



TENTATIVE AGENDA

Fellowship Programme 2022 – 2023

4-12 March 2023

Visit to Helsinki, Finland and Geneva, Switzerland

Organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



With the support of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.



Tentative Agenda (may be subject to change)

Saturday 4 March 2023		
Arrival to Helsinki – All day		
Accommodation: Radisson Blu Seaside; Ruoholahdenranta 3, 00180 Helsinki, Finland		
Sunday 5 March 2023		
Time	Activity/Meeting with	Proposed Dialogue
10:00 – 13:30	Group workshop/debrief Intercultural Communication – Interactive activity Run through the agenda for the week; preparing for meetings	
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch	
15:00 – 17:00	Meeting with Youth Peacebuilders Networking and dialogue with youth changemakers;	Sharing best practices of youth-led projects and advocacy campaigns <i>Presentations by youth changemakers, including Fellows; Q&A, networking</i>
Monday 6 March 2023		
Time	Activity/Meeting with	Proposed Dialogue
9:30 – 10:15	<u>Ministry of Justice</u> Ms. Mia Luhtasaari Senior Specialist Venue: Eteläesplanadi 10, Helsinki	<i>Equality data, antiracism, hate speech, equality planning and non-discrimination legislation</i>
10:30 - 12:00	<u>MFA - Peace Mediation</u> Ambassador Timo Heino MFA - Unit for UN and Global Affairs <u>MFA - Human Rights</u> Ms. Aurora Saares Desk Officer, Human Rights Defenders, rights of persons with disabilities, refugee policy Venue: Merikasarminkatu 5 E, Laivastokatu 22, Helsinki	<i>Supporting Human Rights Defenders</i>
12:30	Lunch	
16:00 - 17:30	<u>OASIS Central Foundation</u> Develop and support equal opportunities and rights, as well as obligations to act in the society, regardless of nationality, religion, belief, ethnicity or other background. Vision based on Islamic values. <u>National Forum for Cooperation of Religions in Finland</u> Brings together six religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, the Latter-day Saints and Hinduism. Its purpose is to foster social peace in Finland in the spirit of strengthening religious freedom by promoting interreligious dialogue, equality, mutual respect and cooperation. Meet at Oasis Office, Venue: Rintinpolku 7 E, Helsinki (entry is in the backside of building)	<i>Integration of youth of Muslim and immigrant backgrounds into European societies</i>

Tuesday 7 March 2023		
Time	Activity/Meeting with	Proposed Dialogue Themes
10:00 – 11:00	<p>The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman of Finland</p> <p>Ms. Kristina Stenman The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman</p> <p>Venue: Ratapihantie 9 (Itä-Pasila)</p>	<p>https://syrjinta.fi/en/front-page</p> <p>Report to the Parliament 2022</p> <p>Report on discrimination experienced by people of African descent</p>
12:00 – 13:30	<p>CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation</p> <p>Working to prevent and resolve conflicts through dialogue and mediation. Leading organization in the field of international peacemaking.</p> <p>Ms. Johanna Poutanen Head, Women in Peacemaking and Digital Peacemaking</p> <p>Venue: Eteläranta 12 , Helsinki</p>	<p><i>Women in peacemaking</i></p> <p><i>Communications for peace/digital peacemaking</i></p>
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch	
15:00 – 16:30	<p>Helsinki Deaconess Foundation</p> <p>Working for human dignity with people at risk of social exclusion.</p> <p>Finn Church Aid (FCA)</p> <p>The largest Finnish NGO in international aid, working on the right to quality education; the right to livelihood and the right to peace.</p> <p>Venue: Alppikatu 2, Helsinki</p>	<p><i>Celebrating diversity: Changing the narrative of migrants // Tackling religious discrimination through interreligious dialogue</i></p>
	<i>Purim - Jewish Holiday</i>	
Wednesday 8 March 2023		
Time	Activity/Meeting with	Proposed Dialogue
9:30 – 10:30	<p>H.E. President Tarja Halonen</p> <p>11th President of Finland (2000 – 2012). Member of the Council of Women World Leaders – supporting women’s full participation and representation in the political processes at the highest levels.</p>	<p><i>Human rights, social justice and gender equality</i></p>
13:00	Departure to airport; Travel to Geneva, Switzerland	
Arrival to Geneva, Switzerland		

