



THE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust

Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe

Shared Faith Worship

“Where people are praying for peace the cause of peace is strengthened by their very act of prayer, for they are themselves becoming immersed in the spirit of peace.” wrote George Macleod, founder of the Iona Community. He was one of a number of faith leaders who in 1974 signed *A Call to Prayer for World Peace*. They wrote “Believing that God is calling us to pray with new purpose and deeper understanding for peace and justice among all people, we invite our fellow believers of all faiths to join in a WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE”.

The call went on to say “Patience will need to be an essential feature of this united act of prayer so that we may all not only learn from the past errors but also be open to fresh insights which the unprecedented modern situation demands”. Sadly, these words are still pertinent today, in the third decade of the 21st century.

A Prayer Resource for individual and corporate use during the Week has remained a key feature of WPWP. It is presented here for use during the Week **and throughout the year**.

We are convinced that there is only one humanity praying to one supreme Creator, with whatever different opinions we may have on what that may be. We recognise that interfaith partnership does not in itself imply agreement. WPWP invites all people to join in praying for peace on our shared earth under one sky.

The things we agree upon are many and precious. What we disagree on is precious too. We stand alongside all who pray for peace with us as partners and friends.

Our overall theme this year is ‘Praying with hope in a troubled world’. Our Founders described the world of 49 years ago as one ‘in turmoil and increasing violence’. Today that is still true, but we continue to ‘pray with hope’ for the peace that our world is so lacking. We pray with hope not just for a week but for the year.

An interfaith gathering of prayer and peace

The annual Gathering will again this year be a ‘virtual’ one. We will be using Zoom and hope that people will be able to join us wherever they are

It will be held on Sunday, 15th October 2023 at 3:30-4:30pm (London) (open from 3pm) with music, prayers, storytelling and the presentation of the 2023 Wilson/Hinkes Peace Award. This is an opportunity to join together to pray and witness for peace

*The zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81243114721?pwd=Z21FV25lSGxtUjV6Mjd1U1JoVnZ0dz09>
Further details on the website or email: **wpwp2021@yahoo.com***

Would you like to support the Week of Prayer for World Peace to help us continue our work?

Please make a donation:-

A/C Name: The Week of Prayer for World Peace Bank: Lloyds, Bexleyheath Sort Code: 30-90-76
Account Number: 00049837 IBAN: GB62 LOYD 3090 7600 0498 37

Please email us at: keithsc_2000@yahoo.com to let us know if you have made a donation

DAY 1—LEADERS—*Praying that those in power act for the benefit of all*

For those whose decisions and political ambition can and will affect the cause of peace:

Grant them wisdom and courage to do what is right, through Christ Jesus, whose peace

transcends our human comprehension. Amen.

Baptist Peace Fellowship

We adore those whose every act of worship is alive with the eternal law of life. Those who are in sight of Mazda Ahura. These are the best and noblest mortals and are the truest leaders of Mankind .

Zoroastrian

Lord we ask that decision makers hear Your voice...Church leaders as they support and comfort people. And Lord we ask for wise actions from global leaders, who have the power not only to start wars, but to stop them...

Extract - 'A prayer for Ukraine' World Vision

Gracious God, we pray for all persons suffering from war.

Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts to world peace; may they not be compromised by self-interest and blind indifference.

Catholic Health Association

O Allah, the Most Merciful and Wise,
We bow before You with hearts and eyes.
In Your infinite grace, we seek guidance today.
For leaders who hold power, we humbly pray.

Grant wisdom to those in authority,
to lead with justice and sincerity.
Illuminate their hearts with compassion's light,
to govern with fairness, both day and night.
Ameen.

Islamic

DAY 2—FAMILIES—*For those in areas of conflict and those who are displaced*

God, please protect those who have fled their homes, especially children, the elderly, and people who are disabled, as they are among the most vulnerable. We ask in Your name to restore communities, re-unite families and repair this country.

