

Final Report September 21st: The International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace has come and gone and what an exciting day it was. The United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) set out to make this day an unforgettable one and we are pleased to announce we achieved our goal.

At present the advocacy team at UNOY Peacebuilders, in cooperation with Plan Netherlands, is working on an exciting campaign against Violence Against Children and Youth (VACY). UNOY Peacebuilders is joining hands with members from three different regions, Africa, Asia and Latin America, to campaign and advocate the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Secretary-General's Study on violence against children and youth. Together we will work to stand against violence of children and youth. The chosen action partners for the VACY project



Children campaign, Palestine

include Youth and Life from Cameroon, Peacelinks from Sierra Leone, Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute from the Philippines, International Palestinian Youth League from Palestine, and Dinamismo Juvenile A.C. from Mexico. The campaign aims to raise awareness on domestic violence, sexual violence and gang violence of which children and youth are often victims.

Worldwide, youth are in need for improved justice support, protection and registration of violence in the community and at home. Violence should never stay hidden and through numerous initiatives such as sport events, parades and film festivals, youth seek to draw attention to the violence that they are often victims of and hence promote better education and prevention programs in dealing with violence.

UNOY Peacebuilders thought Friday 21 September to be the ideal date for introducing the campaign to the public. Together with Youth Service Initiative (YSI) and No Kidding, we organised an event in honour of this one day of peace and non-violence. Our goal was to raise awareness about child-related violence and to give children the freedom to make their voices heard. To achieve this, a small wall was erected



Children giving peace a hand, Netherlands

at Malieveld in The Hague, on which kids were welcomed to get creative. The wall proved to be a huge success, with close to one hundred children leaving behind a symbolic handprint to give peace a helping hand. Our initial target group was between the ages of 12 and 20, however we



Signing petition, Netherlands

managed to reach a far broader age group, ranging from as young as 3 to 65! Youth and parents were informed about the problem of violence against children and youth in their communities and at home. Furthermore 131 signatures were collected in support of the campaign. The passers by received a “business card” containing the necessary information of support networks they could contact should they or a friend ever become a victim of violence.

All in all it was a day worth remembering. Our event drew over 300 people, young and old, making our goal to raise awareness that much more successful. Plenty of photos were taken of the event, so feel free to have a look on our website www.unoy.org.

Peaceful greetings,

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders



We wish to thanks for their support:

