



Soka Gakkai  
International  
Action for Peace

# Peace *Activities*

Annual Report 2025



# About Us

We are a globally connected *community* that inspires *hope* to create *peace*

The Soka Gakkai is a global, community-based Buddhist organization with a membership of over 12 million people around the world that promotes peace, culture and education centered on respect for the dignity of life. The Soka Gakkai International (SGI) as a non-governmental organization has been in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1983. The SGI Office for UN Affairs operates in New York and Geneva, representing the SGI at the UN.



## Action for Peace

The SGI strives to strengthen connections between individuals, civil society and the UN in order to build a peaceful, just and inclusive world. Our focus areas of work include peace, disarmament, environment and sustainability, human rights education, gender equality and women's empowerment and humanitarian relief. We believe that when united toward a shared goal, human beings have the power to do extraordinary things.

Soka Gakkai organizations and their members around the world also engage in grassroots activities to promote the culture of peace, based on the understanding that individual happiness and the realization of a peaceful world are inextricably linked. Each local organization develops activities in support of the UN agenda in line with its unique cultural context.

## Peace Proposals

Between 1983 and 2022, annual peace proposals were authored by Daisaku Ikeda (1928–2023), President of SGI. These 40 proposals, as well as statements he issued, continue to guide the SGI's work at the UN. They also inform the activities undertaken by local Soka Gakkai organizations around the world. Peace proposals dating from 2000 to 2022 are available for download.

The peace proposals consistently focused on ways of revitalizing and strengthening the role of the UN and the importance of civil society participation, with the belief that the global solidarity of ordinary citizens committed to supporting the UN will help empower and strengthen it. In 2013, *A Forum for Peace*, a compilation of 30 years of proposals addressing the UN, was published and launched at UN Headquarters in New York.

Explore our  
Peace Proposals



# Focus Areas



## Disarmament

Upholding the ultimate respect for human dignity, our disarmament work focuses on nuclear abolition and stopping killer robots, also known as autonomous weapons systems. Both types of weapons are built on the radical negation of others—of their humanity and of their equal right to happiness and life. The SGI is therefore an active member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) and the Stop Killer Robots coalition.



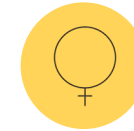
## Environment & Sustainability

Believing that humanity's survival and flourishing must be a shared, cooperative undertaking rooted in an awareness of our intimate connections with all forms of life, our environmental work addresses the Triple Planetary Crisis of climate change, pollution, and nature and land loss. Our work encompasses advocacy, community-based initiatives, awareness raising and non-formal educational activities. At the UN, we promote rights-based approaches and intergenerational solidarity to build a sustainable world for future generations, address the climate crisis, and protect and care for the ecosystems of Earth.



## Human Rights Education

Respect for all life is a central tenet of Buddhism. We believe transformation of the individual is the foundation for structural and systemic change in society. Human rights education can propel us to overcome discrimination and hatred, recognize the value and dignity of all, and empower people to construct a culture of human rights. Through advocacy and non-formal education, we support the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2005–ongoing) and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (2011).



## Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment

Respect and equality, including gender equality, are central to the Buddhist teachings we embrace. SGI has been committed to women's empowerment and leadership, which we see as a self-motivated process to bring forth our full human potential. With its grassroots presence around the world, SGI has built an extensive network of women who are leading its movement to promote the culture of peace. We strive to contribute to the UN by highlighting the vast role and capacity of women to address and overcome our global challenges.



## Peace

Building peace involves us all. As Buddhists who treasure life, peace is the heart of SGI's mission. We promote the culture of peace as a set of values, attitudes and ways of life that reject violence and are centered on dialogue. We hope to see the culture of peace deeply rooted in our communities and societies, and we view it as a framework that enables us to approach the various issues at the UN reflected in our focus areas as interconnected and interrelated.

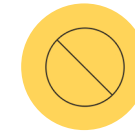
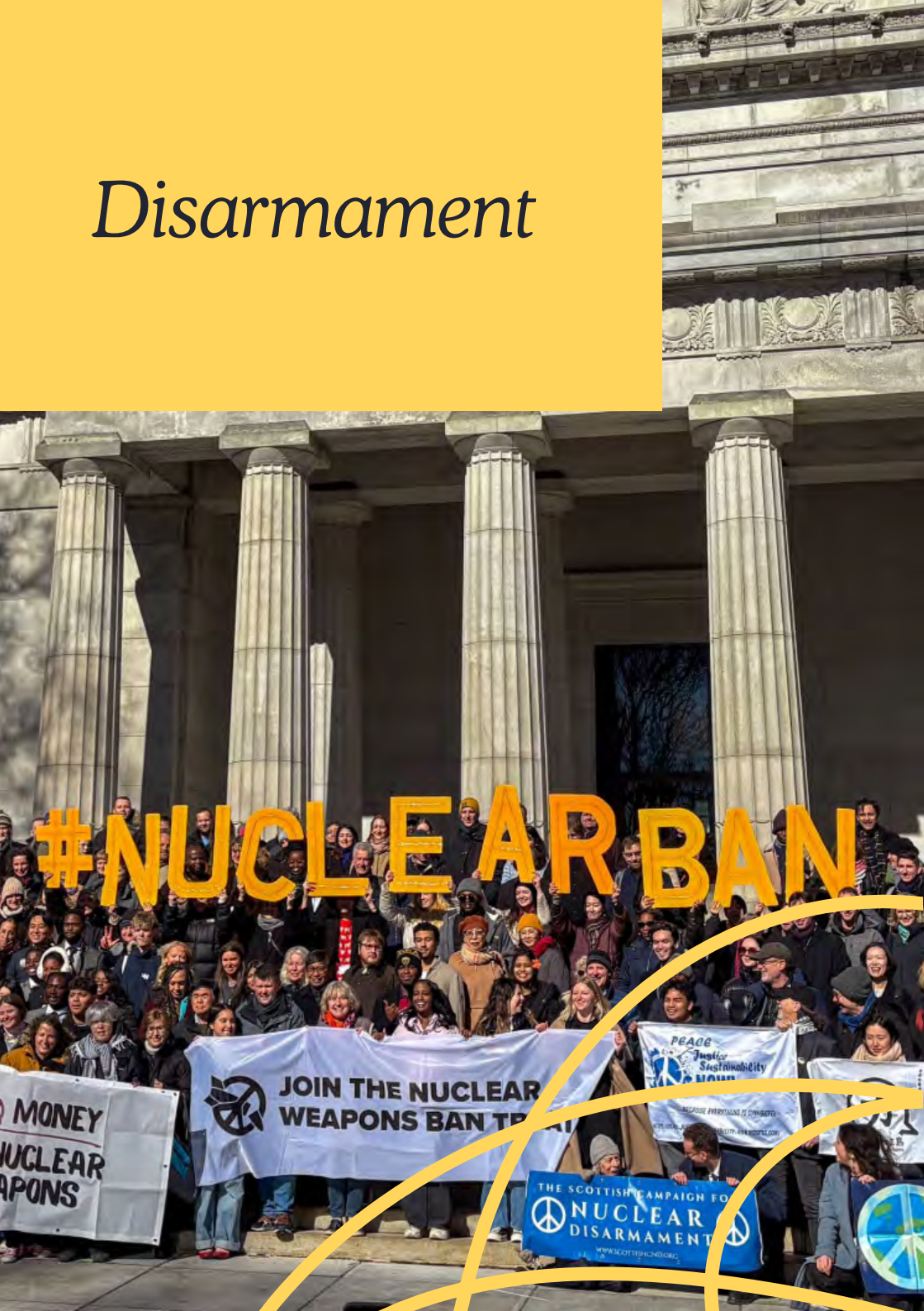


## Humanitarian Relief

SGI's engagement in humanitarian relief activities is driven by our Buddhist belief in the dignity of life. Taking the sufferings of others as one's own is the philosophical wellspring for SGI's activities as we aim to contribute to efforts to increase people's resilience, and to provide emergency relief in devastating situations.



# Disarmament



## 2025 Overview

In 2025, SGI anchored its nuclear abolition activities in the historic milestone of the 80th commemoration of the first use of nuclear weapons. In addition to commemorations in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and Albuquerque, USA, SGI advanced people-centered approaches to nuclear disarmament across international, national and community levels.