Venezuelan refugee (World Vision)

O Allah, the Source of Peace and Comfort, we pray for families in conflict and hurt, in the midst of turmoil, their spirits bruised.

Grant them solace, O Lord, and help them through.

O Allah, unite their families once more;
with love and harmony, their hearts restore.

Grant them stability, security, and ease,
and bless them with a future filled with peace.

Ameen

Islamic

Love One Another

Of one heart and one mind I make you, devoid of hate.

Love one another, as a cow loves the calf she has borne.

Let the son be courteous to his father, of one mind with his mother.

Let the wife speak words that are gentle and sweet to her husband.

Never may brother hate brother or sister hurt sister.

United in heart and in purpose, commune sweetly together.

I will utter a prayer for such concord among family members as binds together the gods, among whom is no hatred.

Be courteous, planning and working in harness together.

Approach, conversing pleasantly, like-minded, united.

Have your eating and drinking in common.

I bind you together.

Assemble for worship of the Lord, like spokes around a hub.

Of one mind and one purpose I make you,
following one leader.

Be like the gods, ever deathless! Never stop loving!

This hymn is a meditation on the truth that all people are bound together like spokes around a hub. To be like the gods and never to see death means one thing - never stop loving.

Atharva Veda, Hindu

DAY 3—WEAPONS—*For redirection of the resources wasted as a result of the arms trade*

We pray for those who bravely seek justice in the face of repression. May people across the world see ways in which they can help, and act to end weapons sales to their oppressors. Lord hear us...

We pray for each of the women, children and men who have been killed or injured by weapons sold by companies more concerned with making money than with making peace in our troubled world. May we, who witness on our TV screens glimpses of their suffering, demand that our government curb the arms trade. Lord hear us...

Spirituality and Practice.com, Multi-faith website

The Beginning and the End are in your hands, O Creator of the Universe. And in our hands you have placed the fate of this planet. We, who are tested by having both creative and destructive power in our free will, turn to you in sober fear and in intoxicating hope. We ask for your guidance and to share in your imagination in our deliberations about the use of nuclear force. Help us to lift the fog of atomic darkness that hovers so pervasively over our Earth, Your Earth, so that

soon all eyes may see life magnified by your pure light. Bless all of us who wait today for your Presence and who dedicate ourselves to achieve your intended peace and rightful equilibrium on Earth. In the Name of all that is holy and all that is hoped. Amen.

Swords into Ploughshares

We pray for the people who finance, produce and sell weapons. May your compassion touch their hearts and minds and redirect their skills and talents to life-giving projects. Lord hear us...

We pray for all those who work for peace. Lord hear us...

Campaign Against Arms Trade

Nation shall not lift sword against nation, never again shall they train for war. But everyone shall sit under their vine and under their fig-tree and no one shall terrorise them.

For the mouth of the Lord of Creation has spoken.

Book of Micah, Jewish

DAY 4—HEROES—*For those working with courage to improve the world*

O Allah, the Creator of all that's good, bless our heroes, courageous and understood. For those who strive to make the world better, grant them strength and guidance in every endeavour.

Watch over those who help others in need, their acts of kindness, a noble deed.

Guide them in their mission, both big and small, as they spread love and kindness to all.

Bless our heroes, young and old, with bravery and hearts of gold.

May their efforts inspire us to do good, and make a difference, just as they would.

Ameen

Islamic

The struggle for peace, like the struggle for human rights and humanity, is not one in which, having reached the peak of the mountain, the final goal comes into view. Rather, it should be thought of as the work of generating an uninterrupted and unstoppable flow of commitment that connects and is passed on from one generation to the next.

Each of us, no matter how weak or ineffectual we

may feel ourselves to be, must build deep within our hearts a stronghold for peace, one that will be capable of withstanding and in the end silencing the incessant calls to war. This is the only way humanity's tragic predilection for violence can be reformed and its energies channeled in new directions.

