

Global Campaign for Peace Education

Worldwide Activities Brief

Issue #16, November 2004

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GCPE News from the Field

ALBANIA

Elton Skendaj, National Coordinator of the Hague Appeal for Peace (HAP) and UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA) "Peace and Disarmament Education to Disarm Children and Youth" project, and Meg Gardinier, HAP consultant and member of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) participated at the *Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding* held in Igalo, November 4 – 6, 2004. The Hague Appeal for Peace was recognized as one of the key organizing partners of the conference, together with Nansen Dialogue Network and Bulgarian School of Politics.

Peace Education was recognized as a crucial area for dealing with conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Balkan region. As mentioned in the Balkan Agenda for Conflict Prevention, "Peace education can prevent violence and facilitate a significant change in personal mentalities and community behavior to ensure a sustainable positive peace environment." The report appealed to governments, civil society actors, local communities, media and political parties to make concrete efforts in enabling a shift from a culture of violence to a culture of peace through implementation and promotion of peace education activities and curricula at all levels in society.

Gerti Vershaj, Project Officer, disseminated more than a 100 copies of the Tirana Call to the participants at the conference. Peace education was one of the eight key themes, with the workshop on peace education, conducted by Meg Gardinier, attracting the highest number of participants, and the highest number of national recommendations – 67. Elton Skendaj was one of the initial and final drafters of the Balkan Agenda on Conflict Prevention. Congratulations Elton and Meg on your engagement! Once the final agenda is released it will be available on the HAP website (www.haguepeace.org).

INDIA

Lalita Ramdas, peace educator and member of the IAC of the Hague Appeal for Peace recently announced the completion of a publication on mainstreaming gender for the Asia South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education where she has volunteered over a number of years. Thanks to her persistence the organization is now actively introducing Peace Education as one of their priority programs. This is very exciting news within the peace education field. Congratulations Lalita!

The World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates

November 10 – 13, 2004

Rome, Italy

Titled "*A United World or a Divided World? Multiethnicity, Human Rights, Terrorism*", the statement of the 5th Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates expressed its deep concern over the "resurgent nuclear and conventional arms race, disrespect for international law and the failure of the world's governments to address adequately the challenges of poverty and environmental degradation."

Alyn Ware of the Peace Foundation in New Zealand and member of the HAP IAC spoke on education for a culture of peace and ensured that the importance of peace education was included in the final statement. The statement reports, "Children remain our more important neglected treasure. Their protection, security and health should be the highest priority. Children everywhere should be educated in and for peace." The document is available at <http://www.haguepeace.org>

CONFERENCES and EVENTS

International Day of Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War

November 6, 2004

November 6, 2004 commemorated the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War. In a statement, Klaus Toepfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) called for increased awareness of the consequences of environmental degradation on development and in post-conflict zones. His statement included a briefing on the study conducted by UNEP, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) which concluded that "a decrepit and declining environment can also 'weaken states' by depressing its economic activity and diminishing the authority of the government in the eyes of its citizens." Mr. Toepfer concluded the statement by saying "Let us hope that, armed with more sound science, we can use the environment as a new peace policy for the 21st century so that it emerges as less the passive victim and more the active broker of a more stable and less war ridden world."

For the full text of the statement please visit

<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=413&ArticleID=4659&l=en>

Human Rights Day

A Tribute to Human Rights Educators

December 10, 2004

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNESCO are dedicating Human Rights Day 2004 on 10 December to human rights education and encouraging other agencies and programmes of the United Nations Systems and relevant governmental and non-governmental actors to do the same.

This year's observance will highlight deliberations in the United Nations General Assembly, which is devoting a special plenary session on Human Rights Day to human rights education, High

Commissioner Louise Arbour and UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura said. Announcing the 10 December observance, Mrs. Arbour said: "Every year, Human Rights Day reminds us of persisting human rights problems in our communities and in the world, and of the huge effort still needed, on the part of each and everyone of us, to make human rights a reality for all".