Wednesday 8 March 2023

Arrival to Geneva

Accommodation: Novotel Geneve Centre, Rue de Zurich 19, 1201 Geneve, Switzerland

Thursday 9 March 2023

Time	Activity/Meeting with	Proposed Dialogue
9:00 - 10:30	<p><u>Cordoba Peace Institute</u> Independent non-profit organization working on violence prevention and peace promotion.</p> <p>Ms. Meg-Ann Lenoble General Manager</p> <p>Venue: H-307-2 at UN Compound</p>	
11:00 - 12:00	<p><u>World Health Organization</u></p> <p>Ms. Hortense Nessler Technical Officer on Gender, Equity and Human Rights</p> <p>Venue: H-307-2 at UN Compound</p>	<i>Health Equity</i>
12:30 - 13:30	<p><u>The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)</u></p> <p>Tentative: Ms. Safak Pavey Senior Adviser</p> <p>Venue: Rue de Montbrillant 94, Genève</p>	
13:30 - 15:00	Lunch	
15:00	<p><u>United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</u> Mr. Ibrahim Salama</p> <p>Mr. Michael Wiener Human Rights Officer</p> <p>Venue: H-307-2 at UN Compound</p>	<i>Faith for Rights Framework</i>
16:30 - 18:00	<p><u>Arigatou International</u> A faith-based NGO dedicated to securing the well-being and rights of children and advancing the culture of peace through interreligious dialogue and cooperative action.</p> <p>Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe Executive Director, Ethics Education for Children</p> <p>Venue: Rue de Varembe 1, Geneva</p>	<i>Interactive session on interfaith education</i>
Friday 10 March 2023		
Time	Activity/Meeting with	Proposed Dialogue
9:00-9:50 AM	<p><u>Principles for Peace</u> Global participatory initiative to develop a new set of principles, standards and norms that will fundamentally reshape how peace processes are structured, sequenced and actualized.</p>	<i>Introducing the principles for peace</i>

	Ms. Hiba Qasas Head of Secretariat, Principles for Peace Venue: Maison de la Paix Petal 3, 2E Chemin Eugène-Rigot, Geneva	
10:00-11:00 AM	Interpeace Mr. Scott Weber President Venue: Maison de la Paix Petal 5, 2E Chemin Eugène-Rigot, Geneva	<i>Youth, Peace and Security; Peace Talks;</i>
11:30 – 12:30	UN Geneva Tour	<i>Guided tour</i>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Ms. Monica Ferro Director, Geneva Office Venue: H-307-01, at UN compound	
16:00 - 17:00	World Council of Churches	
Saturday 11 March 2023		
Time	Activity/Meeting with	Proposed Dialogue
10:00 – 13:00	Final Group Debrief	
Sunday 12 March 2023		
Time	Activity/Meeting with	Proposed Dialogue
AM/PM	Departure home	

Notes

There might be last minute changes to the programme.

Because each stay is relatively short, the pace is going to be quite intense and sometimes demanding. It is important that you always have with you a bottle of water and some snacks in case meetings are lasting longer than expected.

Meeting will last about an hour to an hour and half. Please be mindful of that when you ask questions or share ideas, so everyone has a chance to participate. The Fellowship is an opportunity to network and to start long-term conversations and collaborations with the people you will meet. Do not hesitate to share your business cards. Please come prepared. Read the agenda and research the organizations and people you are going to meet. Think about a series of questions you would like to ask.

