



Who is mighty? One who conquers their impulse to evil, as it is written, "One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and one who rules over their spirit better than one who conquers a city".

[MISHNAH AVOT 4:1 QUOTING PROVERBS 16:32]

International Day of Peace September 21st 2014

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE?

In 2002 the UN General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent annual date for the International Day of Peace also known as Peace Day.

Across the world the International Day of Peace provides an opportunity for individuals, organisations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. Special activities and celebrations will take place all across the world including festivals, concerts, a global Peace Wave with moments of silence at noon in every time zone, and much more.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Communities in the UK have established the act of opening ones place of worship to others as an important symbol of International Peace Day. The act of hospitality is so simple but so central to many faith traditions. Two years ago, when Peace day fell on a Friday, hundreds of Islamic Centres welcomed visitors. Last year when Peace Day fell on Shabbat Chol Hamoed Sukkot, synagogues welcomed visitors to Shabbat services and into the Sukkah.

This year when the 21st is a Sunday, churches will welcome visitors on that day itself. Along with our Islamic colleagues we have a choice. Shabbat Nitzavim-Vayeilech on 20th September offers an opportunity to open our doors to guests – neighbours and friends from other faith traditions in particular. Sunday 21st offers further possibilities – either to welcome visitors into the synagogue, or perhaps an opportunity for chedarim to welcome children from nearby communities. Or even to participate in the innovative 'Flights for Peace' engaging in multi-faith conversations over the River Thames on Sunday afternoon.

An anthology of source materials will be produced for Rabbis and educators, as well as short educational ideas for use in school assemblies, and at youth clubs and chaderim.

To register as a participating synagogue, and for supporting materials and further information, please find contact details overleaf.



Messages of Peace from Religious Traditions

JUDAISM

Great is peace, for God's name is peace ... Great is peace, for it encompasses all blessings ... Great is peace, for even in times of war, peace must be sought ... Great is peace, for when the Messiah comes, he will commence with peace. [MIDRASH LEVITICUS RABBAH 9:9]

BAHA'I FAITH

All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization. The Almighty beareth Me witness: to act like the beasts of the field is unworthy of man. Those virtues that befit his dignity are forbearance, mercy, compassion and loving-kindness towards all the peoples and kindreds of the earth. [BAHA'ULLAH]

BUDDHISM

Life is dear to all. Comparing others with oneself, one should neither kill nor cause to kill. [DHAMMAPADA: 130]

JAINISM

There is no quality of soul more subtle than non-violence and no virtue of spirit greater than reverence for life. [MAHAVIRA]

CHRISTIANITY

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good for those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. [Matthew 5.38-44]

HINDUISM

Ahimsa [non-violence] is the greatest gift. Ahimsa is the highest self-control. Ahimsa is the highest sacrifice. Ahimsa is the highest power. Ahimsa is the highest friend. Ahimsa is the highest truth. Ahimsa is the highest teaching. [MAHABHARATA 18:116:37-41]

ISLAM

The worshippers of the All-Merciful are they who tread gently upon the earth, and when the ignorant address them, they reply, "Peace!" [QUR'AN, 25:63]

SIKHISM

No one is my enemy,
No one is a foreigner,
With all I am at peace,
God within us renders us,
Incapable of hate and prejudice.
[GURU NANAK]

ZOROASTRIANISM

We humbly request the Creator Ahura Mazda to bless this house, this country and the planet we inhabit. May obedience smite disobedience. May peace smite discord. May generosity smite stinginess. May reverence smite pride. May truthfulness smite falsehood. May happiness, offspring and innate wisdom never leave us. May the long friendship of Asha (Righteousness) which gives comfort and ease never leave us. We pray that good thoughts, good words and good deeds neutralise evil thoughts, evil words and evil deeds thus bringing peace in this world. May our good and righteous actions transform the world enabling all to live a long comfortable life.

To register as a participating synagogue, and for supporting materials and further information, please contact:

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FURTHER INFORMATION

1. The London Peace Network is a broad coalition of organisations, led by London Boroughs Faiths Network, which came together in 2012 to promote peace-building and the Olympic Truce. www.londonpeacenetWORK.wordpress.com
2. Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. www.un.org/en/events/peaceday
3. Peace One Day is working towards a global day of ceasefire and non-violence on 21st September. www.peaceoneday.org



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