

# PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR PEACE

## Peace News July 2012



Welcome to the winter-spring update of Psychologists for Peace.

International Peace Day is upon us again on September 21<sup>st</sup>, a special day for peace groups Australia wide.

IPD is also a day of “ceasefire” both political and personal. You can use this day to make peace in your relationships as well as participate in peace actions Australia-wide.

If you are going to this years APS conference make sure you visit the symposia talks of PFP members on peace issues. A selection is listed below under ‘conferences’.

Best wishes,  
*Kim Stewart for Psychologists for Peace*

*Below: 20,000 people protested the restarting of nuclear plants in Japan in June 2012.*



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## 1. PFP News

### Psychologists for Peace



PFP have a Kiva lending group. Kiva helps people connect with others in the majority world to allow person to person small loans. These loans help people get small business off the ground, which is a great way to alleviate long term poverty. As of July 2012 we have 39 members who have loaned out nearly \$20k – a big achievement !

More info here: [http://www.kiva.org/team/psychologists\\_for\\_peace](http://www.kiva.org/team/psychologists_for_peace)

## 2. Recent Publications & Resources

### Free new books at the Center for Global Nonkilling



#### Center for Global Nonkilling

The Center for Global Nonkilling has published 14 books on nonkilling that are available for free download as PDF documents. One of the recent books is "Nonkilling Psychology" edited by Daniel Christie and

Joam Evens Pim. This book is divided into three parts: psychological causes and consequences of killing, prevention of killing from interpersonal to international and personal transformation from killing to nonkilling. Many of these books could be used as instructor resource material for teaching about peace, conflict, and violence; and some would be useful for course readings or as textbooks.

<http://nonkilling.org/node/18>

## 3. Calls for papers & Conferences

### Women Leading Peace Conference, 17 August 2012, Croydon, Victoria

TEAR Australia present the Women Leading Peace Conference, "Equipping young women to drive change in a global community".

"All round the world, societies are under pressure. We need leaders with clear heads and big hearts for social justice. Women Leading Peace will actively engage your students in workshops run by young women from leading change-making educational organisations. It could kick-start their participation in innovative global citizenship networks. ...They will explore real-world examples of restorative justice and conflict resolution at a national level and workshop the mindset and skills needed as individual peace-builders in a global community. They will meet with other young women who share a passion for global issues and social justice. They will have the opportunity to participate in forums with professional women in politics, business, law, education, defence, religion and the media. They will be changed. Inspired."

More information here:

<http://www.tear.org.au/downloads/news-events/Women-leading-peace-conference.pdf>

### APS Dispute Resolution Interest Group: Conference, 14 & 15 September 2012, Sydney



The APS Dispute Resolution group will be running its inaugural Conference for Dispute Resolution in Psychology 14 September 2012 at NSW Parliament House and 15 September at Sydney RSL Club, George St, Sydney.

[http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Dispute%20Resolution%20and%20Psychology%20Conference\\_PRESS.pdf](http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/Assets/Files/Dispute%20Resolution%20and%20Psychology%20Conference_PRESS.pdf)

### **National Mediation Conference 11-13 September 2012, Sydney Convention Centre**

The working theme of the conference is: Emerging dynamics in mediation—new thinking, new practices, new relationships. The proposed conference program will be carried across four streams: culture, community, commerce and competence; with a broad range of topics including, but not limited to:

Family dispute resolution; Commercial and legal; Aged and special needs; Industrial and workplace; Cultural diversity; Indigenous and community mediation; Accreditation and training.

<http://nmc12.mediationconference.com.au/>

### **Australian Psychological Society 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, September 27-30, Perth**

Keynote speakers at this years conference include:

- Professor Michelle Craske (University of California, Los Angeles, USA)
- Professor Michael Eysenck (University of London, UK)
- Professor Dorothy Bishop (University of Oxford, UK)
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Highlights PFP members may enjoy include:

- Handling differences between people: From conflict to respect for diversity (D. Bretherton, A. Antcliffe, E. Wertheim, W. Louis);
- Community peace programs: How and why (W. Louis, M. Beskow, O. Maddock, E. Wertheim);
- Climate change and environmental threats symposium (S. Lewandowsky, G. Albrecht, J. Reser, C. Lawrence);
- Mental health and psychosocial impacts of climate change (S. Burke C. Winthrop Lawrence)
- The role of psychology in climate change response (J. Rolls);
- Values change and environmental engagement (P. Diniz);
- What's the APS doing about...? Psychology in the public interest (H. Gridley, S. Burke, E. Sampson)
- The Australian Psychological Society Reconciliation Action Plan (S. Crowe, P. Dudgeon, H. Gridley)
- Psychologists as policy makers: Psychology's contribution to government policy (L. Collins)

The provisional programme for the 47<sup>th</sup> APS conference is now available online at

<http://www.apsconference.com.au>

### **Ahimsa (Nonviolence) and Sustainable Happiness Conference, 2-4 November 2010, Pomona USA.**

“Ahimsa and Sustainable Happiness is the theme of the 5 th biannual conference on nonviolence hosted by Ahimsa Center at Cal Poly Pomona in suburban Los Angeles. The conference has significant implications for advancing scholarship, enriching education, and facilitating practical applications based on new insights pertaining to the relationship between ahimsa (nonviolence) and sustainable happiness.”

