

PEACE



PARTNERS

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MEDIA PACK 2020

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Background

Peace Partners

Peace Partners was established in the UK in 2015 as a non-profit organisation, with the aim to support and promote innovative initiatives in the areas of food security and personal peace. It's committed to meeting the fundamental human needs of clean air, water, nutritious food and individual peace. Peace Partners aims to raise public awareness, improve knowledge and expertise and develop sustainable solutions to these global challenges.

From the start it was recognised that to be effective a collaborative approach with individuals, groups and organisations with similar goals and aspirations in the fields of food security and personal peace was needed, hence the 'partners' in Peace Partners.

In particular, Peace Partners encourages increased adoption and awareness of the Food for People, Peace for All and Peace Education programmes pioneered by The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF), a US-based, non-profit humanitarian organisation with a global reach.

It is the largest organised advocate for TPRF in the UK where followers can support initiatives closer to home, further develop the highly-acclaimed Peace Education Programme in the UK and help to fulfil the foundation's mission.

Charitable status and lottery funding

In 2016 UK charitable status was achieved, helping Peace Partners to reach more supporters and expand its efforts in fundraising and the promotion of peace.

In 2019, it was awarded a National Lottery Community Award for its peace education projects, in recognition of the "quality of the work [being done in the] community".

Who we are

Peace Partners' team are a group of volunteers united by a desire to take action to promote sustainable solutions for human prosperity, with due regard for the environment and all those who share its limited resources with us.

Juli Hammersley – is the founder of Peace Partners. She combines her knowledge, passion and experience to deliver and create the best platform for the work of Peace Partners and assist people worldwide who are most in need. Her greatest expertise revolves around developing projects, building teams and always working towards the aim of helping people live their lives with dignity, peace and prosperity.

Juli is supported in this work by a team of six highly experienced trustees each of whom have a specific responsibility in the Peace Partners charity.

What we do

To work towards our goals, we aim to promote awareness and provide support for:

- A message of peace and peace education.
- Humanitarian work focused on Food for People (including basic hygiene and agricultural techniques) and on Crisis Relief efforts.
- Partnerships with like-minded organisations, where we offer support, connection, collaboration and networking.

We are signatories to the European Parliament's Bruxelles Declaration Pledge to Peace which we actively promote to other organisations and individuals.



Forums and workshops

Throughout the year we host events and joint forums with our partners. These are designed to share our work and help make peace possible at different levels: nationally, in the community, and individually. Events offer platforms to different speakers and performers, encourage thoughtful discussion and aim to inspire new initiatives and partnerships that continue the promotion of peace.

Fundraising

We host fundraising events in collaboration with our partners where proceeds go towards TPRF's humanitarian initiatives. As well as donations, events aim to spread awareness of the work done by both Peace Partners Charity and TPRF.

Fundraising is further supported by a growing group of regular donors; outreach events aimed at communities where there is interest in our work and targeted online campaigns.

Digital

We promote and share our work through our growing website, social media presence and regular eBulletin newsletter.

Key projects

The success of Peace Partners' work is seen in its impact on the lives of individuals:

- a young child in rural parts of India, Nepal or Ghana having an empowering and much needed nutritious meal
- a young person in London finding the strength to move forward from street gang life
- or someone simply looking for hope and clarity as an alternative to frustration and confusion.

Food for People

Developed by TPRF and inspired by its founder Prem Rawat, [Food for People](#) is a model food programme that supports rural villages in poverty-stricken areas. Its main aim is to provide regular nutritious meals to those who need it most, such as children and ailing adults in communities where malnutrition is rife.

The programme also provides local employment opportunities, educates the community about hygiene and how to prevent disease and helps with local food production and agricultural methods. Children no longer need to work all day and are well enough to go to school as a result of the programme. It also takes into account what each location needs and helps community leaders to determine what is best for them.

Since becoming a charity in 2016 **we have raised an estimated total of £20,000 for Food for People projects** in India, Nepal and Ghana. This equates to funding **equivalent to 40,000 nutritious meals**.

We are proud to support the Food for People project, especially when we hear the incredible success stories, such as Kenneth from Otinibi, Kenya. He was the first student from his town to attend Presbyterian Boys' Secondary School, he then went on to study at university. This would not be possible without the support from the Food for People facilities, which feeds children in Otinibi, giving them the nutrition and energy they need to attend and be successful at school.



Peace Education

Peace Partners provides support for those who wish to host the peace education workshops across the UK, helping participants to discover their own inner resources; innate tools for living such as inner strength, choice and hope, and the possibility of personal peace. We provide advice and financial assistance to communities and organisations, also occasional training to course facilitators.

The Peace Education Programme is a media-based educational resource created by TPRF. In 2019, we helped facilitate **five Peace Education programmes** in the UK where there were around **120 attendees** overall. We have a strategy in place to facilitate 150% more programmes year on year until 2023.

