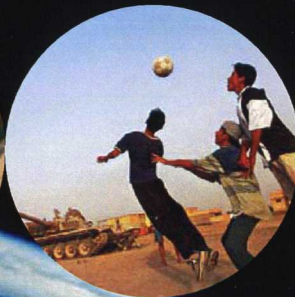
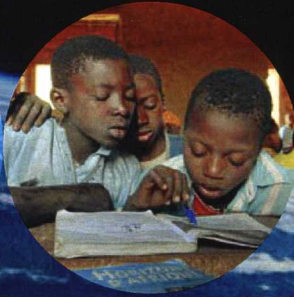


FROM A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE TO A CULTURE OF PEACE

Transforming the Human Spirit

*"Peace cannot be achieved
through violence,
it can only be attained
through understanding."*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson



In an increasingly interdependent world, we share responsibility for the security of all human beings.

- Nuclear weapons—the most destructive of all our tools of war—are at the peak of a pyramid of violence. As the pyramid spreads downward it reaches into our daily lives. Conflict and mistrust between communities, crime, domestic violence and abuse—even the biting comment—are all part of the larger culture of violence. The broad base of the pyramid is the silent violence of apathy—our willingness to live comfortably while ignoring the reality that others are in pain.
- Our challenge is to rise above violence—to stop the rapid buildup of arms and forever ban the most fearsome weapons in history.
- Is it possible to transform the culture of violence into a culture of peace?

This exhibit is organized by the Soka Gakkai International, a worldwide lay Buddhist association that promotes peace, culture and education through personal change and social contribution. The SGI, as a non-governmental organization accredited by the United Nations, shares the mission of promoting international peace and security. See www.sgi.org



FOOD



HOME



WATER

What Does Security Mean to Me?

Human security begins with our basic needs. We need shelter, air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat.

People need to be safe. We need to work, to earn, to care for our health, to be protected from violence.

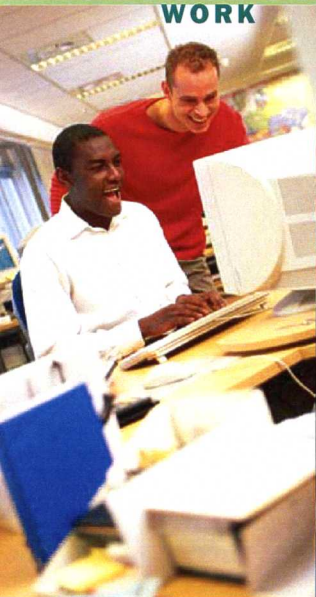
People need people. We need community, friends, family.

We need to be respected; to have self-respect and to respect others. We need access to love, culture, faith.

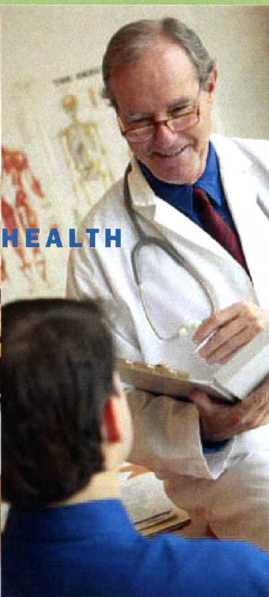
We need a sense of contribution and purpose. We need the chance to reach our highest potential.

"The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life."

—Jane Addams



WORK



HEALTH



SAFETY



FAMILY



Indonesian boy collects plastic in polluted river in Jakarta.

HUNGER

As many as 800 million people in the developing world and at least 24 million people in developed and transition economies do not have enough food.

WATER

All life needs water to survive. One in five people on our planet lacks access to safe water. Almost half the world's population lacks access to adequate sanitation.

Children sift through garbage dump in the Philippines.

Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want

Human security recognizes the increasing interrelatedness of all human beings. Human security is focused on people, not states.

Human security begins with freedom from fear and freedom from want.

Poverty and violence are interconnected. The grinding degradation of poverty is itself a form of violence. Armed conflict destroys homes, schools and factories, locking people into deepening cycles of deprivation and want. War kills people and destroys trust. War can set back the development of a country for generations.

"In the final analysis, human security is a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not explode in violence, a dissident who was not silenced. Human security is not a concern with weapons—it is a concern with human life and dignity."

—Mabub ul Haq

How can we ensure a safe future for all our children?

ISSUES IN HUMAN SECURITY

Every day, 24,000 people die because of extreme poverty—the equivalent of a plane carrying 500 people crashing every 30 minutes around the clock. And three out of four of the victims are children under age five. In the next hour, 1,000 people will die because of hunger and related diseases.



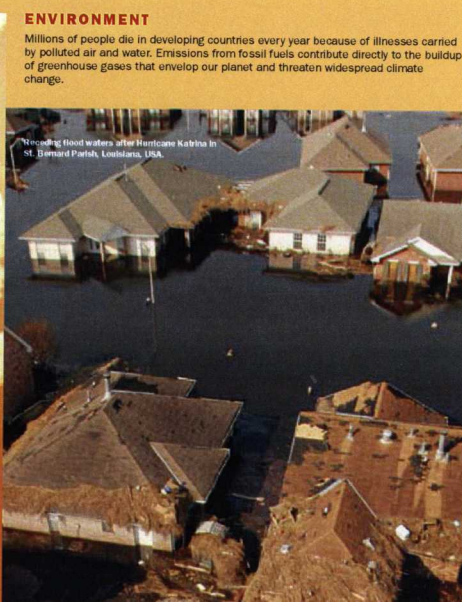
Homeless man in New York.



Two-year-old Nigerian boy with AIDS held by his mother.



Pollution from smokestacks, USA.



Flooding flood waters after Hurricane Katrina in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, USA.

