



Global Alliance for  
Ministries & Departments of Peace

# ***The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace***

The *Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace* is a worldwide community of civil society organisations, committed citizens, and elected and appointed government officials from over 35 countries who:

- Are calling and working for the establishment, in their governments and in governments around the world, of ministries and departments of peace that reflect and support the emergence of a global culture of peace and nonviolence; and
- Subscribe to the "Peace Approach" conflict resolution principles stated below.

The purpose of the Global Alliance is to enable and facilitate the capacity of its network to share and provide one another with resources, encouragement, and support for existing and new national campaigns for Ministries and Departments of Peace. It also seeks, through the combined activities of the Global Alliance and its broader networks, to increase global understanding amongst civil societies and governments around the world of the need for Ministries and Departments of Peace. Three countries already have such ministries – the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in Nepal and the Ministry of National Unity, Reconciliation, and Peace in the Solomon Islands, and last here in 2009 the Ministry of Justice and Peace in Costa Rica.

A principle activity of the Global Alliance in support of its community is sponsorship of the annual Global Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace. The aims of the Global Summit encompass building relationships, sharing experiences, learning from one another, conducting trainings that expand the bank of knowledge and skills of the community, and raising awareness of the movement in the eyes of governments, civil society, and the general public. So far, Global Summits have been held in United Kingdom in 2005, Canada in 2006, and Japan in 2007, Costa Rica 2009 and the next one is planned for in South Africa in October 2011.

Among the key outcomes of the Summits to date have been an associated global youth movement, which was launched at the Canada Summit, and the African Alliance for Peace, which was formed by delegates from Africa to the Japan Summit in order to extend the movement for ministries of peace throughout Africa.

The Global Alliance is committed to partnership and cooperation with governments and civil society organisations working to change the manner in which conflict is dealt with so as to meet the fundamental needs of all humanity for security, mutual respect, justice, and a sustainable Earth. Such a shift would truly be a "peace approach" to resolving conflicts, both domestic and international.

## **COUNTRIES TO DATE PARTICIPATING IN THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF PEACE**

Argentina	Ghana*	New Zealand*	Solomon Islands*
Australia*	India*	Nigeria*	South Africa*
Brazil	Iraq	Pakistan*	Spain*
Cameroon*	Ireland*	Palestine*	Sri Lanka
Canada*	Israel*	Philippines*	Uganda*
Congo, Dem. Rep. of*	Italy*	Romania*	United Kingdom*
Costa Rica*	Japan*	Rwanda*	United States of America*
Denmark*	Liberia	Senegal*	
France*	Nepal*	Serbia	
	Netherlands	Sierra Leone	

*\* Countries with movements currently active or in formation for a ministry or department of peace or similar government agency and/or who already have such government organisations.*

## **PRINCIPLES OF A "PEACE APPROACH" TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace calls for a "Peace Approach" to resolving conflict, internationally and domestically. The Peace Approach can be defined by the following basic principles:

- Bottom-Up.** Peacebuilding from below to develop a new architecture of peace based upon civil society aspirations.
- Partnership.** Civil society working in partnership with governments to reveal possibilities for dialogue and conflict transformation in a given situation – domestic as well as international.
- Inclusion.** Engaging and empowering all stakeholders in a given conflict transformation.
- Listening.** Respectfully and empathetically listening to and recognising the legitimacy and needs of all parties.
- Root Causes.** Responding to the most fundamental human needs of sustenance, identity, security, and recognition.
- Creativity.** Opening space for the emergence of various possible outcomes to a given conflict and their potential for transformation.
- Healing.** Recognising mutual healing as a key to conflict transformation.
- Modeling.** In our attitudes, behaviours, life, and work, modeling the peace we seek in the world and taking responsibility for peaceful outcomes.