

Global Campaign for Peace Education

Worldwide Activities Brief, Issue # 30, February 2006

Dear readers.

We have wonderful news and want you to be the first to know.

The Hague Appeal for Peace has developed a partnership with the new Peace Boat US and will be making a transition between now and June of turning over our peace education programs and communications to this lively, young, smart, and global-in- their-thinking -and -doing, group of people.

The Hague Appeal for Peace started out in October 1996 with one idea, to hold a world conference on peace that the UN wouldn't do as the last summit in the last decade of the last century. The May 1999 conference in The Hague was timed as the centennial of the world's first peace congress in 1899 and the agenda was to call peace a human right and to call for the abolition of the institution of war. We planned for 3,000 and 10,000 people from around the world came for nearly a week of hundreds of workshops and plenary sessions including the majority of the world's moral authorities, peace laureates and grassroots activists and leaders.

Since then we have established the Global Campaign for Peace Education, gathered some of the world's best peace educators, held conferences, produced two, and in a few weeks a 3rd, books, and feel well established. Peace Boat US is well placed to continue this work and expand on it, using their wonderful ship to hold peace education classes, conferences, and to recruit young and not so young people from the US and elsewhere to participate. They will be monitoring the UN, and will continue to send out a form of this Peace Education newsletter.

We will keep you informed as we move along in this transition and hope you will continue to stay connected and share your news as you receive our news. We wish you all the best in your work, more needed now than ever before, as the world suffers needless, preventable violence.

Cora Weiss and Hélène Leneveu for the Hague Appeal for Peace

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HAP HIGHLIGHTS & PEACE NEWS







The Exhibit

USG Anwarul Chowdhury and Nominees Nane Annan, First Lady of the UN

1000 Peace Women Across the Globe Exhibit

On the occasion of the 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City (Feb 27- March 10), Hague Appeal for Peace is hosting the "1000 Peace Women Across the Globe" exhibit. Originally called "1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize", this project is a network of women from more than 150 different countries who were collectively nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize in order to draw worldwide attention to the impressive activities of women for a peaceful future. As Kamla Bhasin (Project Coordinator India) pointed out, 1000 is a symbol because "peace is not an individual act. You cannot make peace alone". The project was initiated by Dr Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, member of the Swiss Parliament and the Council of Europe. It is supported by UNIFEM and UNDP and is under the patronage of the Swiss UNESCO Committee. Thus, the groundbreaking photo exhibit honors women's peace work around the world. Through their stories, we hope to bring to public attention, women daily efforts for peace. The launch of the exhibit successfully celebrated the opening of the Commission on the Status of Women on February 27th. Some of the 1000 women were present, including Cora Weiss and Betty Reardon, as well as high-profile guests such as Mrs. Nane Annan, Swiss Ambassador Peter Mauer, UNIFEM Director Noeleen Heyzer, and Under Secretary-General Anwarul Chowdhury.

We will soon post pictures on our website (http://www.haguepeace.org/). Meanwhile, you may learn more about the project at: http://www.1000peacewomen.org/index.html (available in 14 languages)

The Hague Appeal's Global Campaign for Peace Education is joining a New Initiative: **Community Based Institutes on Peace Education (CIPE)**

"The Peace Education Center at Teachers College and the International Institute on Peace Education (IIPE) are launching an exiting new and Global Campaign for Peace Education complementary initiative we hope you will consider supporting. Community Based Institutes on Peace Education (CIPE) have been developed to address problems of access and relevance to teacher training opportunities in peace education. Since most peace education practices have been developed mainly in Western urban areas, barriers of finance and language have prevented educators from acquiring the necessary preparation many have received in international settings. Thus, the CIPE is a locally based teacher training program designed to:

- 1) Prepare educators in the requisite culturally and contextually relevant knowledge and methodologies of teaching for peace and security;
- 2) Provide community building opportunities and support for formal and non-formal peace educators, grassroots initiatives and educational policy reforms;
- 3) Provide opportunities for local peace educators to dialogue with the global community; and
- 4) Increase opportunities for formal research on the impact of peace education teacher training, initiatives and interventions.

