the Indian Society for Gandhian Studies at Allahabad University, Uttar Pradesh.
6. A Subcommittee was constituted to meet with the National, Regional and State-level leaders of political parties, including Ministers, Members of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies, seeking their support to the national campaign to establish a Department / Ministry of Peace to fulfill the dream of the Father of the Nation for eradication of violence, hatred and to promote tolerance, harmony, unity and justice.
7. Decided to organize 100 interactive discussion sessions on the “Relevance of Satyagraha in the Cyber Age” in different parts of India during the Centenary of Satyagraha (2006-2007) in association with various Universities, Gandhi Bhavans, NGOs and other social groups. The lecture series, began under Prof. N. Radhakrishnan, has completed till date 85 lectures/seminars in different parts of India and in several countries abroad.

Lectures held so far

The focus of lectures and discussions by Prof. Radhakrishnan and the places they were held so far are:

1. **The Philosophy of Satyagraha** (Jain Viswabharati University, Ladnun, Rajasthan)
2. **Satyagraha for empowerment of self** (Kurukshetra University)
3. **Satyagraha : an eternal verity** (Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi)

4. **Satyagraha – the triumph of the spiritual over materialism** (Rajeev Gandhi Institute for Rural Development, Tirupati)
5. **Satyagraha against Human Rights violations** (Gandhigram Rural University)
6. **Satyagraha as a quest for Truth** (Gandhi Media Centre, Marappalam, Trivandrum)
7. **Satyagraha as an antidote to Terrorism** (Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi)
8. **Satyagraha to counter Violence against women** (Vaishnav College for Women, Chennai)
9. **Satyagraha ideals in the Indian constitution** (Indian council of social science research and Punjab University)
10. **Neo colonialism & Nonviolence** (Dev Samaj Women’s College, Chandigarh)
11. **The importance of the Centenary of Satyagraha** (Mani Bhavan, Bombay)
12. **Gandhi and Challenges of the 21st century** (Kerala Hindi Prachar Sabha, Trivandrum)
13. **The Sarva Dharma Samabhav ideal of Gandhi** (Malavya Centre for Conflict Studies and Peace Banares Hindu University)
14. **Challenges before Gandhian Institutions** (Gandhi Bhavan, Chandigarh)
15. **Gandhi’s Nai-Talim revisited** (St. Laurence Higher Secondary, Nasik)
16. **Challenges before Indian University system** (Rajeev Gandhi Institute for Rural Development, Tirupati)
17. **Education for the 21st century** (South Asian Solidarity, Tirupati)
18. **The teacher in the cyber age** (Mahatma Gandhi Vidyapeed, Neyyattinkara)
19. **The Millennium Development goal & Indian education** (Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi)
20. **University as Nation-builders** (Rotary Club, Trivandrum)
21. **Community Peace Centers in Educational Institutions** (Gandhigram Rural University, Madurai)
22. **What kind of society do we gift to our children?** (Gandhigram Rural University)
23. **Champions of Nonviolence (1) -- Prof. Paige** (Centre for Media Studies, Trivandrum)
24. **Champions of Nonviolence (2) -- Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan** (Centre for Media Studies, Trivandrum)
25. **Champions of Nonviolence (3) -- Vinoba, the spiritual heir to Gandhi** (Centre for Media Studies, Trivandrum)
26. **Champions of Nonviolence (4) -- The ever-increasing role of Acharya Mahapragya in spreading nonviolence** (Jain Viswabharati, Rajasthan)
27. **Champions of Nonviolence (5) -- Kingian Nonviolence and Gandhi** (Centre for Media Studies, Trivandrum)
28. **Champions of Nonviolence (6) -- Dialogue, Human Revolution and Dr.Daisaku Ikeda** (Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts, New Delhi)
29. **Centres of Higher Education and their social responsibilities** (Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidya Peedom)

30. **The Melody of Peace – children realize Gandhi through creative dramatics** (Rangaprabhat, Trivandrum)
31. **Satyagraha and volunteerism** (Gandhi Darshan Kendra, Chennai)
32. **Satyagraha and new challenges** (Press Club, Bombay)
33. **Gandhian Development perspectives in the globalized context** (Government College, Nedumangadu)
34. **Peace Education for development** (NCERT, New Delhi)
35. **The Role of Teachers in Peace promotion** (NCERT, New Delhi)
36. **Teachers as promoters of harmony** (Gandhigram Rural University, Madurai)
37. **The spiritual foundations of Satyagraha** (City Hall, Centre Point, Nagpur)
38. **Satyagraha and the youth of today** (Yadava College, Madurai)
39. **Satyagraha and contemporary challenges** (Kerala Hindi Pracharsabha -- 2 March)
40. **Reinventing Satyagraha** (Jaipur University, Rajasthan -)
41. **The books that influenced Gandhi** (VK Krishna Menon College, Bombay)
42. **Towards understanding Gandhi** (Gandhi Shikshak Sadan, Juhu, Bombay)
43. **Centres of Education as Nurseries of Peace and Harmony** (Somaiya College of Education, Bombay University)
44. **Religious Fundamentalism and Terrorism as threats to human survival** (Hindi Prachar Sabha Hall, Ernakulam, Kerala)
45. **The Spirituality of Satyagraha** (Part I)
46. **The Spirituality of Satyagraha** (Part II)
47. **The Spirituality of Satyagraha** (Part III)
48. **Revisiting Gandhi in the context of Today's challenges** (Part I)
49. **Revisiting Gandhi in the context of Today's challenges** (Part II)
50. **Revisiting Gandhi in the context of Today's challenges** (Part III)
- (Theological College, Bangalore)
51. **Gandhian Nonviolence - A Force more Powerful** (Gandhi Media Centre, Trivandrum)
52. **The Making of the Mahatma – Discussion of Syam Benegal's film** (Gandhi Media Centre, Trivandrum)
53. **I have not killed Gandhi (Myne Gandhi ko nahi mara) – Discussion of Anupam Khar's film** (Rajasthan University, Jaipur)
54. **Gandhi – Attenborough's film** (Rajasthan University)
55. **Gandhian Strategies of Conflict Management** (Kota Open University)
56. **Gandhian Strategies of Conflict Management** (Kota Open University)

Institute of Development Studies,
Kolkotta

57. **What kind of India do we gift to our children?** (Peace Palace, Rajsamond, Rajasthan)
58. Satyagraha as an alternative to Terrorism (**Workshop with Teacher Trainees, Trivandrum**)
59. 100 years of Nonviolence: A journey through three select Gandhi films
 “Making of the Mahatma” **Town Hall, Bangalore**
60. ” **“A Force more Powerful”** ”
61. ” **“Lage Reho Munna Bhai”** ”
62. Satyagraha and message of social harmony (**Rajeev Gandhi National Institute of Youth Training, Sri Perumpudur, Tamilnadu**)
63. 100 years of Nonviolence: A journey through three select Gandhi films
 (Terapanth Vidyalaya, Chennai)
- “The Making of the Mahatma”**
64. ” **“Maine Gandhi Ko Nahin Mara”**
65. ” **“A Force More Powerful”**
66. ” **“Lage Reho Munna Bhai”**
67. ” **“Gandhi”**
68. **The cross-roads of poverty, insurgencies and development-the Indian predicament** (Atheist Centre Vijayawada)
- 69. Teachers as promoters of Nonviolence** (GR Public School, Neyyattinkara)
- [Lectures Out side India](#)
70. **Gandhi and Women Empowerment** (Singapore Soka Gakkai)
71. **Women as Satyagrahis** (Singapore National University)
72. **Satyagraha and character development** (Malaya University, Malaysia)
73. **Gandhi and Societal transformation** (Malaya University, Centre for Dialogue)
74. **The need for a Department of Peace in each Country** (Malaya University, Malaysia)
75. **Satyagraha as a Mission for Peace** (City Hall, Singapore)
76. **Children’s Welfare and Peace** (Gandhi Canadian Foundation for Peace, Edmonton, Canada)
77. **Revisiting Satyagraha in the emerging Global Context** (Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Tokyo)
78. **Gandhi’s Heritage** (Soka University, Tokyo)
79. **The Satyagraha of Gandhi and Human Revolution of Ikeda** (Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Tokyo)
80. **The Millennium Development Goals and Education for Nonviolent Leadership (Discussion with the Deans of UN University, Tokyo)**
81. **The Ghost of Hiroshima and Future of Humanity (Workshop with Peace Activists from Hiroshima)**

82. Satyagraha as an alternative to War and Violence (**Discussion at Tokyo with a group of researchers from Tokyo University**)
83. Relevance of Training in Nonviolence to Discipline the body and mind (**Ahimsa Samvaay Kendra, Madurai**)
84. The Spirituality of Economic Development – Acharya Mahapragya’s vision of economics of Peace (**Ahimsa Samvaay Kendra, Madurai**)
85. Satyagraha to protect the unprotected (**Gandhi Park, Kolkata**)

8. Signature campaign: On 2 October 2006 a nation-wide signature campaign, including by email, was launched urging the Government of India to consider establishing a Department / Ministry of Peace. We will submit the signatures to the Prime Minister on 30 January 2008, the anniversary of Gandhi’s Martyrdom.

