UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

THE PEACE TRAIN:

A journey towards understanding all children's right to an **education** which promotes peace, friendship and respect for human rights



A child-friendly version of:
2025 OHCHR Report on accessible, inclusive, equitable and quality education for peace and tolerance for every child, especially children in the most vulnerable situations
A/HRC/59/33

WELCOME ABOARD!

Dear explorers,
The adventure is about to start!

This special train will take you on a journey to discover **every child's right to receive an education that teaches peace, friendship and respect for each other**, no matter where you live or what you've been through.

Let's become **peacebuilders** and turn learning into a path to peace for everyone!

TICKET 12345



Before we start, here's a big question!

Keep your eyes open, because the answer is hidden throughout our adventure.

What does children's *right to peace education* mean?

A. Only children living in peaceful societies have the right to learn.
B. Every child has the right to feel safe at school and to learn about peace and respecting others.
C. Only children with good grades deserve a good education.
D. School should only teach reading and math, not peace and tolerance.

Find out if you were right at the end!

Note for educators and other supporting adults:

This booklet, best suited for children aged 8 to 12, supports young learners—including those in vulnerable situations—in understanding their right to education for peace and tolerance and their role as agents of change, in line with international human rights standards. It can be used as a resource in classrooms, workshops, or at home, to foster age-appropriate discussions about promoting respect for differences, nurturing critical thinking and empathy, and building skills for peaceful conflict resolution.

OUR ROUTE MAP



1. STARTING STATION

2. VOICES ON BOARD

3. THE COMPASS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



4. OVERCOMING STORMY WEATHER



RIGHTS FIRST

EVERYONE'S WELCOME

REAL-LIFE LEARNING

SAFE SCHOOLS

THE DIGITAL STATION

PEACEFUL MINDS

5. BUILDING THE TRACKS TO PEACE



6. POSTCARDS FROM OUR JOURNEY

7. FINAL STATION



A peaceful world for everyone



1. STARTING STATION

Every big journey needs a reason—and someone to start the engine!

The Peace Train was sent by the **Human Rights Council**, a group of countries in the **United Nations** that works to protect everyone's rights and make sure people are treated fairly all over the world.

The 'United Nations' or the UN, is a big team of almost all the countries in the world working together to make the world safer, fairer, and better for everyone

They asked a special team, the **UN Human Rights Office** *(that's us!)* to put together **a special report**—like a travel guide for this train—to help make sure every child, everywhere, can enjoy their right to receive an **education** that teaches peace, friendship and respect for each other.

Human Rights Council asked **UN Human Rights Office** to write a **Report**



This means every child, including children

- Who are often **left out** or treated unfairly
- Living in places with **war** or fighting
- Who have been **part of fighting groups** or armies

should be able to go to school and learn how to build peace and show respect to others in a way that is:

ACCESSIBLE — **Easy** for all children to get, no matter where they live or what challenges they face.

INCLUSIVE — **Welcoming** to everyone, including children with different abilities, backgrounds, or beliefs.

EQUITABLE — **Fair** for every child, giving extra help to those who need it so no one is left behind.

QUALITY — **Full of respectful teaching**, useful skills, and lessons that help children grow, think, and care about others.

2. VOICES ON BOARD

To create this report and start this journey, many people shared their **ideas** and **real-life examples** from all over the world:



"When we learn to respect and understand each other, **we create a better world."**



CHILDREN LIKE YOU!

And guess what? **You, children, know your own lives best!**

DID YOU KNOW?

About **one out of every three people in the world is a child!** That means children make up a big part of our global family, and your voice matters.





During this journey, children from around the world were invited to share their thoughts.

They spoke about things that make school hard sometimes, like:



- Crowded classrooms
- Unsafe spaces
- Bullying
- Not trusting teachers
- Hearing things that aren't true

They also shared **brilliant ideas** on how to make schools more peaceful and welcoming to all:

- Schools should be safe, friendly places for everyone, with fair rules and no bullying or hitting
- Teachers should treat all students fairly and kindly, and learn how to teach peace and understanding
- Girls and boys should be treated equally.
- Children should be taught how to stay safe online, and know what's true and what's not
- Schools need better classrooms, tools, and ways to help children learn
- Children want chances to play with kids from different backgrounds to learn from each other.
- Every subject should teach respect, peace, friendship, and human rights.
- Families and communities need support to learn how to respect children's rights.

You can write your own ideas as well!



"Education should help us **form our way of thinking**, not tell us what to think."

3. THE COMPASS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

For our big adventure, we have one very important tool—**a strong compass**, guiding us in the right direction.

The compass are **international human rights laws,** which are rules that help protect every child's right to a good education.

Some of the most important rules come from BIG **agreements** made by countries all over the world, which say every child has the **right to go to school** and learn in a **safe, welcoming** place:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

These rules tell us that **education isn't just about learning to read and do math,** it must also teach us to:

- **Respect** and accept people from different backgrounds, religions, and cultures.
- **Be kind and fair** to everyone, no matter where they come from or who they are.
- **Learn how to build peace** and make friends so we can all live together happily.





Countries must make sure **all children, especially those having a hard time**, are included in the journey to peace.

