



Global Alliance for

Ministries & Departments of Peace

**INTRODUCTION TO
THE
*GLOBAL ALLIANCE
FOR MINISTRIES AND
DEPARTMENTS OF
PEACE***

October 2006

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Why a Department of Peace/Ministry for Peace Within Governments?

- To create peace as a primary organizational principle in society both domestically and globally;
- To direct government policy towards non-violent resolution of conflict and to seek peace by peaceful means in all conflict areas;
- To promote justice and democratic principles to expand human rights and the security of persons and their communities, consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, other related UN treaties, conventions and the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace(1999);
- To promote disarmament and strengthen non-military means of peacemaking and peacebuilding;
- To develop new approaches to non-violent intervention, and utilize constructive dialogue, mediation and the peaceful resolution of conflict at home and abroad;
- To address matters of concern both domestic and international in scope
- To encourage the development of peace initiatives from local communities, faith groups, NGOs and the formation of civilian nonviolent peace forces;
- To facilitate the development of peace and reconciliation summits to promote non-violent communication and mutually-beneficial solutions;
- To act as a resource for the creation and the gathering of best practices documents, lessons learned, and peace impact assessments;
- To provide for the training of all military and civilian personnel who administer post-war reconstruction and demobilization in war-torn societies; and
- To fund the development of curriculum materials for use at all educational levels and to support university-level peace studies.

First named **International People's Initiative for Departments of Peace**, the **Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace** was launched at the First People's Summit for Departments of Peace, held in London October 18-19, 2005, with the intention of supporting national-level campaigns to establish departments of peace/ministries for peace in governments throughout the world. This document package provides background information on the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace.

The Global Alliance For Ministries And Departments Of Peace

The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace is a coalition of grassroots activists and government and civil society organisations in countries around the world who are working for the establishment and support of ministries and departments of peace (or other such governmental structures) that will partner with civil society to reflect and promote a culture of peace. People from civil society and/or governmental structures in the following 23 countries currently participate in the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace, and inquiries from and contacts with several others in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America indicate potential for significant expansion:

Australia*	India*	Netherlands	Spain*
Cameroon	Israel*	New Zealand	Sri Lanka
Canada*	Italy*	Palestine	Uganda*
Congo	Japan*	Philippines*	United Kingdom*
Costa Rica*	Liberia	Romania	United States of America*
France	Nepal*	Solomon Islands*	

* Countries with movements currently active or in formation for a ministry or department of peace or similar governmental structure and/or who already have such structures, such as Philippines and Solomon Islands.

The mission of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace is to enable and facilitate the capacity of its members to share and provide resources, encouragement, and support for existing and new national campaigns for Ministries and Departments of Peace around the world that would reflect and support the emergence of a global culture of peace.

To accomplish this mission, we identify the following strategic directions:

1. To develop and disseminate informational resources to support country campaigns, such as, for example, lists of qualified and experienced peaceworkers and trainers.
2. To encourage and support country campaigns through, for example, Summits, trainings, consulting, and website and other means for communicating and information sharing.
3. To raise global public awareness about ministries and departments of peace by, for example, issuing statements and taking actions regarding issues of the day that would demonstrate what they could do to bring about a culture of peace in the world.

REPORT FROM LONDON: THE FIRST PEOPLE'S SUMMIT FOR DEPARTMENTS OF PEACE

October 18-19, 2005

The first international People's Summit for Departments of Peace took place in London, UK, preceded by a two-day training in the latest developments on the expanding frontier of knowledge and practice in peacebuilding and conflict transformation around the world.

Forty people from twelve countries took time from their busy lives and invested their energy and resources to attend. The countries represented included Australia, Canada, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Netherlands, Palestine, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States of America. In addition, written support was received from political leaders in Australia, Nepal, Nigeria, Japan, and Uganda, including:



London Summit Participants

- **Senator Lyn Allison**, Leader of the Australian Democrats
- **Senator Natasha Stott Despoja**, Foreign Affairs Spokesperson for the Australian Democrats
- **Hon. Dr. Arthur Chesterfield-Evans MP**, MLC State Leader of the Australian Democrats
- **Hon. Oryem Henry Okello**, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs/International Affairs of Uganda
- **Tadatoshi Akiba**, Mayor, City of Hiroshima, Japan
- **Homrajdahal**, former MP and President, Center for Conflict Resolution, Peace, and Development, Nepal
- **Hon. Lloyd Axworthy**, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada

Presently, five of these countries have working groups conducting campaigns for ministries or departments of peace: Australia, Canada, Japan, United Kingdom, and United States.