Note: Of those you mention, prepare, as a story, highlights of the last year for presentation during your country report at the Summit as successes and/or problems that occurred.

Besides the general campaign for DoP, we wish to highlight the following three things:

- 1) The Chief Minister of Delhi, Mrs Sheila Dikshit, who attended the two-day National Dialogue held on 27-28 January 2007, announced that her Government will introduce a “Food security” scheme to ensure that no one goes to sleep hungry in Delhi State.
- 2) **Five “Nonviolent Training Centres” (Ahimsa Samvaay Kendras)** in collaboration with the Jain Vishwa Bharati University to impart suitable practical training in Nonviolence and nonviolent lifestyle, particularly children and youth in focus. The places are: 1) Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), 2) Madurai (Tamil Nadu), 3) Jaipur, 4) Rajsamand (Rajasthan), and 5) New Delhi. These Centres will also serve as Resource and Documentation Centres on Nonviolence and Conflict Resolution.
- 3) Value Orientation to children and teachers through folk songs, folk games, and community living.

The Indian Council of Gandhian Studies has been collaborating with the Rangaprabhat Children’s Theater in developing appropriate strategies to involve children in large numbers in creative activities which ultimately will help them to find themselves deeply involved. The Rangaprabhat Children’s Theatre, perhaps the first children’s theater in India, which has completed thirty seven years of active and creative service in developing a highly satisfactory support system of educational strategies to the formal schooling system, has been in the forefront of organizing appropriate Programmes involving children, teachers and parents. One of the highly productive and satisfactory items of work the Indian Council of Gandhian Studies and the Rangaprabhat Children’s Theatre undertook during 2005-2006 was an intensive campaign it undertook in several schools involving several hundred children, teachers and a number of artists from April 2005 to March 2006. The program was partly aided by the Gandhi Canadian Foundation, Edmonton, and the Department of Culture, Government of India.

- 4) 100 Community Peace Centres across India

In a historic development, the Indian Council of Gandhian Studies, New Delhi and Indira Gandhi National Open University joined hands to promote Conflict-free Zones through Community Peace Centres. This is the outcome of the sustained efforts of Dr. N. Radhakrishnan during the last 3 years since he launched the *Violence-free Society Campaign*. In Prof. V.N. Rajasekharan Pillai, he found a kindred spirit and now under the combined auspices of the ICGS and IGNOU, 100

Community Peace Centers will be launched in different parts of India. The focus of the Community Peace centres will be -

- linking community with educational institutions,
- inculcating values in children and youth,
- bringing academics and activists together,
- developing conflict-free zones,
- contributing to sustainable development.

Efforts to identify 100 centres in different parts of India and volunteers to man these centres and offering subsequent training to these volunteers and others are on. The activities of the CPCs will have the support and involvement of local educational institutions and community service organizations and will be guided by an Advisory Committee comprising leaders of the area. Economic activity of one type or the other depending on local resources will be a special features of these CPCs. Activities will commence on Gandhi Jayanti Day of 2007.

- 5) IGNOU has also decided to start a Certificate Course in Nonviolence under the supervision of Dr N. Radhakrishnan.

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

Make full use of modern tools of communication – electronic, print and internet – to reach out to generate awareness and interest among the people to mount pressure on the legislators and the government to demand establishing DoP. This is relatively easy in democracies where there is freedom of expression.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Yes.

If yes, name the alliances/coalitions you have formed and the groups that are represented.

Following are the names of Institutions and groups supporting the national campaign:

- i) G.R. Institute of Nonviolence and Shanti Sena, Rangaprabhat Complex, District Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- ii) Missionaries of Nonviolence Foundation, Madurai, Tamil Nadu
- iii) Anuvrat Global Organization, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- iv) Ekta Parishad, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi
- v) S.N. Sinha Institute of Business Management, Ranchi, Jharkhand
- vi) Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal, Mumbai
- vii) Gandhi Darshan Kendra, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- viii) Gandhi Media Centre, New Delhi
- ix) Gandhi Bhavan, Punjab University, Chandigarh
- x) Malaviya Centre of Conflict Studies, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
- xi) International Gandhian Institute for Nonviolence and Peace (IGINP), Madurai
- xii) Ahimsa Samvaay Kendras, Ladnun, Rajasthan

xiii) Rangaprabhat Children's Theatre, Trivandrum

xiv) Mahatma Gandhi Vidya Peedom, Neyyattinkara, Kerala

xv) Institute of Applied Management, Madurai

xvi) Rajeev Gandhi Institute of Development and Panchayati Raj, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

Yes.

If yes, please detail:

They attended our meetings and endorsed the national campaign for establishment of a Department of Peace.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

- a) By sharing information and experience on any unique and successful techniques and methodologies they adopted in their countries to establish DoPs.
- b) By providing financial resources (this is the major handicap the NGOs face).

Italy

1. What is your name?

Binnie Degli Innocenti

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

Ministero per la Pace Italia

www.ministeroperlapaceitalia.org, email: cdipeacetalk@interfree.it

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

5

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

Event in Nov. 100 - 150 young people

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

A single centre.

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

Last year we were just an idea now we are an established initiative attracting interest and the possibility of future initiatives and collaboration in various areas. Among our interesting developments are :
A Peace Forum with 100 - 150 young people in nov.

The possibility of creating a video on resolving conflicts for small children

Contact with the Nobels for Peace, Rome and future collaboration is being discussed

Close cooperation, encouragement/empowerment with other working groups has been valuable and much appreciated

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

Working in a multi lingual situation where English is not the first language we generally have to go through an issue three times and good listening and asking questions helps

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Yes, under discussion

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

Yes under discussion

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

We are looking forward to having further details from MFP UK about their Cross Party Commission.

Japan

1. What is your name?

Yumi Kikuchi, founder and chair

Hideaki Nakagawa, vice chair

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

JUMP (Japan United for Ministry of Peace)

email: info@ministryofpeace.jp

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

Approx. twenty (20)

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

Meetings - 10 to 20;
Other events up to 100 (or sometimes more), depending on type of events

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group? If so, how many?

Currently from a single centre, but spontaneous regional groups exist in Kansai area, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Okinawa and so on.

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

Four (4) seminars;
Five (5) steering committee meetings;
The Founder and Chair (Yumi) attended the DOP Conference in the USA;
Development and revision of website (www.ministryofpeace.jp);
Press relation activities resulted in published articles on JUMP in some magazines and newspapers.

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

Working as volunteers; team building.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Yes

If yes, name the alliances/coalitions you have formed and the groups that are represented.

Peace Boat Japan, Transcend Japan

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

No.

We want our movement to maintain a non-partisan character and thus would like to take time in strategy building in preparation for actively lobbying with the Members of Parliament.

Currently there are several MPs who have expressed their interest in and/or support our movement.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

They could assist us:

- with trainings in Peace building and Peacemaking;
- by sharing information on their campaigns and experiences; and
- by sending ministers of peace, government officials involved in peace processes, and the members of national campaigns to give lectures.

New Zealand

1. What is your name?

Sophia La Toa

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

New Zealand/Aotearoa Campaign for a Ministry for A Culture of Peace

Contact Sophia La Toa

email: sophiatoa@yahoo.com.au

Phone/Fax 64 4 3800 327

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

Variable/not very active yet

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

35 in our last meeting

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

More than one group – a few groups representing NGOs and peace groups

If so, how many?

