The Soka Gakkai International (SGI) is a worldwide lay Buddhist association with memberships in 192 countries and territories. Based on the life-affirming philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism, SGI members aim to develop positive human potentialities for hope, courage and altruistic action.

As a nongovernmental organization (NGO) working with the United Nations, the SGI has been active in education for the general public with a focus on peace and disarmament, human rights and sustainable development as well as providing humanitarian assistance and promoting interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Such initiatives are developed according to local needs and priorities, and each independent SGI organization around the world undertakes activities and projects appropriate to its own culture and context.

The SGI’s peace activities are based on the following key elements deriving from Buddhist philosophy:

Belief in the dignity of life
All people inherently possess a life-state of ultimate dignity and in this sense are fundamentally equal and have limitless potential.

The interconnectedness of all life
An awareness of the interrelatedness and inseparability of one’s own life and those of others can help put an end to discriminatory attitudes and destructive behavior toward others and the environment.

Reflection, dialogue and nonviolence
Inner reflection enables us to feel the suffering of others as our own. Through dialogue, we strengthen mutual understanding and aim to join with others in a stand against violence and the taking of life.
Peace and Disarmament

The SGI’s nuclear abolition efforts trace their roots back to 1957, when second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda (1900–58) made a public declaration calling for the elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons. Since its founding in 1975, the SGI has been working toward realizing a world free from nuclear weapons and the creation of a culture of peace through a number of initiatives and events, including the latest exhibition “Everything You Treasure—For a World Free From Nuclear Weapons.”

Humanitarian Activities

The SGI has been engaged in humanitarian relief activities over the years, taking advantage of its unique strengths and capabilities as a faith-based organization (FBO). During the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, the SGI organized side events sharing the Soka Gakkai’s continued relief efforts following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.

Sustainable Development

The SGI promotes sustainable living through various educational efforts. It has organized events and exhibitions around the world, including “Seeds of Hope,” which was a joint initiative between the SGI and the Earth Charter International (ECI) in support of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–14).

Human Rights Education

The quest for human rights can be perceived as “a challenge of otherness” in which individuals develop the courage to acknowledge, respect and appreciate the differences among people. The SGI is engaging in activities to advance human rights education in support of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005–ongoing) and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (2011).

Gender Equality and Empowerment

Gender equality and the empowerment of each individual are integral to the Buddhist philosophy of the SGI, which upholds the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings. The SGI supports the activities of UN Women and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) by working with other like-minded groups through organizing events and actively participating in the NGO Committee on the Status of Women.
From August 28 to 30, 30 youth activists and experts on nuclear disarmament from 23 countries gathered in Hiroshima for the International Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition. Working Sessions on August 28 and 29 included a visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum where the participants met with *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors). They discussed future strategies aimed at ridding the world of nuclear weapons, and together drafted a Youth Pledge in which they called nuclear weapons a symbol of a bygone age.

On August 30, 250 participants joined a public forum at which summit cochairs Rick Wayman of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) and Anna Ikeda of the SGI presented the Youth Pledge to Ahmad Alhendawi, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth.

Mr. Alhendawi urged, “Let’s be the generation that makes peace possible. This youth summit is sending a strong message to the world, that the youth are for peace and for a nuclear-free-world, and the world must listen.”

The event was coordinated by representatives of International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Mines Action Canada, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF), PAX, the SGI and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

**First Committee Side Event**

On October 16, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN hosted a side event at the First Committee of the United Nations in coordination with the members of the International Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition called “Generation of Change: Encouraging Youth Action for Nuclear Abolition.” Representatives of the International Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition presented the outcome of their meetings in Hiroshima and shared strategies and action plans to increase youth participation and engagement toward the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Thomas Markram, Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, expressed his support by emphasizing that the younger generation has much to offer, including fresh thinking on nuclear disarmament. Vugar Allahverdiev, Programme Officer from the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, spoke on the importance of developing a policy framework to include youth.

An open discussion with the audience followed on topics such as the inclusion of young people worldwide in the UN and other international organizations, outreach at universities about nuclear disarmament and how to make disarmament more appealing.

The youth network will continue to organize activities that will lead to further engagement of young people in nuclear disarmament.

For more information, see: http://internationalyouthsummit.org/.
As a Buddhist FBO, the SGI has been working together with other faith groups to contribute to the international debate on the moral and ethical dimensions of nuclear weapons.

