



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

# HWPL NEWS



- Unifying All People in a New Understanding of HWPL Peace Education
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- The Draft Resolution, “Peace and Cessation of War”

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2017



At this time of year, as we celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of another, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in HWPL.

Thanks to your support, HWPL proclaimed the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) and successfully hosted the 2nd Annual Commemoration of the World Alliance of Religions' Peace Summit. Countless people around the world are supporting HWPL's work for religious harmony and are advocating for the implementation of the DPCW.

In the year 2017, let us join our hearts, minds, and efforts to bring peace to the world. I look forward to your continued support, and may peace and happiness be with you and your family in the New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Man Hee Lee', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Man Hee Lee, Chairman**

Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light

*As messengers of peace, let us all work together to build and leave a peaceful world as a lasting legacy for our future generations.*



I reciprocate the greetings by wishing the great organization HWPL and all the persons associated with it in its endeavor to restore peace on the world. Its efforts for restoring peace will bear fruits and that day is not far when the world community will appreciate its efforts and will come forward to support it in large numbers. I wish the best for HWPL.

**Dr. Har Prasad Kain**

Former Commissioner of Indian Tax Commission, India



We are also thankful for HWPL represented by Chairman Mr. Man Hee Lee, who is making tremendous efforts to stop the war and achieve peace in Palestine. Happy New Year may God spread all the peace all around the world.

**H.E. Ali Abu Diak**

Minister of Justice, Palestine State



Now HWPL is endeavoring to give the best present for all. I admire all members and colleagues of HWPL and I'm very happy to have a great chance to participate with HWPL. I hope we can give the world the best present of peace and happiness. May all be with happiness and peace this wonderful year.

**Ven. Ashin Agghiya**

Lecturer of Sitagu College of Thanlyin, Myanmar



We are lucky to meet, to do the noble works under the Flag of HWPL and under your (Chairman's) leadership. I will be with you in many more days in the future to do this peace work and bring happiness to the mankind throughout the year especially for success of the ultimate aim of HWPL.

**Mr. Nyunt Maung Shein**

President of Islamic Religious Affairs Council, Myanmar

# Please Stop the War in Syria!

A new year of hope has dawned, but the pains caused by wars in many parts of the world, including Syria, South Sudan and Yemen, prevail. On the first day of his duty, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres raised the resolution of “Peace First”, emphasizing in his New Year’s address, “Peace must be our goal and our guide.” According to UN News Centre, he was burdened by one question – “How can we help the millions of people caught up in conflict, suffering massively in wars with no end in sight?”

Syria, among the flashpoints of conflict around the globe, is drifting away from national interests and the various causes of the conflict are often overlooked. Nevertheless, what is rarely bypassed is the cries from those citizens suffering from the war saying, “Please stop the war!”

The anti-government movement in Syria and the ensuing violent repression by the government under Bashar al-Assad facilitated this civil war. Also, geopolitical factors and conflicting interests became inseparably intertwined. Breaking it down, it can be seen as a religious war between the Shi`ites and Sunnis, an ideological confrontation between secularism and Islamic fundamentalism, llegedly a proxy war among countries in the Middle East, and a power struggle between the US-Western Europe and Russia.



## Consequently, atrocities of war are speechless

### Casualties



270,000 died,  
1 million were injured

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), 270,000 died and 1 million were injured. However, many more casualties are expected, which is difficult to grasp in terms of the scale of the potential damage.

### Refugees



6.5 million displaced,  
4.8 million refugees

UNHCR reports that 6.5 million people in Syria are internally displaced and 4.8 million fled their country and became refugees. The vast majority of the citizens remaining in Syria are facing difficult living situations that require humanitarian support.

### Destruction of Cultural Heritage

completely destroyed and damaged

World heritage sites in Syria registered by UNESCO have been completely destroyed and damaged. These sites include the ancient City of Aleppo and Bosra, Crac des Chevaliers (castles of the Crusaders), and the Site of Palmyra.