Approx. 5-6

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

Still in formation, public forums were held in May 2006 and July 2007 in Wellington, capital of NZ.. NZ was represented for the first time in 2006 at the Second Global Summit by Alyn Ware (The Peace Foundation) and Kate Smith (Operation Peace Through Unity). A small committee is emerging, currently consisting of OPTU, UNANZ branch members, teachers and Youth representatives, who are in the process of arranging consultations within schools and community groups in the Wanganui region and beyond. They invite other groups to participate in this consultation process in the hope they will consider using the 5-point proposal as a basis for thoughts, comments and suggestions as to how an effective and comprehensive working relationship could come about. The outcome: a mutually agreed proposal for a NZ Ministry for a Culture of Peace to be presented to the Government of New Zealand.

At the July 21 2007 public meeting and consultation on establishing a Ministry for Peace, participants supported in principle the 5 general aims for a Ministry for Peace proposed by Operation Peace Through Unity. However, there was not time to go through the aims in detail, so it was decided to circulate them to ascertain support. The general aims proposed for a Ministry for Peace are:

1. identifying root-causes of conflict, disharmony and hostility within and between peoples, cultures and nations;
2. actively promoting the employment of conflict-resolution, mediation, negotiation and other peace building/peacemaking skills, and encouraging that these skills become common practice;
3. acting as a focal point for comprehensive, consistent and constructive cooperation and consultation between government (and its various departments) and interest groups within the various parts of society (education, health, environment, industry, unions, science, arts, culture, laws, media, police, military, volunteers, local government etc.) ensuring that the legislative process of formulating any specific law takes into account the effect it may have on the community in its entirety;
4. forming working partnerships with international institutions and co-workers for the building of a culture of peace worldwide;
5. keeping the government and the general public aware of the UN resolutions which our Government has committed itself and us all to implement.

Unless there is any objection to these aims, they will be affirmed as the general aims proposed and promoted by the Aotearoa-New Zealand Network for a Ministry for Peace.

OPTU also proposed that the ministry be called a Ministry for a Culture of Peace. There were other proposals for the name including Ministry for Peace, and Ministry for Peace, Disarmament and Human Rights. No decision was made on which of these names would be preferable.

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

The 1999 United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (A/RES/53/243) makes it emphatically clear that *“a key role in the promotion of a culture of peace belongs to parents, teachers, politicians, journalists, religious bodies and groups, intellectuals, those engaged in scientific, philosophical and creative and artistic activities, health and humanitarian workers, social workers, managers at various levels as well as to non-governmental organizations”*.

It also urges that the United Nations, its Member States, and ‘We, the Peoples of the United Nations’ work together towards this end.

The Declaration has energized and inspired the increasingly powerful groups in the UK, Canada, USA, Australia, Nigeria, Costa Rica and many other countries belonging to the Global Peace Alliance, who are lobbying their governments for the establishing of ministries or departments of peace.

Among achievements can be mentioned the bill, which is presently before the US House of Representatives, hoping (with public pressure) to make it into law; the Solomon Islands that already has a Minister for Peace; and Nepal which has just established a Ministry for Peace and Reconstruction.

Although our goal is ultimately the same as these other campaigns, the New Zealand proposal has chosen a slightly different approach:

We would like to think that such a ministry would signify the beginning of a new type of governance, i.e. a full, open and dynamically interactive working relationship and partnership between peoples and government, the result of which would be a type of democracy that will leave no one out, and for which we are all mutually responsible;

Moreover, we suggest that this ministry be called a Ministry for a Culture of Peace. Although a longer name, it will keep reminding us that for peace to have any meaning it will need to become a strong and vibrant culture, demonstrated in the way we all live and relate to each other.

In May 2006 Peace through Unity (OPTU) tabled a paper for a panel discussion on this subject, organized by the UNANZ Wellington branch, which contained some background information on the ministry for peace initiative, and also a 5-point proposal for a NZ Ministry for a Culture of Peace. The text of these points is based on the UN Declaration and Plan of Action on a Culture of Peace.

We hope that these five points will serve as a basic structure, a skeleton so to speak, on which – through comprehensive community consultation and contribution – the whole body of this new organism can begin to be shaped. There is increasing agreement worldwide that it is the peoples of the world, who will need to breathe life and real meaning into the concept of democracy – becoming its heart and soul.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Yes

If yes, name the alliances/coalitions you have formed and the groups that are represented.

More than one group – a few groups representing NGOs and peace groups i.e. The Peace Foundation, The United Nations NZ (UNANZ), Operation Peace Through Unity (OPTU), Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), National Consultative Committee on Nuclear Disarmament (NCCD) and Nonviolent Communication NZ (NVCNZ).

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

Yes – a small beginning

If yes, please detail.

Keith Locke from the NZ Green Party attended the public forum in July 2007 as a guest/keynote speaker.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

* Generally, I would enjoy listening to and learning from the experiences and achievements of those who have advanced their campaigns to a level of widespread public/grassroots support. Also to those who have lobbied to a degree of success political and government support, and of course those who have established Depts/Ministries for Peace within their political landscape.

* I'm excited about Miki Kashtan facilitating the Summit and using Nonviolent Communication (NVC) throughout the conference. I'm the New Zealand NVC National Coordinator and contact person as well as the Regional Project New Zealand representative in the South East Asia/Australia/Oceania network which advocates, supports and promotes NVC communities. I also teach NVC to help make the collective paradigm shift in consciousness, from living in a culture of violence, towards a culture of peace. I look forward to learning new NVC skills from Miki Kashtan who is held in high regard within the NVC global community.

1. What is your name?

Eric Wong

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

Operation Peace Through Unity, Gita Brooke (Co-founder), optubrookiana@xtra.co.nz, <http://www.peacethroughunity.info>

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

10 co-workers

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

15-150 people or more.

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

Operation Peace Through Unity has been and will be working with people, groups, and NGOs whenever and wherever appropriate, and we never keep counts of the number of groups or people we work with. We work with and lend a hand wherever possible towards a culture of peace.

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

International Day of Peace, promoting the establishment of a NZ Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies; printed 4000 Ministry for Peace pamphlets and distributed most of them; also printed and distributed 'bookmarks' with OPTU's 5-point proposal for a NZ Ministry for a Culture of Peace; written a draft proposal for a resolution calling for the UNGA to encourage all UN member states to establish a ministry/department of peace. This resolution has been endorsed by the UNANZ and handed to the NZ ambassador to the UN, HE Rosemary Banks; hosted UN Under-Secretary-General Anwarul Chowdhury, who had expressed a wish to see the Wanganui Culture of Peace sculpture, and is sending a Wanganui Youth to the UN annual NGO conference as OPTU's Youth delegate. She also spoke at the Wellington Ministry of Peace meeting, 21st July this year.

The problems as always are the labour pains involved which are part and parcel of bringing into being a whole new and more inclusive mindset and way of relating to one another. This has to be more than a new type of behaviour learnt – it has to come from heart – from the atmosphere we breathe in and give out – from the heart.

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

OPTU has experienced that the only practical and most effective way forward is to know beyond any shadow of doubt that the goal is already there as a divine design -and that we can make it visible on earth – together as one humanity in all our glorious diversity.

OPTU is also constantly reminded and slowly learning that the pain, the fear and insecurities of diversity, the sense of failure and of separateness can only be overcome if not given energy.

That personalities are the tools, and only truly effective in the hands of the master builder.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Operation Peace Through Unity has formed and is forming alliances with various individuals, groups and NGOs around the world

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

We have not worked very intensively within this area yet. We have met the interest of individual politicians and have throughout the years co-organised various meetings in the Legislative Chambers within the Parliament Buildings from time to time on related issues (democratization of the UN etc)

Local and national politicians have shown great interest in the project that OPTU has been doing. We appreciate their interest and their support toward the common goal of our projects.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

OPTU is always eager to work with individuals and groups who share a similar goal in bringing a culture of peace to humanity, thus we believe networking plays an important part in the projects and events that we organize. We hope to further our network with the participants and trainers who are attending the summit, and perhaps working partnerships could be built from there.

Pakistan

1. What is your name?

Jahangir Piara

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

Organization for Peace and Development (OPD), Ph: 0092-300-4814752, Street Address: House No. 179, Street 19-A, Bethel Ham Road, Bahar Colony 1, Kot Lakhpat Lahore-54760 Pakistan, Postal Address: P.O.Box 10296, Feroze Pur Road Lahore 54600-Pakistan

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

10

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

100 to 1000+(vary activity to activity)

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

We are an independent organization but we are working in close collaboration with like minded organizations.