Kindly be mindful of the fact that it is difficult to please everyone when traveling with a large group and while being on a tight schedule. UNAOC and our hosts have been planning ahead as much as they could to ensure that everyone has a positive experience. However, if you face difficulties or have personal issues, make sure to communicate with the UNAOC Fellowship coordinator, who will try to help you solve the situation while taking into consideration logistical constraints and the groups' harmony. Please be respectful of other fellows and help out one another during the trip.

Meeting Points

We will establish a meeting point and time for the beginning of each day and before each meeting. Please make sure you are always aware of where and when we meet so the group can be on time. We want to be courteous to our hosts and show respect for the time they are dedicating to us. If you fail to arrive on time, it will be your responsibility to find a way to catch up with the group. Our schedule is busy and we can't afford to wait for late participants.

Wifi and Cell phones

During the meetings, wifi might be available but please refrain from using or checking your phones, unless you are taking a picture. There will be wifi in each hotel you will be staying at with plenty of time to catch up with emails and social media.

Who are we meeting?

Helsinki



Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice maintains and develops legal order and legal protection and oversees the structures of democracy and the fundamental rights of citizens.

The Ministry of Justice carries out a number of projects related to equality, for example:

All in For Equality project

The objectives of the project include combating discrimination and harassment targeted at ethnic and religious minorities in Finland, increasing awareness about a range of social biases that lead to structural discrimination, educating the labor market about diversity and promoting social inclusion among young people from ethnic and religious minority backgrounds.

Project Know Equality

The project has been granted funding from the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union. The project supports the discrimination monitoring system by developing and testing new data collection methods and tools and by strengthening the structures of stakeholders cooperation.

Project Drivers of Equality

The project is funded from the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union. The aim of the project is to ensure more effective implementation of the non-discrimination legislation, particularly with regard to the obligation of the authorities, education institutions and employers to promote non-discrimination and related non-discrimination planning. The project shall also raise awareness about equality and non-discrimination.

Capable project

Project aims at strengthening work against hate crimes and harassment especially through developing the competence of professionals in various fields.

Voice of Children and Young People in Europe

The goal of the project is to facilitate the participation of children and young people in policy-making at the national level. The goal is to develop methods, gather best practices and produce training materials on child participation and to provide relevant training for public authorities. The project in Finland is part of the joint European CP4Europe project, which is coordinated by the Council of Europe.



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland

Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Peace Mediation

Centre for Peace Mediation is responsible for:

- Peace mediation activities: planning, development, implementation and coordination;
- Monitoring national and international peace mediation policies and contributing to them;
- Promoting thematic priorities in peace mediation;
- Organizing training sessions on peace mediation and building peace mediation capacity;
- Coordinating government grants for non-governmental and civil society organizations insofar as the activities are related to foreign and security policy and international commitments



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland

Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Unit for UN and General Global Affairs

The Unit for UN and General Global Affairs is responsible for matters relating to:

- General UN issues and their coordination;
- the UN General Assembly, Security Council, Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and, from among the UN specialized agencies, UNESCO;
- budgetary and administrative UN questions;
- Coordination of election issues and candidatures in international organizations;
- Global challenges and multilateral cooperation from the UN perspective;
- Thematic peace and security questions in the UN, including Women, Peace and Security, as well as Youth, Peace and Security;
- Planning and guidance relating to recruitments to international organizations and institutes



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland

Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Human Rights Unit

The Unit for Human Rights Policy is responsible for matters relating to:

- Finland's international human rights policy, the EU's human rights policy and general human rights questions;
- Human rights policy, equality and democracy in international and regional organizations;
- UN human rights issues, including the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Commission on the Status of Women;
- The Council of Europe;
- The human dimension at the OSCE;
- Support for international human rights organizations, including the human rights defenders; and
- The Advisory Board for International Human Rights



CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation

CMI - Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation is an independent Finnish organization that works to prevent and resolve conflicts through dialogue and mediation. Founded in

2000 by Nobel Peace Laureate and former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari, the organization has since grown to be a leader in the field of international peacemaking.