The model of the CIPE is derived from the International Institute on Peace Education (IIPE). Now in its 25th year, the IIPE has benefited more than 1500 educators from approximately one hundred countries. The CIPE will work to accomplish these goals through the organization and development of 1-2 day CIPEs to be held annually in 6-12 localities in various world regions. Priority in scheduling will be given to post conflict and transitional communities and those that have experience with the IIPE model. The Peace Education Center is currently in the process of securing funds for the coordination of this work."

If you would like to learn more about the CIPE please contact Tony Jenkins, Global Coordinator of the IIPE/CIPE at <u>jenkins@tc.edu</u>. You may also download a detailed letter sent to potential hosts and members of the IIPE network at http://www.tc.edu/PeaceEd/iipe/cipe.pdf.

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and Role of Education in 'Cartoon Controversies'

The cartoon controversies over caricatures of Prophet Muhammad --originally published in a Danish newspaper-- fueled anger within Muslim communities, which resulted in an escalation of violence all over the world. Shamil Idriss, Deputy Director of the Office of the Alliance of Civilizations, pointed out Education as a key to combating the mutual ignorance and mutual fear. To prevent future clashes of a similar nature, the United Nations official dealing with the cultural gap between Islam and the West said: "We have to get to a point that different societies have some degrees of understanding of the concerns and the grievances and even the sensitivities of the other societies in the world, ... It is an educational issue... What could have been done in the three months between the printing and the violence breaking out? What could have been done differently at the political level, at the religious level, at the civil society level, to prevent the violence?" As he argues, if the causes are mutual ignorance and mutual fear, the response must redress these specific problems: "...the solutions are mutual respect and education, population exchanges and cross-cultural cooperation..."

The *High-Level Panel on the Alliance of Civilizations* --established last July by Secretary-General Kofi Annan-will present its report later this year, including a plan of action for bridging the gap between cultures, especially Islam and the West (Christian and Muslim world), which threatens peace in the world. This conference was proposed by Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodríguez Zapatero in the 59th General Assembly of the United Nations and cosponsored with the Turkish Prime Minister. Among the members is former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, who was the theorist of *Dialogue Among Civilizations*. The High-Level Group (HLG) for the Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) had its second meeting in Doha, Qatar on February 25-27, 2006. The HLG, consisting of 21 eminent leaders in policy-making, academia, civil society and the media and drawn from all regions and civilizations to guide this effort, had its first meeting in Spain in November 2005. "Right now, we are working on four major issues: the issue of youth engagement, the issue of the impact of the media and how media could have a more constructive impact, the issue of immigrants integration and the issue of educational reform," said Mr Idriss.

As Cora Weiss observed, of the twenty-one personalities and experts leading the Alliance of Civilization, only 4 are women, which is unacceptable.

To read more about the Alliance of Civilizations, go to: http://www.un.org/ga/59/hlpm_rev.2.pdf

Building Peace in India: Social, Cultural or Political Conflict?

Dr Leban Serto, a colleague from India sent us a report on the SAEPP Sponsored National Symposium on *Building Peace, Challenges and Hope of Diversity* which took place last November 2005: "To put it in the words of the delegates, this three-day symposium turned out to be a sort of historical event. In the two decades history of their struggle, the leaders of Panun Kashmir (Kashmir Pandits' socio-political platform) and All Parties Hurriet Conference (Mirwaiz) had never met before; this was their first ever meeting... The whole deliberation had cleared certain myths about the conflict torn Jammu & Kashmir. The general perception that the Hindus and Muslims in Kashmir are thoroughly divided is not true. There is a deeply rooted socio-cultural cordiality between these two communities who share common heritage, culture, literature and food habits, which is a strength and hope for peace but unfortunately fast eroding due to gross negligence. The divide is not

social, not cultural. It is mostly political. Gross generalization of the conflict makes it appear incorrigible. When we delve into the myriad details of the life of the concerned people we could find a vast gray area amply providing scope for peace. If we can fraction the whole conflict into many sub-conflicts we would find a number of them being non-realistic that can be easily dealt with or cancelled mutually."

