

Global Peace Services USA

...an idea whose time has come

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Peace Power 2000: A Powerful Success!

by Clara Doyle

Peace Power 2000 was held at *Centro Maria* in Washington, D.C. in June. This pilot program was presented by Global Peace Services USA to train peacemakers for the 21st century. 28 participants from 14 states and the District of Columbia came for all or part of the time. It was an overwhelmingly positive experience.

The first week we explored human nature, human rights, the use of power, and the clarification of values, while reflecting on past nonviolent movements in India, South Africa, and in our own South.

To have a peaceful world, one must first be able to "see" a world at peace. So, during the second week we divided into teams and "imaged" a world without violence, stepping back in regular time intervals to determine the changes necessary to realize this peaceful world.

The third module focused on the various facets of conflict and approaches to conflict management and transformation, along with an in-depth look at the current situation in Northern Ireland.

The final week concentrated on two more case studies of violence: the 1994 Rwanda genocide and the civil war in El Salvador during the 1980's, and explored the

relationship of peace service to UNESCO's Decade for a Culture of Peace. We also examined the various roles of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in peacemaking.

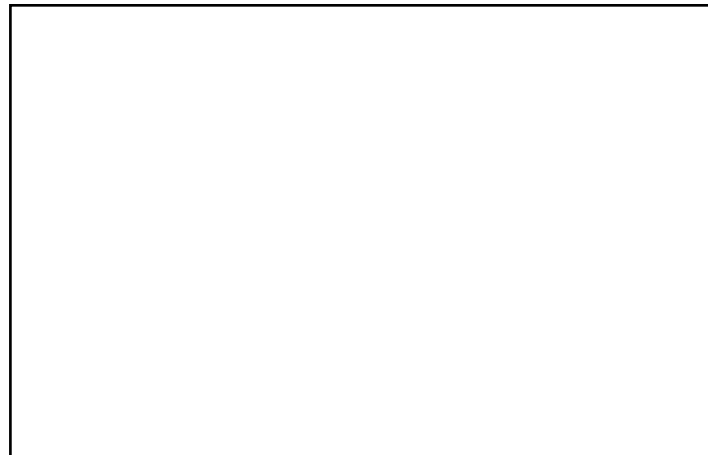
Throughout the four weeks the valuable guest speakers, the well-chosen videos, the pertinent readings, and the significant field trips addressed the many forms of violence in

today's world, and often pointed toward solutions. Who can forget the American Friends Service Committee's Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP); the discussion of his Department of Peace proposal with Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH); or listening to Gene

Hoffman tell us about her *Compassionate Listening?* There were so many more such memorable moments.

The success of *Peace Power 2000* is the result of two factors, I think: first, the wisdom of the GPS board members and the thoughtful decisions made during the year-long planning, and second, the wonderful people who took a chance and came with the desire to be better peacemakers.

Clara Doyle served as the registrar for Peace Power 2000 and has become a board member of Global Peace Services USA.



Peace Power was an opportunity for inter-generational learning with participants (l. to r.) Rachel Napolitano, Paul Smith and Sr. Betty Obal.

Lessons Learned from Cross-Cultural Experience

by Aura Martinez

During the month of June, I participated in Peace Power 2000 as part of completing the Master's in Religious Education at Loyola University in Chicago. This was the first time I had participated in a well-balanced educational and training experience in peace service.

Peace Power 2000 gave me the opportunity to encounter participants from across the U.S. and to connect my own Hispanic culture with cultures around the world. I had the opportunity to see myself as a peacemaker as we studied cases about the Rwanda genocide, Israelis' and Palestinians' visions, Northern Ireland, El Salvador and many others. Peace Power 2000 made me think about my own values and question myself on what peace means for me and how I value nonviolence as a basic dimension for real peace. Peace Power 2000 participants had the unique opportunity and privilege to practice peace service as we studied together, with highly competent professors. Major attention was given to Congressman Dennis Kucinich's proposal about the Department of Peace legislation. What a thrill to exchange ideas and share a common vision with Kucinich in his office!

As participants, we practiced peace service as we worked in teams using the imaging process to build peace in our communities. We practiced peace service as we shared personal stories and experiences and as we respected others' ideas and points of view. We practiced peace as we meditated, prayed, and found our sacred space. Peace Power 2000 continues to be very meaningful for me as a coordinator of Religious Education in Chicago's inner city. I minister with peace service in mind and heart. As a Puerto Rican I feel I'm more committed to advocating nuclear disarmament in Vieques and in any part of the world. I hope we will continue to have Peace Power 2001, 2002...

Aura Martinez participated in Peace Power 2000. She works as a Director of Religious Education at a Catholic parish in Chicago.

Alternatives to Military Interventions

by Bob Horne

Since my year in Vietnam, my heart has burned with the paramount issues of our time: American foreign policy, the overextended military and the need for peaceful alternatives to military conflict. During my years of peace activism, there appeared to be no effective way to get a handle on the issue of non-military solutions to conflict.

