

Peace New Birth



Newspaper #3, 2003
of Peace Education Centers



Hayrapetyan Gevorg's Drawing

Peace New Birth



Conflict is one of life basic elements. It exists everywhere: in different surroundings, between people of different ages, social layers and between countries. There is nobody that hasn't been in conflict situation. It is not a secret that conflicts exist in schools too: between students of senior and junior classes, between students and teachers and etc. One can be the witness of fisticuffs, scoffs, and replicas on evaluation marks, dresses and so on.

The great part of these conflicts starts in school or comes from home. It is already two years that Women for Development organization is implementing "Peace Education and Conflict Resolution in Gyumri Schools" project for overcoming the conflicts in schools and making positive changes in students' characters. The main goal of the project is formation of Peace Culture and Conflict resolution idea among Gyumri teachers and schoolchildren, aiming to involve Peace education in School Curriculum later. As it is very important for everybody to know that he or she is responsible for peace in their families, school, Community and country, that peace building and living in peace is everybody's responsibility and right.

We have founded Peace education Centers in 5 schools of Gyumri for project implementation. Trainings, seminars, round tables, meetings with famous people organized in the Centers help us to reduce conflicts, violation and illegal actions in schools. All the mentioned actions will teach about the Conflict causes, the ways of their resolution, UN and its Peace building activities all over the world. School #20 after Lord Byron is the base school of the project; experience and skills gained there will be used in other schools.

During short period of the project existence students organized different measures, exhibitions, where they have presented the first steps and successes of the Center to their parents and School staff.

Students have an opportunity to find pen pals all over the world. This is a unique opportunity for members of the Center to think about their problems with children from different countries, write about their schools, friends, parents, Native town, Peace and wars. So Peace is a common value for all them and it differs no borders, age or nationality. The center members have been in Armenian residency of UN and participated in Celebration of International Peace Day announced by UN.

During the project implementation an idea was born to publish newspaper of the Center, where the Center members will exchange the gained knowledge and experience out of school walls. The goal of the newspaper is to form culture of Peaceful life in reader, make Peace a special value and find resolution of any conflict. So the Center members will share the gained knowledge not only with children of their age, but as well as with grown ups, becoming real spreaders of Peace.

So there were all conditions for publishing a newspaper and in December 2002 children of Peace Education Center in School #20 published the first number of "New Birth of Peace". The newspaper mainly contains works of 7-10th grade students, who express their wish to see the world in Peace; they criticize wars and violations, analyze the causes, results and suggest ways of conflict resolutions. There are materials, photos telling about the day of the centers and crosswords created by children.

Through stories and poems of the newspaper we try to show the reader kindness and cruelty, teach to respect everyone without any rules or advices. We teach them not to argue without any basis, but to discuss peacefully and remain honest in any condition.

At the end of each topic children make posters on school walls. In this way children share the gained knowledge with other students of the school, as the materials and topics do not exist in the school curriculum and they have only slight understanding about Peace building organizations all over the world and their activities. Each poster includes materials and photos about the day of the Center, the best works and poems of students.

Our goal is basic, we try to seed kindness in hearts of readers and teach them to appreciate and keep Peace, to change ourselves and change our attitude against the surrounding. We hope that on the way of this difficult but interesting project implementation "New Birth of Peace" newspaper will become the justice judge of our achievements.

Marina Juharyan.

Peace Education Center in School #29

There was a surprise for senior class students of School #29 after M. Mashtost at the beginning of 2003-2004 academic year. Our school was in list of the few schools with which Women for Development NGO was going to collaborate.

In the passed academic year the organization acquainted with 20 senior class students of our school, which allowed founding the Peace Education Center in our school later. The Center members are waiting for trainings with excitement. School administration in the present hard conditions has done everything to organize effective work of the Center (the school hasn't moved to the stone building yet and the classes are in wooden containers). In Peace Education center students learn to express their point of view freely and evaluate the importance of peace and the culture of peaceful life. They discuss, listen to each other's opinion, base them and form mutual understanding. These trainings are kind of social lessons, which help to find orientation in conflict situations and show the resolutions of conflicts. Interactive method helps to strengthen the gained knowledge. There are no compulsory rules or dogmas, which can be forced to students. The trainings are rich of visual aids. Nearly at every lesson students show an example of a conflict: posters or maps. They can use the gained knowledge in practice.

