



GLOBALNEWSCAST

December, 2020

Reports from the Liaisons of International Cities of Peace

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Year 2020 has been extremely difficult for many around the globe -- not only because of the pandemic but also the **compounded effects of violence: hunger, poverty, war, lack of education, dictatorial regimes, crime, injustice, and other causes of hardship and overpowering grief. We must extend our compassion. Peacemakers must innovate and work harder for global peace.** Those of us in better circumstances must stand with those who face these deep challenges.

How, against all odds, do we change the world?

Internationals! Cities of Peace may well be humanity's best hope! Why? Innovation. Hard work. Practical peacemaking. Thousands of committed volunteers.

Our delivery of Covid relief, for instance, came quickly and efficiently to 33 African communities. Peace leaders in China, Korea, Gaza are embracing the City of Peace ideal. Even in war-torn countries such as Palestine and Afghanistan, we are empowering those leaders who know the needs of their community and are choosing nonviolent solutions.

WHAT BETTER WAY TO TAKE A STAND FOR PEACE THEN TO DONATE TO THIS GLOBE-CHANGING MOVEMENT?

[BE A PART. JOIN US NOW. CLICK HERE. WE THANK YOU!](#)

307 Cities of Peace in 64 countries on all six continents, from Busan, South Korea to Bradford, England to La Paz in Bolivia and Sedona in the United States: communities are transforming their culture to one of peace through volunteer service.

This Holiday Season, we are grateful. Inspired to do more. We are blessed to have so many peacemakers around the globe as friends and colleagues. Stay safe. Stay engaged. Stay committed.





TRIBUTE TO MIL MILENIOS DE PAZ

Inés Palomeque, the founder of Mil Milenios de Paz and a Board Member of Cities of Peace, Inc., has worked tirelessly for decades to change the culture of Argentina and Uruguay to a more peaceful society. To become a City Committed to Peace, a City must make an official declaration, signed by the Mayor or Council, to dedicate their community to peace. Over 20 Cities have done that and Inés Palomeque has presented the Roerich Flag of Peace at a City ceremony to be flown each year on Peace Day.

"The Roerich Pact and the Banner of Peace were created and promoted by Nicolas Roerich, in order to protect the treasures of human genius, establishing that educational, artistic, scientific and religious institutions, as well as places of cultural relevance, they were to be declared inviolable, and respected by all nations, both in times of war and in times of peace. On April 15, 1935, the Roerich Pact was signed at the White House, in the presence of the then President of the United States Franklin D. Roosevelt, by representatives of 21 governments from all over the Americas."

Due to the alliance between Mil Milenios De Paz and International Cities of Peace, each City Committed to Peace automatically becomes a City of Peace.

This month, San Lorenzo in the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina was the latest City Committed to Peace. Due to the alliance between Mil Milenios De Paz and International Cities of Peace, each City Committed to Peace automatically becomes a City of Peace. San Lorenzo became our 300th International City of Peace, providing an important milestone on our way to 1000 Cities of Peace by Year 2025.

Congratulations to Inés and all in South America who fly the Flag of Peace and endeavor toward a more perfect world.

[DONATE TO INTERNATIONAL CITIES OF PEACE.](#)
[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE.](#)

NEW CITIES OF PEACE THIS QUARTER!



Nakivale, Uganda, 284th City of Peace

Jonathan Djumbe of the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda is founder of Innovation School, which is dedicated to teaching children and empowering women and men of the Settlement. As the second Refugee Camp International City of Peace, the work is very important to many who have been living in the Settlement for decades.

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Limbe, Cameroon: 285th City of Peace

Michael Ambe Ngwa founded the Green and Better World organization to bring greater safety, prosperity and quality of life to his community. Their mission is to provide skills to communities which will enable each and every one to contribute in making the world peaceful and friendly for all to live in.

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Gaza City, Palestine: 286th City of Peace

Mr. Malek Yusef Abu Amra al-Husseini, founder of the Justice and Peace Party now establishing Gaza City as an International City of Peace based on advocacy and work for nonviolent progress in Palestine. In



Moncton, Riverview, and Dieppe, Canada: 287th, 288th, 289th Cities of Peace

The Peace Leaders Collaborative of Greater Moncton is a local-global initiative that grew organically from the strength and diversity of a few passionate people talking at a kitchen table. "As part of the kitchen table conversation, we ignited a vision to create an engaging, community-wide movement dedicated to fostering harmonious relationships with ourselves, others and the natural world." The three municipalities;

signing the Letter of Intent from International Cities of Peace, the community organization focuses on nonviolent methods of promoting safety, prosperity, and quality of life as the consensus values of peace.

