

Messages of Peace from Religious Traditions

BAHA'I FAITH

All men have been created to carry forward an ever-advancing civilization. The Almighty beareth Me witness: to act like the beasts of the field is unworthy of man. Those virtues that befit his dignity are forbearance, mercy, compassion and loving-kindness towards all the peoples and kindreds of the earth. [BAHA'ULLAH]

BUDDHISM

Life is dear to all. Comparing others with oneself, one should neither kill nor cause to kill. [DHAMMAPADA: 130]

CHRISTIANITY

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good for those who hate you and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. [Matthew 5:38-44]

HINDUISM

Ahimsa [non-violence] is the greatest gift. Ahimsa is the highest self-control. Ahimsa is the highest sacrifice. Ahimsa is the highest power. Ahimsa is the highest friend. Ahimsa is the highest truth. Ahimsa is the highest teaching. [MAHABHARATA 18:116:37-41]

ISLAM

The worshippers of the All-Merciful are they who tread gently upon the earth, and when the ignorant address them, they reply, "Peace!" [QUR'AN, 25:63]

JAINISM

There is no quality of soul more subtle than non-violence and no virtue of spirit greater than reverence for life. [MAHAVIRA]

JUDAISM

Great is peace, for God's name is peace ... Great is peace, for it encompasses all blessings ... Great is peace, for even in times of war, peace must be sought ... Great is peace, for when the Messiah comes, he will commence with peace. [MIDRASH LEVITICUS RABBAH 9:9]

SIKHISM

No one is my enemy,
No one is a foreigner,
With all I am at peace,
God within us renders us,
Incapable of hate and prejudice.
[GURU NANAK]

ZOROASTRIANISM

We humbly request the Creator Ahura Mazda to bless this house, this country and the planet we inhabit. May obedience smite disobedience. May peace smite discord. May generosity smite stinginess. May reverence smite pride. May truthfulness smite falsehood. May happiness, offspring and innate wisdom never leave us. May the long friendship of Asha (Righteousness) which gives comfort and ease never leave us. We pray that good thoughts, good words and good deeds neutralise evil thoughts, evil words and evil deeds thus bringing peace in this world. May our good and righteous actions transform the world enabling all to live a long comfortable life.

Further information, please contact:

C. Robertson | London Peace Network |
e: convener@lbfm.org | m: 07903 682142

J. Bond | Christian Muslim Forum |
e: info@christianmuslimforum.org | t: 0207 729 6830

D. Wardrop | United Nations Association Westminster |
e: davidwardrop@bulldoghome.com | t: 020 7385 6738

A. Faliq | The Cordoba Foundation |
e: abdullah@thecordobafoundation.com | t: 020 8991 3370

S. Miller | Faith-based Regeneration Network |
e: stevemiller@fbrn.org.uk | t: 020 7840 0138

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. The London Peace Network is a broad coalition of organisations, led by London Boroughs Faiths Network, which came together in 2012 to promote peace-building and the Olympic Truce. www.londonpeacenetnetwork.wordpress.com
2. Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The United Nations General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. www.un.org/en/events/peaceday
3. Peace One Day is working towards a global day of ceasefire and non-violence on 21st September. www.peaceoneday.org



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