Voices from UPEACE - March 2022

SUMMARY

There’s been so much happening at UPEACE since our last edition, including the stellar visits of the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the inauguration of the Free Legal Aid Office for Journalists, and the launch of the investigation on the safety of women journalists in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua in 2021. Dive into this newsletter to find out more!

The Rector of the University for Peace, Francisco Rojas Aravena, calls for dialogue and peace

24 February 2022, San José, Costa Rica. Today, Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector of the University for Peace (UPEACE), issued an official statement on behalf of the UPEACE community on the ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia, following Russia’s military intervention. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, announced a military operation against Ukraine; there have been multiple attacks on Ukrainian cities and at least a hundred civilian deaths are reported.

Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Costa Rica, H.E. Ben Lyster-Binns, visits the main campus of the University for Peace for the first time

17 February 2022, San José, Costa Rica. The University for Peace (UPEACE) was pleased to welcome the Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to Costa Rica and Nicaragua, H.E. Ben Lyster-Binns, to its main campus in Costa Rica. The Ambassador is responsible for the direction and work of the embassy and its consulates, including political work, trade, investment, press, and cultural relations and consular services. His visit is part of the academic activities that the UPEACE Student Council has prepared in order to promote scholarship and internship opportunities among the student body.
16 February 2022, San José, Costa Rica. The inauguration of the Free Legal Aid Office for Journalists (ALP) of the University for Peace in Costa Rica took place on 16 February 2022. The event took place in the auditorium of the College of Journalists of Costa Rica and was broadcast via Facebook Live. To request free legal assistance, journalists can contact us via WhatsApp at +506-6111-9440 or by email at asistencialegal@upeace.org. After receiving the request, the team of lawyers coordinated by Dr. Garrido will assist the interested person in the analysis and processing of the corresponding case.

15 February 2022, San José, Costa Rica. UPEACE Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena participated in the UNESCO Regional Consultation on Cultural Policies for the Latin American and Caribbean region, in the round table on “Culture for peace. Culture as a complement of transformation and unity among societies.” The Regional Consultation is part of an inclusive and participatory process aimed at informing the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies – Mondiacult 2022 – which will be convened by the Director-General of UNESCO from 28-30 September 2022 and hosted by the Government of Mexico. In his speech, the Rector noted that “Education is the most powerful instrument for change. Education opens opportunities for understanding. Politics designs new worlds. The role of democratic leadership - inclusive and equal - and the Global Culture of Peace, is the key to success in building a better tomorrow.”

15 February 2022, San José, Costa Rica. As part of his first official visit to Costa Rica since assuming his post, Dr. Floyd visited the main UPEACE campus in El Rodeo, where he met with a variety of UPEACE staff members, including our Rector, Francisco Rojas Aravena, our Dean, Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo, as well as several other high-level administrators and academics. Dr. Floyd also held an an informal conversation with our students about the work being carried out by the CTBTO and how they can contribute to that work upon concluding their studies at UPEACE. Dr. Floyd closed the conversation by telling students, “Don’t let your dream limit you, because you can do so much more than you can dream of imagine.”
First Meeting of the Commission for Peace

20 January 2022, San José, Costa Rica. The Commission for Peace was officially established on 31 May 2021 by Ms. Barbara Winston, in partnership with the University for Peace (UPEACE), as part of the broader Peace Innovation Initiative, the only university established by the United Nations General Assembly and founded in 1980, to set up the Peace Innovation Initiative (PII), which envisions a world where the systems in which we live, and work, are formed on a culture of peace. The members of the Commission, who all hold the title of UPEACE Ambassador, include Barbara Winston, UPEACE Rector Francisco Rojas, UPEACE Dean Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo, Narinder Kakar, Zulfiquar Ghadiyali, Mubarakka Lokhandwala Ghadiyali, Ida Beerhalter, Stephanie Winston Wolkoff, Gordon Winston, James France, Mark Johnson, and Anu Jain. The Commission serves as a steering committee to PII and its members will act as global guardians and advocates for UPEACE and PII, in support of the mission and a global culture of peace.

UPEACE awarded the Living Integration Seal for the third year in a row

19 January 2022, San José, Costa Rica. UPEACE received the Living for Integration Seal, awarded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Costa Rica, for its work on behalf of refugees in the country. This year, the Living for Integration Seal included six categories, of which our institution received a mention in two: (1) Research: for the promotion and development of research activities on issues of forced displacement and (2) Development and training: for training in competencies, soft and hard skills with a view to the integration, adaptation and independence of refugees. This marks the third year in which the University for Peace is awarded this prestigious recognition.

UPEACE launches investigation into the safety of women journalists in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua in 2021

9 December 2022, San José, Costa Rica. Dr. Mariateresa Garrido, Coordinator of our Doctoral Degree Programme, presented the results of the research she led on “Safety of Women Journalists in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua 2021,” thanks to the support of UNESCO. The final report, which is interactive in nature and available in Spanish only, can be accessed here.
The Rector of the University for Peace participates in the World Peace Conference

3 December 2021, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Ninety-nine foreign delegates from 50 countries are coming together this week to participate in the World Peace Conference, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, as part of its celebrations of the Mujib Year, the birth centenary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh. Participants include peace activists, writers, poets, singers, and members of civil society from different countries, whose aim is to come together to promote a culture of peace and tolerance under the theme "advancing peace through social inclusion."

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) opens Call for Scholarship Applications at UPEACE for the M.A. programme in Conflict Resolution, Peace and Development

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

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PUBLICATIONS