### Economic Damages on Syria and Neighboring Countries

\$275 billion

The report conducted by World Vision and Frontier Economics estimates that \$275 billion is the cost incurred due to the damage caused by the Syrian conflict. The international community and neighboring countries are now also facing the economic burden of relief for the refugees.



The global community from individuals and NGOs to states and international organizations have sought solutions to the establishment of peace in Syria. Humanitarian assistance for refugees such as house, food, clothing and education has been provided. HWPL, in particular, pays attention to the fundamental approach to this issue – cessation of war. Its “Legislate Peace Campaign” throughout 100 countries aims to build a foundation of legal basis for peace in the arena of international law.

With its slogan of “Implementation of International Law for Cessation of War and Peace”, HWPL has initiated working for peacebuilding to put an end to war. HWPL has pledged to the global society to share in the pain within their hearts and build cooperation and partnerships with experts and social leaders for the peaceful settlement of conflict.



These efforts of peacebuilding put forth by HWPL bore the fruit named the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War, which designates the establishment of peace as both a legal and cultural norm. Furthermore, inter-religious communications based on teachings from their various scriptures have been conducted to find a true spiritual understanding and internalization of the value of peace. Last, but not least, the seed of peace has also been sown through peace education in schools around the world. HWPL can never pass by the voice shouting “Please, stop the wars!”



## The Economics of Peace - A 10% Change for Peace

Article 2 of the DPCW addresses the prohibition of the use of armed force, calling on States to cooperate towards the gradual global reduction of armament production. People who recognize the fact that many countries and peoples can benefit from arms reduction are advocating for the DPCW through the Legislate Peace Campaign.

In order to have the Draft Resolution “Peace and Cessation of War” adopted by the UN General Assembly at its 72nd session, HWPL is now moving forward with a process of assembling the Group of Friendly States and advocating for its submission into the UN resolution adoption process.

To people who are suffering from poverty, rather than armed conflict, the word “peace” may sound like a dream. While for those who live ordinary lives, without war and hunger, “peace” is much harder to find on their wish lists. Yet regardless of whether or not a country is at war, many, if not all, continue to use their national budgets for military spending.

In 2014, a non-profit research institution called IEP (Institute for Economics and Peace) published “The Economic Cost of Violence Containment” based on their research comparing GDP at Purchasing Power Parity with the percentage of yearly military spending (percent of GDP; All countries and their violence containment cost as a percent of GDP), and reported the following rankings:

### All countries and their violence containment cost as a percent of GDP

Economic Violence CNMNT. Rank	Country	Total Cost in US\$ 2012 (\$ Millions PPP)	Violence Containment Cost Per CAPITA (2012 US\$PPP)	% OF GDP
1	North Korea	\$10,980	\$450	27.5%
2	Syria	\$ 20,900	\$1,005	23.8%
3	Liberia	\$670	\$160	22.7%
4	Afghanistan	\$7,280	\$205	21.2%
5	Libya	\$20,395	\$3,175	19.6%
6	Somalia	\$1,085	\$115	18.4%
7	Zimbabwe	\$1,355	\$105	18.2%
8	Honduras	\$6,900	\$890	17.5%
9	South Sudan	\$2,865	\$280	17.2%
10	Iraq	\$26,835	\$815	14.9%
...				
159	Switzerland	\$6,410	\$810	1.7%
160	Laos	\$345	\$55	1.7%
161	Iceland	\$195	\$605	1.4%
162	Bhutan	\$25	\$35	0.5%

