



## Interreligious & International Federation for World Peace

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### The Ambassador for Peace Initiative

The *Ambassador for Peace* initiative was formally launched during an international symposium in New York City at the Hilton Hotel, May 25-27, 2001 titled:

#### **“Serving the Nation, Serving the World: Establishing Peace by Renewing Families, Communities and Nations”**

Sponsored by IIFWP and co-sponsored by the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Permanent Missions to the UN of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan, this particular international symposium was convened in order to join with the UN as it celebrated the International Day of Families (May 15) and the International Year of the Volunteer (2001). Two hundred and sixty participants attended this symposium from 108 nations, including 19 former heads of state and governments, as well as political and religious leaders, academics, journalists and other leaders from civil society.

The Ambassador for Peace certificate reads as such:

*Consistent with its mission to establish world peace, the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace acknowledges as Ambassador for Peace those individuals whose lives exemplify the ideal of living for the sake of others, and who dedicate themselves to practices which promote the founding ideals of the IIFWP:*

*Universal moral values, strong family life, interreligious cooperation, international harmony, renewal of the United Nations, a responsible public media, and the establishment of a culture of peace.*

*Transcending racial, national and religious barriers, the Ambassadors for Peace contribute to the fulfillment of the hope of all ages;*

*a unified world of peace wherein the spiritual and material dimensions of life are harmonized.*

From this beginning, the initiative grew honouring and encouraging men, women and families who have excelled in the peace-making process and who have exhibited exemplary efforts in public service. While the main symposium took place in New York at the Hilton Hotel, award ceremonies were also held in Miami - USA , Prague - The Czech Republic, Moscow - Russia, Montevideo - Uruguay, Sydney – Australia, Bangkok – Thailand and Nairobi - Kenya during the month of June 2001.

The *Ambassador for Peace* initiative is a continuing project of IIFWP and has now been incorporated into the work and education of the *International Leadership Seminars*.

More than receiving a certificate, being recognized as an *Ambassador for Peace* is a call to action. *Ambassadors for Peace* take their responsibilities seriously, upholding the values that are encouraged through service whether they are local community activists, business leaders, heads of government and state or Presidents.

*Ambassadors for Peace* have contributed in the areas of HIV/AIDS education and prevention, sustainable development, peacemaking, medical relief, fundraising, interreligious activities and other myriad activities. The distinction of being recognized as an *Ambassador for Peace* is swiftly gaining momentum and is an important initiative in IIFWP’s work to publicly acknowledge those that are at the forefront of ushering in a Culture of Peace.