We need to awaken a common consciousness of being all inhabitants of Earth. This consciousness is not to be found in some distant place. It will not be found on a computer screen. It lies in our hearts, in our ability to share the pain of our fellow human beings. It is the spirit that says "As long as you are suffering, whoever you are and whatever your suffering may be, I suffer also.

Daisaku Ikeda, Buddhist philosopher

We thank you God, for all those who ... courageously go into areas of conflict and natural disaster, to give humanitarian aid, bind wounds, heal broken bodies, save lives. We give thanks for all NGOs and charities ...who bring healing and hope to all those affected by war and disaster.

Susan Gale WPWP Committee member

AN ACTIVITY FOR THE YOUNG AND NOT SO YOUNG

Sixty years ago on the 28 August 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave one of the most iconic speeches of modern times. It's title was **'I have a dream'**. He had been using the word 'dream' in many of his speeches to inspire people to work for justice.

The most famous line from this speech is :

***"I have a dream that my children one day will not be judged
by the colour of their skin, but
by the content of their character.
I have a dream."***

He went on to work in many ways to achieve his dream of equality for all.

Today many people dream about a better world and those dreams often include peace.

By yourself or with others, think about what your dreams for peace can be:

- State a dream for yourself
- State a dream for your family/school/community/group
- State a dream for the world

Think about what you can do to make these dreams come true.

If you are in a group you might want to make a 'dream tree' with all the dreams you or your group have for world peace and justice, or string them along like this banner.



"We all seem to have unreachable ideals, but if we don't give up we shall eventually make our dreams come true." **Jane Goodall**
(with thanks to the World Peace Flame for this idea)

CHILDREN'S VOICES

This year we asked children to send us their prayers/poems on peace. Here are some of them:

Om shanti – I am peace; peace that comes from God. I want to thank you God for everything you have given me: love, happiness, and courage within me. I am so lucky to have this understanding at such a young age. I thank you, God, that I now know You and that you are Peace, Love and Happiness. Your teaching can help me every day with any trouble and give me answers to every question in my mind. I would like to send peace to my friends and everyone in the world. Om shanti.

Jatin, 12 (Brahma Kumaris)

Lord, we pray for peace in the world, protecting those who suffer in wars, while protecting their families. We thank you for guiding them to safe places where they won't get hurt. Amen

Cedric (refugee in the UK)

There is power in forgiveness
If you fail to forgive
You contaminate every relationship in your life
Watch out!
Others can initiate events or behaviour
But it is you who choose how to react
Acknowledge history
Without being controlled by it
Be committed to resolve
Rather than perpetuate hatred
There is power in commitment to a peaceful world.

Sheila 12 (Zimbabwe)

When I have peace, I have love and happiness. I can spread thoughts of peace into the world. If I spread peace, then the world will be calm again. So I send peace to every place with war. Om shanti, I am a peaceful soul.

Prisha, 6 (Brahma Kumaris)

Lord make the world a better place. Make people more considerate towards others. Make people happier with themselves. Make people more faithful to you. We ask you to make the world a better place. We ask this with our love. Amen

