

Ball State University
Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

THE OLIVE BRANCH

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Want to be Featured in the Olive Branch?

If you are interested in being interviewed for an upcoming issue of the Olive Branch, or if you would like to write a short article, please contact e-mail us at peace-center@bsu.edu. We would absolutely love to share your message with our readers!

Spotlight: Human Rights Watch

"Established in 1978, Human Rights Watch is known for its accurate fact-finding, impartial reporting, effective use of media, and targeted advocacy, often in partnership with local human rights groups. With the leverage this [media usage] brings, Human Rights Watch meets with governments, the United Nations, regional groups, financial institutions and corporations to press for changes in policy that promote human rights and justice around the world." - Who We Are, Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch is an organization devoted to bringing truthful stories about human rights abuses into international attention. Their staff researches stories locally, and reports what they see directly to advocates, journalists, and government officials. Once these abuses are put out into the international arena, it puts pressure on the offender to make amends.

What I find refreshing about this organization is that they do not just focus on one area of the world, like Africa or the Middle East. Instead, they focus on the world as a whole through their different thematic divisions, in order to get a better idea of what the climate of the world is on that particular topic (i.e.. Women's rights).

The organization has multiple different thematic divisions (foci). These range from health, to education, to children's rights, to political rights, to housing.

Although the group does not do on-the-ground work in assisting the impoverished, they lay the groundwork for other organizations by alerting the world that there is a problem that needs to be addressed or tackled. They are one of the first lines of defense for other human rights organizations. Beyond that, Human Rights Watch also informs the local government of the problem and pushes them to incorporate human rights into policy.

To help, you can volunteer with the Human Rights Watch at www.hrw.org, or you can donate by contacting donorservice@hrw.org.

~Ahliah Bratzler

The Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference

Deadline for submitting proposals: December 31, 2012

Call for Proposals

"The Benjamin V. Cohen Peace Conference: Promoting nonviolence at home and beyond"

Muncie, Indiana

April 5 and 6, 2013

www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference

To honor the legacy and dedication of Benjamin V. Cohen to resolving worldwide conflicts peacefully, on the 30th year anniversary of his death, the Ball State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies along with the City of Muncie will host this conference on nonviolence.

Scholars, students, and activists from all disciplines are invited to submit proposals to present symposia, papers, and posters on the theme *Promoting Nonviolence at Home and Beyond*. Proposals will be blind reviewed. We welcome submissions that focus on strategies, research, and recommendations related to peacemaking and peacebuilding, and those that explore what activism and research can offer each other.

Suggested topics include (but are not limited to):

- Community peacemaking/peacebuilding theory and praxis
- Community violence causes, analysis, alternatives, solutions
- School violence causes, analysis, alternatives, solutions
- Structural violence relative to race, gender, sexuality, class, religion
- Justice and reconciliation
- Mediation
- Volunteerism
- Restorative justice
- Community corrections
- Community organizing
- Legislative access
- Internet and social media for peacemaking/peacebuilding
- Post-conflict reconstruction
- National/international law and local politics
- International peacemaking and peacebuilding/peacemaking and peacebuilding across borders
- Ethnic conflict
- Religious conflict
- Meditation and mindfulness

A \$100 award will be given to the best student poster!

To submit proposals, register (early registration ends March 22, 2013), and to learn more about this conference, visit www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference.

Questions about the conference can be directed to the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (765-285-1622; peace-center@bsu.edu; www.bsu.edu/peacecenter).

Benjamin V. Cohen became a major legal architect of much of the New Deal legislation including the Securities Act and the plan for Lend-Lease and economic stability during World War II. A shy man, Mr. Cohen worked behind the scenes where his brilliance as a legal draftsman was widely recognized. Following World War II, Mr. Cohen turned his talents to the problems of world peace and became one of the architects of the United Nations, serving on the U.S. delegation to the U.N. and on the United Nations Disarmament Commission. His abiding interest in world peace and his outstanding legal ability influenced American Presidents and world leaders until his death on August 15, 1983.

Learn more about the Cohen Peace Conference at www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference.

Deadline for conference proposals: December 31, 2012

Newsflash

Reel Hope Film Festival

Saturday November 10, 12-5 PM

First Mennonite Church (4601 Knollton Road, Indianapolis, IN)

Reel Hope is a **free**, one-day film event dedicated to promoting the works of socially conscientious filmmakers, with films reflecting messages of peace, community and social justice. A centerpiece of this year's festival will be the premiere screening of "The Accidental Missionary", a new comedy from Christian/spiritual filmmaker Chip Rossetti, a homegrown Hoosier talent hailing from Evansville, Indiana. The event will be presented free of charge to the public, with free-will donations accepted to benefit the future work of the Indy Artists' Peace Project. There will be a Q&A with the filmmakers at the conclusion of the last film, as well as free food, beverages and a time of fellowship following the event

"The Promise of America" - 12 PM

Janet Fitch's moving documentary explores the Million Mom March, the participants' personal motivations to attend, barriers overcome to do so, and responses to the experience.

"The Accidental Missionary" - 1:15 PM

Chip Rossetti's film could best be described as a faith-based comedy. A man on vacation accidentally ends up on the other end of the world, and learns that sometimes there are no accidents.

"The Invocation" - 3:10 PM

This documentary was filmed around the world and challenges viewers to move beyond their cultural, racial, and religious differences to seek the common goal of world peace.

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On-Campus Events

Culture Week

Wednesday, October 31

Culture Exchange: Iceland

Presented by Gunnar Ingolfsson. 12 PM, Yuhas Room, Student Center 102.

Sponsored by Rinker Center for International Programs

Iceland-Inspired Lunch

12-2 PM, Student Center Tally. Sponsored by BSU dining.