SGI engaged actively in the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) to the TPNW in March, hosting a side event presenting results of a youth survey conducted in five countries. At the NPT Preparatory Committee in May, civil society perspectives were conveyed through an SGI-organized side event. In addition, SGI convened and cohosted spaces for reflection and action, such as the Choose Hope Symposiums held in March in Santa Barbara, CA, and in August in Hiroshima, in partnership with the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

Amplifying hibakusha voices remained a central focus. The exhibition “Portraits of the Hibakusha—80 Years Remembered,” created by 80,000 Voices and photographed by Patrick Boyd, opened in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, while the “Everything You Treasure” exhibition traveled to countries including Belgium and Mexico. At the International Civil



### AUG | NAGASAKI, JAPAN

*On 9 August, members of the Nagasaki Soka Gakkai Youth Division offer flowers at the Nagasaki Peace Statue*

Society Forum to Abolish Nuclear Weapons in Japan, the Soka Gakkai Peace Committee organized a workshop on global hibakusha and an exhibition.

Throughout 2025, SGI played a constructive role in global efforts to address the risks posed by autonomous weapons systems (AWS) by combining research, ethics-focused advocacy and diplomatic engagement. SGI contributed to expert discussions on AI bias and international humanitarian law organized by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), elevated moral perspectives through interfaith advocacy with the Stop Killer Robots campaign and supported inclusive UN-mandated consultations. Working closely with diplomats and civil society, SGI helped advance momentum toward regulation, including the adoption of a landmark UN General Assembly resolution.

*Participants in the ICAN Campaigner Forum held at Riverside Church, New York, on 2 March 2025, before the TPNW 3MSP*

MAR & AUG | SANTA BARBARA, USA & HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

## Choose Hope Symposiums in Santa Barbara and Hiroshima

SGI and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) co-organized Choose Hope Symposiums in March and August 2025 at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, USA, and the International Conference Center Hiroshima, respectively. The events honored the legacies of David Krieger, NAPF Founder and President Emeritus, and Daisaku Ikeda, SGI President.

The Santa Barbara symposium opened on 12 March with the 20th Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future delivered by Annie Jacobsen, author of *Nuclear War: A Scenario*. Jacobsen asked, "What happens if nuclear deterrence fails?" She concluded that nuclear war will always end in total annihilation, no matter how it begins.

A video message from Masako Wada of Nihon Hidankyo was shown, followed by a discussion moderated by Dr. Ivana Nikolić Hughes,

President of NAPF, that explored key challenges in nuclear disarmament and global security.

On 13 March, three panels addressed deterrence, disarmament, the roles of art and media, nuclear justice, youth activism and synergies between nuclear abolition and climate justice.

The second symposium was held on 24 August 2025, co-organized by SGI and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) and sponsored by Mayors for Peace, the Japan Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and the UNITAR Association. It attracted around 400 people.

Annie Jacobsen again gave the keynote address, calling for action from ordinary people to eliminate the nuclear threat. The event also featured panel discussions and testimony by a second-generation survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Mariko Higashino. One participant remarked: "I was struck by one speaker's comment that every individual can become a teacher of peace."

Soka Gakkai members from Hiroshima and Nagasaki joined representatives of NAPF and other organizations for a workshop on 23 August, to discuss the March 2025 Choose Hope Symposium Declaration.



Chie Sunada of SGI (left) moderates a panel discussion at the Santa Barbara Choose Hope Symposium on 13 March

MAR | UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, USA

## SGI's Commitment to Nuclear Abolition at Third Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW

From 3–7 March 2025, the third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) took place at UN Headquarters in New York. SGI participants included members of the student division from Japan and youth from SGI-USA.

On 3 March, SGI co-organized a side event with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UN and the Center for International Security and Policy (CISP). The event featured a screening of the documentary "I Want To Live On: The Untold Stories of the Polygon." Diana Murzagaliyeva, fourth-generation survivor of the nuclear testing in Kazakhstan, shared her personal testimony.

SGI coordinated the creation of an interfaith statement with 107 other faith-based organizations and groups that was shared on 5 March. It urged all nations to join the TPNW, emphasizing that the abolition of nuclear weapons is essential to our collective survival.

At the Youth Meeting of States Parties (Youth MSP) organized by Youth for TPNW on 4 March, Miyuki Horiguchi of SGI shared SGI's advocacy and awareness-raising activities. Alex Scheffelin of SGI-USA also spoke.

On 6 March, SGI co-organized a side event titled "Youth Voices for a Sustainable, Nuclear-Weapon-Free Future," together with Friedrich-



SGI participated in the 3MSP with a delegation that included student members from Japan and youth from the USA.

Ebert-Stiftung in Kazakhstan, IPPNW, the Marshallese Educational Initiative, NAPF, Qazaq Nuclear Frontline Coalition and Reverse the Trend. These organizations have been promoting a Youth Peace Awareness Survey targeting youth in Australia, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Marshall Islands and the USA. Student representatives from Japan were among those who shared an analysis of the interim survey results.

In collaboration with Dr. Agnieszka Nimark from the Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies at Cornell University, SGI also submitted a working paper titled "Peace and Disarmament Education and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons: Ways Forward."

APR-MAY | UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, USA

## Third Preparatory Committee for NPT

From 28 April–2 May 2025, an SGI delegation participated in the Third Preparatory Committee for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

SGI continued to advocate for the adoption of a No First Use (NFU) policy as a key measure for reducing nuclear risk and building trust between states.

A highlight of SGI’s engagement was the side event titled “Preventing the Use of Nuclear Weapons: In Pursuit of Nuclear Disarmament,” organized in collaboration with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UN. The event featured representatives from Kazakhstan and Austria, the James Martin Center, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and civil society experts. Discussions focused on preventing nuclear weapon use, promoting

disarmament and creating spaces for dialogue between nuclear-armed and non-nuclear-armed states.

SGI also endorsed the Youth Statement delivered by young representatives from Reverse the Trend, the youth initiative of the Nuclear Peace Age Foundation.

On 8 May, SGI cosponsored a side event with the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and Reverse the Trend titled “Interfaith Perspectives – Hope for Peace in a World of Conflict,” featuring speakers from the Sant’Egidio Foundation, Columbia University, the Global Security Institute and the International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation. Anna Ikeda detailed SGI’s efforts to advocate for the policy of No First Use in connection to the Buddhist concept of inner transformation, quoting the late SGI President Daisaku Ikeda’s statement to the 2022 NPT Review Conference.

SGI remains committed to choosing hope and working step by step to transform today’s challenging realities through dialogue that leads to trust and the empowerment of future generations, looking toward the horizon of a world free of nuclear weapons.



SGI co-organized the 29 April side event “Preventing the Use of Nuclear Weapons: In Pursuit of Nuclear Disarmament”



### MAY | MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

On 6 May, the exhibition “Everything You Treasure—For a World Free from Nuclear Weapons” was held at the Congress building of Mexico City. At the opening ceremony, Martha Ávila, then President of the Board of Directors of the Congress of Mexico City, delivered remarks.



### OCT | HIROSHIMA, JAPAN

On 31 October, “Portraits of the Hibakusha—80 Years Remembered” opened at the International Conference Center Hiroshima. The exhibition was created by 80,000 Voices, photographed by Patrick Boyd and organized by SGI. It features lenticular portraits of 52 atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



### DEC | ASTANA, KAZAKHSTAN

On 11 December, the results of a Youth Peace Awareness Survey were presented in Astana, Kazakhstan. Co-organized by SGI and partner organizations, the survey, conducted between January and August 2025, examined young people’s attitudes toward peace and nuclear weapons across five countries affected by their use and testing.



**FEB | TOKYO, JAPAN**

On 8 and 9 February, the International Civil Society Forum to Abolish Nuclear Weapons was held in Tokyo. Marking 80 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the forum featured testimonies, discussions and exhibitions, including “Portraits of the Hibakusha—80 Years Remembered,” organized by the Soka Gakkai Peace Committee.



**SEP | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

From 20 to 27 September, the exhibition “Everything You Treasure—For a World Free from Nuclear Weapons,” was held at the SGI Belgium center in Brussels. At the opening ceremony, video testimonies of hibakusha were shown in French, Dutch and English. Around 400 visitors including 170 students viewed the exhibition.



**SEPT | TOKYO, JAPAN**

On 28 September, Dr. Carlos Umaña, then Co-President of IPPNW, delivered a public lecture on nuclear abolition hosted by SGI at the Josei Toda International Center in Tokyo. Drawing a diverse audience of around 100, including junior high and high school students, Dr. Umaña made a compelling, evidence-based argument for the global elimination of nuclear weapons.

**JUL-AUG | JAPAN & USA**

**Marking 80 Years Since the First Use of Nuclear Weapons**

SGI engaged in various activities in July and August 2025, honoring the 80th commemoration of the beginning of the nuclear age. In Hiroshima, on 3 August, the youth division of Soka Gakkai held a peace training forum at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. Participants heard the testimony of Hiroe Sato, head of the NPO Hiroshima Peace Station (HPS) International Volunteers.

