



Monthly Newsletter of  
Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light

# HWPL NEWS

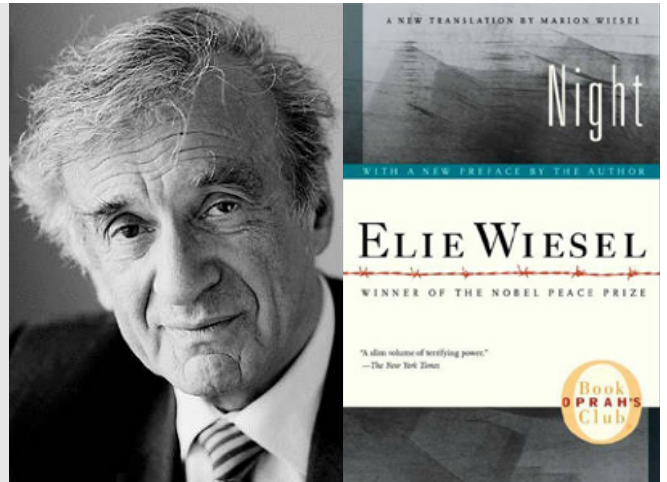


- Time to Take Aggressive Action for Peace
- Manila & Mindanao: We Declare Peace
- HWPL WARP Offices endorsing the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week
- Companion of HWPL: International Network of Liberal Women (INLW)
- Letters of Peace: Hopeful Power of Putting Pen to Paper

## Time to Take Aggressive Action for Peace

*“Never shall I forget those flames which consumed my faith forever. Never shall I forget that nocturnal silence which deprived me, for all eternity, of the desire to live. Never shall I forget those moments which murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to dust.”*

*Elie Wiesel, Holocaust Survivor  
(from his book “Night”)*



International Holocaust Remembrance Day was designated by the UN in 2005 to annually commemorate the liberation of the victims of the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Nazi era on January 27, 1945.

To reflect upon the brutality that mankind should never have participated in and to not repeat those disastrous scenes, Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, and the International School for Holocaust Studies located in Jerusalem provide quality Holocaust education and the truth about the history of that event through numerous documentations, photographs, and testimonies of the survivors. This also serves as a warning for people about the atrocities of conflicts that result in the collapse of peace, human rights, tolerance, and harmonious co-existence.



Nevertheless, the civil war in South Sudan, the ethnic conflict in Myanmar, the Cambodian civil war called the ‘Killing Field’ and various other massacres have been practiced around the world leading to genocide still being left as a major international dilemma.

In December of last year, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) reported that acts of extreme cruelty unprecedented in human history are currently progressing in South Sudan. This country became independent in 2011 after more than 20 years of guerrilla warfare, which claimed the lives of at least 1.5 million people and displaced more than four million.

In 2013, however, a serious civil war broke out once again from a political power struggle that escalated from the strife between President Salva Kiir and Vice-President Riek Machar. This war has led to 50 thousand deaths caused by ethnic violence and 3 million refugees over the last 3 years.



Besides the horrific situation in South Sudan, the Rohingya people in Myanmar are currently facing persecution, violence, ethnic cleansing, extrajudicial execution, and arson due to the refusal of acknowledgment from the government and lack of humanitarian support from potential host countries. The researchers of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum refer to these sorts of acts as the 'early stage of genocide.'

By acknowledging their responsibility and expressing their sincere apology towards the indelible stain the Holocaust has left in history, as well as paying tribute to the memory of the victims, Germany is giving both lessons and warnings to the powers that threaten the value of peace in this generation.

At an event marking 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz in Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced: "Auschwitz concerns us all, today and tomorrow and not only on anniversaries. She then added, "Crimes against humanity are not time-barred. We will always have the responsibility of ensuring that the knowledge about these atrocities is passed on, and of keeping the memories alive."



In line with the efforts to remember the lives lost through countless unjustifiable actions and conflicts, including commemorating the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, HWPL has implemented practical peace activities to essentially eradicate conflicts and wars through introducing a law for peace, enhancing harmony between diverse faiths, and improving education and solidarity among the youth and women of the world.

