



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

HWPL NEWS



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The Declaration of World Peace

The universal Creator formed the heavens, the earth, and mankind. He gave the heavens and the earth to humanity as an inheritance. In the entire universe, life in its vast splendor exists only in our world.

The life that grows on the earth is sustained from above—by light, rain, and air provided unconditionally to all living beings. We have received the precious gift of life from above. Let us give glory to heaven and live in peace on earth. This is the truest teaching of heaven.

With this eternal gift—the grace and life we have received—are we entitled to fight, kill and destroy one another? We cannot claim to desire peace and continue to provoke one another, causing conflict for the sake of valuing our own national interests above those of others. This will only take the lives of the youth, wasting them in the futility of war. This is not a legacy we can leave to future generations. Of what use is a young life, born in our day and age, if it is thrown away in this manner—thrown away without having had a chance to bloom? What price can compensate for the loss of a life? Do these young souls have another chance at life?

As emissaries of world peace, as people who are working towards the restoration of humanity through a new and heavenly culture, we declare the following :

First, we call on the heads of state of every country to sign an international agreement—a commitment to bring all wars to an end. We ask them to do this from a spirit of deep-seated love for the people of their country.

Second, we call on all youth to unite in an effort to stop wars and pursue the restoration of peace by registering to the one and only International Peace Youth Group. The effort for World Peace is the duty of all youths in this generation. It is the greatest work and it is the only way to stop the pointless and tragic deaths. The efforts of the young people of the world today in pursuit of peace will remain as a never fading light of life for all future generations.

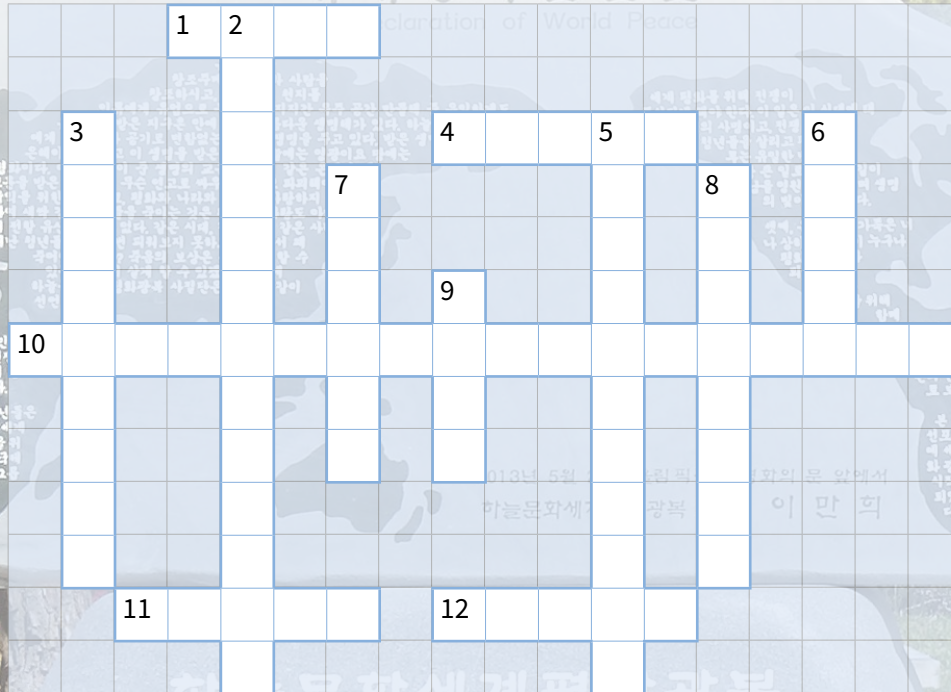
Third, we call on every person, every man, woman, and child in the world, to pick up the mantle of peace. In whatever way you can, we ask that you work to further the cause of world peace and restoration, making it a reality in your direct environments.

And we call on the media to report responsibly and promote a message of peace to the world.

With this declaration, the work of world peace has begun.

Man Hee Lee, Chairman of the Heavenly Culture,
World Peace, Restoration of Light

Fun Crossword Puzzle on the Declaration of World Peace!