The project hasn't been finished yet, but students learned much and they look forward to every Thursday.



May 29 is the Day of UN Peace Building Forces

In 2002 UN Assembly announced May 29th the day of UN Peace maker Forces expressing respect to all men and women who serve in UN Peace maker Forces, as well as memorizing people who were victims of fight for Peace.

UN Public Information Administration with Peace Activities administration organized many measures devoted to that day, the goal of which was to enhance awareness about the day and elucidate new and semi profile activities of UN Peace makers.

In UN Central office medals were handed to Peacemakers devoted to the day. Peace making Administration handed medals of soldiers, who were victims of 2002 Peace making activities, to the Government representatives.

UN Armenian Residency organized a measure too, there were present UN Permanent coordinator, office staff, head of Internal relations and Military collaboration Department of Ministry of Forces of RA General-major M. Melkonyan, Commander of Armenian Peace making forces Captain A. Tonoyan, representatives of Embassies in Armenia, Mass Media and guests.

Students of Peace Education Center in School #20 after Lord Byron were present to this Celebration too. They presented their knowledge about conflict causes and ways of their resolution. The guests were surprised on children's knowledge about UN and its Peace making activities all over the world. At the end of the meeting Center members delivered white paper cranes made by them to the guests, as symbols of Peace.

We were very glad hearing that we would go to the Armenian residency of UN and were looking forward to that day with impatience. But at the same time it was a very responsible step for us, as we were going to present our Center and had to keep the honor of our school high, that is why we all were slightly excited.

At least the expected day came and we were at UN office. For a moment the guests were surprised to see so young participants among them, but later when our Center and its activities were presented they listened to us with great interest and accepted very warmly.

The celebration, guests, Un office, posters and pictures on the walls so impressed me, that I would never forget that day. I would like to be there whenever again.

*Hermine Khachatryan
9th grade*

I was looking forward to my speech to present Sadako's story, but the time was short and I had no opportunity to do it. Instead of it I had an opportunity to present the big paper crane made with our hands to UN permanent coordinator Lloyd Deicken. That was a great joy for me, which I would never forget.

*Grigoryan Ani
8th grade*



... I was very excited during the speech. It seemed to me that I will fail, but everything was O.K. and I manage to present my speech successfully. The hours spent in UN office are unforgettable for me. I would like to visit there again.

*Abrahamyan Arusyak
9th grade*

I have presented the guests what is conflict, its development and resolution phases, how we present conflicts through tales and stories during our lessons and find ways of their resolution. After this measure I realized more strongly that Peace is necessary for all Humanity.

*Sargsyan Greta
8th grade*



We all were very excited during the measure. We waited for our speeches to present the guests our knowledge about UN: when it was formed, which countries are its members and UN goals. Being present on the day of UN Peace Makers I realized that UN is necessary for all nations of the world of any sex, age or religion, as it spreads Peace and kindness, teaches to be Peace loving and be leaded only with Peace.

*Grigoryan Emma
8th grade*



I have presented everything I know about UN since its foundation day. The impressions were so rich that I was ready to tell about it a whole day.

*Mkoyan Mariam
8th grade*

... Peace Education Center of School #20 was new for the guests. The representatives of Mass media came to us, addressed us questions and recorded the answers. Many TV channels of Armenia broadcast the celebration and it was a great achievement for us. After it we watched the informative film about UN formation and exhibition about UN activities.

*Avetisyan Lamira
9th grade*

What is Conflict

During the trainings in Peace Education Center great attention is paid to conflicts of the Center members in school, class or family, to the ways of their resolution and causes. For escaping the conflicts and for correct orientation in conflict situations a special training was devoted to study conflict causes, phases of its development, ways of resolution and Conflict map building.

The Center members will present what is conflict for children.

Conflict is a kind of battle between people the causes of which are difference of mentality, ideas, understandings and lack of means.

***Kartchikyan Armen
School #2***

Conflict is the absence of understanding between two or more people.