Towards the various peace projects of HWPL, countries and regions experiencing conflicts are responding with great interest and support. Cambodia is cooperating to advance this peace initiative in many fields and is aiming to build a culture of peace. In March, especially, the HWPL Religious Youth Peace Camp, which is focused on interfaith peace unity and cultural exchange, will be held in Phnom Penh.



## HWPL Day & Peace Walk in Mindanao, Philippines

On January 24, 2017, 650 participants, including the Governor of Maguindanao, Esmael Mangudadatu, and heads of local organizations, joined the peace walk that commemorates the ‘Mindanao Peace Agreement’ as well as ‘HWPL Day’ at the Maguindanao Women and Children Peace and Action Center.

Prior to the peace walk, participants watched a video that captures HWPL’s peace promoting activities in Mindanao and reaffirmed their commitment to keeping peace in the community.

Governor Mangudadatu proclaimed, “Now is the crucial moment for peace”, reaffirming his pledge to work together with all participants and citizens in bringing sustainable peace to the region.

Ms. Helen Laud Piang, member of the board of trustees of the Maguindanao Women's for Peace and Development Organization, expressed, “Many citizens in the Buluan region are now more aware on the issue of peace through [the] January 24th annual commemorative events. Let us work together with HWPL for peace.”

The land where dramatic tensions reigned in society due to the enduring conflict met the collective efforts of Mindanao communities and HWPL, thus slowly transforming it into a land that promotes peace and prosperity.

This is the result of the strong solidarity of people in Mindanao for recognizing the importance of the culture of peace spoken of in the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) and dedicating their efforts to apply those principles into actions.





This action plan includes education on peace as well as morals and ethics. Such programs will be crucial moving forward as the consecutive steps to establish sustainable peace and stability in the region. By implementing these practices, the DPCW is becoming a catalyst for realizing peace both locally and globally.

The Mindanao Peace Agreement, facilitated by the third party HWPL, was made on the 24th of January in 2014, and since then it has triggered continuous efforts to keep the promise of political stability in the province of Maguindanao and the reconciliation among religious leaders.

On May 25, 2015, the site witnessed an outpouring of people, a total of 3000, participating in the peace walk, and also designated the anniversary of the Mindanao Peace Agreement as 'HWPL Day'

In the following year, on January 24, 2016, the second HWPL peace monument was established in the Philippines, but this time at the heart of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) base camp.

By doing so, the land previously overshadowed by sorrows and grief from continuous violence and horror became the foundation on which the spirit of peace could spread among the citizens. In the aftermath, people of Mindanao are now working on activities in various fields for peace to be settled, such as the peace academy project, peace walks, and peace exhibitions, all in the hope of ushering a complete peace throughout the land.



## Peace Conference to Establish the “Structure of Peace” in Manila, Philippines

On January 24 2017, the peace conference ‘Engaging the World in Creating the Structure of Peace’ was held in Manila Philippines to commemorate HWPL Day, which was previously declared in the province of Maguindanao.

Since the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) was first proclaimed on March 14, 2016, this advocacy event provided a stage to discuss the actual steps to implement the principles of the DPCW, in addition to celebrating HWPL Day and its significance.

A total of 170 people were in attendance, some of whom were Senate representatives, tribal leaders, representatives of the Office of the Presidential Advisor on the Peace Process, officials of the Department of Education, university faculty, leaders of the National Federation of Women’s Clubs, youth groups, religious leaders, and journalists from media agencies such as PTV4 and ABS-CBN.



---

**Mr. Brian Poe Llamanzares**, a political consultant in the office of Senator Grace Poe, stated, “This is a good start for the Philippine society which has been trying to find peace for the longest time,” welcoming the progress that the Legislature has made so far in the Philippine society. He wished to see the campaign reach out to even more people in its steps to put an end to wars, especially since the Philippines has eagerly waited for peace to come.

---



---

**H.E. Most Rev. Antonio J. Ledesma**, the Archbishop of Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro, summarized the importance of this event as “a movement to invite all peace advocates to come together, to work for peace through international legislation, through solidarity messages, and coming together in solidarity for working for peace” in his congratulatory speech.

