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Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina through its Mission to UN in New York

DISTINCTIVE ASPECTS OF EDUCATION FOR PEACE

Education for Peace (EFP) is an innovative and integrative “whole school” program that creates violence-free and peaceful school environments conducive to meeting the emotional, social, and intellectual needs of diverse school populations. Through creating peaceful school environments characterized by *unity in diversity*, EFP harnesses the freeing and healing properties of unity to meet the manifold needs of increasingly diverse populations in different cultural settings. EFP engages students, teachers, parents, and school staff in a cooperative effort to create a violence-free, peaceful school community. The emphasis on peace is based on the fact that peace and education are inseparable aspects of civilization. No civilization is truly progressive without education, and no education system is truly civilizing unless it is based on the universal principles of peace.

PEACE EDUCATION AND EDUCATION FOR PEACE

Peace Education (PE) is a discipline that focuses on teaching students such concepts as human rights, freedom, democracy, and environmental protection, as well as informing them about the negative consequences of conflict and violence.

Peace-Based Education focuses on helping students, teachers, staff, and parents to become peacemakers by developing inner, interpersonal, and intergroup peace. This is accomplished by emphasis on the acquisition of unity-based worldviews founded on universal principles of peace, as a framework for teaching all subjects of study.

EFP PRINCIPLES

Education for Peace (EFP) is based on the following universal principles of peace:

- Oneness of humanity is expressed in diversity;
- Our greatest opportunity is to safeguard our oneness and protect our diversity; and
- Our greatest challenge is to accomplish this task through educating every new generation of children according to the principles of peace-based education.

EFP OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the EFP Program are to create in the schools a:

- Culture of Peace: violence-free & bullying-free school community;
- Culture of Healing: from the negative effects of violence; and
- Culture of Excellence: academic, behavioral, ethical, and relational.

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Creating Bullying-Free Schools

Every day, in many schools around the globe large numbers of children experience vicious acts of bullying and violence. Often some of these young people kill themselves when continuous bullying makes living too difficult for them to endure. Unfortunately, these individuals are neither the first nor the last innocent victims of this malignant practice.

These acts of violence take place in disadvantaged societies and in those communities with high levels of economic, human, and natural resources. Many schools with enough resources, very educated teachers, experienced administrators, and highly concerned and involved parents report episodes of bullying and violence. It is alarming that in 2012 we still have many schools that are unsafe, burdened with conflict, with enough bullies to have many innocent victims. We must correct this situation & we can do it.

Bullying is not only a sign of fear, cowardice, self-doubt, and self-hate. It is also a product of ignorance about what makes us human. As parents and teachers begin to teach children and youth about their humanness, bullying will become as rare and unacceptable as other inhumane practices such as slavery and fascism. The hallmark of humanness is the capacity to create peace. And to become peaceful and peace-creating adults, children and youth need peace-based education instead of a conflict-based education, which is the norm in most schools around the globe. A peace-based education is founded on the four **PRINCIPLES OF PEACE** that:

- Humanity is one;
- Oneness of humanity is expressed in diversity;
- Our greatest opportunity is to maintain our unity and celebrate our diversity; and that
- Our greatest challenge is to meet these opportunities in a spirit of compassion, collaboration, and unity.

Research and experience demonstrate that peace-based education creates schools with:

- A Culture of Peace: a violence-free, bullying-free, harmonious, peaceful school;
- A Culture of Healing: conducive to helping all members of the school community recover from the negative effects of conflict and violence; and
- A Culture of Excellence: conducive to academic, behavioral, ethical, and relational excellence.

Learn about peaceful schools and peace-based education at: www.efpinternational.org



Above, Advanced EFP training workshop for all advisors of all ten BiH Pedagogical Institutes, Mostar, May 2011

DISTINCTIVE ASPECTS OF EDUCATION FOR PEACE . . .

