

There are an estimated **3 billion** people
in the world **under the age of 25.**

NEWSM
GEN
PEACEBUILDERS

NewGen PeacebuildersSM is a global youth peace education program that emphasizes the **role, value and impact of young people ages 14-24** in achieving a peaceful world.



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Hello,

Non-profit and for-profit leaders often point to the potential of youth and young adults as tomorrow's global citizen leaders. Yet peace, the most cross-cutting of global topics, is essentially absent from formal and informal education frameworks. Young people are rarely invited to participate in local, national and international peace projects.

Through the NewGen PeacebuildersSM program high school and university students learn about and engage in tangible efforts to create peace.



In a “Knowledge-Connection-Action-Skills” format, NewGen Peacebuilders combines: scholarly work on conflict resolution, case studies, profiles of peacebuilder role models, high-energy exercises, and project management training. **The program recognizes and conveys “peace universals” that are consistent across cultures while adapting for local context and circumstances.** A particularly unique aspect is the focus on “education *for* peacebuilding” versus simply “education *about* peace.” To become certified NewGen Peacebuilders, participants must complete team action peace projects.

Global youth peace education is not just a strategy for the future. Today's young people have unprecedented awareness of global issues, access to information and technology, and interest in new approaches to problem-solving. NewGen Peacebuilders equips young people to be positive agents of peace right now.

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NewGen PeacebuildersSM is a flagship project of international nonprofit Mothering Across ContinentsSM. The program is endorsed by the Rotary Action Group for Peace.



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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Learning Framework

The NewGen PeacebuildersSM program helps youth and young adults *understand* frameworks related to peace, *develop* project planning and management skills, and *embrace* peacebuilding as a personal responsibility.

The curriculum and facilitation process draw on a variety of peace education resources and integrate best practices in global education.

NewGen Peacebuilders presents a wide range of research-based content on conflict and peace and engages participants to take compassionate action through:



Program Structure

The typical program format is extra-curricular and spans a high school or university term of 10 to 12 weeks. Alternate customized programs include a year-long leadership academy that can be integrated into a school curriculum, as well as a “wrap-around” program for Model United Nations conferences and/or other youth leadership events.

The NewGen Peacebuilders program consists of five core components:

Mentors

Trained peace project mentors attend select workshop days and coach participants as they implement team action peace projects

Peace Projects

Participants design, plan and implement action peace projects in one large or several small teams

Immersion Workshops

In-person, interactive workshops introduce peacebuilding frameworks and best practices, tools for developing Compassionate Presence and project management skills

Readings & Resources

A library of articles, case studies and videos is available through a customized online learning platform

Guest Speakers

Conference calls and virtual conversations are hosted with peacebuilder role models at the local, national and international levels





Immersion Workshop Highlights

NewGen Peacebuilders **Immersion Workshops** are delivered in five parts or themes:

Part I: Foundations and Frameworks of Peace

- Creative exercises help participants discuss and reflect on ingrained perceptions of peace and conflict, as well as evaluate the impact of the media and other sources.
- Participants explore and reflect on historical and contemporary values based in religion and culturally-distinct beliefs.
- Key scholarly frameworks are introduced, including **Galtung's Triangle of Violence, Negative and Positive Peace, and Pillars of Peace** (factors that promote peaceful societies).
- Indices such as the Global Peace Index help participants evaluate conflict in specific countries and debate: "Has the world become more peaceful or more violent?"

Part II: Processes and Practices of Peace

- Analysis tools such as the "Tree of Conflict" are used to identify root causes and visible effects of local, national or global conflicts.
- Participants study the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and explore connections between human rights and peace.
- Case studies help differentiate "good neighbor" and humanitarian service projects from "true" peace projects defined by specific project features and characteristics. **Mind Mapping** tools are used to envision potential team action peace projects.