---





Attendants were eager to see this movement to establish the structure of peace carried out with equal, if not greater, momentum globally.

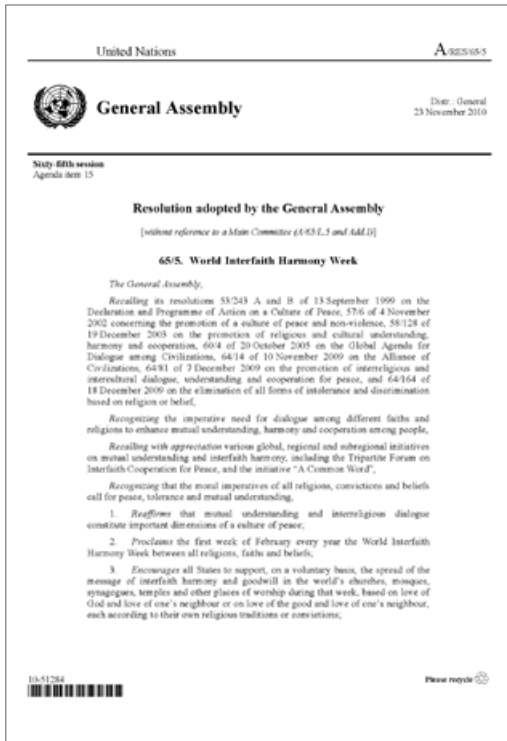
With the interest and support from numerous countries, the DPCW is currently being developed into a formal resolution to be submitted to the UN. The Legislate Peace campaign, along with other international law advocacy events, is gathering people from various levels of society to expand the network of cooperation and garner additional support for the peacebuilding process.

It has provided hope for citizens working to bring peace. The collective heart of the citizens is reflected by the government in recognizing the values of the DPCW and pushing forward with these initiatives as nations.

HWPL is actively doing various peace activities particularly in the areas of education, culture, religion and media. In addition, female peace activists and volunteers working with HWPL has been developing peace activities for orphanages and welfare centers in the Philippines communities.

At the end of the event, each participant, deeply touched by the authenticity of HWPL's work, presented his/her plan to carry out the activities necessary to promote and deliver the document that contains the principles of the DPCW to the UN.

# HWPL WARP Offices endorsing the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week



**“Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people”**

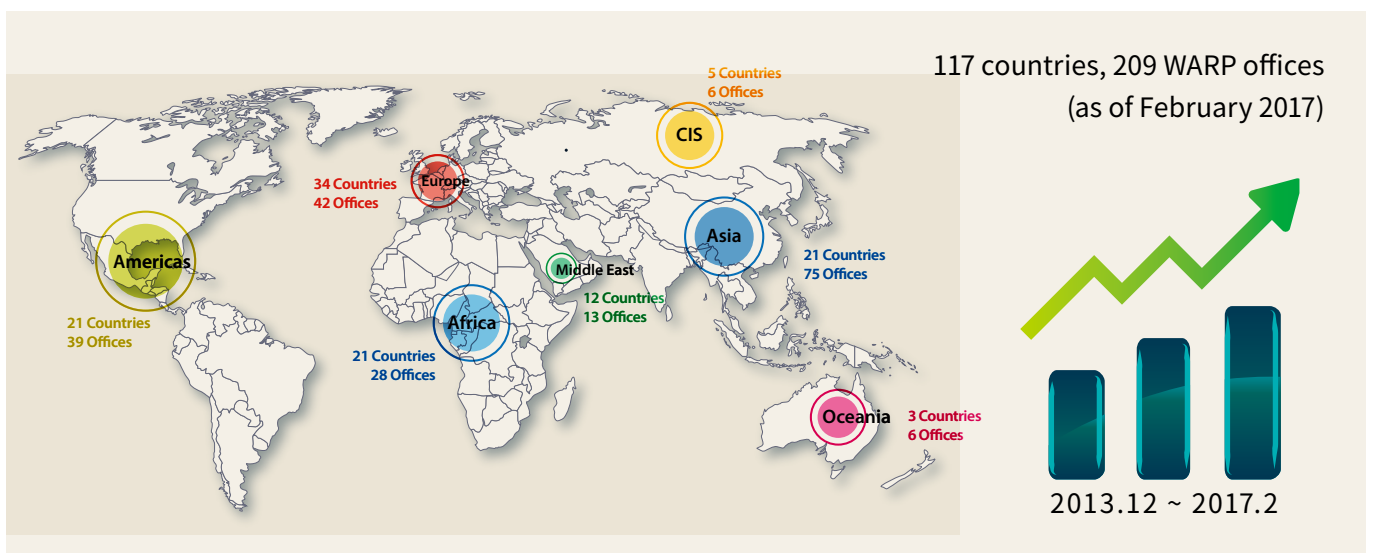
Excerpt from UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/5