On 5 August, the 200th lecture in the “Hiroshima Studies Lecture Series for Peace” was held at the Hiroshima Ikeda Peace Memorial Hall. Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, spoke on “The Abolition of Nuclear Weapons and Role of Youth in the Era of Artificial Intelligence.” He urged participants: “To build lasting peace, we must confront the fear that lies at the root of global disorder.” On 6 and 9 August, commemorative prayer meetings were held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively.

In the United States, SGI-USA cosponsored an event titled “80 Years and Still Waiting: An Interfaith Remembrance of the Trinity Test,” held on 13 July at Saint Pius X School, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Other cosponsors included the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Social Justice and Respect for Life



*Hiroe Sato (center), head of the NPO Hiroshima Peace Station International Volunteers, shares her testimony*

Office, Back From the Brink New Mexico Hub, and the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium.

SGI-USA representatives also joined the Nuclear Prayer Day Vigil: 80th Anniversaries of Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on 6 August.

In addition, a Joint Interfaith Statement Marking 80 Years Since the First Use of Nuclear Weapons was issued by SGI and other faith groups. It was endorsed by 87 organizations from diverse religious and spiritual traditions.

JAN-DEC

## Autonomous Weapons Systems: Research, Analysis and Action

Throughout 2025, SGI continued to play a constructive and trusted role in global efforts to address the risks posed by autonomous weapons systems (AWS). Across research, advocacy, and dialogue with governments, civil society and faith communities, SGI's work reflected a commitment to ensuring that emerging militarized technologies are shaped by international law, ethical reflection, and a clear concern for human dignity.

This year's work began with a strong emphasis on deepening understanding. In February, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) convened an expert workshop on Bias in Military AI and Compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Supported by the German government, the meeting brought together specialists from diverse disciplines to examine how bias

embedded in data, design, and deployment may affect compliance with IHL. SGI contributed through the participation of Hayley Ramsay-Jones, helping connect technical debates on AI bias with broader regulatory and humanitarian concerns. The workshop fed into a subsequent SIPRI publication, advancing policy discussions at a critical moment.

SGI also continued to engage with the moral and ethical dimensions of autonomy in weapons systems. On behalf of the Stop Killer Robots (SKR) interfaith group, SGI helped draft and coordinate a letter to Pope Leo XIV, alongside partners including Perú por el Desarme and the World Council of Churches. The letter welcomed the Pope's recognition of AI as a defining challenge of our time and underscored that decisions about AWS are not solely technical or political, but deeply moral. By elevating ethical voices alongside diplomatic processes, SGI is helping to bring diverse faith groups together and broaden the conversation.

As international momentum grew ahead of UN consultations on AWS, SGI supported practical diplomatic engagement. In preparation for the UN General Assembly-mandated



SGI joined SKR and other groups at an expert roundtable meeting on the pipeline of harm held at Amnesty International Secretariat in London on 21 November.

consultations in May 2025, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the SKR campaign hosted regional briefings for diplomats from the Pacific Islands, ASEAN and the Caribbean. SGI was invited to speak and participate in bilateral discussions with state representatives, contributing analysis on AI bias and its implications for the use of force. These exchanges helped ensure that states of all sizes and economic influence were equipped to engage substantively in forthcoming discussions.

SGI's advocacy continued during the UN General Assembly First Committee, working closely with diplomats in New York, Geneva, and capitals worldwide. Together with campaign partners, SGI supported the successful adoption of Resolution L.41, which highlights the serious risks AWS pose to

international peace and security. With 156 states voting in favor, the resolution marked a significant step toward a legally binding instrument.

Complementing this work, SGI participated in expert-level discussions hosted by the ICRC and the SKR coalition, including roundtables on the "digital battlefield" and the emerging "pipeline of harm" linking civilian technologies to military applications. Across these forums, SGI contributed to building shared understanding and identifying pathways for regulation.

By continuing to support efforts to stop AWS, SGI joins others in helping turn the tide against digital dehumanisation and ensure emerging technologies are used to protect life, not diminish it.



Hayley Ramsay-Jones of SGI (center) joins an ICRC and SKR governmental briefing on AWS in New York

# Environment & Sustainability



Javier Garcia Cobena



## 2025 Overview

SGI's environmental initiatives in 2025 continued to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and nature loss through advocacy, community-based initiatives, awareness raising and non-formal education activities. Across UN environmental processes, we advanced advocacy with a focus on youth engagement, rights-based approaches and interfaith collaboration.

Within the Convention on Biological Diversity process, together with partners working on biodiversity and human rights, SGI co-convened a workshop in October that helped launch a report and a community of practice dedicated to implementing human rights-based approaches. SGI's commitment to human rights also extends to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process, as we are part of the Working Group on Human Rights and Climate Change.

SGI participated in the inaugural meeting of the UN Environment Programme's Faith for Earth Interfaith Women Council in January and joined a workshop on faith engagement as well as a panel discussion on faith engagement in international climate policy in February. SGI also supported interfaith efforts at the Third UN Oceans Conference (UNOC3), co-drafting the UNOC3 Multi-faith

*Religious leaders including an SGI representative joined a Multifaith Global Ethical Stocktake in Italy hosted by the Laudato Si' Movement on 1 October.*

SGI-Philippines



### APR | CAGAYAN DE ORO, PHILIPPINES

*Youth of SGI-Philippines in Cagayan de Oro participate in a mangrove planting activity to mark its Earth Action Day on 12 April, supporting coastal protection and biodiversity*

Declaration. Interfaith efforts were also continued at COP30 in November 2025.

In July, celebrating the Earth Charter's 25th anniversary in The Hague, SGI representatives contributed to dialogues on intergenerational justice through presentations and the educational "Seeds of Hope & Action" (SOHA) exhibition.

In October, SGI joined an event celebrating the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'* to discuss the roles of faith communities in addressing the escalating climate crisis in the framework of the Global Ethical Stocktake (GES). Soka Gakkai organizations in Brazil, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia and the UK also hosted GES dialogues, reflecting on the values needed to build a sustainable world.

In several countries, local Soka Gakkai organizations continued to promote environmental awareness through the SOHA exhibition, as well as organizing cleanup and tree-planting activities.

NOV | BELÉM, BRAZIL

## SGI Stresses Intersection of Ethics, Human Rights and Climate Justice at COP30 Climate Summit

During the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025, Flore Ghatti of SGI moderated a side event on 11 November titled “Ethics and Faith Transforming Community, National and Global Climate Action” that was co-organized by SGI, Brahma Kumaris, Quaker UN Office, Quakers in Britain and Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Ghatti emphasized, “We need to counter ignorance—the false perception of separation between humans and nature—with wisdom that recognizes our profound interconnection.” Speakers included faith leaders, UN Special Rapporteur Dr. Elisa Morgera and representatives from Small Island Developing States. João Carlos dos Santos from the Soka Amazon Institute in Manaus, Brazil, also spoke.



Flore Ghatti of SGI (second right) moderates the “Ancestral Wisdom and Youth Leadership” side event on 11 November, joining Indigenous leaders, faith leaders and scientists

SGI co-organized a second side event on the same day titled “Ancestral Wisdom and Youth Leadership: Pathways to Sustainable Climate Action” with Religions for Peace and the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation. Featuring Indigenous leaders alongside faith leaders and scientists, the event explored how local action led by young people and Indigenous communities can transform climate justice commitments into practical solutions.

On 16 November, Masahiro Yokoyama of SGI was a panelist at a multifaith event held at the Amazon Climate Hub, reflecting SGI's role as a signatory to the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. On 17 November, an event at the Italian Pavilion organized by Cambio Io, Cambia il Mondo (“I change, the world changes”) and Be The Hope Foundation, an affiliate of the Italian Buddhist Institute Soka Gakkai, with speakers from SGI, Youth4Climate, UNDP Rome Centre and Earth Charter International explored how personal transformation and climate action empowerment can drive meaningful change.

Ghatti also participated actively in YOUNGO, the UN's youth climate constituency, coordinating the Just Transition Working Group.

JUN | NICE, FRANCE

## SGI Advocates for Human Rights-Centered Ocean Protection at UN Ocean Conference 3

From 9 to 13 June 2025, SGI representatives Flore Ghatti and Alexandra Goossens-Ishii participated in the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France, where they advocated for a human rights-centered approach to ocean conservation and highlighted the interconnectedness of ocean health and human dignity.

Ahead of the conference, SGI published a series of awareness-raising videos exploring the critical links between human rights and ocean protection. These videos followed SGI President Daisaku Ikeda's educational framework of Learn, Reflect and Empower.