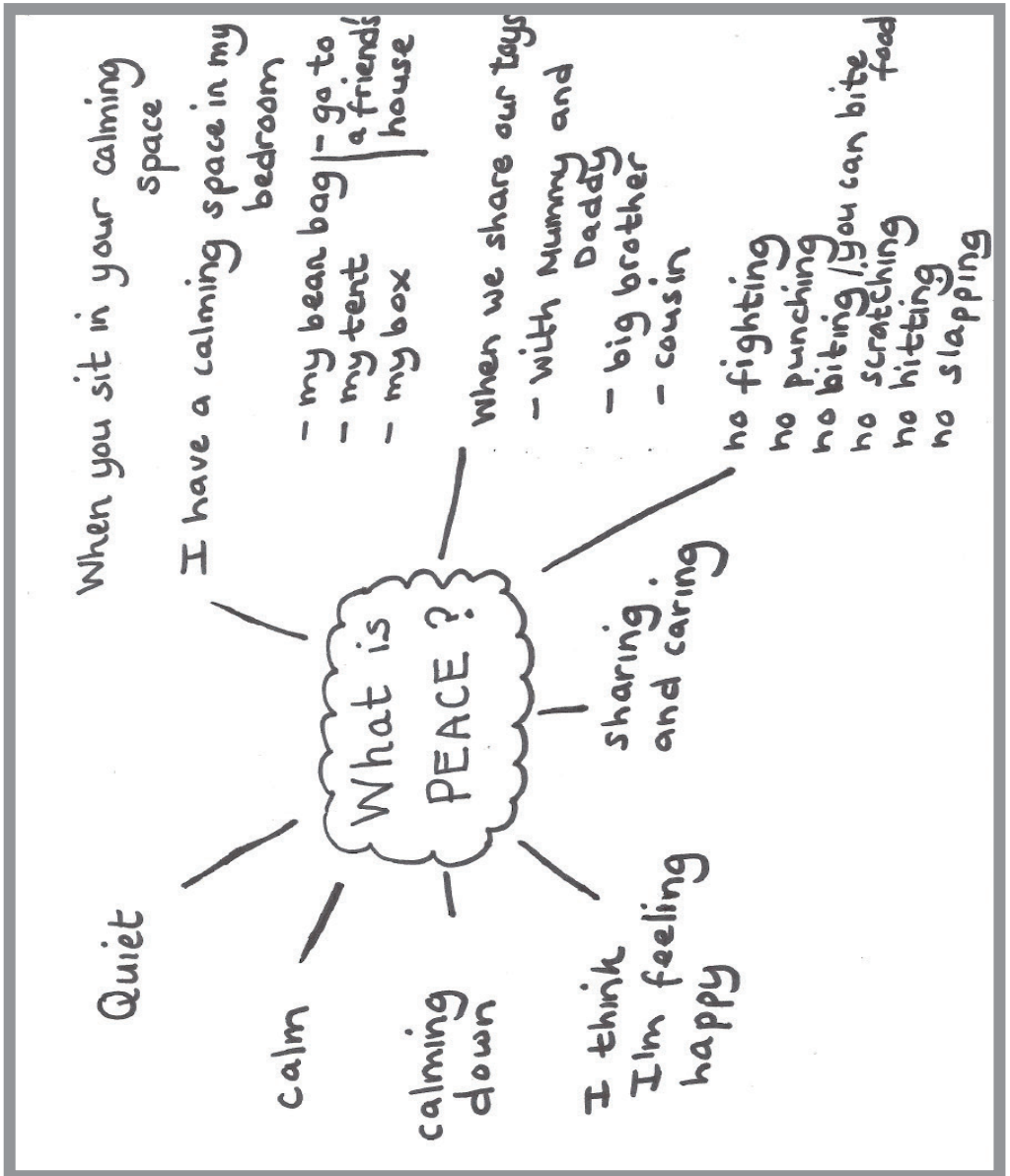
Dawson (UK)

Intense and unnecessary
nonsensical conflicts create unnecessary tension and divisions.
However, empowering, meaningful and uplifting reunions,
which bring reconciliation,
gather people and nations of various races, tribes and classes;
aspire to build, aspire to heal, aspire for teamwork and team effort,
integration over disintegration,
overwhelming and overshadowing all forms of negativity.

Stephen, 15 (Zimbabwe)

CHILDREN'S VOICES

Young children also discussed peace. Here is a summary of what a pre-school day nursery children in Bromley said:



For the 2024 WPWP Prayer Resource we would like to include further contributions from children and young people. If over the next few months you have something, please send to wpwp21@yahoo.com.

