



LEARN & ACT Teacher's Guide

# Peace and Strong Institutions

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## Introduction 1. War and violence



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### A. Story of Adi Hudea

This photograph was taken by Osman Sağırlı, a photojournalist from Turkey. In the photograph, the little girl, Adi Hudea, has her hands raised high up in the air with eyes filled with fear and despair because she has mistaken his telephoto lens as a weapon. Knowing well the horrors of war, she had posed the universal sign for surrender as a desperate gesture for survival. At that time, Adi was living in the refugee camp in Turkey with her mother and siblings after losing her father in a bombing. And deep fear expressed through her eyes mirror the tragedy brought upon by war.



▶ p.04

### B. How did the Syrian civil war change the lives of their people?

The Syrian civil war was sparked by anti-government protests in 2011. Citizens angered by the Assad regime's dictatorship protested and called for Assad's resignation but were violently suppressed. Eventually, protestors became gunmen and anti-government protests turned into civil war. The Syrian civil war continues over a decade later amid intervention from several foreign countries and the terrorist organization IS.

### C. War and violence

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which is a watchdog of the civil war, about 387,000 civilians were killed since the outbreak of war until 2021. About 5.6 million Syrians moved to other countries to escape the war, and 6.7 million have taken refuge (UN Refugee Agency, 2021). Syrians are suffering from extreme poverty and starvation, which has a particularly fatal impact on children's lives.

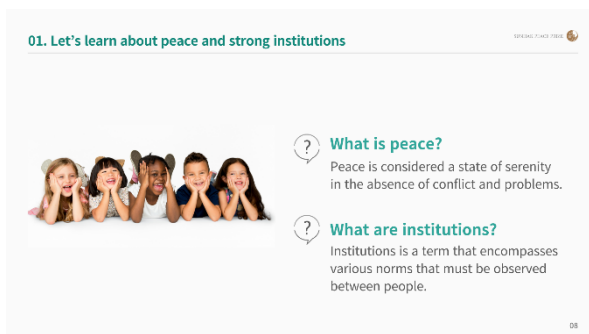
## Introduction 2. Is peace on earth possible?

Discussion on "Is Peace on Earth Possible? The Story of Us" : <https://youtu.be/kfkMRBlihpU> (P.05)



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## 1. Let's learn about peace and strong institutions



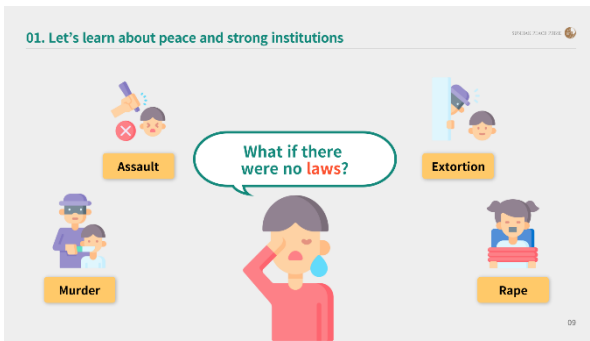
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### A. What is peace?

In the most basic terms, peace is considered a state of serenity in the absence of conflict and problems. Concepts at the opposite end of peace are violence, conflict, and war. In other words, peace is a condition that is free from external violence as well as free from suppression of thought and emotions.

### B. What are institutions?

*Institutions* is a term that encompasses various norms that must be observed between people. These include laws set by the government, established ways of doing things in everyday life, and cultural practices that have been passed on in a community over a long period of time.



▶ p.09

**C. What if there were no laws?**

Imagine a world without any laws. A chaotic world would come to mind, where human rights are unprotected and human life will be disturbed by all kinds of violence and injustice, such as murder, extortion, rape, assault, etc. It would be hard for us to live in safety or to trust anyone around us. Not just law, but all types of institutions including systems within a company or simple etiquettes exist as a basis for peace and justice between people.



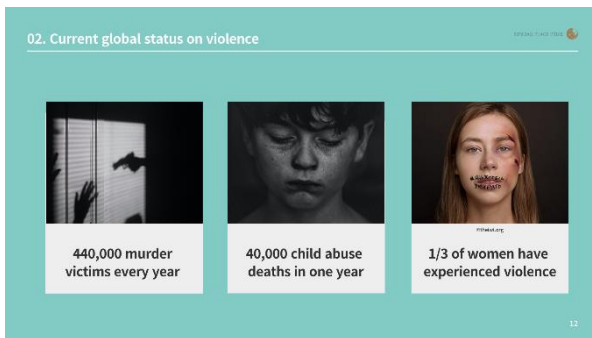
▶ p.10

**D. Building strong institutions to achieve peace and justice**

In parts of the world where institutions are not properly established, violence and injustice stand in the way of achieving peace in various forms, including crime, conflict, war, corruption, abuse, and threats. Therefore, it is important to establish strong institutions that provide everyone with equitable access to a peaceful and inclusive society.



## 2. Current global status on violence



▶ p.12

### A. 440,000 murder victims every year

The number of life-threatening violence against humans is gradually decreasing worldwide, but the number of victims of murder is still large. According to the UN report, 437,000 people fell victim to murder in 2019. Two-thirds of them occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and the death toll has increased in sub-Saharan Africa.

### B. 40,000 child abuse deaths in one year

Violence against children has always been prevalent. Despite various efforts of the international community to end child abuse, it continues to be widely spread throughout the world. According to a joint report by the UN, WHO, and UNICEF, almost 40,000 children died from child abuse in 2017 alone.

### C. 1/3 of women have experienced violence

We rarely see a decrease in violence against women. According to a report by the UN and WHO released in 2021, one out of every three women has experienced physical, sexual, or emotional abuse by their intimate partner. UN Women reports that violence against women is particularly serious in Afghanistan, where 34% of women and girls over the age of 15 have experienced violence from their partner.



