



# James R. Mancham Peace and Diplomacy Research Institute



## NEWSLETTER 2021 (1)

### WELCOME

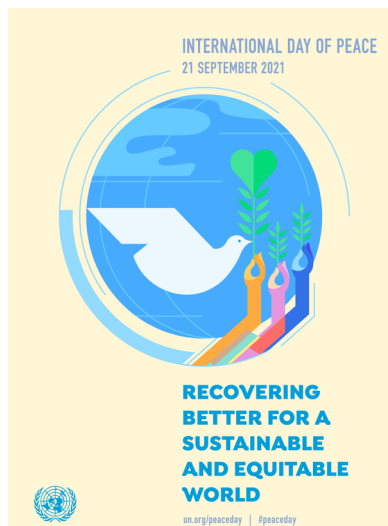
Since the start of the Institute, we've been working on a flagship project in the form of a proposed MA in Peace and Conflict Resolution. We see this as vital to the success of the Institute as it will:

- offer a strong sense of identity, distinguishing our Institute from other centres for peace;
- help to create a network of peace educators in the region;
- enable students to pursue individual modules as short courses;
- provide an income stream to support further development;
- through student dissertations, generate new research and publications; and to
- lead, in turn, to doctoral programmes.

The design of the MA is a result of close collaboration with Durban University of Technology, and especially with a leading expert in the field, Professor Geoffrey Harris. In spite of various delays in its preparation, a proposal has now been lodged with the Seychelles Qualifications Authority. We hope to obtain approval soon and then to launch the programme at the earliest opportunity.



**Protect yourself and others from  
COVID-19.  
Stay informed and stay safe!**



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### Our Vision

*"To be an international hub for peace and diplomacy studies contributing to global peace through research, education, training and mediation."*

## IN THE NEWS



## *In Remembrance*

**Founding President of the Republic of Seychelles**

**Sir James Richard Marie Mancham, KBE - Ph.D. (Hon.)**

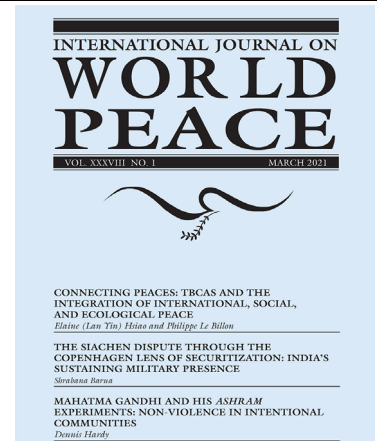
**(August 11, 1939 – January 8, 2017)**



*The Institute would like to thank Ryan Adeline for the invaluable contribution he made during his internship at UniSey. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.*

## *Mahatma Gandhi and His Ashram Experiments: Non-violence in Intentional Communities*

Dennis Hardy published an article in the International Journal on World Peace (IJWP) entitled *Mahatma Gandhi and His Ashram Experiments: Non-violence in Intentional Communities*. "The article provides a retrospective look at the legacy of Gandhi's idea of thousands of intentional communities, rather than a few large cities, becoming the building blocks of peace. Clustered around Gandhi's ideas of intentional community were inter-related topics such as vegetarianism, the search for truth, material restraint, craft production, village renewal, and meaningful education" (IJWP). [Click to read more.](#)



[Click the image to view full size.](#)

## *Proposed research on the Chinese community in Seychelles*



Diana Benoit and Prof. Dennis Hardy met with Mrs. Dongxia Wang, Director of the Confucius Institute to discuss about a joint-research project on the Chinese community in Seychelles between the two institutes and the Dalian University of Technology in China.

The overall objectives of the research collaboration are:

- to record the history of Seychelles in an aspect of looking into the life of the people;
- to conduct academic research on topics of common concern;
- to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the two universities; and
- to make better use of the platform role of the Confucius Institute in Seychelles.