4. OVERCOMING STORMY WEATHER



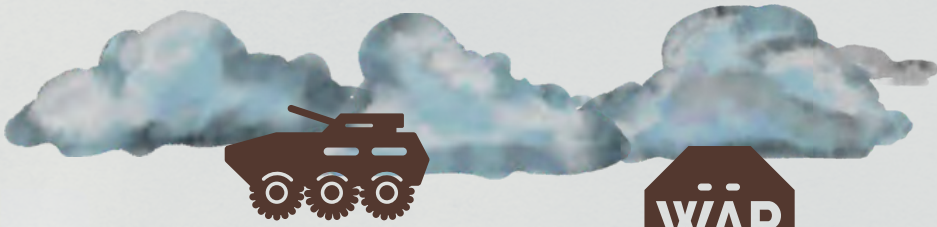


Every adventure has its storms, and the Peace Train's journey to bring education that teaches peace, friendship and respect for each other faces some **big challenges:**

1 Bumpy tracks: Barriers to learning

Some children face tough bumps on their tracks. They might feel **left out because of who they are, where they come from**, or because their **schools aren't safe** or welcoming. Sometimes, **lessons aren't fair** because they leave out voices that matter.

Every child deserves the chance to learn and grow, but not all have it yet.



2 Storms in conflict zones

In places where fighting happens, the Peace Train's tracks can be broken or blocked. Schools might be damaged or too dangerous to attend. **Many children miss out on learning, and their safety is at risk.**





3 Protecting the passengers

Some children face extra danger when caught up in fighting, sometimes **forced to join groups that use violence.** These children need help and care to heal and find their way back to the Peace Train, where they can learn, grow, and be safe again.

4 Clearing the fog: After the storm

Even after the fighting stops, the journey isn't always easy. Sometimes, schools teach **things that keep people apart instead of bringing them together.** This makes it hard for children to understand each other and live peacefully.



5. BUILDING THE TRACKS TO PEACE

Helping every child travel safely towards a future of **peace, kindness, fairness and inclusivity**



RIGHTS FIRST



At this stop, we:

- Make sure all children are **registered at birth**, so they are counted and can go to school.
- **Listen to children**, protect their rights, and make sure schools help them grow and feel safe.
- Make learning happen everywhere—not just in classrooms, but also in **parks, homes, communities, and temporary shelters.**

EVERYONE'S WELCOME

No child should feel left out. Discrimination has no place on the Peace Train.

At this stop, we:

- Stand up against unfair treatment like **bullying, racism, or leaving others out.**
- Understand that **girls and boys** can do the same things and learn together safely.
- Make sure every child feels safe and welcome at school —including children with **disabilities**, **LGBTI** children, those from **Indigenous** or **minority** groups, and those who **had to leave** or **can't return** to their homes.

REAL-LIFE LEARNING



At this stop, we:

- Respect each child's **culture, community, and reality** when learning.
- Teach in ways that are **creative and fun**, using art, stories, music, and games.
- Share **different points of view** and avoid teaching only one side of the story.



We need education that connects with children's lives, languages, and cultures.

Children learn best when they feel safe and respected.

BUILDING THE TRACKS TO PEACE

SAFE SCHOOLS

At this stop, we:

- Build schools that are **free from violence**, bullying, or fear.
- Say **stop to corporal punishment** or any kind of harmful discipline.
- Make sure children feel **respected, valued, and heard.**



THE DIGITAL STATION



At this stop, we:

- Learn **digital skills** to tell apart truth and lies.
- **Protect ourselves** from hate, harmful messages, and fake news online.
- Use the internet to **connect with others peacefully**, share ideas, and learn cool new things!

PEACEFUL MINDS



At this stop, we:

- Teach about human rights and peace using **real-life experiences** and fun activities.
- Learn important **life skills**, like solving problems without fighting, making good choices, understanding emotions, and thinking for ourselves.
- Make sure **teachers are trained** to lead with care and respect.



Education should help children grow into kind, fair, and thoughtful people who care about peace and treating others with respect.

6. POSTCARDS FROM OUR JOURNEY

The important ideas and lessons we're carrying forward from this journey.

1 Peace isn't just "no fighting"

It means being kind and fair to each other everyday even when we don't agree.

2 Education that teaches peace and respect is a right!

It's not just about learning maths or reading — it helps us think, solve problems, make good choices, and treat others with care.

3 Children are experts in their own lives

Your voice matters! You have the right to help shape a better, more peaceful world.

4 Peaceful learning for every child

In every country, in every classroom, especially for those facing war or being left out.

5 Everyone has a role to play

Governments, teachers, families... and YOU! Together, we can make sure schools are safe, inclusive and full of hope.

Now you know this... what can YOU ask for?

- **Speak up** for kindness, fairness and safety in your school.
- **Ask adults** to include children in decisions that affect your lives.
- **Treat others with respect** — peace starts with you!

7. FINAL STATION:
A peaceful world for everyone

You've reached the last stop on our journey... but it's just the beginning of **your path as a Peacebuilder!**

FIND OUT THE ANSWER!

Remember the question we asked at the start?
Here's the answer:

B *Every child has the right to feel safe at school and to learn about peace and respecting others.*

Did you guess it right? If not — no worries! Every step was a chance to learn more about **why children need to be taught how to build a peaceful world.**

YOUR DIPLOMA

You've travelled through big ideas, shared important thoughts, and now you're ready to be a **Peacebuilder** in your community.

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD YOUR JUNIOR PEACEBUILDER DIPLOMA

Print it, hang it up, and show others what you stand for!







One last big mission for you:

How can you help bring peace to your school, your family, or your neighborhood?
Make a peace poster, write a poem, act it out with friends, or invent your own peace symbol!

Here are some questions to spark your imagination:



- What does peace look like to you?
- What small act of kindness can you do this week?
- How can you help others feel safe, heard, and respected?
- Can you teach someone a peaceful way to solve a problem?

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