Our [events](#) and [peace workshops](#) attract a wide range of participants. They include activists and professionals engaged in conflict resolution; adults and young people; recovering victims of social marginalisation and many more; those who are touched by the unique connection between peace within and peace without, which the Peace Education sessions can highlight. Our focus for the next three years is to promote Peace Education into more communities, educational facilities and eventually into public services.



Partnerships

Our partners vary widely, such as committed individual volunteers, larger organisations active in the volunteer space and businesses that want to make a difference.

Organisations that we work in partnership with include:

- The Prem Rawat Foundation
- St Mungo's Recovery College
- Clinks
- Celebrate Life Events
- Tutu Foundation UK
- Peacecast.tv
- Young People Insight
- Water Air Food Awards
- Building Bridges for Peace
- Dwayne Simpson Foundation
- Invest in Peace
- Peace Talks Tameside.

We also work with educational establishments and community groups and organisations.

While we hope that our partners benefit from their connections with Peace Partners, it's very clear that we learn and benefit hugely through our connections with them and this, in turn, helps us achieve more.

Our network connections are invaluable and can provide an organic framework for the continued growth of our work.



Event outcomes – workshops

Waves of Change ‘Practice Peace’ forum – Fairfield Halls, Croydon September 2019

The day-long event was hosted by Peace Partners in association with the Tutu Foundation UK and Youth Futures. The aim of the event, as summarized by Dr Mitesh Desai, the day’s chairperson, was “to reflect on how peace can become a reality for us as individuals, for our families, in our communities and indeed for countries across the world.” It was streamed globally in partnership with Peacecast.tv.

In celebration of the U.N. International Day of Peace on 21 September 2019, the event featured a variety of artists and community leaders who explored how the Peace Education Programme can play an innovative role in addressing youth violence and other problems.



A highlight of the day was the signings of the Pledge to Peace. Attendees were invited to sign their own pledges for peaceful lives and activity, while Croydon’s Deputy Mayor and the Imam both signed the Bruxelles Declaration ‘Pledge to Peace’ in order to make Croydon a ‘peace town’.

Comments from the event’s attendees included: “an amazing event,” “an awesome day,” “a brilliant feeling event,” “it was a pleasure to be there,” “a wonderful event.” The Prem Rawat Foundation also [covered the day on its website](#).

Outcomes from the forum included two Peace Education workshops held in Croydon after the event, with some attendees from the forum interested in running the Peace Education programmes for their own communities. New connections were formed, for instance with the Deputy Mayor of Croydon and the Imam from Croydon Mosque, who we look forward to working with in 2020.

Screening of 'Peace is Inevitable' – David Lean Cinema Croydon May 2019

Inspired by the Peace, Gangs and Conflict Resolution forum (June 2018), a screening of the documentary film, 'Peace is Inevitable' was shown in Croydon. The film is about two warring youth gangs in Ecuador, South America, who remarkably turn their lives around after one of the gangs was inspired by the Peace Education Programme.

The film screening was followed by a meaningful Q&A session with the documentary makers, Simon Edwards and Marian Masoliver.

The 'Bloods' gang which the film is based upon, was so inspired by the live link to the screening and knowing that 'their' film was shown in London, that they ramped up their efforts and activities to bring about peace in their community. They went to the mayor of their town and made suggestions about what else could be done in their community.

This event was also instrumental for Peace Partners, we were given permission from the copyright holders to create Blu-Ray versions of the film which we can lend to other organisations in the UK who would like to screen the film.

Finding Peace through Conflict Resolution Workshop – Project B Croydon February 2019

Inspired by the Peace, Gangs and Conflict Resolution forum (June 2018), this event was made up of three workshops:

- Peace Education Workshop: Facilitator Mary Dagleish
- Ubuntu Roundtables Workshop: Facilitator Mark Murray
- Reading Group: Facilitator Dr Lesley Cooper.

The keynote address was given by Shaniqua Benjamin, founder of Young People Insight. More information about this inspiring event can be [found on our website](#).



Following on from these workshops, several related events were held where guests of the initial event were able to learn more about the Peace Education Programme. As a result, some of our partners felt inspired to run Peace Education workshops within their own projects and we developed further connections with community organisations based in Croydon.

Peace, Gangs and Conflict Resolution forum – part of Croydon’s Festival of Peace June 2018

Exploring the theme of gangs and conflict resolution, [this forum](#) aimed to raise awareness of the issues and context surrounding gang violence and conflict in the UK. The event included the premiere screening of the film ‘Peace is Inevitable’, with inspirational and informative keynote and guest speakers, along with a panel Q&A session and music.

Attendee comments included: “Very insightful and for a very serious subject, very enjoyable and memorable too!”. “Very inspiring” and “Interesting, informative and inspiring. A good mix of people.”

This forum was able to reach a new audience where we formed three significant new partnerships. The ‘Finding Peace Through Conflict Resolution Workshop’ followed on from this forum event.

