

IMAGINE A CULTURE OF PEACE! IMPRESSIONS OF YOUTH



The Peace Alliance
FOUNDATION
Revealing and Fostering a Culture of Peace

THE PEACE ALLIANCE FOUNDATION INVITES YOUNG PEOPLE, AGES 5 TO 25, FROM AROUND THE WORLD

to help begin a community dialogue, from local to global, to imagine what “peace” and “a culture of peace” can be. We invite you to frame your impressions within a concrete context by:

1. Selecting a specific incident or situation of violence or conflict in your family, school, community, state, nation, or the world; and then
2. Describing and/or illustrating (a) the root causes of that incident or situation, *and* (b) a positive vision of how it might be resolved, or have been avoided to begin with, in a culture of peace.

In 1971, John Lennon invited the world to

***IMAGINE ALL THE PEOPLE
LIVING LIFE IN PEACE...***

Yes, *imagine*. What would it be like to be “living life in peace”? Everyday life, that is, in the schools, families, streets, and playgrounds of your town – as well as in the world of nations at large. What would that be like?

The Peace Alliance Foundation is dedicated to revealing and fostering a culture of peace and a world in which non-violence is an organizing principle of society.

But what does that mean? What is a “culture of peace”?

One definition, given by the United Nations, says a culture of peace is “a set of values, attitudes, modes of behavior, and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups, and nations”.

But what do you think?

EXPRESS YOUR IMPRESSIONS ARTISTICALLY

You may choose the form to use in describing the incident or situation you select, for example:

- Letter to a parent, friend, government official, or newspaper
- Letter to your future self from the present, or to your present self from the future
- Essay, poem, drama script, song, or short story
- Painting, collage, photo journal, sculpture, or animation.

Imagination and creativity are encouraged in both form and content, and English is not required.

Collaborative projects are also encouraged, though not required. For example, you may team up in the same classroom or community center or with others anywhere else in the world via the Internet.

Digital photographs may be submitted of works that cannot otherwise be transmitted over the Internet.

SEEDS FOR DIALOGUE

We will post your artistic contributions on our website.

Our intention is for your *Impressions of Youth* to catalyze community, national, and global dialogues on the meaning of peace and a culture of peace.

Therefore, we will also provide forum space on the website for people to share reactions, insights, and thoughts on the postings. We will also encourage related conversations in living rooms, classrooms, churches, and community centers everywhere.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about *Imagine a Culture of Peace: Impressions of Youth*, acceptance criteria and requirements, how to submit contributions (including an entry/release form), and suggested research resources are available for viewing and downloading at our website (<http://www.peacealliancefound.org/imagine>). You may also email with questions to imagine@peacealliancefound.org, or mail or phone to the address and number below.