At the conference, SGI co-organized a side event on “Human Rights and the Ocean Environment” alongside World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Franciscans International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (IUCN CEESP) and the Ocean Defenders Project. UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to a healthy environment Astrid Puente Riaño emphasized, “We cannot have effective ocean protection and conservation without human rights, including especially protecting the rights of small-scale fisher peoples, coastal communities and Indigenous Peoples.”



SGI representatives join other faith groups to present the UNOC3 Multi-faith Declaration to Peter Thomson, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean

SGI also supported interfaith efforts at UNOC3, including co-drafting the UNOC3 Multi-faith Declaration led by Faiths for UNOC3. The declaration affirms the importance of centering human rights in all ocean governance and conservation, and it particularly supports the calls brought forward by Indigenous Peoples, small-scale fishers and coastal communities.

SGI will continue its work to show how human rights perspectives can strengthen ocean advocacy and create pathways for collaborative action toward protecting our shared waters.

JUL | THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

## Earth Charter Celebrates *Twenty-fifth Anniversary in The Hague*

The Earth Charter was launched in June 2000, in a ceremony held at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands. To celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary, an event titled “Planetary Consciousness, Ethics of Care, and Intergenerational Justice” was organized by the Earth Charter International (ECI) in The Hague from 1–3 July 2025. Over 340 participants from 35 countries took part.

On the first day, ECI Executive Director Mirian Vilela, Council Members, former Commissioners and a youth representative offered an overview of the Earth Charter’s 25-year journey.

Parallel sessions then explored the Earth Charter network’s key areas of impact: education, global governance, environmental law and intergenerational justice. Nobuyuki

Asai of SGI spoke at a session titled “Sharing Experiences: Expanding Horizons for Intergenerational Justice.” He described Shakyamuni’s life’s work as a path of dialogue and introduced the “Seeds of Hope & Action” (SOHA) exhibition, which aims to promote dialogue among viewers. He explained that in India, young students often serve as guides for the exhibition.

On the second day, held at the Peace Palace, several sessions were held to explore the role of the Earth Charter in today’s world. During “Transformative Agendas, Positive Action and the Earth Charter,” Joan Anderson of SGI shared reflections on how the organization is putting sustainability into action and stressed the importance of the positive vision that the Earth Charter offers.

SGI representatives from several countries including India and Italy joined the event, and the SOHA exhibition, cocreated by SGI and ECI, was displayed as an example of an educational tool that conveys the values of the Earth Charter and a message of hope and empowerment.



On 2 July, at the Peace Palace, Joan Anderson (at podium) shares reflections on how SGI is putting sustainability into action



FEB | LONDON, UK

## Students Collaborate with SGI-UK on Art Project Inspired by “Seeds of Hope & Action” Exhibition

In February 2025, students from Croydon College collaborated with SGI-UK to create art pieces inspired by panels from the “Seeds of Hope & Action” (SOHA) exhibition, created by SGI and Earth Charter International. The Level 3, Year 2 students’ individual artworks were displayed alongside the exhibition at the Parfitt Gallery from 24–26 February.

Based in South London, Croydon College serves a diverse student community and is widely recognized for its commitment to arts and vocational education. A local SGI-UK member introduced the SOHA exhibition to the College. Its message, emphasizing interconnectedness and highlighting the power of each person to initiate positive change, offered students a meaningful framework to reflect on their place within society, nature and the future they are helping to shape.

Beth Newman-Moseley, a teacher at the College, identified hope as the central theme of the students’ work. “The main thing was hope,” she explained. “Everyone tackled the idea of hope in their own way and catered it to their practices. It had a profound impact on their work as a whole.” Students echoed this sentiment. Georgia McKenzie expressed her wish to evoke “a joyful response to nature,” while Freddy Green emphasized, “Teaching young people that what they do has impact helps secure a more sustainable future.”

OCT | PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

## SGI Advocates Human Rights-Based Approaches at International Biodiversity Conferences

From 20–30 October 2025, the 27th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA27) and the 8th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SB8J) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) were held in Panama City. Flore Ghetti of SGI attended and advocated for human rights-based approaches to biodiversity conservation, youth-led advocacy and policy coherence across the Rio Conventions.

Ghetti co-organized a side event on 23 October titled “Aligning Voices: Multi-actor Pathways for a Just and Equitable Policy Coherence Across the Rio Conventions.” The event brought together core partners SwedBio, the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), CBD Women’s Caucus, Global Youth Biodiversity

Network (GYBN), World Wildlife Fund International, Indigenous Peoples Rights International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Participants explored how aligning biodiversity, climate and land governance can ensure human rights-based and equitable outcomes while building a shared understanding of inclusive approaches.

On 25 October, SGI co-organized an event advancing Human Rights-Based Approaches (HRBA) for biodiversity and the climate with SwedBio, CDKN and the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)—a partnership driven by UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO’s PANORAMA initiative. Ghetti served as facilitator for the event, which officially launched a report that captured key lessons, recommendations and priority actions from the 2024–2025 HRBA dialogue process.

The morning session showcased HRBA initiatives from diverse regions. The afternoon workshop brought participants together to shape the vision and future of the HRBA Community of Practice and identify concrete next steps for integrating human rights-based approaches into CBD processes.

Throughout both weeks, Ghetti worked closely with the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), the youth constituency to the CBD.



Global Youth Biodiversity Network members gather at the CBD meeting venue in Panama City

IISD/ENB | Mike Muzurakis



OCT | MANAUS, BRAZIL

As part of a consultation process prior to the climate COP30 held in Brazil, Soka Gakkai organizations in Brazil, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia and the UK hosted Global Ethical Stocktake dialogues. In Brazil, the Soka Amazon Institute held a dialogue at a school close to the river near Manaus, where 60 participants discussed climate impacts on fishermen and riverside communities.



Korea SGI

KOREA

During the UNICEF Peace Challenge in early 2025, Korea SGI (KSGI) student division members promoted the SDGs on campuses and practiced “plogging;” jogging while picking up litter. KSGI youth members then launched an SDGs app to raise awareness and foster daily action toward a more sustainable world.



NOV | DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

On 16 November, 65 members of SGI-Dominican Republic, mostly youth, planted about 1,000 saplings in Guaigüí, La Vega Province, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources. The youth are determined to carry forward this 18-year reforestation tradition to help combat the impact of climate change and related disasters.

# Human Rights Education



UN Photo/Manuel Elias



## 2025 Overview

The year 2025 emerged as a pivotal time for human rights education (HRE). The UN Human Rights Council dedicated its 2025 Social Forum entirely to education's role in realizing “all human rights for all people,” and the Fifth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2025–2029) commenced with priorities including children and youth, digital technologies, climate change and gender equality.

SGI engaged with this global agenda throughout the year. At the Social Forum in Geneva in October, Elisa Gazzotti of SGI moderated a youth-focused panel featuring activists from “Changemakers,” a multimedia tool jointly developed by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Amnesty International and SGI. Speakers highlighted HRE as “living learning” that builds empathy and solidarity.

At the second International Association of Human Rights Education (IAHRE) Conference at University College London's Institute of Education in June, SGI presented “Empowering Hope and Action,” a research paper based on interviews with educators from five countries. The study uses the “Learn, Reflect, Empower, Lead” framework created by SGI President

Visitors at UN Headquarters view artworks depicting the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by Brazilian artist Octavio Roth



**DEC | BUDAPEST, HUNGARY**  
SGI participated as a partner in the Global Youth Forum on Human Rights Education, held from 9–11 December, which brought together youth and educators from around the world.

Daisaku Ikeda to demonstrate how HRE enables youth to become agents of transformative change.

SGI also partnered in the Global Youth Forum on Human Rights Education, co-organized by OHCHR and the Council of Europe, cohosting a workshop with Amnesty International on youth-led approaches. The Forum concluded with the message “Joy is resistance,” affirming HRE as a vital force for social transformation.

This commitment to human dignity extended to direct advocacy for the right to life. At a panel discussion during the International Meeting for Peace on the theme “Daring Peace,” in Rome, SGI representative Professor Enza Pellicchia shared the Buddhist perspective on the death penalty alongside interfaith leaders. In Tokyo, the 8th Youth Forum Commemorating Human Rights Day in December focused on protecting life, with a panel where experts and youth discussed justice, judicial reform and Japan's death penalty system.

JUN | LONDON, UK

## SGI Presents “Human Rights Education to Unleash the Power of Youth” Paper at IAHRE 2025

SGI representatives participated in the second International Association of Human Rights Education (IAHRE) Conference on 12–13 June 2025 in London. University College London’s Institute of Education hosted the conference, which was attended by human rights education scholars, practitioners, governmental organizations and NGOs from countries across the world. The theme for this year’s conference was human rights education (HRE) and youth empowerment.