You may contact Dr Leban Serto for the full report of this historic meeting at <u>lebanserto@yahoo.com</u> or Awala Longkumer at <u>longkumerawol@yahoo.co.in</u>

Education Fees Cut for Needy Palestinian Students

Over 19,000 Palestinian students will receive a 75 per cent reduction in educational fees this semester through a programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The programme, funded by the Saudi Committee for the Relief of the Palestinian People, will enable 11 universities and 24 other establishments of higher education, many of them vocational, to grant fee waivers to needy students in the West Bank and Gaza. The agency specified that more than half of the waivers will be granted to female students. So far, applications have been submitted for 27,398 students, 19,157 of whom will receive fee reductions, UNESCO said.

The Hague Appeal for Peace is circulating the information below, however this does not indicate our endorsement. We are not in a position to evaluate them all.

GETTING INVOLVED



Yellow Ribbons Question War

"Support Our Troops does not mean Support Our War. The best way to support our troops is to Question War itself. It is time the voices questioning war become stronger than those justifying war. We are the growing majority and the Question is fundamental."

To learn more about this new initiative: http://www.questionwar.com/

International Women's Day on March 8th

International Women's Day is marked on March 8th every year as a day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women, as well as to protest war. It is the story of ordinary women making history, rooted in centuries-old struggle of women such as Lysistrata, in ancient Greece, who initiated a sexual strike against men in order to end war. According to Wikipedia (online-encyclopedia), the idea was first put forward at the turn of the 20th century when rapid world industrialization and economic expansion led to protests over working conditions. Women from clothing and textile factories staged one such protest on March 8, 1857 in New York City. The garment workers were protesting what they saw as very poor working conditions and low wages. The protesters were attacked and dispersed by police. These women established their first labor union in the same month two years later. More protests followed on 8 March in subsequent years, most notably in 1908 when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights. In 1910, the first international women's conference, held in Copenhagen establishes an "International Women's Day" and the following year, it was marked by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. However, soon thereafter, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City killed over 140 garment workers. A lack of safety measures was blamed for the high death toll. Women across Europe held peace rallies on 8 March 1913, on the eve of World War I, and demonstrations marking International Women's Day in Russia proved to be the first stage of the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Following the October Revolution, the Bolshevik feminist Alexandra Kollontai persuaded Lenin to make it an official holiday, and during the Soviet period it continued to celebrate "the heroic woman worker". Nonetheless, the holiday quickly lost its political flavor and became an occasion for men to express their sympathy or love to the women around them (somewhat similar to Western Mother's Day and St Valentine's Day mixed together). It remains an official holiday in Russia (as well as in Belarus, Macedonia, Moldova, and Ukraine), and is observed by men congratulating women (any woman) and giving them flowers and gifts. When Czechoslovakia was part of the Soviet Bloc this celebration was supported officially and gradually turned into parody. Meanwhile in the West, it was commemorated during the 1910s and 1920s, but dwindled. Then, it revived with the rise of feminism in the 1960s. Finally, in 1975, which had been designated as International Women's Year, the United Nations gave official sanction to and began sponsoring International Women's Day. In present times, many events are held by women's groups around the world. So, check your community-networks and get involved! And if you are a teacher, this is a great opportunity to discuss with your students women's rights and gender issues!

The global women's organization Aurora hosts a free worldwide register of International Women's Day local events so that women and the media can locate local activity: http://www.internationalwomensday.com/
For a short chronology, check the UN webpage: http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/women/womday97.htm
Another good resource, especially for educators, is the UN CyberSchoolBus (it includes a teacher's guide), please visit: http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/womensday/index.asp

IANSA Control Arms Campaign Launch '100 Day Countdown'

The Control Arms campaign is launching the '100 Day Countdown' on 16 March 2006. The 100 Day Countdown is a critical period when we need to increase campaigning activities and heighten media attention in the run-up to the UN Review Conference on small arms to be held in June-July. Among the main objectives are: to collect the remaining faces for the Million Faces Petition launched in October 2003 (almost 750,000 faces already); to mobilize support from parliamentarians on small arms issue; to host public events; to attract increased media attention to the small arms issue.

