



## IPB and the Newark Peace Education Summit

### Full report

The Newark Peace Education Summit<sup>1</sup> was held from May 13-15, 2011 in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and Robert Treat Hotel in downtown Newark.

The Summit set out to “...illuminate common elements of peacemaking around the world” and “...engage our potential to solve problems face by individuals, families, communities, nations and ultimately all beings in the world we share.”

The Summit was easily the largest gathering of people invested in peace since the 1998 Hague Appeal. Attendees and presenters represented the large spectrum of social action: Nobel Laureates such as **His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Jody Williams** and **Shirin Ebadi**; religious and spiritual luminaries such as **Rabbi Michael Lerner, Deepak Chopra, and Roshi Joan Halifax**; current and former members of the Obama administration; internationally recognized peacemakers such as **Martin Luther King III**; United Nations advisors and diplomats; socially conscious artists and journalists such as **Goldie Hawn, Edward Norton, Russell Simmons** and **Soledad O’Brien**; and community organizers, students, and youth activists.

The **Honorable Cory Booker**, the mayor of Newark, hosted the Summit in conjunction with Tibet House<sup>2</sup> and opened the daily sessions, expounding on the connections between



*Ambassador Ana Teresa Dengo and Jonathan Granoff at the Disarmament for Development workshop*

Newark, a city in transition that has experienced its own communal strife, and the global challenges that face peacemakers today.

**International Peace Bureau** was uniquely positioned at the Summit in several respects. First, it was the only Nobel Laureate Organization to be represented at the Summit. Moreover, it was one of a select number of organizations that were

represented by more than one presenter at the Summit.

**Jonathan Granoff**<sup>3</sup>, President of the Global Security Institute and **Alyn Ware** - former IPB vice-president, 2009 Right Livelihood Award recipient, and Global Coordinator of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament - both represented IPB at the Summit. Metta Spencer, IPB Board Member also attended.

### Peace in the World Panel

On May 15, 2011, Jonathan and Alyn participated in the morning session on *Peace in the World* with Nobel Laureates Jody Williams and Shirin Ebadi; Ishmael Beah (former child soldier and author of *A Long Way Gone*); United States Congressman Donald Payne; Leymah Roberta Gbowee (leader of the women’s movement to end the Liberian civil war); Joe Green (one of the founding members of Facebook); Amandine Roche (an



*IPB workshop - 8 year old school mediator with UMP presenter commercial pilot Nadia Marcinko*

3 Mr. Granoff’s blog post on the Summit is available at: <http://www.newarkpeace.org/blog/reflections-peace> . His video message of introduction is available on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqNbuESpnXE>

1 [www.newarkpeace.org](http://www.newarkpeace.org)

2 <http://www.tibethouse.us/>

international consultant working for the United Nations mission in Afghanistan); Professor Clement Price; Zainab Salbi (CEO of Women for Women International) and Isobel Arthen, a youth delegate from PeaceJam.

**Alyn Ware** opened the panel, explaining the background to the peace sign being used for the conference (the old CND symbol) and how it linked personal peace-making with global nuclear disarmament. He then described the successful

campaigns in his home country Aotearoa-New Zealand to ban nuclear energy, ban nuclear weapons and turn a warlike country into the number 1

country in the Global Peace Index the past two years running. He noted the extraordinary opportunities now for nuclear abolition arising from, among other things, President Obama's vision for a nuclear weapons free world and UN Secretary-General's plan on how to get there.

**Jonathan Granoff** closed the panel, and discussed the moral imperatives that come with being the first generation to have the power "to decide whether it will be the last generation". He also highlighted *Nobel Peace Laureates' Three Key Questions to all Elected Policy-makers to Fulfill Our Duty to the Next Generation* developed at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in 2007<sup>4</sup>:

1. What are your plans to address crushing poverty?
2. What are your plans to protect the environment?
3. What are your plans to eliminate nuclear weapons?

IPB rep Jonathan Granoff also promoted the concept of universal human values that operate from personal to global arenas and transcend religions, nationalities, ethnicities and ideologies, including the value of life over militarism.

"No mother," he said, "should have to decide which one of their children will die, because there is not

enough food or water to save them. And yet, there are mothers every day who make that difficult choice while we spend billions each year on retaining or nuclear weapons, or pursuing them. This is unworthy of civilization."