ENVIRONMENT

Millions of people die in developing countries every year because of illnesses carried by polluted air and water. Emissions from fossil fuels contribute directly to the buildup of greenhouse gases that envelop our planet and threaten widespread climate change.

What Can We Do to Promote Human Security?

"Human security means to be free from fear of being killed, persecuted or abused; free from the abject poverty that brings indignity and self-contempt; free to make choices. As threats to national and international security emanate more and more from internal sources rather than external aggression, it is important to shift attention from the security of states to that of people."

—Sadako Ogata

In 2000, leaders from every country agreed on a vision for the world's future. They agreed to take action to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) designed to reverse the grinding poverty, hunger and disease affecting billions of people. The goals provide a framework for development and define targets to measure progress by 2015.

The MDGs have inspired exceptional efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest—and there is much more to do.

You can find out more about the MDGs and their targets and what you can do to support the goals.

www.un.org/millenniumgoals/index.html

Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

DOLLARS AND SENSE

We spend more than \$1 trillion a year on global military expenditures and the arms trade, an average of \$173 for each person on the planet. The United States spends almost half the world total.

It is estimated that an additional annual expenditure of \$19 billion on basic services could eliminate starvation and malnutrition globally.

An additional \$12 billion annually could educate every child on earth.

And \$23 billion a year could reverse the spread of AIDS and malaria.

We could meet the basic human needs of every person on earth if \$70-\$80 billion—less than 10% of the world's military spending—was redirected to that purpose.

Which is safer—the heavily armed world we live in now, or a world in which all people's basic needs are met?

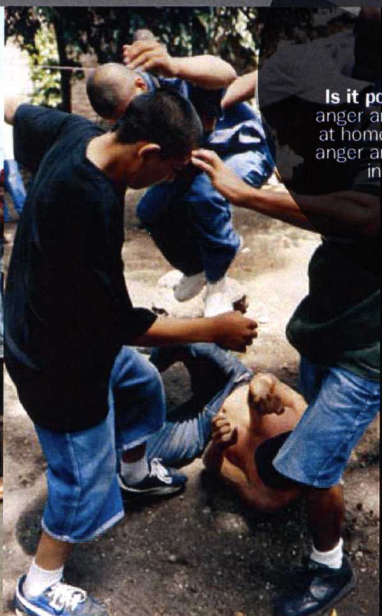
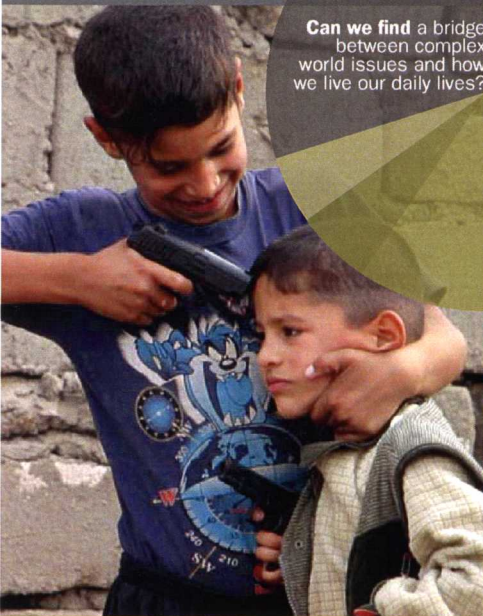


Since wars begin in the minds of men,
it is in minds of men that the defenses of peace
must be constructed.

—Preamble to the UNESCO Constitution

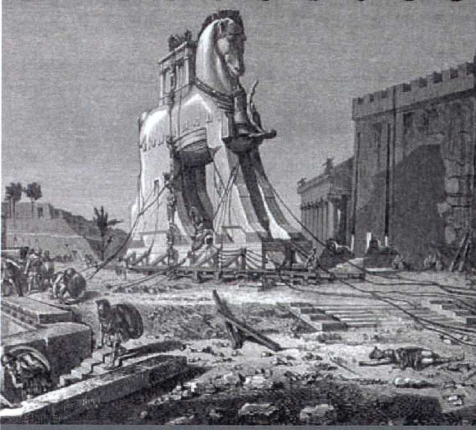
Wars Begin in the Minds of Men

Can we find a bridge
between complex
world issues and how
we live our daily lives?



Can it be that love
and kindness ripples
out from our lives until
they reach distant
shores?

Is it possible that
anger and violence
at home promotes
anger and violence
in the world?



Arms-Based Security: A Precarious Logic

In the search for security, humans have developed increasingly deadly and powerful weapons over thousands of years. But the relatively recent development of weapons of mass destruction has led us to the unimaginable—the time when we are capable of extinguishing all life on earth.

WMD are weapons that can indiscriminately kill large numbers of people. The term includes nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

Biological and chemical weapons have been outlawed by international conventions. Nuclear weapons have not.

Conventional weapons also undermine the security of all people. There is a growing international trade in small arms and light weapons. Many of the weapons end up in developing countries with poor human rights records. Small arms and light weapons fuel civil wars and other conflicts and harm millions of people.

"The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living."

—Omar N. Bradley

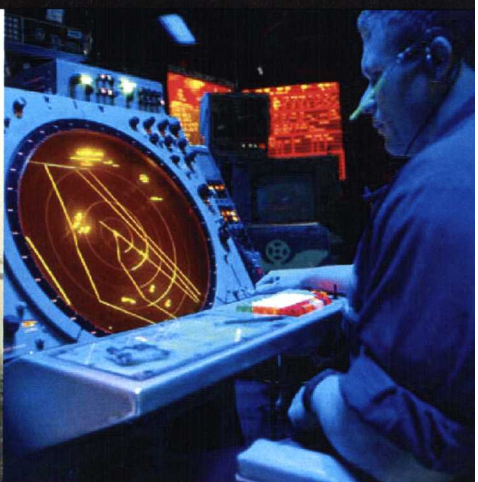
THE TRAGIC IRONY OF MAD

During the Cold War, both Eastern and Western blocs were frantically developing nuclear weapons and conducting test blasts. The theory of nuclear deterrence was based on MAD—"Mutual Assured Destruction"—an idea that held the world's people hostage, one button-push away from annihilation. MAD represented the final bankruptcy of the logic of war. War was revealed for what, on some level, it has always been—a suicide pact between armed parties.