The team consists of more than 100 international experts and over 300 global partners from a variety of fields with whom they have advanced more than 50 peace processes in the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Eurasia and Asia.

CMI is headquartered in Helsinki, with an office in Brussels and a presence in more than 20 countries. Together they share the commitment of developing innovative solutions to tackle issues at the heart of political conflict that prevent peace processes from moving forward.

CMI's core added value lies in its long-term cooperation with local, regional and international actors, where it can provide complementary, on-demand support for conflict prevention and resolution.

CMI's working methodologies are deeply contextualized and build on a foundation of the highest expertise in peacemaking. Their ability to deliver is based on two mutually supportive strategies: mediation and dialogue and serving as a trusted partner. In addition to the support and expertise they provide to their stakeholders committed to settling conflicts through peaceful means, they actively engage in shaping the policy and praxis of international and regional peacemaking.

Women in Peacemaking and Digital in Peacemaking are priority areas for CMI, as they respond to the need to create more inclusive forms of conflict settlement as well as to the opportunities and threats digital technologies present to peacemakers. In the coming years, they aim to enable women's full agency for conflict prevention and resolution and to leverage the full potential of technologies to improve the practice of mediation and mitigate their use to fuel conflict and jeopardize peace processes.



Her Excellency, President Tarja Halonen

Tarja Halonen was elected the 11th President of Finland from 2000 to 2012. She is Finland's first female head of state.

She graduated from the University of Helsinki in 1968 and has a Master of Law degree. President Halonen became the first female lawyer with the Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions in 1970 – 74, continuing in this position during her political career as a Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister.

Tarja Halonen joined the Social Democratic Party in 1971. Her political career began in 1974 when she was appointed parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister, a post she held until 1975. She was elected to Parliament in 1979 and

held her seat in five consecutive elections until she assumed the office of the President of Finland. Tarja Halonen has served in three cabinets: Minister at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health from 1987 to 1990, Minister of Justice from 1990 to 1991, and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 1995 to 2000. She also served as the Minister responsible for Nordic co-operation from 1989 to 1991.

Tarja Halonen has also played an active role at the Council of Europe, first as Deputy-Chair of the Finnish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly from 1991 to 1995 and later in the Ministerial Committee. She was also a Member of the Committee of Wise Persons of the Council of Europe from 1998 to 1999.

During her presidency Tarja Halonen served as the co-chair of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, appointed by International Labour Organization ILO (2002 – 2004). From 2009 to 2014 she served as the Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders. In 2010, Halonen was appointed co-chair of the Un Secretary-General's High Level Advisory board on mediation and is currently the co-chair of the High-Level Task Force for International Conference on Population and Development.

Tarja Halonen has paid close attention to the issues of human rights, democracy, civil society and gender equality. Issues concerning social justice and the promotion of equality have also been central themes throughout her political career.

The TH Global Sustainability Foundation was established in 2012 to promote the work of President Halonen in the field of Sustainable Development. The Foundation published in 2014 a report called "Challenges to Global Sustainability", which sums up the key substance of a seminar held in December 2013 titled "Challenges to Sustainable Development: Global Approaches and Practical Work in the Baltic Sea Region".



Finn Church Aid

Finn Church Aid (FCA)

Finn Church Aid is Finland's largest international aid organization with operations in 12 countries and more than 70

years of experience. FCA specializes in supporting local communities in three priority areas:

Right to Education

Education is a key to stability, realizing human rights and unlocking the potential of children and youth.

Right to Livelihood

Everyone has the right to provide for themselves and their families, increase their well-being, and participate in developing their societies.

Right to Peace

Peace is a prerequisite to just and resilient societies and women, youth, refugees and religious and traditional actors are at the heart of their peace work.

Women, youth, and refugees and religious and traditional actors are at the heart of their peace work. They support local communities by a) training religious and traditional leaders in becoming effective peace builders; b) helping communities to create conflict-solving mechanisms and initiatives; and c) supporting communities in influencing national and international peace processes.