Elisa Gazzotti and Lucy Plummer of SGI presented a paper titled “Empowering Hope and Action: Human Rights Education to Unleash the Power of Youth.” The paper is based on the stories of a group of young human rights educators from South Africa, Mexico, Serbia, Japan and Morocco who are featured in

“Changemakers: Stories of Young Human Rights Educators,” a project by SGI, Amnesty International and the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR).

Gazzotti and Plummer conducted interviews with the young changemakers to learn about their personal journeys with HRE and applied SGI’s learning for empowerment model “Learn, Reflect, Empower, Lead,” which was introduced in SGI’s 2002 and 2012 proposals to the United Nations by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda. When applied to the stories of the young changemakers, it illuminates how HRE has been a tool of empowerment—enabling them to address issues such as gender and sex-based discrimination, racism and inequality and exploitation of vulnerable children and youth—using a human rights-based approach that upholds and honors human dignity.

Gazzotti and Plummer’s study also recognizes SGI’s concept of “human revolution” in the youths’ stories, with each one highlighting the transformative impact that HRE can have, enabling them to develop a greater sense of compassion in response to human rights violations.



Elisa Gazzotti (left) and Lucy Plummer of SGI deliver their presentation at the IAHRE Conference in June in London

SEP-OCT | UN OFFICE AT GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

## SGI Advocates for Human Rights Education at 60th Session of Human Rights Council and Social Forum

SGI and the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning (NGO WG on HREL) co-organized a side event to the 60th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva on 16 September 2025 titled “Evaluation of the Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education: The Way Forward.” Representatives from 17 countries and numerous NGOs attended.

Panelists shared national initiatives, including Brazil’s human rights film festivals, Mexico’s youth empowerment programs and Mongolia’s human rights education (HRE) evaluation strategies.

The 2025 Social Forum followed the HRC on 30 and 31 October. SGI cosponsored a side event: “Human Rights Education for, with and by Youth—Advancing All Human Rights for All.” Elisa Gazzotti of SGI moderated a discussion with young educators Dejana Stošić and Andrés Allán Sánchez Osorio from “Changemakers: Stories of Young Human Rights Educators,” the multimedia tool developed by SGI, Amnesty International and OHCHR.

Stošić shared, “With everything happening in the world, especially in Gaza, it felt like human rights were just theory... Human rights should be taught not as a subject, but as a means of survival.”



Elisa Gazzotti of SGI (second right) with participants in the side event “Human Rights Education for, with and by Youth—Advancing All Human Rights for All” at the 2025 Social Forum in Geneva in October

The Forum emphasized education as a right and an enabler of all other rights, highlighted global teacher shortages and explored strategies to protect education in conflict zones, including the Safe Schools Declaration. Participants stressed decolonizing education and integrating artistic and human rights-centered approaches. Through both events, SGI reinforced the role of HRE in empowering youth to create just, peaceful and equitable societies.

DEC | BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

## SGI Promotes Human Rights Education at Global Youth Forum



Participants in the 11 December Human Rights Education and Youth Empowerment workshop co-organized by SGI and Amnesty International

In Budapest, Hungary, from 9–11 December 2025, SGI participated as a partner in the Global Youth Forum on Human Rights Education. The Forum brought together youth and educators from around the world to strengthen human rights education (HRE) for, with, and by young people. It was co-organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Council of Europe, in cooperation with the European Youth Forum and Amnesty International.

The Forum created a space for collective reflection and action at a time when human rights

face growing challenges globally. Participants reaffirmed that HRE is not an optional addition but “the foundation and the DNA of a culture of democracy and human rights,” and that every human rights educator is also a human rights defender.

SGI was represented by Elisa Gazzotti, who co-organized an 11 December workshop with Amnesty International titled “Human Rights Education and Youth Empowerment.” The session featured “Changemakers: Stories of Young Human Rights Educators,” a multimedia tool that highlights creative, youth-led approaches such as art, storytelling and podcasts to make human rights education accessible, particularly for marginalized communities.

Five young educators from Morocco, South Africa, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Mexico shared experiences and practical tools for empowering young people through HRE. Human Rights Day on 10 December was marked by a multilingual reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Gazzotti read Article 26, which affirms the right to education, in Italian.



NOV | ONLINE

Youth advocates and educators joined the 18 November webinar “Human Rights Education and Youth Empowerment for Planetary Peace” organized by Soka Gakkai and Amnesty International. The event was part of the *Voices for Peace* series, a flagship initiative of The Club of Rome’s youth network, *The 50 Percent*, and was moderated by Emi Hashimoto of SGI (top left).



OCT | ROME, ITALY

From 26 to 28 October in Rome, SGI representatives took part in the International Meeting for Peace “*Daring Peace*,” organized by the Community of Sant’Egidio. On the panel “*Justice Does Not Kill: Abolishing the Death Penalty*,” an SGI representative from Italy contributed a Buddhist perspective centered on the dignity of life.



DEC | TOKYO, JAPAN

On 14 December, Amnesty International Japan and the Soka Gakkai Peace Committee cohosted the 8th Youth Forum Commemorating Human Rights Day in Tokyo. Following presentations by experts, participants engaged in dialogue on the death penalty, reflecting on the meaning of justice, and questioning whether a system that takes life can uphold human dignity.

# Peace

Fereshteh Ghazisaeedi/ unsplash



## 2025 Overview

The year 2025 marked 80 years since the end of World War II, and the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, reminding us of the UN's mission to work toward and maintain international peace and security—a mission that is more critical than ever.

The culture of peace represents a framework that enables SGI to approach the various issues under the remit of the UN (reflected in our focus areas) as interconnected and interrelated. Grounded in this conviction, SGI launched an interview series in 2025 titled “The Culture of Peace: Conversations with Leaders of Change.” This series aims to help build new momentum in the coming decades in advancing the agenda outlined in the UN General Assembly resolution on a culture of peace, which emphasizes the valuable contributions each individual can make. The inaugural videos, released in September, featured Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations and Founder of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace.

In April, SGI joined faith actors and representatives from UN entities at the 11th Annual Symposium on

*The “Visions in Motion” kinetic artwork created by Patrick Shearn as a symbol of peace for the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. It includes 30,000 individual messages of hope for the future.*



### SEP | MALAYSIA

*From 5–14 September, Soka Gakkai Malaysia hosted its biennial “Run for Peace” across 22 locations nationwide. Under the theme “Peace starts with me—ActNOW for SDGs!,” the event brought together diverse communities, especially youth, promoting friendship and peace.*

the Role of Religion and Faith-based Organizations in International Affairs to address issues of significance from the Pact for the Future. The half-day hybrid symposium brought together speakers in person and online to discuss “The Future Is Upon Us: What Now? Amplifying the Role of Faith and Civil Society Actors in Multilateral Solutions.”

At the community level, various national Soka Gakkai organizations also conducted activities related to the theme of peace, including a peace heritage walk held in Aotearoa, New Zealand; “Young Builders of Peace” workshops in Venezuela; a peace festival in Paraguay and a peace fair in the Philippines.

APRI NEW YORK, USA

## Faith Actors Address Themes from *UN Pact for the Future*

Faith-based actors and representatives from UN entities addressed issues of significance from the UN Pact for the Future at the 11th Annual Symposium on the Role of Religion and Faith-based Organizations in International Affairs. The half-day hybrid symposium titled “The Future Is Upon Us: What Now? Amplifying the Role of Faith and Civil Society Actors in Multilateral Solutions” was held on 3 April 2025.

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, welcomed participants by stating that at the heart of multilateralism is equality and nondiscrimination, stressing that the times call for us to be more courageous than ever now.

The symposium featured four panels, covering inclusive global governance, peacebuilding

and digital governance of AI. A panel discussion on “Revitalizing commitments to the Beijing Platform for Action” linked gender equality and peace, in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 25th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

Panelist Ivy Koek of SGI shared that in order for the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda to be more effective, more people need to be able to relate to it. She proposed that it be implemented together with the General Assembly Resolution on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.

Other speakers included Leyla Sharafi, Chief of Gender, Human Rights and Inclusion for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Nkechika Ibe, Founder of the Impact Her World Foundation and Chair of the Women in Security, Peace and Diplomacy Network (WISPAD) in Nigeria, and Anas Badawi, Coordinator of the Tawleh Initiative in Syria.

SGI sponsored the event together with ACT Alliance, The United Methodist Church, Islamic Relief, Seventh-day Adventist Church, United Religions Initiative, World Council of Churches, and the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect.