Abrahamyan Sahak School #20

Conflict is the competition between people, the cause of which can be achievement of the same goal.

Minasyan Hrach School # 30

Conflict born when people don't understand or don't want to understand each other.

Stepanyan Gohar School #30

The conflict can exist between two school directors, when schools join and become 1 school. So each of the directors thinks that he is the best and wants to be the director of the joint school.

Gharoyan Marine School #29

Conflict occurs when two people don't understand each other.
Example: two boys love the same girl.

Avetisyan Vachik School #30

Conflict is a kind of competition, which can occur between parties too. The last ones reflect their complains from the Government.

Karapetyan Hayastan School #7

I think conflicts can occur between people from all layers of society, countries and nations because of mentalities, point of views and ideas differences.

Madnatyan Harutyun School #2.

Conflict occurs because of incompatible ideas and when people can't come to a conclusion.

Sargsyan Greta School #20

Conflicts can be between two people, friends or countries around a problem. The conflict can be resolved in different ways. For ex. If two friends quarreled, someone has to find the right side and prove the other one that he is wrong. If he accepts his mistake the quarrel must not leave any trace.

Galstyan Aanahit School #2

Conflict is hostility between two people, when people cannot understand each other feeling that one is better of them.

Mkrtchyan Yevgenya School #29.



Conflict is a phenomena, when competition occurs between people because of incompatible ideas.

Aarakelyan Lilit School #7

Conflict occurs, when two people try to achieve the same thing, but it can be given to only one of them. Then they become competitors and conflict occurs.

Shakhbazyan Sahakanush School #29

Conflict occurs, when there are disagreements between people or countries.

Simonyan Gohar School #29



School # 7

Conflict is the quarrel of one or more people, which occurs because of one reason.

Tonoyan Maksim School #2

Each conflict has its peaceful resolution. For example: when two children quarrel for a ball and they want to play separately, grow ups can persuade them to play together.

Ghazaryan Arusik School #29

Conflict occurs around a problem, when parties can't come to an agreement or they have incompatible goals.

Petrosyan Grisha School #7

The causes of conflict can be uncertainty, disrespect, disagreement and violation of one's rights, no matter it is a human being or a country.

Ghazaryan Lilit School #20

Conflict occurs between people who try to be the first and the best. This situation causes conflict of competition.

Hovhanissyan Rima School #2

Conflict is struggle between people, countries for territory or because of unsolved problems.

Sahakyan Hayk School #30



School #30

Conflict is a competition, which can be caused between relatives, friends and countries. The word conflict means to go against and not yield.

Stepanyan Ani School #7

Conflict can be caused because of two persons ideas' incompatibility, when they understand the same phenomenon in different ways. Then each of them tries to persuade that he is right.

Arakelyan Seryoja School #7

Conflict occurs, when people have different point of views and don't want to give up. But I think that all conflicts have their resolutions, because one of the parties is right.

Manukyan Mary School #2

Conflict can have different causes. Ex. when someone is in bad mood and his friend talks and he can't answer. The friend can understand it wrong and be insulted, which can cause a serious conflict.

Grigoryan Eva School #2

Contest Participants

In April “White Crane” magazine announced a new contest “How I want to see my School”. The students of our Centers have sent their stories, drawings and poems to this contest. Two of the best were announced works of two our students from Schools 20 and 29, which were published in the past numbers of the magazine.

We congratulate the winners and advise the other members of our Centers to participate actively in contests announced by the magazine and their works will be published too.

School of Children’s Rights Advocacy



I study in 7th grade of English School after Lord Byron. Our school is one of the best schools in Gyumri and Margaret Thatcher was present at its opening. I am proud of my school. Many entertainments are organized in our school, but as a rule only senior classes take part in contests, Olympiads and circles.

The circle members are only students from senior classes and I want to express my offence. I think unjust to organize all entertainments only for IX and X grades. I think it is a kind of Children’s Rights violation. I would like junior classes of our school to participate in entertainments and be members of the circles.

I wish to make a School poster, where we can freely express our suggestions and wishes for making the classes more interesting and I wish our school would become School of Children’s Rights Advocacy.

Tatev Zilfimyan, 14 years
School #20 after Lord Byron

I Wish to Graduate from a Peaceable School



I love my school very much: school #29 after Mesrop Mashtots, the creator of Armenian letters. Now my school is not very comfortable, it is in wooden containers, which are not convenient for studying especially in winter.

There is no hall, where we can hold our beautiful entertainments and do the sport classes. Even the computer class is so uncomfortable, that sometimes it is offensive to study there.

My parents persuade me to go to the school in three-stored stone building with central heating. I always respect my parents' advices, but now I can't accept it. I can't betray my school when it is in hard condition and needs the support of its best students. We have the best teachers in Gyumri. Our school has wonderful traditions. Our teacher organizes many entertainments: round tables, contests, excursions to the historical places of the ancient Armenia and etc.

The new stone building of our school is being built.

I wish to study in a new, wide, beautiful school cured from earthquake injuries, with good equipped cabinets and laboratories. I dream about a comfortable computer laboratory with Internet access. In our new building we would have Peace Center as School #20, where we could learn skills of Conflict resolution and we would create a circle of Friendship, where I could exchange my experience with other children and have pen palls from Seattle (USA) and write to "White Crane" magazine.

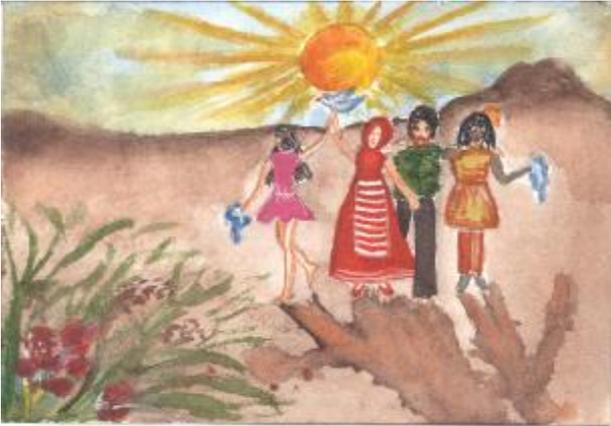
And the most important thing we will help our school to become a peaceable school and we will become peacemakers in it.

I would like to see my school the best one in Gyumri and in Armenia. My mother told me that it used to be so before the earthquake of 1988.

I believe that my dreams will be fulfilled.

Permanent reader of White Crane
Arusyak Khazaryan, 13 years

The story of "Peace Tun"



Pic. Cragman Meline, 13 years old

Yerevan Brandy factory was founded in 1878 and formed many traditions since the day of its foundation. Just side by side with the old traditions there are new ones, which make richer the history of Armenia. One of these unique traditions is creation of "Peace Tun".

The initiative was born on a concrete date and accession, when Yerevan brandy factory was going to receive guests: OBSCE co-secretaries from France, Russia and USA. Pierre Larech the president of the Company initiated creation of "Peace Tun". The tun was filled with Brandy spirit of 1994; it was the year of Karabakh reconciliation. The idea of initiative was that the Brandy spirit must be left in the tun until Karabakh conflict would be resolved.

The guests were excited with this idea as their activities were directed to establish Peace in this region. Co-secretaries Nikolay Gribkov, Philip de Syurmen and Rudolph Perina signed on the tun creating a beautiful tradition. "Peace Tun" is now in preserving department and is involved in touristic sites and many visitors join to the Peace motto with their signatures. Everybody who signs on the tun (there are thousand signatures) accepts and greets Peace. Brandy factory accepted many guests from Azerbaijan and Turkey, who appreciated the creation of "Peace Tun". The company wants to say through the Tun that the economic relations will be continued even before the conflicts' resolution. From the other side "Peace Tun" informs abroad guests about the conflict in the region and about the desire to resolve it quickly. So this action pays the attention of International Community to Karabagh Conflict.

Brandy lovers usually prefer brandy to stay in tun for a long time, but in this case they want to open the Tun as soon as possible.

From "Peace to Everybody" newspaper

Peace Centre from Children's Point of View



School #2

P When I became the member of Peace Education Center I learned many new things, ex. Skills in conflict resolution, negotiations and mediation. We discuss the conflict situations, which happened with us, our country or out of it. We all understand each other. I go to Center with pleasure.