Total Cost in US\$2012 (\$ Millions PPP). Rank	Country	Total Cost in US\$ 2012 (\$ Millions PPP)	Violence Containment Cost Per CAPITA (2012 US\$PPP)	% OF GDP
1	United States of America	\$1,708,575	\$5,485	10.5%
2	China	\$354,130	\$265	2.6%
3	Russia	\$206,600	\$1,445	7.8%
4	India	\$186,300	\$150	3.7%
5	Brazil	\$175,785	\$895	7.1%
6	United Kingdom	\$137,265	\$2,190	5.8%
7	Germany	\$130,155	\$1,590	4.0%
8	Mexico	\$126,055	\$1,100	6.8%
9	Japan	\$100,560	\$785	2.1%
10	France	\$89,370	\$1,365	3.9%
...				
160	Djibouti	\$125	\$140	5.0%
161	Gambia	\$115	\$65	3.0%
162	Bhutan	\$25	\$35	0.5%

Although North Korea devotes the most in military spending compared to its GDP, the United States ranks first by far in terms of absolute yearly military spending. The United Kingdom, Russia, China, and Germany follow in rank, and they are all within the top 10 of the world in terms of military power(2016.4.1 CIA World Fact book).

“What will be the economic benefit if each country decreases its military spending by just 10 percent?”

**Simulation 1** If Somalia makes a 10-percent cut in its yearly military spending  
↔ Every person in the country can be supplied with 500ml of drinking water for 14 days

If Somalia, which suffers from lack of water yet is ranked 6th in the world for its military spending compared to its GDP, cuts 10 percent of its yearly military spending (\$109 million), how will its citizens benefit? If Somalia cuts its yearly military spending by 10 percent, every citizen of Somalia can drink 500 ml of fresh drinking water for 2 weeks.



**Simulation 2** If North Korea makes a mere 10-percent cut in its yearly military spending  
↔ The entire population of North Korea can be fed for about 7 months

North Korea has the highest military spending rate compared to its GDP. How much benefit can its citizens receive if North Korea cuts its military spending by 10 percent and uses that money to buy rice for its citizens? In this case, the 25 million North Korean citizens who suffer from severe starvation due to lack of food can live for about 7 months with little worry of having enough food to eat.



Clearly, gradual cuts made to military spending, alongside other continued and practical efforts to achieve peace globally, can lead to a very real and considerable economic benefit for countries around the world.

We look forward to the day when all people can have their human rights respected and enjoy life as HWPL's Draft Resolution “Peace and Cessation of War” is taken up to the United Nations and achieved as a legally binding international document.

## 50 Million Living in Extreme Poverty, Where are we Going?

On October 17, 1987, in the presence of 100,000 people, Father Joseph Wresinski unveiled a commemorative stone to acknowledge the lives and efforts of people living in extreme poverty and to ultimately eradicate the whole concept of poverty, thus improving the current human rights situation.