EFP METHODOLOGY

EFP engages all members of the school community—students, teachers, administrators, support staff, and parents/guardians (to the extent possible)—in the study and practice of EFP principles in classrooms, school environments, and within the families of the students. As such, EFP helps to create a situation in which every member of the school community is immersed in an environment of peace. Whenever EFP is introduced to a new school community, the basic EFP curriculum is adapted to the specific needs and realities of that community. This task is approached with the full participation and involvement of educators from the host community. EFP Programs are introduced in every new community at the invitation of the host community.

EFP FACTS

- International Education for Peace Institute (Canada) is a research, training, implementation, and consultancy agency registered under the laws of Canada as a not-for-profit, independent, peace-based organization without any political,

religious, or ethnic affiliation.

- EFP is one of the largest, sustained peace-based educational programs ever undertaken. It is currently in the process of introducing its programs to all 1,000+ primary and secondary schools in the post-war country of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). Cumulatively, these schools have more than .5 million students and 110,000 teachers.
- EFP is acknowledged as one of the most comprehensive programs of its kind with an integrated curriculum based on 15 years of research and implementation.
- EFP has proven to be effective in different contexts—Bermuda, BiH, Canada and the United States.
- Research findings on EFP have been published in academic journals. See http://efpinternational.org/dev/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/efp_reader.pdf
- Each new EFP Program is initially administered by EFP-International. However, as soon as the program is well established in a given community, a local EFP entity is established to administer and promote the program. ◦

EFP NEWS

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Education for Peace entered its 4th phase of its establishment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Phase 1: Pilot Phase, 2000-2002.

Involving 6 schools (3 primary/3 secondary) in 3 cities (Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Travnik) with 6000 students, 400 teachers/staff, thousands of parents.

Phase 2: Expansion Phase, 2003-2006.

During this phase 106 schools in over 50 cities and villages across BiH, with some 80,000 students, 5000 teachers/staff, ...

Phase 3: All Schools Phase, 2007-2012

Involving 1000+ schools, 500,000+(K-12), 70,000+ teachers/staff, thousands of parents.

Phase 4: Consolidation, 2010 - ...

During this phase all 8 BiH universities, 9 Pedagogical Institutes, and 13 Ministries of Education along with EFP-BiH, EFP-Balkans, and EFP-International together are engaged in a systematic plan of action to ensure ongoing, effective, and expanding implementation of EFP in all BiH schools, training of all current and future teachers in the principles, and integration of EFP into the curriculum of all schools (K-12) and university teacher training programs.

Monterrey, Mexico

EFP is being introduced into 10 primary and secondary schools in the city of Monterrey, Mexico as a pilot project. The first EFP Training of Trainers in Mexico will take place in Monterrey 20-24 February 2012. EFP Curriculum Manuals are now being translated into Spanish.



EFP Courses in 2012

EFP-International in collaboration with several universities regularly offers several courses on various aspects of the EFP Program. For 2012, thus far, the following courses are confirmed:

World Peace Academy (Switzerland)

Course 1

Unity-Based Conflict Resolution: Introduction to Concepts & Application

Instructor: Professor Dr. H.B. Danesh, Founder & President, EFP-International

Date: 9-13 April 2012

Course 2

Education for Peace: A Unity-Based Approach

Instructor: Professor Naghmeh Sobhani, Director, EFP-Balkans

Date: 30 July-01 August 2012

Information & Registration for both courses:

Prof. Dr. Dietrich Fischer

(dietrich.fischer@gmail.com)

Academic Director, World Peace Academy

(www.world-peace-academy.ch)

Tel: +41-61-315-8595, +41-61-556-2369

Transcend Peace University (Germany)

Course 1

Education for Peace: Concept and Methodology(online)

Instructor: Professor Dr. H.B. Danesh

Date: 05 March-25 May 2012

Course 2

Principles of Peace-Based Leadership & Governance (online)

Instructor: Professor Dr. H.B. Danesh

Date: 05 March-25 May 2012

Information and Registration for both courses:

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Above: Presentation by a member of the Pedagogical Institute of Republika Srpska, Nov 2011, Sarajevo, BiH

