

Hague Appeal for Peace Youth Programme, 10- 15 May 1999

The Hague Appeal for Peace is a historic peace campaign dedicated to the de-legitimization of war and to the establishment of peace as a human right. It seeks to realise a vision of the world in which the use of armed conflict in the settlement of disputes is seen as illegitimate. This is (in opportunity to join thousands of people, from every continent, to work out *new* ways to create a world free from the scourge of war.

The Hague Appeal for Peace is an ongoing process, initiated and organized by civil society groups. The campaign's main focus is an international conference, but a whole series of regional, national and local events are already uniting people of all ages in pursuit of new strategies for a peaceful 21st century. The Hague Appeal for Peace is also represented in a parallel inter-governmental process, which takes the form of expert-level meetings in The Hague and St. Petersburg, with other events in Geneva and New York.

The date, 10-15 May 1999, and the place, The Hague, the Netherlands, were chosen in commemoration of the centenary of the first international Hague peace conference, at which many of the foundations for international law were laid. One hundred bloody years later, the Hague Appeal for Peace has a more ambitious aim: the abolition of war. This goal is being tackled from four angles: *conflict prevention and resolution; disarmament and human security; international law and human rights; the roots of war and a culture of peace.*