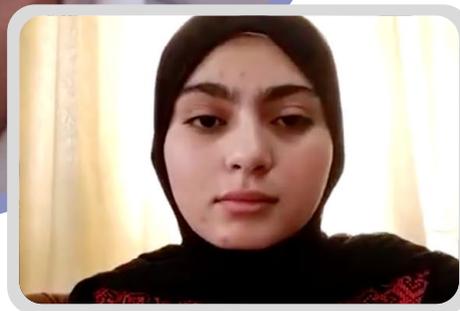
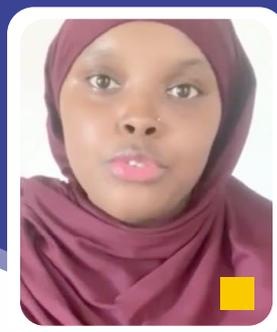


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR CHILDREN

ACTIVITY REPORT 2025





Welcome
to the
WORLD
DAY!

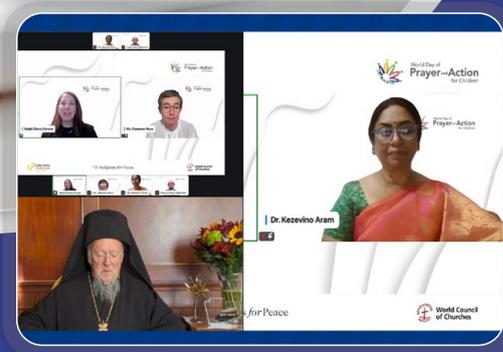
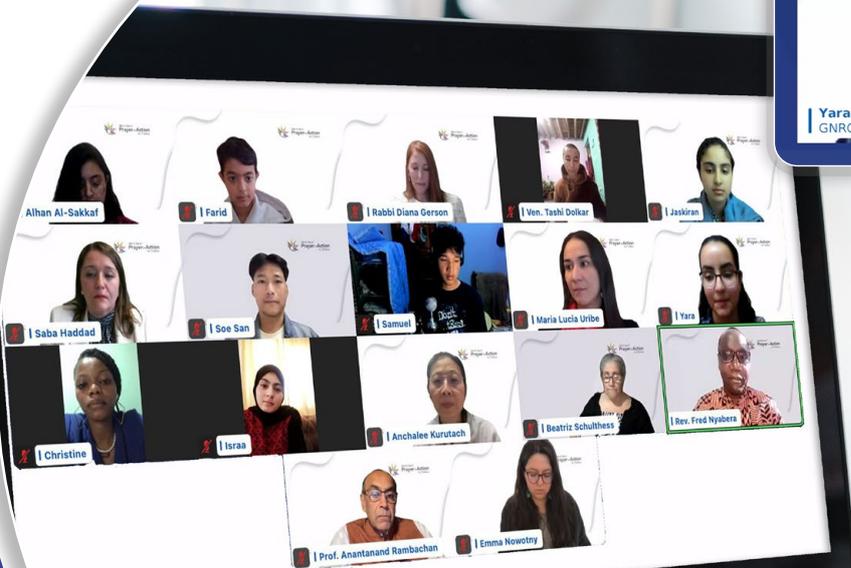
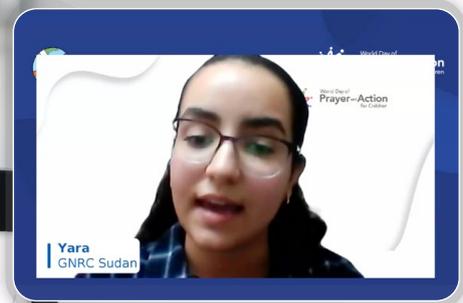


Contents

1	Keeping Faith in Children: Building Our Shared Humanity Online Global Gathering	6
.....		
2	Interfaith Service for Children in War: World Children's Day	8
.....		
3	Interfaith Dialogue Series: Advancing the Responsibility to Protect the Rights and Dignity of the Child - Session I	12
.....		
4	Commemorations and Local Actions by GNRC Members	14
.....		
5	Participation at a glance	20
.....		
6	Communications and Outreach	21
.....		
7	About the World Day of Prayer and Action	24

World Day 2025

The World Day 2025 was convened under the theme "Keeping Faith in Children: Building Our Shared Humanity."