Across

1. the act of terminating a life
4. a hostile meeting of opposing military forces in the course of a war
10. This was proclaimed on 25 May 2013 at the World Peace Gate
11. the state prevailing during the absence of war
12. a young person

Down

2. concerning or belonging to all or at least two or more nations
3. the statement of an exchange of promises
5. the chief public representative of a country who may also be the head of government
6. the means of communication that reach large numbers of people in a short time, such as television, newspapers, magazines, and radio
7. a gift of personal property by will
8. end a war
9. a characteristic state or mode of living

Answer

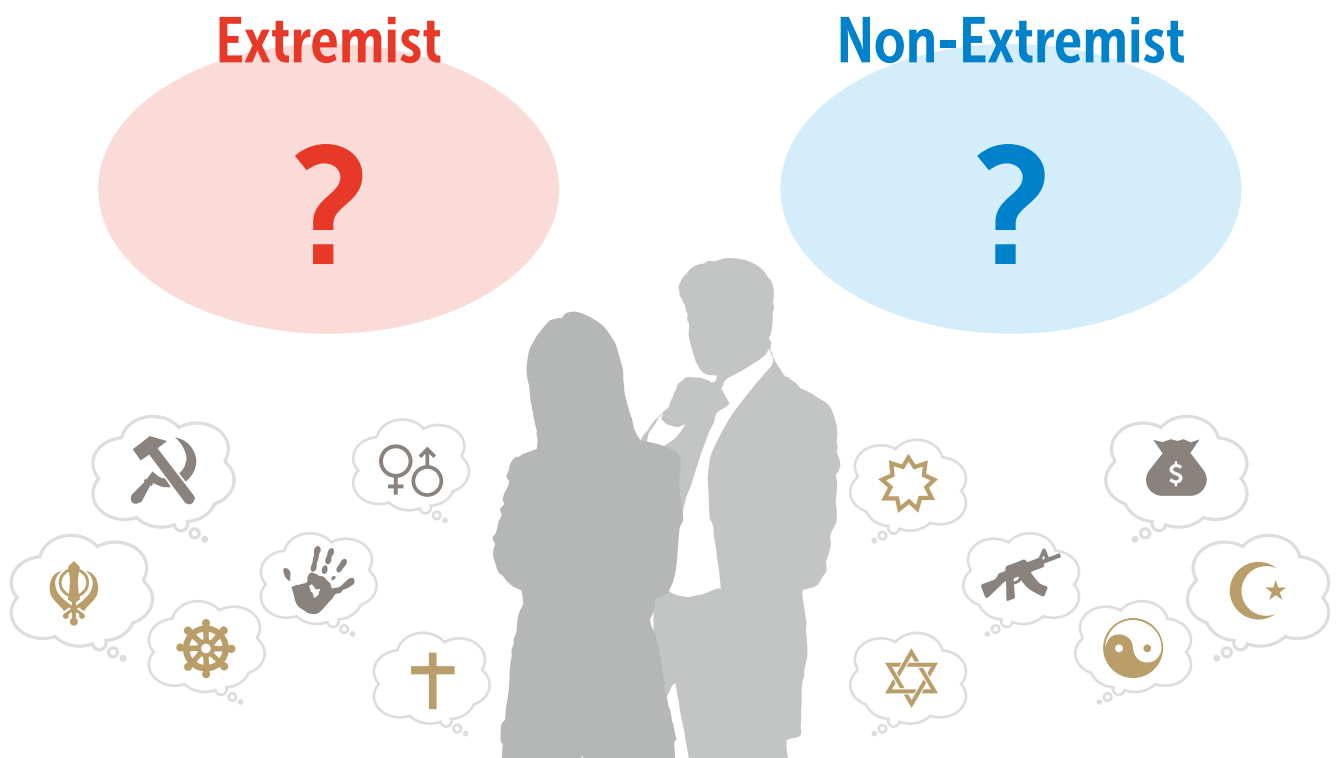
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| 10. declaration of peace | 7. legacy | 4. fight | 1. kill |
| 11. peace | 8. stop wars | 5. head of state | 2. international |
| 12. youth | 9. life | 6. media | 3. agreement |

Spreading a Culture of Peace

“Talk&Walk to Prevent Violent Extremism”

What is your take on extremism and violent extremism?

Violent extremism has recently become a global concern as a major threat to peace. Generally, **Extremism** is a system of behavior motivated by a belief or ideology and is considered to be extreme and socially unacceptable. Further, **Violent extremism** includes systems that cause physical or mental violence to achieve radical views.