Bermuda

Youth Peacebuilders Network (YPN) is an emerging network of youth mobilized as leaders for their peers with the goal of creating violence-free, peaceful schools, neighborhoods, and communities. YPN, created by Dr. Roshan Danesh, was first introduced in a few schools in North America by forming YPN groups in the participating schools. YPN groups undertake a wide range of activities, including:

- Organizing and conducting peer workshops on peace-based worldviews and attitudes, and skills of peace-building;
- Undertaking peace-building and conflict resolution projects within and among their communities and schools;
- Forming and training other YPN groups; and

Youth Net, a charity organization in Bermuda, recently established *The Bermuda Youth Peace Builder Network*, to recruit Peacebuilders in every middle and senior school in Bermuda to create a culture where violence and conflict are viewed as "aberrant, rare, and not to be tolerated." We congratulate Youth Net for this outstanding initiative.

INVEST IN PEACE

Peace is the fundamental human rights of all peoples of the world. At EFP-International we feel that *peace-based education* should be available, **free of charge**, to all children and youths everywhere. To realize this goal, EFP-International is embarking on a worldwide campaign to raise \$1000.000.00

Your contributions will be exclusively used to develop and implement programs that foster a culture of peace, a culture of healing, and a culture of excellence in schools and communities around the world. So that every new generation of leaders and citizens is equipped with the necessary insights and skills: (1) to decrease the occurrence and intensity of conflict, (2) to prevent the descent of conflict into violence and war, and more importantly, (3) to dedicate its resources and energies to the creation of a sustained and progressive **civilization of peace**.

You are cordially invited to *Invest in Peace* and *make a difference!*

Invest in Peace at \$1/day (\$30/month) or any amount at: <http://efpinternational.org/invest>



PEACE IS THE MOST URGENT ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF HUMANITY.

EFP APPRECIATIONS

“The children all over the world are in need of peace and security. On the occasion of the Summit devoted to the children, we recommend this program [EFP] to all the nations for consideration, as a model of society oriented towards peace, cooperation, and development.”

— *From a letter addressed to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Children (8–10 May 2002) by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina through its Mission to UN in New York*

“This is a unique project. It will teach how to create a violence-free environment, in homes and schools and in the country as a whole.”

— *The Senior Deputy High Representative, Ambassador Dr. Matei Hoffmann, 28 June 2000*

“As a result of participating in the EFP project, my way of teaching has changed, my relationships with students has changed, and my relationship with my family has changed... all for the better.”

— *Teacher, Secondary School, BiH (2001)*

“Before this project things were imposed in our classes, but with EFP we do it because we love it.” — *Student, Primary School, BiH (2003)*

EFP represents an inspiring new approach—not only to peace education but also to almost all areas of social and cultural development. It incorporates new ways of thinking about conflict resolution, leadership and political representation, and about social dynamics and relationships.

— *Trent Newman, Intern from Australia January – June 2005*

As the faculty began to see how students being taught from the perspective of peace in all subjects could cause dramatic changes in the outlook of our youth, the faculty themselves began to experience the beginnings of a paradigm shift. A paradigm shift, the whole world but especially our schools worldwide need to experience.— *Andre Adeli, Co- Founder and Co-Director, Boulder Preparatory High School Boulder, CO, USA (2006)*

I believe the uniqueness of the EFP Project, alongside its successful outcomes, can also inform educational policy and curriculum in many other communities in crisis; for example, Indigenous and minority communities. — *Sophia Close, researcher from Australia (2005-2006)*

“This invaluable project was conceived in such a way that the soul-searching process of reflection which the participants undergo as the project unfolds—be they pupils, teachers, parents, administrators, ordinary school workers—results, largely speaking, as we have ascertained ourselves, in a heightened holistic awareness of the war period ... and indeed triggers the desire amongst them to become authentic peace-makers, and precisely provides them with the necessary tools to achieve this goal...”

— *Claude Kieffer Director, Department of Education, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe - BiH Mission (2009)*