If so, how many?

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

1. Observe a Week Peace through Sports
2. International Day of Peace
3. Attend Safhr's last training workshop at new Delhi
4. Elected as Regional Representative for South Asia Region of International Peace Bureau.
5. Supported the Earth Quake victims (supported by URI)

This was actually the 2nd year of the organization since its inception and I think we did a lot with in our limited resources. In the beginning of the year we made a strategic plan to launch and organize our activities with in the limited resources as well as fruitful both for the community groups (with those we organize these activities) and organization.

After the meeting of Board of Directors and Advisory Council of OPD in January 2006. We organized our first activity at Education Centre Dar-ul-ul-Hikmat activity title was *Peace through Sports.* Then in March we observed International Day of Women with the most vulnerable women of the villages of District Gujranwala. In February we also went to Kashmir in regard to distribute relief goods to the Earth Quake Victims.

We also planted a peace at Rawal Pindi in January; we are using this symbol for interfaith harmony and peace education. In September I got an opportunity to attend the South Asia Workshop about Minority Rights and Indigenous People.

In September I was elected as Regional Representative for South Asia Region of International Peace Bureau. We also observe an International Day of Peace and participated in many other peace and interfaith harmony seminars and meetings.

We faced financial crises throughout the year and regular staff. Anyways, our on call staff and active volunteers made everything possible for us to do in regard to promote peace, education, human values and Interfaith Harmony.

I think overall we were successful to organize and run our organization's planned activities as well as its recognition around the world and at local level.

Since the inception of this year we are very successful to organize and arrange public meetings. Though, we are still facing the financial problems but I think so far we have done excellent towards our competencies and capacity.

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

Being a student of Sociology and Peace, I have observed that it is not an easy task/thing to motivate the people of different to follow someone else's vision or ideology. On the other hand it also not too difficult to motivate him or her to agree you're your point of view. The most necessary and important thing to motivate people for a greater participation in the meeting is as follow:

1. Meeting at individual level if necessary
2. Informal and Formal Meetings at local/ grass roots level
3. One day training Workshop at local level in the targeted area or locality

I believe after that we would be able to make a greater number of participation of those who differ from our vision or view.

An other most important thing is that we need to establish strong relations with the community stake holders and public figure of the certain localities. We must have follow up of our activities with the local community and with those people who differ from our ideas and rest of the community as well for a peaceful and fruitful change in the locality. And this will bring ultimate change in the world.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Yes

If yes, name the alliances/coalitions you have formed and the groups that are represented.

United Religions Initiatives, International Peace Bureau Network Lahore, IANSA

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

No

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

ALL-DAY

1. Advanced Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation -- Kyoko Okumoto
2. Nature and Functioning of Ministries and Departments of Peace – Saul Arbess
3. Nonviolent Communication – Miki Kashtan (newcomers welcome the second half)

HALF-DAY, OFFERED IN BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON

4. Beginning Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation -- Manish Thapa
5. Campaign Organising and Strategy for Networking, Advocacy, Lobbying and Working with the Media– Mike Abkin and Dot Maver
6. Mobilising and Organising Youth – Aaron Voldman and others
7. Political Legitimation of Peace: A Gandhian Perspective -- Suman Aggarwal

The following nos. of the trainers mentioned above can support us by giving trainings on their respective subjects for the promotion and restoration of peace and uplift of human values.1,3,4,5 and 6. These persons can support us to enhance our knowledge and competencies. In spite of that we hope that Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments would be able to support us financially to organize training workshops and Conference at Provincial, National and International levels if possible.

Romania

1. What is your name?

Corina Simon

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

I specify that PATRIR is acting as a supporting organization in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace and it is not yet formally engaged in a campaign for a Ministry for Peace in Romania.

Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR)

Bd. 1 Decembrie 1918, nr. 26, Cluj-Napoca, 400669, Cluj, Romania

Mailing address: OP 1 – CP 331, Cluj Napoca, 134919, Cluj, Romania

Tel./Fax: +40264420298

General email: info@patrir.ro

Email: corina.simon@patrir.ro

Website: www.patrir.ro

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

2

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

N/A

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

Centre

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

Objectives:

To support the Creation and Development of Infrastructure for Peace

To enhance capacity for Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation Internationally

Communication and outreach actions in the form of newsletters, summary reports of Steering Committee, website updates, announcements both broadly and per country interests.

Attending meetings of the Steering Committee and Japan Summit Planning Group and taking minutes..

Contact lists of interested people per country.

The Summit Questionnaire created in cooperation with the Japan Planning Group for assessing the needs of the Global Alliance for the next Summit has provided valuable information for the content development of the Summit.

New people added to national campaigns in Canada, UK, Nepal.

People inspired and actions of follow-through with information for creating a campaign in their own country in Belgium, Brazil, EU, France, Ghana, Irak, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa.

Connecting people coming for the international training programmes with existing campaigns in their countries and offering support for new ones.

Advanced 5 – day International Training Programmes:

- Gender and Peacebuilding (January 29th - February 2nd), trainer: Ina Curic
- Peacebuilding and Development, 5th – 9th March, trainer: Kai Jacobsen
- Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation and Post – War Rebuilding, Reconciliation and Resolution, April 30th – May 4th, trainer: Kai Jacobsen
- Designing Peacebuilding Programmes and Conflict Transformation Programmes, May 7th – May 11th, trainer: Kai Jacobsen and Denis Matveev, 1 participant from *ministry for peace UK*

Statistical numbers representing each programme are shown below:

Gender and Peacebuilding (GPb), 15 participants, 9 countries

Peacebuilding and Development (PaD), 9 participants, 6 countries

Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation and Post – War Rebuilding, Reconciliation and Resolution (PCTR), 14 participants, 8 countries

Designing Peacebuilding Programmes and Conflict Transformation Programmes (DPP), 31 participants, 18 countries

Kai Brand-Jacobsen has been personally engaged in the following activities:

- November 2006: New York: **Meetings with UN Peacebuilding Commission, UN DPA Mediation Support Unit, UNDP, UNPKO, and Swiss, Norwegian, Philippine and US Embassies to the UN**
- November 2006: New York: **Public Speech for New Yorkers for a Department of Peace**
- December 2006: Florida: **3-days Training for Peace Alliance Foundation** (US Campaign for a Department of Peace)
- December 2006: Ottawa: Meeting with Civil Peace Service Campaign Canada to plan April conference **‘Peace as a Profession’**
- December 2006: Ottawa: Speech to Civil Peace Service Canada and Quakers Canada on **Peacebuilding: Building Coalitions and Infrastructure for Peace**
- April 2007: Berlin: **Nonviolent Peaceforce Europe and EN.CPS Annual Meetings**

Attempted Program:

- (Philippines) Summit of Governments with Departments of Peace

After Romania's integration in the European Union the country has started to develop the framework and mechanisms for becoming a larger donor country in International Development Cooperation. PATRIR as a member of the Romanian platform or Nongovernmental Development Organization (FOND) is working actively to create a Peacebuilding Working Group within the platform and is engaging the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in lobbying for streaming peace and conflict issues in the policies for International Development Cooperation.

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

- Enhanced Global Concentration on: Infrastructure for Peace, Departments of Peace, Civil Peace Services, Coalitions for Peace
- Strengthened Institutional Capacity and Peacebuilding Capacity for Core Organizations and Partners through Transcend Peace University courses, international training programmes on peace and development in Romania and in-country
- Partnership and Relationships built with key individuals at UN
- **Partners / Networks:** Continued strengthening of cooperation and policy development amongst core partners and networks in support of: (i) infrastructure for peace; (ii) departments of peace; (iii) civil peace services; (iv) nonviolent peaceforce; and (v) building capacities, resources, cooperation and training for peacebuilding
- Offering support for the continuation of the Secretariat position
- Practical experience in international conflict transformation and peacebuilding programmes in countries like Moldova-Transdnistria, Middle East, Oaxaca, Sri Lanka, etc only to mention the most recent.
- The largest library on peace issues in Romania and South-Eastern Europe.
- Support for the formerly created and emerging working groups within the Global Alliance.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

No, not formally.