The terms “extremism” and “violent extremism” are often linked to specific religious or political views and are used to blame certain groups. However, it is said that people who carry out harmful actions caused by their beliefs often do not admit that they are extremists and even believe they are doing the right thing according to their beliefs.

Then how do you draw the line between acting upon what you believe in and violent extremism?
What are the key efforts that can be made to prevent extremism and violent extremism?

For this year’s commemorative event to celebrate the spirit embedded in the Declaration of World Peace, the Spreading a Culture of Peace “**Talk and Walk to Prevent Violent Extremism**” Campaign was initiated to invite participants to think and talk about their personal beliefs and whether these beliefs are anchored in the value of peace, as well as to discuss how to make that part of their daily lives to prevent extremism and violent extremism. After the talks, all participants walk together to represent their unity in spreading a culture of peace. From May 19th to 30th 2017, in 43 countries, 85 peace walks were held, providing a channel for all citizens around the world to become empowered and share their unified voice for peace.

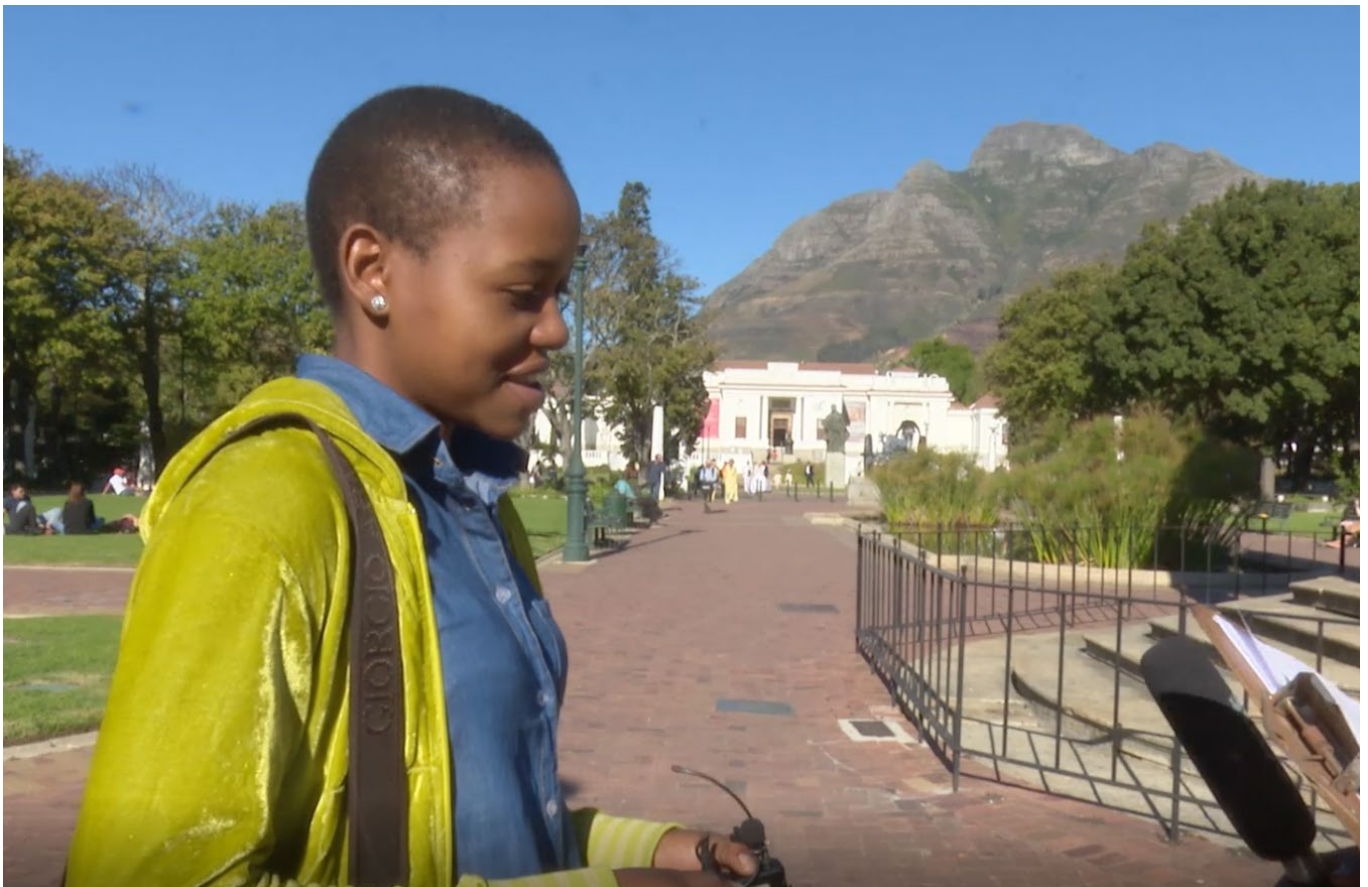
Spreading a Culture of Peace “Talk&Walk to Prevent Violent Extremism”

