

**The Peace Innovation Initiative partners with UOCEAN 2050,
connecting ocean health to global peace
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Since its inception, the Peace Innovation Initiative (PII) has understood the need to connect diverse minds and organizations, equipping and empowering community-based efforts by linking them with global cross-sector leaders for a collective positive disruption of the status quo. This work is what transforms brilliant partnerships into catalytic movements for the benefit of both people and planet. Today, the Peace Innovation Initiative announces its partnership with UOCEAN 2050, a non-profit grassroots-based organization with a mission to stop ocean plastics globally.

In 2021, studies showed that more than 17 million tons of plastic entered our oceans, roughly 85% of marine litter. These volumes are projected to double, even triple annually by 2040. We now produce twice the amount of plastic waste compared to two decades ago; with management lacking, it is most often discarded, or ends up in badly managed landfills, or is incinerated. In all of these situations, toxins leak into earth's ecosystems. This means that worldwide we now have 416 hypoxic bodies of water where few to no organisms can survive.

By channeling the power of positive disruption and the opportunity that diverse thinking provides to reinvigorate our global systems for sustainable impact, PII proudly partners with UOCEAN 2050 to support its mission: eradicating marine plastics and uplifting communities through economical and technological opportunities. This cross-Atlantic collaboration is birthing a circular economy, empowering community members and leaders to become agents of change for their local water sources and the world's water at large. UOCEAN 2050 Founder & CEO, Chris Desai states that "Only by recognizing there is one ocean, one people, and one planet can we begin to conquer the walls of division; innovation and peace are the keys to breaking these down, creating a more connected, sustainable, and equitable world for all."

The Peace Innovation Initiative is proud to amplify the work, circular economy, and innovative peace practice of UOCEAN 2050 as they reinvigorate and uplift communities. Through the introduction of locally-made water barriers and filtration systems that capture macroplastics and better education surrounding recycling, supported by highly engaged, active, and young philanthropists, UOCEAN is reversing our planet's narrative in practical and sustainable ways. Reforesting mangroves, correcting pH levels, and using technology to monitor ocean and river health and safety are all part of the multifaceted plan to save our water systems while establishing better economies worldwide. PII Founding Member, Gordon Winston adds, "We want to intensify and extend the reach of innovators creating and implementing real-world solutions on-the-ground and the data that supports them. There is a movement started to bring action oriented people, knowledge, and capabilities together to build peace frameworks and integrate them into practice. UOCEAN is a magnificent example of what good looks like; it's now a matter of connecting the dots, building sustainability within our social, economic, labor, and financial frameworks for a brighter future."

To reinvigorate the conversation on water and peace, PII and UOCEAN have launched a \$10 million global fundraising campaign for water and peace innovation. The DNA of Peace Fellowship has been created to train and mobilize the next generation of peace innovators, including water and sanitation. Using data-driven

research to uncover the building blocks of peace innovation, fellows will incubate and launch their findings, partnering with other positive disruptors across industries to propel transformational change for people and planet. “Having worked at the intersection of technology and peacebuilding for well over two decades, I can’t overstate the importance of this project as an exemplar of what we had in mind when we began building the peacotech field,” comments Sheldon Himelfarb, Founder and CEO of PeaceTech Lab. “Others will follow the lead of PII and UOCEAN, and the planet will be richer for it.”

About The Peace Innovation Initiative

Founded as a 501(c)(3) in November 2021, the Peace Innovation Initiative is the new accelerator for peace practice: a team of pioneer bridge-builders committed to making peace a sustainable reality. Devoted to the mission of creating and enabling a global practice of peace, PII envisions a world where our global systems operate on a framework of sustainable peacebuilding. Driven by research and a commitment to harnessing the power of our individual and collective strengths, PII is building the bridge from peace potential to peace practice by developing programs that connect diverse minds and equip them with the knowledge and tools for peace. For more information, visit innovatepeace.org

About UOCEAN 2050

UOCEAN 2050 is a pioneering, BAME (Black and Asian Minority Ethnic) led practical and non-profit charitable grass root solution with a mission to stop ocean plastics globally. They work with volunteers, businesses, communities, governments, schools, universities and corporate entities in over 33 countries, forging a circular economy of sustainable behaviors with the removal of marine plastics from canals, rivers, and beaches. Their initial mission is to remove #1BILLIONKILOS of marine plastics by 2030 and to implement 1000 river barriers across the planet, stopping 80% of ocean plastics. For more information, visit UOCEAN.org

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