

# Day of Prayer and Action for Children



WORLD DAY OF  
PRAYER AND ACTION  
FOR CHILDREN

## Introduction



The World Day of Prayer and Action for Children is celebrated on Universal Children's Day (20 November) by bringing together secular and faith-based organizations to work to end violence against children. Universal Children's Day, established by the United Nations in 1954, also commemorates the 1989 adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The World Day is a day of reflection and a call to action for the well-being of children around the world. Although its activities are highlighted in November, the World Day has grown into movement that has year round influence, weaving together the efforts of faith-based and non-governmental organizations with those of governments around the world.

Since the World Day was launched by Arigatou International in 2008, it has mobilized over 300 activities in over 85 countries to improve the lives of children worldwide.



## Interfaith Prayer; Satsang

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

— Nelson Mandela

It was not just a normal *Satsang* programme at Peace Service Centre (*Shanti Sewa Ashram*) on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 when the bells were ringing, some young, adult and women chanting *slokas* and *bhajans* (hymns) with soothing music of *harmonium* ( traditional piano) and *tabala* (a traditional drum) The event was organized at Peace Service Centre, Koteshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Peace Service Centre is a common platform that is working to establish peace, progress and prosperity in the society reaching the grass root level and trying to solve their problem as much as possible through various methodologies with support of local to global partners.

This **Interfaith Satsang** (a spiritual discourse or sacred gathering) was special not just because the chief guest and speaker of the programme was **Mr Kul Chandra Gautam**, (an Assistant Secretary General of the UN and Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. He was Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal on International Affairs and the Peace Process. He is a seasoned diplomat and civic leader and serves on the Boards of a number of international and national foundations and charitable organizations as chairman, member or advisor) but the hall was filled by approximately 70 people from 5 years old toddler to 60 above adult who keenly attended it for more than 2 and half hour.

Mr Hari Sodari, the rapper of the programme kindly requested children to chant hymns for world peace whereas Mr Gautam lit the candle for peace which was followed by faith based and non-faith based people



"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today."

-Stacia Tauscher



Ensure  
Child Right

## Interfaith Prayer; Satsang

A special talk was delivered by **Mr Kul Chandra Gautam** as a chairperson of the programme, who is also the chair of the DPAC preparing and planning committee. He highlighted on the universal condition of the children focusing how this global issue should be resolved by all the faith based and non faith based leaders working at local, national, regional to international arena.

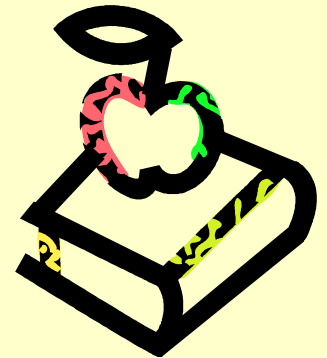
Illustrating the wretched condition of Nepalese due to catastrophic earthquake and economic blockade he was concerned for deteriorating quality of life and living of Nepalese overall and children at the core. Highlighting the importance of education and its impact on the days to come he exceedingly urged everyone presented in the programme to be prepared to protect the rights of the children and work incessantly.

Similarly **Dr Chintamani Yogi**, the founder of the Centre also highlighted the importance of education and requested government and protesters to be tolerant towards school children. He advocated that a country can only develop if the children would be given good education. He also said that the future of any country depends on the level of education that students are imparted on. So, recommended everyone to be broadminded for the protection of child right.

Mr Jagannath Kandel, the coordinator of the DPAC organizing committee for Nepal who has been the international youth member for the preparation and planning of DPAC during 2010 and 2011 illustrated the importance DPAC, its aim and results it wants to produce.

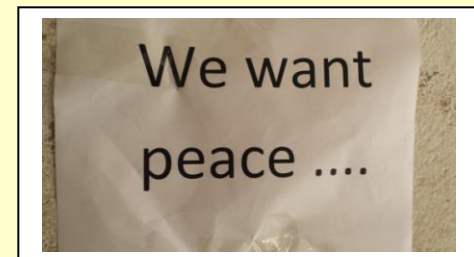
Other youth of Centre such as Kriti Giri Yogi, Samrat Nath Yogi and Yubraj Chhetri also garlanded the program on importance of Centre that works for the vulnerable society mainly with children and women.

It was a programme where students were mainly from four faiths; **Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and Christians**. These children read aloud the placard on child right, violence against children and to end poverty.



"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."

-Margaret Mead



## Related Programs

Nov 18th, Wednesday

- Awareness program about DPAC through talks at various schools, colleges, centers.
- This will go continuously from the early week of November.

Nov 19th, Thursday

- Interaction program about "Promoting Ethics in Education" in 3 different orphanages mainly in Kathmandu where there are children from all over Nepal.

- Workshop with women about "Positive Parenting and Family values" at Women's Education Program where mainly single women are given free informal education classes, Shanti Sewa Ashram, Koteshwor, KTM.

- Interview in local radios, TVs, newspapers etc. to raise public awareness regarding child marriage.

Nov 21st, Saturday

- A day long workshop/training program with mainly children (street and war victims) from Sunrise Orphanage on the issue of empowering children where children from whole Nepal are kept having different faith.

Nov 22nd, Sunday

- Poems/songs/arts competition at Hindu Vidyapeeth Nepal Schools, (Lalitpur, Kathmandu and Dang) Children's Peace Home (Dang) and in Children's Study Club, KTM

