

# From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace

**The United Nations designated 2001–2010 as the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.**

A culture of peace, as defined by the United Nations, consists of values, attitudes, behaviors and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes—to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations.

## **EIGHT ACTION AREAS FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE**

The culture of peace is much more than just the absence of violence and war. It includes the full range of positive values and patterns of behavior needed to replace the culture of war and violence that has dominated 5,000 years of human history.

In 1999, the UN defined eight key action areas necessary to cultivate a culture of peace. Each of these points highlights a critical action that we—nations and individuals—must take to ensure a peaceful future.

- 1 Fostering a culture of peace through education
- 2 Promoting sustainable economic and social development
- 3 Promoting respect for all human rights
- 4 Ensuring equality between women and men
- 5 Fostering democratic participation
- 6 Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity
- 7 Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge
- 8 Promoting international peace and security

*“We call on the human family to address the root causes of violence and build a culture of peace and hope. We know that another world is possible, a world of justice and peace. Together we can make it a reality.”*

— Nobel Peace Laureates Centennial Appeal