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

No

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

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Make available research done in their own country on the need for and functioning of Ministries and Departments of Peace.

Make available promotional materials for supporting their campaigns for further dissemination.

Highlight key people and institutions supporting the idea of a Ministry or a Department of Peace. Some ideas would be to publish quotes on the website, get the official endorsement.

Rwanda

1. What is your name?

RWANDA

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

WE DO NOT YET HAVE AN ORGANIZED GROUP. THE SUMMIT IS GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS AND THINK ABOUT LAUNCHING CAMPAIGN FOR THE MINISTRY

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

N/A

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

N/A

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group? If so, how many?

N/A

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

N/A

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

N/A

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

N/A

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

N/A

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

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ALTHOUGH WE MAY HAVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE THEMES ABOVE PRESENTED, I PERSONALLY FIND THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO THINK AND RETHINK ON THEMES 5,6 and 7.

Sierra Leone

1. What is your name?

Paul L. Koroma

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

West Africa Network for Peace building in Sierra Leone (WANEP-SL)
No. 50 Circular Road Freetown - Sierra Leone. National Network Coordinator - Edward K. Jombla, email-
edijombla@yahoo.co.uk

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

45 organizations

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

20 persons per meetings

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

We haven regional and district committees.

If so, how many?

We have 4 regional committees and 7 district Teams

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

To start with Sierra Leone has not been part of the Alliance. It was only recently that I was introduced to the process. However I have shared the issues of the alliance with my colleagues in the network of which I am the Chair of the Executive Board. This Network is the umbrella for major Peace building Civil Society Organizations in the Country. We embark on training of the membership in Peacebuilding and conflict transformation skills, share ideas, information and knowledge with the membership so as to strengthen them in their peace building work. Provide technical support to the membership in their activities. The Network takes lead on advocacy issues pertaining to Peace and Security issues in the country. During the past year we have engaged in piloting early warning project in some border district in the country to monitor and warn on indicators in violence, especially the trafficking of light weapons across the border with our neighbouring countries of Liberia and Guinea. Information gathered from these areas are inputted into the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) website forming the ECOWARN. Resulting from this has been reports on movement of militarized youths in the sub-region which helped our security forces to plan strategies of containing border infiltrations as we approached the General Elections this year. Another event was that we were able to sensitize and mobilize Civil Society Organizations to support us represent them on the Sierra Leone UN Peace building Steering Committee. We also represented Sierra Leone Civil Society in New York at the Country specific meeting on the UNPBC. Created links with the Office of National Security (ONS), the UN system and the Vice-Presidency for advocacy purposes.

In July 2006, WANEP-SL with support from WANEP Regional in Ghana conducted the first national consultation on the creation of the United Nations Peace Building Commission (UNPBC) and their mandate. This was made possible by the role WANEP is playing as Regional Focal Point for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC). The Session was attended by representatives of Civil Society Organizations and United Nations Country Office representatives. The session led to Civil Society designing a strategy to engage with the UNPBC process since Sierra Leone is one of the Pilot Countries. In the session we selected a committee to take forward the strategy. The committee then selected one of its members to represent the Sierra Leone Civil Society at various conferences in New York preceding the Country Specific Meeting at the UN headquarter. Also another member from the committee represented us at the Country Specific meeting. In October, while the Country Specific meeting was taking place another Civil Society group from Sierra Leone was convened in South Africa by the Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR), to consult on the UNPBC. This group was a blend of Government Officials and Civil Society Activists. On their return they formed a coalition to further sensitize the people on the PBC. This action was viewed by the WANP-SL as duplication. This led to series of internal consultations and debates which eventually culminated in the convening of another national consultation conducted by the joint coalitions. It was at this session that West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP) and Mano River Women Peace Network (MARWOPNET) were selected to represent Civil Society on the Sierra Leone Peace Building Commission's Steering Committee. The role has enabled WANEP to be strategically placed to lobby, advocate and influence Government decisions. Thus the opportunity is there for Civil Society to lobby and Advocate for a Ministry or department of Peace. Just before I arrived at this Summit, WANEP conducted a Consultation on Justice Lens programme, which is aimed at integrating Peace building and Human Rights methods and principles in the work of Civil Society organizations. Among the strategies developed during the session was the issue of lobbying for a Ministry of Peace. This strategy seems more likely as we are having in place a new Government.

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

What we learnt from this is that engaging with others in meaningful dialogue will generate cooperation. Also having wider linkages sharing information widely on our engagements will enhance recognition. The fact that WANEP presented their report to the Government, the UN system made us to be ahead of the other coalition. So eventually even before the issue of duplication arose the Government had started to engage WANEP-SL. Also advocacy will be successful when we meet with the relevant authorities and discuss with them our views..

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Yes

If yes, name the alliances/coalitions you have formed and the groups that are represented.

We have formed alliances with The National Forum for Human Rights (NFHR); The Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) and the Mano River Women Peace Network (MARWOPNET).

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

No

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

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This can be done through sharing of information and documents. Technical support and support/ solidarity with us on higher level advocacy. Further all of the above topics are very relevant for us to plan a successful. Further I would like to know more from Alliance members who have succeeded in their campaigns.

South Africa

1. What is your name?

Mrs.Karen Barendsché

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

South Africa Peace Alliance
Karen Barendsché karen@metavarsity.com
Tel: +27 21 531 5737 Mobile: +27 82 461 1418

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

4 founding members

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

4

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

N/A

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

We are newly founded organization

A year and a half ago I received an email from Loren Human, who is a fellow SAPA founding member, about the campaign in America to establish a Department of Peace. The concept just bowled me over because it made such perfect sense and stuck with me for weeks on end. Then just over a year ago in August 2006, I finally e-mailed Mike Abkin to ask if there was such an organization in South Africa. He was quick in his kind and supportive manner to respond and the response was just what I needed to jolt me into action. There was no one doing this work in South Africa and that propelled me to take action.

I then met with a fellow founding member, Mulweli Rebelo, whose parents were very involved in freeing Mozambique from colonization and establishing its government. We then spoke to a few colleagues, and got together to form our committee and founded the South African Peace Alliance on 3rd November 2006.

South Africa is a vibrant and progressive country. We sadly are plagued by violence in some communities and need help desperately to shift this consciousness to a peaceful and secure state.

As a newly founded organization, we are enthusiastic about activating a project plan for establishing a Department of Peace in South Africa. South Africa is a country rich in its history as fledgling democracy, founded by a number of exceptional humanitarians, the well known Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela, being some of them.

In this regard, may I mention that we received an e-mail from TJ Bowen, who's partner Aaron Voldman of the Student Peace Alliance in the USA is here, mentioning that Desmond Tutu could not support their

campaign when requested to do so, as he had no such Department in his own country. We aim to change that and get his full support.

Our constitution is one of the most liberal and progressive in the world, which is why we know our efforts will in time manifest the result South Africa requires: An established Department of Peace.

Currently our country is suffering from crime that is threatening to rip apart what has been so hard fought hard and in some cases died for. This is why this work has to succeed.

I would like to now briefly outline The South African Peace Alliance strategic objectives:

- To lobby and advocate parliamentarians, public and private sectors, and civil society organizations for the establishment of a Department of Peace within the South African government by 2012.
- To participate within the Global Peace Alliance to give and receive support for inter-related initiatives and campaigns, particularly on the African continent
- To shift the predominant “anti crime/war on crime” paradigm to a “pro peace” paradigm
- To provide an umbrella body and a collective voice for all pro peace movements and NGO’s in South Africa, in order to strengthen and grow the South African movement towards establishing a culture of peace.
- To invite South African businesses to become peace partners and support the South African Peace Alliance by aligning their *corporate governance principles* with SAPA’s peace principles that are in the process of being written. This enables them to bear the “South African Peace Partner” logo with pride. This could be done by aligning to a company such as CGA- Corporate Governance Accreditation – <http://www.corpgovernance.co.za/> This can provide funding for continued growth and expansion of SAPA objectives
- To empower South Africans to become Peace Partners who actively participate in the promotion of an ethos of peace in South Africa by providing:
 - Easily accessible information on how to establish Peace Forums and Pro Peace Action Teams in suburbs and larger communities
 - Pre established structures and guidelines that outline the function and purpose of a Peace Forum and Peace Action Teams for city and rural areas
 - Mechanisms to involve the local government representative/council member in the efforts of the local Peace Forum or Pro Peace Action Teams

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

As a new organization we do not yet have proven activities to draw from and this a prominent reason for attending the Peace Summit in Japan in order to learn and gather useful and practical information that we can implement.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Formally no.