Peace and Conflict Resolution, ‘Inside Peace’ film and panel debate – Mayfair Hotel London January 2017

Several years in the making, ‘Inside Peace’ is a feature-length documentary that follows four inmates doing time in Dominguez State Jail, Texas, USA, who attended the TPRF Peace Education classes. Violence, addiction, unemployment, poverty and loss of dignity are some of the issues they have been familiar with during their lives.

The screening at the Mayfair Hotel in central London was only the second screening of the film in the UK, after its premiere at the British Film Institute in June 2016. The event included a keynote address by Jo Berry, founder of Building Bridges for Peace and a panel discussion featuring reconciliation and rehabilitation specialists and activists.



All of the 200 seats were taken. As a consequence of the event, a number of further screenings and forums on peace education were held, including [several at universities](#).

Comments after the event included: "Truly inspiring and uplifting, a hopeful depiction of what can be achieved when people are given hope and peace" and "I enjoyed the screening and the interactions with the panel members, more such screenings around the UK may help other communities and inspire others in promoting the Peace Education Programme in various settings." Subsequently, this film has been shown in various parts of the UK and globally as an introduction to the TPRF Peace Education Programme.

Peace and Sustainability forum – Crystal, Royal Victoria Dock, London July 2016

In the words of MC Paul Vincent Cable, the aim of the event was to explore, "the intimate link between peace and sustainability" and "who we need to be to have a peaceful and sustainable world." A number of workshops were hosted by partners working in this space.

At the event Peace Partners signed the Pledge to Peace after Richard Outram shared his knowledge and experience of initiating the first signing of the Pledge to Peace by a UK local authority, Oldham Council. There were also various interactive sessions which included keynote speeches from Leon Stuparich and Professor Ron Geaves. Around 170 attended, and the feedback was all positive.

Peace Partners was a very new charity at this point, having just received charitable status. This was the first of the forum events we held, and it was primarily about building and creating links with organisations involved in similar work and making a difference.

Event outcomes – fundraisers

Celebration High Tea Party – Kewstoke Hall, Weston-Super-Mare October 2019

An [afternoon benefit](#) was held in aid of the TPRF Food for People Programme. This included an auction and raffle, music, cake and magic and was enjoyed by more than 70 attendees. **£2,718.00 was raised, equating to 5,800 meals served at the Food for People facilities.**



The local organiser said, “The model programme doesn’t just provide good, healthy food. It provides local employment opportunities, educates the community about hygiene and how to prevent disease and helps with local food production and agricultural methods. It also takes into account what each location needs and helps community leaders to determine what is best for them.”

Gala Benefit – Denbie's Wine Estate, Dorking November 2017

A [fundraiser in support](#) of the wonderful work of TPRF and its flagship programmes, including Food for People and the Peace Education Programme, was held at Debbie's Wine Estate in Dorking, Surrey.

The meal and inspiring guest speakers, who included TPRF president Daya Rawat, were followed by an auction and a raffle, with items and prizes kindly donated by supporters, and music. **£10,000 was raised** to support TPRF initiatives.

Forging Ahead Gala Benefit – Millennium Hotel, London November 2015

The inaugural event by Peace Partners was a [fundraising event](#) in support of the TPRF Food for People programme at the Millennium Mayfair Hotel in central London. There was a meal,

several inspiring presentations including one by TPRF president Daya Rawat, an auction, raffle and music.



Juli Hammersley, founder of Peace Partners, said, "It is so inspiring to see people giving their time freely to help others and creating such a wonderful evening to support this cause."

A fantastic £24,000 was raised, specifically for TPRF Food for People facilities.

2020 upcoming projects include...

Mayors for Peace

Early in the year, we will be presenting the TPRF Peace Education Programme and the powerful impact it has to mayors and representatives from across the UK and Ireland. With an overview of our work in communities, we'll be demonstrating how we want the Peace Education workshops to be available in educational establishments for young people; for those facing certain issues such as homelessness, imprisonment or poor mental health and also for the wider community.



Waves of Change forum events

- Peace and the Environment, Bristol
- Peace and Sports, London

The [Waves of Change forums](#) aim to raise awareness on current issues and offer meaningful solutions, such as the TPRF Peace Education Programme. With engaging and thought-provoking discussions led by inspiring keynote speakers, these events explore themes and offer solutions to issues that matter now.

As well as talks, events include film screenings, performances and opportunities for attendees to network and collaborate with others.

Press releases

- [PeaceCast.tv UN International Day of Peace, Peace Partners](#) – 9/9/2019
- [International Peace Event, Coulsdon Sixth Form College](#)
- [National Lottery Award, TPRF](#) – 4/4/2019
- [National Lottery Award, Peace Partners](#) – 13/3/2019
- [Peace Partners granted registered charity status!, Peace Partners](#) – 6/5/2016

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