

"SINCE WARS BEGIN  
IN THE MINDS OF MEN AND  
WOMEN, IT IS IN THE MINDS  
OF MEN AND WOMEN  
THAT THE DEFENCES  
OF PEACE MUST BE  
CONSTRUCTED."  
UNESCO

# teach peace

"ESTABLISHING A LASTING PEACE  
IS THE WORK OF EDUCATION.  
ALL POLITICS CAN DO  
IS KEEP US  
OUT OF WAR."  
MARIA MONTESSORI,  
EDUCATION AND  
PEACE 1949

starting wherever you are...

## Why teach peace ?

- In 2003 there were 36 wars in 28 countries ([www.ploughshares.ca](http://www.ploughshares.ca))
- 1 1/2 million children have died in such wars in the past decade
- Small arms kill one person per minute
- 30,000 nuclear warheads – 5,000 on hair-trigger alert — still threaten the planet

**The hundreds of billions of dollars spent on war and efforts to protect ourselves from it do not work.**

**Here's what has to change, to move to a world where real peace has a chance:**

### Culture of war & violence

- 1 belief in power based on force
- 2 acceptance of an "enemy"
- 3 authoritarian government
- 4 secrecy and propaganda
- 5 reliance on arms
- 6 exploitation of people
- 7 exploitation of nature
- 8 male domination

### Culture of peace & non-violence

- 1 belief that peace is possible and can be learned
- 2 reconciliation, tolerance, cultural understanding
- 3 democratic participation, cooperation
- 4 free flow of information, critical awareness
- 5 negotiation, disarmament, non-violence
- 6 the same human rights for all
- 7 respect for the Earth, sustainable development
- 8 equality of men and women

(derived from **UNESCO Program of Action on a Culture of Peace** [www.unesco.org/cp](http://www.unesco.org/cp) and the **Culture of Peace News Network** [www.cpnn-usa.org](http://www.cpnn-usa.org))

## ... in our schools FOR TEACHERS

It's where most young people spend most of their time. School helps shape a person's character. Classrooms and schoolyards are places where every child can be heard, where conflict can be resolved positively, where critical skills can be learned among friends. Teachers can **teach peace** by integrating the values, facts and methods of peace and global education into the curriculum. Many teachers are already doing so, for instance:

In **elementary grades** children learn to cooperate and share through games and role-playing. They recognize their responsibilities for making their classroom a peaceful place, and begin to handle positively their own conflicts.

In **middle school** teachers introduce global education and concepts of peace from other cultures. Students learn to work cooperatively, to research and analyze media, to track the political and social trends of a global economy in the light of some national objectives. **Secondary school** students examine some realities of global interdependence, eg environment, economics, law. They critique national and global organizations and their own expectations for peace and development

### Resources teachers have found useful:

- **Teaching Young Children to Care, K-6**
- **Elementary Perspectives, teaching concepts of peace and conflict, K-6**
- **Open Minds to Equality, K-6**
- **The Friendly Classroom for a Small Planet, K-6**
- **Conflict Resolution in the Middle School, Gr 6-8**
- **Conflict in Context: local to global security and peacemaking, Gr 9-12**
- **Learning to Abolish War : teaching toward a culture of peace, Gr 1-12**
- **Tolerance –The Threshold of Peace, Gr 1-12**

For other resources: [www.global-ed.org/e4p](http://www.global-ed.org/e4p)

## Some things you can do FOR PARENTS AND OTHERS

Peace education is a good description for the skills, values and expectations that most people hope schools will develop in our children: responsibility and cooperation, critical thinking, tolerance, emotional and social understanding, curiosity. Here are some ideas to help it happen where you live:

- Talk with your child and your child's teachers about what peace education is and where she/he can find resources and support.
- Join your school council. Start a discussion about peace education. Collect some peace education resources – storybooks and songs, curriculum ideas, UN publications, magazines — and display them in the school library. (see [www.global-ed.org/e4p](http://www.global-ed.org/e4p))
- Talk about peace and global education with your school board trustee, attend board meetings and ask questions. Consider running for election to your school board.
- Find out what's happening at your nearest university and faculty of education. What are they doing about peace and global education in the schools?
- Write, phone or email the Ministry of Education to ask its views on peace education and what it is doing to fulfill its commitment under the UN to promote peace education. Support local teachers, even after your kids have graduated. They are a lifeline to peace in the future....

(Continued on page 2...)

## What's happening NOW ?

In August **2004 Peace Camp Canada** was in full swing in Ottawa. A Palestinian-Israeli experiment initiated by Ottawa teenagers, it brought young people from both communities to live, eat, argue and sightsee together.

In Toronto Muslim, Christian and Jewish 11-years olds from Israel met other youngsters and learned about each other's lives and faiths. **Kids4peace** first set up letter writing between children in Canada and Israel, then organized the visit.

The **Faculty of Education at the University of Ottawa** is beginning its second year of teaching peace and global education to student teachers with an Institute, *Educating for Peace and Global Awareness*, Sept. 23-24. Courses in peace and global education are reinforced by on-campus workshops and lectures and an annual country weekend retreat. ( [www.education.uottawa.ca](http://www.education.uottawa.ca) )

*Resources for Peace Education* is the theme of the third annual national **Conference on Peace Education**, to be held Nov. 18-22 at McMaster University in Hamilton ON . There will also be a training session for leaders and a national symposium on the culture of peace.

*Creating a Culture of Peace: a Peace Curriculum for Manitoba Teachers – Middle Years (grades 5-8)* has been produced by **Project Peacemakers**, an affiliate of Project Ploughshares in Winnipeg. The group has produced other resources for schools and communities, relating especially to children and war. Visit its website. ( [www.projectpeacemakers.org](http://www.projectpeacemakers.org) )

A **University of Victoria** conference "Learning and the World We Want" (2003) called on teachers, school administrators and other educators to include the study of modern war and the requirements for a culture of peace in their curricula, publications, conferences and seminars.

**Children's Creative Response to Conflict** ( [www.crc-crc.ca](http://www.crc-crc.ca) ) works with the Ottawa District School Board and community groups to provide conflict resolution programmes for children, parents and teachers. CCRC helped organize leadership training in conflict resolution for 22 Northern Irish and Canadian young people from various faiths and backgrounds who had experienced conflict.

## Who says we need peace education?

"If we are to reach real peace in this world, if we are to declare war on war, we must begin with the children." **Gandhi**

"Think about what kind of world you want to live and work in. What do you need to know to build that world? Demand that your teachers teach you that." **Peter Kropotkin**

"Establishing a lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war." **Maria Montessori**

"Just as we teach literacy and numeracy today, we must teach students to learn to think critically; respect diversity; understand global, cultural and economic interdependence; analyze media, examine the nature of violence and learn ways for us all to live more peacefully." **Global Campaign for Peace Education**

"Since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed." **UNESCO**

"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not rise up against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." **Prophet Isaiah**

"Violence begets violence, toughness begets toughness....It is either non-violence or non-existence." **Martin Luther King Jr**

"Peace education has evolved into studying violence in all its manifestations and educating to counteract the war system for the creation of a peace system." **Leonisa Ardizzone**

"Peace is in our hands. It just takes education." **Educating for Peace**

"A culture of peace will be achieved when the citizens of the world understand global problems, have the skills to resolve conflict constructively, know and live by international standards of human rights, gender and racial equality; appreciate cultural diversity and respect the integrity of the Earth.... Such learning cannot be achieved without the intentional, sustained and systematic education for peace." **Global Campaign for Peace Education**

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