

Globalization: A Challenge for Young Leaders

“Globalization” has been used to describe many phenomena:

- ✦ actions by the world’s most economically powerful nations on questions of international trade that have caused social and economic inequities, environmental destruction, and increasing violence in the world
- ✦ the application of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights to all countries and cultures
- ✦ the co-mingling of many cultures, and the seeming domination of them all by American popular culture
- ✦ the search for a set of values that will encourage the people of the world to live harmoniously in an environmentally sustainable way

Globalization in its most general sense, is the process by which human beings are becoming more interconnected within a system whose parts mutually influence one another. The global system does not operate in space alone. It also functions over time. It determines the world we inherit by more tightly structuring the range of opportunities and choices that each succeeding generation can pursue. As globalization proceeds it becomes less possible for any of us to ignore that what happens in one part of the world has immediate and demonstrable effects on all the other parts.

Young people are more dramatically affected by globalization than are adults, since they are more sensitive to changes in the various environments in which they grow up and mature. As it intensifies, globalization makes young people increasingly dependent on the public policies and collective practices of those generations that precede them. For this reason, it is now absolutely crucial for the young people, especially young leaders, to ask if they are becoming more the victims or the beneficiaries of the globalization process. In the coming decades, young people who aspire to be leaders will need to understand and be equipped to respond to the effects of globalization.



A Response

To support young leaders' roles as stakeholders within the globalization process, an international coalition of NGOs have planned a four-day retreat in Santa Barbara, California, April 1-4, 2002. A diverse group of speakers and workshop facilitators have been invited to discuss the effects on the young, of all aspects of the globalization process: spiritual, psychological, ethical, economic and social. Special attention will be given to leadership in the age of globalization, in order to encourage participants to take an active role in the process.

“I do not want my house to be walled on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any of them.”

Mohandas Gandhi

The Program

The centerpiece of the four-day event is a residential retreat, including dynamic lectures, engaging workshops, and an optional service project for 30 participants (ages 18 and 30 years). Located a few miles south of the city of Santa Barbara, the retreat site, La Casa de Maria, offers a serene environment and a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean. In order to maximize our experience together, conference organizers invite participants to take ownership of this event by suggesting additions to the general program structure. We want to hear from you about important issues, good speakers and facilitators, and specific leadership skills you want to develop. There will time allotted for participant-planned activities. We especially would like input and applications from international students studying in California, as we would like the participants in the retreat to be an international mixture of youth. We ask that each participant contribute \$100 toward the costs of the total program. Scholarships are available.

Thoughts to Consider from Invited Speakers and Facilitators

Raj Jayadev

“The central issue globalization poses for young people today, lies in finding meaning and voice in a world system that is attempting to deny them both. We exist in a media saturated and corporate dominated moment--one that actively campaigns against independent thought and expression. In the USA in particular, this assault against the liberated mind has left young people with no progressive movement with which to identify and from which to gain inspiration. But this same vacuum provides us with a historic opportunity to create a vibrant social movement responsive to our needs; one that projects a vision of the future based on our own values.”

Satish Kumar

“The 20th century has been the century of human domination over nature. Science, technology and education have been used to increase consumerism, materialism and the supremacy of humankind. The legacy of the 20th century is being handed over to the 21st in the form of many achievements, and many problems. The next generation will celebrate the achievement , but will also have to tackle the problems of pollution, population, resource depletion and global warming. The young people who will shape the 21st century will have an enormous challenge to face. This challenge can only be met adequately with wisdom directed towards wholeness and harmony.”

Antonia Juhasz

“What will the world of the future be like? Will it be a world of increasing economic, social and political inequality; where fewer and fewer people enjoy less of an ever disappearing supply of natural resources? Will it be a world in which the political power of democratic governments is increasingly usurped by a small number of multinational corporations? Or will it be a world in which people, living together in environmentally sustainable communities, work with their fairly and freely elected officials to construct a just, equalitarian and truly democratic global society? The youth of today will have to answer these questions and define the future we all must face.”

