

Participation-November 2016



Children enjoying scientific exploration at a science museum in Japan

November 10—World Science Day for Peace and Development

The purpose of the World Science Day for Peace and Development is to renew the international commitment to science for peace and development and to stress the responsible use of science for the benefit of society. This day seeks to raise public awareness of the importance of science in attaining the 2030 Sustainable Development

Goals set forth by the UN in September 2015 and to bridge the gap between science and societies. It is also a day for promoting the sharing of scientific advances across borders for the benefit of the global community. This day emphasizes the need to “promote greater awareness among scientists and lay people worldwide of the usefulness of science to increase international peace, security, cooperation, the social and economic development of humankind, the promotion of human rights and the protection of the environment”. We call on governments to invest in scientific research that can support and enhance sustainable development.

Let us pray for scientists throughout the world, that their efforts will be directed toward creating a better life for people, protecting human rights and the environment, and improving the quality of life by promoting health and sustainability.

November 20—Universal Children’s Day

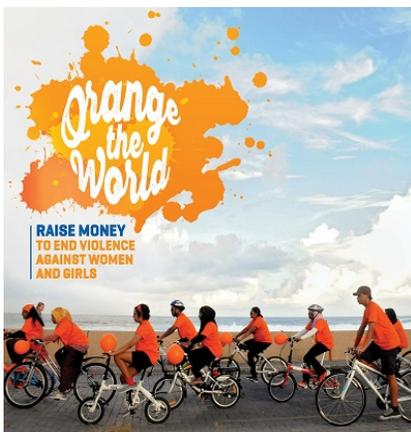
Universal Children’s Day was established to encourage all countries to institute a day to promote mutual exchange and understanding among children and to initiate action to benefit and promote the welfare of the world’s children. On November 20, 1959 the United Nations adopted the *Declaration Of the Rights Of the Child*, a human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. This day is not just a time to celebrate children, but a day to bring awareness to children around the globe that have succumbed to violence in forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination. Children are used as laborers in some countries, caught in the middle of armed conflicts, abandoned and living on the streets, and suffering due to differences in religion, race, ethnicity, HIV status or disabilities.



Let us pray for the children of the world, all of whom are dependent on the mercy and loving care of others. May they be protected from physical and psychological trauma, provided with safety, food and shelter, offered affirmation and love, and lifted from grief and despair to joy and hope.

November 25—International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Shockingly, one in three women across the globe has experienced physical or sexual violence at some time in their life and the consequences of this violence affects families and communities across several generations. Violence against women is a human rights violation and can be prevented. Indeed, such prevention is essential if the world is to make progress in many areas, including poverty eradication, combating HIV/AIDS, and peace and security. This year’s theme is “Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence”. The campaign strongly emphasizes the need for sustainable financing for efforts to end violence against women and girls towards the



fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG). SDG #5 is gender equality, which includes a specific target on ending violence against women and girls. This goal offers huge promise, but must be adequately funded in order to bring real and significant changes to the lives of women and girls. To bring this issue to the fore, the UN Secretary-General's campaign "Unite to End Violence against Women's" call for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence in 2016 is 'Orange the World: Raise Money to End Violence against Women and Girls'. The initiative provides a moment to bring the issue of sustainable financing for initiatives to prevent and end violence against women to global prominence and also presents the opportunity for resource mobilization for the issue. If you can, wear orange that day to raise awareness about gender-based violence.

Let us pray for women and girls who suffer physical, sexual or psychological violence. May those who inflict such suffering experience a conversion of heart and recognize that we are all equal. May every woman and girl come to know their own worth and teach love and respect for women to their children so that society may begin to change. May men and boys learn to cherish and respect their mothers, sisters, wives, daughters and all women throughout the world. May each of us commit ourselves to creating a just world where each life is sacred and where every person proclaims that "women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights, once and for all."



November 29—International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

This date of November 29th was chosen because of its meaning and significance to the Palestinian people. On that day in 1947, the General Assembly adopted resolution 181 (II), which came to be known as the Partition Resolution. That resolution provided for the establishment in Palestine of a "Jewish State" and an "Arab State", with Jerusalem as a corpus separatum under a special international regime. Of the two States to be created under this resolution, only one, Israel, has so far come into being. The Palestinian people, who now number more than eight million, live primarily in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem; in Israel; in neighboring Arab States; and in refugee camps in the region. The International Day of Solidarity has traditionally provided an opportunity for the international community to focus its attention on the fact that the question of Palestine remained unresolved and that the Palestinian people are yet to attain their inalienable rights as

defined by the General Assembly, namely, the right to self-determination without external interference, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property from which they had been displaced. In 2015, the Palestinian flag was raised at the Headquarters and Offices of the United Nations. The UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on raising the flags of non-member observer States at the United Nations (A/RES/69/320). The United Nations decided that the flags of non-member observer States, including the flag of the State of Palestine, shall be raised at Headquarters and United Nations offices following the flags of the Members States of the Organization. The Ceremony of the Raising of the Flag of the State of Palestine at the UN Headquarters in New York took place on September 30th, 2015:

"Today, 136 countries recognize the State of Palestine and its flag flies at the United Nations next to those of all Member States. However, these advances are not felt by children in Gaza, or by the residents of Nablus, Hebron and East Jerusalem [...] let us reaffirm our commitment to bring about the just peace that the peoples of Israel and Palestine deserve."

*Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
Message on the International Day of
Solidarity with the Palestinian People*

Let us pray for the Palestinian people who continue to live under Israeli occupation and restrictions. May they be protected from violence and hatred. May both Israelis and Palestinians turn from violence and intimidation and come together in respectful dialogue, to work on a just resolution of their differences, so that they may be able to live side by side in peace and dignity.