Movsisyan Albert School #2

P The knowledge, which gave us Peace Education Centre, helps us to avoid conflicts, teach us to mediate and resolve the conflict and the most pleasant fact is that none of the parties suffer. The Center teachers taught us that we can be wrong and the best way in that situation is to ask excuse. We understood that everyone has his own values and we have to respect them.

Hovhanissyan Rima School #2

P ...We learned that during the conflict we have to understand the other party and realize their situation, as the American saying cites "Don't judge your neighbor until you walk in his shoes two months".

Ghazaryan Arusik School #29

P Peace Education Center provided me much knowledge and skills for conflict resolution. That knowledge I already use in our class and street. I even teach others to resolve conflicts correctly and peacefully. I learned not to have decisions with "hot head" and not to say unnecessary words.

Tigranyan Khoren School #2

P Visiting the center I learned to avoid quarrels and when I quarrel I try to find a correct resolution. During the conflict each of us must be directed with his own principals, must express our own opinion and must not stick labels on the other party before listening to them.

Harutyunyan Lucine School #29

P...I have quarreled with my classmate a few days ago, but later I realized that I am wrong and I asked her excuse. We resolved the conflict between us in this way. I am sure that if I don't visit this Center I will not be able to realize my mistake and find peaceful resolution.

Asatryan Rosa School #29

P... We have learned skills of conflict resolution and Peace keeping, which is very useful in our everyday life.

I go to this Center because of curiosity and now I am very glad that I am the member of Peace Education Center. I like the Center trainings very much, which help to keep peace around me.

Shakhbazyan Sahakanush School #29

P...I want this kind of Centers to be spread all over the world than people and countries will understand each other and the conflicts will be resolved in peace.

Harutyunyan Boris School #2

PIn days I quarreled with my sister. She has put a chewing gum in my hat and I had to cut short my hair. But I excused her. If I don't participate in trainings of this Center I will not be able to excuse her.

Tonoyan Maxim School #2

P...I learned that during the conflict it is necessary to talk on a certain topic. One must not use "always" and "never" words; one should listen to the other party and only after it make decisions. I am glad to participate in trainings of Peace Education Center. I hope I have much to learn yet.

Sargsyan Nelly School #29

P...I want to learn peaceful ways of conflict resolution. It will help me to avoid battles and realize who is right and who is wrong.

Zanvelyan Grigor School #2

PHere I have learned much, for ex. Instead of insulting and accusing someone, let look on yourself with the eyes of others and find a resolution, which will not humiliate none of us and will not make us to sacrifice something very valuable for us.

Grigoryan Eva School #2



% School News



On April 7, 2003 Armenian branch of Project Harmony organization started Armenian Holidays Educational project making important enhance of awareness about Armenian holidays and memory days among youth.

The project started on the day of Mothers, beauty and spring aimed to enlarge knowledge of 7-9 grade students about our national and State holidays combining from the first view the incompatible: Armenian holidays and the highest technologies.

Students of 7-9 grades with their teacher and Computer center specialist presented the complex picture of each holiday in form of one Web site.

Gyumri work group from School number 20 participated in the project as Shirak region representative. On our web site we have described the one of the most beautiful Armenian holidays Christmas. Our web site suggests the visitors to enjoy the world of Christmas traditions, stories and explanations of different rituals. While presenting the new and old traditions of Christmas our work group stood on Christmas table food and symbols: candles, cards, Christmas tree and its story.

Being created by children and teachers these works can be additional educational resources and fill the list of Armenian Web sites.

You can visit the above-mentioned new sites yourselves: <http://projects.ascp.am/holidays>

*Jipinyan Alisa
Simonyan Emilia
School #20*



Youth Achievements NGO in frames of Human Rights school training project on November 29 organized Shirak region 74 students travel to RA Parliament building. The visit was cognitive. The goal of it was to acquaint students with Parliament Building and the activities and goals of the legislative organ.

Maro Asatryan representative of Public Relations department and Hovhanness Margaryan vice president of Representations issues Committee met us there and organized an interesting excursion in the Parliament building.

We have been in offices of parliamentarians, in all halls and in Session hall, where our parliamentarians address the problematic questions to the Government representatives.