Despite the end of the Cold War, billions of dollars are still being spent to maintain and develop nuclear arsenals.

Huge stocks of nuclear weapons, many on hair triggers, are ready to be detonated within minutes. The possibility of accidental use remains very real.

And the threat posed by terrorist groups looms large. For such groups—with nothing to protect and nothing to lose—the logic of deterrence means nothing.



The Continuing Threat of Global Destruction

As the Cold War faded in the final years of the 20th century, the threat of global nuclear war seemed to recede. This was an opportunity to dismantle the structures and the logic of nuclear deterrence—and the world passed it by.

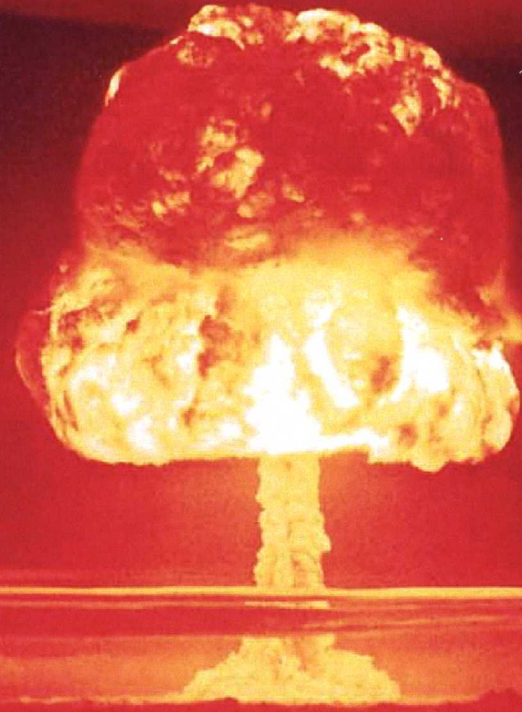
After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the idea of nuclear deterrence took hold again, largely because of a lack of clear alternatives. Today, progress toward nuclear disarmament has stalled and new threats of nuclear proliferation are emerging.

Despite treaty obligations dating back to the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the traditional nuclear weapon states have failed to take meaningful moves to disarm.

India, Israel, Pakistan and possibly North Korea have developed nuclear weapons outside the NPT framework. Such acts—and failures to act—have undermined the world's most important legal protection against the uncontrolled spread of nuclear weapons.

Almost everyone in today's world feels insecure, but not everyone feels insecure about the same thing. Different threats seem more urgent to people in different parts of the world.... We need common global strategies to deal with all of them—and indeed, governments are coming together to work out and implement such strategies, in the UN and elsewhere. The one area where there is a total lack of any common strategy is the one that may well present the greatest danger of all: the area of nuclear weapons.

—Kofi Annan



What are the types of nuclear weapons?

Nuclear weapons are classified as either "strategic weapons"—which are used to strike targets deep inside enemy territory—or "tactical weapons"—short range weapons designed to destroy specific military, communications or infrastructure targets on the battlefield.

Atomic, or fission, bombs were the first developed. Then, in the 1950s, the United States and the Soviet Union developed vastly more powerful thermonuclear, or hydrogen, bombs.

Once the materials for an atomic weapon are acquired, assembling them is frighteningly simple. The threat that terrorist groups or rogue states could acquire the materials needed to construct a fission weapon is very real.

In recent years, proposals have been made to develop a new generation of low-yield nuclear weapons, including "bunker busters," to destroy secure underground targets. Such weapons would lower the threshold to the use of nuclear weapons, making it more "acceptable" and thus more likely.

How many nuclear weapons are there?

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reports in its 2006 yearbook that there are about 27,000 nuclear warheads. This is enough to destroy all life on Earth many times over.

The United States and Russia have the most nuclear weapons. The United States has 10,000, Russia 16,000.

It is estimated that the United Kingdom probably has 185, France 350, China 130, India 50, Pakistan 60 and Israel between 100 and 200. In October 2006, North Korea appears to have conducted a nuclear test explosion.

What happens when a nuclear bomb explodes?

BLAST DAMAGE

The degree of damage depends upon the distance from the center of the bomb blast, or ground zero. Heat, pressure and bomb debris that falls back to the ground cause the major immediate damage. At ground zero, the high temperature immediately vaporizes everything. A large nuclear bomb could level buildings five or six miles from the hypocenter. Huge firestorms with gale force winds develop shortly after the blast.

Beyond the immediate blast area, casualties are caused by heat, radiation and fires. A large bomb could cause fires for 25 miles from the hypocenter, and burns to humans and animals for more than 50 miles.

ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE

A nuclear bomb explosion creates an electromagnetic pulse that causes metal cables to act as antennae and generate high voltages when the pulse passes. Such high currents destroy electronics and even the wires themselves. The largest-yield nuclear devices are designed to destroy communication systems. An airburst at the right altitude could produce continent-wide effects.

"There is no doubt that, if the peoples of the world were more fully aware of the inherent danger of nuclear weapons and the consequences of their use, they would reject them, and not permit their continued possession or acquisition on their behalf by their governments, even for an alleged need for self-defense."

—Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

FALLOUT

Local effects of a nuclear explosion include large amounts of earth or water that are vaporized by the heat of the fireball and drawn up into a radioactive cloud. The larger particles cascade down the outside of the fireball in a downdraft even while the cloud rises, so fallout begins to arrive near ground zero within an hour. More than half the total bomb debris is deposited on the ground within about 24 hours as local fallout.

