

Ideas and resources for Youth for Peace projects

Introduction

The Australian Psychological Society's Psychologists for Peace Interest Group seeks to promote peace at all levels. Some people think of peace as simply the absence of war or violent conflict, and some think of it as tranquility (like “peace and quiet”), but it is more than these. It includes:

- being at peace with yourself (‘inner peace’)
- having peaceful families and relationships (where everyone’s rights are respected and problems are resolved effectively)
- building peaceful communities (where people with different backgrounds and characteristics are respected and people work together for the community), and
- creating a peaceful world (where all people can live healthy peaceful lives in a healthy sustainable world).

Some particular issues that need to be addressed to build a more peaceful world are:

- Culture – e.g. how people from different cultural and faith backgrounds understand each other; why discrimination and racism occur and how it affects those who experience them
- Gender – e.g. how women and girls can still be discriminated against in their families, schools, work and communities; prejudice towards those with different sexual orientations and how it affects them
- Environment – e.g. whether our future natural environment can meet our basic needs for clean water, food and air; how climate change is leading to more frequent and intense natural disasters like floods, droughts, bushfires and cyclones

There are many ways in which young people can contribute to building peace in all of these senses.

Projects can focus at a range of **levels**. Your project might be focused on local issues, perhaps in your school, sports club or community; at the national level, like refugee or environment policies; or at a global level, like international conflicts, climate change and sustainable development. Or it might involve more than one of these levels (e.g. learning about a global issue, and organising local activities to address it).

Projects can also use a wide range of **formats**. Some examples are: writing and performing songs, poems or plays; developing a website; writing letters to important people or the media; organising speakers; developing petitions; surveying students’ opinions and feelings about a topic; and raising funds for peace-promoting programs. Again, a project might involve a number of activities with different formats.

It is also important that projects that are seeking to promote peace are run in peaceful ways themselves. This means that all members of the group are respected and heard and problems are resolved peacefully. Research shows that one way to build peace is for people from different backgrounds to work together.

There are many useful resources available that young people can use to help develop their projects. Some of these are listed below. You are also welcome to find your own. All projects which fit the selection criteria will be considered. **Be creative!**

Some suggested resources

Psychologists for Peace resources

Psychologists for Peace Children's Peace Literature Award

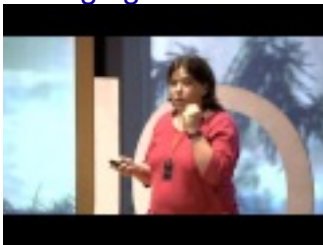
<https://groups.psychology.org.au/awards/literature/?ID=2045>

Psychologists for Peace 'Wise Ways to Win' picture book



https://shop.psychology.org.au/index.php?id_product=33&controller=product

Changing the world: why it fails and what works. | Winnifred Louis ...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AI4eSI-GbXM>
TEDx Talks

Australian Psychological Society (APS) Resources

Tip sheets

[Moving beyond racism](#)

[Climate change – what you can do](#)

[Psychological preparation for natural disasters](#)

[Talking with children about the environment](#)

Position papers and handbooks

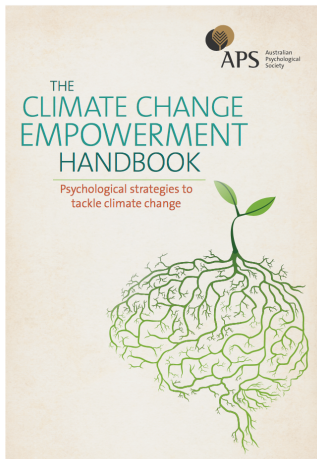
[Racism and prejudice](#)

Communicating about violence, peace and social justice
<http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/16APSPICVCOMCAVPSJP1Communicatin%20aboutviolencepeaceandsocialjustice.pdf>

APS - The Climate Change Empowerment handbook

<http://www.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/The%20Climate%20Change%20Empowerment%20Handbook.pdf>

[ACTIVATE Infographic Handout](#)



United Nations resources

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

United Nations Association of Australia <http://www.unaa.org.au>

UN Refugee Agency <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>

Other resources

The Challenging Racism Project – Western Sydney University

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/challengingracism/challenging_racism_project

All Together Now <http://alltogethernow.org.au>

Racism No Way <http://www.racismnoway.com.au>

Bullying No Way <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au>

Roads to Refuge: <http://www.roads-to-refuge.com.au/index.html>

Refugee Council of Australia <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au>

Centre for Multicultural Youth <http://www.cmy.net.au>

Gender violence and Peace by Hannah Wright

<http://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/view-resource/787-gender-violence-and-peace>

The free child project: Engaging young people in changing the world

<https://freechild.org/strategies/>

Gender Equality is one of the 17 sustainable development goals

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/#751f89fa361630f60>

What is the role of young people in the fight for gender equality? by Ravi Karkara

<https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2015/03/gender-equality/>

Australian Youth Climate Coalition <http://www.aycc.org.au>

AYCC 'Switched on Schools' program

<http://switchedonschools.org.au/petition/repower-your-school/>).

GreenPeace lazy person's guide to saving the world

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/takeaction/>

Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots <https://www.rootsandshoots.org>

Global poverty project <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/>

Oaktree – Young people leading a movement to end poverty. <http://www.oaktree.org>

ICAN – International campaign to abolish nuclear weapons (Winners of Nobel Peace Prize 2017) <http://www.icanw.org>

You can read more about what peace psychologists do in Christie, Wagner & Winter's (2001) book, 'Peace, Conflict and Violence: Peace Psychology for the 21st Century' and Bretherton & Balvin's (2012) book, 'Peace Psychology in Australia'.