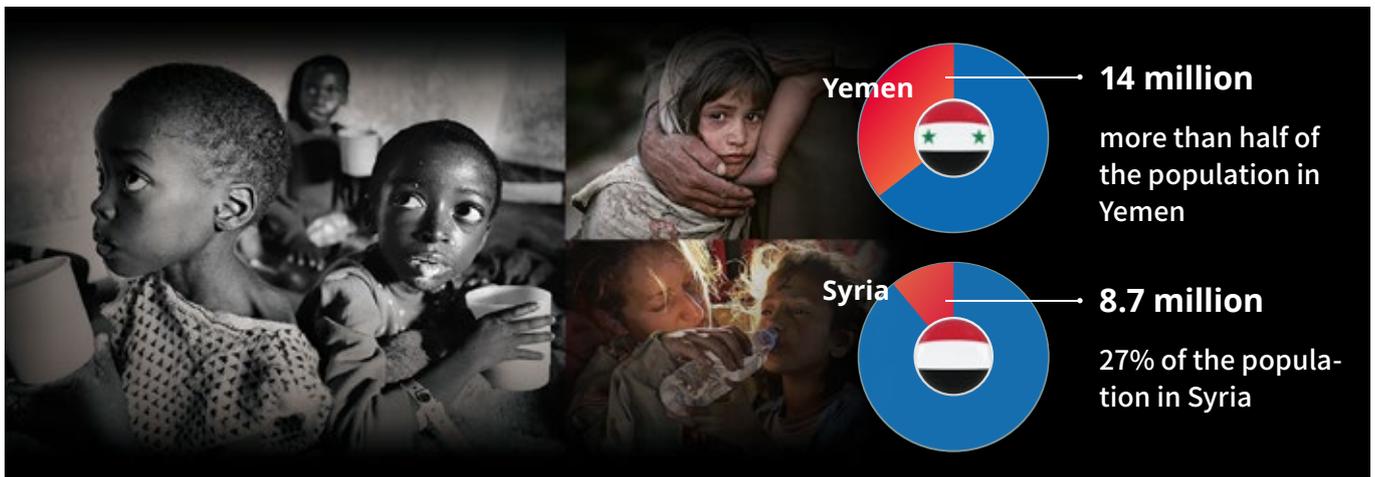


“WHEREVER MEN AND WOMEN ARE CON-  
DEMNED TO LIVE IN EXTREME POVERTY,  
HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VIOLATED. TO COME  
TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT THESE RIGHTS  
BE RESPECTED IS OUR SOLEMN DUTY.”

In 1992, the UN declared that October 17th of each year would be recognized as the “International Day for the Eradication of Poverty” and urged for the involvement of all States regarding this issue, which continues to the present day.

29 years after the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was established, despite the galvanized efforts of the MDGs and SDGs of the UN, the world’s population living in poverty still exceeds 800 million. (2016 World Hunger and Poverty Facts and Statistics) Moreover, it is said that the core cause of poverty is conflict and that the population living in poverty while being affected by conflict is 56 million globally. (The MDG Report 2015)

For example, among the countries exposed to poverty caused by conflicts, Yemen and Syria hold the highest ranks. These two countries have suffered continuous conflicts and civil wars. In Yemen, 14 million, more than half of the population, are living in poverty, while in Syria, 8.7 million Syrians, 27% of the population of the country, are facing the crisis of poverty caused by the ongoing conflict that has lasted for 5 years already. (World Food Programme)



The conflict often rages on, leading to more severe poverty, and that poverty brings about conflict once again, resulting in a vicious cycle. In other words, the lack of an institutional strategy that ceases conflicts, in order to break the cycle, and its systematic implementation only increase the number of people living in poverty.

Compared to the over 7 billion people living in the world, those living in poverty, 56 million, appear to constitute only a small proportion, but that does not mean complacency is the answer. Unless these conflicts end, it seems impossible for this 8% of the population to be poverty-free.

In order to cut off the vicious cycle of poverty, an institutional framework is needed that blocks any actions leading down the path of conflict, and by extension poverty, and that legalizes peace to be enjoyed as a fundamental human right and creed. A proposed law in which all States agree to the gradual global cessation of armed conflicts and advocate for the practical implementation of such a legally binding instrument must be adopted.

### The Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) suggests and advocates the following.

*“Ensuring the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force should not be used, save in accordance with the limitations prescribed by international law, Reaffirming faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity... and the promotion of social progress and better standards of life for people and future generations and the need to facilitate peaceful coexistence among the world’s religions, beliefs, and ethnicities.”*

In order for the hearts of the 100,000 people who cried out for the eradication of poverty in Trocadéro 29 years ago and the enormous efforts of the UN and the international society towards the settlement of conflict to be realized even one day sooner, it is imperative to have the continuous interest and involvement of all citizens and world leaders regarding this international law on the cessation of armed conflicts and wars.



## Unifying All People in a New Understanding of HWPL Peace Education

Peace education is imperative in the promotion of skills, attitudes, and values which will help prevent the occurrence of conflict and build an environment in which sustainable peace can be achieved. HWPL is currently in the process of developing programs to facilitate the teaching of such skills, attitudes, and values partnership with education specialists from around the world.