You can take a look at the activities and events organized for last year's Global Week of Action for inspiration (http://www.iansa.org/action/WOA-Report-2005.pdf) and let IANSA know about events that you are organizing, send to: laura.cheeseman@iansa.org

Youth OUTLOUD! News Service Wants Your Youth-Generated Stories About Peace!

The goal of Youth OUTLOUD! is to distribute youth-generated stories about issues and life to the mainstream media worldwide. Launched in November 2005, and founded by a seasoned journalist, the news service has already been endorsed or supported by dozens of professional print media organizations in the world. Youth OUTLOUD! is inviting your organization to become a partner and supply stories on a regular basis about the incredible work your youth members are doing. Many of your members have already written stories and it would be great if you would allow Youth OUTLOUD! to post the stories and offer them to the media. The goal is to collect about 200 stories within the next few weeks from a variety of sources, and then have each organization submit stories on a weekly or monthly on-going basis.

To submit stories or for more information contact Sherry Sacino at <u>editor@youthoutloud.net</u> or visit the website at www.youthoutloud.ne

Call for Participation, Launch Peace and Conflict Review, University for Peace, Costa Rica

The *Peace and Conflict Review* will be launched in March (2006). It is planned as an online-refereed journal offering one fully refereed article once per month, except for the months of December and August. All articles will be archived and free to all readers on the web. In the first instance the review will be offered as a site linked to the <u>Peace and Conflict Monitor</u> and some of the articles, which do not meet the exacting standards of the Review Editorial Board, may be published by the Peace and Conflict Monitor.

If you are interested, go to http://www.review.upeace.org/ for all the details.

COURSES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies, Training of Trainers, May 16-18, 2006, Washington DC, USA

The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies' (INEE) announces a workshop for the INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction Training of Trainers workshop for North America. It will be held from May 16-18, 2006 in Washington, DC at the Academy for Educational Development's (AED) Conference Center and is being co-hosted by AED, CARE USA, Catholic Relief Services, the International Rescue Committee and Save the Children US. This workshop will involve 25 experienced trainers from the United States and Canada.

More details and the application form are available at: www.ineesite.org/standards/

Postgraduate Courses in Peace Studies, Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, Coventry University, United Kingdom

The Centre for Peace and Reconciliation Studies at Coventry University is now inviting applications for the next academic year (2006/07). Coventry has gained a global reputation with this centre of teaching, research and related activities focused on deepening understanding and promoting processes of peacebuilding and reconciliation at all levels, throughout the world. Their programmes include a MA in Peace and Reconciliation Studies (full and part-time) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution Skills. Courses include Key Issues in Peace and Reconciliation Studies; Theory and Practice of Conflict Transformation; Comparative Peace Processes; Perspectives on Inner and Outer Peace; International Human Rights Law; Research Skills & Research Design...

Further details can be found at www.coventry.ac.uk/peacestudy/ or contact Professor Andrew Rigby at: a.rigby@coventry.ac.uk

EVENTS



Anti-War Protest, Three-Year Anniversary of US Illegal War on Iraq, March 18-20, 2006

According to StopWar.ca, at least 765 U.S. towns and cities, are holding anti-war events.

For details, visit: http://www.stopwar.ca/ and

Teaching for Peace and Human Rights, April 27-28, New York, USA

Cora Weiss, our President, will be the keynote speaker at the second session of this two-day conference organized by Adelphi University School of Education, in conjunction with the United Nations. It will provide a forum for teachers from around the world to develop curricula that will integrate peace and human rights education into the classroom. The first session will be held at the Adelphi University Garden City campus on April 27, 2006 and will be followed by a second session at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on April 28, 2006. Global Education Motivators (GEM) is also an organizer of this conference. Founded by educators, GEM helps promote a better understanding of the world and its people through on-site and distance learning workshops.

For further details and to register, please visit http://education.adelphi.edu/peaceeducation/ or contact Professor Rita Verma at verma@adelphi.edu.

World Peace Forum, June 23-28, 2006, Vancouver, Canada

"The Peace Forum is a go!" said Executive Director Jef Keighley last February 8th in a <u>Press Release</u> issued to deny rumors about the forum being cancelled right after new Mayor of Vancouver took office. Both Hague Appeal for Peace and Peace Boat will be there to participate. However, we are dismayed that the Forum has rejected the demands of the indigenous people who in turn have pulled out of the conference.

