

*"In this Century, we have learned that human beings are awful, and we have learned that human beings are wonderful."*

- Archbishop Desmond Tutu,  
Member of the Honorary Committee  
for the Hague Appeal for Peace.

The Hague Appeal for Peace Conference (HAP), attended by over 8,000 world citizens, was a gathering of leaders, dignitaries, veteran and novice activists from over one hundred countries who sat together as equals to brainstorm solutions to global problems and disasters. International peace activist, Cora Weiss and her committee coordinated the HAP to mark 100 years since the first peace conference at the Hague (called for by the Czar of Russia and Queen of the Netherlands in 1899). Our Ann Arbor contingent was numerous and spread out over the conference center to attend many diverse sessions.

## The Hague Appeal for Peace Conference (May 11-15, 1999) Report from Ann Arbor Delegation

A session about youth peace negotiations communicated hope. The Island of Cyprus is a divided society, separating the Greeks from the Turkish. For the past year, six teenagers from Cyprus (three Greek and three Turkish) have been crafting a solution for peace in their country. Though many areas of disagreement emerged, these young people were able to negotiate a document entitled, "A Time Table for Peace in Cyprus" which they presented to the conference. It

contains several recommendations including common television and radio programs, a common newspaper and internet communication; creating a bicomunal zone where all Cypriots could have stalls and a market and where the communities could sit and have coffee together; community hospitals that serve both communities; schools offer optional courses in the other's language and creation of unbiased history texts. The agreement would provide freedom of settlement and ownership of property in each community. The session ended with the 1996 Nobel Prize winner Jose Ramos Horta encouraging the teenagers to take the agreement to their respective Prime Ministers.

Inspired by a visit from HAP Honorary Committee member Graca Machel to her hometown in one of the most violent areas of Columbia, eighteen year-old Farliz Calle spoke about the Movement for Peace in Columbia. Organized by youths, the movement resulted in 2,700,000 boys and girls voting in 1996 for the Right to Peace. The following year over 10,000,000 adults voted for the Citizen Mandate for Peace, Life and Liberty. Farliz asked us to promise that there will be no more child soldiers, no more atrocities and no more war.

In a small discussion circle led by Sudanese women with different views talked about their differences, the continuous military coups and the criminal government. One woman from Somalia acknowledged that, "my sisters in the Sudan are in a bad situation, but it is still in a better situation than Somalia because Somalia has no government."

changed from, "Who rules whom?" to "Who gets what share of the pie?" And now to, "Who has the right to survive?" We are allowing the market to make our social choices. What do we owe to the people we are impoverishing by this type of economic system?

Actions to block corporate globalization include: 1) Prevent public services from being privatized. 2) Learn how to tax TNCs across international borders and close tax havens. 3) Stop deifying the market - it is a human construct and can be deconstructed. 4) Make corporations look to the well-being of systems as a whole, not just concerned with value to shareholders. Businesspeople must see that they have responsibilities, as well as rights, to labor and community

An International Criminal Court was discussed as a viable way to protect human rights and end the impunity enjoyed around the world by those responsible for aggression, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (incorporating the gender perspective, clearly defining crimes involving sexual exploitation such as rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy or sterilization). We need effective international institutions to protect our rights when the national legal systems are proven to be unable or unwilling to comply with their duties.

The very first point on the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is, "Educate for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy." As Cora Weiss has repeatedly stated, "It is not enough to teach our children the 3 R's. We need a 4th R - Reconciliation." If we want to overcome the culture of violence, we must educate for peace, non-violence and international cooperation. The peace education campaign will work to implement compulsory peace education at local and national levels for all ages.

