

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

What Real Leadership Looks Like

By: Summer Joyan

Dear Prime Minister Ardern,

I am a 13-year-old Muslim girl from Australia and I would like to publicly share my appreciation with you. I belong to the generation that was born after 11 September 2001. I have never really contemplated how dark the anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant language is that permeates Australian society, because it is all I have ever known. I guess I've become used to hearing political leaders use that same language.

But then, after seeing the way you have responded to the terrorist attack in Christchurch, I realised that I now know what the role of a leader truly is. So I want to thank you on behalf of the Muslim community in this country for all that you've done since Friday. The way you have expressed support and genuine empathy for the Muslim community, and your care for the people of New Zealand as a whole, have been magnificent to see. And I wanted you to know how much it means to me.

Today I watched a video of you talking to the students at Cashmere High School regarding the terrorist attack. You showed such strength and kindness, and it made me wish I could experience the same thing in Australia. In my high school, not a single teacher or figure of authority even mentioned the attacks. They didn't acknowledge that a white supremacist murdered 50 innocent Muslim men, women and children in a usually peaceful place of worship. They didn't offer support or reach out to the Muslim girls in my school or even provide counselling services for grief and support.

In a country that is so similar to New Zealand, and yet also so different, can you imagine the comfort that my Muslim friends and I felt, knowing there was one leader in a neighbouring country that was on our side? My friends and I are Muslim; we were all born in Australia and it is the only place we have ever known. But this has been the first time we have ever felt like we were part of the fabric of a community, and it breaks my heart that this feeling of belonging has come at the cost of 50 lives. If only more politicians had the courage to stand up to injustices and knew when to stop playing political games with the lives of people who depend on them.

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(From last column) Real Leadership

Your leadership has brought the world together. By supporting the New Zealand community, no matter what their religion, you have shown what a great leader you are — not just in the good times, but when the times are as dark as can be. I cannot imagine any other political leader doing what you have done. I think that you deserve the Nobel Peace Prize! Many world leaders could learn a lot from the way you have held your nation together and comforted those who are grieving.

I'm sure you will remain Prime Minister of New Zealand for a long time. But if not, do you think maybe you could move to Australia and become our Prime Minister? That would be a dream come true.

Thank you again for all that you have done.

From, an Australian-Muslim girl who now knows what real leadership looks like,

Summer Joyan

Africa is Cradle of 21st century Peace-making

By: Prof. Meyer From: Olarewaju Abiodun (April 2019)

An International Peace scholar, Prof. Math Meyer, has described Africa as the cradle of modern 21st century peace-making.

Prof. Meyer said this on Tuesday in Ilorin while presenting a book titled *Connecting Contemporary African-Asian Peace building and Non-violence: from Satagraha to Ujamaa*.

His presentation was at the 2nd Public Lecture of University of Ilorin Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies (CPSS), with the theme: "International Trends in Peace Action and Peace Research: South-North".

Meyer, who is the Secretary-General of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), explained that no culture has a right to degrade its womanhood.

"Even if you can do nothing about it, you at least must never make a statement that supports any notion of cultural relativism, not when the dignity and fundamental rights of humanity are involved.

"It is not surprising that the first Nobel Prize awarded to a person from the global South, aside President Carlos Saavedra, was to an African, Chief Albert Luthuli.

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(From page 1) **Africa is Cradle**

“The significant African organisation against Western colonialism and oppression, combined with African resistance, indicates that the power of love has invariably made the difference and helped us to rid ourselves of institutional and individual oppressions.

“It is important that people from all over the world understand this significant reality” Meyer said.

The University’s Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sulyman Age, in his address, ascribed the growing violence in African societies to injustice, poverty and inequality.

The Vice Chancellor was represented at the occasion by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Management Services, Prof. Fatai Sule.

Age said the root of the pervasive conflicts in Africa can only be uprooted if culture of African values that are built on justice, fairness, and equity are imbibed.

The VC called on Africans to retrace their steps and adopt African traditional values to eliminate structural tensions that will give birth to indigenous framework for building peace in Africa.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Director of the center, Prof. Noah Yusuf said the event was in two folds, personality lecture and public book presentation.

He said peace is eluding Nigeria because there are many people in the country that are conflict contractors, campaigners whose profit and business is to gain from conflicts.

