



# Peace Bridges



Newsletter of Peace Education  
Centers/issue #7, 2005/



*Hovhannisyan Gohar, 14 years old  
School #26*

*Peace Center at School #26*

In 2005-2006 pupils of School after Av. Isahakyan were given the chance to participate in “Peace Education and Conflict Resolution in Gyumri Schools” project. Peace Education Center was established at school, members of which became pupils of the 7<sup>th</sup> “B” grade. They are looking forward to Center’s classes with enthusiasm and great responsibility. Lesson materials, which are very interesting, actual and new to all of us, also foster this. Each lesson contains new information, and a variety of ways for peaceful conflict resolution. Participants of the course learn to freely express their opinions, without doubting that their classmates and Peace Center specialists would understand them. The culture of living in peace, the knowledge and skills of solving conflicts peacefully are gradually formed among schoolchildren. Project participants have the opportunity to meet famous people and exchange opinions on peace and conflict with them.

Among the opportunities that the Center has opened for the children I want to emphasize the participation of our schoolchildren in international contests announced in different countries, where they present their own “formula of peace”.

*Gayane Eghiazaryan  
Teacher at school # 26  
Responsible for Peace Education Center*



## *Meeting With Parents*



*School #9*

As mentioned in the previous issue of the newsletter “Peace Bridges”, beginning the year 2005 the project “Peace Education and Conflict Resolution in Gyumri Schools” entered a new phase having enlarged the scope of its activities. Peace Education Centers were also established in new schools in Gyumri (sch. ## 26, 4, 9, 41 and Meghrashat village school), where classes are conducted based on the experience from previous 5 schools and the topics developed by us.

In frames of the project meetings, round tables, seminars are periodically organized to provide-information on the implemented activities, achievements and successes, as well as listen and exchange new proposals, advice and opinions.

Regular meetings were held with parents of the new “Peace Education” center members, aiming to raise parents’ awareness on peace and conflict resolution issues, as well as discuss project’s further steps and the strategy.

President of the Organization – A. Mikayelyan first presented mission, goals and objectives of the project, told about already implemented and future planned projects by us.

Afterwards Susanna Ghazaryan – head of the educational department of the organization told the attendants about the topics taught in the Peace centers. Parents of the centers’ members, as well as school principles and teachers present mentioned that the taught topics are new in their nature, are very interesting and actual. Parents said they really valued their children’s membership to Peace Centers.

Most of them joyfully mention those positive changes that are obvious among their children. e.g. Mother of Hovhannes Mkrtychyan - Peace Center member in School #26 said, “...I am really very glad, that my boy participates in the Peace Center’s trainings. He has learnt not only the skills of peaceful conflict resolution, but is also able to “successfully” apply them in practice...”. She brought an example of a small family conflict, when due to his knowledge Hovhannes was able to reasonably solve the conflict, so that everybody was pleased in the outcome.

Some of the parents mentioned that they would gladly participate in these trainings with their children, saying that they would help to better understand , as well as be closer to problems their children are facing. Teachers also talked about the positive impacts of Peace Centers on schoolchildren.

*School #4*

“...Classes held in the Center had great impact on interpersonal relations among schoolchildren. Children became more self-confident and tolerable...,” said Mary Soghomonyan - teacher of Peace Center at School #7).

While one of the teachers in school #9 noticed, “...This is one of the most conflict classrooms in the school. And I, both as a teacher and a parent, see that these trainings are very important particularly for such classes and I do see some changes in pupils’ behavior.”

Hasmik Eghiazaryan – principle of school #26 also pointed the positive outcomes of our project. “Though we have walked a short way together, but I managed to notice that you are using a very interesting and peculiar approach to develop children’s ideology, teach them recognize people and children over the world...” She also suggested to organize a seminar on the theme “Peace Education and Peaceful Conflict

Resolution” for the district’s population at the school community center, because the community, where their school is located, is in great need of it. She has a hope that the Peace Center would change their community as well, making it more peaceful.”

A talking fact about the interest of schoolchildren towards “Peace Education” center is that after each training Peace Center’s schoolchildren of school # 26 with the help and initiative of their class head Gayane Eghiazaryan tell their classmates not involved in the project about the themes learned during each class, discuss with them conflicts occurred in the classroom or at school, and together try to find out peaceful solutions.

Participants of the meeting highly appreciated Center’s work and the successes gained expressing a hope that Peace Education would be included in school curricula as an optional subject in future.