Smaller radioactive particles will enter the atmosphere and gradually settle to the earth's surface after weeks, months, and even years.

Radioactive fallout particles enter the water supply and are inhaled and ingested by people thousands of miles from the blast.

Between 1946 and 1996, more than 280 nuclear weapons were tested in the Pacific region alone. Each of these weapons had much higher yields than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Testing of nuclear weapons has resulted in radiation exposure in countries around the world. Radiation is known to cause chromosomal damage and illnesses such as cancer.

HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

What Were the Effects of the Atomic Bombs Used at Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

On August 6, 1945, a B-29 American bomber dropped a nuclear bomb called "Little Boy" over the center of Hiroshima, Japan. It exploded about 2,000 feet above the city with a blast equivalent to about 13 kilotons of TNT—only a fraction of the destructive power of nuclear bombs today.

An estimated 90,000 people died instantly. The radius of total destruction was about one mile, with resulting fires across more than four square miles. Ninety percent of Hiroshima's buildings were damaged or completely destroyed.

By December 1945, thousands had died from their injuries and radiation poisoning, bringing the total killed in Hiroshima in 1945 to perhaps 140,000.

Three days after the first bombing, on August 9, 1945, another B-29 dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, over the city's industrial valley, about two miles from the planned target.

The resulting explosion had a blast yield equivalent to 21 kilotons of TNT.

According to some estimates, about 70,000 of Nagasaki's 240,000 residents were killed instantly, and up to 60,000 were injured.

At the Crossroads

"I have no doubt that, if we hope to escape self-destruction, then nuclear weapons should have no place in our collective conscience, and no role in our security. To that end, we must ensure—absolutely—that no more countries acquire these deadly weapons. We must see to it that nuclear-weapon states take concrete steps towards nuclear disarmament. And we must put in place a security system that does not rely on nuclear deterrence."

—Mohamed ElBaradei

The threat of nuclear weapons is not in the past—it is a crisis today.

This crisis is driven by the failure of the nuclear powers to disarm and by the increasing number of other states that seek nuclear weapons.

There are growing fears that rogue governments and terrorist groups will acquire nuclear weapons. The doctrine of deterrence means nothing to terrorists.

It is time to move beyond the myth of nuclear deterrence. It is time to dismantle existing weapons and ban their further development.

The idea that war can produce real "solutions" to human problems is deeply rooted. Violence is part of the fabric of human—particularly male-dominated—civilizations. It can only be overcome by developing an equally strong culture of peace.



Transforming the Human Spirit

Creating a global sense of the deep connection among peoples—shifting our consciousness to human security—is a first step toward world peace.

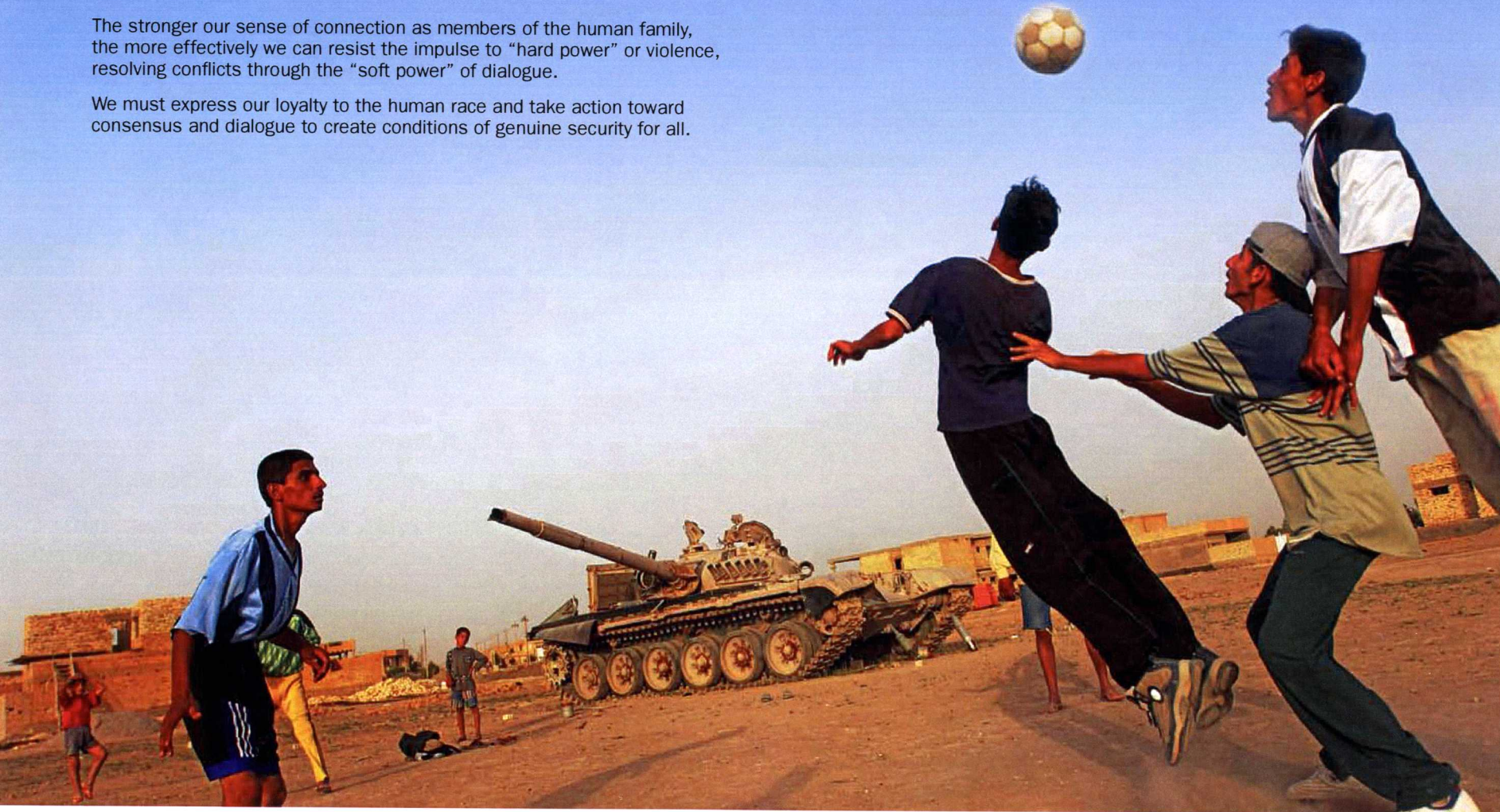
We can never lose sight of the bonds we share as members of the same human family, a connection that goes beyond cultural, ethnic and national borders. At the same time, clashing interests and outlooks are real and need to be faced.