They host the secretariat of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, a network which they co-founded in 2013 at the request of the UN. The Network responds to the growing awareness that religious and traditional authorities are vital but underutilized actors in peace processes. The Network's objective is to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of international and local mediation efforts through strengthening local ownership and supporting the positive role of religious and traditional leaders in mediation and peacebuilding.



Deaconess Foundation

Deaconess Foundation

The Deaconess Foundation is a non-profit organization that works for human dignity. They strive for a decent life for everyone. As a social foundation group, they build a more just society. Profits from their operations go to supporting those in the most vulnerable situations.



OASIS KESKUSSÄÄTIÖ
OASIS CENTRAL FOUNDATION
هيئة الأوقاف المركزية الواحية

OASIS - Central Foundation

Established in 2020, the need for the establishing the foundation had been a long thought and a dream to better the situation of the Muslim community in Finland.

Their values are based upon humanity, equality, justice, acceptance and respect.

Their mission is to develop and support the equality and cooperation between different population groups and to direct people to the existing services provided from the country and create services that are not created by the country.

Their vision is to have a society where people have equal opportunities and rights, as well as obligations to act in the society, regardless of nationality, religion, belief, ethnicity or other background. The vision is based on Islamic values.



National Forum for Cooperation of Religions in Finland (CORE Forum)

The CORE forum brings together six religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, the Latter-day Saints, Buddhism and Hinduism. The CORE Forum's mission is to foster peace in society by promoting interfaith dialogue, cooperation and mutual respect. Their key values include equality and freedom of religion, the right to practice and manifest religion and the assertion of the equality of religions.



The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman

It is an autonomous and independent authority. The task of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman is to promote equality and to prevent discrimination. The Ombudsman also works towards improving the rights, living conditions and status of groups at risk of discrimination, such as foreign nationals. The Ombudsman further supervises the removal from the country of foreign nationals and is the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings.

Current Ombudsman is Kristina Stenman. The Government appoints the Ombudsman to the post up to five years. The duties and rights of the Ombudsman are provided for in the Non-Discrimination Act and the Act on the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman.

Kristina Stenman acts as the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman since 1 August 2020.

Stenman has studied law as well as English and cultural anthropology in the University of Helsinki. She was also on the board of the Student Union of the University of Helsinki (HYY) for a few years at the time, focusing especially on human rights issues and the international activities of HYY.

Stenman graduated as a Master of Laws in 1991. By that time, she had already started working at the Finnish Refugee Advice Centre, where she continued as an attorney-at-law and later as an Executive Director until 2006, with a few breaks due to two periods of parental leave and working as a Special Adviser. After that, she worked as a researcher at the Institute for Human Rights at Abo Akademi University and assisted Professor Martin Scheinin in his task as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism. From 2007 to 2010 she worked as a Deputy Mayor of Vaasa, and from 2011 to 2016 she worked in the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment as the Migration Director. She also was the Chair of the Advisory Boards for International Human Rights Affairs from 1996 to 2003 and the Vice-Chair until 2007, and a member of the Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations and Chair of the Working Committee from 2011 to 2016.

Before her post as the Non-discrimination Ombudsman, Stenman was the Mayor of Pietarsaari from 2016 to 2020.

She is also writing a dissertation in the history of law in the University of Helsinki on the topic of development of refugee law in the Nordic countries.

Geneva



CORDOBA PEACE INSTITUTE

GENEVA

معهد قرطبة للسلام

Cordoba Peace Institute (CPI)

Cordoba Peace Institute is an independent non-profit organization working on violence prevention and peace promotion. CPI aims to enhance theoretical and practical conflict transformation resources and has extensive experience in West Asian and African contexts. CPI promotes methodology adapted to and accepted by local communities, conflict parties and peace actors. Since 2002, it has developed unique access and networks in the countries where it works. CPI's outlook is inspired by the Andalusian city of Cordoba, a renowned medieval center of interfaith dialogue, and Geneva, a modern center of international dialogue and exchange between peoples. CPI has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.