Nandini Iyer

“We need to explore whether and how not only ethics, but spiritual and broadly religious ideals, can be meaningful taught and practiced, without being grounded in narrow, sectarian religious frameworks. How do we change the value systems and goals of entire societies and cultures? Can we legislate whole nations into better values? Is this giving the state too much authority? Can we allow the state, as we have sometimes allowed religion, to take priority over individual conscience? Can we educate students into being ethical? These are problems, challenges and dilemmas upon which we need to reflect?”

Colin Rajah

“The intensification of global trade between 1950 and our own time, has had deep consequences that positively affect the rich and the powerful at the expense of the working classes. Since students consistently have been at the forefront of major movements for social change, it is vital they build strong alliances with other young people from working class communities, especially those of color, in order to challenge this trend.”

Johan Galtung

“What if we try to open the natural curiosity of the young for other cultures, provide insights into other languages and other ways of being human? It’s a way of getting our cultural prison walls to start crumbling down. But we don’t have to limit it to two or three cultures. If we combine two cultures, that becomes in itself a culture and then we can combine it with some other combination of cultures. This seems to be the positive aspect of globalization. I don’t see globalization as being condemned to the spread of some kind of basic English, with the triple M--Mickey Mouse, McDonald’s and Madonna—thrown in. There must be more to globalization than this. What’s going on today I see as a kind of transitory phase. There are tremendous possibilities lying ahead of us if only we could see them clearly.”

David Krieger

“One of the unfortunate ways in which globalization has taken place is through the Militarization of the planet. The consequences of the nuclear arms race have left no place on the planet and no person safe from nuclear attack. Although we tend to put it out of our minds, humanity stands at risk of nuclear annihilation. We must awaken to the threat that confronts us, and end the nuclear weapons threat to humanity. We must also demilitarize the earth, air and water of our planet, and assure that outer space is not weaponized. Some \$750 billion annually could be reallocated to meeting human needs.”

Brief Biographies of Invited Speakers

(Pending confirmation of availability, additional speakers will be added.)

Johan Galtung

Johan is the founder of Transcend, a network of invited scholars-practitioners working for peace and development through action, training, dissemination and research. The author of scores of books and hundreds of articles, he is a recipient of the Right Livelihood Award, the Norwegian Humanist prize, and the Alo'ha International Award, among many others. Johan has worked extensively for the United Nations family of organizations. He is the author of *Peace By Peaceful Means*, and a recently published autobiography now being translated into several languages.



Nandini Iyer

Mrs Iyer, born in the Gujarat area of India, has long been fascinated by the MK Gandhi, and the struggle against exploitation. She studied and taught philosophy at Lady Margaret Hall, at the University of Oxford, and later moved to the USA, where she taught philosophy and religious studies at UC Santa Barbara. She is one of the founders of the Institute of World Culture in Santa Barbara, and has been involved with several schools committed to combating religious intolerance. She is interested in alternative education, has lectured in many countries, and currently teaches at the Santa Barbara City College.



Raj Jayadev

Raj is a labor and community organizer based in San Jose, California. He is the coordinator of Silicon Valley De-Bug, a writing, art and activist collective of young, low-wage temporary workers in Silicon Valley. A recent graduate of UCLA, Raj was a recipient of the prestigious

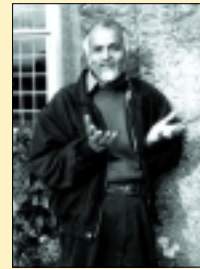
Bridges Fellowship, and did an internship among low-wage, high tech workers in Delhi, India. He edits a Spanish-English magazine for mostly immigrant, minimum wage tech workers, *The Silicon Valley De-Bug*, and writes regularly on labor issues for *The Pacific News Service*.