The stronger our sense of connection as members of the human family, the more effectively we can resist the impulse to “hard power” or violence, resolving conflicts through the “soft power” of dialogue.

We must express our loyalty to the human race and take action toward consensus and dialogue to create conditions of genuine security for all.

“We must firmly establish the awareness that no society can found its security and wellbeing upon the terror and misery of another; we must create a new set of global ethics. The theory of nuclear deterrence, in seeking to ensure the security of one state by threatening others with overwhelming destructive power, is diametrically opposed to the global ethics the new era demands.”

—Daisaku Ikeda



Interconnections

There are deep connections between all life and all things. Both science and religion suggest the critical nature of understanding this network of relationships. Every action has an effect and the effects are felt in ways and places we cannot imagine.



"Today the network of relationships linking the human race to itself and to the rest of the biosphere is so complex that all aspects affect all others to an extraordinary degree."
—Murray Gell-Mann

Dialogue

Genuine dialogue requires courage and strength. We must recognize one another's positions and interests, identify the obstacles to progress, and patiently work to remove and resolve the obstacles. Conflict resolution through dialogue—rather than through the destruction of force—holds the promise of genuine and lasting solutions.



"We have to face the fact that either all of us are going to die together or we are going to learn to live together and if we are to live together we have to talk"

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Education

Lasting peace depends on education. Students must learn to deal peacefully with conflict in their own lives and communities and understand and respect other cultures and values. Education for peace fosters nonviolent problem solving, cooperation, critical thinking, clear communication and dialogue.

Courage

The road to peace can seem long and lonely. It takes courage—and conviction, perseverance and determination—to work for peace.

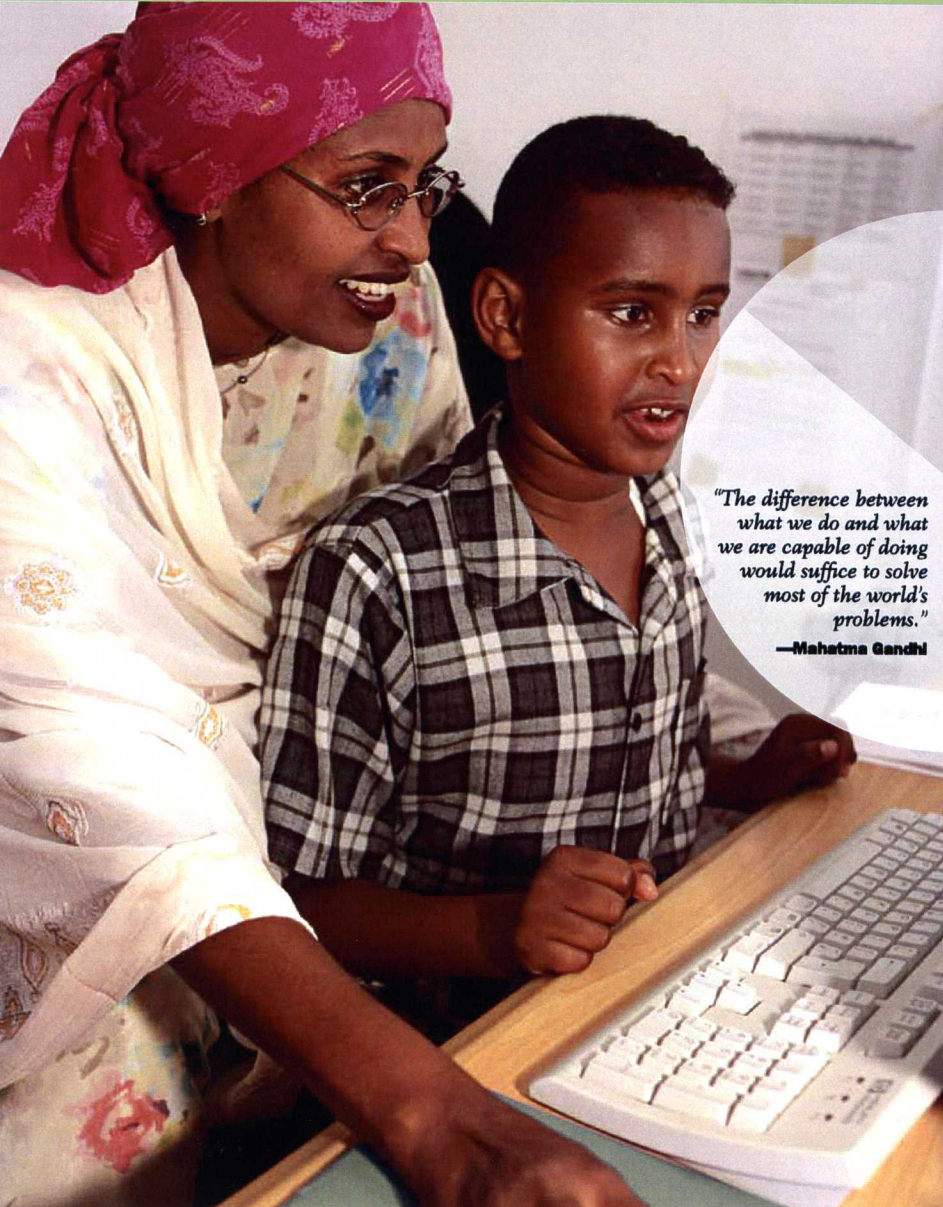


"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
—Nelson Mandela

"One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest."
—Maya Angelou

Engagement

We reveal who we are in our actions. Action for peace can take many forms, but every act for a peaceful future has far-reaching consequences.