CPI has a small multicultural team in Geneva and the field, with a variety of backgrounds and experience. They are guided by their core values of non-violence, inclusiveness, impartiality, empathy and independence.

CPI currently works in the following themes related to peace promotion and violence prevention:

- Addressing ideological tensions in North Africa
- Addressing intra-religious Islamic tensions in the Middle East
- Encouraging peaceful interaction between communities in the Sahel
- Preventing violence and extremism in the MENA and Sahel
- Transforming conflicts in the humanitarian field
- Promoting social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and positive interaction in Europe
- Building the capacities of media workers in peace promotion through journalism
- promoting non-violent change and good governance



World Health Organization

World Health Organization (WHO)

Founded in 1948, WHO is the United Nations agency that connects nations, partners and people to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable - so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health.

WHO leads global efforts to expand universal health coverage. They direct and coordinate the world's response to health emergencies. They promote healthier lives - from pregnancy care through old age. Their Triple Billion targets outline an ambitious plan for the world to achieve good health for all using science - based policies and programmes.

Working with 194 Member States across 6 regions and on the ground in 150+ locations, the WHO team works to improve everyone's ability to enjoy good health and well-being.

Collaboration is at the core of their work. They work with governments and civil society, international organizations, foundations, advocates, researchers and health workers. In essence they mobilize every part of society to advance the health and security of all.

Violations or lack of attention to human rights can have a serious health consequence. Overt or implicit discrimination the delivery of health services - both within the health workforce and between health workers and service users - acts as a powerful barrier to health services, and contributes to poor quality care.

Mental ill-health often leads to a denial of dignity and autonomy, including forced treatment or institutionalizing, and disregard of individual legal capacity to make decisions. Paradoxically, mental health is still given inadequate attention in public health, in spite of the high levels of violence, poverty and social exclusion that contributed to worse mental and physical health outcomes for people with mental health disorders.

The principle of non-discrimination seeks "...to guarantee that human rights are exercised without discrimination of any kind based on race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status such as disability, age, marital and family status, sexual orientation and gender identity, health status, place of residence, economic and social situation".

The principle of non-discrimination and equality requires WHO to address discrimination in guidance, policies, and practices, such as relating to the distribution and provision of resources and health services. Non-discrimination and equality are key measures required to address the social determinants affecting the enjoyment of the right to health. Functioning national health information systems and availability of disaggregated data are essential to be able to identify the most vulnerable groups and diverse needs.



The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to third countries.

UNHCR was created in 1950 to address the refugee crisis that resulted from World War II. The 1951 Refugee Convention established the scope and legal framework of the agency's work, which initially focused on Europeans uprooted by war. Beginning in the late 1950s, displacement caused by other conflicts, from the Hungarian Uprising to the decolonization of Africa and Asia, broadened the scope of UNHCR's operations. Commensurate with the 1967 Protocol to the Refugee Convention, which expanded the geographic and temporal scope of refugee assistance, UNHCR operated across the world, with the bulk of its activities in developing countries. By its 65th anniversary in 2015, the agency had assisted more than 50 million refugees worldwide.

As of June 2020, UNHCR has over 20 million refugees under its mandate. Consequently, its annual budget has grown to USD \$8.6 billion in 2019, making it one of the largest UN agencies by expenditure. The agency's work includes providing protection, shelter, healthcare and emergency relief, assisting in resettlement and repatriation, and advocating for national and multilateral policies on behalf of refugees.

Some figures at glance:

- At least 89.3 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes. Among them are nearly 27.1 million refugees, around half of whom are under the age of 18
- There are also millions of stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and lack access to basic rights, such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement
- At a time when 1 in every 88 people on earth has been forced to flee, the work at UNHCR is more important than ever before.

UNHCR employs 18,879 people, of whom around nearly 91% are based in the field. They work in 137 countries and territories, with personnel based in a mixture of regional and branch offices and sub and field offices. The teams work hard to help the displaced, specializing in a wide range of disciplines, including legal protection, administration, community services, public affairs and health.