HWPL has gained increasing support for developing a curriculum which would be taught in HWPL peace academies and partner schools worldwide. HWPL hopes to bridge the often large divides between community leaders, local governments, the parent body, and learners through the implementation of this program.

While there are many approaches to moral/ethical studies in education today, the curriculum HWPL envisions is one that will be able to dovetail with existing classes and subjects. The content will work in conjunction with the existing models of value-integration already being used in education systems around the world.

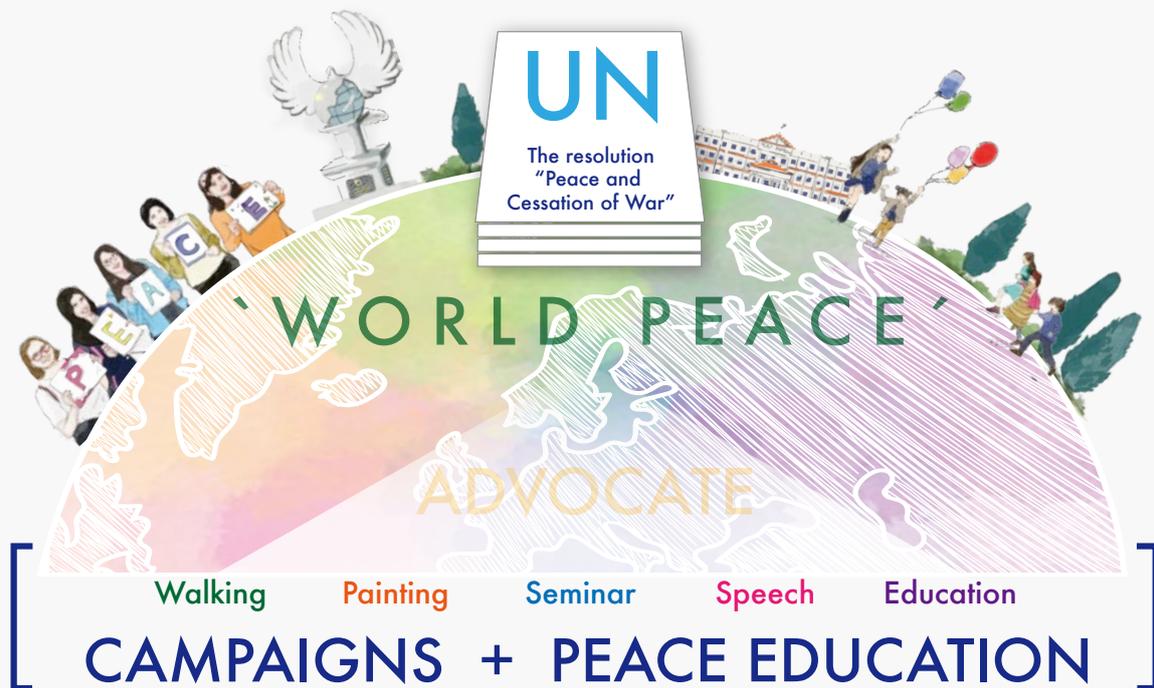
Another unique aspect of HWPL's peace educa-

tion program is that it is a pathway for spreading a culture of peace in a realistic manner. Since peace education is not limited in terms of age, ethnicity, or other divisions, it unifies students and all learners in a new understanding of how we can live in a single, world community through the core values.

The process of shifting away from today's world that runs on the principles of monetary value and towards a new paradigm that fosters the transition from conflict to peace begins with gaining knowledge, learning skills, and taking actions realized through HWPL peace education.

# IPYG to Develop Innovative Youth Initiatives for Peace

The 805 affiliates of IPYG, who come from 110 countries, serve as a worldwide network of diverse youths focusing on voluntary peace movements for the younger generations, since they are the key proponents in establishing the history of peace in the long-run. IPYG brings these youths together from various geographical, cultural, and religious backgrounds to maximize their contribution in the peace-building initiatives promoted by HWPL; such as, establishing interfaith harmony and promoting the law for peace and cessation of war.