Take Action for the Talk & Walk to Prevent Violent Extremism

1. A series of questions will be provided to help participants engage in a conversation that encourages participants to **think about whether our beliefs agree with the cause of building peace and what we can do to put them into action.**

No matter what our beliefs, there needs to be a principle of utilitarian moral and ethical framework in which we, as individuals, can live and interact with diverse people. What if such a society is built on values that are shared by all beliefs and ideologies such as (1) Respect for human life, (2) A sense of kinship with humanity, (3) Coexistence, (4) Sustainability?

2. Imagine what kind of change can occur while thinking about these core tenets of a peaceful society. Think further about what we individually can do to make changes contributing to making such a society.



This campaign will help establish the foundation of mutual respect, understanding, and tolerance for each other and become an effective approach to preventing violent extremism. Also, this will contribute to building a world where values supporting peace are prevalent.

Take Action Now to Talk and Walk: <http://hwpl.kr/en/project/peaceWalk>

Global Communities Seek a Culture of Peace to Overcome the Threat of Violent Extremism

The 4th Commemoration of the Declaration World Peace - “Talk & Walk to Prevent Violent Extremism” for a Culture of Peace

Today’s global community is now facing widespread extremism that is accompanied by violence associated with radical views, which has become a great concern regarding the stability and prosperity of the international community. National governments around the world have responded to these contemporary issues of extremism through the implementation of domestic policies and international cooperation in the areas of security and education. Along with these national efforts, international NGOs are organizing campaigns to raise public awareness of the need for peace and tolerance in order to further prevent violent extremism.

From May 19th to 30th, a peace campaign titled “Talk & Walk to Prevent Violent Extremism” was held to commemorate projects of global peacebuilding inspired by the Declaration of World Peace proclaimed in 2013. To further develop a culture of peace through awareness-raising activities and participation by citizens, the campaign this year was hosted by HWPL and local communities in 85 cities across 43 countries, including Seoul, New York, Paris, Geneva, Beijing, Tokyo, Delhi, Cape Town, and Sydney.

Led by the active engagement of international youth associations in this peace campaign, seminars and forums to discuss culture-based approaches for the enhancement of social solidarity to establish peaceful coexistence were also pursued in countries like Afghanistan, Ukraine, South Sudan and East Timor where efforts of peace for social stability are in great demand these days.



Global Communities Seek a Culture of Peace to Overcome the Threat of Violent Extremism

In the 4th Commemoration of the Declaration World Peace and Peace Walk held in Seoul, Chairman Man Hee Lee of HWPL called for global cooperation on peacebuilding, saying, ***“Who can bring about peace while we stand still? By putting an end to war, a world of peace can be established.”*** He also stressed the need for civic participation to ***“make an end to war and establish a world of peace as a legacy for future generations, which is the very task of every one of our global family.”***



In the event, through conversations regarding the values and beliefs that the participants have, the time for reflection was given to understand how these beliefs are internalized based on the values of peace and how their actions can follow in accordance with their faiths.

Sara Florian, a graduate student who took part in this event, said, “My country Guatemala suffered from internal conflict for about 30 years. I grew up listening to the stories of the war from my parents and the devastation is still widespread in many parts of the country as psychological and physical damage even today...20 years after the end of the conflict. We need to take steps forward to transforming our ideas into communication for a world of peace in the future. That way, we can heal the scars the war left. I hope that the time for reflection like this event can continue to develop the pursuit of peace in our times.”

Global Communities Seek a Culture of Peace to Overcome the Threat of Violent Extremism

At the end of the event, the participants gathered together for a peace walk. Duhyun Kim, Director of IPYG, emphasized, “IPYG has been working with intergovernmental groups, NGOs, and youth associations globally, undertaking projects concerning youth development and peace education. The youth of today are awakening, I myself, have witnessed the world as it is, and do not accept this as my reality. We are made for better things, the world can become a better place.”



