

#### FOUNDER

Glenn D. Paige (1928–2017)

#### HONORARY SPONSORS

Máiread Maguire (N. Ireland)  
Nobel Peace Laureate (1976)

Óscar Arias (Costa Rica)  
Nobel Peace Laureate (1987)

J. E. Aristizábal “Juanes” (Colombia)  
Grammy-winning singer and activist

Federico Mayor Zaragoza (Spain)  
Former Director-General, UNESCO

Neelakanta Radhakrishnan (India)  
Founder, Council of Gandhian Studies

Bernard Lafayette, Jr. (USA)  
Activist leader, Civil Rights Movement

Ilya Prigogine, in memoriam (Russia)  
Nobel Chemistry Laureate (1977)

Robert Muller, in memoriam  
(Belgium)  
Co-Founder, UN University for Peace

#### GOVERNING COUNCIL

Anoop Swarup (India)  
Chaiwat Satha-Anand (Thailand)

Glenda H. Paige (Hawaii)

Bill (Balwant) Bhaneja (Canada)

Ha'aheo Guanson (Hawaii)

Jose V. Abueva (Philippines)

Christina Kemmer (Hawaii)

Maorong Jiang (China/USA)

#### DIRECTOR

Joám Evans Pim (Galiza, Spain)

#### UN REPRESENTATIVES

Christophe Barbey (Geneva)  
+41 79 524 35 74 / [cb@apred.ch](mailto:cb@apred.ch)

#### CONTACTS

[www.nonkilling.org](http://www.nonkilling.org)  
[info@nonkilling.org](mailto:info@nonkilling.org)  
3653 Tantalus Drive  
Honolulu, Hawai'i  
96822–5033 United States

Human Rights Council  
55<sup>th</sup> session. CGNK report  
Christophe Barbey  
11<sup>th</sup> of April 2024

### Ongoing work at the human rights council, 55<sup>th</sup> session

“The right to peace is the mother of all human rights”  
*Volker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights, 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2024*

Dear life supporters,  
Nonkilling reading friends,

It is at the heart of our work, big or small, to see progress made in respect for life, for the right to life and the Nonkilling Principle.

“All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis. ...”  
*Vienna declaration, World Conference on Human Rights, 1995, § 5<sup>o</sup>.*

The above declaration of the high commissioner regarding the right to peace as a mother of all rights surely shows a sincere and needed preoccupation of the international community for peace. Welcome. However, it is also a “family” metaphor. At first, I heard him say that the right to peace is the “molder” of human rights – why not, I liked it. Staying in “family metaphors”, the right to life is, or would be the father of all human rights.

Whatsoever, it is important to bear in mind that beyond what may seem, or is a worrisome state of the world regarding “respect for life, peace and climate”, while transcending political and structural, mental and cultural barriers, when such are at odds with our common future, we work evermore, as and with many of you, for the betterment of the human condition.

At the Human Rights Council, this results in the **adoption of a resolution reviving the “Culture of peace”** by consensus. It is a first step, modest, yet it opens new avenues for peace, for peace works and methods and to link, for the people as for institutions, peace and Human Rights. [Text of the resolution.](#)

The Human Rights Council keeps working at the prevention of genocide, a work now all the more needed. Every two years, it adopts a new resolution and holds a special discussion on the topic. This time, the focus of the resolution is indeed on denouncing starvation as a method of genocide and on preparing a new discussion on tools of early warning planned for next year. [Text of the resolution.](#)

We participated in the negotiations for both these texts.

We also made two declarations on Gaza, every time recalling the rights to life and peace, and some specific means to satisfy them. Four declarations were made calling for countries that have not yet ratified the Genocide convention, adding for two of them a call decriminalize suicides. Four Universal Periodic Reviews submissions were made on the same topics. Another one was made for Costa Rica, calling for the deepening of the already magnificent peace and ecological policies they uphold. We also made our usual yearly DPRK declaration, calling for the peace conference required by the 1953 armistice agreement which still needs to take place. [All these docs are here.](#)

During the session, this council adopted 34 resolutions. Besides the Culture of peace, the other topic addressed for the first time by the Council is the situation of intersex persons. This resolution was adopted with an unusual result of 24 favorable votes, 23 abstentions and no opposition. All the official decisions of the UN and almost all sessions are public, and available [here or from here.](#)

Life is the treasure of our lives and living in peace is the forbearing of life's continuity. We will unite for a happy future.

Christophe  
11<sup>th</sup> of April 2024