You can now check the <u>program schedule summary</u> and some <u>program highlights</u>. You will find all the information you need to register or/and get involved in the planning at: <u>http://www.worldpeaceforum.ca/index</u>

International Peace Research Association conference, June 29 to July 3, 2006, University of Calgary, Canada

Founded in 1964, the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) developed from a conference organized by the "Quaker International Conferences and Seminars" in Clarens, Switzerland, August 16-20, 1963. Since 1963, IPRA has organized 21 conferences, each time in a different country with different themes following global scopes. The next biennial conference -- "Patterns of Conflict, Paths to Peace"-- will be held in Calgary (Canada) from June 29 to July 3, 2006. The plenary themes will be the following: Aboriginal Canadians on peace; Peace and the environment; Peace journalism; "Professionalism" in violence prevention and peace building; Peace research and action: regional trends in the 21st century; Security with a human face; Sustainable peace building architecture.

Details on 2006 Calgary conference can be found at http://ipra2006.com/pages/conference.htm and you may learn more about IPRA at http://soc.kuleuven.be/pol/ipra/index.html

Fourth International Conference on Education and Information Systems, Technologies and Applications: (EISTA), July 20-23, 2006, Orlando, Florida, USA

"Relationships between Education/Training and Information/Communication Technologies (ICT) are increasing acceleratingly, sometimes in unexpected ways, with original ideas and innovative tools, methodologies and synergies. Accordingly the main purpose of EISTA '06 is to bring together researchers and practitioners from both areas, in order to support the bridging process between education/training and ICT communities."

For more information, go to: http://www.conf-info.org/eista06/website/default.asp

International Institute on Peace Education, *Toward a Planetary Ethic: Shared and Individual Responsibility*, July 30-August 6, 2006, San Jose, Costa Rica

"The 2006 International Institute on Peace Education (IIPE) is being co-organized by the Peace Education Center of Teachers College Columbia University (New York) and the UN Mandated University for Peace (Costa Rica). IIPE, founded in 1982 by Betty Reardon and faculty colleagues at Teachers College, has been held annually in different parts of the world. It is an intensive multicultural and cooperative learning opportunity in which participants learn from and with each other about substantive peace issues and interactive teaching approaches. The IIPE is also an opportunity for networking and community building among those who educate and work for a culture of peace in the host region and around the world. IIPE 2006 will explore the theme of 'Toward a Planetary Ethic: Shared and Individual Responsibility', recognizing that the global community has reached key areas of consensus regarding the challenges we are facing, the shared ethical frameworks of values, norms and principles for meeting them, and in particular the contributions that education should fulfill."

For more information and to apply, go to www.tc.edu/PeaceEd or contact: peace-ed@tc.edu

Peace and Justice Studies Association 2006: "Who Speaks for the Common Good?", October 5-8, 2006, Manhattan College, New York City

"Shortly after September 11th, peace groups throughout the US distributed world flags with a photo of the earth and a slogan, 'We're all in this together.' That sense of the common good is crucial to the development of a

more peaceful and just world. Has this notion fallen out of favor? How do we resolve the tension between the dual strivings we each feel, to be autonomous, and yet to be connected? In an era in which pursuing one's self-interest is commended, who speaks for the common good? Those who honestly attempt to do so are disempowered to act on it, and those who speak for the nations rarely even pretend to do so. How do we decide what really serves the common good, and how do we work for the common good? The rhetoric of a common good is sometimes misused to ride sacrifice the interests of some people, allegedly for the good of a greater number. How can we, as people committed to creating a peaceful, just world, promote a focus on the common good, properly understood?" The Peace and Justice Studies Association will explore these questions at their 4th annual conference, to be held October 5-8, 2006, at Manhattan College, New York City.

Moreover, Cora Weiss and Betty Reardon of the Hague Appeal for Peace will participate and the "1000 PeaceWomen from Across the Globe" exhibit will be included.

