



INTERNATIONAL
CITIES OF PEACE

**Becoming
A City of Peace**

**If there is to be peace in the world,
there must be peace in the nations.**

**If there is to be peace in the nations,
there must be peace in the cities.**

**If there is to be peace in the cities,
there must be peace between neighbors.**

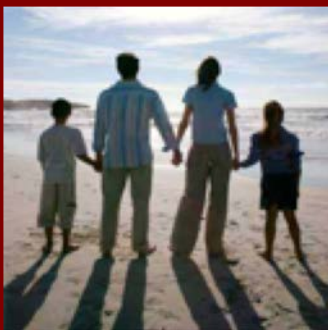
**If there is to be peace between neighbors,
there must be peace in the home.**

**If there is to be peace in the home,
there must be peace in the heart.**

~Lao-Tse, b. 604 BCE (from Tao Te Ching)

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Why Become a City of Peace

Envision a World Where Cities Define Themselves in the Language of Peace.

Imagine a world of villages and towns dedicated to expanding their local peace economy and contributing toward a global culture of peace. Safety, prosperity, and quality of life are the universal values that bring peace to our families, our neighborhoods and our world.

International Cities of Peace (ICP) is an association of municipalities that are working toward bringing the benefit of these values to every member of their communities. The ICP association is building a global network of peace cities, towns, villages, and large neighborhoods that by history, resolution, or proclamation self-define as committed to working toward a culture of peace.

First and foremost in this global adventure is to reject violence and define ourselves as people of peace. The cause of peace is carried by billions of people: workers building bridges and roads, teachers teaching, mothers nurturing, artists creating, peace officers keeping us safe, sports figures inspiring greatness.

This can't be done in a polarized environment where the world is split into culprits and victims. This redefinition will require building a consensus network of business, government and community leaders who value safety, prosperity, and quality of life.



IS YOUR CITY ALREADY A CITY OF PEACE?

International Cities of Peace is an association of citizens, governments and organizations who have by proclamation, resolution, or by citizen advocacy established their communities as official Cities of Peace. Every community has a legacy of peace, whether it is by a historical event or by a local peace heroes or groups who have contributed to their citizen's safety, prosperity and quality of life.

No city is 100% a city of peace, rather all are on the path to “becoming” a more peaceful city. Establishing a community as a peace city recognizes past achievements, encourages current initiatives, and inspires future generations for practical peace building.

Check out the Listing of International Cities of Peace on our website:

www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org



Executive Summary

Five steps to establishing your community as an International City of Peace

To create an initiative is a profound process yet simple to accomplish and costs no money. You can emphasize the work you or your group are currently doing. Or you can create a new organization for community peace building.

Each community has a legacy of peace that can be highlighted, especially in terms of giving hope and encouragement to children and adults alike. International Cities of Peace is not a funding organization but individual cities of peace have the option of working with other cities through our Global Family Program.

One person, perhaps you, will be included on our Advisory Council of Leaders. We will make the announcement about your initiative when the following are received:

1. **Get signatures on the Letter of Intent (download from website, then print, get signatures, and scan to return)**
2. **Write a vision, mission, and goals statement**
3. **Send photos and captions of local events and locations (take them yourself, please. We do not use copyrighted or Internet photos)**
4. **Submit a photo and bio for the leader of the group**
5. **Write a statement about the peace legacy of your community**

Once the unique web page for your community is created, we will make the announcement to our membership and the world. Get ready for a life-changing and world-changing experience. Imagine a world of 1000 cities of peace!



12 Benefits of Establishing a City of Peace

1. **Information:** resources and links to “how to” materials
2. **Affirmation:** membership in a global association
3. **Connections:** alliances with important organizations
4. **Legitimacy:** a higher profile in the worldwide community
5. **Education:** access to presentations and ICP Valued Providers
6. **Funding Options:** links to funders and recommendations
7. **Online Learning:** access to the free Skills Development Program™
8. **Online Presence:** free website page for your peace team
9. **Public Relations:** free news release through blog post
10. **Community:** access to the City-to-City Collaboration Program™
11. **Database:** access to ICP Global NewsCast for information distribution
12. **U.N. Representation:** ICP is in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United National body for NGOs

Cost: Free

Process: Letter of Intent as first step



WAYS TO ORGANIZE

There are as many ways to create a City of Peace as there are people to be inspired. This document includes some essential and optional steps for creating an effective organization. We hope these ideas and suggestions are of help.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Form a group of friends and colleagues who value peace. Connect with Rotary or another civic, faith-based, or grassroots organization.
2. Create a Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives (use other City versions as a template).
3. Produce promotional tools, such as a website and flyers.
4. Begin an area campaign to educate about a Culture of Peace.
5. Research, document, and publicize your area's legacy of peacemaking.
6. Hold peacebuilding events to foster a Culture of Peace.
7. Partner with like-minded organizations.
8. Recruit citizen liaisons for all constituencies and stakeholders groups.
9. Hold an exhibit at a venue, such as a library, and invite local dignitaries.
10. Gather signatures and submit a Resolution to your civic government.