Antonia Juhasz

Antonia is currently a project director at the International Forum on Globalization (IFG) in San Francisco, California. Representing over sixty organizations in twenty-five countries, the IFG is an alliance of leading activists, scholars, economists, researchers and writers formed to stimulate new thinking, and consider plans for joint action, in response to the process of globalization. Antonia directs IFG projects on international trade issues, water, alternatives to current trends in economic globalization and media education. She was one of the organizers of the Seattle and Washington DC mass mobilizations against corporate globalization, has worked as a staff assistant for members of the US Congress, holds a Master's degree from Georgetown University, and frequently writes and lectures on globalization issues.

David Krieger

David Krieger has been President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation since its founding in 1982. He is an attorney and political scientist. He lectures throughout the world and is the author and editor of many studies on peace in the Nuclear Age. He is a strong proponent of abolishing nuclear weapons.



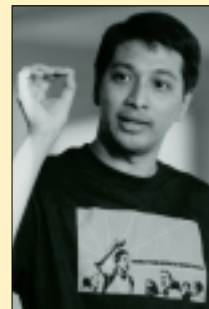
Satish Kumar

Satish is the editor of *Resurgence*, an influential British magazine devoted to promoting a synthesis of ecological, artistic and spiritual values. Born in 1936, in Sri Dungargarh, India, Satish became a wandering Jain monk at the age of nine. He later joined Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan movement and walked throughout India to urge landholders

to donate some of their holdings to the poor. Later, he walked from India to Russia, and throughout Europe, and parts of the Americas, to urge the abolition of nuclear weapons. After he settled in England, Satish became the Program Director of Schumacher College in Devon. His autobiography, *Path Without Destination* is published by William Morrow.

Colin Rajah

As executive director of JustAct-Youth Action for Global Justice in San Francisco, Colin works to promote grassroots youth education and empowerment through raising awareness among young people of the need to achieve global justice. As a youth activist for over eighteen years, Colin has published many articles on several subjects, including working class youth of color and global solidarity, as well as appearing frequently in the media and speaking at national and international conferences. He also coordinates working alliances between youth organizations and international movements devoted to attaining a just and humane world order.



Application Process

Write a short statement of approximately 500 words explaining why you want to participate in the program. The statement should address the following questions:

- 1) Why are you interested in the questions raised by globalization?
- 2) What is your background in studying questions of global importance, such as class work and/or international travel.
- 3) Have you done any practical work with groups concerned with the consequences of globalization, such as community organizing or an internship?
- 4) What do you plan to do with the experience gained by attending this retreat?
- 5) How do you think young people could exercise leadership on the questions raised by the globalization process?

In addition, to help us tailor the symposium program to your special interests, would you please write one paragraph about each of the questions listed below:

- a) What questions and concerns would you like discussed at the retreat?
- b) After reading the biographies and statements of the invited speakers, are there any questions you would like to ask any one or more of them?

All applications should be submitted by December 15, 2001.

Soon after that, conference organizers will contact you about the status of your application. Please send your applications to:

Michael Coffey
Youth Outreach Coordinator
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
PMB 121
1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 1
Santa Barbara, CA 93108-2794

You may also apply through email at <youth@napf.org>



outh at the Millennium

Youth at the Millennium: An Intergenerational Dialogue on Youth, Leadership, and Globalization is a G21 Project, sponsored by and in cooperation with the Institute of World Culture and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. To apply online or for more information on Youth at the Millennium sponsors, visit the conference website through www.wagingpeace.org.

YOUTH AT THE MILLENNIUM

An Intergenerational Dialogue on Youth, Leadership and Global Society

Have you ever thought about the world you live in, and wondered

- ★ How much of the world is determined by choices I make,
- ★ Do I have the power to correct an unfair situation,
- ★ How can I help create a global society based on compassion, nonviolence, and respect,
- ★ How much is my experience of the contemporary world shared by others,
- ★ How can I learn more about current world problems such as environmental sustainability, hunger, and nuclear weapons,
- ★ Who can I join with to develop solutions to these problems?

If you are interested in exploring any of these questions, please consider participating in YOUTH AT THE MILLENNIUM: An Intergenerational dialogue on Youth, Leadership and the Global society.

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