



The Peace Innovation Initiative & UN University for Peace launch 1st cycle of the DNA of Peace Fellowship Program

New York, NY February 2023

The Peace Innovation Initiative is pleased to announce the launch of the 1st cycle of the DNA of Peace Fellowship Program, a PhD fellowship designed and led in partnership with the Global Center of Peace Innovation at the University for Peace (UPEACE) to connect and equip top practitioner-scholars with the partnerships, spaces, education, and technology necessary to incubate and lead peace innovation from the ground up, starting in their own disciplines and communities of action.

Through the DNA of Peace Fellowship Program, PII and UPEACE are collectively creating the first-ever body of knowledge on peace innovation to support meaningful and sustainable impact for our collective future. As part of this first Fellowship cohort, two practitioner-scholars with expertise in a health-related topic will be selected to study at the research lab: the Global Center, housed in San Jose, Costa Rica for the 2023-2024 Academic Year. During the three-year PhD program at UPEACE, fellows will begin developing the genetic map of peace within the field of health, exchanging ideas for broader impact across sectors and disciplines. Therefore, the program seeks applicants who approach problems through a transdisciplinary lens and prioritize the inclusion of those who have committed to playing active roles in broadening the scope of who gets a seat at the table.

Since March 2021, PII and UPEACE have marshaled a body of committed scholars and practitioners through a series of global conferences and roundtable discussions in Central America, Europe, and the United States. Catalyzed by the *Naveen & Anu Jain Family Foundation's* \$1 million donation, Barbara Winston's leadership established the Peace Innovation Initiative to harness the power of cooperation and positive disruption in order to create and enable a global practice of peace through connectivity and education. PII's institutional partner is the UN University for Peace, stewarded by Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena and Vice-Rector Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo.

"We must nurture a culture of tolerance. and embrace as an opportunity for innovation what seems to divide us. There are leaders who will recognize this opportunity and come forth and innovate. As we invigorate and construct the DNA of peace to lay out this new field and its global practice, I welcome the launch of our inaugural fellowship program with UPEACE," states Barbara Winston, PII President & Founder.

"Working in collaboration with UPEACE, the PII initiative will transform education with the creation of innovative peace programs designed to affect international and public agendas," adds PII Founding Member and UPEACE Ambassador Gordon Winston

“The purpose of the Fellowship is to equip active participants in the transformation of their communities. Education can create peaceful societies by enabling the teaching and understanding of sustainability so that individuals can live together in diverse environments,” says Zulfiqar Ghadiyali, Commission for Peace Founding Member and UPEACE Ambassador

The call for applications was launched in January, is open until 25 March 2023, and available here: [OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS](#). The Fellowship will commence as of July 2023.

About The Peace Innovation Initiative

Founded as a 501(c)(3) in November 2021, the Peace Innovation Initiative is a team of pioneers - bridge-builders committed to making peace a sustainable reality. Dedicated to the creation and implementation of a global practice of peace, PII believes in the power of positive disruption and that conflict can trigger the reaction to sustainable peace practice. PII builds the bridge from peace potential to practice by developing programs that connect innovative minds. For more information, visit www.innovatepeace.org

About The University For Peace

Created in pursuance of the UN General Assembly in 1955, the University for Peace is an educational arm of the United Nations with its own Permanent Observer Mission. Training leaders for peace for the past four decades, it is a unique global academic institution with over 4,800 Alumni from over 120 countries. Through its Master's and Doctoral degree programs, UPEACE assists future leaders to explore and implement peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies and practices to address threats to human and global wellbeing. For more information, visit www.upeace.org

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