Yusuf suggested that the government must be proactive to identify those that are fuelling conflicts and make those apprehended face the wrath of the law.

The Royal Father of the day, Alhaji Abdulraheem Adeoti, the Olomu of Omu-Aran, said the Boko Haram insurgencies might not be unconnected with differences in living.

The Royal father urged the Federal Government (to) bridge the gap between the poor and the rich.

He said the fact that Nigeria was colonised by the British and operate the American system of government was also a factor because our attempt to modulate the two together has not helped us at all.

Highlight of the occasion was a short play promoting peace by the students of the institution’s department of Performing Arts.



Continued from last issue: The Minutes of the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference will run in a series. They were compiled by Laura Savinkoff form comprehensive notes by Beth Novokshonoff.

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference, October 27, 2018. At The Slavonic Senior Citizens Centre, Grand Forks, BC (Last instalment)

Actions arising out of the discussion were:

- a) Erect a billboard coming into town, Grand Forks with wording to emphasis the fact that Big Oil should pay for flood damage, wild fires and environmental destruction. For the message on billboard needs to bring home the message that” EVERYBODY PAYS!” except the big corporations that contribute the most to Climate Change . Sign should be in red and white or some other combination that catches the eye and maybe even use “Solar power now” on signs. JJ suggested that USCC lands can used to erect the sign. There was also discussion that we must get permission from the Ministry of Highways to do so. The BPI will look into this for Grand Forks and if it does work here then other groups can do the same in their regions.
- b) It was suggested that a letter of support to the Coast Protectors and the Union of BC Indian Chief would be helpful to show our support and involvement.

Joan and Stewart thanked the BCSIPC for inviting them to share their views and for the support of the Peace Movement in general but for the visible support from the BCSIPC and its member groups. They regretted they needed to leave for another engagement but wished us every success in our work and again thanked us for our support and our work for peace and justice and Mother Earth.

We took a much deserved coffee break and a time to just comment to each other on the wonderful presentation and sharing from our guests.

After reconvening we moved into discussion of the **Resolution to Divert Military Spending** (attachment # 10). The following suggestions for amendments were to be incorporated.

- a) take out the reference to the USA
- b) 1st whereas....Canada’s military budget is in the billions...rather than an actual figure since we are not sure what it is
- c) 2nd whereas – remove it completely
- d) 3rd whereas reword to...since 2001 Canada has engaged in military actions...
- e) 4th whereas remove reference to the USA

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- f) 5th whereas reword to...Canada participates in NATO actions which can be considered provocative
- g) 6th whereas remove reference to USA
- h) 7th whereas remove reference to USA
- i) Eliminate 1st Be it Resolved
- j) In the 2nd Be it Resolved change divert to “reallocate” and add “and environmental degradation”
- k) In the 3rd Be it Resolved change divert to “redirect” its military spending
- l) Add another Be it Resolved that Canada must invest in the prevention of war and in peace building

The Communications Committee will finalize the wording and send all three Resolutions onto all MPs. It was agreed that these Resolutions be submitted to the Canadian Peace Congress Convention.

Laura informed us that Stewart and Joan Philip agreed to attend the Canadian Peace Congress Conference in Toronto to explore the possibility of sitting on the board. All agreed in principle to Hannah’s suggestion for a resolution condemning Canada’s participation in the current and future provocative NATO exercises. Hannah was to draft it and send it to the Communications Committee. *{To date this Resolution has not come forward and therefore your coordinator suggests it be put forward at the spring conference for consideration prior to the meeting date.}*

Laura asked for input on an on-line survey--*Reducing Violent Crime: A dialogue on handguns and assault weapons*. The group collectively answered each query and instructed Laura to fill it out on behalf of the BCSIPC. The following was shared as a quote: “A total ban on handgun ownership in Canada, exempting only police and security professionals, would enjoy significant support among Canadians, according to a new survey by Nanos Research.”

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I am proud to belong to the International Network of Women in Black

From: Gila Svirsky (Jan. 2019)

I am proud to belong to the International Network of Women in Black. This letter from Madrid Women in Black will explain why.

Dear friends,

A hundred and four years ago, more than one hundred English pacifist women wrote a letter to women in Germany and Austria calling for working together for peace.

