

Peace and Nonviolence Education Australasia

Digest Update 7 (23 March 2022)

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www.peaceandnveducation.org

1 Ukrainian Pacifist Yurii Sheliashenko on how to support the cause of peace

March 13, 2022

Yurii Sheliashenko, Executive secretary of the Ukrainian Pacifist Movement, illuminates the importance of peace education to overcome fear and hatred, embrace nonviolent solutions, and support the development of peace culture in Ukraine. He also examines the problem of a militarized global order and how a perspective of nonviolent global governance in a future world without armies and borders will help to deescalate Russia-Ukraine and East-West conflict threatening nuclear apocalypse. [[continue reading](#)]

AND to keep yourself updated and informed about inspiring stories from around the world, subscribe to the Global Campaign for Peacemaking (GCPE) [here](#)

2 Mines Advisory Group (MAG) - International Women's Day, March 8, 2022

The [Mines Advisory Group](#) is a non-governmental organization that assists people affected by landmines, unexploded ordnance, and small arms and light weapons.

MAG takes a humanitarian approach to landmine action. They focus on the impact of their work on local communities.

Anne Akello is MAG's gender and inclusion adviser, working to support implementation of gender equity and women's inclusion in all aspects of MAG's work.

[Here](#), on International Women's Day, she shares her personal story of how she overcame gender bias, as part of this year's activities around #BreakTheBias. As an African woman coming from an impoverished rural community in Uganda, I felt that empowering myself was extremely important, not just for me, but in shaping influence for the greater good of women and girls in my community as well. I knew I could be one voice calling for more

meaningful inclusion and empowerment of disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised groups.

War – Her Story: reflections for International Women’s Day.....a meaningful occasion to reflect on the social, political, cultural, and economic concerns and contributions of women, and the possibilities of accelerating gender equity from the local to the global. The Global Campaign would like to acknowledge and highlight some of the key contributions of feminist peace educators, researchers, and activists to the global peace and security agenda – and to the development of peace education - see [here](#)

3 Nonviolence International - stories of hope in dark times

[NVI](#) is worth exploring and including in the stories about powerful and inspiring nonviolent initiatives and interventions in the face of violence in our world. This is an example of a relevant project for students to research and prepare a presentation....and take action in response.

Vision - Nonviolence International seeks a world of justice, peace, and environmental sanity where the worth and dignity of all people is fully realized and conflicts are resolved without resorting to violence.

Mission - Nonviolence International advocates for active nonviolence and supports creative constructive nonviolent campaigns worldwide. We are a backbone organization of the nonviolent movement providing fiscal sponsorship to partners all over the globe. We tell the transformative stories of dynamic emerging nonviolent movements that give us hope in difficult times and are reshaping what we view as possible. By telling these inspirational stories and supporting these movements we help to create a peaceful and just future.

Organizational Information -Nonviolence International (NVI) was founded by Palestinian activist Mubarak Awad in 1989. NVI is a 501(c)(3) organization registered in Washington, DC, USA. NVI is also a non-governmental organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

This is a very rich resource for peace educators, with lots of information and stories about [‘the many faces of nonviolence’](#) and an [urgent request](#) to support a group of violated women in Western Sahara (Africa’s last colony)

4 Education for Peace in a Multi-Religious World: A Christian Perspective

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue
World Council of Churches (2019)

available [here](#)

Preamble (extract)

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). This call to be peacemakers, offered to all disciples of Jesus Christ, is a privilege, a vocation, and a challenge.

Its key location as part of the opening of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount emphasizes its fundamental nature. The urgency and universality of the call to followers of all religions and spiritual traditions

to be peacemakers in our world are unquestionable. There are several contributing factors to violence today: poor governance, corruption, the rise of sectarianism, militant secularism, exclusive nationalism and populist movements, regional domination, and global economic inequalities. A particular aspect of most contemporary conflicts is the apparent and sometimes dramatic association between violence and religion. In several regions of our world, religion is manipulated and misused to justify conflict, aggression, and the deliberate killing of human beings. However, the essence of true religion is to promote peace: authentic religion is thus not a part of the problem but a part of the solution.....