PEACE STONES

Celebrating 25 Years of Children's Meeting Place

The celebration of the Children's Meeting Place (CMP) took place on 21 September, the UN International Day of Peace. Ten Peace Stones from around the world formed a circle at the centre, between the Mother Tree and the audience.

Each stone brought a memory - special message

Association of space Explorers (ASE)
Four astronauts, members of ASE, sent small stones as messengers of peace. These stones also carry greetings from the larger stone chosen for a circle of hope for Planet Earth.

USA-Astronaut Loren Acton
Loren Acton has chosen a stone to represent the USA in the Circle of Hope. The small stone is kept at Globetree as a reminder – anything is possible when we work together!

UK-Astronaut Helen Sharman
Helen Sharman sent a stone from Cumbria in the Lake District, close to one of the oldest stone circles in Great Britain.

Romania-Cosmonaut Dumitru Dorin Prunariu
Dumitru Dorin Prunariu presented a stone from the Bucegi Mountain. The stone was brought to CMP by the Romanian Ambassador to Kenya.

Italy-Astronaut Paolo Nespoli
Paolo Nespoli sent a white stone from Carrara representing peace. That stone was held high after the minute of silence for peace.

Germany - Höxter
Honouring Dr. Klaus Töpfer, who authorized Globetree to establish and run a Children's Meeting Place on the grounds of the United Nations in Nairobi while serving as UNEP Executive Director and UNON Director General. At the inauguration in 2001, Dr. Töpfer told the children: *"You are the owner now. I hope to be invited to come and play with you."*
The stone comes from Höxter by the Weser River, where little Klaus loved to play and go fishing.

Ghana - Kumasi
Honouring former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who welcomed his young ambassadors to their acacia tree and gave children the same status as leaders of the United Nations. By the tree, everyone is equal. Leaders come there to listen to and learn from children – the young ambassadors.

Japan – Hiroshima
The stone from Hiroshima came with the message *NEVER AGAIN!* At noon on Peace Day, the United Nations calls on the world to observe a minute of silence for peace. The stone from Hiroshima was held high during that minute.

South Africa - Soweto
The Earth Summit took place in Johannesburg in 2002. Globetree was invited to establish a CMP and chose a park in Soweto honouring Nelson Mandela and his first message on leaving prison: *"I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy and freedom for all."*

Sweden - Stockholm
A stone from the waterside next to the Folke Bernadotte Bridge came with the hope of connecting the Stone Circle ONLY ONE EARTH with the Circle of Hope. After the CMP Peace Day anniversary, the name was changed to Circle of Peace – World Home.

USA - San Francisco
Three small stones recall 1945, when 50 nations came together in San Francisco after the Second World War to write the UN Charter – a rulebook for preventing wars and keeping Planet Earth safe and peaceful.

CIRCLE OF PEACE – WORLD HOME

During the Anniversary a girl envisioned the circle of stones saying
- I will jump on all 193 stones and then - it's Peace!

PEACE STONES – The vision

Circle of Peace
One big stone from each of the 193 UN Member States will embrace the Children's Meeting Place area. Each stone will carry a message about what matters to children in that nation. All the stones in *Circle of Peace – World Home* will highlight the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a focus on Article 12: *giving every child who can form their own views the right to express them freely in all matters affecting them.*

World Home
Scanning a QR code can "open the stone", letting you see and experience children's understanding of the UN Charter. They call it the World Home – *Where all life on Earth lives well together.*
Children present their vision of the World Home through many forms of art: songs, drawings, paintings, movement, constructions and play…

UN Assembly Meetings
When delegates from around the world come together for meetings at United Nations in Nairobi or any other parts of the world, they can open the QR-code and be inspired by children's vision of the future they wish to live in. Delegates can be inspired and get ideas from the children's World Home to be part of resolutions and conventions – thereby showing their respect for the *Convention of the Rights of the Child* and *the UN Pact for the Future – Declaration on Future Generations*

The UN Pact for the Future
Declaration on Future Generations
UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated: *"We cannot create a future fit for our grandchildren with a system built by our grandparents.*
We must shift from symbolic youth inclusion to long-term structural participation, ensuring today's political decisions account for the billions of people yet to be born via the *Declaration on Future Generations.*

LET US JOIN!
The Pact for the Future was adopted by all 193 Member States on 22 September 2024, at the UN Summit of the Future in New York.
The date, 22 September, is the day after UN Peace Day on 21 September. This connection recalls the Children's Meeting Place's 25th anniversary celebration, when children sang

LET US JOIN – YOU CAN COUNT ON US!