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**Office hours:**

Mon Tues & Thurs  
9:30 am - 2 pm

Wed 12 - 4 pm



**The 1312 Key to Peace - Readers' Theatre**  
**Wednesday June 12, 2013, 7:30 PM**  
**Parkdale United Church Auditorium, 2919 - 8 Ave NW**

In 2000 the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1325, a miracle for that body. Women are to be equal partners in peacemaking to both prevent and solve conflicts, but *how to do it* is the question. This play shows the way. Three women in a Peace Room use the 1325 golden door key to enter the War Room, to the surprise of the General, the Tycoon, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The women transform the political process in 30 minutes.

"Impossible!" you say. Yet all wars do come to an end sooner or later. Why not stop wars before they start and have some fun doing it? Come out and bring your friends and family to Project Ploughshares Calgary's first-ever Readers' Theatre event! Discussion will follow the reading.

**UN Security Council Resolution 1325**

In particular, resolution 1325 calls for:

The **participation** of women at all levels of decision-making, including:

- in national, regional and international institutions;
- in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict;
- in peace negotiations;
- in peace operations, as soldiers, police and civilians;
- as Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General.

The **protection** of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, including:

- in emergency and humanitarian situations, such as in refugee camps;
- through developing and delivering pre-deployment and in-theatre training to peace operations personnel on the rights of women and girls and effective protection measures.

The **prevention** of violence against women through the **promotion** of women's rights, accountability and law enforcement, including by:

- prosecuting those responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and other violations of international law;
  - respecting the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps;
  - excluding sexual violence crimes from amnesty agreements, as they may amount to crimes against humanity, war crimes or genocide;
  - strengthening women's rights under national law;
- supporting local women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes.

The **mainstreaming of gender perspectives** in peace operations, including by:

- appointing Gender Advisors to all UN peace operations;
- considering the specific needs of women and girls in the development and design of policy in all areas; incorporating the perspectives, contributions and experience of women's organizations in policy and programme development.



## Empowering Children in the DR Congo: The Gilbert Care Centre By Emmanuel Dumbi, with Liza Lorenzetti and Grant Neufeld Wednesday May 15, 2013, 7:30 PM



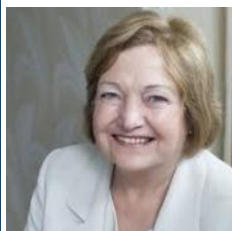
Emmanuel shared the history of the DR Congo, including details of the resource exploration of the country that has gone on for many years. The current war in the Congo is fueled by the profits of mining companies, many of which are Canadian companies. During 2007 to 2009, the D.R. Congo ranked either first or second-highest in terms of Canadian-owned mining assets in Africa, between Cdn.\$2.7bn. and \$5.2bn., or an average of 18.9% of total Canada-Africa mining assets. In 2009, the D.R. Congo placed among the top ten African countries in terms of Canadian mining interests, with over thirty active properties.

Decades of conflict in the Congo have left millions of people in desperate poverty and without a functioning welfare state to rely on. Tens of thousands of children live on the streets of every major city. Some have to earn money to help supplement their meager family income. Some are living on the streets because their families simply couldn't afford to feed and care for them. Life on the streets is an extremely tough and often violent existence. Many children collect scrap plastic or beg for food and money. Some turn to robbery and many develop alcohol and drug dependencies as a means of coping with the brutality of their everyday life. Lots of the girls are forced into prostitution as a means of survival. It's not uncommon for them to have babies of their own as a result of these encounters.

The impacts of war on children are multiple, and include no opportunities for education, no industry, jobs or infrastructure, it creates a strain on families, or in many cases there are no families for these children because the parents have been killed in the war. Additionally, the psychological and emotional trauma is huge. The end result of all these impacts leads to a cycle of conflict-poverty-conflict-poverty.



The objective of Emmanuel's proposed project, the Gilbert Care Centre, is to promote peace in his country by establishing a centre that will provide daily meals, informal education, health care, counselling and recreation facilities for street children. The plan is to provide children with the opportunity to be re-integrated into formal schooling in order to increase their employability as well as to assess their needs and arrange for appropriate care, schooling and other day centre activities such as skills and literacy training. There is also a plan to re-unite and rehabilitate children and their families, and to provide support for those families, as well as to encourage the community to initiate self-help projects and to work towards an attitude of understanding, compassion and active involvement in helping these children.