Day of the Dead: Dia De Los Muertos

5 PM, Student Center 301. Sponsored by Latino Student Union

Thursday, November 1

Amazing Taste: Global Festival

4-8 PM, Student Center. Sponsored by BSU Dining, Rinker Center for International Programs, Multicultural Center, and University Program Board. Come taste international food, see live entertainment, and hear music from around the world!

Friday, November 2

Cardinals Abroad

1 PM, Yuhas Room, Student Center 102. Sponsored by Rinker Center for International Programs.

International Career Opportunities

2:30 PM, Student Center 303. Sponsored by Career Center.

Saturday, November 3

Visit to Jungle Jim's International Market

Cincinnati, Ohio. Sponsored by Housing and Residence Life/ Living Learning Programs & Multicultural Center. To sign up please call 765-285-8771.

Learn more about the Cohen Peace Conference at www.bsu.edu/cohenpeaceconference.

Deadline for conference proposals: December 31, 2012

Off-Campus Events

Fall Caregiver Conference—Friday November 2, 8:15 AM-3:30 PM

Do you know someone living with dementia? The Alzheimer's Association is hosting their annual Fall Caregiver Conference at the Marten House Hotel in Indianapolis. To register, please call 800-272-3900.

Domestic Violence Awareness Tea—Saturday November 3, 11 AM

Prevail serves the community as an advocate for victims of crime and abuse in Hamilton and surrounding counties. They will be serving a 5 course tea with proceeds going to Prevail. Contact Natasha Robinson at natasha@prevailinc.com for more details.

Senior Communities Health Fair—Saturday November 3, 9 AM-12 PM

The health fair will include a wide variety of education and information on joint health, home health services, Medicare and Medicaid, diabetes, and more. There will also be free health screenings and discounted flu shots. It will be held at the Community Healthplex Sports Club on Guion Rd. in Indianapolis.

Heroes from the Heartland—November 1-11

The Indiana State Museum explores the contributions of Hoosier veterans through their exhibit this November, Heroes from the Heartland.

Scholarly Journals

Peace Studies

The International Journal of Peace Studies

The Journal promotes discussion about various issues in peace research, including but not limited to, security systems, justice and basic human needs, survival for indigenous people, discourse on peace and war, human security, and nonviolent social change. This journal is dedicated to enhancing discourse on a wide range of theoretical issues in peace research and improving our knowledge in the quest for global peace. For this purpose, we promote the dialogue between peace research and policy making communities.

<http://www.gmu.edu/programs/icar/ijps/mission.htm>

Peace, Conflict & Development

Peace, Conflict and Development is a new open-access journal focusing on contemporary issues in Conflict and Peace Studies. It aims to publish innovative and accessible writing on a wide range of topics – human rights, democracy and democratisation, conflict resolution, environment, security, war, culture, identity and community, and other related areas of interest.

<http://www.peacestudiesjournal.org.uk/aboutus>

Journal for Peace and Justice Studies

The Center, an international leader in interdisciplinary Peace Studies, has produced The Journal for Peace and Justice Studies biannually since 1988. The Journal addresses contemporary issues as well as scholarly debates and tradition. The opinions expressed in articles and reviews are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publishers, editors, or the Center for Peace and Justice Education, Villanova University.

For suggestions on topics please join the Peace and Justice [listserv](#).

<http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/artsci/peaceandjustice/journal.html>

Grants and Fellowships

Sasakawa Peace Foundation Grants—deadline: October 31

SPF provides grants between \$20,000 and \$100,000 for projects that are intended to help resolve common challenges facing Japan in its relations with other countries, but that are difficult for the state or businesses to undertake. Visit www.spf.org/e/grants for more information.

Middle East Regional Cooperation (MERC) - deadline: December 17

USAID's MERC program funds collaborative research projects between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The program funds a wide variety of scientific research, but most projects focus on subjects such as agriculture, water resources, health and the environment. This grant (\$1m) is open to academic institutions. Visit transition.usaid.gov/our_work/merc/program_description.html for more information.

USAID APS for Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation—deadline: March 9, 2013

The objective of this APS (\$100,000+) is to make significant strides in the overall goal of conflict mitigation, peace, and reconciliation in selected eligible conflict-affected countries. Qualified non-profit organizations may apply for funding under this APS. Visit www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppld=138514 for more information.

Conferences

Ahimsa (Nonviolence) and Sustainable Happiness Conference

This conference is aimed at those who wish to expand their knowledge of nonviolence and happiness. It will be held November 2-4 in Pomona, California. For more information, please contact Dr. Tara Sethia at tsethia@csupomona.edu or visit www.csupomona.edu/~ahimsacenter/conference_2012_callforproposals.shtml.

Peacebuilding in an Ever More Globalized World

The conference marks the 20th anniversary of the United Nations' *An Agenda for Peace*. The conference is focused on how globalization, broadly conceived, has advanced and/or retarded progress on various, central dimensions of the longer term process of peacebuilding. It is November 9-10 in Columbus Ohio, and is FREE to the public. Register by contacting Ann Powers at powers.108@osu.edu.

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Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

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Phone: (765)285-1622

Email: peacecenter@bsu.edu



We're on Twitter! Follow
[@bsu4peace](https://twitter.com/bsu4peace) to get our latest
updates.

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary knowledge unit devoted to conducting research on various forms of structural and direct violence and conflict, and also dedicated to implementing projects that employ nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict.

Our programs include:

- Mediation training and services
- Meditation classes
- The Brown Bag lunch speaker series
- The Muncie Interfaith Fellowship
- The Social Justice League on-campus organization

If you would like YOUR events to be included in the newsletter, please contact:

Ahlih Bratzler (ajbratzler@bsu.edu) or

Katrina Pieri (kapieri@bsu.edu)

Disclaimer: the events described in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies

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