IDEAS FOR PEACE BUILDING

- Incorporate in your state or province as a nonprofit corporation.
- File for 501(c)3 nonprofit status so donations are tax exempt.
- Establish a physical presence with an office and/or activity room.
- Secure venues for peace-related exhibits.
- Seek funding through grants and private donations for programs.

Ideas Other Communities Have Implemented

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ▪ Peace Exhibits | ▪ Peace trails |
| ▪ Gardens | ▪ Peace museum |
| ▪ Musical events | ▪ Peace art gallery |
| ▪ Labyrinth | ▪ Lectures |
| ▪ Peace Camp | ▪ Workshops |
| ▪ Peace Tree Day, June 1 | ▪ Dialogues on Community |
| ▪ Educational programs | ▪ Speakers' bureau |
| ▪ Interfaith programs | ▪ Mediation Center |
| ▪ Int'l Day of Peace, Sept. 21 | ▪ Peace Economy Roundtable |

**Start small, grow large. Have fun. Enjoy the community.
Don't get frustrated. Always keep your eyes on the prize!**



Including Everyone

Inclusiveness, Diversity, Collaboration

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: Indeed it's the only thing that ever has.” -- Margaret Mead

Whether you have a small or large organization, the following organizational method is an easy, manageable means of getting all of the stakeholders in a community onboard.

1. **Create a core Peace Team** by encouraging individuals you know to coordinate as well as promote your City of Peace activities.
2. **Agree on a single point of contact** with International Cities of Peace, called a Liaison.
3. **Form an Advisory Panel** of community leaders who generate ideas and have connections to area support.
4. **Gather a Group of Citizen Volunteers** who network within their area of expertise (such as an artist contacting the arts community). The Liaison's would gather signatures and set up a Community Advisory Panel of ten community leaders who generate ideas and give support. The following parts of society are important in every City, Town, or Village on the globe:

- ✓ **Local and Regional Civic Community**
- ✓ **Arts Community**
- ✓ **Faith-Based Community**
- ✓ **Service Community**
- ✓ **Safety and Security Community**
- ✓ **Wellness Community**
- ✓ **Sports and Entertainment Community**
- ✓ **Academic Community**
- ✓ **Environmental Community**
- ✓ **Business Community**

WHAT IS A CULTURE OF PEACE?

“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

Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace

The U.N. has suggested that for peace and non-violence to prevail, our communities need to do the following:

1. **Foster a culture of peace through education**
2. **Promote sustainable economic and social development**
3. **Promote respect for all human rights**
4. **Ensure equality between women and men**
5. **Foster democratic participation**
6. **Advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity**
7. **Support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge**
8. **Promote international peace and security**

The International Cities of Peace initiative supports the worldwide celebration of U.N. sponsored “Peace One Day” on September 21 each year. Plan a community event to coalesce support for an area City of Peace movement and to foster a culture of peace.



Sample City of Peace Resolution

[Name of City, Town, or Village]

[Date]

WHEREAS the World Health Organization defines health as not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, but achievement of a balance of physical, mental, and social well-being, and

WHEREAS peace is not merely the absence of war and violence, but a condition where society has achieved a balance of prosperity, security, justice and hope, and

WHEREAS peace is necessary for everyone to achieve health as defined by the World Health Organization, and

WHEREAS [Description of people, events, or geographical examples of why this particular location should be a City of Peace]

WHEREAS the community leaders of [Name of location] are committed to establishing peace in the region to promote economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of the people of our region, and

WHEREAS the United Nations has designated 21 September of each year to be the International Day of Peace, devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the [Official civic body] proclaims the [Name of location] to be a City of Peace in perpetuity, and be it further

RESOLVED that the [Official civic body] designates 21 September of each year to be the [Name of location] Day of Peace in perpetuity, and be it further

RESOLVED that the [Official civic body] develops policies and procedures that promote establishing peace in our region in perpetuity.

Note: This City of Peace Resolution can be used by any community, therefore it is released from copyright protection by Cities of Peace, Inc.

Signature Sheet

Signatories for the "City of Peace" initiative

I believe this initiative can have a positive impact on our Region. By defining our central City as an official "City of Peace," we promote the consensus values of safety, prosperity and quality of life.

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
	Phone:	Email:		

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
	Phone:	Email:		

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
	Phone:	Email:		

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
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Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
	Phone:	Email:		

Print Name	Address	City	State	Zip
	Phone:	Email:		

Imagine 1000 Cities of Peace by Year 2025!

For more information, resources, consultation on starting an organization, please contact the office of the International Cities of Peace. For the leader of each organization, the Advisory Council is a good way to connect and share in the good work of creating a world of Cities of Peace.

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