World Interfaith Harmony Week was proclaimed by the General Assembly in Resolution A/RES/65/5, which was adopted on October 20, 2010. This first week of February every year is designed to enhance interreligious dialogue to create a culture of peace and seek technical and cooperative solutions transcending the boundaries of religions.

HWPL, since its foundation in 2013, has been pursuing practical methods that will lead to the establishment of sustainable peace; such as, the initiatives for the implementation of an international law for the cessation of war and interfaith harmony and unity. At the WARP Summit in 2014, leaders and professionals of various levels and fields of society committed to work together for these initiatives.

HWPL shares the mutual goal with the UN to promote harmony between all people regardless of their religion. As Resolution A/RES/65/5 states: “Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people” is a major element in creating a culture of peace. HWPL’s WARP Offices, the worldwide peace dialogue series in interfaith relations and scriptural texts, are a clear example of how HWPL stands by the UN in taking concrete actions for realizing peace.

The latest WARP Office meeting was held in Makassar, Indonesia. Under the topics of “Good and Evil spoken of in Scriptures” and “What can be the result if a scripture doesn’t identify the methods to solve evil,” leaders from various faiths had a fruitful discussion at the 12th Indonesia WARP Office.







### Participants of the 12th Indonesia Makassar WARP Office meeting were:



1. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Galib Mattola, Head of the Quality Assurance Office of Islamic State University (UIN) Alauddin Makassar
2. Prof. Hasyim Aidid, Professor of Islamic State University (UIN) Alauddin Makassar
3. Mr. Erfan Sutono, Member of Majelis Tinggi Agama Khonghucu Indonesia (MATAKIN) South Sulawesi
4. Romo Hemajayo Tio, Head of PD. Majelis Agama Buddha Theravada Indonesia (MAGABUDHI) Makassar
5. Fr. Marselinus Lolo Tandung, Priest of Catholic Archdiocese of Makassar

**Fr. Marselinus Lolo Tandung:** “We can find out the explanation why agony and evil occur through religious scriptures. And we should consider [that] the free will of mankind can be used for one’s behavior in not only good ways but [also] bad ways. Pain has come to the humanity by Adam and Eve committing sin. (Genesis 3:16, 18)”

**Prof. Dr. Muhammad Galib Mattola:** “Though there are so many bad things and destruction in this world, it doesn’t mean that the scripture is not good. God gives people a freedom to choose. (Al-Maidah, 5: 48) There are a lot of stories in [the] Holy Scripture which tell the successful stories of human beings who defeated a bad thing. Such as the History of Yusuf or Joseph who can control his desire. (Yusuf, 12: 24)”

**Romo Hemajayo Tio:** “According to the teaching of Dhamma, it says a person can eliminate pain when practicing the eight sacred teachings (Eightfold Path). The scripture says evil comes from greed, hatred (sin), and spiritual ignorance. Such evil thoughts are not [the] righteous perspective.”

The leaders had the opportunity to recognize diverse perspectives from each religion towards Good and Evil, widening their insight and gaining a better understanding of the origin of good and evil, as well as the method to get rid of the source of evil. As more religious leaders and faith communities join in this interreligious dialogue, more multi-religious cooperation and shared values for peace will be established in society.