World Day 2025 included Key Moments

- **Keeping Faith in Children: Building Our Shared Humanity Online Global Gathering**

19 November 2025

- **Interfaith Service for Children in War: World Children's Day**

20 November 2025

- **Interfaith Dialogue Series: Advancing the Responsibility to Protect the Rights and Dignity of the Child - Session I**

26 November 2025

- **Local commemorations** by GNRC members.

World Day 2025 engaged 588 participants of 8 faiths and extended its reach through over 11,400 organic social media impressions, complemented by direct outreach to 1,800 contacts worldwide.

The World Day 2025 took place in a global context marked by overlapping crises that continue to shape children's lives in profound ways. Armed conflicts, forced displacement, deepening poverty, and the accelerating impacts of climate change directly affect children's safety, mental health, education, family life, and sense of belonging.

In many contexts, the value of life and the principles underpinning children's rights are increasingly disregarded, leaving children exposed to violence, exclusion, and insecurity. At the same time, children continue to demonstrate courage, creativity, and a strong sense of justice. Across regions, they are speaking out against violence, inequality, and environmental destruction, while calling for peace, care, and accountability from adults and institutions.

Against this backdrop, the World Day 2025 was convened under the theme **"Keeping Faith in Children: Building Our Shared Humanity."** The theme invited to reflect on how trust in children's capacities, dignity, and leadership is inseparable from humanity's ability to rebuild empathy, solidarity, and social cohesion.

The 2025 observance built on previous years' collective advocacy on education, children on the move, environmental justice, and ending violence against children. It created space to listen to children's lived experiences, to pray alongside them, and to reflect on the co-responsibility of faith leaders, communities, and institutions in protecting children's rights and child dignity in today's fragile world.

Keeping Faith in Children: Building Our Shared Humanity- Online Global Gathering

19 November 2025



The World Day 2025 opened on 19 November with a global online gathering that brought together children, youth, grassroots actors, and members of the World Day Planning Committee. The session created a space to amplify children's voices and local initiatives advancing children's rights and well-being in diverse contexts.

Children and youth shared reflections on leadership, participation, and responsibility, emphasizing that children are not only affected by global challenges but are actively shaping solutions within their communities. Grass-roots champions illustrated how faith-inspired, community-led action continues to advance children’s well-being despite limited resources and complex social realities.

A recurring message throughout the session was the importance of everyday action. As one child participant shared, “Every small action does matter.” The online gathering reinforced the World Day’s role as a platform for linking local experience with global commitment and encouraging continued prayer and action beyond 20 November.

The gathering featured contributions from Dr. Kezevino Aram -Presiden, Shanti Ashran- and Mrs. Rosaria Correa Pulice -Member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child-, alongside child and youth leaders from GNRC Ecuador (Anthony), India (Layaa), Jordan (Zaina), Kenya (Brian King), and Guatemala (Mario Chip), and local champions from Nepal (Mr. Manoj Ram), Mexico (Mrs.

Teresa Castellanos), India (Mr. Vijay Gopal), and Comoros (Luna and Naïma). Speakers reflected on how children experience global crises in their daily lives and on the importance of grounding decisions and actions in children’s dignity and rights.

Click [here](#) to watch the recording of the World Day November 19 online event.



Interfaith Service for Children in War: World Children's Day

20 November 2025



On World Children's Day, the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children was marked by an **Interfaith Service for Children in War**, convened in collaboration with partners of the [Stand Up for Children in War Campaign](#) as a shared space of prayer, reflection, music, and silence across faith traditions.

The service opened with the voices of children and set a tone truth-telling. Israa (Palestine) offered a poetic reflection that gave voice to the way war enters children's lives without explanation or consent:

“

*They do not understand borders,
nor the reasons for hatred.
All they know is that the sound of explosions frightens them,
and that the sky no longer brings rain..but fire.*



”

Her words named what war takes from children – safety, laughter, trust, and dreams – while also bearing witness to their resilience and quiet hope:

“

*And yet, somehow...
they still draw the sun on shattered walls,
and smile toward tomorrow—
as if they already know the light will return.*



”

The service moved into prayer, holding children affected by war in a shared spiritual embrace. A prayer offered by Christine (Democratic Republic of the Congo) called on divine help in places of rubble and fear and to awaken responsibility among adults and communities:

“

*Silence the weapons that steal their childhood...
Grant us the strength to act, to speak, and
to love so that we may rebuild a future where
every child can smile, learn, play, and dream
without fear.*



”

Children's testimonies further connected prayer with lived reality. Yara (Sudan) spoke as a child forced to flee her home in search of safety, recalling fear and displacement while also affirming moments of shared humanity across faiths:

“

I also remember the light: people helping one another, no matter their tribe or religion.



”

She reminded participants that behind every statistic is a human story:

“

Every number in a report represents a real person: a child who wants to go back to school, a mother who prays for safety.



”

Soe San (Myanmar) connected these voices with the experiences of displaced children in Myanmar, highlighting both vulnerability and resilience, and the compassion shown by faith communities along borders and in refugee settings:

“

Even after losing their homes, they still draw pictures of the future. Even after running from danger, they still laugh and dream.



”

He concluded with a reflection that resonated across the service:

“

“When compassion becomes action, even small actions, children feel it. And when adults choose peace, children finally get to choose childhood.”



”

A musical interlude, introduced by Samuel (Myanmar), offered space for reflection through the song “One Day,” shared as a prayerful expression of a universal hope that every child may grow up without fear, violence, or war.

The interfaith service brought together religious leaders, children, and youth representing Bahá’í Faith, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Indigenous traditions, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism.



Prayers were offered by:

Saba Haddad, Representative of the Bahá’í International Community to the United Nations Office in Geneva (Bahá’í Faith)

Venerable Tashi Dolkar, Ladakh Nun Association, India (Buddhism)

Sr. Pauline Silver Acayo, Catholic Relief Services, Kenya (Christianity)

Prof. Anantanand Rambachan, St. Olaf University, United States (Hinduism)

Priestess Beatriz Schulthess, Costa Rica (Indigenous traditions)

Dr. Zafar Iqbal Jalali, Jamia Islamabad, Pakistan (Islam)

Rabbi Diana Gerson, New York Board of Rabbis, United States (Judaism)

Gurpeet Singh, The Sikhi Council, Germany (Sikhism)

The service concluded with very touching and inspiring prayers by religious leaders and children’s messages of loss, remembrance, and perseverance, including a reflection from a boy in Togo, affirming that “despite problems and challenges, a better tomorrow is possible.” A closing prayer offered by Jaskiran (Kenya), drawing from the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, called for mercy, wisdom, and peace, and for unity beyond difference.

The Interfaith Service for Children in War was experienced as a shared spiritual practice rooted in listening to children’s realities. By praying with children and honoring their voices, the service reaffirmed the World Day’s call to unite reflection with responsibility, and faith with action, in service of every child’s dignity and well-being.

Click [here](#) to relive the Interfaith Service for Children in War.

Interfaith Dialogue Series: Advancing the Responsibility to Protect the Rights and Dignity of the Child – Session I

26 November 2025



The World Day 2025 concluded with the first session of the [Interfaith Dialogue Series](#), co-convened by Arigatou International, Religions for Peace, and the World Council of Churches.

Grounded in commitments made during the Sixth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), including the Abu Dhabi Declaration and Plan of Action, the dialogue brought together religious leaders from 15 countries to reflect on the responsibility of faith communities to uphold and advance the rights and dignity of the child amid a global polycrisis.

The public segment of the dialogue featured keynote reflections by Dr. Kezevino Aram, followed by messages from Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, H.A.H. Patriarch Bartholomew (video message), Imam Yahya Pallavicini, Rev. Fr. Dr. Cornelius Omonokhua, and H.E. Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh. Speakers reflected on how children's dignity is understood within faith traditions and on the practical challenges of safeguarding it in contexts affected by violence, poverty, displacement, and climate-related harms.

The closed dialogue circles provided a protected space for honest exchange among religious leaders. Across all groups, participants reaffirmed that children are sacred beings, bearers of inherent value, and central to the moral fabric of society. They identified common barriers undermining children's dignity, including family and domestic violence, gender-based discrimination, statelessness, digital vulnerabilities, and the growing impact of climate change on children's lives.

Participants shared practical strategies and good practices, including strengthening faith-based teaching on children's rights and dignity, addressing harmful social and gender norms, promoting positive parenting, integrating climate literacy into religious education, and expanding trauma-informed pastoral care and psychosocial support. The importance of interfaith collaboration and the use of existing frameworks such as Faith for Positive Change for Children, Families, and Communities (FPCC) was emphasized.

The dialogue concluded with shared commitments to reinforce faith teachings that affirm children as rights-holders, strengthen interfaith coordination on child protection and climate justice, expand capacity-building for religious leaders, and document good practices to inform future sessions of the Dialogue Series. Additional sessions are planned for 2026 to deepen collaboration and collective action.



Commemorations and Local Actions by GNRC Members



Alongside the global World Day events, members of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) commemorated the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children 2025 through a wide range of local, national, and regional initiatives.

In Asia, GNRC Pakistan convened a child-led event under the theme "My Day, My Rights." Young panelists addressed issues including violence against children, online

safety, digital gender-based violence, and the need for psychosocial support in schools. The event also included intergenerational dialogue sessions facilitated by members of the GNRC Youth Advisory Committee, and engagement with government representatives who reaffirmed commitments to child protection reforms.

GNRC Thailand marked the World Day by presenting recommendations to Thailand's Human Rights Committee, focusing on building a safe and secure world for children and strengthening accountability for children's rights.

GNRC India and its partners organized a webinar and a series of related events that reached more than 7,000 participants under the theme "Faith Communities Working Together to End Violence Against Children in the Early Years." The discussions explored faith-sensitive parenting, prevention of violence against young children, and evidence-based practices to strengthen family and community care.

In Europe and the Middle East, GNRC Bosnia and Herzegovina held a community event under the theme "Let's stand with children in war—provide them with safety, security, and dignity." Religious leaders, civil society organizations, schools, and municipal authorities participated in the gathering. GNRC Lebanon shared reflections and messages connected to its ongoing work with children, reaffirming prayers and efforts so that children may enjoy a childhood worthy of their dreams in a safe world. GNRC Palestine convened a dialogue with women from the House of Resilience and Story, focusing on daily realities and resilience in the context of the ongoing crisis.



GNRC *Peru*



GNRC *Ecuador*



GNRC *Dominican Republic*

Across Africa, the World Day coincided with the GNRC Post-Forum Regional Meeting for Africa, hosted by GNRC Comoros. A majority of GNRC members from the region joined or supported this gathering, integrating prayer, reflection, and dialogue on children's dignity and well-being within a broader regional follow-up process to the GNRC Sixth Forum. GNRC Benin organized a public citizen conference at the University of Abomey-Calavi, linking environmental justice and children's rights through discussions on just transition and the "Don't Gas the South" campaign. GNRC South Africa shared messages of hope drawn from faith traditions, emphasizing solidarity with children and the responsibility of faith communities to promote safety, dignity, and peace.

In Latin America, [GNRC Brazil](#) marked the World Day with a national gathering in Curitiba, bringing together faith leaders, families, and communities for prayer and reflection, renewing collective commitment to children and a future of peace and dignity.

GNRC **Brazil**



GNRC Peru convened diverse faith communities during the month of Prayer and Action for Children, combining intercession with concrete commitments to promote positive discipline, defend children's rights in schools and families, and create safe spaces for children to grow with joy and peace.

GNRC Peru



GNRC Ecuador brought together 70 participants, including 55 children and adolescents, for an intergenerational reflection under the theme “Keeping faith in children as a way of restoring our shared humanity.” The gathering included spiritual reflection, symbolic moments of light and hope, and active participation by children, who shared their joy and commitment to a world that respects their rights.

GNRC *Ecuador*



GNRC Dominican Republic marked the World Day in the framework of the regional follow-up meeting to the GNRC Sixth Forum, convening an interreligious prayer for children and a call to action to end all forms of violence against children, with particular emphasis on safe environments for children's growth and development.

GNRC Dominican Republic



Participation at a glance

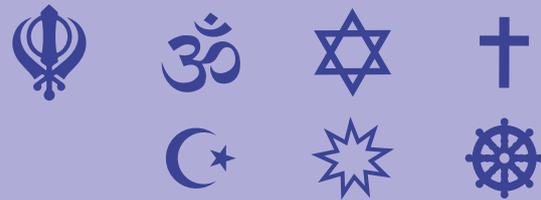
Global World Day Events
(19, 20, and 26 November 2025)



Children, youth, religious leaders, grassroots partners, and members of the World Day Planning Committee

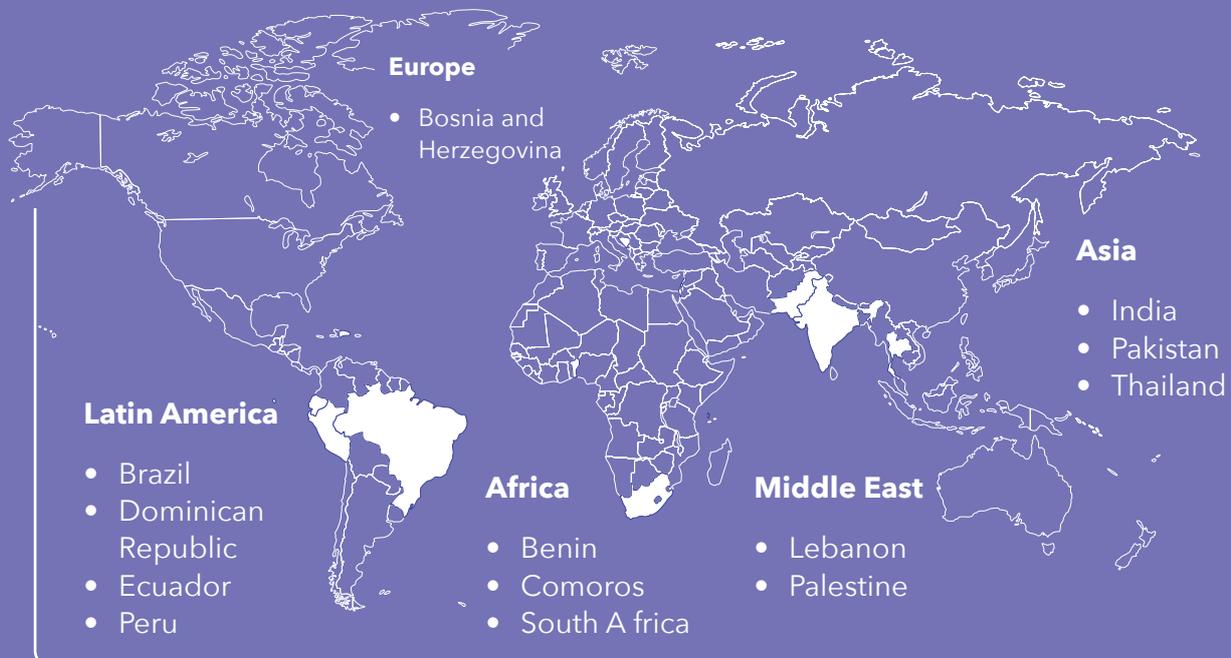


14
 religious communities



Christianity | Islam | Judaism | Hinduism
 Buddhism | Sikhism | Shintoism | Baha'i faith
 Jainism and indigenous traditions

GNRC Members' Local Celebrations



Communications and Outreach

To amplify the messages, voices, and calls to action of the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children 2025, the outreach strategy prioritized visibility beyond existing audiences while strengthening engagement with committed partners and faith-inspired networks.

All figures below reflect organic outreach and engagement during the World Day 2025 campaign period.

Social Media Outreach (Organic)



5,814

content
impressions

52.2%

reached
followers

47.8%

reached
non-follower

Facebook continued to serve as a key platform for engaging established supporters while also extending visibility to audiences beyond existing networks.



4,110

content
impressions

692

accounts
reached

74.5%

reached
non-follower

Instagram demonstrated strong capacity to reach new audiences, particularly users not previously connected to World Day channels.



1,515

content
impressions

108

reactions

125%

increase in post
shares compared to
usual performance

Engagement on LinkedIn reflected growing interest among professionals, faith leaders, educators, and child-focused practitioners, with a notable increase in content sharing across networks.



Email Outreach

Mass Email Campaign

1,800
messages sent

The email outreach supported participation and awareness by sharing key messages, event invitations, and calls to prayer and action with partners, networks, and community.

Online Participation

588
participants across
online World Day events

Online events enabled broad and inclusive participation, connecting children, youth, grassroots partners, faith leaders, and international stakeholders across regions.

Dissemination efforts included Planning Committee members and partners—World Vision, World Council of Churches, Religions for Peace, and the United Religions Initiative, who re-shared our social media updates—along with numerous GNRC members who actively promoted the events and local celebrations.