On the final day of the Summit, the participants launched an on-going partnership for global action, called the international People's Initiative for Departments of Peace. The London Summit then concluded with a public meeting in the Grand Committee Room in the Houses of Parliament, hosted by John McDonnell MP and emceed by Diana Basterfield, co-founder of UK *ministry for peace*. The event opened with video greetings from U.S. Congressman Dennis Kucinich (author of the current legislation in Congress) and Marianne Williamson, and Dot Maver, executive director of The Peace Alliance, spoke on behalf of the U.S. campaign. Canada's representative, Saul Arbess, shared the Canadian working group's perspective. John McDonnell MP then articulated clearly the urgent need for departments and ministries of peace in order to provide a governmental infrastructure -- an institutional space -- for dialogue on peaceful resolution of conflict to take place.

Dot Maver answered some highly pointed questions from the audience about various aspects of U.S. policy by acknowledging the pain expressed and offering hope by saying that many people in the United States and around the world share that pain and sense of urgency, and reframing the situation in relation to the need to create infrastructures for peace based on the peacebuilding and conflict transformation efforts and resources already underway and available around the world.

Other speakers included Yumi Kikuchi from Japan, Kai Brand-Jacobsen from Transcend in Romania (who provided the training and facilitated the Summit), Paul van Tongeren from the Netherlands, and Jo Berry, who has been a spokesperson for forgiveness and reconciliation ever since her father (a former Tory MP) was killed by IRA terrorists 20 years ago.



***Dot Maver Reads the Declaration
to John McDonnell MP***
**Right to Left: Dot Maver (US),
John McDonnell MP (UK), Zoughbi
Zoughbi (Palestine), Shiri Barr
(Israel), Biannca Pace (Australia),
Mike Abkin (U.S.)**

Summit participants representing each country stood in the front of the room, and Zoughbi Zoughbi from Palestine and Shiri Barr from Israel stood side by side and spoke on behalf of the international initiative, both asking us to not give up hope and expressing their gratitude and joy to be standing together calling for peace. Dot read aloud the Summit's Declaration (see below) launching the People's Initiative for Departments of Peace and presented it to John McDonnell MP, who then said he would read it into the official record of the House of Commons at the earliest opportunity.

This event marks the beginning of a new, expanding movement throughout the world for governments to organize around principles of nonviolent conflict transformation. The next Summit will be in June 2006 in Victoria, Canada, preceding the first World Peace Forum in Vancouver, where the International People's Initiative for Departments of Peace will be on the program.

There is a momentum for peace and justice that is unstoppable!

***Declaration of the
FIRST PEOPLE'S SUMMIT FOR DEPARTMENTS OF
PEACE***

London, 19 October 2005

Today, we announce the launch of an international initiative for the creation of Departments of Peace in governments throughout the world.

Violence of all kinds is increasing.

There is an urgent need to find responsible solutions, expanding on past and present peace-building successes.

This international initiative will both provide resources and support for existing national Department of Peace campaigns, and assist new ones as they appear in other countries.

While the exact role of the department will differ in each country, its basic functions will be the same:

- To foster a culture of peace;
- To research, articulate and help bring about non-violent solutions to conflicts at all levels; and
- To provide resources for training in peace-building and conflict transformation to people everywhere.

We, the undersigned, joyfully vow to support and encourage each other, to share information, to enrich each other's experience, to listen to one another and to celebrate our commonalities and differences in our journey together towards a culture of peace.

- Department of Peace, Australia
- Working Group for a Federal Department of Peace, Canada
- *ministry for peace*, United Kingdom
- The Peace Alliance, Campaigning for a US Department of Peace, United States of America
- Delegation from Israel
- Binnie D'egli Innocenti, WWGHM, Italy
- Federation of Damanhur, Italy
- Global Peace Campaign, Working for a Ministry of Peace in Japan
- Ank Mesritz, House of Peace, Netherlands
- Paul van Tongeren, European Centre for Conflict Prevention, Netherlands
- Zoughbi Zoughbi, WI'AM, Palestinian Conflict Resolution Centre, Palestine
- Romanian Department of Peace Initiative
- Jo Berry, Building Bridges for Peace, United Kingdom
- Rolf C Carriere
- Simonetta Costanzo Pittaluga, NOVA, Center for Social Innovation - Spain



