



International Day of Peace
September 16th - 17th, 2010
United Nations, New York City
with Children of the Earth and Vermont Peace Academy

In 1981, the United Nations General Assembly established the International day of Peace (IDP). The intention of the resolution is to have the entire world observe a day of peace and nonviolence.

Children of the Earth and the Vermont Peace Academy are excited to invite you to join us for the 2010 observance of the International Day of Peace! The 2010 IDP theme is *Youth, Peace and Development*.

Last year 60 Vermont students and teachers joined us at the United Nations for the Student Observance of the International Day of Peace. The 2009 UN event's topic was "Disarm Now for A Better World" (i.e. both nuclear weapons and illegal small arms). It brought together 1,000 students from around the world. The opening ceremony began in the rose garden with remarks by the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and the President of the 64th General Assembly.

There was an exchange between the UN appointed Messengers of Peace and students assembled at peacekeeping mission sites in Iraq, the Congo and the student audience at UN Headquarters. The program also featured live videos depicting the daily life of young people in some of the peacekeeping missions around the world. As a highlight, three of our Vermont students presented a proposal and were chosen to perform at the UN. They performed a song "Into Peace" and performed it on the sitar.

This is an extremely inspiring day for all who attend. One student, Amelia Hagen-Dillon stated that "To see them [UN dignitaries] believing in us as young people—they just had so much faith in us." The world flag ceremony caused Nora Parker to realize just how small our shared world is, "Just to be with people from other countries that were clapping while we were clapping gave me a better sense that we're all connected."

Teachers too have been inspired and have led their students into rich discussions upon returning from the UN Peace Day. Jane Hill, a chaperone from Orchard Valley School expressed the fact that the eighth grade students "were inspired by the brave and selfless deeds of their contemporaries working in different ways toward peace and a higher quality of life for the world's poor. We have begun a dialogue with each other and within

our own hearts on how we can make a difference and promote world peace."
The tentative 2010 IDP Observance itinerary is as follows:

Thursday, September 16th:

- Board the bus for NYC at 2:30pm
- Sleep in the NYC surrounding area

Friday, September 17th:

- Arrive at the UN in the morning
- Attend Student Observance at the UN
- Tour the UN
- Board the bus to return to Vermont

We will be taking 4 to 5 students and a chaperone from eight to ten schools. The cost for the trip is \$100.00 per person. The trip is being offered on a first come-first served basis.

Please e-mail or phone Courtney Rose at Courtney@children-of-the-earth.org to let us know if you are interested in joining us or to reserve a space. Once we know of your interest we will be able to provide you with more details as the UN provides us with more information.

The following websites will provide you with background information concerning the International Day of Peace and our organizations.

www.internationaldayofpeace.org

www.peaceday.org

www.cyberschoolbus.un.org

www.children-of-the-earth.org

www.vermontpeaceacademy.org

I look forward to working with you to make this day a meaningful experience for your students!

In peace,

Courtney Rose

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