# Companion of HWPL: International Network of Liberal Women (INLW)



Among the 900 affiliated members of HWPL, located in the Netherlands, the International Network of Liberal Women (INLW), a women’s organization to promote women’s political status and eliminate practices that impede women’s rights, has become one of the most passionate companions on the journey towards peace. The connection between HWPL and INLW began from the WARP Summit in 2014.

The summit enlightened Margaret de Vos van Steenwijk, the president of INLW, in the sense of experiencing the culture of peace, through the possibility of omnipresence of peace and the tools to realize it.

On INLW’s official website, she vividly expressed her experiences in the Summit, stating that “the aim of this enormous Conference (WARP Summit) was to advocate the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War, which in the end should result in an international legally binding document to be adopted by the United Nations and then signed, ratified and implemented by all UN Member States. This is to help bring peace everywhere.”

President Margaret then began to work beyond her position; introducing the DPCW to government officials, contacting different organizations, and holding various activities to endorse the Legislate Peace Campaign.

She also took a leading role in the “Advocacy Forum on the DPCW for legal experts” held on December 9th in the Netherlands’ Haarlem Kalbfleisch Law firm, where legal experts and political representatives gathered to discuss the approaches that they, as well as other legal experts, could take to advocate for the development of the Declaration.





*“The INLW really can stand behind this declaration (the DPCW). We, as a network aiming to raise women's awareness of their political rights and responsibilities, are looking to advance the environment of women worldwide, to expand the participation of women in all levels of society, to promote liberal values, and to spread liberal ideas worldwide. And those ideas are individual freedom, human rights, rule of law, tolerance, equal opportunity, social justice, free trade, and market economy. We believe the world would be better if everybody has this. None of these goals can be achieved in a world where there is war.”*

The advocacy forum was followed by a panel discussion and signing ceremony to support the adoption of a legally binding instrument that contains principles of the DPCW.

Margaret’s speech was followed by that of Peter Achikov, vice president of the Rotaract Club of the Hague International. He said, “What HWPL is doing, I think, is the first step to the resolution of violent conflicts. It is not only the politicians and leaders that should be targeted, because we have a lot of international laws, we lack implementation of these laws. But I believe also that we should touch the hearts of the people, the ordinary people and spread the word, and tell them it's not only on the screen what is being showed to them but is a part of daily life. It may be 6000km away from them, but it's happening right now.”

The legal experts from diverse law firms joined to endorse HWPL’s initiative and the DPCW. There was only Margaret in the beginning, but now there are 8 more friends who share the same vision with her and HWPL.

Organizing such a forum within her region, spreading peace, and gathering friends to build peace together greatly enhanced the quality of these peace activities, which should inspire all who yearn for peace. As we work on raising such issues in the society, politics, and the global community, and assemble professional, passionate supporters of peace, our focus shall always dart towards the ultimate objective: a world without wars.



## We Stand for “Legislate Peace”



An advocacy conference entitled “Peace is Possible” was held in Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Colleges, in the province of Sarangani, Philippines. Mr. John Oliver Tablazon, a representative from Hearts and Brains Youth Volunteers (HBYV), is guiding the participants through the principles of the DPCW.



7 representatives from youth organizations in Manila, Philippines are holding passionate discussions regarding the ways of planting the seed of peace in the minds of young adults. In particular, one suggested providing special education for the young adults in the province of Mindanao.



A peace booth on ‘Sustaining Peace’ was held in three high schools and colleges in the area of Surigao Del Norte, Philippines. Students left their handprints and signatures of support for the DPCW as pledges to continue creating a culture of peace.



355 students at the Saint Paul University Surigao High School Department are waving their green-painted hands and standing with the “I Support DPCW” poster they had created.



Young students at the Unified Learning Center are smiling brightly at the camera while drawing for the FED Peace Art Contest in Thailand.



Mr. Raj Datta, the Councillor of Strathfield community, and Ms. Hina Khan, a youth transition support worker at the Community Migrant Resource Centre (CMRC), led a peace talk attended by many coming from diverse backgrounds.