REPORT FROM VICTORIA: SECOND PEOPLE'S SUMMIT FOR MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF PEACE

June 19-22, 2006

They came by plane, bus, car, ferry, and on foot. Sixty men and women, representing diverse cultures, nations, ages, and languages, traveled to Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, for the *Second People's Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace* held June 19-22, 2006. Speaking with one voice they called on countries around the world to establish government structures whose goal is to work hand-in-hand with civil society - reflecting, building, and sustaining a culture of peace.



The Victoria Participants



*The Venue at
Royal Roads University*

Government and civil society delegates from Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, the Philippines, Romania, the Solomon Islands, Spain, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States gathered at Victoria's Royal Roads University to give birth to the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace and to pose an effective global and national architecture for peace. Delegates from Cameroon, Congo, and Sri Lanka were unable to attend due to

logistical constraints.



A Breakout Group

In forming the Global Alliance, the Summit plenary established an intergenerational steering committee and five working groups (communications, networking, youth, research and field operations, and finance) to develop and carry out a plan of work up to the next Summit in 2007, which will be hosted by Japan. In its formal Summit Communiqué the Global Alliance affirmed its commitment to partner and cooperate with governments and civil society organisations nationally and globally in promoting peace by

peaceful means and recognised the governments of the Philippines and the Solomon Islands, which have already established secretariats and departments for peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and reconciliation, as pioneers and examples to the world.



Hard at Work



Reporting Back



The Panel

Following the Summit, delegates traveled together to Vancouver to attend the first World Peace Forum, where the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace presented a half-day program on "Creating National Departments of Peace." The program included an international panel of government leaders

followed by a series of five related workshops. The panel was moderated by author and lecturer Marianne Williamson, chair of the Peace Alliance in the United States, and included Dr. Arthur Chesterfield-Evans, member of the legislative council of New South Wales, Australia; Fred Fakiri'i, undersecretary of the Ministry of Reconciliation, Unity, and Peace of the Solomon Islands; Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich of the United States; Timothy Al Paulus, assistant secretary for youth in the Ministry for Youth and Sports in Liberia; Franklin Quijano, of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in the Philippines; and Paul van Tongeren (the Netherlands), executive director of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict. In addition, statements were read from Senator Shokichi Kina of Japan and Senator Douglas Roche (ret.) of Canada.



Reading the Communiqué

Manish Thapa, Coordinator of the Nepal Peace Initiative Alliance, read the Victoria Summit Communiqué. Then the panelists spoke eloquently and passionately of their reasons for wanting a ministry or department of peace, the status in their own country of such a governmental structure, and why partnership with governments and civil society is so important in our time.



"...our challenge is to sustain it."

Marianne Williamson made visible the interconnectedness and implicit possibilities for cooperation leading to government and civil society partnership in building an infrastructure for peace. Fred Fakiri'i commented that, "All of you want a department of peace, and we have one. Your challenge is to create it, our challenge is to sustain it. We need to work together."



The sessions in Victoria opened with indigenous invocations, and each morning began with voices raised in harmony of song. At the end of the week, the delegates left Vancouver and returned to their homes around the world in harmony of purpose.



Chanting and Singing



Communiqué from the Second People's Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace

Victoria, BC, Canada – June 19-22, 2006

The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace gathered at Royal Roads University, Victoria, Canada, to advance the establishment of ministries and departments of peace in governments worldwide. Government and civil society delegates from Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Philippines, Romania, Solomon Islands, Spain, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States united to develop an effective global and national architecture for peace.

In plenary sessions and working groups, Summit participants established the foundations for local, national, regional, and international campaigns that will work towards conflict resolution and peacebuilding. "The role of governments in this initiative is crucial, in partnership with civil society," said Franklin Quijano from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in the Philippines. Fred Fakari'i, undersecretary in the Department of Reconciliation, Unity, and Peace in the Solomon Islands, noted that "Together we have the capacity to build the architecture that will make peacebuilding effective."

