



NURC

JOIN THE WORLD TO CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE  
DAY

ON 21 / 9 / 2011

“MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD”

**Partners :** UNDP, Parliament/AMANI FORUM, FFRP, MINAFET, MINADEF, MIJESPOC, MINEDUC, MINALOC, RPA, NWC, NYC, RNP, Ombudsman office, IRDP, CCM, SFCG, International Alert, World Vision, Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe, PFR , LA Benevolencija, SEP, Right to Play, Commission Justice et Paix, PFH



## REPUBLIKA Y'U RWANDA

**KOMISIYO Y'IGIHUGU Y'UBUMWE N'UBWIYUNGE**  
COMMISSION NATIONALE POUR L'UNITE ET LA RECONCILIATION  
NATIONAL UNITY AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

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### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



## **Introduction**

Every year on the 21st of September, the United Nations General Assembly invites all Member States, United Nations bodies, regional and non-governmental organizations to observe the International Day of Peace by commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples (UN resolutions 36/37 and 55/282).

The Peace Day provides an important opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It is a day for all people to come together in a spirit of hope and possibility, with a unifying spirit of Peace and unity. Peace Day is beyond politics, religion, race, nationality, class and all other dividers.

## **Theme of the Year**

The UN's theme for International Day of Peace 2011 is "**Make Your Voice Heard**"; this theme pays tribute to the many stake holders who lent the strength of their imagination to building peace.

## **Background**

Many women and men everywhere are demonstrating the power of connection by reaching out to each other, and rallying together, in the common cause of the dignity and human rights to which their peoples aspire.

For this year's International Day of Peace observance on September 21, the UN has chosen the theme of "Make Your Voice Heard," under the overall idea of peace and democracy.

### **International Day of Peace in Rwandan Context**

Rwandans have gained a unique experience as far as peace development is concerned. Much as Rwanda have passed through difficulties including bad history that was based on bad governance and discrimination which later culminated into Genocide, have managed to make a tremendous development in the area of peace building process through building and promoting of National unity and Social cohesion among its people.

The country has gained an international recognition for her effort in peace building efforts both within the country as well as in other countries that need peace.

Rwanda has become a role model in peace building where other countries have come to learn how it has managed to overcome such challenges of any post war and conflict situation society.

The achievement that the country has managed to reach is due to the efforts of all stakeholders. It is on this note that such a day would be a day of reflections by all these stakeholders so that we continue to build on what we have achieved in order to forge for the future.

In Rwanda, for the past two years, the International Day of Peace has been organized and celebrated under the lead of the United Nations Office in Rwanda. This year, the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, as her mandate of coordinating all activities related to peace and unity requires, has decided to take the lead of organising and coordinating this year's celebrations.

### **Why NURC?**

The mandate of NURC is to coordinate all peace and reconciliation related activities in the country. It has been observed that the International Day of Peace has been organised on particular local organisation level with no clear follow-up and coordination apart from last year when the UN office in Kigali took up the lead in the organisation of the event. It is from this background that NURC feels it important to strengthen the coordination of all activities planed by different stakeholders as well as avoiding duplication of activities.

Also through coordination and collaboration with all stakeholders involved, NURC will be able to advocate for this event and hence there will be a visibility at all levels of the country.

Every year National Unity and Reconciliation Commission, organises a reconciliation week where a number of activities related to unity and reconciliation are realised and documented. Also during this week, people from grass root level to national level meet to share the experiences of best practices and experiences of all activities that promote unity and reconciliation as well as peace building.

Celebrations of the International Day of Peace at national level on 21/9/2011 will be a landmark of all other activities that are planed in the week of Reconciliation which is planned to start in the second week of October.

This joint organised activity will also strengthen the working relations with all stakeholders involved in peace building for the future collaborations.

It is expected that after this activity, a magazine will be produced to document all achievements made in such collaborations and building up relations of the partners. Also it is expected that each partner will have an opportunity to share their experience in this magazine.

It has been agreed up on during preparatory meetings of international day of peace that this network of all stakeholders will be strengthened and it will play a crucial role in the organisation of the reconciliation week.

### **Key Planned activities during Celebrations of IDP**

1. Holding consultation meetings with stakeholders
2. Organising intensive and extensive Media Campaign to publicise and back up the Peace Day;
3. Organizing, a peace walk that will bring together all stakeholders involved in peace building
4. Organize a Peace Concert where different artists will perform different peace songs.

### **Organization & Partners.**

The 2011 International Day of Peace preparations will involve NURC's partners (government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and United Nations Agencies) with the NURC leading the process. As such it will be a multi-stakeholder event commemorated at the national level. The International Day of Peace will bring together among others:

- The United Nations representative( Resident coordinator's office)

**Government Institutions:**

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Rwanda Peace Academy
- Ministry of Defense
- The Ministry of Education
- The Ministry of Local Government
- The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture
- The Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
- The National Women Council
- The National Youth Council
- The Rwanda National Police
- The office of the Ombudsman
- Media High Council
- ORINFOR

## **Non-governmental organizations**

- Institute of Research and Dialogue for Peace
- The Center for Conflict Management-NUR
- Unity Club
- Imbuto Foundation
- Search for common ground(SFCG)
- Right to Play Rwanda
- Pro-Femmes Twese hamwe
- La Benevolencija
- Friends Peace House
- FAWE Rwanda
- Prison Fellowship Rwanda
- Red –Cross
- World Vision Rwanda
- Shalom Educating for Peace

- International Alert
- Peace and Justice Commission
- Student Club for Unity and Reconciliation