Part III: Compassionate Presence

- Participants relate their own personal values to those associated with noted peace advocates and generate a list of core peacebuilding values.
- An "**Amygdala Hijack**" and **Fight, Flight, Freeze** overview helps participants understand personal "triggers" in conflict situations.
- Participants experience meditation and other forms of mental and emotional self-regulation to reduce stress.
- Participants distinguish between pity, sympathy, empathy and Compassionate Presence. They also practice skills associated with Active Listening.

Part IV: Effective Peace Project Management

- Role plays introduce skills and practices that make for high-performing teams.
- In teams, participants use "**Design Thinking**" and a multi-step planning tool to set project goals and establish milestones, resource needs, budget, roles and results measures.
- Trained mentors support teams during planning and implementation of action peace projects.

Part V: Demonstrating, Celebrating Peace

- Teams complete impact reports and public presentations of action peace projects.
- Participants share personal statements of peacebuilding intentions going forward.



Team Action Peace Projects

Dr. Johan Galtung, a principal founder of modern peace and conflict studies, defined “positive peace” as the presence of empathic relationships and systems that promote fair, just and good society. NewGen Peacebuilders design and implement team action projects focused on positive peacebuilding.

Examples:

Promoting a Peace Culture – Bolivia

In the city of La Paz, the seat of Bolivia’s government, a NewGen Peacebuilders team designed and delivered a campaign inviting young people to demonstrate tolerance across cultures. They led workshops in local schools and organized a conference titled “Constructing a Culture of Peace Through Youth and Education: Projects and Possibilities.” It was promoted on television and featured Bolivia’s Vice President for Human Rights.



Linking Education and Peace – South Sudan

South Sudan has suffered from decades of civil war. A NewGen Peacebuilders team in the US organized the Walk for Wisdom, an education, service and fundraising challenge to raise funds for books and educational materials as a counter to conflict. For 2016-17, students at 40-plus schools in 12 states will participate.



Foster the Future – United States (California)

There are more than 400,000 children in foster care in the US. Due to challenging family dynamics, many stay in foster care for several years, fall behind in school, and miss extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities. The experience is lonely.

NewGen Peacebuilders in Santa Rosa, California, took time to learn about the foster care experience. Working as one team across five diverse high schools, and in collaboration with local community leaders and court advocates, they launched “Foster the Future.”

The project brings friendship and fun activities to foster care children ages 8 to 12. These NewGen Peacebuilders became the first teenagers in their area to launch such a program.



ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF NEWGEN PEACEBUILDERSSM

Core elements of the NewGen PeacebuildersSM program began to emerge in 2012. The program officially launched in 2013. A number of Rotary Peace Fellows have been involved as collaborators, facilitators and advisors:



Co-founder and Chief Catalyst Patricia Shafer (US) is Executive Director of international nonprofit Mothering Across Continents. She has an MSc in Consulting and Coaching for Change, Oxford University, UK – HEC France, and an MBA from the Northwestern University Kellogg Graduate School of Management. **Co-founder Carla Lineback** (US) is Director of Alumni Engagement at SIT/World Learning. She has multi-country experience with conflict resolution workshops for young people and an MA in Peace Studies from the International Christian University in Japan. **Phill Gittins** (UK/Bolivia) is Country Director, NewGen Peacebuilders – Bolivia; Co-Director, Global Curriculum Development; and a PhD candidate in International Conflict Analysis at the University of Kent. **Jenn Weidman** (Thailand) is Managing Director/CEO of Space Bangkok and former Deputy Director of the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University. She has a Master's in Cultural and Applied Anthropology from Northern Illinois University. **Wisdom Addo** (Ghana) is Executive Director of the West Africa Centre for Peace Foundation, an NGO that serves young people through education on human rights, leadership and peacebuilding. **Pranisa Ekachote** (Thailand) has a Master's Degree in International Development from Duke University. She has researched context-specific adaptations of NewGen Peacebuilders to Thailand. **Spencer Leung** (Hong Kong and Bangkok) manages a social enterprise network focused on sustainable agriculture practices and policies.



NewGen Peacebuilders workshops have been conducted or are anticipated for 2017 in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ghana, Hong Kong, South Sudan, Thailand, and the US.

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