Youth Speak about HWPL Peace Walk

One of the most important motivational drives to make a splendid culture of peace can be attributed to the active engagement of the youth. HWPL's annual Peace Walk in May is the very venue that represents this idea that youth can take the lead in creating an environment that will support the establishment of a world of peace that can benefit all future generations. We've interviewed some of the youth participants in order to deliver the messages that they would like to speak out through this peace walk.



Vernice Lauren Gutierrez
Philippines

Q. Why did you come for the Peace Walk today?

A. Peace is something that everyone desires in their own life. The chaos that war brings to the humanity was never the answer to achieving peace. Youths are the ones who will be handling the world in the near future and I came here to really support this peace walk since I myself always dream this world will be a better place and peaceful.



Mia Ralijaona
Madagascar

Q. Why do you think walking for peace today will contribute to peace in the world?

A. Being here together as one with so many youths from all over the world who all want peace to be established on earth is already showing the world what's a better future.



Youth Speak about HWPL Peace Walk



Sabina Grudinschi
Finland

Q. What does today's event mean for you?

A. It means a lot. Promoting peace by gathering and working all together is very important because today is a chaotic world where conflicts and wars are the reality. We realize that peace is really needed. We have to remember that in order to achieve peace, we need to do something about it ourselves first and not wait for others to do it. We must be responsible for it, not taking it as a burden but rather as a privilege.



Kaylee Koehlinger
United States

Q. How would you like to contribute to peace-building efforts in your life, your community, and beyond?

A. I used to work with refugees in my hometown and that work was so meaningful to me. But there were often conflicts among different groups of people living in one area. Now as a volunteer of HWPL, I have a chance to make a real difference in the world. I've seen how we can bring so many people together under one belief and purpose which is peace. Someday, I would like to take everything I have learned from HWPL, start it in my community and create a dialogue for mutual understanding and respect among all groups of people.



Zhang Lin Qiao
China

Q. Do you have someone in mind whom you'd like to share this campaign to? If so, how would you like to share it?

A. I want to share this with my Chinese friends. I hope to let people in my country realize there is something we can do for peace. We have a responsibility to maintain world peace together. We need peace not only for our country but also for the next generations.

Youth Speak about HWPL Peace Walk

Q. What do you think of HWPL's peace movement and its efforts to organize peace walks around the world?

A. I think it's amazing that a group like this can reach out to so many people in the name of peace and find practical solutions for each country's situation. These peace walks really show how people all over the world can become united and work as one. Every country has its own situation based on its culture and history. HWPL respects each country and works with the people to find the route of peace that works for them.



Jessica Atchley
United States

Q. What was the most impressive part of today's event?

A. I can't really describe it with words. It is amazing to see how many people around the globe are really fighting for only one goal. And it is a really pure, good and noble objective - achieving world peace. The atmosphere and everything was just so amazing. I wish this can go on forever.



Sara Florian
Guatemala



Companion of HWPL: ECPAT Indonesia Program Director Fitri Noviana

“Children are always our first priority and are at the heart of everything we do.”



Even though commercial sexual exploitation of children is a hugely complex issue, ECPAT (the End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) International has been working to implement cutting-edge research and advocacy efforts to end the sexual exploitation of children in all its manifestations since its foundation in 1990 as part of a campaign to End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism.

The organization conducts comprehensive research, advocacy, and various campaigns to eradicate the root causes of this exploitation and also analyzes emerging trends in order to prevent any additional cases. Among the worldwide network of ECPAT Coalitions, ECPAT Indonesia is a national network with over 20 organizations working together in more than 10 provinces in Indonesia.

It strengthens national efforts to free every child from any form of commercial sexual exploitation and protect the fulfillment of fundamental rights being guaranteed by all elements of society and government.

HWPL shares the same vision with ECPAT Indonesia in this regard. This can be seen in the spirit embedded in both the Declaration of World Peace and the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War presented by HWPL that has now become a seed sown in the hearts of the world's youth that has blossomed into the value of becoming 'active proponents of achieving peace'.

ECPAT Indonesia is also advocating for policy making and the harmonizing of national laws related to sexual exploitation of children with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as continuing to raise the ratification status of such Conventions from presidential decrees to laws through public studies and reviews.

Nobody can ask for anything greater than this, so know that your efforts - the efforts of the young people of the world today in pursuit of peace - will remain forever as a never-fading light of life for all future generations.