Informally we have established links that are supportive and have the potential to be collaborative

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

No formally

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

As a newly formed organization it would be most helpful to have a basic understanding of the structures that work optimally in various countries.

What the roles and responsibilities are for each member that maximizes efficiency and growth?

What are the best proven methods of fund raising?

What are the most effective ways of creating community participation?

How to engage media to maximize the exposure of the Peace Alliance movement?

How to engage the various levels of society, namely business, civic, and governmental sectors?

Uganda

1. What is your name?

Peter Phillips Lukwiya

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

Uganda Peace Foundation Initiative

Plot 65-75 Pager Crescent

P O box 123, Kitgum Uganda

Email: info@ugandapeacefoundation.org

Website: <http://www.ugandapeacefoundation.org>

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

08

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

02

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

We are working from a single Center. Should resources becomes available, we hope to create regional task forces in the near future

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

Just after the 2nd GA summit in Victoria Canada 2006, we managed to have our logo designed by Carol (USA), and website designed and hosted by Bill (webmaster of the Global Alliance-UK) at no cost. This was an important success for us since we were able to disseminate information including about Uganda's campaigns. Now we have nice log and website. Thanks to Mike Abkin and Rachael.

We managed to produce the draft of Uganda's manifesto for Ministry of peace, now in circulation to give clear insight in to the structure and rationale for creating a Ministry of peace in Uganda. After the production of the Manifesto, It became easier for mobilization and sensitization to be carried out since such handy document was available. Between September 2006 and January 2007, we organized 7 Consultative meetings with individuals and members of the Civil Society organizations in Uganda to support the advocacy campaigns. Importantly, among individuals met some were MPs, Ministers, political leaders and local Government leaders. The positive responses and outcome of these meetings was inspiring and gave us limelight in consolidating our strategies and taking the campaign to next height, obvious indication of which is participation of Hon MP Odonga Otto during this 3rd GA summit, Sep 2007 Japan. Nevertheless, some of these input from individuals and CSOs shall be incorporated into our manifesto for a ministry of Peace in Uganda to make it a binding document and ready for tabling in before the parliament and President's office. Further working on this, however, is still in progress and hope that our final manifesto comes ready by December 2007, ready for onward submission and discussions.

We also managed to form coalition at national level, and this was mainly done with help of some few members from CSOs engaged in peace work during the same period, our future target is have this coalition formed among: CSOs; political parties and MPs, and hope that this strategy would enhance our campaigns. From February 2007 to date, intensive lobbying and members recruitment has mainly been going. We hope that between Dec 2007 and Jan 2008 our national Coalition team be restructured into functional units /taskforce each with specialized tasks located in the four regions of Uganda. This shall extend the baseline of our advocacy work.

In May 2007, I was able to participate at CIVICUS world Assembly in Glasgow Scotland, much as Uganda Peace Foundation didn't had the opportunity to present its work, I personally had the opportunity to interact with a number of people where I hared with them information about Global Alliance and Global camping's for Ministries/departments of peace and future prospects.

Lastly, now that our campaign is gaining recognition, attention and support to greater heights, we hope to shiftily finalize writing the manifesto for ministry of peace, have it tabled in parliament and further presented to the office of the present for consideration.

Some challenges

Most of our important activities like holding workshops, public gathering.....etc were hampered by lack of financial resources, since most sources of our funds are from few individuals (subscriptions).

The political nature of Uganda is still a main challenge in our work. And general perception of the people, this is in reference to the politics of the Country where people are skeptical about the institution of such ministry in a country whose president is a military "General".

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

I have basically learnt about mobilization skill and creating awareness about the campaign to the general public; interestingly, I have learnt to cope with the vast challenges and always have high prospect and keep pushing for a goal that eventually change a society.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

NO solid alliance currently exist; Uganda Peace Foundation is the sole organization in Uganda conducting this advocacy campaigns, however, as mentioned above, Alliance formation is anticipated at Organizational levels.

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

Yes. As mentioned above, we had consultative meetings on the relevant of ministry of peace and how the advocacy campaign can be best structured to have the ministry eventually established. Members of parties such as FDC, UPC and ruling NRM were consulted and had their support won by participating in drafting the manifesto for Uganda's Ministry of peace.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

ALL-DAY

1. Advanced Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation -- Kyoko Okumoto
2. Nature and Functioning of Ministries and Departments of Peace – Saul Arbess
3. Nonviolent Communication – Miki Kashtan (newcomers welcome the second half)

HALF-DAY, OFFERED IN BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON

4. Beginning Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation -- Manish Thapa
5. Campaign Organising and Strategy for Networking, Advocacy, Lobbying and Working with the Media– Mike Abkin and Dot Maver
6. Mobilising and Organising Youth – Aaron Voldman and others
7. Political Legitimation of Peace: A Gandhian Perspective -- Suman Aggarwal

In general, the global alliance and members who shall be present at the summit shall be of use if they share their resources, experiences and collectively strategize in enhancing country's campaigns. We need to be interconnected and collaborative.

United Kingdom

1. What is your name?

James Eckhardt

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

ministry for peace (mfp)

james.eckhardt@ministryforpeace.org
www.ministryforpeace.org

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

12 members of the National Co-ordinating Committee

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

20 - 100

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

Single centre

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

A. Participated at the 2nd Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace in Canada in June 2006
B. Set up an All Party Parliamentary Group on Conflict Issues (APPG) in January 2007 and held 5 meetings on:

- (a) 'The Changing Nature of Conflict' - Sir Jeremy Greenstock and Prof Mary Kaldor
- (b) 'The Power of Mediation' - Lord (Douglas) Hurd and Prof Karl Mackie
- (c) 'Preventing Violent Conflict' - Rt Hon Hilary Benn (co-hosted with Department for International Development)
- (d) 'Dogs of War or a Force for Peace' - Andy Bearpark (British Association of Private Security Companies) and
Jon Hilary (War on Want)
- (e) 'Swords and Ploughshares: Bringing Peace to the 21st Century' – Lord (Paddy) Ashdown

(f) postponed was 'Preventing Violent Conflict - The Challenge for Government' with two government ministers

(reshuffled due to change of Prime Minister in May); we are seeking to reschedule in the autumn.

The members of the Advisory Group to the APPG are (so far)

Lord Ashdown (former Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party and former international community's High

Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Lord Hurd (former Foreign Secretary)

Moazzam Malik (head of CHASE (Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department, a DfID (Department for International Development)

Sir Rupert Smith (former Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe i.e. NATO)

Kai Brand-Jacobsen (PATRIR, TRANSCEND)

Dr. Scilla Elworthy (founder of Oxford Research Group and Peace Direct)

Judith Large (co-founder Responding to Conflict)

Simon Fisher (co-founder Responding to Conflict)

Jane Corbin (senior BBC TV journalist)

(We are also approaching individuals in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and

Cabinet Office, and academia)

C. Made formal contacts with the 14 members of the Peace & Security Liaison Group (major UK NGOs)

BASIC (British American Security Information

Campaign Against Arms Trade

CND

Conciliation Resources

Conscience

International Alert

Medact

Oxford Research Group

Peace Direct

Peaceworkers UK - now at International Alert

Quaker Peace & Social Witness

Responding to Conflict (RTC)

Saferworld

UNA

D. We hold meetings in Parliament open to MPs and the general public to illustrate the issues that a Ministry for Peace would need to work on in order to prevent or reduce violence. This year the topics were:

Trident – a Weapon of Peace?

Climate Change – What's to be Done?

What Lessons can be Learned from British NGO's Working to Transform Violent Conflicts?

Violence against Women – the Issues and Practical Solutions

Modern Day Slavery

In March 2006 *mfp* (in the UK) had stalled. We were getting respectable attendances at the open meetings we were holding in Parliament but were unable to engage with Parliamentarians or government. The main problem was that these groups seemed largely unfamiliar even with the concepts of conflict prevention, transformation and resolution, let alone the practical work that is under way in many parts of the world. Arguing for a department of government that would co-ordinate and further promote this work was therefore trying to build on a base of understanding that didn't exist. It was like explaining the need for a Ministry for Health to people who hadn't heard of medicine or doctors...

