

ETHICS INITIATIVES CONSORTIUM



A Seminar on Global Ethics and Universal Education for Values

Combating Intolerance and Implementing Education for Peace

19 January 2005 ? Paris, France

PROGRAM AGENDA

Maison de l'Amérique Latine
217, Boulevard Saint Germain
75007 Paris, France

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Overview

This seminar will present the case for building a “culture of peace” through global ethics and universal education for values. The goal is to institute a global campaign to combat all prejudices and acts of discrimination – against any religious, racial, ethnic or gender group. When one religious or racial group is targeted, all suffer the consequences.

How can we develop the consciousness that a crime against one is a crime against all? Participants will examine the subtle forms of intolerance, when any one group considers itself superior, for any reason. A transformation in thinking is needed, where all religions and all peoples can sit around the table as equals. This attitude of cultivating mutual respect and acknowledging the dignity and equality of all must be at the foundation of all peace education. Participants will also explore principles, guidelines and policy strategies for developing a Culture of Peace and Global Ethics.

Special Acknowledgements

The organizers of the Global Ethics Seminar would like to express their gratitude to the following individuals for their direction, support and hard work that made this event possible:

Ms. Maria de Jesus Barroso Soares; H.E. Frederico Mayor, Fundación Cultura de Paz; Mr. Dmitry Radyshevsky, Council of Civilizations; Mr. Daniel Kropf; Mr. Eric Grinda; Dr. Levi Bentolila; Mrs. Renee Hirel; Mrs. Sanders; Ms. Rivka Paloch; Dr. Moncef Guitouni; Ms. Dena Merriam; Prof. Amir al-Islam; Ms. Marianne Marstrand and Ms. Katerina Sokolova.

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American Council for the United Nations University
Bnai Brith, Europe
Global Ethics Resource Center
Global Peace Initiative of Women
Institute for Multi Track Diplomacy
Intercultural Dialogue Platform, Turkey
International Federation for Parent Education
Peace Point Foundation, Norway
Touro College
World Council of Moslems for Interfaith Dialogue

With the Endorsement of **FOUNDACIÓN CULTURA DE PAZ**
With the Patronage of the **COUNCIL OF CIVILIZATIONS**

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Wednesday, January 19

9:00 – 9:30 PM Registration

9:30 – 12:00 PM Opening Session - Building a Global Culture of Peace and Global Ethics: The Challenge

The U.N. Decade on a Culture of Peace and Non Violence Against Children has resulted in a multitude of models, programs and educational material; however, the results on the ground are challenged by the increase in wars, terrorism, environmental degradation, and social and economic injustice.

We must go beyond simply speaking about a “culture of peace” to develop a global commitment to educate the next generation and the general public so that a “culture of peace” will in fact emerge. A culture based on universal education for values – a global ethic. By a global ethic we do not mean a single unified religion beyond all existing religions and certainly not the domination of one religion over all others. By “global ethics” we mean a fundamental consensus on universally accepted values, unconditional standards and personal attitudes” (as defined by Hans Kung). Ethics involves systemizing, defending and recommending concepts of right and wrong behavior.

The Opening Session will explore the challenges faced by the global community in an era of increasing Anti-Semitism, Christianphobia and Islamophobia, racism, terrorism, environmental degradation and social injustices.

Chairs: Ms. Dena Merriam, Convener, Global Peace Initiative of Women
Prof. Amir al-Islam, Secretary General, World Council of Muslims for Interfaith Relations

Opening Statement: Ms. Maria de Jesus Barroso Soares, Former First Lady of Portugal

Speakers:

Dr. Levi Bentolila, President, Bnai Brith Europe, France

Sister Jayanti, Brahma Kumaris, United Kingdom/India

Dr. Tho Ha Vinh, Professor of Special Education, Founder, Eurasia Association, Vietnam/Switzerland

Ms. Saida Nusseibeh, Vice President, MAP/UK, Jordan

Prof. Mustafa Akyol, Intercultural Dialogue Platform, Turkey

Mr. Alain Michel, La Fondation Hommes de Parole, France

Open discussion

12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 PM Session II - Principles of Educating for Peace and Global Ethics: Defining the Guidelines

This session will explore how to transmit to the next generation the concepts and skills needed so that alternatives to violence can be found for resolving differences. It will examine how to cultivate in a new generation an appreciation of the “other”, so that they gain appreciation of differences, rather than fear them. What are the methods for overcoming ignorance and hatred? How do we assure the protection of the environment, social justice, the rights of children and the peaceful settlements of conflict and disputes? What is the role of educators, parents, spiritual leaders, government and business?

Introducing the principles inherent in global ethics as a foundation for a culture of peace: Widespread concern for human rights, representative government as a means to assure these rights, a humane economic order, the sustainable maintenance of the planetary ecosystem, non-violent resolution of disputes and conflicts, and respect for diversity.

Chair: Dr. Shoshana Beckerman, Chair, Ethics Initiatives Consortium
General Mansour Abu Rashid, Director, Amman Center for Peace and Development

Speakers:

Ms. Rivka Paloch, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Religion, Israel

Ms. Noga Meiri, Director, Education for Life, Israel

Ms. Haifa Baramki, Education for Life, Palestine

Dr. Moncef Guitouni, President, International Federation for Parent Education

Ms. Marilyn Wilhelm, Founder & Director, Wilhelm Scholê International, US

Ms. Perla Danan, Radio Aviva, France

Open Discussion

3:00 - 3:30 PM Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:15 PM Continuation Session II – Principles of Educating for Peace and Global Ethics: Defining the Guidelines

Chair: Sister Jayanti, Brahma Kumaris, United Kingdom/India
Dr. Tho Ha Vinh, Professor of Special Education, Founder, Eurasia Association, Vietnam/Switzerland

Speakers:

Ms. Nonie Darwish, Peace Advocate, US

Ms. Pamela Hiley, Founder, Peace Point Foundation, Norway

Mr. Eric Grinda, Artisan 14, France

Ms. Barbara Lefebvre, contributor to “Les Territoires Perdus de la Republic”, France

Ms. Ine Dehandschutter, SNOWBlog Project, Belgium

Open Discussion

5:15 - 5:30 PM Closing Session – Adoption of Guidelines and Draft Resolution Proposal

Moderators: Ms. Dena Merriam, Convener, Global Peace Initiative of Women
Prof. Amir al-Islam, Secretary General, World Council of Muslims for Interfaith Relations

Closing Statement: Ms. Maria de Jesus Barroso Soares, Former First Lady of Portugal

Mr. Daniel Kropf, Chairman, Universal Education Foundation