[http://www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter/conference/conference\\_12.shtml](http://www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter/conference/conference_12.shtml)

### **9th Global Conference: War, Civil Conflict, Security and Peace Conference, 7-9th November 2012 Salzburg, Austria**

“What is the experience of war and what does it mean to us? Is war an extension of politics by other means? The locomotive of technology? Does a state of peace truly exist, or do we perpetually live in *absentia bello*? Is humankind at war in its most natural state; or is human society – despite perceptions and ongoing conflict around the world today – actually moving toward an aversion to war and toward a state of peace? Are Human Rights illusory and is the quest for Human Security achievable? This inter-disciplinary

and multi-disciplinary conference seeks to provide a challenging forum for the examination and evaluation of the nature, purpose and experience of war, and its impacts on all aspects of communities across the world.”

<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/probing-the-boundaries/hostility-and-violence/war-virtual-war-human-security/> “

**Empathy and Compassion in Society - For Education, Health and Social Care Professionals, and the Public Sector in General Conference, 23- 24th November 2012, London, United Kingdom**

“The Conference will address three topics:

1. Compassion and empathy: scientific definitions, misunderstandings and function: What are the scientific definitions of empathy and compassion? What are the perspectives of ethics and science on the role of empathy and compassion in our society? Are modern life and management creating the conditions for a compassionate society?
2. Compassion, the benefits at the personal level: What are the findings on well-being and its relationship to empathy and compassion? From a scientific point of view, can you cultivate compassion towards yourself and others? What are the tools to develop these social skills?
3. Compassion in action and social cohesion: What potential do these skills have to transform our communication, efficacy and relationships? What are examples of good practice in applying empathy and compassion in healthcare, education and social action?”

More information: <http://www.compassioninsociety.org>

**Call for Founding Members of the Successor Organization to the Global Task Force for Humanitarian Work Psychology**

“Since 2010, the Global Task Force for Humanitarian Work Psychology has been working to raise awareness of, and establish a niche for the many and diverse organizational, industrial, work and other psychologists from across the globe who are interfacing with deliberate and organized efforts to enhance human welfare, at both national and international levels. This group includes, but is not limited to, those who have a special interest in humanitarian aid, international development, poverty reduction, disaster relief, the empowerment of marginalized groups, and the International Labour Organization’s decent work agenda. In addition, we have been working to support and connect with students, professionals, and researchers from any discipline who are interested in humanitarian work psychology.

The Global Task Force has begun to achieve its mission, and consensus has been reached that it is time to transition into a new, permanent, and more inclusive organization. The organization that will replace the Global Task Force will be a hybrid professional association and non-profit organization. We are seeking people to become the founding members of this new organization. The proposed goals, values, and tentative definition of humanitarian work psychology can be found here. Beyond these goals and values, the activities and direction of the new organization will be determined by its founding members and the leaders they elect.

This survey, which can be accessed by clicking on the link below, consists of two sections, the first contains the membership form for the new organization, and the second is a question regarding the name of the new organization.

Membership Form and Name Survey: [https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_eSgUQhXtEKF1Ksl](https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eSgUQhXtEKF1Ksl)

In order to become a founding member of the organization that is to replace the Global Task Force, you

must meet our broad eligibility criteria (described in the survey) and complete the membership form before July 15, 2012. After July 15, the current Co-Chairs of the Global Task Force will review the applications for membership and welcome our new members. In late July (exact time and date to be determined), a meeting will be held in Cape Town, South Africa to finalize the name of the new organization – all members are welcome to attend in person or online.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Global Task Force's Co-Coordinator [athumanitarianworkpsychology@gmail.com](mailto:athumanitarianworkpsychology@gmail.com).

## 4. in the news

### Zimbabwean Senator Sekai Holland wins the 2012 Sydney Peace Prize.



From the SPF website "The Sydney Peace Prize jury's citation reads: 'Sekai Holland: for a lifetime of outstanding courage in campaigning for human rights and democracy, for challenging violence in all its forms and for giving such astute and brave leadership for the empowerment of women.'

Sekai Holland will travel to Australia in November to give the City of Sydney Peace Prize Lecture in the Sydney Town Hall on Wednesday November 7th and will receive the 2012 Peace Prize (\$50,000 and a trophy crafted by the artist in glass Brian Hirst) in a gala ceremony on November 8<sup>th</sup>

<http://sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/peace-prize-recipient/2012-sekai-holland/>

SPF Director Stuart Rees <http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/4033002.html>

### Corpses Pile Up: an opinion piece on the "asylum seeker debate"

Tad Tietze is a Sydney psychiatrist who co-runs the blog Left Flank. He's written for *Overland*, *Crikey* and *The Drum Opinion*, as well as music reviews for *Resident Advisor*. He was co-editor (with Elizabeth Humphrys & Guy Rundle) of *On Utøya: Anders Breivik, right terror, racism and Europe*.