Help was at hand, however.

A number of *mfp* members attended the rally in Trafalgar Square to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, where we bumped into Jenny Tonge. She had been a senior Liberal Democrat MP but had been sacked as her party's international development spokesperson for saying that she could understand why someone born under the Israeli occupation might grow up to become a suicide bomber. We got talking and, before she was called away to address the rally, she agreed to meet Eddy to discuss conflict resolution.

Eddy sent her a copy of our 2005 manifesto and when they met in the House of Lords (Jenny had been 'kicked upstairs' following her sacking) Jenny expressed her agreement with nearly everything in the document. The challenge was, in her words, 'how to advance this agenda in this place' - i.e. in Parliament. 'We need an All-Party group or something,' she said. And so the idea was born.

All-Party groups in Parliament exist to promote causes and interests across party lines, and in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. There are lots of them, representing everything from the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Adoption and Fostering to the APPG on Zoos and Aquariums.

Eddy put the idea to the *mfp* AGM that very evening ('Life is built on coincidences.' Discuss), it was approved, and the rest of 2006 was dedicated to setting up this group.

To qualify, it needed 20 MPs and peers (members of the House of Lords) to sign up, and they had to come from all parties, with at least ten from the governing party. We set ourselves the goal of having it established by the time Parliament rose for the Christmas recess - nine months away - and set to the task.

First, we did some research. What was the best way to approach Parliamentarians? Why did some of these groups thrive and others wither on the vine? What was the best name?

After a month we came to the decision that we would call our group the APPG on Conflict Issues (for reasons explained elsewhere), then set about contacting MPs and peers to see what they thought of the idea. We couched the approach in this way, rather than make a direct attempt to recruit, as we have found that asking politicians for advice is more likely to get a positive response than asking them to make a commitment. We also asked for referrals if the person we were approaching was not himself (or herself) interested.

In this way, bit by bit we built up a list of those interested in the idea, ranging from the lukewarm to the excited. But we quickly saw that the interest of Parliamentarians grew as the list did; in other words, the idea of forming an APPG on Conflict Issues became more attractive as Parliamentarians saw a growing number of their colleagues, in all parties, expressing interest.

By the autumn (fall) we had almost fifty names on the list. The challenge now was to turn twenty of those into serious support. Again, we sought advice, this time from our staunchest supporter, John McDonnell, who helped us identify a shortlist.

And - to cut a long story short - we managed to get agreement from twenty Parliamentarians and meet the other criteria necessary to register the group a few days before Parliament rose before Christmas.

Our first meeting was in February this year, and the APPG has definitely taken us to a completely new level. It is our stepping-stone to developing wider support within Parliament, government and NGOs working in this field. In time, we hope we will be able to engage them in dialogue about the concept of a Ministry for Peace...

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

(a) we have learnt that branding our work in terms of 'conflict' rather than 'peace' has attracted more interest and less immediate rejection

(b) For example, to talk about 'exploring alternative approaches to preventing or resolving conflict with less or no violence, and at a much lower human and financial cost' has reaped greater benefits than to talk about 'peace', which means different things to different people; the former sounds hard-nosed and practical, while the latter can be dismissed as 'idealistic'

(c) this approach is also more attractive to those whose business is to use violence - i.e. the military - many of whom find the violent aspect of their work distasteful but necessary; hence Sir Rupert Smith's willingness to join our Advisory Group

(d) it is also more attractive to those generally on the Right, for whom violence in certain circumstances is seen as entirely legitimate (e.g. Lord Hurd)

(e) recruiting people from the Right and the military is a great boost to our cause - it has opened up the internal corridors of government to us to some extent i.e. we are increasingly seen as not 'against' these people but genuinely concerned to discover with them practical alternatives to the current approach, which simply isn't working

(f) building positive relationships, especially with those with whom we disagree, is essential

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

Not formally but a wide range of NGOs attend our APPG meetings.

Our database of over 1600 individuals and organisations includes NGOs and voluntary peace groups.

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

Yes

If yes, please detail.

Working with MPs from the three major political parties, Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat, we have set up an All Party Parliament Group on Conflict Issues (APPG). The purpose of the APPG, as formally stated in the Parliamentary Register, is 'To encourage dialogue, on the basis of expert information and opinion from across the political spectrum, on issues relating to conflict; especially on the practical means to prevent, transform and resolve violent conflict.'

Establishing this group, which is a major step forward for *ministry for peace*, has generated a lot of interest across government and amongst those who work in the field of conflict management. The APPG will provide a forum where Parliamentarians, government officials, NGOs, academics and others can come together on a regular basis to share ideas and thoughts about the challenges of non-violent approaches to managing conflict

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit (see attached list of trainers and their areas of expertise), assist you with developing your campaign?

It would be great to hold a meeting of the APPG that features the work and challenges faced by existing MFPs and their equivalents e.g. in Nepal, Solomon Islands and the Philippines. How might we facilitate this?

United States of America

1. What is your name?

Mike Abkin

2. What is the name of your country group? Please provide contact information.

The Peace Alliance

Contact: Dot Maver at dot@thepeacealliance.org or Mike Abkin at mike@thepeacealliance.org

3. What is the number of active participants in the core group?

National staff: 12

State Coordinators: 64

Congressional District Team Leaders: 264

Grassroots Volunteer Activists: Thousands!

All but National Staff belong to the network of local grassroots activists who comprise the Department of Peace Campaign – associated with but organizationally independent of The Peace Alliance.

4. Roughly, how many people can you count on to come to your meetings and events?

Locally organized meetings and events are happening all the time all over the country and may draw anywhere from a handful of people to thousands.

Nationally organized fundraisers and outreach events may draw dozens to a few hundred. Our biennial national conference draws hundreds; 700 attended the last conference in February 2007 plus hundreds more for its open-to-the-public closing session.

5. Are you working from a single centre or do you have more than one chapter or group?

The Peace Alliance is a national organization, though its staff is spread all over the country. There associated state- and/or district-level campaign organizations in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Guan, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa – but these are not organizationally part of The Peace Alliance.

6. Please list what were the group's events/achievements over the past year?

Please see the attached report of accomplishments.

7. What have you learned from your work that you believe can be of support for other countries. In other words, what resources do you have to offer?

We offer through our website (www.thepeacealliance.org) tools and resources that others are welcome to use as they feel appropriate – about contacting members of the legislative and executive branches of government, organizing house parties and community meetings, organizing grassroots activists, working

with the media. We also provide trainings at Summits and are happy to consult with others who are conducting or organizing campaigns.

8. Have you formed alliances with other groups?

YES

We work in partnership and cooperation with many aligned groups who share in the work of helping reveal a culture of peace – through conferences, speaking engagements, and other events and activities.

9. Have you succeeded in getting political parties and politicians interested in and supporting your campaign?

- In the 109th Congress (2005-2006), 77 members of the House of Representatives co-sponsored the legislation that would establish the U.S. Department of Peace and Nonviolence, and two Senators co-sponsored the companion bill in the Senate.
- In the 110th Congress, 68 members of the House of Representatives have so far signed on to co-sponsor the current bill, introduced in February by Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio.
- One of the current co-sponsors, Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota, the first Muslim to be elected to Congress, spotlighted the Department of Peace as part of his 2006 campaign platform.
- 8 members of the House of Representatives spoke at our National Conference in Washington, DC, in February 2007.
- 1 member of the House of Representatives, Rep. Jim McDermott of Washington, this year wrote an op-ed column, published in a Seattle, Washington, newspaper, supporting the Department of Peace.
- Several Representatives and Senators are “interested” enough to be engaging with us in conversations about their potential support for the legislation, including possibly introducing a bipartisan bill in the Senate.
- During the 2004 presidential election campaign, the state Democratic Parties in 12 states adopted the Department of Peace onto their party platforms.
- Locally, 22 city councils, 2 county boards of supervisors, and 1 Native American tribal council (politicians all!) voted to endorse the federal legislation for a Department of Peace.

10. How can other countries in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and the trainers who will be at the summit, assist you with developing your campaign?

