

Peace Together", which strives to remind people that our common enemy is the Coronavirus, and we must unite against the impact of this global pandemic. 2020 has been a year of struggles and challenges due to the deadly virus spread. Renewed focus on racism and discrimination has spotlighted brutality around the globe. Our world needs kind and compassionate hearts more than ever right now.

In 2021, as we heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are inspired to think creatively and collectively about how to help everyone recover better, how to build resilience, and how to transform our world into one that is more equal, more just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthier.

The pandemic is known for hitting the underprivileged and marginalized groups the hardest. By April 2021, over 687 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered globally, but over 100 countries have not received a single dose.

People caught in conflict are especially vulnerable in terms of lack of access to healthcare.

In line with the Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire last March, in February 2021 the Security Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for Member States to support a "sustained humanitarian pause" to local conflicts. The global ceasefire must continue to be honoured, to ensure people caught in conflict have access to lifesaving vaccinations and treatments.

The pandemic has been accompanied by a surge in stigma, discrimination, and hatred, which only cost more lives instead of saving them: the virus attacks all without caring about where we are from or what we believe in. Confronting this common enemy of humankind, we must be reminded that we are not each other's enemy. To be able to recover from the devastation of the pandemic, we must make peace with one another.

In addition, the horrific atrocities that destabilize peace and security continue in the form of terrorism, violent extremism, human trafficking, and illegal sales of lethal weapons that kill some 2000 women and children each day in conflict zones. At the same time violence against women and girls, and abuse of minors go unabated.

The greed for control and power exacerbates the research into production of deadly weapons of mass destruction with no end to their proliferation. All of these are frightening trends for a fragile world that will be unable to recover from these manifold threats posed. Therefore, we need to cultivate peace in human minds. Peace is not only the absence of war but the prevalence of a state of calm, harmony and compassion towards one and all.

And we must make peace with nature. Despite the travel restrictions and economic shutdowns, climate change is not on pause. What we need is a green and sustainable global economy that produces jobs, reduces emissions, and builds resilience to climate impacts.

The 2021 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world”. We invite you to join the efforts of the United Nations family as we focus on recovering better for a more equitable and peaceful world.

Celebrate peace by standing up against acts of hate online and offline, and **by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic, and as we recover**. It means taking care of the most vulnerable populations which have taken the hardest toll. These include women, girls, children, the aging, minority groups, migrants and refugees

Background

The International Day of Peace was [established](#) in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to [designate](#) the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.