
Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a "Vigil"?

A Vigil is a period of "watch" or "wakefulness." In the context of the International Day of Peace Vigil, it could be done in the form of prayer, meditation or other form of spiritual observance with an objective on peace awareness. It could also be a commitment to peaceful thoughts and acts of kindness and love throughout the day.

Why a "24-hour vigil"?

The IDP Vigil idea corresponds with The United Nations resolution that calls for entire day of global cease-fire and non-violence and invites "all nations and peoples to honour the cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day". A global day-long spiritual observation focused on peace would be a powerful force in promoting the cessation of violence and creating a more peaceful state among peoples.

What is the meaning of "peace" in the context of the Vigil?

The International Day of Peace has a very tangible goal of a day-long period and global cease-fire. The cessation of conflict for that day is one form of peace. The resolution also states, however, that the day should be focused on strengthening the ideals of peace and alleviating tensions and causes of conflict among peoples and governments. In its broader sense it is more than just alleviating violence, peace is an internal state of concord and tranquility.

How can my group participate in the Vigil?

Groups are asked to participate by focusing the group's awareness on the cessation of violent conflict throughout the world and in promoting peaceful behaviour for the entire 24 hour period on 21 September 2003. The group may wish to observe the Vigil by designating different individuals at different times to pray, meditate or otherwise celebrate the day in that group's house of worship or other suitable places.

How can I, as an individual, participate?

An individual can participate in many different ways. She/he might perform a day-long prayer, meditation or fast. One might also complete his/her daily Vigil by keeping an awareness of peace in all daily activities and by striving to think peaceful and loving thoughts throughout the day.

Can I still participate if I cannot commit to a 24-hour period?

Yes. Not everyone will be able to commit to a 24-hour duration. Do whatever you can while keeping the goals of the Vigil in mind.

Other Ways to Participate:

*Invite other faith traditions to join you in a prayer service for international peace.

*Work with other faiths in your community to have a Peace Pilgrimage traveling throughout your community stopping at various houses of worship to pray for peace in the tradition of that particular faith. Or the pilgrimage could stop to pray at places in need of peace and nonviolence within your community.

*Ring a Peace Bell at the beginning and end of your spiritual observance. Ask your municipality to formally declare their observance of the day (perhaps ringing a peace bell). Invite other houses of worship to ring their bells for peace.

*Involve your religious leaders and educators in designing a special project to observe the vigil.

*Suggest to local school districts that lesson plans focus on conflict prevention and resolution.

*If you have a Peace Pole, use this as a gathering space for part/all of your spiritual observance. Or you may choose to plant a Peace Pole on this day within the context of a prayer service for peace.

*If you have a gift for creating prayer services or prayers for such occasions, again, please send them to us, and we will post as many as we can on our website as resources to share with others.

www.idpvigil.com