DAY 5—RECONCILIATION—*For strength to reconcile rather than seek revenge*

If you are patient in a moment of anger, you will escape one hundred days of sorrow.

Chinese Proverb

I would not look upon anger as something foreign to me that I have to fight...I have to deal with it, with my anger, with care, with love, with tenderness, with non-violence.

Thich Nhat Hanh, Vietnamese Buddhist monk

“I wonder how humanity managed to survive.”
Captain Kirk: “We overcame our instinct for violence.”

Star Trek

Men are at war with each other because each man is at war with himself War has its roots in human nature.

Francis Meehan

But I tell you who hear Me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you

Christian

One Race - the Human Race

Religions are different; the diversity of religious practice quite extraordinary. This leads to two common reactions: that only one religion is true or that all are really the same. Here the Guru offers another view, starting not from religion but from the One God in whom we find our commonality.

DAY 6—PEACEMAKERS—*For those who hold to their belief in peace with justice in often difficult situations*

Although the people living across the ocean are, I believe, all our brothers and sisters – why are there constant troubles in the world?

Shinto

Praying for my peace, which is your peace, our peace.

As we all know peace is not just the absence of war, for our peace is shattered by all kinds of violence physical and verbal:

a sharp word can make us feel insecure, an angry look may make us feel weak or worse still aggressive, all kinds of violence is war on the other.

One man by shaving his head hopes to become a holy monk.

Another sets up as a yogi or some other kind of ascetic.

Some call themselves Hindus:
others call themselves Muslims.

Among these there are the Shiah, there are the Sunnis also.

Yet human beings are of one race in all the world; God as Creator and God as Good, God in His Bounty and God in His Mercy, is all one God. Even in our errors, we should not separate God from God!

Worship the One God,
for all people the One Divine Teacher.

All people have the same form, all people have the same soul

Guru Gobind Singh, Sikh

Jains believe that violence in thought and speech is as bad as physical violence, so they try to control things like anger, greed, pride and jealousy.

Jain

You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven

Christianity

And this kind of war creates the division, a division of them and us.

And division of course is a major source of conflict internal and external.

This separation between the other and myself breeds the violence within me.

So I pray for the sake of myself, my own peace of mind, so that I myself am at peace, and offer that peace which is love and learn to love my neighbour as myself.

That is my prayer for my peace..your peace..our peace.

Jehangir Sarosh, Zoroastrian

History says 'Don't hope
On this side of the grave.'
But then once in a lifetime
the longed-for tidal wave
of justice can rise up,
and hope and history rhyme.

So hope for a great sea-change
on the far side of revenge.
Believe that a further shore
is reachable from here.
Believe in miracles
and cures and healing wells.

Rabbi Nico Sokolovsky—Jewish

O Great Spirit of our Ancestors, Give us the
wisdom to teach our children to love, respect, and
be kind to each other so that they may grow with
peace in mind. Let us learn to share all the good
things that you provide for us on this Earth.

A Native American Prayer for Peace

...When we stand together, we are strong enough
to fundamentally alter the existing socio-political

reality. ...Because where there is struggle there is
hope.

***www.standing-together.org Jewish & Palestinian
citizens of Israel in pursuit of peace, equality, and
social and climate justice***

O Allah, the Sustainer of Harmony and Justice,
we beseech You for peacemakers, virtuous and
just.

In times of hardship, they hold firm to their belief,
working tirelessly for peace, bringing solace and
relief.

Bless those who strive to bridge divides,
with compassion and understanding that resides.
Grant them wisdom, clarity, and fortitude,
to spread harmony, in every neighbourhood.

O Allah, shower them with Your boundless grace,
as they strive to create a harmonious space.
Protect them from harm, both seen and unseen,
and let their efforts flourish, fruitful and keen.
Ameen.