*School #26*

## *Peace Education Center at School #9*

In 2005-2006, “Women for Development” NGO established “Peace Education” center in school #9 with the membership of pupils from the 6<sup>th</sup> “A” grade.

By participating in trainings, schoolchildren gradually become more independent and confident, express their opinions and observations more clearly and integrally. Due to the trainings children have become lovelier and more indulgent. Other teachers of the school also notice apparent changes in schoolchildren’s behavior.

Usage of non-standard teaching methodology by the Center’s specialists also has its impact. Interactive methods of teaching, the illustrated and interesting posters help children to better understand and remember the taught materials.

Despite the above-mentioned positive outcomes, we have greater expectations from the “Peace Education” center in cultivating love and mercy among schoolchildren. Love and indulgence towards everyone and everywhere, as well as capability of not being indifferent to the problems of others, moreover having compliance to solve them.

*Gagik Grigoryan*

*Vice-principle of school # 9*

*Responsible for Peace Education Center*



## Our participation in Radiant Peace contest

As it is apparent from the previous issues of the newsletter “Peace Bridges”, Radiant Peace American organization announces various drawing and essay contests on annual basis. It’s the third year that the members of “Peace Education” Centers take part in them. This year too, Peace Center members participated in 15th Annual Peace Education Awards — Holidays 2005. Each participant school received a Certificate of Recognition, Radiant Peace banners and each participant schoolchild received a Radiant Peace Patch.

Selected best essays and drawings were placed in Radiant Peace International Museum. You can see essays and drawings of some participant schoolchildren below.



Azaryan Vachagan  
School #9, 12years old

*Nothing is more dear and important than peace. It's as dear for us as is air, water and bread. I would like the world change into a divine garden, where all people live happily and carelessly.*

*Tonoyan Gayane  
School #9, 12years old*

*I want all people to be kind and loving towards each other, only then will peace and solidarity reign in the world. Peace is never created with armor and weapon. Only kindness will save the world.*

*Stepanyan Suren  
School #40, 13years old*

*...If I had a magic wand I would create peace for all the children of the world.*

*Hovakimyan Elmira  
School #9, 12years old*



Melikyan Hayk



Haroyan Susanna  
School #29, 13years old

*Let kindness reign everywhere and evil be vanished.  
Let peace govern the whole world.*

Hovhanissyan Sveta  
School #9, 12years old

*The world, people, everyone needs peace  
Let peace reign in the world and let all conflicts that have  
occurred ever since be solved.*

Arzumanyan Nelli  
School #9, 12years old

*All people are equal regardless of sex,  
nationality, language and religion. If all  
people in the world acknowledge this, than  
there will be no wars, hatred and enmity...  
and the life then will be nice.*

Sokolyan Tsovinar  
School #26, 13years old



Gevorgyan Ruzanna  
School #9, 12years old

*All people are equal regardless of sex, nationality, language and religion. If all people in the  
world acknowledge this, than there will be no wars, hatred and enmity... and the life then will  
be nice.*

Sokolyan Tsovinar  
School #26, 13years old



*When world is in peace, everything around  
you seems colorful, interesting, everybody  
smiles, the sky is blue, the sun is shining  
and peace is seen in people's eyes. If the  
world is in peace, than peace is in our souls,  
families and among everyone.  
Peace to all!!!*

Hovhanissyan Emma  
School #26, 13years old

Drmeyan Haykaram



School #29



School #4



School #9



School #40



School #26

## *Meeting With the Head of Shirak Diocese*

11 November Peace Center members were in Shirak Diocese again. This time Bishop Michael Ajapahyan hosted Peace Center members of Schools ## 26 and 9. Warm and open conversation started in Bishop's cabinet. The latter represented children the role of the church in establishing and maintaining peace, spoke about sectarian movement, explained some of the commandments having peace concepts in their basis. Head of the Diocese also brought children examples from his spiritual life, when he had found peaceful solutions to conflicts.

At the end of the meeting children asked questions and the Bishop kindly answered them.

Meeting with the Bishop raised new feelings and conceptions on peace among children. Students from School #26 are sharing their impressions with the readers.



...We learned to pay devil with kindness and spread kindness everywhere. In case we pay devil with ill, there will be no escape from conflicts.

We also learned the golden rule: "Treat others, as you would like to be treated by".

*Lena Matevosyan*

...After the meeting with Bishop the meaning of the words "When they slap on your cheek, let them slap on the other, too" became more clear. That is, when a person has done something bad to you, you mustn't reply him the same way, but must forgive him and make him admit his fault and never repeat it again.