The Global Alliance calls upon governments of the world and civil society organisations everywhere to:

- Develop necessary resources and infrastructure for resolving conflicts effectively by peaceful means
- Establish, train and develop civil peace services and the human resources and capacities for peacebuilding and conflict transformation
- Incorporate conflict resolution and peacebuilding into school curricula from primary schools through university
- Actively engage youth, women, and all communities to participate as equals in peacebuilding, to ensure participation and representation of all
- Support and encourage coordinated efforts to gather lessons learned and best practices from peacebuilding experiences around the world.

The Global Alliance is committed to partnership and cooperation with governments, organisations, and institutions nationally and internationally working for the achievement of these goals and the promotion of peace by peaceful means. Governments such as those in the Philippines and Solomon Islands who have already established secretariats and departments for peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and reconciliation are pioneers and examples to the world.

"Collectively, the youth at the Summit call for a global youth cooperative network of the diverse local movements towards establishing departments and ministries of peace. We are excited to be able to offer a 'fresh' perspective for peace," said Tara Yip-Bannicq, Youth Delegate to the Summit.

"Everyone assembled here," said Dr. Saul Arbess, Summit host and Canadian Working Group delegate, "is determined to provide the energy, skills and momentum to realise these goals, working in concert and in harmony with peaceworkers worldwide."

2 March 2006

A FRESH APPROACH TO RESOLVING INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

The International People's Initiative for Departments of Peace calls urgently for the non-violent resolution of the growing conflict involving China, France, Germany, Iran, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United Nations, and the United States of America.

As Earth's climate warms up at an alarming rate, threatening widespread global devastation, humanity faces the biggest challenge to its survival in history. For our children, our children's children and the planet, we must now avoid wasting our precious resources engaging in costly, destructive wars and instead employ well-trying, non-violent methods of resolving conflicts around the world. We can then focus our energy, creativity, wisdom, and prudence on providing for a sustainable, and thus safe and secure, future.

While recognising the efforts of all parties to resolve this dispute through negotiation, we are also aware that frustration at the lack of agreement can lead to increasing polarisation, harsh language and even the extreme violence of military action. As with past conflicts, this is likely to produce a similar result – war, chaos and suffering. It is therefore time for all of us – private citizens, civil society organisations, and governments – to call for a change in the manner in which conflict is dealt with so as to meet the fundamental needs of all humanity for security, mutual respect and justice.

The good news: non-violent conflict resolution is possible and already happening. Indeed, we have within the human family many men and women experienced in successfully facilitating the non-violent resolution of conflict within and between nations and states. We call on all governments involved to seek immediately their input and action.

We can all help bring about this change and we encourage everyone to take action now. Please talk with your friends, family and community members, and encourage everyone to call on political leaders to settle for nothing less than a non-violent resolution to this conflict. Suggestions as to specific actions you can take are listed at www.peoplesinitiativefordepartmentsofpeace.org.

It is time to create a world in which we all pursue the non-violent resolution of conflict. The stakes are too high for any other course of action.

For further information, please contact info@peoplesinitiativefordepartmentsofpeace.org.

The International People's Initiative is working towards the formation of ministries and departments of peace in all governments so that national ministers of peace may meet on a regular basis, especially during crises, with a mandate to seek and maintain an ongoing focus on reaching peace by peaceful means.

28 July 2006

Call for a Fresh Approach to the Current Situation in the Middle East and for Immediate Steps for Effective Resolution of the Conflicts

There is an urgent and immediate need for effective action to end the current and continuing cycles of violence in Lebanon-Israel-Palestine and the broader Middle East. The needs of all sides and parties must be recognised and addressed, and the human rights and human security of all peoples in the Middle East guaranteed as the fundamental foundation for an effective peace process aimed at addressing the root causes of the conflicts in the region and building lasting and sustainable peace.

The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace calls upon governments, citizens, and international institutions to take *immediate and effective action* to bring an end to the violence in the Middle East and to support the *development of effective peacebuilding engagements* to transform conflicts in the region.

Proposals for Immediate Action for the Achievement of Sustainable Peace in Lebanon-Israel-Palestine and the Broader Middle East

We call for development of a coordinated strategy for peacebuilding in Lebanon-Israel-Palestine and the region as a whole. Such a coordinated strategy will offer effective mechanisms for peacebuilding and transforming the conflicts in the region, including coordination and cooperation within and between civil society, government, and regional and international engagements. The following actions are proposed as pillars of an immediate coordinated Middle East peacebuilding engagement for governments, civil society actors, and international institutions.