Here Arthur Baghdasaryan Speaker of Parliament presented us the authorities of Parliament, its Speaker's responsibilities and rights, work of Parliamentary Committees manuals, who can become a parliamentary, about elections period and etc. Later Arthur Baghdasaryan answered our questions about education, banks, and internal and external policy.

There were students from other regions of Armenian and from Yerevan, where Youth achievements organization was implementing projects. By the way that is not the last visit to Parliament organized by them. Youth Achievements NGO has organized many visits to the Parliament, to the Constitutional Court and UN office.

*Aristakesyan Shushanna
Movsisyan Araksya
School #20*

Our New Year Wishes



days Let all wishes be fulfilled.

School 29



Happy New Year and Merry Christmas, I wish all wishes would become true. Let 2004 is year of Peace and Happiness.

*Petrosyan Manik
School #29*

I wish all the best to everybody in the coming year. Let the coming year bring joy and pleasure to everybody. The passed year was not very happy for me and I hope the coming one will be better; we are going to our newly built school.

*Lala
School #29*



I wish everybody would be happy and joyful; people will be able to understand and forgive each other.

*Movsisyan Albert
School #2*



*I want to see our town beautiful and bright. I want to see only happy
smiles on every face.
Happy New Year!*

*Artyom Gabrielyan
School #2*

I wish the coming year will be full of happiness, success and
dreams. Let 2004 brings Peace to the world.

Arakelyan Haykanush
School #30



**I wish there will be no wars in the coming year: let children not suffer
from conflicts of countries.**

I wish the coming year would be Peaceful.

**Manvelyan Armen
School 7**

*I turn to all humanity "Understand and love each other and may be we can fulfill the
cherished desire of humanity: Peace". I have no other wish, as Peace is the base of
everything, it is the soil, on which we will seed and grow everything with our hard
efforts.*

*Danielyan Inga
School #7*





I wish everybody's dreams would become true in the coming year. Let the coming year be year of kindness and fullness for everybody. I would like Peace Centers would be all over the world and spread Peace everywhere.

Stepanyan Ani
School # 7

I wish success, happiness and love to everyone. Let the coming year bring happiness to everyone and let no one be in conflict situation.

Manukyan Mary
School 2



I wish everyone would be Peaceful and Happy in the coming year. Let old problems and difficulties disappear in New Year. Let Armenian people need in nothing in the coming year.

Iskandaryan Armen
School # 30

I wish 2004 would be happy for everyone. Let the coming year be year of development and everyone has job.
I wish my teachers and Center members are happy and let the smile be always on their faces.

Manukyan Bagrad
School 7



I want to turn my wish to all Armenian people. Let only success follow them. Let New Year bring hope and believe for tomorrow. I wish Patriotism, Happiness, Love and well-provided life. Happy New Year and Merry Christmas.

Karapetyan Hayastan
School #7





I have a desire, which I hope will be fulfilled. I wish there will be no wars in the world, people will live safely and there will be no danger for their lives.

Grigoryan Anahit
School #30

I wish all people happiness, No War and Greave. I wish our Motherland would develop and grow and the governors would not cheat us.

Grigoryan Sevada
School #2



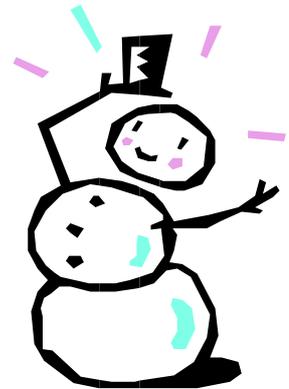
I wish Happiness, Success and Health to all Gyumri people. I always wish success to our Center members and let the smile be always on their faces.

Happy New Year!

Hovhanissyan Tigran
School # 7

I wish 2004 would bring success, happiness and peace with it. I have a cherished desire: I want to become Champion of Europe in Karate. I hope it will be fulfilled.

Zilfimyan Grigor
School #7



I wish Peace to my Motherland for all people to be happy. I wish success, happiness and love to all of them. Let everybody meet the New Year happy and friendly.

Galstyan Harutyun
School #30



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PEACE
ON EARTH