### Report on Syria – Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire: “The Syrian State is Under a Proxy War Led by Foreign Countries”

(Full Report can be found at: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/report-on-syria-nobel-peace-laureate-mairead-maguire-the-syrian-state-is-under-a-proxy-war-led-by-foreign-countries/5336569>)

*Report and Appeal to the International community to support a process of dialogue and reconciliation in Syria between its people and Syrian government and reject outside intervention and war.*

After a 10 days visit to Lebanon and Syria, leading a 16 person delegation from 8 countries, invited by Mussalaha Reconciliation Movement, I have returned hopeful that peace is possible in Syria, if all outside interference is stopped and the Syrians are allowed to solve their own problems upholding their right to self-determination. An appeal to end all violence and for Syrians to be left alone from outside interference was made by all those we met during our visit to Syria. We have tried to forward it to the International community in our Concluding Declaration(I).

During our visit we went to refugee camps, affected communities, met religious leaders, combatants, government representatives, opposition delegations and many others, perpetrators and victims, in Lebanon and Syria.





## Commentary on the new Arms Trade Treaty by Ernie Regehr

I suspect most advocates of arms control and genuine disarmament who strongly support the Arms Trade Treaty are a lot like me in the sense that they don't need to be persuaded that it is a seriously flawed Treaty. Of course it is a weak Treaty. It has lots of loopholes large enough to drive many a tank through, and it has no reliable enforcement mechanism.

What did we expect? Did we really think that states engaged in a lucrative industry worth billions of dollars and inextricably linked to their own self-perceived economic and security interest (as perverse as those perceptions might frequently be) would awake one morning to sign and seal a Treaty that directly challenged all that? That's not how states act. So the relevant question isn't whether the Treaty is adequate to deal now with a destructive arms trade. It isn't. The relevant question is whether the Treaty articulates basic principles of state responsibility and introduces the kinds of mechanisms and processes that can be employed over time to help shift perceptions of self-interest and to modify behaviour (the kind of normative change that Robin was talking about). And it does that.

The Treaty falls well short of perfection. No argument there. But does it do real harm? The usual argument that it does harm, invoked again by Barnaby Pace (in an article that otherwise makes some good points), is that the Treaty "will lead to the justification of the status quo and entrenchment of the interests of arms exporters." Well, it's hardly the Treaty that does that - that all happened at least a century ago. The current arms trade is obviously legitimized by prevailing political assumptions and it most certainly advances the perceived interests of arms exporters. What the Treaty does do is begin a serious political process to challenge those assumptions and perceptions of self-interest.

A good model for how this Treaty might be expected to work is found in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) - as well as in the landmines and cluster munitions Treaties that Robin discusses.

As we're all well aware, in the NPT (negotiated in 1968 with entry into force in 1970) the nuclear weapon states pledged, in paragraph VI, to stop the nuclear arms race. In the decade and a half following that solemn pledge those same states engaged in the most extravagant and irresponsible arms race, the nuclear arms race, the planet has ever known.

So much for the Treaty - except, that isn't the full story.

The NPT certainly didn't persuade states to immediately begin acting against what they perceived their interests to be. That they were perverse perceptions of self-interest (the obscene notion that the world could be made secure by accumulating arsenals capable of reducing it to radiation-contaminated rubble within minutes) didn't make them any less appealing to those states, but the still heavily flawed NPT turned out to be a key instrument, over the decades, for changing perceptions of self-interest and in reinforcing nuclear reductions when they finally began to take place.