United under the banner of the Legislate Peace Campaign to advocate for the Draft Resolution “Peace and Cessation of War” to be submitted to the UN this year, IPYG will carry on its grassroots advocacy projects as well as develop innovative action plans to achieve its goal.

Without setting limits or creating divisions and segments, IPYG will continue to lay the foundations for youth leaders and citizen advocates, providing them an opportunity to speak out regarding their needs: not risking their lives in battlefields or facing any forms of war-like activities in the future.

Closely tied with the HWPL peace education initiative, youth involved with IPYG will receive practical

education based upon a curriculum that enhances the participation of young people in the transitional justice process, particularly that of the decision-making processes pertaining to public life.

IPYG will also conduct education programs and activities in conflict-ridden countries, which will contribute to the building of positive conditions for the gradual achievement of peace. It will continue to motivate youth to strive for the transformation of the culture of intolerance and hopelessness into a culture of tolerance and hope.

## United Hearts for Interfaith Harmony Advances Peace in 2017

As of January 2017, throughout the world, there are currently 204 HWPL WARP Offices in 112 countries, actively achieving interfaith harmony and peace through an in-depth comparison based on each religious scripture. This year, HWPL aims to expand its WARP Office meetings in major cities of every country to accomplish the responsibility and duty of bringing about a peaceful coexistence among religious societies as peace messengers.



The special feature of the WARP Office is that it seeks the truth that achieves peace through the study of each religious text for the purpose of realizing harmony among faiths. Religious representatives are now transcending their individual views and intensively discussing together the teachings being spoken of in the scriptures regarding birth, aging, illness and death, sin caused by greed, and ways to achieve peace without wars.

This will certainly be an opportunity for religious leaders to provide non-religious individuals a healthy experience in the values of religion and to overcome the biases towards and confrontations between different faiths. Centering around constant study and discussion, the HWPL WARP Office offers a platform for leaders, congregations, and all people to become companions under the same goal

of peaceful coexistence and prosperity, advocating for the primary obligation that has been put into the hands of religion.

With its core purpose and method for achieving peace, the HWPL WARP Office is receiving worldwide support and recognition from various religious leaders. Citizens and youth are voluntarily participating in these interfaith dialogues based on religious scriptures in many offices around the world, and the local and international press are also delivering the news.

In 2017, HWPL WARP Offices will continue to unite the hearts of religious leaders and hold discussion meetings to seek for a peaceful truth aiming to create the integration of religions, thus bringing about a better future.

# The Draft Resolution, “Peace and Cessation of War”

The Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW), which was a tremendous success in 2016, will be the groundwork of HWPL’s ‘Law for Peace’ initiative this year which is the adoption of the Draft Resolution, “Peace and Cessation of War.”



The Draft Resolution, “Peace and Cessation of War” based upon the prescription in DPCW, the practical answer for the cessation of war, aims to enhance fundamental human rights and to secure the sovereignty of States. This future-oriented resolution calls upon States to repurpose the productions of weapons so that they may serve purposes that are beneficial to humanity and leave the legacy of peace to future generations.

The global peace advocacy project, the Legislate Peace Campaign, will continue to carry out substantial coordinated activities in urging those in leadership positions within groups and ordinary citizens to advocate, support, and share the core values of the Declaration through various forms such as educational seminars or signing campaigns.

In order to achieve the ultimate goal of implementing a legally binding international instrument based on the DPCW, HWPL is encouraging states to join the Group of Friends to cooperate with them for the submission and adoption of the draft resolution at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in 2017.

By elaborating the addressed rules prescribed in the DPCW and adapting them to each circumstances, the Sponsoring States will endorse the development of the document as a global application, urging for international cooperation in contributing to a more secure and prosperous global community.

