

Peace News October 2009

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1. From our National Convenors

Dear Psychologists for Peace,

As we send out this newsletter, many of our members are convening in Darwin for the APS annual conference. On Saturday 3rd October, as part of the conference, we will be holding a *Psychologists for Peace* forum, and our 2009 AGM. Several PFP members are participating in the forum, which will look at PFP initiatives, the Enhancing Relationships in School Communities project, and an investigation into the role of emotional intelligence in the prediction of forgiveness.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to host a conversation after our AGM with one of the conference keynote presenters, Professor Moshe Zeidner, who has agreed to talk with us about how psychologists can contribute to peace in the Middle East.

Yours in peace,

Dr Susie Burke and Dr Winnifred Louis, Co-convenors, Psychologists for Peace.

2. International Day of Non-Violence – October 2

International Day of Non-Violence was established by a United Nations resolution in 2007 and provides an opportunity for individuals or groups to create practical acts of non-violence on a shared date. The acts may include family, community or government or may be as simple and solitary as lighting a candle for peace or sitting in silent meditation. It is to be celebrated on October 2, the anniversary of Gandhi's birth and Australia is one of 90 countries participating in this inaugural event.

On October 2 2009 an international team will begin the World March for Peace and Non-Violence. This is a symbolic march will begin in New Zealand and travel over six continents over the course of three months finishing in the Andes Mountains in Argentina in January 2010. Psychologists for Peace are proud to endorse this march.

For further details see www.theworldmarch.org

3. World March for Peace and Non-Violence Melbourne Event October 3, 2009

As part of the World March for Peace and Violence, Psychologists for Peace are also endorsing a Melbourne event "Positive Steps to Peace for Self, Family, Community and the World"

There will be a range of speakers including peace activists and environmentalists. Entertainment will feature The Choir of Hope and Inspiration (formerly Choir of Hard Knocks) with Jonathan Welch's 150 voices – The Choir. Activities include face painting and a Conga for Peace. Participants are encouraged to bring lunch and a blanket to sit on.

All are welcome to this free event, and the details are as follows:

DATE: Saturday 3rd October
TIME: 2.00pm – 4.00pm
LOCATION: Carlton Piazza – Argyle Square
Lygon Street Carlton

For further information see www.peacebound.org

4. Biennial Peace Art Exhibition and Award

The Biennial Peace Art Award and Exhibition organised by Psychologists for Peace officially opened on September 7 at Forrest Centre lobby, 221 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

The Biennial Peace Art Exhibition and Award now has its own Facebook page where images of entries from previous years can be viewed - facebook details as follows:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Biennial-Peace-Art-Exhibition-Award/108807201715>

5. Australian Government urged to act on nuclear weapons threat

On September 17, the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties in Australian Federal Parliament released the report on their enquiry into nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation treaties. The report calls clearly and unequivocally for Australia to play a leading role in ridding Nuclear Weapons from the world through a global Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC).

PFPP made a submission to this inquiry, and are pleased with the findings of this report which also urges the Australian Parliament to actively call for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Further information on this topic can be found through International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN)

www.icanw.org

The full 200 page report can be viewed at

http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/nuclearnon_proliferation/report.htm

6. Intensive Course on Health Development and Human Rights

Applications are currently invited for an Intensive Course on Health, Development and Human Rights. The course is being offered by University of New South Wales, Sydney and will run from December 7th – 11th, 2009.

The course is designed for students, scholars, human rights practitioners, health professionals, advocates, and development professionals. The course aims to engage participants in a dialogue about the reciprocal interaction between health, human development and human rights, and to help them develop practical skills which they can incorporate into their work.

7. Parliament of the World's Religions to be held in Melbourne in December

The Parliament of the World's Religions is an international event which has been held in various places throughout the world since it began in 1893. With a goal of encouraging a just, peaceful and sustainable world, the parliament seeks to promote inter-religious harmony, rather than unity. Thus the focus of the council is on respecting different traditions, while initiating dialogue and nurturing relationships among people of difference.

This year's Parliament will be held in Melbourne with a theme of “Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth.” The Parliament will run from 3-9 December 2009 at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre. There will be a range of local and international speakers including The Reverend Tim Costello, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and Professor Joy Murphy Wandin, AO.

For further information see www.parliamentofreligions.org