The convoluted wording of Article VI did not explicitly promise nuclear disarmament, and as recently as the early 2000s, US officials were still arguing that the NPT is a non-proliferation Treaty only, not a disarmament Treaty. But through the NPT Review Process (assisted by the World Court) the Parties to the Treaty gradually hammered out what the ambiguous wording of Article VI was really supposed to mean - and now all Parties to the Treaty have agreed that it means there is an obligation to undertake complete nuclear disarmament and to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. Through the Review Process, States Parties also set about articulating a detailed nuclear disarmament agenda that is broadly agreed and which the nuclear weapons states are under sustained political pressure to implement. And for the first time, the world now actually has only about half as many nuclear weapons as there were when the NPT was first negotiated. It is, nevertheless, still a flawed Treaty, which is why there is now a push on to begin preparations and negotiations toward a non-discriminatory nuclear weapons convention which will set the legal framework for a world without nuclear weapons.

As did the NPT, the Arms Trade Treaty sets in motion a key conversation and a similar process. The conversation is, among other things, about what constitutes legitimacy and legality in arms production and exports and the Treaty articulates key principles to guide that normative, behaviour changing, conversation. The processes which the Arms Trade Treaty launches include greater information sharing and reporting to support the normative conversation, and, notably, Conferences of States Parties which will review implementation of the Treaty, consider amendments to the Treaty, consider issues related to interpretation of the Treaty, and so on. As in the NPT, this review process promises to be slow and frustrating, but it also holds the promise of being central to promoting accountability and restraint and for consolidating changes in norms and behaviour as they occur.

If perfection were available, that would certainly be my choice, but failing that, I favor enabling international mechanisms like Treaties that advance principles of more responsible behaviour and introduce mechanisms to enhance accountability - and the flawed ATT does both of those things.

## Say no to nukes in the Arctic by Daisaku Ikeda

*"The Arctic is the barometer of the globe's environmental health. You can take the pulse of the world in the Arctic. Inuit, the people who live farther north than anyone else, are the canary in the global coal mine."*

These words are from an indigenous representative speaking at the United Nations, where she stressed that the peoples of the Arctic have known for decades from firsthand experience and traditional knowledge what scientists now confirm: Our world is warming at an alarming rate, bringing the prospect of new changes and threats to humanity.

Last year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued their Fourth Assessment Report, according to which the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere has risen dramatically in recent years. If present trends continue, by the end of the 21st century average global temperatures could rise by as much as 6.4 degrees C. Among other changes, the report warns of the possibility of a melting of the polar icecaps and an increased frequency of extreme weather.

The threat of rising ocean levels caused by the melting of the polar icecaps is well known. But the prospect of the Arctic seas becoming ice free in summer is significant for other reasons.

The thick polar ice sheet has long made both commercial navigation and exploitation of the resources of the Arctic seabed impossible. If the polar icecap recedes or even disappears during the summer months, this could open the way to an international scramble for resources. There is the potential for heightened political tensions as well as disastrous impacts on the unique and fragile ecosystem of the region.

During the Cold War, the Arctic Ocean was an important route for the nuclear-powered submarines of the Eastern and Western blocs, which traveled under the icecap carrying their ominous loads of ballistic missiles. If a new phase of military competition were sparked in the region, this would greatly compound the tragic impact of global warming. We must act now to avoid this at all costs.

The first step must be the denuclearization of the Arctic region. The Canadian Pugwash Group last summer called for the establishment of an Arctic Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) to prohibit the deployment, testing or use of nuclear weapons in the territories and waters north of the Arctic Circle. The members of the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) have worked consistently for the realization of a world free of the threat of nuclear weapons. The proposal made by the Canadian Pugwash Group resonates deeply with these commitments, and I would like to add our voice to those supporting this important proposal.

The 1959 Antarctic Treaty prohibited the military use of the southern polar region and banned all nuclear explosions and the disposal of radioactive materials south of 60 degrees south latitude, making the Antarctic the world's first NWFZ. This was followed by the creation of similar zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa and Central Asia, as well as Mongolia.

Most of the landmass of the Southern Hemisphere is now covered by NWFZ agreements, which have also established footholds in Asia. NWFZs act as a brake against moves toward nuclear proliferation. At the same time, they help strengthen momentum toward the outlawing of nuclear weapons. Through their participation in NWFZs, a total of well over 100 countries, more than half of the governments on Earth, have expressed their view that nuclear weapons are or should be illegal under international law.

