What is a Culture of Peace?

"Peace we want because there is another war to fight against poverty, disease and ignorance."
-- Indira Gandhi, 1966

THE CULTURE OF PEACE IS A SET OF VALUES, ATTITUDES, MODES OF BEHAVIOR AND WAYS OF LIFE THAT REJECT VIOLENCE AND PREVENT CONFLICTS BY TACKLING THEIR ROOT CAUSES TO SOLVE PROBLEMS THROUGH DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION AMONG INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND NATIONS."
--UN Resolutions A/RES/52/13: Culture of Peace and A/53/243: Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace

FOR PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE TO PREVAIL, WE NEED TO:

> FOSTER A CULTURE OF PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION.
> PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.
> PROMOTE RESPECT FOR ALL HUMAN RIGHTS.
> ENSURE EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN.
> FOSTER DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION.
> ADVANCE UNDERSTANDING, TOLERANCE AND SOLIDARITY.
> SUPPORT PARTICIPATORY COMMUNICATION AND THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE.
> PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

WHAT IS PEACEBUILDING?

THROUGH CITIES OF PEACE ORGANIZATIONS, CITIZENS ACROSS THE WORLD ARE BEGINNING TO FOCUS ON BUILDING A LONG-TERM CULTURE OF PEACE. PEACEBUILDING ENTAILS FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING AND ESTABLISHING NEW STRUCTURES OF COOPERATION. WHETHER IT'S GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS OR THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHETHER ITS A SINGLE ACT OF KINDNESS, A SCHOOL PROGRAM TO REDUCE BULLYING, OR A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM, CITIZENS ARE REALIZING THE ECONOMIC AND LIFESTYLE BENEFITS OF A CULTURE OF PEACE.

"WE NEED TO BUILD NOT ONLY GEOGRAPHICAL BUT SPIRITUAL BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE AND STRENGTHEN THE INTELLECTUAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNICATION LINKAGES BETWEEN OUR SOCIETIES. (LET US) STAND READY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EFFORT TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND CREATE A CULTURE OF PEACE." -- FROM UNESCO PRESS REPORT AT WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL UNESCO, FREDERICO MAYOR

International
CITIES OF PEACE