From April 27 to May 22, the SGI participated in the 2015 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference held at UN Headquarters. Together with other FBOs such as the World Council of Churches (WCC) and PAX, the SGI led the drafting of an interfaith Joint Statement calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. It was presented on May 1 as part of the official Civil Society Presentation at the NPT Review Conference under the title “Faith Communities Concerned about the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons.” Representatives of the SGI and WCC presented the statement to Ambassador Taous Feroukhi, President of the NPT Review Conference, who remarked that this kind of initiative helps strengthen the NPT and encourages the solidarity of humanity toward a world free from nuclear weapons.

The statement powerfully denounces the need for nuclear weapons in today’s world and criticizes the vast amounts of resources diverted from investment in genuine human security. Signatories pledge, as people of faith, to communicate within their respective faith communities the inhumane and immoral nature of nuclear weapons and the unacceptable risks they pose and to call for the early commencement of negotiations by governments on a new legal instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons.

The statement was widely welcomed and endorsed by about 60 individuals and organizations of various faiths including Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist faiths. This initiative builds on past joint statements by faith groups on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons issued in April and December 2014 at the interfaith symposiums held in Washington DC and Vienna.


Presenting the statement to Ambassador Taous Feroukhi (center right), President of the NPT Review Conference
**Peace and Nuclear Disarmament**

**Senzatomica, SGI-Italy’s youth-led antinuclear arms campaign, aims to raise public awareness about nuclear threats and to challenge the idea of security based on nuclear weapons. The campaign promotes education for the general public through exhibitions, conferences, flash mobs, book readings, concerts and film screenings. Since 2011, its antinuclear exhibition has toured 56 cities in Italy and has been viewed by a total of 271,000 visitors, of whom more than 100,000 were students, the core target of the campaign.**

On July 9, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, Senzatomica organized simultaneous antinuclear events in more than 60 cities in Italy. At these events, hundreds of participants read the Manifesto out loud together in synchronization. The videos and images can be found online with the hashtag #nostraUmanita (our Humanity).

Senzatomica co-organized a biannual conference together with Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and the Italian Union of Scientists for Disarmament (USPID) at which a representative from the campaign reported the outcomes of the International Youth Summit in Hiroshima.

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**Roundtable Discussion on NGO Committees and Disarmament**

On April 30, the SGI actively participated in a side event at the NPT Review Conference at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York. The round table discussion, “NGO Committees and Disarmament – Challenges and Opportunities” was organized by the NGO Committee for Disarmament Geneva, together with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security New York, NGO Committee for Disarmament Geneva and NGO Committee on Peace Vienna.

Along with 20 participants from the three NGO Committees, representatives from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) and other interested persons and groups attended.

The aims of the meeting were to explore the challenges and opportunities for NGOs working with the UN in disarmament, the challenges and opportunities for NGO Committees and the formulation of ideas for improving the work of NGO Committees both within the Committees themselves and between Committees. The meeting resulted in an outcome document and a joint strategy for further developing joint NGO Committee initiatives.
The exhibition “Everything You Treasure—For a World Free From Nuclear Weapons” (EYT) was created by the SGI with the support of ICAN to re-examine the nuclear weapons issue from 12 different perspectives such as humanitarian, environmental, economic, human rights, spiritual and gender viewpoints. The exhibition has been showcased in many venues worldwide since its launch in 2013. As of December 2015, it has been shown in 56 cities in 14 countries in 7 languages (English, Japanese, Spanish, Malay, Chinese, German and Korean).

Selected List of Venues in 2015

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Mexico City, Mexico</td>
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<td>Texas, USA</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Santa Rosa, Argentina</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>La Rioja, Argentina</td>
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In February, the exhibition was shown at the Mexican Senate building in Mexico City to commemorate the 48th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the legal instrument designating the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean. In October, the exhibition was presented at the Havana International Convention Center in Cuba on the occasion of the International Meeting for Interfaith Dialogue and World Peace.
From March 14 to 18, the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) was held in Sendai, Japan. Toward this conference, the Soka Gakkai in Japan contributed to the discussions on DRR through JCC2015, a civil society network working for the conference. The SGI also organized several side events during the conference.