Immediate Cessation of the Violence and Release of Prisoners – To act for the immediate cessation of violence in order to provide the space for effective mechanisms for resolving the conflict and meeting the legitimate needs of all parties, including the release of prisoners held on all sides.

Reciprocal Recognition for the Human Rights and Human Security of All Peoples as Fundamental to Peacebuilding – A lasting and sustainable peace for all parties has to be based on the mutual and reciprocal recognition of human rights and respect, and the provision for human security of all peoples in the Middle East.

Conference on Peace and Security for the Middle East – An immediate priority is for all countries in the region to engage in a process to recognise and resolve together the interlocking and inter-related conflicts in the region and to establish a regional framework for the development of effective mechanisms for strengthening cooperation.

Support for and Coordination of National and Regional Peacebuilding Initiatives – Substantially increased support for and coordination of peacebuilding efforts and government and civil society engagement in conflict transformation and violence prevention at the local, community-based, national and regional levels within each country and across the Middle East, including the development of civilian peace services and effective coordination of peacebuilding engagements through the creation of national level Ministries and Departments of Peace and regional coordination mechanisms.

Coordination and Strengthening of International Engagements in Peacebuilding in the Region – Including coordinated engagement and immediate action by the Quartet

(USA, Russia, EU, UN) and international governmental and non-governmental organizations to halt the violence and strengthen peacebuilding efforts and the cessation of armed conflict.

Review Peacebuilding Experiences – Develop a comprehensive review of peacebuilding engagements at the local/community, country, and regional level of the past 16 years by civil society organizations, governments, and international agencies, drawing out lessons learned to strengthen future peacebuilding engagements.

Immediate Deployment of Effective Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Support Capacities to the Region – including the deployment of EU/UN peacekeeping forces to guarantee human security and the absence of armed force for all parties, and civilian peacekeeping and peacebuilding support capacities.

The Global Alliance supports all the peoples being affected by the current and past conflicts in the region, and calls upon citizens, governments, the United Nations, and international institutions to take ***immediate and effective action to halt the violence*** devastating the region and to engage in ***committed and sustained peacebuilding efforts***. An alternative to violence is possible and necessary, but it will require our concerted action to make it happen. Citizens in the Middle East and globally, in cooperation with governments, the United Nations, and each other, can bring an end to the violence and conflict which has affected the lives of so many, and work for the establishment of a just and sustainable peace.

The Steering Committee

The members of the steering group for the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace are:

- Diana Basterfield of UK,
- Yumi Kikuchi of Japan,
- Saul Arbess of Canada
- Peter P. Lukwiya of Uganda,
- Dot Maver of the U.S.A.
- Bianca Pace of Australia,

The Secretariat

The International Secretary for the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace is Corina Simon, based at the Romanian Peace Institute (PATRIR). Contact: info@mfp-dop.org.

The Website

The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace offers a user-friendly virtual environment on its website at the address www.mfp-dop.org. The registrants have the possibility to publish news on different topics, events in the form of a calendar and various types of resources in the field of peace. The Forums section offers a diversity of general categories that welcome the users' contributions and comments.

The Newsletter

Keep up-to-date with the latest news and additions to the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace by subscribing (from the front page of the website) to the monthly Information Document.

Useful Links

- Ministry for Peace Australia, www.ministryforpeace.org.au
- Working Group for a Federal Department of Peace, Canada www.departmentofpeace.ca
- The Rasur Foundation, Costa Rica, www.peacearmyofcostarica.info
- Global Initiatives for Departments of Peace – Indian Chapter, Dr.N.Radhakrishnan, drnradhakrishnan@yahoo.com
- Ministero per la Pace, Italy www.ministeroperlapaceitalia.org
- Global Peace Campaign, Working for a Ministry of Peace in Japan www.peace2001.org
- Nepal Peace Initiative Alliance, Nepal www.peacenepal.org
- Ministry for Peace Uganda Working Alliance; Project of Uganda Peace Foundation Initiative, ministryforpeaceugandaalliance.blogspot.com
- *ministry for peace*, United Kingdom www.ministryforpeace.org , www.negotiate-peace.org
- The Peace Alliance, Campaigning for a US Department of Peace, United States of America www.thepeacealliance.org
- The Peace Alliance Foundation, Education and Leadership Training for a Culture of Peace, U.S.A. www.peacealliancefound.org