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Kwa Dukuza-Ballito, South Africa: 290th City of Peace

Managay Pillay and her colleagues created the Luah Project, which endeavors to uplift communities who have no access to electricity. The organization and members of the group are focused on the values of improved quality of life, health and safety and security.

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Moncton, Riverview, and Dieppe make up Greater Moncton. Here, you will find a fast-growing, diversified community where development strategies place citizens and the environment as key pillars to achieving sustainability.

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St. Petersburg, United States: 291st City of Peace

Mayor Rick Kriseman and the citizens of St. Petersburg continue their City's many initiatives and programs toward a growing Culture of Peace in their community. St. Petersburg Proclaimed as a City of Compassion as well as a City of Peace in order to recognize formally their intention and efforts to instill a peace culture for children and adults alike.

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Durban, South Africa: 292nd City of Peace

Dr Ralf Doepke of the Breath of Africa Tours & Safaris is building bridges with many programs, including the Natest Primary School, the first school President Nelson



Cotonou, Benin: 293rd City of Peace

Gérard Metonhessa is founder of the United For The Peace of Africa (UPA) Initiative, a collaborative group of dedicated to promoting

Mandela visited in 1997. He was on hand to open the school library. The school is committed to peace and reconciliation through education.

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Tamera, Portugal: 294th City of Peace

Sabine Lichtenfels, co-founder of Tamera and Head of the Global Love School, is a peace-researcher and theologian. Janni Marianne Hentrich is the Liaison for the Tamera: International City of Peace initiative. The Village provides an example and inspiration for not only the area around the land of Monte do Cerro in Reliquias, Portugal but also for others around the world interested in creating a culture of peace.

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Peace and Development in Africa. They envision a world of people motivated by peace and development rather than conflict, terrorism, hatred and fear.

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Budaka, Uganda: 295th City of Peace

Michael Soikya is the founder and Executive Director of Action for Community Welfare, a community based organization committed to improving the quality of life for orphans, vulnerable children and youth. The Basimba people of the Leopard Clan are the Katunku, Ngulya, Kaabya, Mwati, Kabolesa, Namuyonjo, Ntembe of Lupada, Naboa Sub-County, Budaka County, Budaka District who live among the Bagwere but trace their origin from Tanzania and Zambia.

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Paternoster, South Africa: 296th City of Peace

The citizens of Paternoster, South Africa have a long legacy of peacemaking. The town is a beautiful fishing village on the West Coast of South Africa that encourages



Busan, South Korea: 297th City of Peace

BYEON Sung-wan, Acting Mayor, and the citizens and civic leadership of Busan

citizens to “be aware of the plight of some of the Paternoster villagers and actively lend a supporting hand.”

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Bungoma, Kenya: 298th City of Peace

Joseph Wanjala Okumu of the Bungoma City of Peace and Reconciliation group has eleven members who came together for the purpose of promoting peace in the city. As a result for recurrent post-election violence activities in the county, which also led to death, suffering of children and women, loss of property, mentally and psychological torture within the community and families in the city, the group aims at promoting peace and reconciliation.

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Metropolitan City have established this second largest City in South Korea as an International City of Peace. Busan served as the provisional capital of South Korea during the Korean war in 1950. The United Nations memorial cemetery in Busan is the only memorial cemetery in the world where approximately 11,000 noble spirits of sacrificed UN forces rest in peace. It is also designated as a Peace and Culture Zone for the United Nations.

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Rongo, Kenya: 299th City of Peace

Helida Adhiambo Okello founded a community-based peace organization, the Network for Peace Education, which works for deprived women, youth, and children of Rongo. A legend concerning Rongo flying the first kite is told in the waiting room of Walt Disney's Enchanted Tiki Room, in which Rongo is voiced by Ernest Tavares. Helida continues the important community peace work in Rongo and she is joined by her family and friends.

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San Lorenzo, Argentina: 300th City of Peace

The latest City Committed to Peace under the mentorship of Mil Milenios de Paz, San Lorenzo has chosen a safe, just, free, and reliable peace. Committed to the values and respect life in all its forms, the community will now flourish under the Banner of Peace of Nicholas Roerich.

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Siaya, Kenya: 301st City of Peace

Hillary Onyango Were has a Masters in Divinity and founded the Physical and Psychosocial Development Organization (PHYDO Kenya), a youth led nonprofit, community based organization in 2009, with the mandate of mainstreaming rural community issues and concerns within the paradigms of policy and development framework.

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Ibanda, D.R. Congo: 302nd City of Peace

Patrick Sadiki Masemo and his colleagues have many projects planned as they evolve as a City of Peace. Project include support for training young people in different life professions to give them hope of living in peace instead of enlisting in armed groups.

