

## What is the International Day of Peace?

The International Day of Peace, created by the United Nations in 1981, is celebrated on 21 September every year. On this day, individuals and nations across the world are encouraged to engage in practical acts of peace to promote the broader goal of conflict resolution.

“Peace day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.”

- United Nations General Assembly, 1981

## What can you do to participate?

Inside this pamphlet is a list of simple ways in which you can “act for peace”. There are 21 ways so that you can take one action each day in September in the lead up to the International Day of Peace. You can choose to start small by raising awareness amongst your friends and family or aim higher and organise a fundraiser within your community. There is no limit to the ways in which you can contribute to promoting peace.

Spread the word, get your friends involved, and make a real difference to communities trapped by conflict and poverty on the International Day of Peace!

Let us know how you acted for peace this September!

Email **Sarah** photos and your story today at [actforpeace@ncca.org.au](mailto:actforpeace@ncca.org.au) or free call us on **1800 025 101**.

**act for peace**  
reduce poverty | protect refugees  
prevent conflicts | empower communities

## What is Act for Peace?

Act for Peace is the international aid agency for the National Council of Churches in Australia. We seek to empower communities to reduce poverty, protect refugees and prevent further conflict worldwide.

Act for Peace is a member of the global ACT Alliance, which is made up of church-related agencies working in 140 countries. The ACT Alliance enables us to respond immediately and effectively to conflicts and disasters through local partners.

## Make a contribution

Your gifts will help so many people affected by conflict rebuild their lives. You can give today at [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au) or learn more about how you can get involved in helping to promote the work of Act for Peace through the annual Christmas Bowl program.

## Contact us

**Free Call:** 1800 025 101

**Email:** [actforpeace@ncca.org.au](mailto:actforpeace@ncca.org.au)

**Website:** [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)

ABN 64 493 941 795



**Act for Peace** is the international aid agency of the **National Council of Churches in Australia** and a member of the global **ACT Alliance**.

**1. Sign up!** Join the Act for Peace mailing list at [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au) and receive regular updates on how you can act for peace.

**2. Use social media** to promote peace. Encourage your friends to devote their Twitter and Facebook status to "International Day of Peace". Follow Act for Peace on Twitter at **@actforpeace**, use the hashtag **#peacedayaus**, and add us on Facebook to keep informed.

**3. Plan an event** for the International Day of Peace! Encourage everyone at your workplace, school or church to bring multicultural food, music and clothes on 21 September.

**4. Encourage interfaith dialogue.** If you are part of a faith-based group, why not organise an interfaith event to promote understanding and friendship between different faith-based groups in your community.

**5. Help us organise a ceasefire!** We're calling on Australian politicians to observe a "ceasefire" on 21 September – you can write to your local MP to ask them to participate! Visit our website and find out more.

**6. Support the Horn of Africa emergency appeal.** 12 million people affected by drought in the war-torn Horn of Africa desperately need your help. Visit [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au) to give.

**7. Stop Cluster Bombs!** These bombs within bombs can lie unexploded on the ground for years after a conflict and kill innocent civilians. Find out more and send a letter to your MP through our website.

**8. Download the Building Blocks of Peace education modules,** which are comprehensive resources on peace and sustainability for high school teachers. If you're a student, tell your teacher about them! The modules are available at the Institute for Economics and Peace website.

**9. Help to end mandatory detention of asylum seekers** by signing the petition on our website.

10. Join teams in 180 other countries that are **playing a game of soccer** as part of the global One Day One Goal campaign for the International Day of Peace. Visit the website to find out how.

**11. Give a talk** at your school or church on international peace. Visit our interactive map on our website to learn more about conflict affected countries worldwide.

**12. Make the Arms Trade Treaty bulletproof.** Sign the petition at the Act for Peace website to help stop the sale of arms which kill 750,000 people each year and injure ten times more.

**13. Host a film screening** of a documentary that promotes peace and raises awareness of conflicts and poverty. Invite your friends, colleagues and members of your community. Ideas for films to watch can be found on the Teach Peace website.

**14. Help to retire the bomb** by adding your name to the One Million Pleas campaign, which was launched last year to commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The campaign aims to gather the support of one million people around the world to support the abolition of nuclear weapons. Visit the website to find out more.

**15. Join the call for Palestinian Statehood.** In a few days, a declaration will be made at the United Nations for a Palestinian State. Visit our website to find out how you can lend your support.

**16. Organise a fundraiser for Act for Peace's Christmas Bowl.** Your contributions help people in some of the world's worst conflict-affected countries.



Visit our website at: [www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl) to view the range of online resources and start planning!

**17. Keep the Promise!** Next month, on October 15, 16 and 17, we'll be joining Make Poverty History to call on political leaders to keep their promise to the world's poor, many of whom are trapped by conflict. This nation-wide action will use the symbol of a handshake to remind leaders of the commitment they have made. Visit our website to find out more.

**18. Join the International Day of Prayer for Peace.** Led by the World Council of Churches, this is a day for people of all faiths to come together and pray for peace. Download resources from our website.

**19. Call your local paper** and ask them to cover your event on the International Day of Peace. If you haven't organised an event, you could ask them to do an article on someone in your community from a conflict-affected country and talk about the issues.

**20. Write a letter to the editor** of your local paper so that it can be published on the International Day of Peace. For ideas, visit our website.

**21. Act for peace!** Tell people it's Peace Day. Wear white! Have your own ceasefire! Promote peace and harmony and above all, remember those people affected by conflict in your thoughts, prayers and actions today and every day.