*Gohar Hovhannisyan*

**Bishop taught me to be kind, but not evil, always to be friendly, but never selfish. Bishop said that kindness saves the word and the kind always wins over the devil.**

*Manya Hakobyan*

**...After listening to Bishop's stories, I understood that church has many times stopped conflicts of various natures.**

*Roza Grigoryan*

**We had a nice talk with Bishop Michael Ajapahyan. We gave him many questions we were interested in, and he kindly answered them. Told us about the conflict, he had given a peaceful solution to.**

**Pupils of school # 9 were there too. We were acquainted with them and shared our impressions of Peace Center life and the knowledge obtained.**

*Hovhannes Mkrtchyan*

**Bishop told a very interesting and impressive story; when during his follow-ups he had visited a village, where no priest had gone for more than 10 years, an angry villager addressed him with the following words, "Why have you come?". In response to these rude words, Michael Ajapahyan asked the villager in a calm voice if he was an Armenian, and getting positive response, said, "If you are an Armenian then the Armenian never asks the priest why he has come, but says "Welcome...!" The words have really calmed the villager and he said, "Welcome, Holy Father...!"**

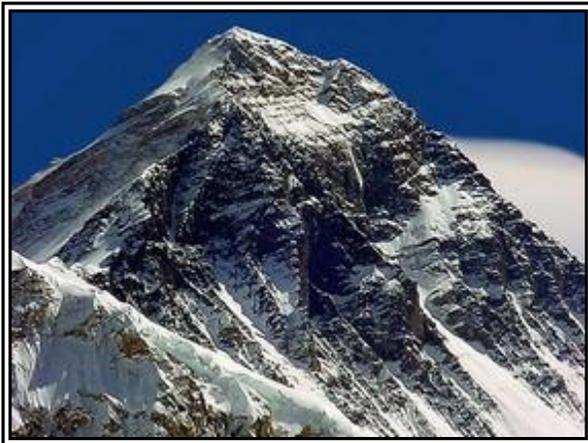
*Norayr Hakobyan*

**...He said that many conflicts are caused due to a man's inner conflict; when a man can't live in harmony with himself, then he can't live in harmony with his surroundings.**

*Susanna Galstyan*

# **A** *dmirer's* corner

## *Climbers took on Qomolangma for Peace*



A team of nine mountaineers from seven different countries representing five religions had planned to conquest Mt. Qomolangma, the world's highest peak, for the cause of world peace.

“Termed as the Qomolangma Climb for Peace, the climbers from five different religions, comprising Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism, set off to achieve the feat on the second week of April.”

The climbers, including eight men and one woman, come from the United States, South Africa, India, New Zealand, Israel, Palestine and Nepal.



On the summit of Qomolangma the peace climbers have planted the United Nation's flag, hoping to unite people from different nations and religions to strive for peace over the world.

The project which was organized by Qomolangma Peace Project, the nine-member team has also filmed their climb and would make a full-length documentary about their endeavor that will be shown all across the world.



“Our goal is not to preach religion or politics, instead, this multi-cultural team intends to inspire the international community through their climb, sending out a profound message of peace, teamwork, and cultural understanding from the top of the world,” said Lance Trumbull, the expedition's leader from the United States.

## Our success in European Studies Programme



Since the beginning of 2004 academic year Peace Center members in schools ## 2 and 20 communicate with their peers from 4 schools in Northern Ireland, Denmark and the Republic of Ireland, which are EU member countries.

Children wrote each other about their interests, families, favourite heroes, they told about their countries and people, national cultures and traditions, exchange New Year greetings, photos depicting Centers' daily activities, etc.

For the successful participation in European Studies programme and for mutual exchange of necessary information, coordinators Armine Mikayelyan, Gohar Markosyan, and the principals of schools ## 2 and 20 received special thank you letters, while Peace Education Center members got Certificates of Participation.



## “The Message and Other Stories” *English Reader on Peace and Tolerance*



*Dear readers,  
From the previous issues of the newsletter “Peace Bridges” you already know about “Education for Sustainable Development” foundation, about its activities and objectives. In this issue of the newsletter they present you the reader entitled “The Message and Other Stories”, which will certainly be interesting for most of you.*

In Armenia teachers of the English Language often face lack of literature and educational materials. They have to use foreign textbooks/reading manuals and adjust them to pupils’ needs. Anyway, topics covered in the books are not always relevant to the reality and accepted by pupils.

Simultaneously, today’s youth lack tolerance. This is an actual issue and is an obstacle for the development of our society. This gave birth to the idea of creating a new reader, which will address peace and tolerance issues through teaching English.