## Peace Workshops

**Mr. Granoff** chaired an afternoon workshop titled *Disarmament for Development – the Prosperity and Security of Peace*, which featured the only official

representative of a UN Member State at the Conference: **H.E. Ana Teresa Dengo**, Costa Rica's Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

Organization, and the United Nations in Vienna.

Ambassador Dengo spoke about Costa Rica's leadership in the world, and how it made the remarkable and inspiring decision to forgo a standing military and place its trust in the rule of law. At times this has been tested, as during a recent border dispute with Nicaragua, but Costa Rica's commitment to and vindication via international law has allowed it to refocus resources that would have gone to its military on the human needs of its citizens, such as a 95 percent literacy rate - the highest in South and Central America.

Ambassador Dengo also spoke about the Costa Rican initiative currently in discussions at the United Nations, which would reward developing nations with debt relief for investing in the human needs of their citizens instead of militarism. Costa Rica's example illustrates the intentions and possibilities of the Summit, and best encapsulated the core values that



IPB workshop – teaching cooperative peace-making models through games



Sara Hirsch (Universal Models for Peace) with Mayor Cory Booker and Alyn Ware

4 The Questions were prominently displayed on the Summit's website:

<http://www.newarkpeace.org/blog/three-questions-think-about-newark-peace-education-summit>

were on display in Newark.

Also on the panel were **Ms. Narae Lee**, International Coordinator and the UN Representative of Peace Boat US, a peace initiative which takes up to 1,000



*Former child soldier Ishmael Beah with UMP presenter and astro-physics student Leah Kelly*

passengers on global voyages. She spoke about her experiences, bringing together advocates from across the globe, and the transformative impact that having so many people, invested in peace, within the closed environment of the Peace Boat can have, and participant's roles as both citizen diplomats and ambassadors of peace.

Third on the panel was **Ms. Allison Pytlak**, the Disarmament Program Coordinator for Religions for Peace, the world's largest and most representative organization of the major religions dedicated to promoting peace. She spoke about the Arms Down Campaign, which collected 20 million signatures calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, reduction of military spending by 10% and reallocation of those funds to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals.



*Peace in the World panelists Amandine Roche, Alyn Ware and Robert Thurman with UMP presenter Nadia Marcinko*

The Summit was an affirmation of the interconnected role of peace in the world today, from the peace that resides within an individual to the peace that can be possible in the world today.

**Alyn Ware** coordinated a workshop on *Peace Education from Kindergarten to the United Nations*. The workshop included inter-personal conflict resolution exercises, demonstrations of mediations done by school-pupils, discussion of mediation and

conflict resolution at the international level and discussion of possibilities for nuclear abolition and implementing the Millennium Development Goals through the development of peace and disarmament. Alyn also taught some cooperative games which turned out to be the hit of the workshop.

Presenters, in addition to Alyn, included former school bully and now youth-mediator **Jonnie Black** (see Jonnie's nation-wide TV interview on stopping school bullying<sup>5</sup>) and representatives of **Universal Models for Peace** (UMP) including commercial pilot Nadia Marcinko who is planning a solo flight around-the-world to promote the eight Millennium Development Goals plus the other two core UN objectives of peace and disarmament.

Alyn and Jonathan also did a number of TV and print media interviews during the Summit. Alyn performed two peace songs on Mind-TV, one a Maori song on the importance of cross-cultural understanding and collaboration for peace, and the other a song he wrote celebrating the transformation of New Zealand into a nuclear-free country.

A key theme emerging from the Summit is that peace at all levels has become even more possible in the 21<sup>st</sup> century through the development and use of successful conflict resolution mechanisms at all levels

and the development of global systems of communication, information sharing, accountability and law.

However, there were strong sentiments that gender and youth inclusion is vital to achieve equality and success in conflict resolution and peace-building. There were also strong sentiments

that respect for rights need to extend to those of the planet and its non-human life forms to ensure sustainability and genuine peace.

#### **For more information see:**

Newark Peace Summit: [www.newarkpeace.org](http://www.newarkpeace.org)

Universal Models for Peace:

[www.universalmodelsforpeace.org](http://www.universalmodelsforpeace.org)

Arms Down Campaign: [www.armsdown.net](http://www.armsdown.net)

Peace Boat: [www.peaceboat.org](http://www.peaceboat.org)

Newark Summit blog on core peace values:

[www.newarkpeace.org/blog/reflections-peace](http://www.newarkpeace.org/blog/reflections-peace)

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<sup>5</sup> <http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/viciously-attacked-school-girl-speaks-4087155/video?vid=4087662>