## IPYG, Building Stronger Friendship Worldwide



Professor Noori had an interview with a publicity manager of IPYG on the 17th of September at Ibis Hotel. During this interview, he noted that he was greatly impressed by HWPL's groundbreaking DPCW and that he would return to his country and work to change the hearts of the people through this declaration and peace education. He also expressed his determination to spread a culture of peace in Afghanistan.

### Q1. Can you introduce your university and activities with IPYG?

I'm Abdul Aziz Noori, a law professor at Kateb University in Kabul, Afghanistan. Kateb University is a private university located in the capital, [and] is well-known in Afghanistan. We have about 3,500 students, about 600 in the law department, [and] about 20 student volunteers who work with the law faculty for peace. I was introduced to HWPL about six months ago and it was my first time to come to Korea to participate in the peace summit. After I was introduced to IPYG, I tried to continue our activities and we were in contact weekly, sometimes daily. Over the six months we had some tasks with HWPL, but our main activity was the signing campaign. I, with my colleagues in Kateb University and our students, campaigned in the university and got more than one thousand signatures.

### Q2. Do you have any idea what you will do in your country after this Summit (WARP Summit 2016)?

Of course, my mind is full of ideas. I think that in the university we have a lot of potential to work with IPYG and HWPL for peace. I have especially two ideas that are very important to me.

First is the Peace Academy because we need to change the mind [and] the culture of people. We need to introduce peace to every student. We need to say to the people that they should compare society with peace and society without peace. I think it is very important for us. A peace academy is a chance for me to have a lot of students learn about peace and not just say that peace is good. We can have a lot of deep studies about peace. For example, "What is the main source of conflicts in Afghanistan?" Religious and legal intolerance. We can focus on that and solve the problems of legal intolerance among the religious intolerance in Afghanistan. So, I suppose that we can change the mind of students and a lot of people in society through the Peace Academy.

Second, I would like to have a relationship with HWPL and create opportunities for students. Because they are young they can learn many things, and of course they can participate in the UN for peace. Possibly even some of the students could be the leader of Afghanistan in the future. They have a lot of potential. If we change their minds through peace, he can do it, she can do it, we can do it!



Oman IPYG Promoting Video  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLpSr-b6OGc>

Mr. Sultan Khalfan Al Abdali is the founder and CEO of Target Photography Studios. He contacted us personally after watching the 'Arirang' video clip online. He loves Korean culture, especially Taekwondo, which he has been learning for more than 10 years. Furthermore, he has been learning the Korean language as well as how to use chopsticks since he participated in the 2nd Annual Commemoration of the WARP Summit in September 2016. After this event, he even stated, "Now I feel as if I have a family in Korea," showing his sincere love and connection to the country and its people. Although he usually says that his circumstances are not good enough to support us well, we truly believe that he is a reliable cooperator who loves Korea as much as Oman.

### Q1. What kind of country is Oman? How do the youth in Oman define peace?

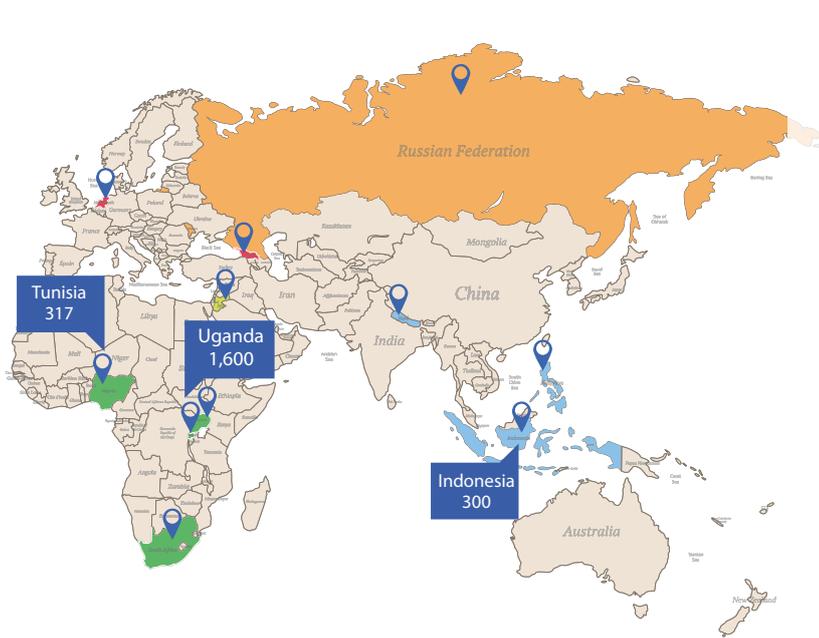
Oman is a Muslim, Arabic country in the Middle East. The youth in Oman care so much about world peace and believe that we can achieve peace by respecting others' opinions. Every human is born with a pure heart, so let's all think like a child with a pure heart.