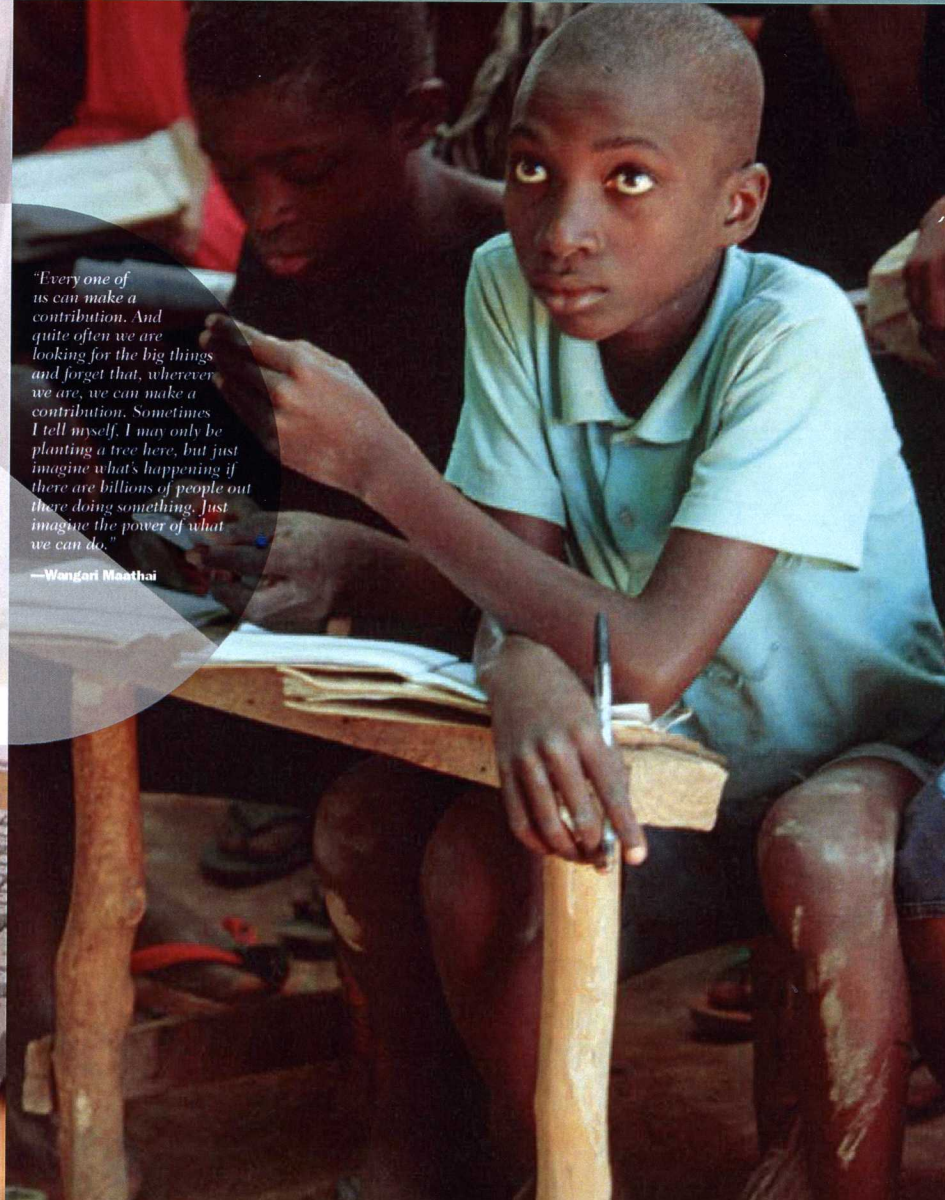


"The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems."

—Mahatma Gandhi

Hope

We must not be defeated by helplessness. The feeling that we are powerless breeds violence. It was human beings who gave birth to nuclear weapons—these instruments of hellish destruction. It cannot be beyond the power of human wisdom to eliminate them. Together we must hope—and act.



"Every one of us can make a contribution. And quite often we are looking for the big things and forget that, wherever we are, we can make a contribution. Sometimes I tell myself, I may only be planting a tree here, but just imagine what's happening if there are billions of people out there doing something. Just imagine the power of what we can do."

—Wangari Maathai

From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace

The United Nations designated 2001–2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.

A culture of peace, as defined by the United Nations, consists of values, attitudes, behaviors 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.

EIGHT ACTION AREAS FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

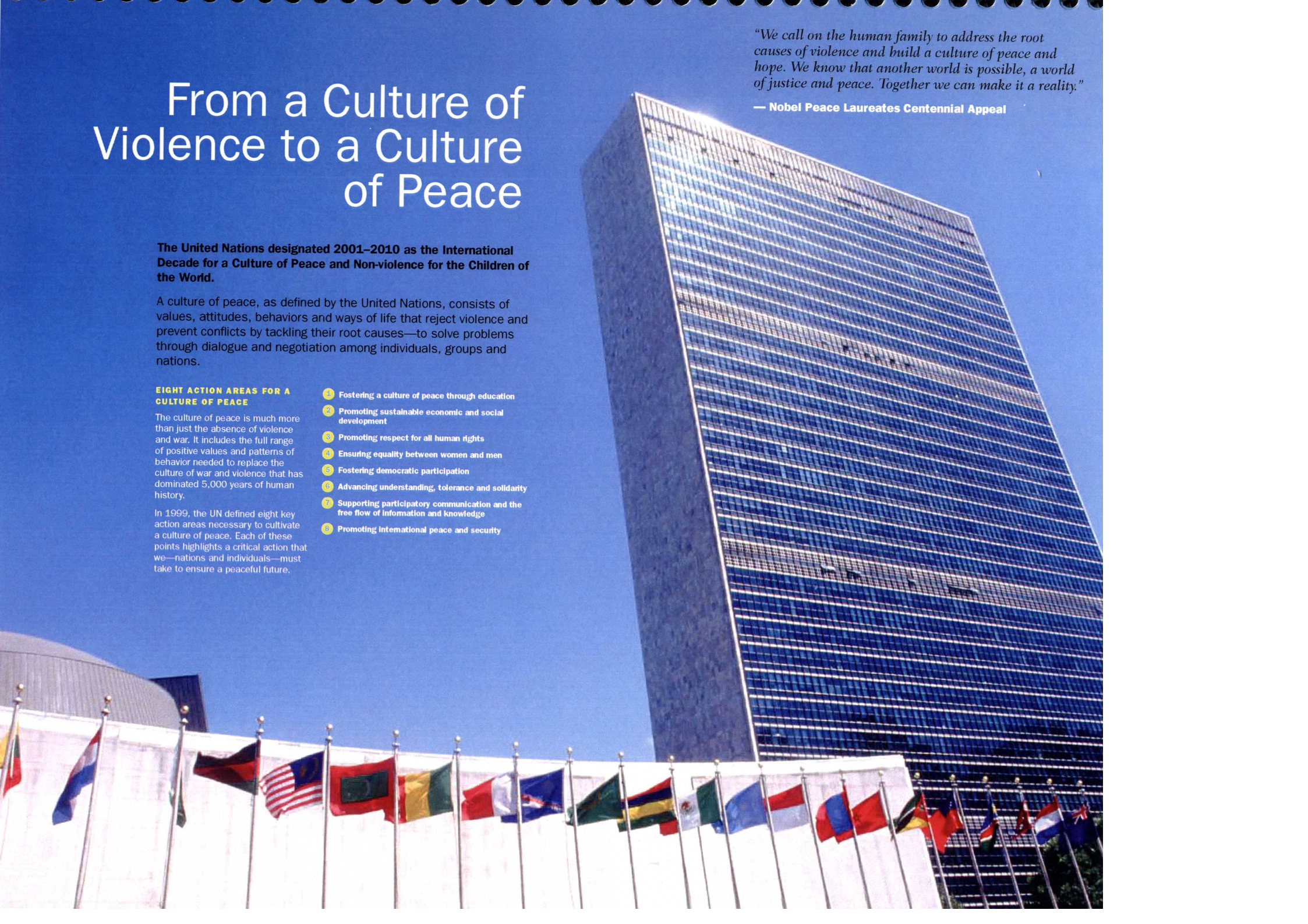
The culture of peace is much more than just the absence of violence and war. It includes the full range of positive values and patterns of behavior needed to replace the culture of war and violence that has dominated 5,000 years of human history.

In 1999, the UN defined eight key action areas necessary to cultivate a culture of peace. Each of these points highlights a critical action that we—nations and individuals—must take to ensure a peaceful future.

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

"We call on the human family to address the root causes of violence and build a culture of peace and hope. We know that another world is possible, a world of justice and peace. Together we can make it a reality."

— Nobel Peace Laureates Centennial Appeal



People Acting for Peace

INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFORTS TO CONTROL AND ELIMINATE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Voices of protest were raised as soon as the United States revealed its atomic program and dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Internationally known scientists like Albert Einstein and Linus Pauling—who quickly understood the awesome power that had been unleashed—led efforts to help make governments and the public aware of the fearful danger. Many individuals and organizations continue to work tirelessly for the abolition of nuclear weapons.



The Berlin Wall separated East and West Berlin for more than 28 years. It was destroyed in 1989.

"We appeal as human beings to human beings: Remember your humanity and forget the rest. If you can do so, the way lies open to a new Paradise; if you cannot, there lies before you the risk of universal death."

—Russell-Einstein Manifesto



Dr. Linus Pauling at a US Senate hearing displays petitions calling for a nuclear test ban from scientists in 50 nations, 1960.

1955

The Russell-Einstein Manifesto, signed by Bertrand Russell, Albert Einstein, Max Born, Joseph Rotblat, Linus Pauling and six other eminent scientists, warns of the dangers posed by nuclear weapons and calls on world leaders to find peaceful solutions to international tensions.

1958

American chemist and peace activist Linus Pauling presents the United Nations with a petition signed by 9,235 scientists, including 37 Nobel laureates, urging an international agreement to stop testing nuclear weapons.

1978

Dr. Helen Caldicott organizes a symposium of experts on the subject of "The Medical Consequences of Nuclear War," addressing large audiences in major cities across the United States.

1981

Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp is established to protest a nuclear weapon being sited at RAF Greenham Common in Berkshire, England. The camp remains in place until 2000. Peace camps outside military installations continue worldwide.

1985

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which advocates abolition of all nuclear weapons.

1995

On the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing, Hiroshima and Nagasaki issue an appeal for the total ban and elimination of nuclear weapons. More than 62 million Japanese eventually sign the appeal.

2005

The International Atomic Energy Agency and its head, Mohamed ElBaradei, win the Nobel Peace Prize.

2006

Representatives at the seventh World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Rome, Italy, issue a strong statement on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

2007

Sixty years after the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists'* Doomsday Clock first appears on the cover of the magazine, it is once again moved forward. It now stands at five minutes to midnight.

Intergovernmental Efforts for Peace

EFFORTS TO CONTROL AND ELIMINATE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Many governments and political leaders have, since the dawn of the nuclear age, recognized the grave danger and responsibility that go with the possession of weapons of such unprecedented power. Negotiations and treaties attempt to avoid the worst consequences of such power.

Inside a US Titan II missile silo, later destroyed in compliance with the SALT II treaty.

"Weapons of mass destruction cannot be uninvented. But they can be outlawed, as biological and chemical weapons already have been, and their use made unthinkable. Compliance, verification and enforcement rules can, with the requisite will, be effectively applied. And with that will, even the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons is not beyond the world's reach."

—Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, 2006



US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev sign the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, 1987.



Workers examine shattered concrete and twisted wire at a destroyed Titan II missile silo in Arkansas, 1987.

1961

The first Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone treaty, the Antarctic Treaty, goes into force. So far, there are nine recognized zones that have been established or that are in the process of being established by multilateral treaties or by UN resolution.

1963

To prevent contamination from nuclear fallout, the Partial Test Ban Treaty restricts all nuclear testing to underground testing.

1967

The Treaty of Tlatelolco creates a Latin America nuclear-weapons-free zone.

1970

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty enters into force; 190 states have ratified the treaty to date.

1978

The United Nations General Assembly's Special Session on Disarmament is held.

1987

The New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act prohibits the stationing of nuclear weapons on the territory of New Zealand and the entry into New Zealand waters of nuclear-armed or propelled ships.

1988

The Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, signed by the United States and the Soviet Union, eliminates an entire class of nuclear weapons, those with a range between 500 and 5,000 km.

1989

The Berlin Wall falls as East Germany opens its borders with West Germany, marking the end of the Cold War.

1995

178 states agree to extend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty indefinitely.

1996

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty is adopted at the United Nations General Assembly. To date, it has been signed by 177 states and ratified by 137 but is not yet legally binding.

2000

A review conference of the parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is held in New York. Steps to nuclear disarmament include the unequivocal promise of the total elimination of nuclear arsenals. This momentum unfortunately did not continue.

2005

The United Nations General Assembly adopts the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

2006

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, an independent commission funded by the Swedish government and chaired by Hans Blix, presents its report, "Weapons of Terror," to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, offering sixty concrete proposals on how the world could be freed of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

Competition Between Despair and Hope



"Peace is a competition between despair and hope, between disempowerment and committed persistence."

—Daisaku Ikeda

SGI ACTIVITIES FOR PEACE AND NUCLEAR ABOLITION

Petition Drives:

In 1975, young members of the SGI in Japan presented 10 million signatures calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the elimination of war to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

In 1998, SGI members collected more than 1.3 million signatures for the Abolition 2000 petition, presented to the Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee and to the UN.

Exhibitions:

Between 1974 and 1985, young members of the SGI in Japan compiled and published more than 3,000 World War II experiences from victims of war and the atomic bomb.

The Women's Peace Committee of the SGI in Japan published a 20-volume work of women's war experiences. In 2005, the Women's Peace Committee also made an educational DVD including the accounts of 31 women war survivors.

Exhibitions:

"Nuclear Arms: Threat to Our World" was organized by the SGI with the UN Department of Public Information and the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It opened at the UN Headquarters in 1982 and was viewed by 1.2 million people in 25 cities in 16 countries.

"Nuclear Arms: Threat to Humanity," launched in 1996, is an updated version of "Threat to Our World." It was viewed by a half million people in eight Latin American countries.

"Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century" tells the story of the tireless campaigner for peace and nuclear abolition. Since 1998 the exhibit has toured seven cities in the United States and five cities in Japan. It was shown at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in 2003 and has been visited by more than one million people.

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Every year since 1983, Daisaku Ikeda, president of the Soka Gakkai International Buddhist association, has issued a peace proposal to the United Nations and leaders of countries around the world. In 2007, Ikeda's proposal marked the 50th anniversary of the condemnation of nuclear weapons by the Soka Gakkai's second president, Josei Toda.

In his 2007 peace proposal, Ikeda proposed an International Decade of UN Action for the abolition of nuclear weapons in partnership with civil society.

Ikeda continues to meet with world leaders to discuss nuclear abolition and the creation of a culture of peace. His published dialogues include those with Mikhail Gorbachev, Linus Pauling and Joseph Rotblat.

The SGI has developed grassroots activities to carry on Toda's spirit, including anti-nuclear exhibitions and collecting and publishing the memories of those who survived war.

Declaration Calling for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

In September 1957, Josei Toda, then president of the Soka Gakkai Buddhist association in Japan, made a passionate speech to thousands of its young members in which he condemned the use of nuclear weapons in the strongest possible language. He believed that, on a deep level, the struggle is not about weapons but about the destructive aspect of human nature that seeks to destroy others and underlies the very existence of nuclear weapons.

"We, the citizens of the world, have an inviolable right to live. Anyone who tries to jeopardize this right is a devil incarnate, a fiend, a monster."

—Josei Toda

Toda said: "It is my wish to go further, to attack the problem at its root. I want to expose and rip out the claws that lie hidden in the very depths of such weapons."

Toda believed that since human beings created the atomic bomb, human beings must ensure its abolition. He wanted to communicate to his listeners that a religious sense of purpose cannot be fulfilled in isolation but must be part of a larger social and human mission.

Through this declaration, Toda entrusted young people with the task of inspiring this conviction in others, urging them to conduct dialogue based on a belief in the preciousness of human life and the human capacity for wisdom, courage and compassion. He wanted his audience to arouse and call forth those qualities in others and communicate to them the imperative of taking action toward nuclear abolition.

