



September 21: International Day of Peace

A Few Suggestions

We can create a better world...

At the Centrale des syndicats du Québec and the mouvement des Établissements verts Brundtland (EVB-CSQ), we have a tradition of taking concrete action against violence and in favor of peace, whether it be in the school environment, at the work place or in society as a whole.

Within the present international context, it has become more and more important to inform ourselves, to reflect and to take action against the violence around us and in support of peace in the world.

Here are several proposals for things to do on International Peace Day, which is coming up on September 21.

Demonstration for peace involving adults and children

One idea is to organize a mini-demonstration in your neighbourhood. To symbolize peace, children could wear a small piece of white cloth tied around their wrists. It would also be a good idea to carry some object which makes noise, in order to attract the attention of people close by.

This symbolic action is a gesture of solidarity to promote peace in the world. The action could be ended with a minute of silence.

A minute of silence for peace



Moment of peace – September 21– noon

A minute of silence will be observed at noon in every time zone around the world. This event has been initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Mr. Ban Ki-moon, collaborating with Mayors for Peace, an organization which represents more than 5700 world cities.

Suggested text to read on this occasion:

Today, here and around the world, people are invited to devote a minute of silence for peace.

Here, _____, we will observe this minute of silence.
(name of place or institution)

During this minute, let us think about how important peace is everywhere: in our own homes, at school, in our neighbourhoods, in our own country, and in other countries of the world.

When we witness or are involved in disputes, quarrels, or physical fights; when children, men, women are suffering from war in their cities; when houses, hospitals and schools are destroyed by bombs--what is our reaction?

Are we happy about it? Certainly not. I believe that like me, you find these situations unacceptable. Therefore, war must end. We all need peace.

We need students who care about others, who respect others and who strive to be at peace with others. Violence is not a joke, as some video games and cartoons would have us believe.

For one minute, let's reflect on what we could do to help PEACE grow in our school.

Let's take one minute of silence to think about this, each in our own way.

After 60 seconds, the speaker continues :

Thank you for this minute of silence. Thousands and millions of minutes like this one will one day make it possible to change the world.

Other suggested actions for your milieu

Consult the web site of [Réseau In-Terre-Actif](#). There you will find some excellent pedagogical programs (learn about the UN, child soldiers, working for peace).

Invite a young person or an adult in your region to come and share experiences in his or her country of origin in which war was being waged.

We suggest that you wear white on International Peace Day.

Participate in the campaigns of Amnesty International.

Make doves for peace, draw doves on posters, write messages about peace inside the doves, and decorate your surroundings. Make a slideshow or PowerPoint presentation of your creations and send them to the EVB-CSQ at [secrétariat EVB-CSQ](#). We will post them on our internet site.



If it hasn't already happened in your institution, organize the training of mediators and the development of conflict resolution procedures.

Many collaborators and partners also suggest tools and projects to combat violence and promote peace. For example: [Fondation Jasmin Roy](#), [Travail de réflexion pour des ondes pacifiques \(T.R.O.P.\)](#), [Oxfam-Québec](#), [Amnesty International](#), [Centre international de solidarité ouvrière \(CISO\)](#), [Cyclo Nord-Sud](#), [Carrefour Tiers-Monde](#), [Institut Pacifique](#), [Outils de paix](#), etc. Don't forget to consult their web sites.

You may also:

- Inform yourself by reading articles and books which analyze the problem and suggest solutions;
- Tell yourself, and persuade others, that performing concrete gestures, no matter how small, will make peace more and more possible here and around the world;
- **And above all, give yourself the right to dream and to believe in a better world, because it really is possible.**

Send us your suggestions and let us know what you have accomplished. It will make us happy to talk about it and to share your successes!

The EVB-CSQ team