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

It is the leading UN entity on human rights. They represent the world's commitment to the promotion and protection of the full range of human rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Both the High Commissioner and the Office have a unique role to:

- Promote and protect all human rights: Speak out objectively in the face of human rights violations and help elaborate the standards that are used to evaluate human rights progress worldwide
- Help empower people: Research, education, and advocacy activities contribute to the increased awareness and engagement by the international community and the public on human rights issues. This means thousands of people in all regions of the world are empowered to claim their rights
- Assist Governments: Through their field presences, they help prevent abuses and contribute to defusing situations that could lead to conflict. Their monitoring and analysis feeds sensitive decision-making and development programming. They also provide capacity building and legal advice to thousands, supporting the development of and judicious enactment of laws and policies the world around
- Inject human rights perspective into all UN programmes: Mainstream human rights into all UN programmes to ensure that peace and security, development, and human rights - the three pillars of the UN - are interlinked and mutually reinforced.

In carrying out their mission UN Human Rights:

- Gives priority to addressing the most pressing human rights violations, both acute and chronic, particularly those that put life in imminent peril
- Focuses attention on those who are at risk and vulnerable on multiple fronts
- pays equal attention to the realization of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights, including the right to development
- Measures the impact of its work through the substantive benefit that is accrued, through it, to individuals around the world.



Arigatou International

Arigatou International is an international NGO that works with people from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds to build a better world for children.

At the heart of their work is creating inclusive spaces for shared action to promote children's rights and well-being. They encourage individuals and organizations to take action to ensure that all girls and boys grow up safe and sound, develop their full potential, and are inspired and empowered to work with others to make a difference in their communities.

Arigatou International develops and sustains multi-stakeholder initiatives designed to ensure that all children are treated with dignity and that all of their rights are respected and protected. Engaging diverse collaborators, they employ interfaith and intercultural approaches to bring about positive change for children at all levels - from the grassroots to the global.

Arigatou International works together with diverse religious leaders and faith communities, international agencies, civil society organizations, governments, children and young people in more than 80 countries around the world, and its efforts continue to grow in reach, diversity and impact.

The organization was founded in 1990 by the Japanese Buddhist organization Myochikai, whose members continue to support its work today with donations. The name "Arigatou" means "thank you" in Japanese, and it expresses the spirit of the Myochikai members, who are grateful to have the opportunity to support children around the world.

Arigatou International has its headquarters in Tokyo, Japan and offices in Geneva, New York and Nairobi which support its global initiatives.



Principles for Peace

It is a global participatory initiative that was set up to develop new principles, standards and norms to fundamentally reshape the peace process and chart a path to lasting peace. It brings together a broad coalition of actors across political, diplomatic, academic, defense and security, civil society and multilateral organizations. The global, inclusive, bottom-up, and top-down process of developing the Principles for achieving lasting peace was led by the International Commission on Inclusive Peace. The approach anchored the initiative in both realpolitik and real society and contributed to bridging the gap between peace processes and local needs and aspirations. It leveraged cutting edge research, participatory consultations and public engagement to fundamentally rethink and re-shape peace processes worldwide.

Why do we need Principles for Peace?