A World Out of Balance: Searching for Answers Through Education and the United Nations
Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN)
February 4, 2005 9.15am to 5.30pm
New York, USA

The CTAUN will be hosting its annual conference "A World Out of Balance: Searching for Answers Through Education and the United Nations", on February 4, 2004 at the UN headquarters. For educators and administrators at all levels and disciplines, this conference will provide resources and enriching curricula and school activities addressing local and global issues. Issues to be explored at the conference include: Child Trafficking, Migration, Economic & Social Conflicts, Terrorism, Child Labor, and, The Media: Use & Misuse.

The deadline for registration is 31 December 2004. The deadline for late registration is 19 January, 2004 and will entail a higher fee. For registration details and more information please visit <http://www.teachun.org/index1.php?param=con>

PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Second Nuclear Age
Nuclear Weapons-The New Terrorism-The Culture of Fear
December 3, 2004 9am – 6pm
New York, USA

The Center of Terrorism at John Jay College, along with CUNY Graduate Center, and the Department of Continuing Education York College, are sponsoring a full day event. Central topics of the conference will include *The "New" Nuclear Weapons; Forms of Resistance and the Anti-Nuclear Movement; Islam, the Middle East and Nuclear Weapons;* and *The Culture of Fear and Nuclear Weapons.* Hague Appeal for Peace Board member, Jennifer A. Simons is a speaker at this event.

To register call 1-212-817-8215. Cost: \$25 (\$15 for students).

PEACE EDUCATION RESOURCES

Kidz Magazine

One million copies of Kidz Magazine is published every month. It is a newspaper, printed in color, written by and for primary school youth. They are extending an invitation to young people around the world who are learning English to submit an article, short story, poem, and/or drawing to publish in a new International page of the newspaper. This section aims at introducing young North

American people to the world. Their main focus is on literacy; to help youth write and express themselves. For more information please visit <http://www.kidzmagazine.com>. Contributions may be sent to scott@kidzmagazine.com.

Launch of the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies

December 2, 2004

The Inter-Agency Network on Education in Emergencies (INEE) is pleased to announce the forthcoming launch of the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises, and Early Reconstruction, which represents the culmination of work involving over 2,250 individuals from more than 50 countries! The standards will be launched at INEE's Second Global Inter-Agency Consultation on Education in Emergencies and Early Recovery in South Africa on December 2, 2004.

The minimum standards will be a strong tool for humanitarian agencies, governments and local populations to enhance the effectiveness and quality of their education assistance. The standards give guidance and flexibility in responding to needs at the most important level – the community – while providing a harmonized framework to coordinate the educational activities of funding agencies and other development partners.

The launch of the minimum standards will be accompanied by efforts to promote and implement them around the world. For more information on the consultation, go to www.ineesite.org/about/global_consult04.asp

To receive a hard copy of the minimum standards, please send your requests to allison@theirc.org .

Founded in 1999, the Hague Appeal for Peace Global Campaign for Peace Education (GCPE), is an international organized network which promotes peace education among schools, families and communities to transform the culture of violence into a culture of peace. Over 140 organizations worldwide have endorsed the GCPE.

Peace education is a holistic, participatory process that includes teaching for and about human rights, nonviolent responses to conflict, social and economic justice, gender equity, environmental sustainability, disarmament, traditional peace practices and human security. The methodology of peace education encourages reflection, critical thinking, cooperation, and responsible action. It promotes multiculturalism, and is based on values of dignity, equality and respect. Peace education is intended to prepare students for democratic participation in schools and society.

The Global Campaign for Peace Education has two goals:

- To see peace education integrated into all curricula, community and family education worldwide to become a part of life
- To promote the education of all teachers to teach for peace.

The *Hague Appeal for Peace Global Campaign for Peace Education Worldwide Activities Brief* e-newsletter highlights how and where the GCPE network is active and growing. **Submissions are encouraged!** Please contribute how you are working for peace education including dates, locations, a brief description, and a website and/ or contact information and send it to sabrina@haguepeace.org. For more information on the Hague Appeal for Peace and to become an endorser of the GCPE visit www.haguepeace.org.

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