“Education for Sustainable Development” foundation formed a working group and started the project. The British Council and CRS supported the project. It was a very interesting and demanding initiative.

Discussion brought to a conclusion that topics on global peace and tolerance should be narrowed up to everyday situations that will excite our readers and only then broaden the discussed topic. We thought of concepts, topics, issues typical to each story. In the outcome, stories had the following logical approach: tolerance begins at home, then it moves into the classroom, into the circle of friends, work place, society and involves broader circles. The reader promotes readers ponder upon the stories published in the book and try to find own solutions.

“The Message and other stories” is designed for students aged 14-16 and for learners with pre-intermediate level of English. Teacher’s notes aims to help teachers work with the reader. Each story has its note, where the aim of the story, its objective, message, the new words, pre-reading and post-reading questions and further activities are written. Teacher’s notes will help to organize discussions and make pupils think about the issues present in the stories.

We would advice teachers to use the notes. It doesn’t suppose any restrictions of actions and each teacher is free in her creative approaches.

At present samples of the reader have been delivered to republic’s different schools, which can freely share them with their neighboring schools. The working group has received lots of feedback from the teachers having used the reader and having discussed the ideas of peace and tolerance with their pupils. They emphasize the existence of the reader and find it to be effective.

*“Education for Sustainable Development” foundation  
Working group on peace and tolerance reader*

As the above mentioned reader is really very interesting and educative in nature, hereinafter due to the established agreement between "Education for Sustainable Development" and WFD, a story from "The Message and other stories" will be published in each issue of the newsletter.

# The Door

**"Don't touch my things! Never do it again, Ruben! I tell you, Mum, your son's becoming unbearable."**

**"He's only a child, honey. Don't pay attention. You're a clever girl."**

**"But I can't find my new shoes and I have a date with Robert. I don't want to miss it."**

**"Ruben, go and bring your sister's shoes immediately," said Mum in a strict voice.**

**"Ruben, Ruben...she can't look after her things. Again it's Ruben's fault," said the boy under his breath with an innocent face.**

**"Please, don't look at me that way, go and bring my shoes. I'm in a hurry," added Anna.**

**"Well, if you are asking...then...they happen to be in the fridge."**

**"I'll teach you a lesson as soon as I'm back home..."**

**Ruben was ten. He was smart, happy and the youngest in his family. He was always full of ideas and most of them were naughty tricks. There was only one thing he really cared about – his roses in the garden. Ruben took care of them with great love. Nobody was ever allowed to touch them.**

**Anna was seventeen. She was at college and didn't pay much attention to what little Ruben did. She loved her younger brother, but sometimes she got angry about his jokes which never stopped.**

**That day Ruben was left alone at home. He got very bored. Ruben was wandering through the rooms to find interesting things to do and looking for trouble.**

**"Aha...," he thought. "I'll find something in Anna's room. She'll go crazy when she finds out I've touched her things. I know, I'll send invitation cards to all her friends and invite them to the disco club and make her pay. Let's see, where's her address book?"**

**And Ruben searched through all the drawers in Anna's desk to find the address book. Suddenly a notebook fell off from a drawer. "Here it is," thought Ruben and opened it. "But what's this? A diary? How strange... I didn't know she had a diary. Wow! She's writing about me. Let me see..."**

**He began to read carefully...**

Tuesday, February 5

### The Door

...I hate our door! No, I hate all doors, especially when they are closed. It seems to me that behind each of them there is my younger brother who never stops playing tricks. He thinks they are funny! To know that he is there is not enough to be ready for his tricks. They are always unexpected. Every time he thinks of something different, something he's never done before.

Every time I come home, I'm just waiting to get into fight with Ruben, and sometimes I'm almost scared to ring the doorbell.

It took me some time to be brave and ring our doorbell today (as usual). I was expecting a fight. The door opened... and I saw my mother in doorway smiling but sad and worried. She let me in and kissed me. She saw the way I was looking at her and said "Ruben is ill" and hurried to the kitchen to finish her work. Very cautiously I opened the door of my brother's bedroom still ready for something dangerous. Nothing happened. I looked in and saw him lying in his bed, pale and quiet. He was turning from side to side and moaning something. He looked so small and helpless. It felt as though something was squeezing my heart...

Oh, doors, I love you! I don't want my brother to be ill.

Ruben spent the rest of the evening thinking deeply.

When Anna came home that evening, she found a beautiful red rose on her pillow... the one her brother was most fond of.