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Jinja, Uganda: 303rd City of Peace

Fagiyo Rogers is Musoga by tribe and a community leader. "The situation in Jinja is good," he says, "because Jinja City is

surrounded by river Nile and Lake Victoria. People here are focused on agriculture. They grow both food crops and cash crops such as cassava, coffee, maize etc."

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Scarletta Zanclea, Italy: 304th City of Peace

Maria de Luca is associated with the famous Scaletta Castle and many socio-cultural events, of which she and her colleagues hope to organize more and bring a culture of peace to their community. The City of Peace was mentored by peace ambassador and artist Gladys Cantelmi.

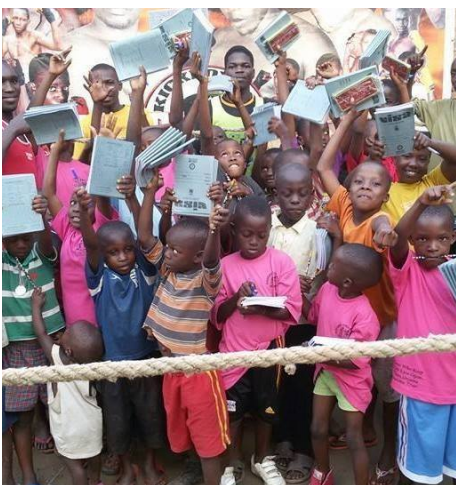
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NSIT UBIUM, AKWA IBOM, NIGERIA: 305th City of Peace

Nsit Ubium consists of two Clans: the Nsit and Ubium with 31 villages in Nsit clan and 33 in Ubium clan. Traditionally, the two clans, Nsit and Ubium, identify themselves along ethnic lineage. Liaison for the new City of Peace in Akwa Ibom State, Nsiongabasi Benson is an electrical engineering graduate. "I intend to bring in security patrol team to stabilize peace in the community."

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Tabora, Tanzania: 306th City of Peace

Mayaya Mack is founder of Sustainable Beekeeping a Human Development (SuBeHuDe Tanzania) among other initiatives. The new Liaison for Tabora is also co-founder and Project Coordinator at The New Wash Bu Foundation (NWBF) and co-founder of Ecosystem Restoration Camps Tanzania (ERC-TZ). He is also the country promoter and board member at Voice of Africans Youth for Good Governance – Tanzania Chapter.

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World Unity – A New Level of Peace

*Peace building and actionable steps for International Cities of Peace
by Lisa & Brian Berman • AwakeningPeace.org*

Building a Culture of Peace in Your Community

As human beings, we have a tendency to see ourselves as separate from others. This perception is a root cause of hierarchical dominance and violence. We are facing a paradox: being our unique individual self with our own special gifts and needs. And we are equally learning to be selfless, putting “we” before “me,” seeing ourselves as part of the collective consciousness that unifies us all.

***If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other --
Mother Teresa***

In 1999, the United Nations defined eight action areas for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence. It consists of values, attitudes and behaviors that reject violence, injustice and solving problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations.

How would you describe the culture in your community? Reflect on these areas:

- 1. Education for building a culture of peace vs. rules, orders, and a power-based governance using force*
- 2. Sustainable economic and social development vs. exploitation of nature*
- 3. Human rights, respect for all human vs. exploitation of people*
- 4. Equality of women and men vs. male domination*
- 5. Democratic participation vs. hierarchical, vertical authoritarian governance*
- 6. Understanding, empathy, tolerance and solidarity vs. demonizing ‘other’ or stating as an enemy*
- 7. Participatory communication, free flow of information and knowledge vs. secretive, controlled information, propaganda*
- 8. International peace and security, negotiation, nonviolent solutions, unity and cooperation vs. violent suppression, division*

Sharing conversation, deep listening as a gift we give to others, understanding someone else's needs, companionship, mentorship, problem solving solutions are directly linked to peace, our health and well-being. The need to belong is actually among our most basic needs. Belonging, to be seen, and to be heard are essential. They increase our personal capacity for resilience in challenging times and for overcoming traumas.

Everything that is needed to build a culture of peace already exists in each one of us. Our essence is peace. Peace is the fundamental asset we have to build community, for personal growth, and to the very survival of our planet. A peaceful co-existence is essential for ensuring productive, meaningful lives and sustainable societies. Peace is the power within you.

Action steps:

- *What are the needs for greater peace in your community?*
- *What peace building steps can you promote or provide in the most important areas?*
- *Join other individuals or organizations: in the pursue of your goals for peace building.*
- *Evaluate and set clear objectives, be inclusive.*
- *Maintain peace within.*

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