

KALEIDOSCOPE

Peace Projects by Humanitarian Affairs Peace Ambassadors of 2018

FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said “ To leave the world a bit better...to know that one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.” To all 2018 Peace Ambassadors, all the efforts that you have engaged in the past year has benefitted society and brought smiles to faces. The projects are truly diverse in terms of the communities that it benefits as well as the cause that it serves. Carry on the good work that you have started. In the Humanitarian Affairs family, we believe in leveraging on all the resources that we is available to us as well as the friendships that have been forged during the peace conference. These projects are just five of the many projects that are being undertaken to promote peace and harmony around the world. To all future peace ambassadors, we look forward to welcoming you to the Humanitarian Affairs family and await the heartwarming and fulfilling projects that you will engage in.

Macquarie University

By Roanne Gonzales

Since her journey as a Humanitarian Affairs Peace Ambassador, Roanne Gonzales has led a team of youth as the President of Enactus Macquarie to develop social enterprises across Australia. After the Peace Summit, she and her team continued their hard work on an expanding an existing project of developing a mental health project on campus as well as working with a group of 25 women from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds to generate income through markets and catering opportunities..



"The women we work with have continued to develop their confidence and exposure to the Australian community."

Today, the project has been expanded beyond the Macquarie Campus to the University of Western Sydney and the women we work with have continued to develop their confidence and exposure to the Australian community. In line with the summit's message of education, one of the newest peace projects Enactus has been developing is the Gen-RED project. The aim of the Gen - RED is to tackle the educational disadvantage in rural Australia. Over the past few months, Roanne and her team have been working with partners in Moree as well as educational providers to pilot this new system that will be recognized by the Australian Government.

PROJECTS FEATURED

Macquarie
University

Griffith
University

University of
Alberta

La Trobe
University

University of
Johannesburg

Griffith University

By Kimberley Bates

After attending the Peace Summit of Emerging Leaders 2018, Kimberley came to two profound realisations; firstly, that to Kimberley, peace is a state of inner harmony through mental wellbeing and secondly, that peace means something different to each and every person.

With her avid research skills, Kimberley began to collect definitions of peace from across the world including China, Hong Kong, India, America and Australia (to name a few) and founded The 100 Peace Project as a platform to share different perspectives of peace by sharing how people and organisations contribute to peace in their own unique way. Across three channels; Faces, Places, and Artforms, "Everyone has the capacity to contribute to peace building." This important message needs to be shared across the world so that each individual feels empowered to find their own way for peace.



"Everyone has the capacity to contribute to peace building."

University of Alberta

By William Shultz

In his pursuits of peace, William Shultz volunteers with at-risk youth through a series of summer camps in the Rocky mountains. To William, peace begins at the individual level. Inspired by the peace summit speakers Rahila Haidary as well as Hyppolite Ntigurirwa and the impact that they have had on their communities as well as his experience working with prison inmates, he believed that he could make a greater difference in the world by working with at-risk youth. While working in prisons, William realised that the inmates came from highly disadvantaged backgrounds and by the time they have gone to jail, the obstacles to finding a better path were extremely high. Thus, he chooses to work with at-risk youth and sets examples for these youth who lack positive role models in their lives. In his time with them, he engages in many impactful conversation with them from conflict resolution to bullying and the importance of respecting other's humanity. He has mentored individuals and has connected with them on a personal level to make a difference in their lives.



"I strongly believe that peace begins with individuals. People who hurt others are often hurting themselves"



La Trobe University

By Bronte Slinger, Hammad Shahin, Matthew Thomas, Melissa Peart, Rahma Jama and Stephanie Hilton

On Thursday the 15th of August, La Trobe University students and current Peace Ambassadors Bronte Slinger, Hammad Shahin, Matthew Thomas, Melissa Peart, Rahma Jama and Stephanie Hilton, ran a Leadership Insights event for other students on the theme of "Contemporary Challenges to Peace in Australia". The event delved into complex perspectives to conceptualise peace, with gender, race, ecology and culture being a significant theme to build towards a humanised way of looking at peace building. In addition, the students organised a Peace Tree Planting Event on the week of International Day of Peace at La Trobe University campus grounds in partnership with representatives of First Nations people, the Wurundjeri-willam of the Kulin Nation, and will foster a celebration and reflection of all aspects of peace building between the La Trobe University community, First Nations people and the broader community.



"(the event was) a valuable opportunity to discuss the multifaceted nature of peace building within the Australian context, as well as the broader international community."



"conflict happens when people don't listen or understand in terms of how they look at people who are different from them"

University of Johannesburg

By Dr Danielle Nel

Dr Danielle Nel is a lecturer at the University of Johannesburg and the peace summit helped her realize the powerful role that educators can play in the peace building role in their societies. The summit has inspired her to approach teaching her two modules in the Public Management and Governance Bachelor of Arts Program from a different perspective. She focuses on teaching students about mediation and inclusiveness through dialogues and relationship building. Such practices are instrumental to peace.

She also is a guest speaker in primary schools and focuses on inspiring people to turn personal hardships into advocacy. She focuses on victims of abuse, with a focus on women. Moreover, she emphasizes the role of education in overcoming conflict and building peace. She also is a voluntary consultant for a community organization: Take a girl child to varsity where she mentors young girls.

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Humanitarian Affairs Asia

