

# Peace Poster

This poster is designed to be displayed on the wall as it is or cut into seven sections. On the back of each section there are some questions and ideas for discussion. The drawings reflect some of the topics raised at the UNESCO Peace Festivals.

The topics covered by the drawings are listed below.

## Environment

There are many local environmental issues that children may want to discuss before moving on to the more international concerns.

If the school is located in a city there may be a problem with noise, air pollution and rubbish. If the school is in a rural community one problem might be a lack of clean water or no electricity.

It was suggested at the Festival in Greece that recycling should be made compulsory.

## No to violence

Violence may occur in the home, in the school and in the community. Often parents argue and this can lead to fights and even child beating. Children may also bring home new ideas from school that the parent does not understand and this can cause serious problems. People may fight over resources, money or religion. Some of the solutions to this problem could include:

*Parents listening to children.*

*Prevention of child abuse.*

*Respect for each other.*

One of the major problems mentioned at one of the Festivals was that the father is often seen as the most important member of the family; he wants to be in charge. If the mother or other members of the family want to make a point, there may be an argument or conflict. It is important to

discuss equality between boys and girls, men and women. A common plea from students world wide was to protect children from abuse. Intolerance and violence can sometimes break out in multi-ethnic communities and people need to get to know each other to encourage understanding and respect.

## Drugs and alcohol

It is important that children should develop a strong self-image and be very positive about themselves. They need to know that it is important to look after their health, mind and body. Talk to them about how certain drugs or medicines can be useful if prescribed by a doctor, but that other drugs can be very dangerous. Remember to include alcohol and tobacco.

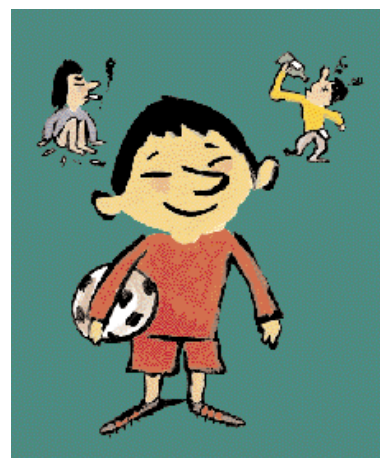
There are many different types of drugs.

Drugs are a major problem all over the world. Children may be exposed to drug dealers and users and it is important to warn them about the many dangers of taking and dealing with drugs. There are

a number of national and world organisations tackling this problem, including UNESCO. People take drugs for different reasons. Some believe that they will be able to forget their problems. Once they start taking drugs, however, they find it very difficult to stop.

There are laws to stop people using drugs and selling or passing them on. Often people steal to get the money to pay for their drugs. People can become very ill or even unconscious from drug taking and may need emergency medical care. Some drug addicts take an overdose, which may kill them.

The consumption of alcohol should be reduced wherever possible, as it often leads to arguments and fights. At the African Festival there was concern about addiction to alcohol



but children suggested that one solution might be to raise the price of beer. There should be a reduction of the amount of alcohol in drinks and a campaign should be launched to stop people from drinking too much. When people get drunk they may beat their relatives and children.

An international campaign (Youth Mobilizing Youth for a 21st Century Free of Drugs) was launched in co-operation between UNESCO, UNDCP (United Nations Drug Control Programme) and the French NGO Environment sans frontiere (ESF) in February 1998. As youth constitute one of the most vulnerable groups concerning drug problems, the campaign aims at promoting awareness of substance abuse and in getting young people themselves involved in preventive action.

The Youth Charter for a Twenty-first Century Free of Drugs, initiated by ESF and presented to the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, by an ASPnet student from Costa Rica, is the main instrument of this Campaign and Associated Schools are encouraged to collect as many signatures as possible from young people in support for the Charter and to organize a campaign against drug abuse.

### **Crime**

Crime, a major problem all over the world, was discussed at the Festivals. It was felt that one way to reduce crime would be to promote solidarity in neighbourhood groups to make people more cooperative and active in preventing crime.

There should be an increase in police patrons in areas where there are outbreaks of crime. The public should help the police whenever possible.



There should be a reduction in the number of guns. Stiffer penalties for crime are needed and people should be made more aware of what they can do to protect themselves.

### **Weapons of war**

Nuclear testing in the Pacific was discussed at most of the Festivals. There was also a call for countries to stop selling weapons and give us the right to live in a safe environment where we can work towards a cleaner and greener world. The children of the Pacific said that they were very concerned about the testing of weapons close to their homes and the effect it would have on the islands and the seas around them.

Money should be spent on education, medicine and food rather than weapons.

### **Sharing**

Children at the Festivals expressed their concern for the need to share. For example, in Asia they said in their Appeal "to do everything you can to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor within every country and in the world".



### **Armed conflict**

Armed conflict was a major issue at the Festivals. The children wanted an end to war, terrorism and physical violence. In Asia they wanted the burial of all toys associated with war, peace campaigns and an end to violence.

The children from the Middle East said that all wars should stop and nations should talk to each other peacefully. Children should be protected from war and conflicts should be resolved through diplomacy and negotiation rather than by fighting and bombing.

