

HOT TOPICS – SEPTEMBER 2023

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

International Day of Peace is observed on September 21st

Hot Topics often covers International Days, such as this month's International Day of Peace. You may wonder why International Days are recognised. Well, International Days and weeks are used to inform people about issues of concern, to influence governments to



provide resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. Although International Days predate the formation of the United Nations, the UN has embraced them as a powerful way of influencing decisions within political, economic, and social institutions.

International Day of Peace has been around since 1981, when it was established by the United Nations General Assembly. Twenty years later, in 2001, it voted to designate the day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.



The theme for this year's International Day of Peace is 'Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals'.

MORE ABOUT THIS YEAR'S THEME

This year's theme is a "call to action that recognises our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. Fostering peace contributes to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will create a culture of peace for all" [Source: [International Day of Peace | United Nations](#)]. The SDG's, which were featured in the August 2023 Hot Topic, can be accessed [here](#).

This year marks the half way stage of implementing the SDG's and so "the 2023 observance of the International Day of Peace coincides with the SDG summit (18 – 19 September 2023) to mark the mid-point milestone" [Source: [International Day of Peace | United Nations](#)]. The thrust behind the SDG's is to bring everyone closer together, enjoying more peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, free from fear and violence. However, the

United Nations is concerned that without the buy-in and contribution of a wide range of actors including the 1.2 billion young people alive, the goals will not be achieved.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ...

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, "Peace is needed today more than ever. War and conflict are unleashing devastation, poverty, and hunger, and driving tens of millions of people from their homes. Climate chaos is all around. And even peaceful countries are gripped by gaping inequalities and political polarization." [Source: [International Day of Peace | United Nations](#)]

To help you in discussing the Talking Points below, consider the following from Article 11, Human Rights Act 1998:

Freedom of assembly and association

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.



Remember that the Equality Act 2010 exists to ensure people with particular characteristics are protected from discrimination. Think about those protected characteristics and discuss with your PDC how people may be unfairly treated in relation to our collective responsibility to foster peace. It may help you to consider what is happening in the world right now that affects people's right to peace and how you can promote those rights as a police officer. It might be, for example, that you are policing a demonstration and must balance the competing rights of those who are allowed to lawfully protest and those who are going about their lawful business.

Click [here](#) to learn more about International Day of Peace. If you have been affected by anything you have read in this month's Hot Topic, please speak to your PDC, a member of HEI staff or your line manager.