On March 15, a symposium titled “Community-based DRR from a faith-based perspective—sharing best practices,” was co-organized by ACT Alliance and the SGI in cooperation with the Japan Religion Coordinating Project for Disaster Relief (JRPD).

In his opening speech, Reverend John Nduna, General Secretary of ACT Alliance, stated that the role of FBOs in DRR is not always recognized and that international frameworks only have impact when they benefit people at the grassroots level.

Nobuyuki Asai, Chair of the Soka Gakkai Youth Peace Conference, spoke about how the Soka Gakkai mobilized existing community networks and worked to protect the vulnerable in times of emergency.

Kimio Ohashi, a 71-year-old survivor of the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 and a Soka Gakkai member, shared his experience of engaging in dialogue to build bonds of community and trust between people living in evacuation centers, temporary housing or the fledging communities of permanent housing built for those displaced by the disaster.

Rachel Kyozira of the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) talked about her work with faith communities in Ethiopia, shedding light on the realities of resilience she observed through her activities.

On March 16, as an outcome document of the symposium, 13 FBOs jointly issued a statement in which they called on governments to recognize the unique role of Local Faith Communities (LFCs) and FBOs and to prioritize the engagement and collaboration of both in the implementation of the post-2015 framework on DRR.

On March 18, Kimiaki Kawai, Program Director of Peace Affairs at the SGI, gave a presentation at the WCDRR’s IGNITE Stage on the Soka Gakkai’s relief efforts following the earthquake in 2011. He pointed out that the strengths and resources of FBOs could complement the work of other DRR stakeholders.
TOWARD THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

The SGI has been involved in the preparatory process of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) scheduled for May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey.

On July 9, together with 10 other FBOs, the SGI participated in the Asian Round Table Dialogue for Faith Based Organizations and Religious Leaders in Humanitarian Action in Bangkok, which was organized by the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Participants exchanged views on strategizing their activities toward the WHS. They also agreed to create a platform for FBOs and religious leaders in Asia for further collaboration.

From October 14 to 16, SGI participated in the WHS Global Consultation in Geneva, releasing a statement which is available at https://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/node/511020.

RELIEF ACTIVITIES

In response to the earthquakes in Nepal on April 25 and May 12, SGI-Nepal carried out relief activities in Kathmandu and surrounding areas. On the day of the first earthquake, the SGI-Nepal Peace Center in Kathmandu opened its doors to people in need of shelter, providing first aid. In mid-May, SGI-Nepal youth traveled to the valley villages of Sangla, Phutung and Kavresthali and distributed tents, plastic sheeting and food to residents affected by the earthquake.

In Malaysia, on May 30, a concert was organized at the Soka Gakkai Malaysia Culture Centre with over 1,300 participants to raise funds for the victims of the earthquakes in Nepal. The fund-raising effort generated RM 84,843.05, which was donated to the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other organizations. SGI organizations in Japan, Taiwan and Thailand also made donations to the relief funds to support the post-disaster recovery in Nepal.
The SGI participated in IIPE 2015, a week-long residential learning community organized by the International Institute on Peace Education (IIPE) from July 26 to August 2 at the University of Toledo, Ohio. Under the theme of “Education for Urban Revitalization toward Social & Ecological Justice: Peace Education in an Era of Globalization,” over 60 educators, academics, activists and professionals in the field of peace education gathered from 18 countries to exchange their knowledge and experience with each other.

At the start of the IIPE program, the SGI and the Earth Charter International (ECI) opened the “Seeds of Hope: Visions of sustainability, steps toward change” exhibition as a joint initiative.

The SGI also organized an interactive workshop “Using and Measuring the Impact of Non-Formal Educational Tools for Peace Education” to discuss the effective use of exhibitions. The SGI’s exhibition, as an example of a non-formal educational tool, triggered active discussions and creative suggestions from the participants on how exhibitions and related activities can become more engaging to enhance the viewers’ learning.

In November, the SGI organized a panel discussion “Building a Sustainable Present: What Can One Person Do?” at the University of Toledo in conjunction with the “Seeds of Hope” exhibition. Participants discussed how each individual can make a difference and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On March 21, an international forum “Finding Synergies, Building Bridges: Reorienting Education towards Sustainable Development, Sustainable Consumption and Global Citizenship” was held at the University for Peace (UPEACE) in San José, Costa Rica, to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the launch of the Earth Charter.

