

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]

International Day of Peace

September 21st

THIS YEAR the International Day of Peace, which is marked each year on 21 September, falls on a Friday. Islamic centres and mosques across the UK and overseas will be leading their local communities in marking the day. They will invite visitors to join them during or after Friday Prayers (Salaatul-Jumu'a) to exchange messages of peace, to celebrate local peace-building activities and to enjoy the hospitality offered.

Local schools, churches, synagogues, temples, gurdwaras and community organisations will be invited to observe the day by accepting these invitations.

Some Islamic centres in the UK are pairing up with a nearby church, religious community or school and linking their observance of the International Day of Peace to similar pairs overseas.

The following Muslim centres and organisations will be coordinating other centres in marking the International Day of Peace this year. They invite you to join and to participate by inviting visitors (or by accepting invitations) to mark the occasion at your local mosque or Islamic centre. Please register with one of the groups below or with the contacts overleaf.

Sayed Yousif Al-Khoei, OBE, Al-Khoei Foundation
www.al-khoei.org

Dilowar Khan, East London Mosque and London Muslim Centre
www.eastlondonmosque.org.uk

Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
www.oic-oci.org

Dr Mustafa Cerić, Grand Mufti of Bosnia-Herzegovina
[www.GrandMuftiMustafaCericFoundation](http://www.GrandMuftiMustafaCericFoundation.org)

Maulana Sarfraz Madni, Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board
www.minab.org.uk

Farooq Murad, Muslim Council of Britain
www.mcb.org.uk

Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi, Majlis-e-Ulama Europe
www.majliseulama.org

Anas Altikriti, The Cordoba Foundation
www.thecordobafoundation.com

Dr Ahmad Al-Dubayan, The London Central Mosque & The Islamic Cultural Centre
www.iccuk.org



Messages of Peace from Religious Traditions

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]

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]

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]

JAINISM

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

[MAHAVIRA]

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]

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 Islamic Centre, and for supporting materials and further information, please contact:

C. Robertson | London Peace Network |
e: convener@lbfm.org | m: 07903 682142

A. Faliq | The Cordoba Foundation |
e: abdullah@thecordobafoundation.com | t: 020 8991 3370

S. A. Razawi | Majlis-e-Ulama Europe |
e: sayed.a.r@hotmail.co.uk | m: 07894 277658

J. Bond | Christian Muslim Forum |
e: info@christianmuslimforum.org | t: 0207 729 6830

Further Information

1. The London Peace Network is a broad coalition of organisations promoting peace-building and the Olympic Truce during 2012. 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. In October 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution urging the nations of the world to observe the Olympic Truce during the Olympic and Paralympic Games in London. This was the first resolution in the history of the United Nations co-sponsored by all 193 Member States. www.olympictruce.org
4. Peace One Day is working towards a day of ceasefire and non-violence on 21st September - the Global Truce 2012 campaign. www.peaceoneday.org