### Q2. Please let us know what activities you want to do with IPYG in the future.

I have a small idea of what you're doing and I think it will help to spread IPYG popularity in Oman and maybe other countries as well. In Oman and in all Gulf countries, people use social media such as Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat. These are so famous and almost every youth in the Gulf countries have all of these social media applications on his or her mobile. So, I think it would be great if IPYG convinced each group to create a video of their team and the activities which they did during their stay in Korea.



## We Stand for “Legislate Peace”



Ever since its launch, the Legislate Peace Campaign has called on global leaders and citizens to voice their positive demand for the implementation of a law based upon the principles of the DPCW. As the campaign to receive the signatures of support through advocacy meetings continues to positively influence and empower the younger generations, we are getting one step closer to developing the DPCW into a legally binding document with peace as the core principle of international relations.





 Russia

Krasnoyarsk State Medical University students gathered to support the Legislate Peace Campaign.



 Uganda

800 signatures in support of the DPCW through the Legislate Peace Campaign were collected at Anaka Primary School in Uganda.



 Philippines

What a fun way for children to learn about peace! Museo Dabawenyong of the Philippines had an art contest for children with the theme of peace.



 Philippines

"Color your dream of peace" was created by Bethel Knox School students in the Philippines.



 Philippines

Speakers from various sectors of Filipino society gathered for the peace conference supporting the DPCW in Maluso, Basilan.



 Philippines

A conference was held for creative ideas for peace projects: How to spread a culture of peace in Mindanao, Philippines.



Philippines

Students at Bethel Knox School learned about the necessity of the cessation of war at the HWPL International law seminar.



Republic of South Africa

"We stand for peace" A festival for establishing a culture of peace in De Waal Park, Cape Town was joined by amazing peace lovers.



Nepal

Faculties of social sciences from UIN North Sumatra in Indonesia participated at the Peace Seminar and Education Program. The university students signed their support for the realization of the DPCW



Nepal

"For Achieving Peace" was held at Naba Jagriti Primary School in Chitwan, Nepal where children experienced fun activities; such as, drawing games and writing peace messages.



Indonesia

Faculty members of social sciences from UIN North Sumatra in Indonesia participated in the Peace Seminar and Education Program. The university students also signed their support for the realization of the DPCW.





 Tunisia

A public hand-printing event for peace was conducted at Habib Bourgiba Avenue by IPYG and its affiliates in Tunisia, OU-DH and Handhala for Humanity.



 Palestine

A discussion on the activity plan of the HWPL Peace Advocacy Committee was held in Palestine.



 Netherlands

Leaders in Haarlem, Netherlands held an advocacy meeting to discuss ways to introduce the DPCW to the lawyers' community in the region.



 Jordan

50 faculty members and students from Philadepia University in Jordan were informed about the DPCW and its roadmap.



 Nigeria

Spreading a culture of peace, Article 10 of the DPCW, is being widely practiced among students and teachers of Government Secondary School Mararaba in Nigeria.



 Georgia

In Georgia, peace pieces drawn by students are being displayed in classrooms and hallways, showing their wishes for peace.



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