World
Vision



World Council of Churches

World Council of Churches

About the WCC | Member Churches | News | Events | What we do | Get Involved | Resources | Contact & Press | Blog | Assembly

Home > Interfaith dialogue protecting our children "a moral and practical imperative"

Interfaith dialogue: protecting our children "a moral and practical imperative"

A new online Interfaith Dialogues Series organized by Religions for Peace, Arigatou International, and the World Council of Churches begins on 26 November, marking the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children.

Religions for Peace

Religions for Peace

Dr. Kezevino Aram,
President, Shanti Ashram; Co-Moderator,
Religions for Peace; Vice Chair, Arigatou
International Advisory Group

Rabbi Diana Gerson,
Associate Executive Vice President,
New York Board of Rabbis



"To model ourselves as a caring, responsible human family, we will have to look at what drives our own thinking, our own moral compass."

"Dialogue rooted in faith opens the way for us to respond together to the suffering of the most vulnerable with healing, with compassion, and with justice. It is in this spirit of solidarity that we are reminded that the dignity of the child is upheld not only through the teachings of our respective traditions, but also through our willingness to journey together across them."

United Religions Initiative



KEEPING FAITH IN CHILDREN: Building our shared Humanity

Save the Date

ONLINE EVENT

19 Nov 2025

9:00 EST

Via Zoom

bit.ly/WorldDay2025



Overall, the communications and outreach efforts surrounding the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children 2025 strengthened both participation and visibility at the global level. While online events created meaningful spaces for engagement and connection, the combined use of social media, email outreach, and partner dissemination expanded the reach of the World Day’s messages beyond core audiences. The active involvement of Planning Committee members, international partners, and GNRC members played a key role in amplifying calls to prayer and action, reinforcing the collective and networked nature of the World Day.

About the World Day of Prayer and Action

The World Day of Prayer and Action for Children (World Day) is observed every year on 20 November, marking the anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and World Children’s Day.

Established in 2008, the World Day provides a global platform to catalyze joint action among faith communities, grassroots organizations, children, and international partners. Through prayer, reflection, dialogue, and community-led action, the World Day supports efforts to advance children’s rights and well-being and to address violence affecting children worldwide.

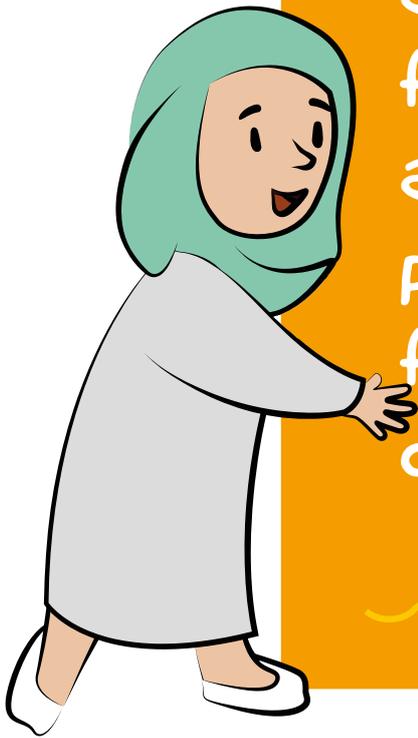
The World Day is convened by Arigatou International in collaboration with the World Day Planning Committee, bringing together faith-inspired and child-focused organizations, networks, and partners across regions. Since its inception, the World Day has been commemorated in more than 90 countries through local, national, and global initiatives.

The World Day Planning Committee, brings together fourteen international and national faith-inspired organizations and child-focused agencies, including:

Bahá’í International Community	Office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children
ChildFund Alliance	Religions for Peace
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, New York Office	Shanti Ashram
International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB)	United Religions Initiative
Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities	World Council of Churches
New York Board of Rabbis	World Vision International
International Conference of Rabbis	UNICEF



“
When compassion
becomes action,
even small
actions, children
feel it. And when
adults choose
peace, children
finally get to
choose childhood.
”





Contact Us

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 [/PrayerandAction](https://www.facebook.com/PrayerandAction)

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 [@prayerandaction](https://www.instagram.com/prayerandaction)

 [Prayer and Action for Children - New York](https://www.youtube.com/PrayerandActionforChildren-NewYork)