

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF PEACEBUILDING

2022 REPORT



During 2022, the Department of Peacebuilding Campaign focused on advancing legislation to establish a cabinet-level Department of Peacebuilding (DoP/ HR 1111) and other peace-related initiatives and on embodying a culture of peace. We celebrated the 11th year of the existence of the National DoP Committee, which has met monthly or more since its inception to keep the Campaign for a DoP alive and advancing. We work within the Peace Alliance’s vision and mission and further guide our Campaign work within it as follows:

- **The DoP vision** is a nation and a world in which all life is honored as sacred, all beings are respected, and all people are skilled in peacebuilding and self-governance.
- The **mission of the DoP Committee** is to inspire, empower, and advocate with elected officials, organizations, and individuals to, in turn, advocate for and to pass legislation that will create and sustain the intended cabinet-level Department of Peacebuilding. This department will contribute toward expanding the culture of peace.

ADVOCACY FOR A DEPARTMENT OF PEACEBUILDING

- **Celebrated cyclical events**, including Season for Nonviolence, Mother’s Day “Peace Wants a Piece of the Pie” Action, Fall International Day of Peace/ Advocacy Days and Holidays 4 Peace through advocacy, announcements and education
- Made **hundreds of connections with members of Congress to cosponsor the Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2021**, including Zoom and hybrid Zoom/ in-person meetings with Congressional offices, monthly “11 Minutes/ 11 Calls for HR 1111,” emails and in-District personal requests and hand-delivered thank you holiday cards to all DoP 2021 cosponsors in their DC offices
- Worked with the office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee on **language and introduction of the DoP Act of 2023**
- Made **hundreds of contacts with members of Congress to sign on as original or early cosponsors of the DoP Act of 2023**

ADVOCACY FOR “CONDITIONS OF PEACE” ISSUES

- Sent **e-blasts connecting a Department of Peacebuilding to many “conditions of peace” issues** including: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and voting rights; Season for Nonviolence; Black History Month and the African American History Act; a Truth, Healing and Transformation Commission; a Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans; domestic violence and the Violence Against Women Act; Women’s History Month/ International Women’s Day/ supporting

the Equal Rights Amendment; peace is a human right; making war and nuclear weapons obsolete; Earth Day and working for earth peace; Mother's Day; establishing a truth and healing commission on Indian boarding school policies; gun violence prevention; teacher appreciation; celebrating interdependence; remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki; International Day of Peace/ ending racism; Gandhi's birthday and his gift of nonviolence; building a nation at peace with itself; reclaiming Armistice Day (11/11); and celebrating Holidays 4 Peace

CONNECTIONS/ DOMESTIC

- **Connected with many organizations**, including Chicago Peace Action, National Peace Academy, National Organization for Women (N.O.W.), Partners for Peace (CO), Pathways to Peace, PeaceNow, Peace Pentagon, Peace through Unity, Rotary EClub of World Peace, San Diego Youth Peacebuilders, The King Center and World Peace Now Club (Pomona, CA)
- **Added numerous organizations and individuals to the DoP endorser list**, including BIKEALOT (Austin, TX), Center for Building a Culture of Empathy, Florida Peace and Justice Alliance, Hip Hop Caucus, Hip Hop 4 Peace, James Baraz, Edwin Rutsch, Rivera Sun and many others

CONNECTIONS/ INTERNATIONAL

Three DoP Committee Members serve on the Board of Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace (GAMIP) and/or the GAMIP UN Committee and participated in GAMIP actions.

- **Membership** has grown over the past year, adding more countries now represented and a new chapter in India
- **Colombian Summit Conference** was organized in October 2022, combining in-person and on-line attendance for both Spanish and English speakers and co-hosted by a public University. A peace film festival was also held. Following the Summit, a committee with GAMIP representatives and Colombia Congress members has started work towards the creation of [Ministry of Peace in Colombia](#).
- **Coming Conferences** include: 1) November 2023 - GAMIP is co-organizing a 2-day conference with Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in Florida; 2) 2024 - Nigeria will host a GAMIP Summit Conference; and 3) 2026 - Possible GAMIP Summit Conference in the U.S.

COMMUNICATION & RESOURCES

- **Published articles**, including: six in Many to Many/ Peace Through Unity UN NGO **by Anne Creter** (*UN International Day of Multilateralism & Diplomacy for Peace, A Local I4P in Small Town USA, GAMIP's Infrastructures for Peace UN Resolution Initiative, 2022 UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace, A KOSMOS Quarterly Essay: Blessed Community with a Cause and 2022 Reflection: A Crack of Light & the Promise of a New Day*); *Violence is Preventive* by **Betty Cooper** in The News Tribune (Jefferson City, MO); and *U.S. Department of Peacebuilding? Blessed Community with a Cause* by **DJ Chandler and Laura Brown** in KOSMOS Journal
- **Created tools and resources** relating to advocacy for a DoP including an Advocacy 101 Toolkit for online self-training; a Social Media Toolkit to advocate across social media platforms with 250- 300 separate social media graphics and digital pieces; and a digital library with documents, e-books, films, audio files and publications

- Completed and updated ***Operations Handbook***, which defines and details the strategic and operational framework of the Peace Alliance National Department of Peacebuilding Committee.
- Supported ***Imagining a United States Dept of Peacebuilding: Peacebuilders Series***, a YouTube series of short videos that highlight the current work of peacebuilders nationwide - <https://www.youtube.com/@peacebuildersseries>

PROGRAMS & TRAININGS

- Held **monthly DoP Campaign** calls, including calls focusing on peacebuilding and advocacy actions, gratitude and volunteer appreciation.
- Held **monthly DoP Campaign Strategy Group calls**, breaking down into working Committee that also met monthly or periodically for 1) Advocacy; 2) Communications/ Resources/ Social Media; 3) Grassroots; and 4) Organizational Outreach
- Held a special showing and **interview with Congresswoman Barbara Lee on the documentary about her life, “Speaking Truth to Power”** in collaboration with Partners for Peace (CO)
- **Coordinated Hip Hop 4 Peace presentations relating to DoP and gun violence prevention** with Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA) and Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA)
- Presented **monthly DoP updates on Peace Alliance Peacebuilder podcasts**
- Conducted **advocacy training** for Pathways to Peace and other trainings relating to “Mother’s Day Pie” advocacy and Fall 2022 Advocacy Days
- Held a **fundraising and educational event with author Rivera Sun**, discussing her nonviolent fiction series beginning with *The Way Between*
- Held **two Nonviolent Communication Trainings** related to connection across differences
- Hosted a **DoP segment in the Peace Alliance’s Peace to the Polls event**
- Participated in **San Diego, CA Youth Peacebuilder Peace Conference**

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- **Presentations included:** Ahimsa Conversations Call (India), European Chapter of Global Alliance for Ministries & Infrastructures for Peace Conference, Peace through Unity, Rotary EClub of World Peace, San Diego Youth Peacebuilder Peace Conference, United Lutheran Church (Oakland, CA), UU Forum on Conscience Building (Jefferson City, MO) and World Peace Now Club (Pomona, CA)

GOING FORWARD

In 2023, the DoP Campaign will continue seeking cosponsors of the DoP Act of 2023 and working in other ways to advance DoP 2023 and a culture of peace.

Peace is every step.
-Thich Nhat Hahn