## Remember – Unite – Renew



**Commemorating the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1994 Rwanda genocide against the Tutsi**

**UN Secretary General's Message of the Day**

**“ I am privileged to participate in the commemoration of the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda.**

*This year marks 27 years since more than one million people were systematically murdered in less than three months in Rwanda.*

*They were overwhelmingly Tutsi, but also Hutu and others who opposed the genocide.*

*Those days in 1994 remain in our collective conscience as among the most horrific in recent human history.*

*On this Day, we honour those who were murdered, we reflect on the suffering and we recognize the resilience of those who survived.*

*As we join in solidarity with the people of Rwanda, we must take a hard look at today's world and ensure that we heed the lessons of 27 years ago.*

*Today, around the globe, people are threatened by extremist groups determined on boosting their ranks through social polarization and political and cultural manipulation.*

*These extremist movements represent the principal security threat in many countries.*

*While the technology and techniques that extremists use are evolving, the vile messages and rhetoric remain the same.*

*The dehumanization of communities, misinformation and hate speech are stoking the fires of violence.*

*The Covid-19 pandemic underscores the urgency of addressing deepening divides.*

*The global health crisis has profoundly affected the entire spectrum of human rights in every region, further fueling discrimination, social polarization and inequalities – all of which can lead to violence and conflict.*

*We saw what happened in Rwanda in 1994, and we know the horrific consequences when hate is allowed to prevail.*

*Preventing history from repeating itself requires countering these hate-driven movements that have become a transnational threat.*

*We must redouble our efforts, and forge a Common Agenda, to renew and reinvigorate our collective actions going forward.*

*In doing this, we must defend human rights and continue to push for policies that fully respect all members of society.*

*Rwanda experienced one of the most painful chapters in modern human history, but its people have rebuilt from the ashes.*

*After suffering unspeakable gender-based violence and discrimination, Rwanda's women now hold more than 60 per cent of parliamentary seats – making Rwanda a world leader.*

*The people of Rwanda have shown us the power of justice and reconciliation, and the possibility of progress.*

*On this solemn Day, let us all commit to building a world guided by human rights and dignity for all ”*

[Click to learn more about the UN Outreach Programme and the 2021 commemorations](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world*

This year, to commemorate the **International Day of Peace**, the International Day of Peace Committee is seeking donations to assist the Red Cross Society of Seychelles in its appeal for financial or non-financial contributions to help the community, especially the vulnerable families amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

All donations raised will be handed over to Red Cross in a small ceremony on **September 21, 2021** as the world joins together to commemorate the United Nations International Day of Peace under the theme **"Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world"**. We humbly thank you in advance for your support and the deadline for collection of all donations is August 31, 2021.

**Kindly note that all financial donations can be deposited to the ABSA Bank Seychelles Limited of account name: 'This Disaster Victim' of Account no: 10969230.**



### NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY

"It is easy to break down  
and destroy.  
The heroes are those who  
make peace and build."

- Nelson Mandela



The Seychelles Prison Service and the Peace and James R. Mancham Diplomacy Research Institute at the University of Seychelles cordially invite you to a virtual conference to commemorate the **Nelson Mandela International Day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 from 2p.m. to 4p.m (local time) using Microsoft Teams.**

Mandela Day is an international event, celebrated each year to recall the contribution of Nelson Mandela, particularly in relation to prison reform. This year the theme of this virtual conference will be to review examples of innovation designed to improve prison conditions and rehabilitation.

Our special guest speakers are representatives from:

Ministry for Internal Affairs, Minister Errol Fonseka (*Review of Innovation*)  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Global Maritime Crime Programme (*International Context*).  
Seychelles Prison Service, Mauritius Prison Service, Israel Prison Service and the Tanzania Prison Service (*Innovation in Prison Services*).

Follow the link below to join the conference

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3aZ6luUol61ttBUQ9SsH6d9CjM0Sa3LD\\_mimu4K33\\_85E1%40thread.tacv2/1623840191054?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b58ace7d-a3e7-4424-bfe3-89c5f2106cb1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22c4699fce-2bd6-4a41-b3fe-2ae47d9966c9%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3aZ6luUol61ttBUQ9SsH6d9CjM0Sa3LD_mimu4K33_85E1%40thread.tacv2/1623840191054?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22b58ace7d-a3e7-4424-bfe3-89c5f2106cb1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22c4699fce-2bd6-4a41-b3fe-2ae47d9966c9%22%7d)

**For more information, or if you have any comments and/or suggestions, contact us by sending an email to [Peace@unisey.ac.sc](mailto:Peace@unisey.ac.sc).**

**STAY CONNECTED**  
[Peace@unisey.ac.sc](mailto:Peace@unisey.ac.sc)  
<https://unisey.ac.sc/pdri/>