Another important step in creating a culture of peace is to promote the use of trained civilian peace professionals in conflict areas. Mahatma Gandhi articulated the concept of a "Shanti Sena," or "Peace Army" early in this century. Peace teams are made up of individuals trained in nonviolence to prevent or reduce violence in conflict and war zones. There was an incredible amount of discussion about this at the Hague Appeal for Peace conference. Some believe that existing institutions such as the European Union or the United Nations should be an integral part of creating and mobilizing such Peace Teams. Existing institutions have the money, connections and global influence to make this possible. Others believe that such existing institutions are too often undemocratic in their decision making process and subject to manipulation. Thus it is up to citizen peacemakers and NGOs to create this "Peace Army."

There is much being done currently, and much we can learn from each other! Many organizations are doing excellent violence reduction work, such as: Peace Brigades International, The Green Party, The Balkan Peace Team, SIPAZ, Christian Peacemaker Teams, Witness for Peace, Pastors for Peace and Michigan Peace Team, to name a few. As Peter Dougherty of Michigan Peace Team says, "The vision of creating Peace Teams for conflicts all over the globe is great. It's realizable. We have hardly begun."

As one member of our delegation said so well, "The future of humanity depends on the political will of people around the world

determined to provide peace for this generation and all those to follow. The current situation is volatile. Everyone can and must promote peace, even if one's focus is in the home and local community." This is our delegation's primary message to everyone. It's all connected. Pick something and put yourself into it. Our attendance at this conference has personally empowered us. Involvement has caused us to feel more sure of our social justice work, our organizations and our own opinions. And we say, "It is SO much better than feeling helpless!"

**-compiled by Kathleen Peabody from reports received by Ann Arbor delegates.**



### Program Associate Part-time

**Michigan Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Program, American Friends Service Committee, Ann Arbor.** Must have understanding of and commitment to working on lesbian, gay and bisexual issues, experience in planning and facilitating workshops, community-organizing skills, strong communication skills. Must be computer literate. Application deadline: Aug. 12. Cover letter and resume to: Patricia Trammell, AFSC, 915 Salem Ave. Dayton, OH 45406. Fax 937278-2778. Email AFSCDayton@aol.com.

**Applications sent to all who inquire.**



Members of the Ann Arbor Delegation to the HAP.

The Rome Statute, signed since June 15, 1998 by delegates from 82 countries, calls for the creation of an International Criminal Court which will investigate and bring to justice individuals who commit the most serious violations of humanitarian law. However, only two countries have ratified the Statute, which means 58 more countries have to ratify to establish the ICC. Americans should pressure the government of the United States to sign and ratify the Rome Statute. Organizations should be urged to join the Coalition for an International Criminal Court, a network of hundreds of NGOs from around the world who are supporting the establishment of a just and effective International Criminal Court. Their website is: [www.igc.org/icc](http://www.igc.org/icc)

As beneficial as world law would be, a different global effort is preventing peace and the honoring of human rights: corporate globalization. Globalization has inexorably transferred assets from poor to rich, producing inequality within and between nations and more losers than winners. The three richest people in the world have total wealth greater than the entire domestic product of the 48 poorest nations. These transnational corporations (TNCs) do not give back to society. Their power over financial markets helps to crush small competitors and produce economic and environmental instability.

The rules of international trade are being made for the benefit of the TNCs by the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and multilateral agreements. Politics have

[For more reports from the Hague Appeal for Peace, please call the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice (ICPJ) at 734-663-2870.]

Websites and E-mail addresses for more HAP information:

Further HAP News coverage:  
<http://www.hap99.org/news/>  
<http://www.ips.org/hap/index.html>  
<http://cnn.com/world/europe/9905/12/hague>

Email:  
[hagueappealforpeace-us@igc.org](mailto:hagueappealforpeace-us@igc.org)  
[wfmtechnical@igc.org](mailto:wfmtechnical@igc.org) (Jens Iverson)

To purchase audiotapes of core program: <http://www/qed-productions.com/hap99.htm>

Come Together for Peace  
August 8th  
6pm-dusk  
at Island Park  
Uplifting activities for all ages,  
highlighting the Hague Appeal for  
Peace Agenda for the New Millennium.  
Call the ICPJ office at 663-1870 for details