Nepal

Young adults in pursuit of peace hosted a cycling campaign for peace in Pokhara, Nepal. This cycling event provided a platform to educate the citizens about the DPCW and receive their signatures of support.



Nepal

Local students at the World Peace Art drawing contest in Kalari, Nepal are giving their undivided attention to the drawing of their art pieces.



Vietnam

An Giang Province, Cambodia, Vietnam—350 children and soldiers gathered in An Giang Province, at the border of Vietnam and Cambodia, and joined the peace education program. This event served as a meaningful opportunity to provide education on peace to some of the underprivileged groups.



Palestine

At Hebron University, 250 participants including, but not limited to, the chancellor, heads of the Law School and Social Sciences Departments and Law School students attended the peace conference hosted by HWPL. The students expressed their love of peace in the world in a postcard, urging to receive signatures of support for the DPCW.



Nigeria

Government officials participated in discussions to shed light on the issue of how to cooperate as a Nigerian government in Abuja, Nigeria. This meeting was covered live over Facebook as well as in Al Jazeera news.



East-Timor

Mr. Arsenio Pereira Da Silva, the Director of FONG-TIL is sharing an introductory video on the DPCW to both NGOs and college students in Timor-Leste. Participants paid unwavering attention while watching the video and later expressed their sincere desire to take part in the culture of peace.



## Letters of Peace: Hopeful Power of Putting Pen to Paper



**H.E. Haifa al-Agha /  
Minister of Women Affairs**

I wish happiness, peace, security, and safety to the peoples all over the world. I also hope that love will substitute hatred; that peace will substitute war; that life will substitute death. I hope that conflicts and wars will end in beloved Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Iraq, [and] also the rest of the world will enjoy security.



**Mrs. Carmelita Pires /  
Former Minister, Ministry of  
Justice of Guinea-Bissau**

What heritage will we leave to future generations? A life of fear, with terror always omnipresent? It is urgent to sow hope and love in the minds, Tolerance and respect between persons and States, Peaceful coexistence without threats or use of force. That is why I believe in the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War. The community of states needs strong instruments.



**Pandit Prem Misra /  
Pandit of Mukti Gupteshwar  
Mandir**

I've got a small message for the people in various parts of the world suffering from their civil wars and I just want to tell them on behalf of the community that we are all for them and feel their pain and suffering. But we are sure that one day God will definitely make them happy and he will take them out of the misery of this war. And we also appreciate how resilient they are to suffer this pain and suffering. And one day there will be definitely peace for them as well. And our thoughts are always with them.

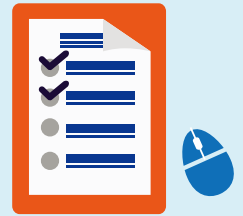


**Guru Medhavi Das /  
Guru of ISCKON Cape Town**

I am very much encouraged by the work HWPL does to bridge the gap between different religions. I am very happy for HWPL and all the efforts they put in to try and create a peaceful world. I'm hoping that this year, or maybe this year is too quick, but in the not too distant future people will see war as not an answer to any kind of conflict.



# Delivering Peace News to Your Doorstep



HWPL began issuing the HWPL Monthly Newsletter to accurately and quickly deliver the message of peace to our global peace family concerning its vision, current global issues, world events, and other activities of HWPL.

The HWPL Public Relations Department would like to express our deepest gratitude to the subscribers of the HWPL Monthly Newsletter and all those who participated in the Newsletter questionnaire. As promised, we will provide these beautiful posters designed by our creative designers as gifts showing our sincere appreciation.

We want to hear more of your opinions and thoughts about our Newsletter in order to take one step closer to our valuable readers. Your insights will allow us improve our performance and give a fresh direction to the HWPL Newsletter.

In the year of 2017, we will continue to deliver HWPL's worldwide global peace projects to your doorstep. Please click the link below and give us your feedback and suggestions. Please be sure to also include your mailing address.

Google Link <https://goo.gl/forms/vSTKJNoezziqtVU93>





2017.02

Monthly Newsletter of  
Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light