Companion of HWPL: ECPAT Indonesia Program Director Fitri Noviana

Fitri Noviana, Program Director of ECPAT Indonesia, has actively worked with HWPL and IPYG as a host, organizer, and presider of many peace advocacy workshops and seminars in Indonesia.

She has kindly sent us a congratulatory message for the 4th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace and expressed her experiences working with HWPL.



Fitri Noviana
*Program Director of ECPAT
Indonesia*

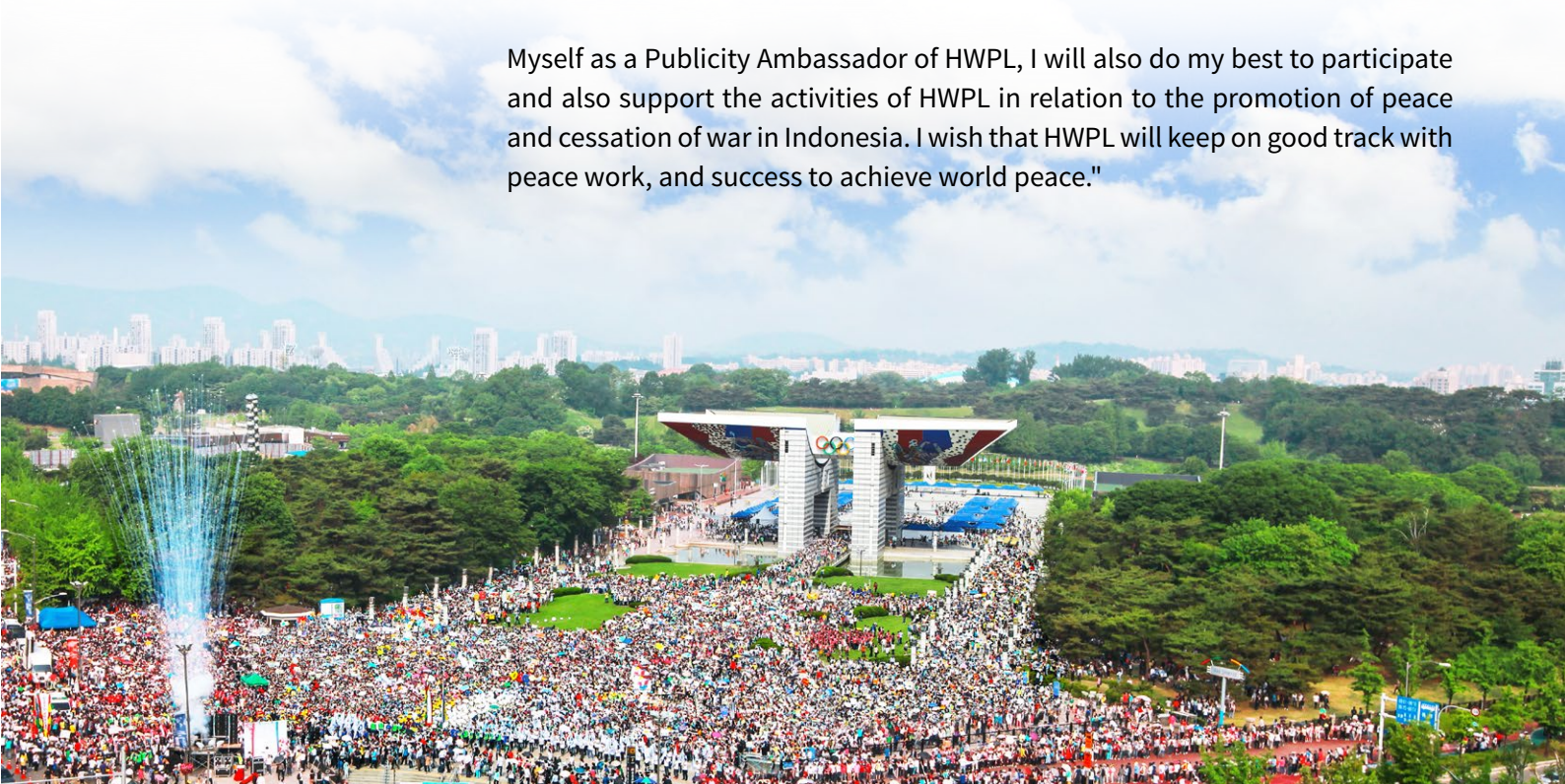
"Selamat Pag. My name is Annisa Fitri Noviana. I am a Child Rights Activist from ECPAT Indonesia. I attended the peace summit last year in South Korea organized by HWPL. Since 2015 I was also appointed as a Publicity Ambassador of HWPL and have done many peace works in Indonesia together with HWPL.