- Urgency posed by recent trends in conflict and violence
 - In 2021, more than 50 active conflicts caused over 119,000 deaths and many millions of injuries or displacement. The number of active conflicts has tripled since the end of the Cold War and remains stubbornly high;
 - Almost half of the conflicts since 1989 have recurred in some form, often repeatedly, and many protracted crises persist for a decade or more with no resolution. Furthermore, in many regions not at war, people live with high levels or endemic cycles of violence, insecurity, and unresolved conflicts that provide fertile ground for violent mobilization. These trends demonstrate the urgent need for more effective and sustainable peacebuilding strategies.
- Increasing complexity of conflicts and involvement of external actors
 - The increasing involvement of external actors and the internationalization of conflicts within a country, along with the rise of hybrid warfare, have made conflicts more complex and blurred the line between war and peace. Combined with fragmentation of actors involved in conflict, this has made achieving sustainable peace more challenging.
 - There has been a rise in persistent regional conflicts, leading to a decline in coordinated peace agreements. Even when such agreements are made, they are often not implemented, with 35% of them failing to succeed. This highlights the need for more effective and coordinated peacebuilding efforts.
- Ineffectiveness of existing peace and security architecture and normative frameworks
 - The current formal peace and security structures and rules for conflict resolution have remained mostly unchanged for 50 years.
 - Despite various efforts over the last three decades to promote peace and stability through initiatives such as conflict mediation, the “Women, peace and security agenda”, post-conflict reconstruction, and the UN peacebuilding architecture, among others, approaches have often failed to generate conditions that can guarantee broader long-term social and political peace.
 - The need for more effective and visionary leadership that embraces a more people-centered approach to practical action is paramount.



Interpeace

Interpeace is an international organization that prevents violence and builds lasting peace. They have 27 years of experience working in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America.

Violent conflict tears apart societies and colors all relationships. Interpeace builds trust as the glue that brings societies back together.

Many solutions to conflict do not last because they are imposed or do not take fully into account the views and needs of those who are most affected. Interpeace

works to have solutions designed and led locally from the grassroot communities to the most senior decision-making levels.

In the heat of conflict, it can be difficult for people to see what connects them to others, rather than what drives them apart. Their approach seeks to help different parts of society come together to identify and harness their common strengths for sustainable peace.

Everyone's contribution to peace matters, especially the International Community together. Interpeace therefore also supports others by offering fresh thinking and expert level advice about peacebuilding.

Interpeace's mandate is:

- To strengthen the capacities of societies to manage conflict in non-violent, non-coercive ways by assisting national actors in their efforts to develop social and political cohesion.
- To assist the international community (and in particular the United Nations) to play a more effective role in supporting peacebuilding efforts around the world.

Interpeace is dedicated to building lasting peace by reinforcing the capacities of societies to overcome deep divisions and to address conflict in non-violent ways. They are rooted in local realities, drawing strength from an alliance of national teams with a long-term commitment to building peace in their own societies. They believe in the wisdom of listening, the power of participation and the strength of informed dialogue to build understanding and trust 0 the foundations of peacebuilding.



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UNFPA is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency. Their mission is to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

UNFPA supports:

- Reproductive health care for women and youth
- The health of pregnant women
- Reliable access to modern contraceptives
- Training of thousands of health workers
- Prevention of gender-based violence
- Abandonment of female genital mutilation
- Prevention of teen pregnancies
- Efforts to end child marriage
- Delivery of safe birth supplies, dignity kits and other life-saving material to survivors of conflict and natural disaster
- Censuses, data collection and analyses

The work of UNFPA is based on the premise that all human beings are entitled to equal rights and protections. They focus on women and young people because these are groups whose ability to exercise their right to sexual and reproductive health is often compromised. Their work on their behalf is informed by an understanding of population dynamics, human rights and cultural sensitivities.

UNFPA adopts a human rights-based approach throughout its work. This entails educating individuals and communities about their human rights, so that they can then demand the respect and basic services they are entitled to. This approach also involves empowering governments to fulfill these rights.

Understanding local cultural complexities is crucial to the success of their work because many of the issues UNFPA deals with - including sexual and reproductive health and rights - are sensitive, sometimes taboo, subjects.



World Council of Churches

World Council of Churches

A fellowship of 352 churches from more than 120 countries, representing over 580 million Christians worldwide.

AL WCC programmes aim to support the member churches and ecumenical partners to journey together, promoting justice and peace in the world. All programmes share a responsibility for Transversal issues, such as strengthening relationships with member churches and ecumenical partners, spiritual life, youth engagement, interreligious dialogue and cooperation and building a just community of women and men.