Since the bombing in Yugoslavia -- through the Internet and Peace Power 2000 -- I have become excited about three things: 1) Global Peace Services USA, 2) the proposal for an International Peace Force initiated by David Hartsough and Mel Duncan, and 3) the proposal by Congressman Dennis Kucinich for the creation of a cabinet level Department of Peace in the U.S. government.

It is imperative that all the small, scattered efforts toward conflict resolution merge into a powerful movement -- one that would create a seismic shift in this country and throughout the world, collaborating with many others toward the acceptance of nonviolent alternatives to military solutions and toward making war obsolete.

Bob Horne participated in Peace Power 2000. He is a retired Army chaplain and lives in Atlanta.

The newsletter of Global Peace Services USA is published quarterly. GPS-USA is incorporated in the District of Columbia and is tax-exempt. Current Board members are: Clara Doyle, John Eriksson, Mary Evelyn Jegen, Bill Price, Mindy Reiser, Tricia Sullivan and Harry Yeide. We welcome contributions and comments. To contact us:

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Congressman Kucinich Works to Make U.S. Department of Peace a Reality

by Rachel Napolitano

On June 26th, fourteen Peace Power 2000 participants were surprised by Representative Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) at his Washington office and presented him with some principles of Global Peace Services USA. As a spokesperson for our group and participant for all four weeks, I had the opportunity to experience the democratic process.

In the first week, we analyzed Rep. Kucinich's proposal to the U.S. Congress for a Department of Peace. We heard him speak that week at the World Bank at "A Conversation: 'Sustaining Cultures of Peace,'" sponsored by the Brahma Kumaris University and World Federalist Association. His enthusiasm for demilitarization and the spiritual elements of peace were inspiring. We sent him a letter that week asking for a meeting with the Congressman or an aide. We followed up with a phone call and secured our meeting with Souheila Al-Jadda, his legislative aide.

In the fourth module, Tricia Sullivan drew from her lobbying experience to organize us for a presentation. We planned four talking points after a fruitful brainstorming session. The talking points defined what our goals were. They also were tools we could use to maintain some control of the conversation. Our four points were: 1) incorporating the principle of active nonviolence into the department, 2) the notion of peace service programs, 3) transparency and accountability within the department, and 4) the importance of adequate funding. We met in the Longworth building hallway with Souheila and she was listening attentively when Kucinich appeared in our small circle. This event startled Mary Evelyn Jegen, who was standing right next to him. Our short trip to see Souheila turned into a meeting with Kucinich in his office with his undivided

attention. He waved off staff and calls to casually sit with us, listen, question, and take notes. His demeanor seemed to radiate a sense of what it really means to be a public servant. In his office, we noticed Lincoln's portrait and a statue of Gandhi. Kucinich had just come from Cleveland where he was meeting with peace-minded constituents for feedback on his proposal, and he wanted our feedback, too, even though we were not constituents.

He implores everyone in the peace movement to check out the proposal on the web at www.house.gov/kucinich, and to e-mail responses to kucinich@mail.house.gov. He will post all suggestions, including GPS's on his web site. He also encourages us to tell our senators and representatives about the proposal when it is finalized. Overall, GPS made a giant inroad by networking with this extremely responsive representative and planting the seeds of nonviolent peace service in his mind.

Rachel Napolitano participated in Peace Power 2000. She is a communications major and peace studies minor at Xavier University in Cincinnati.



Peace Power participants visit the office of Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) to offer support for his Department of Peace legislation.

Peace Power 2000: Weaving it all Together

by Tricia Sullivan

Peace Power 2000 was conceived of and developed as a pilot project by the board of Global Peace Services.

Peace Power proved to be the first step in testing components of a peace service curriculum. The board is now reflecting on the lessons learned and will next encourage organizations and educational institutions to sponsor other peace service educational experiences.

One of the core goals for Peace Power 2000 was to share more broadly the concept of "peace service." Peace Service is distinctively characterized by rigorous, academic training *and* active application of that training in situations of conflict and violence.

Another of the goals for Peace Power 2000 was to give participants an experience of being part of a "community of learners." Creating an atmosphere where the roles of teachers and students were taken up by various individuals at different times was one of the important ways to establish such a community.

The four weeks built upon one another. The first week laid a foundation of core ideas in the peace services concept. The second week was then devoted to

developing foundational skills for peace services. The third week focused on case studies in conflict. The final week explored the concept of development as it relates to peace and developing a culture of peace as an alternative to the culture of violence.

If you would like to become involved in taking parts of the Peace Power curriculum to different sites around the U.S., please contact us at (202)216-9886 or tsullivan@igc.org.

Tricia Sullivan served as the "Weaver" for Peace Power 2000. She lives in Western Washington and serves on the board of Global Peace Services USA.

Become involved. Consider:

- Asking for GPS-USA brochures to distribute in your community
- Sending us names and addresses of people who may be interested in GPS
- Visiting our web site at www.GlobalPeaceServices.org

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