

World Peace

International Day of Peace

Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

The International Day of Peace, observed each year on 21 September, is a global call for ceasefire and non-violence. This year the Secretary-General is calling on governments and citizens to focus on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

On 13 June 2009, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched a multiplatform campaign under the slogan WMD—"We Must Disarm" to mark the 100-day countdown leading up to the International Day of Peace on 21 September.

During the 100 days of the campaign, the United Nations raised awareness of the dangers and costs of nuclear weapons by issuing a reason a day on why nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are so crucial, via Twitter and the social networking sites Facebook and MySpace. The Secretary-General had been joined in the campaign by United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, who has championed the cause of disarmament for the United Nations since 1998, and American actor Rainn Wilson, featured in the TV series *The Office*.

Everyone can take action by signing a Declaration to support the Secretary-General's drive to rid the world of nuclear weapons, and by submitting their own reasons why "We Must Disarm".

The International Day of Peace was established by the UN General Assembly in 1981 for "commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace within and among all nations and people." Twenty years later,

the General Assembly decided that 21 September would be observed annually as a "day of global ceasefire and non-violence" and invited all Member States, organizations and individuals to commemorate the day, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of a global ceasefire.

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Sydney's Celebrations for UN International Day of Peace



Martin Place played host to a 14 hour peace vigil as Sydneysiders, city workers, school children and tourists came together to celebrate the United Nations' International Day of Peace, Monday 21 September 2009. Coordinated by the Ministry for Peace for the fourth year in a row, the vigil marked the United Nations' global call for ceasefire and non-violence, with Sydney displaying the city's desire for a peaceful existence on the day. The event was telecast for the first time to the city of Assisi, known worldwide as the 'city of peace.'

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia presented a Peace Concert at 9:30 am. The peace concert featured various artists of diverse heritages living in Australia.



Peace Concert performed by Mahmood Khan and band presented by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia
22 September 2009, Martin Place, Sydney