Islamic

DAY 7—CONSEQUENCES—*Remembering those impacted by all forms of violence*

Hiroshima Child

I come and stand at every door
but none can hear my silent tread.
I knock and yet remain unseen
for I am dead, for I am dead.

I'm only seven though I died
in Hiroshima long ago.
I'm seven now as I was then.
When children die they do not grow.

My hair was scorched by swirling flame,
my eyes grew dim, my eyes grew blind.
Death came and turned my bones to dust
and that was scattered by the wind.

I need no fruit, I need no rice,
I need no sweets nor even bread,
I ask for nothing for myself,
for I am dead, for I am dead

All that I need is that for peace
you fight today, you fight today,
so that the children of this world
can live and grow and laugh and play.

Nazim Hikmet, Turkish poet

We pray for lives lost, families torn apart, lost and
lonely, homeless, hungry, afraid.

We pray for factories destroyed in an instant, for
machinery shattered,
livelihoods ruined.

We pray for rescuers, finding survivors alongside
bodies, courageous,
undaunted, hopeful.

We pray for recovery in the years to come, for
restoration, generosity,
healing, closure.

John Birch, Welsh Methodist preacher

Victory creates hatred. Defeat creates suffering.
The wise ones desire neither victory nor
defeat...Anger creates anger...He who kills will be
killed. He who wins will be defeated...Revenge
can only be overcome by abandoning
revenge...The wise seek neither victory nor
defeat.

Words of The Buddha

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered and confidently waiting, come what may, we know that God is with us night and morning, and never fails to meet us each new day,

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Grant us the grace to see your image not just in those we know and like but in those across the barriers of our making. Forgive the prejudices that divide and exclude, and help us to reflect your outrageous love that reaches out to embrace enemies.

Coventry Cathedral

Peace cannot be delegated but begins with you

and me and the choices we make today.

Savitre MaCuish, The World Peace Flame Foundation

Lord, let us think about all who are suffering mentally and physically because of war. Let refugees feel settled in their new homes and places of living.

Help those suffering in Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, and other countries so that they have the power of freedom.

We ask this through Jesus's name.

Amen.

Luis, pupil at Cardinal Newman Catholic School where 65 % of pupils are refugees.

DAY 8—PERCEIVED ENEMIES—*Praying for those we perceive as enemies*

Forgive do I creatures all, and let all creatures forgive me. Unto all have I amity, and unto none enmity.

Jain

Where in the Qu'ran does it say you should love your enemies?

The central teaching of the Qu'ran is peace. It exhorts believers in numerous verses to make peace with one's enemies.

Kahif Shahzada, Muslim author

The principle of loving one's enemies is not a call to pacifism, nor does it ask us to conjure up warm feelings of affection for those who mistreat us.

One is not required to like his enemy. The love we are to express toward our enemies consists of acts of loving kindness which accord the enemy common dignity and recognise his basic humanity.

The instruction to love an enemy applies on a personal level of individual interaction. Our Master did not mean that nations and governments should appease aggressors with acts of loving kindness.

First Fruits of Zion Messianic Jewish

Everyone's breath is the same, there is no colour, no caste, no religion....If people can come to peace with themselves and find inner harmony, then that will translate into external harmony...not promoting a particular religious doctrine or philosophy, rather looking to promote the goodness of human nature to find it in

unconditional love.

Shayalpa Tenzin Ranpoche, Tibetan Buddhist Monk

Why should we pray for our enemies? Because Jesus did. He prayed for those who opposed Him, for those who devised evil against Him, and ultimately as He hung on the Cross, Jesus prayed for His Father to forgive all those who had a part in His death, because they did not know what they were doing. Jesus modelled unconditional love and how we should pray for our enemies, then commanded us to do the same.

