International Day of Peace Youth Observance
16 September 2022

Concept Note

The United Nations Department of Global Communications will hold its annual youth commemoration of the International Day of Peace on Friday 16 September 2022, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., in Conference Room Four at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Approximately 700 young people will have an opportunity to interact with UN Messengers of Peace, artists and prominent members of civil society, as well as their peers. UN Secretary-General António Guterres traditionally addresses the participants and has been invited to do so again this year.

The theme for the 2022 International Day of Peace is: “End racism. Build peace.” It draws attention to the importance of combatting racism and building societies in which all people are treated equally.

As conflicts continue to erupt across the globe, causing people to flee, we have seen race-based discrimination at borders. As COVID-19 keeps attacking our communities, we have seen how certain racial groups have been hit much harder than others. As economies suffer, we have seen hate speech and violence directed at racial minorities.

Participants will discuss their role in tackling racism and thereby fostering peace. During the conference, selected youth will be able to present projects that they have conducted, which aim to help end racism.

Confirmed presenters and performers thus far include: the Blue Man Group; actors Jaden Michael and Maulik Pancholy; fashion designer Ashlyn So; and South African NGO “The Justice Desk.” The event will be broadcast live and on demand on UN WebTV.