Marcelo Schneider/WCC

Participants in the Annual Symposium on the Role of Religion and Faith-based Organizations in International Affairs

SGINZ



### FEB | WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

On 15 February, SGI New Zealand co-organized a Peace Heritage Walk in Wellington with partner organizations, guiding participants to sites commemorating peace and peacemakers, including the Wai-titi Landing, the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, the Hiroshima Stone and the Wellington Peace Flame. The walk concluded with a discussion on policies, initiatives and leadership that promote peace globally.

SGI-Philippines



### SEP | PHILIPPINES

On 14 September, youth members of SGI-Philippines organized their second annual Peace Fair in four cities—Manila, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao—bringing together around 600 participants for dialogue and learning. Activities included showing the exhibition “Everything You Treasure—For a World Free From Nuclear Weapons” and talks by speakers including ICAN representative Loreta Navarro-Castro.



### OCT | ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY

On 26 October, Soka Gakkai of Paraguay held a peace festival at its culture center in Asunción that was declared of cultural interest by the National Secretariat of Culture and the Chamber of Deputies. The event highlighted how shared expressions of creativity and tradition nurture community bonds and open pathways toward peace.

## New Culture of Peace Video Series

Following the 25th anniversary of the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (A/RES/53/243) the previous year, in 2025, SGI launched an interview series “The Culture of Peace: Conversations with Leaders of Change” to help build new momentum in the coming decades.

This series will feature leaders of change including UN officials, experts, scholars and advocates. The aim is to raise awareness and bring attention to the power each one of us has to foster the culture of peace through our daily actions. This in turn will help the UN effectively carry out its work for a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

The first three videos feature Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury,

former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations and Founder of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace. He served as the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN (1996–2001) and chaired the nine-month-long negotiations resulting in the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. He introduced the agreed text on behalf of all Member States for adoption by the General Assembly on 13 September 1999.

The interviews with Ambassador Chowdhury are available on the SGI Office for UN Affairs YouTube channel.

Inaugural Segment  
by Ambassador  
Anwarul K. Chowdhury

Episode 1 - From Inspiration &  
Initiative to Action & Advocacy:  
*Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury's  
Journey to Create The Culture of Peace  
at the United Nations*





**The Culture of Peace**  
Conversations with Leaders of Change

SGIV



## VENEZUELA

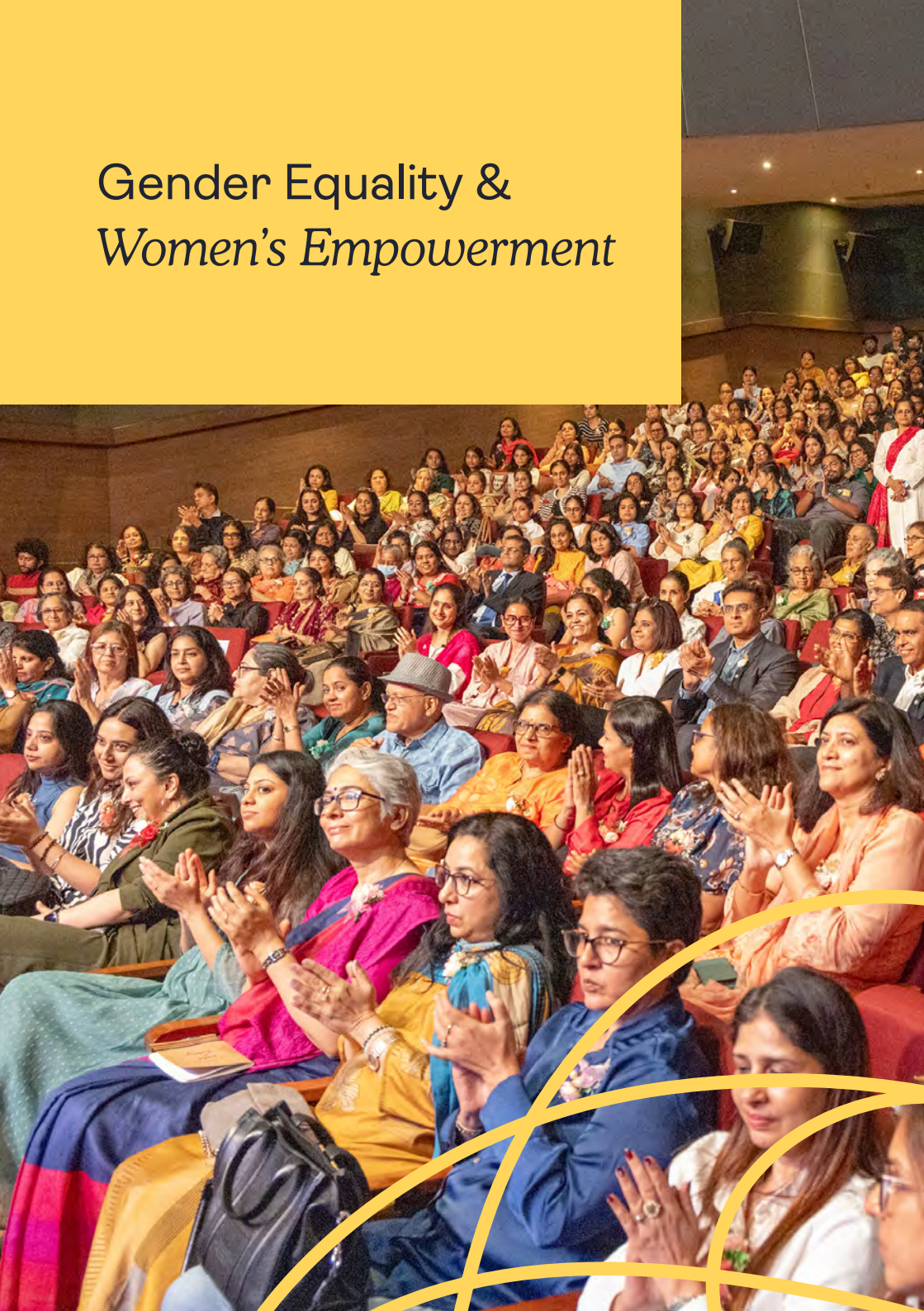
### SGI Venezuela Holds Young Builders of Peace Workshops

In a program launched in 2004, Young Builders of Peace (YBOP) workshops run by SGI Venezuela (SGIV) empower participants to recognize how their actions can contribute to peace and to identify those that hinder peacebuilding. Through interactive activities rooted in genuine dialogue, appreciation for diversity, active tolerance and respect for the dignity of life, the program encourages participants to reflect on the positive impact individuals can have both locally and globally. The workshops draw inspiration from the peace efforts of Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi and SGI President Daisaku Ikeda.

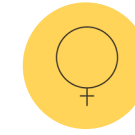
On 31 January 2025, SGIV launched the first round in a new series of YBOP workshops at the Colegio Las Cumbres primary school in Caracas. Teachers, parents, guardians and fifth- and sixth-grade students participated in the initial six workshops. A second round of five workshops began on 18 February 2025 at a school in Zulia State in northwestern Venezuela, with 56 participants in total.

Since their 2004 inception, YBOP workshops have expanded to schools, NGOs and communities across Venezuela and been integrated into peace education initiatives by governmental bodies and universities. Since 2010, the Central University of Venezuela has recognized YBOP as a permanent community service project. By 2025, the workshops had reached nearly 22,000 people, including children, young people and adults.

# Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment



BSG



## 2025 Overview

The 30th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women—where governments adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most comprehensive global blueprint for gender equality—was commemorated in 2025. To highlight the importance of addressing the critical area of concern on “Women in Conflict,” SGI organized an event on “Activating an Intergenerational Movement for the Culture of Peace” during the 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This became the start of a new initiative by 11 organizations.

SGI continued to actively participate in the Gender Working Group of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council (MFAC) to the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development. The Working Group launched a policy brief, “Side by Side: Connecting Sacred Dialogue and Responses in Promoting Gender Equality,” during the eightieth session of the UN General Assembly.

SGI also organized an event on human rights education for gender equality during the UN World Summit on Social Development.

Completing our two-year term as Co-Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York, SGI contributed to organizing an



### MAR | NEW YORK, USA

*Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former UN Under-Secretary-General and Founder of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace (second from right), speaks at SGI's 11 March event “Activating an Intergenerational Movement for the Culture of Peace” during CSW69*

NGO Forum for the record number of participants at the CSW. As the Co-Chair of the committee's Working Group on Peace and Gender Equality, SGI also convened a workshop on compassionate leadership to mark 25 years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Women's empowerment initiatives also took place at the local level. Soka Gakkai organizations in India and Singapore held a lecture and symposium, respectively, highlighting the contributions made by women in the fields of sustainability and peace. The four-year joint reforestation project with ITTO in Togo concluded in 2025. The Women's Peace Committee in Japan continued its culture of peace activities and promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals nationwide.

