

CALLS AND PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

From across the world's religions and ideologies come calls and prayers for peace and justice. These calls for awareness and just action echo common threads that unite us, regardless of our belief or lack of belief, in our quest for a peaceful and just society.

Let us remember that the ties that unite us are strengthened when we acknowledge our shared values - and our vision of a future that includes all people.ⁱ

A BAHAI' CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity. Be worthy of the trust of thy neighbor, and look upon him with a bright and friendly face. Be a treasure to the poor, an admonisher to the rich, an answerer of the cry of the needy, a preserver of the sanctity of thy pledge. Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech. Be unjust to no man, and show all meekness to all men. Be ... a pillar of the temple of righteousness, a breath of life to the body of mankind, an ensign of the hosts of justice, a luminary above the horizon of virtue, a dew to the soil of the human heart, an ark on the ocean of knowledge, a sun in the heaven of bounty, a gem on the diadem of wisdom, a shining light in the firmament of thy generation, a fruit upon the tree of humility.ⁱⁱ

A BUDDHIST CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

May all beings everywhere plagued with sufferings of body and mind quickly be freed from their illnesses. May those frightened cease to be afraid, and may those bound be free. May the powerless find power, and may people think of befriending one another.ⁱⁱⁱ

A CHRISTIAN CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Merciful God, hear our prayer for a world that will respect the God-given rights of all. We dedicate ourselves to work for the rights of each human person, especially for those who find life a burden and who know the suffering of hatred, poverty and war. Help us to share the fire of your peace with all people in all places at all times.^{iv}

A HINDU CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Swami Omkar's Peace Prayer: Adorable Presence! Thou who art within and without, above and below and all around; Thou who art interpenetrating the very cells of our being—Thou who art the Eye of our eyes, the Ear of our ears, the Heart of our hearts, the Mind of our minds, the Breath of our breaths, the Life of our lives, and the Soul of our souls. Bless us Dear God, to be aware of Thy Presence Now and Here. This is all that we ask of Thee; May all be aware of Thy Presence in the East and the West, and the North and the South. May Peace and Goodwill abide among individuals as well as among communities and nations. This is our Earnest Prayer. May Peace be unto All.^v

A JAIN CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Peace and Universal Love is the essence of the Gospel preached by all the Enlightened Ones. The Lord has preached that equanimity is the Dharma. I forgive all creatures, and may all creatures forgive me. Unto all have I amity, and unto none, enmity. Know that violence is the root cause of all miseries in the world. Violence in fact is the knot of bondage. "Do not injure any living being." This is the eternal, perennial, and unalterable way of spiritual life. A weapon, however powerful it may be, can always be superseded by a superior one; but no weapon can be superior to nonviolence and love.

A JEWISH CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

When God created us, He made us in His own image, in the likeness of the divine. Both male and female He created; He blessed them, and at the time of their creation He called them Human. Therefore was a single human being created: to teach you that to destroy a single human soul is equivalent to destroying an entire world; and to sustain a single human soul is equivalent to sustaining an entire world.^{vi}

A KIKUYU CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Praise ye Lord, Peace be with us. Say that the elders may have wisdom and speak with one voice. Peace be with us. Say that the country may have tranquility. Peace be with us. And the people may continue to increase. Peace be with us. Say that the people and the flock and the herds may prosper and be free from illness. Peace be with us. Say that the fields may bear much fruit and the land may continue to be fertile. Peace be with us. May peace reign over earth, may the gourd cup agree with [the] vessel. Peace be with us. May their heads agree and every ill word be driven out into the wilderness, into the virgin forest.^{vii}

A MUSLIM CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Hazrat Inayat Khan's Peace Prayer: Send Thy peace, O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting, that our souls may radiate peace. Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may think, act, and speak harmoniously. Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may be contented and thankful for Thy bountiful gifts. Send Thy peace, O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife we may enjoy thy bliss. Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may endure all, tolerate all in the thought of thy grace and mercy. Send Thy peace, O Lord, that our lives may become a divine vision, and in Thy light all darkness may vanish. Send Thy peace, O Lord, our Father and Mother, that we Thy children on earth may all unite in one family.^{viii}

A NATIVE AMERICAN CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

O Great Spirit of our Ancestors, we raise the pipe to you, to your messengers the four winds, and to Mother Earth who provides for your children. Give us the wisdom to teach our children to love, to respect, to be kind to each other so that they may grow with peace in mind. Let us learn to share all the good things that you provide for us on this Earth.

A SHINTO CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Although the people living across the ocean surrounding us, I believe, are all our brothers and sisters, why are there constant troubles in this world? Why do winds and waves rise in the ocean surrounding us? I only earnestly wish that the wind will soon puff away all the clouds which are hanging over the tops of the mountains.

A SIKH CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

God judges us according to our deeds, not the coat that we wear. Truth is above everything, but higher still is truthful living. Know that we attain God when we love, and only that victory endures in consequence of which no one is defeated.

A TAOIST CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Lao-Tzu's Peace Prayer: If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations. If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities. If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbors. If there is to be peace between neighbors, there must be peace in the home. If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart.^{ix}

A ZOROASTRIAN CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

We pray to God to eradicate all the misery in the world, that understanding triumph over ignorance, that generosity triumph over contempt, and that truth triumph over falsehood.

ⁱ Unless otherwise noted, the calls and/or prayers for peace listed come from the Day of Prayer for World Peace in Assisi, Italy at the United Nations International Year of Peace in 1986. For more, visit <http://hds.harvard.edu/life-at-hds/religious-and-spiritual-life/peace-and-justice/prayers-for-peace-and-justice>.

ⁱⁱ <http://reference.bahai.org/en/t/b/GWB/gwb-130.html.utf8?query=generous%7Cprosperity&action=highlight#gr1>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.marquette.edu/faith/prayers-Buddhist.php>

^{iv} <http://jesuitinstitute.org/Pages/Prayers.htm>

^v <http://www.easwaran.org/swami-omkar-prayer-for-peace.html>

^{vi} From *Gates of Prayer: The New Union of Prayer* by Chaim Stern, page 667.

https://books.google.com/books?id=kjLaGZdcCc4C&pg=PA651&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=4#v=onepage&q&f=false

^{vii} <http://godprayers.org/Kikuyu-Peace-Prayer.htm>

^{viii} http://www.nyp.org/pdf/prayers_general.pdf; http://www.sufiorder.org/all_prayers.html

^{ix} <http://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/Taoist-Prayers.cfm>