"The 'asylum seeker debate' in Australia is not really a debate. In fact, it's not really directly about asylum seekers. Let me explain...even if the policy is stalled it leaves unchallenged the reasons the refugee debate proceeds in the first place.

Those reasons are defined primarily by the political needs of elites to create scapegoats and distractions for their failure to provide security to ordinary people already living here — not of borders, but of a *social* kind. That is, they seek to displace social insecurity into a defence of *national* integrity, here in the form of 'border security'"

Read more at *Overland* journal <http://overland.org.au/blogs/left-flank/2012/06/corpses-pile-up/>

### Sydney Peace Foundation Call to review "Stronger Futures" legislation. June 1, 2012.

"The Sydney Peace Foundation supports the recent recommendations of a senior UN official that the Australian Government refer its proposals – the Stronger Futures Bill – for an extension of the federal intervention into Northern Territory Aboriginal lands to a newly formed parliamentary committee on human rights.

The Foundation is aware of Aboriginal elders who feel strongly that the consultation with them and their communities has been rushed, and that in consequence the Government representatives have not *heard* what communities have said, in particular about the security of Homelands.

Chair of the Foundation Professor Stuart Rees says, "We agree with Patrick Dodson's conclusions, 'Five years on, the intervention, for so many Aboriginal Territorians, still hangs like a veil of exclusion from the same

rights and privileges available to every other citizen in this country.”

Read more here: <http://sydneypeacefoundation.org.au/call-to-review-stronger-futures-legislation/>

### ABC The Drum: Kept behind bars: mentally ill trapped in prison politics

<http://www.abc.net.au/unleashed/4092416.html>

## 7. PFP Merchandise

Psychologists for Peace have available a range of colourful and helpful posters for peace advocates and educators. They target a range of age groups.



We have the PFP prize winning children's book "Wise Ways to Win" and educational posters themed on issues including bullying, dealing with anger, how to say sorry, peaceful families and conflict resolution, all brightly illustrated and easy to understand.

<http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/resources/educational/>

**YOU can help us spread the word by asking your local community group to feature our ad (right).**

Psychologists for Peace have created a series of colourful posters teaching peace, tolerance and conflict resolution for educators & practitioners. With titles including "Wise Ways to Win", "Rebuilding Relationships" and "Handling Anger Wisely", they are helpful & accessible to a wide audience. Purchase online at <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/resources/posters/>

## 8. Events and activities

### Alternatives to Violence Project Queensland workshops July 7-8



The Brisbane-based Alternatives to Violence Project is calling out for more people to join the 7-8th July training (intro level). Visit website for more info and to contact AVP. If you would like to reserve a place in an introductory level workshop, please contact the workshop coordinator at [avp.qld.workshops@gmail.com](mailto:avp.qld.workshops@gmail.com) or phone 0435 007 405.

AVPQ is a growing community of people who support those actively seeking nonviolent solutions to conflict. Members share experiences, skills, information and their time. It is a multicultural, independent, non-profit association of trained volunteers, offering experiential workshops that can help people to change their lives.

AVPQ offers workshops, at low cost, for anyone interested in CREATIVE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT. Acquire a better understanding of the nature of violence; share, grow and have fun in a challenging, but safe, environment. In AVP workshops participants are encouraged to participate in various exercises and activities, in which they can explore feelings and ideas at their own level of comfort. The aim of the workshops is to give participants the tools they need to defuse violent situations.

<http://www.avpq.org.au>

## International Day of Peace Activities, Sept 21

Now is a good time to start planning an action for IDP on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Culture of Peace Initiative provides some good ideas, from simple candle lighting ceremonies to large scale peace concerts. More ideas here <http://www.cultureofpeace.org/planevent>

Events Australia-wide.

Add yours here <http://cultureofpeace.org/events>

### September 21 day of Global Ceasefire

By acknowledging a unified day without violence, a Global Ceasefire can provide hope for citizens who must endure war and conflict; it proves that worldwide peace is possible. A cessation of hostilities for 24 hours can also enable relief workers to reach civilians in need with food, water, and medical supplies.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:

"I call for a day of global ceasefire: A 24-hour respite from the fear and insecurity that plague so many places. I urge all countries and all combatants to honor a cessation of hostilities. I urge them to ponder the high price that we all pay because of conflict. I urge them to vigorously pursue ways to make this temporary ceasefire permanent."

More information: <http://www.cultureofpeace.org/ceasefire>



## 9. Contact Us

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*PFP is an Interest Group of the Australian Psychological Society. Its members are psychologists, and others, who are concerned about the prevalence of war and conflict in our world and are interested in applying their professional skills to issues relating to promoting peace and preventing war. We are working to promote peace in the world and prevent conflict through psychological research, education and advocacy.*

<http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/>