You may submit proposals (deadline May 1st) for paper presentations, organized panels, roundtable discussions, workshops and other creative contributions on these and related questions (no more than 200 words, should include a brief biography). For further details or/and submission, please contact Margaret Groarke at pjsa2006@manhattan.edu and visit http://www.peacejusticestudies.org/

Israel-Palestine Dialogue, Conference in Antalya, Turkey, Dec 31, 2006 to Jan 4, 2007

The Jerusalem-based Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI) is planning a conference to be held from December 31, 2006 to January 4, 2007 in Antalya, Turkey.

"The idea of IPCRI was born in 1988 at the onset of the *intifada*, the Palestinian uprising. Building bridges of communication between Israeli and Palestinian intellectuals became more urgent than ever. A need was felt for the creation of an organization that would squarely address the issue: how to bring about a peace process that will satisfy both the Palestinians' legitimate right of self-determination and Israel's equally legitimate security concerns ... IPCRI's approach is practical and realistic... IPCRI produces ideas, and provides a safe forum for Israeli and Palestinian experts, policy advisers, etc. to engage in creative problem solving - exploring options and outlining solutions. Participants are encouraged to discover mutual interests. They are challenged to bring to fruition the living solutions that lie waiting underneath the old antagonisms."

If you are willing to support and get involved --as an organization or an individual-- please contact our friend Gershon Baskin at: gershon@ipcri.org and to explore the work IPCRI has done since its creation, go to: http://www.ipcri.org/

RESOURCES, MATERIALS, PUBLICATIONS



1000 Peace Women Across the Globe, the Book

"The book of the 1000 peacewomen demonstrates the work and visions of 1000 women. It describes the life and achievements of each woman, whether she works at the grassroots, nationally or internationally. The book is both a good read as well as a concise reference instrument for NGOs, relief organizations, governments, as well as peace and women's networks."

To order it: http://www.1000peacewomen.org/eng/html/buch/index.php

Norwegian Peace Alliance and Peace Education

The peace education database of the Norwegian Peace Alliance website includes nearly 60 different activities. The aim and instructions for each activity is included, in addition for the time required and the age group most

suited. These peace educational activities cover six fields: Human Rights, Conflict dialogue, North-South perspectives, attitude/stigmatism/stereotyping, pupil-to-pupil mediation techniques, and nonviolent methods of resistance/empowerment and they are available in Norwegian, English and Arabic.

Anti-Hate Educational Manual, Middle East Children Association (MECA)

This manual was written by Ghassan Abdullah of Palestine who is the co-chair of the International Advisory Committee of the Global Campaign for Peace Education. As Ghassan explained to us: "In order to combat the culture of violence that pervades, the Israeli and the Palestinian communities, children deserve better education, an education that does not glorify war or promote hate to the other, but one that educates for peace, tolerance, and nonviolence." Because such education is lacking today in the two educational systems, MECA produced a manual that provides information and skills on how to minimize aspects of hate and maximize aspects of tolerance, and how to care about every other persons feelings. According to its initiators, the manual aims at dispelling stereotypes and prejudice, fostering respect for differences, make children understand that being different does not make them better or worse than others, make them understand who and what they are and how to value diversity, to help children who have been victims of prejudice, those who not only suffer deeply, but they also start causing others to suffer. It was published by MECA in two languages, Arabic and Hebrew. Three thousand copies were made from each edition. They were distributed free of charge to Palestinian and Israeli schools. The United States Institute for Peace (USIP) sponsored the publication.

To get a free copy you can write to: meca@palnet.com or P.O.Box 17421 Jerusalem

Briefing Paper on Small Arms Control Focusing on 2005 UN First Committee, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

"Some important decisions were taken at the 2005 meeting of the United Nations General A First Committee (Disarmament), which will likely influence the course of global action on small arms. This briefing paper from the Arms Programme at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue seeks to provide some context and background to First Committee meetings, and outline the most salient resolutions and proposals that were tabled at the 2005 session. In particular, the paper highlights the innovative Dutch-led resolution entitled *Addressing the negative humanitarian and development impact of the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation*, which advances the link between armed violence, sustainable development, peacebuilding and security.