At the beginning of 2019 we, Women in Black Against War from Madrid, believe that it is necessary to make a new call for peace in Europe.

We are concerned about the rise of fascisms that are taking advantage of popular discontent to grow in Europe.

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This was heartening to our group but there is still much work to do on the military end of Peace.

JJ reminded us that it is Disarmament week from October 24 -31st therefore, it is significant that we are meeting and discussing these issues today.

All expressed satisfaction with the outcome of our gathering and were pleased that we have some projects to follow up with.

Next Conference: The next meeting will be scheduled most likely in April and hosted by a group in the Kootenays. Hannah and JJ will bring it up to KRUNA to set up the date and the location.

Notes taken by Beth Novokshonoff

Edited by Laura Savinkoff

Editors Note: *The spring conference on June 1, 2019, sadly has been cancelled and as of this printing no date has been set. Watch for announcements.*



Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org

BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet monthly. To commit call (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email LPeace@telus.net.

What's Up?

BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference June 1st @ the **Mir Center for Peace**, Selkirk College, **Castlegar**, B.C. was cancelled and will be rescheduled. Watch for details. For info email Laura at L4peace@telus.net

Next event: Nagasaki Day August 9th: watch for details.



Women in Black

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-444-0524** or **250-442-0434** or email L4peace@telus.net.

The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

(From page 3) **International Network of Women in Black**

The far-right parties hold openly xenophobic, retrograde and anti-feminist speeches that are complacently permitted by the political and economic elites and reproduced uncritically by the media, giving the impression that those speeches are as valid as any other political position. But they are not. It is not acceptable the degree of dehumanization and backwardness that the messages of the far right contain and that are gradually penetrating in European societies, as it happened 80 years ago.

But we are even more concerned that Europe is at war here and now. Yes, Europe is at war on its borders. It is an open war against migrants and poor people, refugees, people fleeing hunger and climatic disasters. It is not a war that has been declared in international forums legally, or that is fought with bombs and missiles, but it has been killing thousands of people for years. Europe carries out war actions whenever a small boat with dozens of people is not rescued, leaving it to sink in the Mediterranean Sea; every time a safe harbour is denied to a rescue boat full of people, contravening the basic pillars of international naval law, or whenever a country closes a border with fences.

The European Union does not stain its hands with blood, because we Europeans are civilized. These services are outsourced and carried out by Morocco, Turkey or Libya. For example, the agreements with Morocco include financial aid and the implicit commitment that Europe does not question the abuses of Human Rights in the country. In return, Morocco accepts the "hot return" of migrants detained in the fence of Ceuta and Melilla, or even people already detained in the continent. It is known that sometimes the way to "manage" the problem that Morocco has had is to abandon them on its southern border, in the Sahara desert, without water or food, that is, Morocco has applied them a slow and inhumane death penalty.

The situation of migrant women is even worse, because in addition to being exposed to the same hardships, they are harassed by sexual violence, trafficking and the lack of specific resources for women. If migrants in general find thousands of obstacles to reach their destination, migrant women bear the brunt for they are victims of all kinds of abuses just for the fact that they are women.

Also children who are forced to leave their home and their family in search of a future are innocent victims of this war on the border. When they arrive in Europe they are harassed as criminals and denied their most basic rights: to education and dignified living conditions. Unaccompanied minors often end up sleeping on the street, where they suffer violence of all kinds and are forced to scrape by begging or committing petty theft, as *Oliver Twists* of the Twenty First Century.

We European anti-militarist and feminist women cannot remain silent in front of the European fortress that is being built around us. We do not want to be moral referents of anything, but we cannot stand by. Welcoming thousands of migrants is not charity; it is justice, because we are aware that our level of life and waste is based on the plundering of other peoples and territories. That is why we want to appeal to all the women of the Network so that, with regard to the forthcoming European elections, in resistance against xenophobic migratory policies, they will join the European action of May 5, "The embrace of the Peoples".

We believe that another world is possible, that we can build a society based on Human Rights and a society that welcomes people with generosity and empathy wherever they come from. We also believe that we can create other economic relationships that do not imply the depletion of natural resources or the exploitation of others. We want to build new ways of living respectfully with others and with the planet. We want to build a better world together.

Women in Black Against War – Madrid