I am honored to give a congratulatory message for the 4th commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace. I appreciate all the activities and movements of HWPL, especially Chairman Lee's effort to make a world of peace.

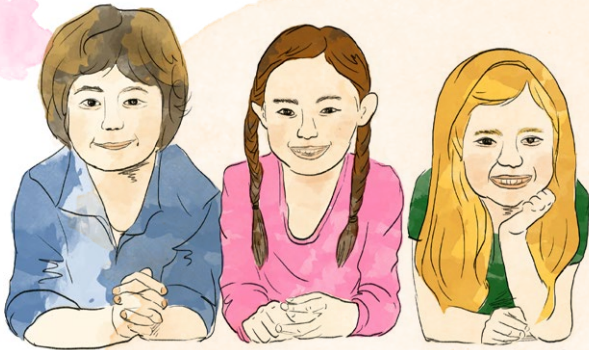
Indonesia has so many islands and cultures as we have 34 provinces. We've gone [through] so many hardships such as war and conflict in past years. Nowadays, our country is still experiencing many troubles caused by conflict, radicalism, terrorism, etc. Children and young people are dying because of this. We really appreciate and support the activities and efforts of HWPL in relation to peacebuilding and cessation of war in this world.

I wish that the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW) established by HWPL continues to be advocated worldwide and developed into a legally binding document.

Myself as a Publicity Ambassador of HWPL, I will also do my best to participate and also support the activities of HWPL in relation to the promotion of peace and cessation of war in Indonesia. I wish that HWPL will keep on good track with peace work, and success to achieve world peace."



We Stand for “Legislate Peace”



Egypt



April 27th, We Love Campaign Standing beside the Nile River, the source of life and fertility in the region, Horus Foundation and IPYG members delivered their messages of hope for peace to flow into Egypt.



April 13th, 100 students and teachers at Tentha Model School, India participated in a Legislate Peace Campaign activity. After some gave presentations on war and peace, students unleashed their curiosity and asked about the means of ultimately resolving all present and future armed conflicts in the world by promoting peace.



Afghanistan



April 30th, Beyond the nation HWPL Peace sneakers - Restoration of light in Afghanistan. A month before the peace walk, 80 government officials and civil society leaders delivered sneakers to those in need at the “Peace Sneakers Project” in Mashal University.



India



April 11th, Recently, students at the Indian Heights School received education on the importance of their participation in bringing about peace. There, they sang a song filled with the hope for peace after watching a video and signing their support for the principles inscribed in the DPCW.



April 17th, Peace-loving students at Kaushalya World School hold their signed support papers for the DPCW up high.



India



April 21st, To leave an eternal legacy of peace to future generations, students at Samsara World Academy joined the Legislate Peace Campaign. Designated as a peace academy, Samsara School hopes to instill within the students the heart of peace through their curriculum and grow as an academy that trains their students to become active proponents of peace.



April 26th, Professors and students in Lakshmi Bai College in Delhi, India unanimously expressed their support for the DPCW at the peace seminar for the implementation of international law. The seminar saw greater participation among women who enthusiastically proposed ways of promoting peace in their vicinity and beyond.



Netherlands



April 8th, Representatives in the fields of youth, women, religion, and international law in the Netherlands actively discussed ways of engaging in peace work in the spirit of the DPCW. Hon. Frederik Willem van Eekelan, a member of the Ministry of Defense in the Netherlands, brought in great wisdom and support to the DPCW and HWPL's peace works.



April 25th, 1st through 5th grade students at Savitri Bai Phule Balika Inter College marched in the street after drawing posters and making headbands to express what peace means to them.



Malaysia



April 8th, The Global Youth Peace Forum in Johor Bahru, Malaysia invited 50 young adults to engage in an open dialogue with panelists regarding practical means of achieving a world that is free of wars.



Ukraine



April 30th, At the forefront of promoting the role of youth in the peace-building process, leaders of youth organizations in Ukraine discussed ways of collaborating with other youth organizations around the world for co-existence in harmony.



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