The forum, co-organized by ECI and UPEACE in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), brought together some 70 people including individuals from the Earth Charter network, representatives of governments and the public sector.

Hiro Sakurai, Director of the SGI Office for UN Affairs, spoke on strengthening partnerships across global education initiatives. He shared the SGI’s efforts to link various educational efforts, starting with the interdisciplinary roundtable discussion held at Rio+20.

The discussion highlighted the need for partnership, dialogue and cooperation as keys to success in advancing the SDGs, referring to the Earth Charter as an excellent model for successful dialogue and cooperation.
“Seeds of Hope: Visions of Sustainability, Steps Toward Change”

“Seeds of Hope: Visions of sustainability, steps toward change” was jointly produced by the SGI and the ECI in 2010 to promote the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). It aims to encourage the viewer to overcome feelings of powerlessness and highlights the fact that a single individual can initiate positive change in their environment. The exhibition has been shown in more than 200 cities in 33 countries.

On March 28 and 29, MAHSA University College in Kuala Lumpur hosted the exhibition in conjunction with the university’s Earth Hour event. In June, a selection of the exhibition was shown during the Earth Charter+15 Conference in the Netherlands, attended by former Netherlands Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers.

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<td>January</td>
<td>Santiago del Estero &amp; Entre Ríos, Argentina</td>
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<td>January/April</td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Guairá, Paraguay</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>New York, United States</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Utrecht, Netherlands</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>Melaka, Malaysia</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Catalonia, Spain</td>
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The SGI participated in the 6th International Human Rights Education Conference “Translating Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms to Today’s World” hosted by University College Roosevelt in Middelburg, the Netherlands, from December 17 to 19.

The conference focused on the UN World Programme for Human Rights Education (WPHRE), drawing inspiration from former US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s speech on the Four Freedoms: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear.

A salient topic that emerged throughout the conference was regarding the key role of human rights education in addressing and preventing extremisms such as radical nationalism and xenophobia. The conference also focused on the role of human rights education in contributing to civic skills and competencies that promote equality and dignity of life.

HRE 2020 (www.hre2020.org), a civil society coalition launched in 2013 by the SGI, Amnesty International and Human Rights Education Associates (HREA) to support and strengthen the implementation of international human rights education, also held a meeting during the conference. HRE 2020 recently launched the Human Rights Education Indicator Framework, which seeks to support the international community and UN initiatives through systematic monitoring of the implementation of human rights education commitments by governments.

The SGI, alongside other participants at the conference, adopted the Middelburg Declaration on Human Rights Education and Global Citizenship (www.ihrec2015.org). The conference reminded the participants of the significance of Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.”
WORKSHOP ON THE WORLD PROGRAMME FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

On March 17, in parallel with the 28th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the SGI, as part of the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning (NGO WG on HREL), facilitated the workshop “The World Programme for Human Rights Education—Outcomes of the Second Phase.” The workshop, cosponsored by the Platform Member States, was attended by some 50 participants mainly from civil society organizations as well as several representatives of the Member States and the United Nations.

The workshop focused on the two key aspects of the second phase (2010-2014) of the WPHRE: (i) Human Rights Education for Higher Education and (ii) Human Rights Training for Civil Servants. It aimed to identify relevant outcomes of the second phase of the WPHRE, raise public awareness of the WPHRE and exchange views, suggestions and best practices relevant to the second phase of the WPHRE.

Three keynote presentations were made by representatives from governments, academia and NGOs, followed by wider discussions with all the participants and a feedback session on the achievements and shortcomings of the second phase of the WPHRE.

The workshop at the 28th session of the HRC

THE 30TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

As a member of the NGO WG on HREL, the SGI supported the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training comprised of Morocco, Costa Rica, Italy, Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand, and organized a high-level side event “Human Rights Education and Training: Achievements and Perspectives” on September 25 in parallel with the 30th session of the Human Rights Council.

This panel discussion was sponsored by members of the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training and brought together representatives of the diplomatic community as well as nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations.

The side event stressed the importance of human rights education and explored the synergies that can be developed when different actors work together. HRE 2020 presented on the importance of accountability, monitoring and review in human rights education.

The SGI signed a joint oral statement created by the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning which underscores the importance of Human Rights Education in the realization of the SDGs.