*Participants at the fifth Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) Women's Symposium held in Mumbai, India, on 23 July*

OCT | NEW YORK, USA

## SGI and Partners Launch Culture of Peace for Gender Equality Initiative

The Culture of Peace (CoP) for Gender Equality Initiative was born out of an event held during the 69th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2025. A group of 11 organizations, led by SGI, met throughout 2025 to develop a project intended to foster intergenerational leadership for the CoP as it relates to gender equality. A launch event for the initiative was held on 21 October 2025, marking the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

The initiative's goal is to help advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda by implementing the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. Experts, academics, advocates and practitioners who make up the initiative decided to fill a critical gap in the agenda—its “prevention”

pillar. One way to fill this gap is to link Resolution 1325 with the resolution on a culture of peace. When 1325 is viewed through the lens of the culture of peace, it becomes more relevant to people's lives because it recognizes the potential of each individual as a change agent.

At the CoP for Gender Equality Initiative launch event, Jonathan Passmoor, Political Councillor of the Permanent Mission of South Africa, and Lister Chapeta, Policy Specialist on WPS of UN Women, voiced their support and interest in the topic. Ivy Koek of SGI co-moderated the event with Veronica Sabbag, Founder of United Voices 4 Peace. Miyuki Kawaoka of SGI gave a presentation on a pilot program on the Culture of Peace for Gender Equality Ambassadors, which will begin in 2026.



Participants at the 21 October launch event of the Culture of Peace for Gender Equality Initiative

SGS



MAR | SINGAPORE

Commemorating International Women's Day, Soka Gakkai Singapore (SGS) hosted its annual Soka Women Lecture at the Punggol Soka Centre on 2 March on the theme “Women in Sustainability: Accelerate Action for Peace,” in collaboration with partner organizations. The lecture highlighted the vital role of women's leadership in advancing sustainability and peace.

BSG



JUL | MUMBAI, INDIA

The fifth Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) Women's Symposium was held on 23 July in Mumbai under the theme “Women Who Believe Are the Women Who Build.” With over 650 participants, the event featured a panel of women leaders from diverse fields sharing reflections on courage, belief and building value-creating societies.



TOGO

Soka Gakkai and the International Tropical Timber Organization concluded a joint forest restoration project in Togo that aimed to empower women and local communities by combining forest regeneration with agricultural production. Since 2021, participants raised 70,000 seedlings and helped regenerate 43 hectares of forest, strengthening food security and economic independence.

NOV | DOHA, QATAR

## Advancing Gender Equality Through Human Rights Education at the UN World Social Summit



Ivy Koek of SGI shares the outcomes of one of the featured sessions during the Civil Society Forum closing ceremony

The United Nations Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), held in Doha, Qatar, from 4–6 November 2025, brought together governments, UN agencies and civil society organizations to recommit to the landmark Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development adopted in 1995.

On 3 November 2025, SGI and the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) co-organized an official virtual solutions session to discuss the potential of human rights education (HRE) to support social integration and advance gender equality moderated by Ivy Koek of SGI.

Undersecretary Severo Catura of the Republic of the Philippines

Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat opened the discussion. Speakers included Bouchra Elias, Coordinator of the Human Rights Education Unit at the UN Training and Documentation Centre for Southwest Asia and the Arab Region OHCHR; Bandana Rana, Member of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee; and Michele Bravos, Founder and Executive Director of the Aurora Institute for Human Rights Education in Brazil. Elisa Gazzotti of SGI introduced the educational tool “Changemakers” that showcases how HRE can equip young people to become agents of social change.

Additionally, SGI was engaged in the Summit’s Civil Society Forum. SGI moderated one of its 10 Featured Sessions, organized by the ImPACT Coalition for Faith Actors and partners, on “Designing Cohesive Societies: Inclusive Policies for Social Unity and Equity.”

On 6 November, SGI spoke on the role of faith actors in community empowerment during a session on strengthening local initiatives. Kiyoshi Akasu of SGI presented an intergenerational research project developed by the Tohoku youth division of Soka Gakkai in Japan that shows how youth-led research can support sustainable, community-centered development.

## Women’s Peace Committee, Japan



**FEB | OSAKA, JAPAN**  
On 8 and 9 February, the Women’s Peace Committee of Soka Gakkai in Osaka joined the 32nd “One World Festival,” Western Japan’s largest international cooperation and exchange event. They hosted a booth exhibition on marine plastic waste, while the Youth Conference held a seminar on a world without nuclear weapons with hibakusha testimonies.

**FEB | TOKYO, JAPAN**  
In celebration of International Women’s Day, on 24 February, the Women’s Peace Committee hosted a Culture of Peace lecture broadcast throughout Japan. Dr. Kazuyo Hanai (right) of the NGO RITA-Congo spoke on the impact on women of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and efforts to support them, emphasizing everyday altruistic efforts (rita) as the foundation for peace.

**OCT | TOKYO**  
On 4 October, the Youth Conference of the Women’s Peace Committee hosted a forum in Tokyo titled “Hope in Action: Youth for a Nuclear-Free World,” dedicated to passing on the experiences of war and atomic bomb survivors. Izumi Kondo shared her mother’s experience as a hibakusha, expressing her commitment to carrying forward her mother’s message concerning the dignity of life and the desire for peace.

# Humanitarian Relief



## 2025 Overview

In 2025, SGI continued its humanitarian efforts amid a world facing deepening humanitarian needs driven by conflict, climate-related disasters and widening social division. Guided by a commitment to human dignity and belief in the inherent potential of every individual, SGI worked alongside local communities, civil society organizations and international partners to strengthen resilience and solidarity and foster inclusion. SGI also deepened collaborations within regional and global humanitarian networks and platforms, sharing lessons learned from local practice while contributing to broader policy discussions on inclusive, anticipatory and locally-led humanitarian action.

In disaster risk reduction and refugee support, SGI emphasized community-led and people-centered approaches, recognizing that sustainable recovery and preparedness are rooted in hope, social bonds and local knowledge. SGI contributed to efforts that connect early warning with existing community structures and promote preparedness at the grassroots level, including engagement in the Japan CSO Coalition for Disaster Risk Reduction. Through the “Bonds of Hope” concert series organized by

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### MAR | ISHIKAWA, JAPAN

*At a Bonds of Hope concert in Ishikawa Prefecture, members of the Soka Gakkai Music Corps perform to support the “recovery of the heart”*

Soka Gakkai’s Music Corps, SGI also supported psychosocial recovery by fostering spaces for community connection and encouragement.

SGI continued to support the music education program in Jordan, Al-Musiqa Tajm’ana (Music Brings Us Together), which addresses the needs of refugees and displaced communities by fostering educators who can create safe spaces for children and youth. In 2025, the program expanded to include music teachers and children in the Za’atari refugee camp, providing opportunities to strengthen creative expression, emotional well-being and social connection amid prolonged displacement.

*Children participate in the music education program Al-Musiqa Tajm’ana (Music Brings Us Together) in Jordan*



JAPAN

## Community-Centered Disaster Risk Reduction



Harumi Endo of SGI (right) and participants in the Humanitarian Story Circle at the Asia-Pacific Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week in Bangkok in December

In March, SGI representatives participated in disaster-related forums held at the Sendai International Center in Sendai, Japan. At the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Future Forum 2025, Tohoku Soka Gakkai convened a thematic session on 8 March titled “Considering Mutual Assistance for ‘Building Back Better.’” The session brought together researchers, a former UN official and civil society leaders to review progress and challenges, with a particular focus on mutual assistance within communities.

In September, SGI participated in the National Conference for the Promotion of Disaster Risk Reduction (BOSAI Kokutai 2025), held in Niigata City. SGI co-organized

a session on inclusive evacuation in a super-aging society, featuring panelists from academia specializing in aging and public health, humanitarian NGO representatives and a local disaster prevention leader. The discussion also stressed the importance of inclusive planning that reflects diverse needs and lived experiences.

From 8–10 December, SGI representatives took part in the Asia-Pacific Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. SGI co-organized a session titled “From Early Warning to Early Action: Localizing Anticipatory Action in Indonesia and Japan,” and also co-convened discussions on the role of local faith actors through the Asia-Pacific Faith-based Coalition for Sustainable Development. Nobuyuki Asai of SGI highlighted how trusted local relationships contribute to preparedness, timely action, and psychosocial recovery. In the conference’s Humanitarian Story Circle, a short film on community-led resilience in Tokyo was one of nine selected from over 100 submissions. It was introduced by Harumi Endo of SGI.

