



### **HEALTH EDUCATION FOR PEACE (HE4P)**

*Mobilizing SOPHE resources to respond to the United Nations' call for Education for Peace, to be released on 21 September 2013, the International Day of Peace*

**Approved by SOPHE Board of Trustees on August 14, 2013**

WHEREAS, Health is a human right, as emphasized in the global document Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted on December 10, 1948, Article 25<sup>1,2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Education is a basic human right afforded each person according to Article 26<sup>1,2</sup> of the UDHR. Further, education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Peace in societies is the only sustainable environmental and social condition conducive to healthy and productive children, women, and men; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) established the University for Peace in 1980, and entrusted other organs and organizations of the UN system with the promotion of peace, mainly through education in all its aspects<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the United Nations in its Thirty-sixth session declared that the third Tuesday of September, the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly, shall be officially proclaimed and observed as the International Day of Peace and shall be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among nations and peoples<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the United Nations at its Thirty-sixth session further invited all Member States, organs, organizations, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to commemorate in an appropriate manner the International Day of Peace, especially through all means of education, and to co-operate with the United Nations in the observance of that Day<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, calling upon Member States to guarantee all human rights and a life free of discrimination, recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities. Among these rights are health, education, work and employment, adequate standard of living and social protection, and participation in political and public life<sup>5</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the United Nations, desiring to draw attention to the objectives of the International Day of Peace, decided that the International Day of Peace shall be observed on 21 September each year, with this day to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the United Nations invites all Member States, organizations and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to co-operate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire<sup>6</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Millennium Development Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8 propose the achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality, reduction in child mortality and infectious diseases, and global partnership for development<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health promotion as ‘a process of enabling people to increase control over and to improve their health ... as a mediating strategy between people and their environments, synthesizing personal choice and social responsibility in health’<sup>8</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Report of the 2000 Joint Committee on Health Education and Promotion Terminology, defines health promotion as ‘any planned combination of educational, political, environmental, regulatory, or organizational mechanisms that support actions and conditions of living conducive to the health of individuals, groups, and communities’<sup>10</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) mission is to provide global leadership to the profession of health education and health promotion and to promote the health of society through advocacy, skills training, pre-service and in-service education<sup>11</sup>; and

WHEREAS, SOPHE members work in elementary and secondary schools, universities, voluntary organizations, health care settings, worksites and government agencies<sup>11</sup>; and

WHEREAS, The SOPHE Global Health Community of Practice (CoP) is dedicated to fostering the exchange of information and resources related to global health education, and to improve the understanding of various peoples and their cultures globally to increase the effectiveness of health education. The Global Health CoP has a link to international organizations, particularly the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) and its North American Regional Office (NARO), WHO, PAHO, USDHHS and CDC. The Global Health CoP encourages exchange and updates via electronic communications, develops and promotes development of global health sessions for the SOPHE annual meeting, delivers or shares global health education webinars, and advocates for global health promotion articles for submission to SOPHE’s journals<sup>12</sup>.

THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, That SOPHE as a leader in global health education and promotion will call for a democratic and non-oppressive Health Education for All children and adults of all abilities, locally and globally; and be it further

RESOLVED, That SOPHE will call for a Health Education for Peace, defined for the purposes of this resolution as a democratic process that allows for ‘any combination of learning experiences designed to facilitate voluntary actions conducive to health,’<sup>9</sup> for the attainment of peace as a necessary condition for the health of people, children and adults; and be it further

RESOLVED, That SOPHE will advocate for the inclusion of primary and secondary health education for all children, for the promotion and attainment of gender equality for girls and boys, with the reduction in child mortality and infectious diseases locally and globally, and a global partnership for development; and be it further

RESOLVED, That SOPHE will continue to educate health professionals through conferences, social media, and its publications, Health Promotion Practice (HPP) and Health Education & Behavior (HEB), on issues of global health and peace; and be it further

RESOLVED, That SOPHE will continue to partner with organizations that have global outreach, including NGOs accredited by the United Nations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That SOPHE will continue to cooperate with the United Nations and its organizations by participating in events and providing statements to support initiatives that are conducive to peace; and be it further

RESOLVED, That SOPHE will charge the Global Health CoP to provide direction and scope of work and activities for the implementation of this resolution.

#### References:

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3. General Assembly of the United Nations. (2005, 21 March). *Fifty-ninth session Agenda items 45 and 55: Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit*. A/59/2005. Retrieved from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/59/2005](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/59/2005)
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6. General Assembly of the United Nations. (2001, 28 September). *Fifty-fifth session, resolution 55/282: International Day of Peace*. Retrieved from: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/55/282](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/55/282)

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10. Joint Committee on Health Education Terminology (JHET). (1990). *Report of the 1990 Joint Committee on Health Education Terminology*. Reston, VA: Association for the Advancement of Health Education.
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