The side event at the 30th session of the HRC
CSW59/BEIJING+20 PARALLEL EVENT ON WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP

On March 17, during the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) in New York, the SGI organized a parallel event under the theme of “Living Women’s Leadership, Living Global Citizenship—Strengthening the Beijing Platform for Action.” Commemorating 20 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the event was cosponsored by Baha’i International Community, the Salvation Army, Soroptimist International, Global Movement for the Culture of Peace and the United Religions Initiative (URI) and was attended by 75 participants. This marked the fifth consecutive year the SGI has organized a CSW parallel event.

The focus of the discussion was on the role of women as leaders at the local, national, regional and global levels based on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which emphasized the importance of women’s contribution in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The joint workshop explored two mutually reinforcing imperatives: the need to learn and live women’s leadership and the need to foster a greater sense of being a global citizen.

In his keynote speech, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, called for more women to be in decision-making positions, starting at the United Nations. He stressed that to achieve gender equality it is necessary to dismantle patriarchy. Other speakers included Lopa Banerjee, Chief of United Nations Women’s Civil Society Section, Jean Krasno, lecturer of the Department of Political Science at the City College of New York, and Selamawit Adugna Bekele, United Nations Representative for Moremi Initiative for Women’s Leadership in Africa.

HRC SIDE EVENT ON HARNESSING FAITH AND CULTURE

On June 16, during the 29th session of the Human Rights Council, the SGI cosponsored together with the Lutheran World Federation, WCC, the Islamic Relief Worldwide and World YWCA, a side event “Harnessing Faith and Culture: Advancing Women’s Rights and Responding to Violence.”

Underpinning the discussion was the idea that FBOs can help challenge prejudices and support the full participation of women in political, economic and social life. It was stressed that women are often central to the life of FBOs and possess enormous potential to promote conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The meeting highlighted the notion that “women’s rights are human rights and violence against women is a human rights violation.”
On October 27, as part of the Culture of Peace Distinguished Speaker Series, the SGI-USA New York Culture Center sponsored an event to commemorate the 15th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury moderated a discussion with speakers Asha Hans, Founding Director of the School of Women’s Studies at Utkal University in India, and Betty Reardon, Founding Director Emeritus of the International Institute on Peace Education.

Ambassador Chowdhury, who played an instrumental role in the adoption of Resolution 1325, emphasized that unless we ensure the equal participation of all men and women in decision-making, 50 percent of humanity will be left behind. Dr. Reardon called Resolution 1325 the most significant postwar document since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Other topics mentioned during the discussion were the concept of human security, human rights and the localization of Resolution 1325—a civil society movement implementing the resolution locally rather than waiting for governments to do so.

On October 21, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York held the first of its quarterly series of “Conversations” for the Young Professionals group with the topic “Women, Peace and Security.”

Some 30 people from NGOs, universities, civil society and the UN attended. The meeting first introduced the history of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security adopted 15 years ago, followed by a discussion cofacilitated by the SGI as the Chair of the Young Professionals Subcommittee, together with colleagues from the Office of the President of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly and UN Women.

The discussion revealed that small efforts can make a huge difference and that efforts of civil society actors can be more effective in bringing about a real change than those of the government and international organizations.

On October 27, as part of the Culture of Peace Distinguished Speaker Series, the SGI-USA New York Culture Center sponsored an event to commemorate the 15th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.
About SGI

The Soka Gakkai was admitted as a nongovernmental organization (NGO) associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) in 1981. The SGI was granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1983 and was listed as an NGO in cooperation with UNHCR in 1997. To support its cooperative activities with the UN, other NGOs and relevant UN organizations, the SGI maintains offices liaising with the UN in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

The SGI supported the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001–10). Working with other NGOs, the SGI was an early proponent of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) (2005–14) and has called for the continuation of an international framework for human rights education as a follow-up to the UN Decade for Human Rights Education (1995–2004). It played an active role in the UN process for the realization of the World Programme for Human Rights Education and the DESD and has been working to promote those initiatives since they were launched in 2005.

The SGI actively participates in networks including the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CoNGO) and NGO committees on specific themes such as peace, human rights education and gender equality in New York, Geneva and Vienna. At the local level, SGI groups partner with local community organizations and governments as well as academic institutions. SGI President Daisaku Ikeda’s annual peace proposals suggest broad themes for the organization’s efforts as an NGO.

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