Watch the short film



JORDAN

## Empowering Communities Through Music Education

Al-Musiqa Tajm’ana (Music Brings Us Together) uses music to strengthen resilience, connection and a sense of belonging among marginalized and underserved children and youth in Jordan. Launched in 2021, it works with children from refugee backgrounds and those from host communities through training for musicians, music students and teachers. It is jointly implemented by Soka Gakkai, Musicians Without Borders (MWB), and local Jordanian partners.

Through Music Leadership Training, 35 musicians and teachers participated in 2025, hosting music workshops with local organizations for children from refugee and host communities. Of these trainees, 18 work at Za’atari refugee camp in northern Jordan, where they deliver music lessons. Participating children reported an increased sense of connection, improved mood and enhanced well-being.

The Music as Therapy program trained three educators and directly involved 16 children with special needs. Educators who completed the training reached over 220 children through inclusive music-based activities.

The program also includes Manjali, which supports children’s development through music learning while carrying forward songs from their own cultural heritage. In 2025, Manjali involved 55 children in Al-Karak in west-central Jordan, delivering over 150 instrument and choir lessons. Feedback points to increased engagement, improved emotional expression and stronger peer connections among participating children.

To date, the Al-Musiqa Tajm’ana program has reached a total of 151 local musicians and teachers, benefiting more than 1,500 children.



Musicians and teachers participate in the Music Leadership Training program in Jordan

JAPAN

## Using Music to Support Disaster Recovery and Preparedness in Japan

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, the Bonds of Hope concert series that supports emotional recovery and strengthens community bonds in times of crisis has been held 192 times across Japan, with more than 81,000 people participating.

In March 2025, Bonds of Hope concerts featuring a choir group were held in Ishikawa Prefecture, including performances in Hakui City and Noto Town. These areas face ongoing challenges in the aftermath of the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, including damage to housing and prolonged displacement. The concerts featured well-known songs and interactive segments, creating opportunities for people of different generations to come together. Participants shared that they provided a welcome break from daily pressures and an opportunity

to reconnect with others in the community.

The initiative has also been extended to Numazu City, Shizuoka Prefecture, identified as being at high risk of tsunami damage in the event of a Nankai Trough Earthquake. On 7 December, Numazu City conducted a disaster preparedness drill. As part of the drill, residents evacuated to the Soka Gakkai Numazu Culture Center, which is designated as a tsunami evacuation facility. Following the evacuation and disaster preparedness training, a Bonds of Hope concert featuring a brass band was held for drill participants.

The Soka Gakkai Music Corps plans continue organizing concerts in the context of disaster preparedness as well as post-disaster support in collaboration with local communities.

SGS



### MAR | SINGAPORE

On 2 March, members of the Soka Gakkai Singapore Volunteer Group joined Humanity Matters and 300 community volunteers for the 4th Gaza Relief packing event held at Sree Narayana Mission in Yishun. They assembled 5,000 “Kidz Comfort Packs” for children in Gaza. The event concluded with participants breaking the fast with members of the Muslim community.

SGIAR



### MAY | ARGENTINA

In May, volunteers from Acción Solidaria Soka of SGI-Argentina visited Zárate and Campana to the north of Buenos Aires to deliver aid to those affected by flooding after unusually heavy rains. They delivered relief goods and helped clean affected homes.

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### APR | TOKYO, JAPAN

On 3 April, the Soka Gakkai Peace Committee held its 10th film screening in Tokyo, featuring I Shall Not Hate, the story of Palestinian doctor Izzeldin Abuelaish. Following the screening, Mizuho Osawa (on screen) of the Japan International Volunteer Center joined online to share insights on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

© Seikyo Shimbun



Children from the audience conduct during a Bonds of Hope concert in Numazu City, December 2025

# Featured Resources



Watch the  
conversations



## The Culture of Peace: *Conversations with Leaders of Change*

Following the 25th anniversary of the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace in 2024, SGI launched *The Culture of Peace: Conversations with Leaders of Change* to help build new momentum in the coming decades. This video series will feature leaders of change, including United Nations officials, experts, scholars and advocates.



Watch  
Changemakers



## Changemakers: *Stories of Young Human Rights Educators*

“Changemakers: Stories of Young Human Rights Educators,” is a multimedia educational tool jointly developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Amnesty International and SGI.

The film features the stories of seven young human rights educators from around the world. For further resources, visit the [Human Rights Education Open Resource](#).



View the  
hub page



## Learning Hub for a *Nuclear-Weapons-Free Future*

SGI's *Learning Hub for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Future* brings together hibakusha video testimonies from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, voices of those affected by nuclear testing in Kazakhstan and related films and books. These educational resources seek to deepen understanding and inspire dialogue and action toward a nuclear-weapons-free future.



View the  
VR video



## Explore the Amazon Rainforest *Through VR*

A virtual reality (VR) video showcasing the Soka Amazon Institute in Manaus, Brazil, immerses the viewer in the rich ecosystems in the protected area that surrounds the Institute and introduces its activities.

Available in [English](#), [Portuguese](#) and [Japanese](#).

# SGI Statements

Read the statements



Between 1983 and 2022, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda issued annual peace proposals addressing the state of the world. The SGI will continue to issue statements to raise awareness and build global consensus for action, authored by the SGI Global Perspectives Committee, which includes SGI leaders engaged in peace activities throughout the world.

## JANUARY 2025

### Preventing the Use of Nuclear Weapons as a Step toward a Peaceful World

This statement, issued on 15 January 2025, marked 80 years since the end of World War II and the 50th anniversary of the founding of the SGI. It reflected on rising global instability, including the war in Ukraine, violence in Gaza, and worsening humanitarian crises, and called for stronger diplomatic and humanitarian efforts, while emphasizing hope and humanity's capacity to overcome despair, as affirmed by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda.

The statement called for urgent action to reduce nuclear risks, proposing that nuclear-weapon states adopt No First Use pledges and establish an international nuclear war prevention center to reduce tensions, build trust and prevent accidental or intentional launches.

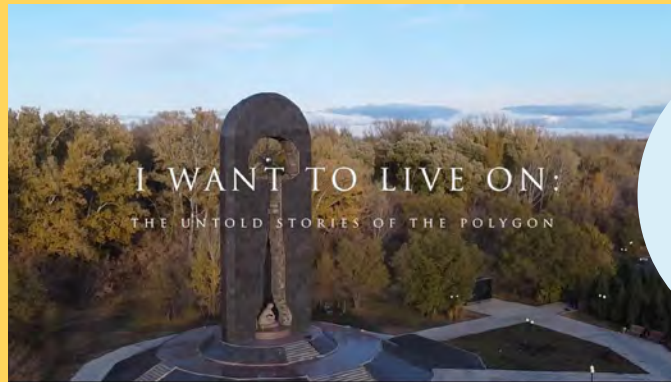
## NOVEMBER 2025

### Mobilizing Global Solidarity to Meet the Challenges of the Climate Crisis

This statement was issued on 5 November 2025, highlighting the accelerating climate crisis, marked by record-breaking temperatures and devastating floods and wildfires. Vulnerable communities—especially in Pacific Island nations—face severe threats to their homes, livelihoods and dignity. At the same time, weakening international solidarity and growing economic tensions risk undermining global cooperation on emissions reductions.

The statement proposed strengthening solidarity among civil society, including greater engagement of religious organizations in the COP processes, and establishing a permanent youth council within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, recognizing youth as key drivers of climate justice.

# Featured Resources



Watch the documentary



## I Want To Live On: *The Untold Stories of the Polygon*

Through powerful testimonial evidence, this documentary film highlights the lasting suffering caused by nuclear testing at the Semipalatinsk Test Site, affecting individuals in Kazakhstan across three generations to this day.

Created by the Center for International Security and Policy with the support of SGI.



View the exhibition



## Automated by Design | *Exhibition Microsite*

This experience is a digital version of our in-person exhibition that explores digital dehumanisation - the process by which humans are reduced to data, which is then used to make decisions or take actions that negatively affect their lives.

Automated by Design was curated and produced by Identity 2.0 for Stop Killer Robots and supported by Amnesty International and SGI.

Alexander-Bliar



## *SGI Headquarters*

15-3 Samoncho, Shinjuku-ku,  
Tokyo 160-0017, Japan

Email: [contact@peacesgi.org](mailto:contact@peacesgi.org)

*SGI Office for UN Affairs*

Email: [info@sgi-ouna.org](mailto:info@sgi-ouna.org)

Website: [sgi-peace.org](http://sgi-peace.org)