The process of deliberating and establishing NWFZs in the Arctic and elsewhere can contribute momentum toward establishing the illegality of nuclear weapons as the common norm and consensus of humanity. Eventually, this should take the form of an international treaty for the comprehensive prohibition of nuclear weapons.

In the Antarctic, the NWFZ has not only demilitarized that region, but has helped foster international cooperation in the field of scientific exploration. I would hope that an Arctic NWFZ would be a vital step in a process by which the unique natural, ecological and cultural treasures of the region and its peoples will be recognized as the common heritage of humankind, and afforded the protection and respect they deserve. The United Nations should serve as a focal point for efforts to realize an Arctic NWFZ treaty.

Having experienced the horrors of nuclear war, and with its commitment not to develop, possess, or allow nuclear weapons onto its territory, Japan has a special role to play in protecting the world from the dangers of nuclear proliferation. Japan should take the initiative in working with other countries and with the full range of civil society organizations that desire a nuclear-weapon-free world in order to create an Arctic NWFZ.

Similarly, in dealing with the nuclear proliferation challenges in East Asia I think it is important to have a larger goal in sight. All efforts should continue through the six-party talks toward the complete dismantling of North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

At the same time, Japan should reaffirm its uncompromising commitment to its own nonnuclear policies, and should deploy its full diplomatic efforts toward the more encompassing goal of establishing an NWFZ covering the whole of East Asia.

Daisaku Ikeda is president of Soka Gakkai International, and founder of Soka University and the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research. This theme is also explored in his 2008 peace proposal: [www.daisakuikeda.org](http://www.daisakuikeda.org).



## Project Ploughshares Calgary

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Special thanks to Karen Huggins & Sally Hodges for their work writing and editing this issue of the newsletter.

## Calgary Peace Events



### Wisdom on the Journey: Walking to a Sacred Place Fri. Jun 7th & Sat. Jun 8th, 2013

Hosted by Kairos Calgary,  
L'Arche Calgary, and the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod

Come build and strengthen bridges of understanding and friendship among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Be inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) and prepare for the TRC's national event in Alberta.

- Learn about the legacy of the Indian Residential schools
- Hear the personal journeys of those walking the road of healing
- Be empowered to live in right relations
- Share in the expressions of hospitality and celebration, ceremony and thanksgiving
- Discover ways to support the TRC

For more information on cost and registration, contact [info@wisdomonthejourney.ca](mailto:info@wisdomonthejourney.ca) or call 403-698-2523. The website is: [www.wisdomonthejourney.ca](http://www.wisdomonthejourney.ca)

### Calgary Peace Run Festival

Saturday September 21, 2013

International Day of Peace

Starting Point: Festival Market Square (outside of the Eau Claire Market Running Room)

Zumba Warm-Up: 9:30 AM / Race Start: 10 AM

Register on-line now at <http://www.events.runningroom.com/site/?racelid=9173> for this year's run! This year's Peace Run Festival will include some events during July and August, such as Dance Walks on Stephen Avenue Mall and at the Peace Bridge, a Memorial Lantern Event for the victims of Hiroshima & Nagasaki on August 9th, as well as Yoga for Peace at Olympic Plaza on Thursday, August 22nd.

On September 21st, the running and walking event will include a zumba warm-up, activities for children, music, fabulous draw prizes, and many other surprises. Watch the Ploughshares Peace News for more info over the next few months, or call Karen at 403-270-7366. The website for the Peace Run is [www.calgarypeacerun.ca](http://www.calgarypeacerun.ca)—it is currently being modified, so check back often!

Our sponsorship brochure is attached [here](#). The registration form for the Peace Run is attached [here](#). Please feel free to send these links to your friends, family and colleagues. Sharing in the work of peace makes the world a much happier and compassionate place!

Yes! I want to become a Project Ploughshares Calgary donor and partner in building peace.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my donation for 2013 of:

\$35  \$50  \$100  \$500  \$\_\_\_\_\_

(donations of \$10 or more will receive a tax receipt)

I'd like to become a Friend of Ploughshares and give a monthly pre-authorized debit donation, please send me an application form:

I'd like to receive the monthly newsletter by:

Email (recommended)  Mail (with \$35 donation)