Our grassroots activists throughout the country, and our political supporters, as well, are inspired in their own work locally by hearing stories of the experiences of people like them in other countries, with such a wide diversity of cultures and socio-economic conditions, who are also working for a culture of peace and its reflection in government. It places our movement and the Department of Peace itself into a global context.



The Peace Alliance
Campaign to Establish a

U.S. Department of Peace

U.S. CAMPAIGN STATUS AND ACCOMPLISHMENT HIGHLIGHTS AS OF AUGUST 2007

This campaign is growing rapidly and our organization has matured greatly during this past year, our second full fiscal year of operation:

The Legislation

1. The bill to establish a Department of Peace and Nonviolence (HR 808) was reintroduced in the House of Representatives for the 110th Congress in February 2007 during our national Department of Peace Conference in Washington, DC, and currently has 68 confirmed co-sponsors.
2. We continue working toward the goal of generating a bipartisan introduction in the Senate, primarily through relationship-building among grassroots volunteers and their respective Senate offices.
3. We are working with contacts in the executive branch to identify opportunities for expanding dialogue about a government structure focused on nonviolent conflict resolution and violence prevention.
4. The number of city and other governing councils endorsing the Department of Peace legislation has grown to 25 (22 city councils, two county boards of supervisors, and one tribal council), up from 16 at the close of the previous fiscal year.

Campaign Field Operations

1. Our grassroots network is active in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa. Congressional District Team Leads have volunteered in 265 districts, and we have many more districts active with volunteers choosing not to be in a traditional leadership role.
2. There are now 64 state coordinators leading campaigns in 34 states, up from 48 coordinators in 28 states a year ago and continuing to grow. Some larger states such as California, Florida, Texas, and New York, have multiple state coordinators, based on the number of districts in their state. Ideally, in states with more than a few congressional districts, our goal is to have one state coordinator for every six to eight districts.
3. State coordinators held their second annual meeting, called a Forward, in Minnesota in July 2007. State coordinators provide information and nurture district-level activist organizations as well as coordinate statewide and multi-district campaign activities. They plan and implement strategy, share best campaign practices and experiences, and assist with coordinating the national campaign.
4. We are noticing a ripple effect in the last few months that we haven't seen before: State Coordinators are reporting that actions are happening in their state that they did not know about. Volunteers who have been following the campaign for months, and sometimes years, from the sidelines are feeling empowered by the shared leadership

model we have been mentoring and are self-organizing to take action. Projects are being nurtured and results are being produced that continue to build momentum for the movement.

5. We launched the first annual Walks for Peace Walkathon during International Culture of Peace Month in September 2006, resulting in walks in more than 80 cities nationwide.
6. We organized and supported the third annual Mother's Day "Peace of the Pie" lobbying effort, resulting in more than 250 Congressional offices visited, compared to 140 in 2006.
7. We held our second annual Father's Day campaign, which for the first time was a joint action of the Student Peace Alliance partnering with state coordinators and inspired volunteers to write letters to the editor.

The Annual Conference

1. At our national Department of Peace Conference in February, we had the pleasure of squeezing in an overflow crowd of 700 Department of Peace activists from 46 states and the District of Columbia. More than 1,000 people attended our open-to-the-public finale event at George Washington University, at which seven members of Congress spoke passionately about the bill. It is uncommon to have so many members of Congress take the time to appear together at a nongovernmental off-the-Hill event to express their common support for a single piece of legislation.
2. In addition to the seven members of Congress who spoke, an eighth, unable to attend the finale, spoke briefly at the conference itself and later added the Department of Peace and Nonviolence to his next constituent mailer, the first time he'd taken such a public stance on the legislation.
3. As part of the conference, our activists scheduled over 220 meetings in House and Senate offices, often meeting with the actual Member, and held many more drop-in visits as well.
4. In the days following the Conference, the Peace Alliance organized and participated in a press conference and a congressional briefing in support of the legislation.
5. Among the conference attendees were more than 70 high school and college students from 22 states and 3 foreign countries – members of the Student Peace Alliance.

The Student Peace Alliance

1. Founded less than 18 months ago, the Student Peace Alliance already has chapters established on more than 30 college and high school campuses across the country.
2. In April, Student Peace Alliance director Aaron Voldman joined Marianne Williamson on a speaking tour of nine university campuses all across the country.
3. In July, the Student Peace Alliance held a five-day coordinating team retreat at the Common Ground Center in Vermont, attended by 10 Student Peace Alliance leaders from around the country.
4. The Student Peace Alliance is planning the first Student Peace Alliance National Conference, to be hosted at Brandeis University in October 2007, which over 200 students from around the nation are expected to attend.

The D.C. Office

5. We opened an office in Washington, DC, and have moved senior staff there to further develop and strengthen our contacts on the Hill and with allied organizations in the D.C. area. The D.C. office also now serves as the locus of planning and spearheading our national actions.
6. We initiated an internship program focused in our D.C. office. Maggie Lada interned in the office through April 2007, and Julia Simon-Mishel (national operations director for the Student Peace Alliance) is working in the D.C. office May thru August 2007. Youth from the Student Peace Alliance will continue to be recruited to intern in the D.C. office.
7. As part of our third annual Mother's Day "Peace Wants a Piece of the Pie" national action we for the first time we conducted a mirror action on Capitol Hill, delivering pies and thank-yous to every Congressional co-sponsor. Volunteers from Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia helped make this possible. This was also our first major action coordinated in the D.C. office, and inspired several states to also coordinate pie deliveries to their members' D.C. offices in addition to local offices.
8. As a direct result of Aaron Voldman's leadership and Julia Simon-Mishel working from the D.C. office, the Student Peace Alliance was able to organize the Father's Day letters-to-the-editor campaign and design the materials for it. Also, another Student Peace Alliance member held a letter-to-the-editor writing party in the D.C. area to support the Father's Day national action.
9. To further support our partnership with the Student Peace Alliance, encourage their use of the D.C. office, and facilitate relationships between the Student Peace Alliance and state coordinators, a combined open house-meeting was held in June with Maryland and Virginia state coordinators in attendance. As part of the open house, Julia Simon-Mishel conducted a letter-to-the editor workshop in the office.

Communications and Alliance Building

1. We have more than doubled our database of supporters to approximately 50,000 people nationwide, most of whom receive regular newsletters, e-alerts, and calls to action.
2. Our presence in the media has skyrocketed, with 76 letters-to-the-editor, 66 articles, and five op-eds published, as well as being featured in 34 radio interviews and six television newscasts and interviews during the year.
3. Executive director Dot Maver attended and presented a paper at the International Conflict Resolution Education Conference in Cleveland in March.
4. We have upgraded our website (www.thepeacealliance.org) and our use of the tools available at Democracy in Action to better serve the grassroots activists and general public as a source of information and news about the concept of a Department of Peace and the campaign. These additional tools include personal donation pages and "distributed events," which allow local coordination of nationally inspired or locally generated events. We are also in the midst of further honing the organization of the website.
5. We visited several missions and offices at the United Nations in November 2006 and are frequently invited to participate in various NGO working group meetings at the UN, where there is now a movement to support a UN resolution calling for ministries and departments of peace in national governments around the world.
6. We co-founded and actively participate in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, an association of grassroots activists and government officials in 24 countries with interest growing in many more. About a dozen have initiated actual campaigns for the establishment of departments or ministries of peace in their governments. The Global Alliance is planning its third Summit to be held in Japan in September 2007, where

approximately 80 people from 25 countries are expected to attend. See www.mfp-dop.org or visit www.peacealliancefound.org and click on “Global Engagement.”

Organizational Administration

1. Our national staff has doubled, now standing at 12, in response to growth at the grassroots level as well as the growth in visibility in the press and on Capitol Hill.
2. We completed a major staff restructuring, shifting roles, responsibilities and compensation to better align with existing resources, thus laying a more solid foundation for long-term sustainability.
3. Unaudited preliminary financial numbers indicate an increase in annual income of more than 25 percent.
4. We reorganized and realigned our relationship with the Peace Alliance Foundation, including separation of staff and boards. Following a Sierra Club/Sierra Club Foundation model, the Alliance focuses on program operations and the Foundation focuses on fundraising to support those Alliance programs that qualify for 501(c)(3) funding.
5. We have developed and are implementing an integrated fundraising plan, incorporating several fundraising campaigns during the year as well as coordination with the Peace Alliance Foundation.