

How to Promote Universal Peace

Thursday Reflections (Dec 31-15)

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As Muslims, how could we promote Universal Peace? Our religion teaches us to spread peace and invite people to peace, respect, dialogue and cooperation. In the following, I propose some practical and easy points to focus on in our work especially in an environment polluted and poisoned by Islamophobia from one end and extremist acts around the world from another end.

1. Teach/Speak about Allah, the only God we worship as being the source of Peace (Al-Salam) and His eternal invitation to peace (Qur'an: 10:25)
2. The word "Islam" is an adverb, which means establishing peace within, with God and with His creation including our fellow humans
3. Be peaceful the way you speak, the way you act and truly believe in peace in all walks of life.
4. Islam invites us to work with everyone who wants world peace and invites us to enter wholeheartedly in peace (Qur'an: 2:208). Even in times of conflicts and wars, peace is always the first option (Qur'an: 8:61). So join global groups and movements that promote peace and stand against wars.
5. Understand & stress that we can never be good Muslims until we become first and foremost good human beings. We must learn in depth what makes a person a good human being. Let us recapture the very

values of honesty, trustworthiness, truthfulness, kindness, generosity, compassion and courage that Prophet Muhammad (S) displayed all his life and became known for them even before his prophethood.

6. Islam's call to enjoin good and to forbid evil does not mean to use violence and take away innocent lives but rather to use wisdom, seek consensus and alliances and save lives. The latter is the most rewarding act. Make sure you dissociate yourself from the Modern day Khawarij who kill innocent people, break the laws of their countries and make Takfir (excommunication from faith).

7. Peace is not only a statement but also a state of being. "As-Salamu alaikum" is not only an empty greeting or a mere lip service but rather a declaration and a renewal of our eternal commitment to peace with everyone we meet whether individuals or groups.

8. Remind everyone in the world that Peace is easily achievable if we act mercifully and fairly, establish Justice and preserve dignity of all human beings.

9. Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) said, "**The true Muslim is the one who avoids harming others with his/her tongue and hand. And the true believer is the one whose neighbor is safe from his/her harm.**" So, let us stand against all harms directed to any human being without discrimination or favoritism.

10. Become a Messenger of Peace if you believe in the above notes and join the Messengers of Peace Campaign.