### 3. Goal of the international community for promoting peace and building strong institutions

03. Goal of the international community for promoting peace and building strong institutions

SUNHAK PEACE PRIZE



| UN Sustainable Development Goal #16  
'Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions'

| Significance of peace, justice, and strong institutions

- Peace, justice, and strong institutions is meaningful in its efforts to protect human rights
- Promote peace, and provide access to justice for every individual in the global community

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▶ p.14

#### A. UN Sustainable Development Goal #16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

*Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* are 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 and are intended to be achieved by 2030.

#### B. Significance of peace, justice, and strong institutions

The UN goal of peace, justice, and strong institutions is meaningful in its efforts to protect human rights, promote peace, and provide access to justice for every individual in the global community. It is also the most important goal that encompasses all other sustainable development goals.

03. Goal of the international community for promoting peace and building strong institutions

SUNHAK PEACE PRIZE

| SDGs 16. Targets

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arm flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

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#### C. SDGs 16. Targets

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## Case 1. A campaign against FGM turns into a legislation

### Case 1. A campaign against FGM turns into a legislation

FGM, the most brutal form of control over women

One person every nine seconds

9800 women every day

36 million every year

200 million women and girls

Female genital mutilation (FGM)  
= A procedure that involves the removal of external female genitalia

▶ p.16

### A. FGM, the most brutal form of control over women

*Female genital mutilation (FGM)* is a procedure that involves the removal of external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons, as defined by the World Health Organization. According to UN statistics, 200 million women and girls worldwide have undergone FGM, and 9800 women and girls suffer from FGM every day, or 36 million every year.

### Case 1. A campaign against FGM turns into a legislation

FGM exposed to the world

Waris Dirie exposed the brutal violence behind FGM and acted as the UN's special ambassador for its eradication

NOT CLEAN IT'S A CRIME

A Life of Trauma

NOT RITUALS

WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

END FGM

Marriage shouldn't mean

▶ p.17

### B. FGM exposed to the world

Practicing FGM has been considered an African tradition until in 1997 when a global fashion model Waris Dirie exposed the brutal violence behind it to the Western society. She acted as the UN's special ambassador for the eradication of FGM from 1997 to 2003, highlighting it as the most representative and symbolic issue of oppressing women's human rights throughout the world and sparked international efforts against it. The UN has designated the *International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation*, and several international NGOs are taking action to educate and raise public awareness about this issue.



Case 1. A campaign against FGM turns into a legislation



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### C. Change in institutions and national movements

The ongoing efforts of Waris Dirie brought upon changes within African countries. The African Union adopted the Maputo Protocol, which obliged African states to implement legislation against FGM. In 2008, Egypt enacted a law prohibiting FGM and recently increased sentence to 20 years in 2021 as an effort to put an end to it. As of 2022, FGM is legally banned in 22 out of 28 countries in Africa. These changes in institutions will catalyze the eradication of the long-standing violent act of FGM.

## 4. The most important tasks for promoting peace and building strong institutions

04. The most important tasks for promoting peace and building strong institutions



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### A. Building partnership

We need a new, strong partnership to achieve the broad goal of realizing global peace and justice. Cooperation among the various organizations including governments, corporations, civil societies, and youth and international organizations is important, where they form a solidarity by exchanging expertise and advice through an integrated system under the shared values of common purpose and direction.

### B. Preparing a transparent and efficient system

The international community should establish a transparent and efficient system in order to achieve peace and justice. The whole progress of decision making should be made transparent and open to a wide range of stakeholders, and the implementation system should be based on the responsible attitude of public institutions.

**C.Promoting the rule of law to ensure justice for all**

*Rule of law* means that everyone within a country or state is accountable to the same laws and advocating the rule of law is one of the most fundamental ways to protect and promote human rights. When the state imposes obligations on the people or restricts the rights and freedoms of the people, it should proceed based on the laws set by an agency that is representative of the people. The same applies to the international community. In resolving conflicts and problems between countries, it is important to comply with the international laws and agreements enacted under international cooperation

**5. International efforts for promoting peace and building strong institutions**



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▶ p.22

**A. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989):**

International movements to protect the human rights of children in blind spots gained momentum after the Industrial Revolution and World Wars I and II. In 1989, the UN adopted *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, the first legally binding international agreement on children's rights. Then in 1992, Harper's Magazine published a shocking article exposing child labor in third world countries as a hidden factor behind the development of Nike. The article included a comparison of wage in two different parts of the world; a girl working at a factory in Indonesia earning less than 14 cents per hour versus the minimum wage of US\$6.94 in the U.S.A., which was almost 50 times the wage of the girl in Indonesia. The girl even worked overtime for 2 extra cents, for a total of 10 hours a day. However, a shabby house with no water or electricity was all she could afford with her earnings. Since then, the UN General Assembly has adopted Optional Protocols in 2000 and a new protocol in 2014 allowing every child to file petitions with the Committee on child rights.



05. International efforts for promoting peace and building strong institutions



UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)

"Wars begin in the minds of men"

MGIEP has been focused on education for peace



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### B. UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)

It is stated in the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO that “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” UNESCO confirmed education as one of the most important contributors to establishing peace and justice because war and peace both begin in the mind. Launched as an integral part of UNESCO in 2012, MGIEP was named after Mahatma Gandhi, who is a symbol of non-violence. Since then, MGIEP has been focused on education for peace and is reaching out to young people worldwide. One of their projects include utilizing IT to create guidebooks on peace for the youth and spreading it through SNS.

## 6. Brainstorm ways to promote peace and build strong institutions

What can we do to promote peace and build strong institutions

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How can we contribute to promoting peace and building strong institutions?