Crosswalk.com

Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'

Christianity

Cover us with the shelter of Your peace. May we have the courage to denounce violence and destructiveness, and may we become partners in building that shelter of peace

Judaism

God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes we don't know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who have wronged us. We laze about in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment of faith. We care for ourselves but not for others. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us, help us to repent and make us whole. Amen

Beth Merrill Neel, Presbyterian Minister, USA

ORDER FORM - Week of Prayer For World Peace Leaflet 2023/2024

This year the Committee has decided to distribute the Prayer Resource free. We wish to encourage as many people as possible to pray for peace in our troubled world. If you would like more copies to share, please either complete the form below OR email wpwp21@yahoo.com or go the website weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Please send me _____ copies of the WPWP 2023 Prayer Resource and _____ copies of the Young People's Activity leaflet

Please return to WPWP c/o 112 Whittlesey Rd, March, PE15 0AH

Wilson/Hinkes Annual Peace Award

This Award recognises significant contributions by individuals, organisations or projects in furthering peace, justice and reconciliation.

The Award focuses on grassroots initiatives. It enables otherwise often untold stories to reach a wider audience. By being recognised, the Award hopes to inspire others to see what ordinary people can do to bring peace, justice and reconciliation where they are. It is open to all, irrespective of nationality, ethnicity or faith.

The Award is made annually in memory of two former Chairs of WPWP, The Revd. Gordon Wilson and The Revd. Sidney Hinkes.

Past recipients include those working with refugees, involved in peace education, reducing tensions in communities, and direct work in conflict/post conflict areas.

If you know someone or an organisation that should be recognised, please email wpwp21@yahoo.com. The Committee is now gathering nominations for the 2024 Award.

We invite you to tell us how you have used this leaflet. Thank you!

Supporting Organisations Include:

Alignment: Interfaith Contemplative Practices
Al Khoei Foundation
Anglican Pacifist Fellowship
Animal Interfaith Alliance
Brahma Kumaris,
Buddhist Society
Catholic Diocese of Westminster Interfaith Committee
Christian CND
Community of Christ
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Gandhi Foundation
Hindu Council UK
Iona Community

Methodist Peace Fellowship
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the UK
Nipponzan Myohoji
Northern Friends Peace Board
One World Week
Pax Christi
Quaker Peace and Social Witness
Rumi Mosque
Sikh Divine Fellowship
Uniting For Peace
World Peace Flame Foundation
Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

Bahá'í



Brahma
Kumari



Buddhist



Christian



Hindu



Islam



Jewish



Sikh



Zoroastrian



New Resource for 2023-24

This year the Week of Prayer for World Peace is collaborating with the Iona Community and Alignment: Interfaith Contemplative Practices to offer a digital experience for the Week of Prayer to be used by individuals and faith communities around the world.

Leaders from eight different religious and spiritual traditions each offer a five-minute prayer, one for each day of the week, following the theme of this year's WPWP: *Praying with Hope in a Troubled World*.

This year's offerings come from the following communities:

Bahá'í	Jewish
Buddhist	Pagan/Wiccan
Greek Orthodox Christian	Sikh
Hindu	Zoroastrian
Indigenous Communities	

This QR code will lead you to the website where the prayers will open, one each day of the week. Once a prayer opens, it will remain open to be revisited through the year. They can also be found by visiting www.interfaithalignment.org/wpwp



Contact www.interfaithalignment.org/contact for an embedded code to put the digital prayers directly on your community's/organisation's website.

The intention of this collaboration is to encourage those seeking peace for all of humanity to expand our own practices of prayer by embracing the prayers of other traditions:

- to nurture understanding, empathy, and harmony among diverse faith communities
- to raise awareness of the practices and teachings of other traditions

We hope:

- To demonstrate that a commitment to world peace must embrace all peoples and include the traditions, prayers, and hopes of all peoples.
- To expand our awareness and knowledge of other traditions and provide the opportunity to pray with those from other religious and spiritual traditions.

WPWP is always looking for prayers on peace topics from those of faith communities and those of none. If you have prayers/poems/quotations, please do contact us.

Email contributions to: wpwp2021@yahoo.com