## *Famous People about Peace*

*If we want to have real peace, we need to start from kids.*

*Gandhi*

*Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opininons, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly buliding new structures.*

*John F. Kennedy*

*Peace is not just the absence of war... Like a cathedral, peace must be constructed patiently and with unshakable faith.*

*Pope John Pual*

*Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.*

*Thomas A. Kempis*

*If we have not peace within ourselves, it is in vain to ssek it from outward sources.*

*La Rochefoucauld*

*Peace is the end of discrimination in all its forms. Peace is acknowledging the dignity of all human belongs in a holistic, integrated way.*

*Amanda Romero*



## ***Our Peace Fir-tree***

At the New Year's Eve "Peace Education Center" members made toys with their New Year wishings and dreams and decorated the Christmas tree.

*I wish the wars be seized in 2006 and peace hover across the world. I wish people to be kind and caring towards each other. I wish enemies won't be any longer and there'll be equality for everyone.*

**Arthur Harutyunyan**  
**school # 29**

*I wish there'll be no evil in the world; friends will never quarrel but be indulgent to each other. Let all our dreams be accomplished in the coming year.*

**Knarik Petrosyan**  
**school # 29**

*I wish my classmates to be more amicable and indulgent than they are now. While to my close friends – I wish them success with their studies and let their dearest dreams come true.*

**Susanna Haroyan**  
**school # 29**

*I would like to see my class united everyday I come to school, I would like them to treat each other kindly, not shout at each other and fight. I wish everybody to live in peace and harmony.*

**Narine Hovhannisyan**  
**school # 20**

*I wish my classmates are always happy, healthy, kind-hearted, but not vindictive. I love them and have respect for them. Let them always be happy and smiling. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!*

**Tatev Gevorgyan**  
**school # 40**





**sch.#9**

*I wish people would celebrate the New Year not in foreign countries, but in their homes surrounded by a warm family atmosphere.*

**Tatev Harutyunyan**  
**school # 20**

*Let the wars be banned in the world and only peace and kindness hover over the world.*

*I would like our class to be more united in the coming year and nobody go to other schools.*

**Lilit Tapaltsyan**  
**school # 20**

*It's my dream to see peace and kindness domain over the world, people be honest and tolerate each other. Let all dreams be accomplished.*

**Angela Jaloyan**  
**school # 20**

*I wish the coming year will bring happiness and success to everyone. Let 2006 be a year of peace and unity, let enmity be banned and the representatives of all nationalities respect each other's values and be more tolerable.*

**Hayk Hovhannisyan**  
**school # 20**

*Let anything that has caused pain and grief remain in the past year, while in the New Year let there be only happiness and joy.*

*Let all our dreams come true.*

**Lilit Khachatryan**  
**school # 9**

*I wish happiness and consolidation rein among all. Let the New Year enter everyone's family like a fairy tale bringing kindness and peace with itself.*

**Gayane Tonoyan**  
**school # 9**





*sch. #29*

*Let 2006 be the year of peace and joy; let the children all over the world be happy and healthy. Let no child suffer from wars and have a careless childhood. Peace to everyone!*

***Hovhannes Jamakochyan  
school # 9***

*I wish our school be the best school in our city and children attend it with love. I wish our school to take honorable places in all contests.*

***Arman Makaryan  
school # 4***

*I wish my classmates study better this year and show respect to each other.*

***Laura Mkhitarian  
school # 4***

*I wish evil be left in the passing year, while the New Year be full of peace and harmony. And my dream is to become an outstanding football player. Let everybody's dream be realized!*

***Ara Mkhitarian  
school # 26***

*Let this coming year bring only happiness and harmony to all families. "Dear classmates, let's leave all our misunderstanding in the past year". Peace to everyone and everywhere!*

***Maria Militosyan  
school # 26***



*I wish my parents be together again, so that  
I can feel the warm family atmosphere  
again.  
Let only peace and happiness reign in the  
world and let everybody's dream come true!*

**Seda Harutunyan**  
school # 4

*sch. #4*

*I wish people to realize that they all are equal, and they should tolerate and be indulgent to  
each other. If all nations live in harmony, there will be no wars.*

**Tamara Hovhannisyan**  
school #40

*I wish people not misinterpret each other and never think of the evil when there is kindness.*

**Derenik Tosunyan**  
school # 40

*I wish peace and health to all people. I also wish my classmates be more amicable and not  
bother only about their marks.  
Let all people become more tolerable!*

**Alexan Beybutyan**  
school # 40



*sch. #20*



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Fill the world  
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Matevosyan Mariana, 14 years old  
School #40