To read this paper, go to: http://www.hdcentre.org/UN+First+Committee+%28Disarmament%29+2005
Also, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue has just launched a new website, check it out: http://www.hdcentre.org

Disarmament Forum, Taking Action on Small Arms, UNIDIR

The latest edition of Disarmament Forum, the journal of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), is a special double-sized issue devoted to small arms control.

It is available at: <u>http://www.unidir.org/bdd/fiche-periodique.php?ref_periodique=1020-7287-2006-1-en#contents</u>

UNEP 2006 Year Book Shows Investments to Curb Air Pollution Pay Off Economically

Governments investing in air pollution control measures can save billions of dollars as health care costs are slashed, worker productivity soars and ecosystems flourish, according to a report released this month by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). These savings, along with other economic gains such as sounder bridges, public buildings and other infrastructure that endure less corrosive air pollutants can be six times greater than the initial investments in techniques and equipment to curb air pollution, says UNEP's Global Environment Outlook Year Book 2006. The GEO Year Book includes global and regional overviews. It highlights the linkages between environmental well-being, vulnerability and poverty. It records recent findings on the value of ecosystem services and describes new research findings on polar and ocean changes. In this

2006 edition, a special focus analyzes the environmental, socio-economic and public health impacts of energy-related air pollution.

To read this informative and authoritative annual report: http://www.unep.org/geo/yearbook/yb2006/index.asp

Public Perceptions of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Community Security in the Middle East, 2006 Report

A senior UN aid official has called for a global moratorium on arms sales to Africa during 2006, since these weapons are the root cause of 12.5 million people on the continent becoming displaced from their homes. "Over 80% of young people across the Middle East want stricter state controls on private gun ownership, according to a new report by the Middle East North Africa Network on Small Arms (MENAANSA). The report is based on interviews with focus groups of people aged 20-35 living in gun-affected communities in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Khartoum (Sudan). The results challenge the common belief that people in the Middle East generally accept guns as a normal part of life. In Gaza, Lebanon and Sudan, over 50% of respondents would not choose to own a gun, with the most common reason being that guns are dangerous for the family. In the West Bank, while over 40% of people would choose to own a gun, 60% nonetheless believe there are too many guns in their society."

This report is available both in English and Arabic.

People Building Peace II: Successful Stories of Civil Society

"People Building Peace II seeks to document and draw attention to the important role civil society is playing in preventing and resolving conflict around the globe. In so doing, it wishes to fill a gap by showing that people on the ground, ranging from women, youth and faith-based organizations to artists and media, can make and already have made a positive difference in many conflict areas. The publication includes over 60 stories of civil society successes, many which have never previously been documented and most of them written by practitioners involved in the initiatives themselves. These stories are accompanied by thematic analysis and insights from key experts in the field of conflict prevention such as Hizkias Assefa, Catherine Barnes, Norbert Ropers and Andres Serbin and by personal anecdotes from a number of high-profile peacebuilders such as President Xanana Gusmao, Desmond Tutu, Her Majesty Queen Noor, together with a foreword by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan."

To order it, go to: http://www.conflict-prevention.net/

GRANTS, PRIZES, AWARDS

Promoting Gender Equality in Local Development

The European Union is currently accepting proposals to finance transnational projects that promote gender equality. With an emphasis on local development this year's theme hopes to address two complementary issues. First, how to balance the participation of men and women in various aspects of local development, and secondly, how local level policies can encourage the promotion of gender equality on a daily basis.

For more information on this grant opportunity and the application procedure (close on April 28, 2006) go to: http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=105

Gender and ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) awards

The gender and ICT award was created in recognition of the ability of ICT to help disadvantaged groups increase their participation in the civic, social, political, and economic processes critical to achieving change. However women, particularly women in developing countries don't benefit from these new technologies, a reflection of the existing unequal power relations in societies as a whole. Gender and ICT Awards aim to

honour and bring international recognition to innovative and effective projects by women to use ICTs for the promotion of gender equality and/or women's empowerment. The next award will be given in 2007, with information forthcoming on the theme of the 2007 award.

To stay updated on the 2007 theme and application procedure go to: http://www.genderawards.net/index.htm

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 it.

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 enewsletter 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 helene@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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