

**Religions for Peace** 



**INTERFAITH SERVICE  
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

**Commitments of the World's Religions to Children**

As religious believers and people of good will, respectful of our religious differences, we gathered on Universal Children's Day to honor the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and to observe the launch of the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children.

We, the participants of the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children in New York, join with brothers and sisters around the world to pledge to work through our respective communities and organizations to take action to protect the inviolable dignity of children.

We commit ourselves to strengthen the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by:

- promoting practices that respect the inviolable dignity of children, and ensuring that the rights of the child -- physical, psychological, developmental and spiritual - - are enshrined in all of our policies, programs, and actions.
- working tirelessly to reduce the discrimination and stigma children face due to disease, disability, gender or minority status.

We call upon our conveners, *Religions for Peace* and Arigatou Foundation to:

- Mark the occasion of Universal Children's Day annually on November 20th with a Day of Prayer and Action for Children and to place children at the center of the service and of commitments to action.
- Advocate at all levels for appropriate policies and greater resource mobilization and allocation for the wellbeing of children.

We call on all member states of the United Nations to:

- Support and promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Commit to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 to secure the physical and psychological future of children.
- Enter into partnerships with religious and multi-religious organizations to advance the wellbeing of children.

In each of our religions, every child is a gift. There is no nobler task for those of us working out of a religious commitment than to work for the well-being of children. They are our future, the joy of the present and heirs of our past.

Tillman Chapel November 18, 2009

Signed: