



EP Newsgram

Promoting Cultural Understanding Through Communication

Drawing the RIGHT Impressions "Drawing" Peace from an Unlikely Source

"It is amazing how clearly their visions come through in their artwork"



▲ Students from Al Noor Academy and Stoneham High School display their artwork at the May 2006 Empower Peace live broadcast

More than two-dozen students from schools in Pakistan, Bahrain, Egypt and the United States came together recently to demonstrate how art can unite people and not divide them. In response to the international controversy stemming from the insensitive drawings of the Muslim prophet Mohammed, as well as Iran's subsequent promotion of a cartoon contest depicting the holocaust, Empower Peace students combined their talents to produce "Drawing the RIGHT Impressions," an international art exhibit featuring drawings from young people around the world. During the May 2006 video conference, Empower Peace students shared their artwork with each other, as well as an international live audience who watched the exchange live via www.empowerpeace.com. The students' goal is to set



"Art should be a way to unite people, not divide" - Sharon Chapman, Stoneham High School Teacher

an example for world leaders in this time of turmoil and insensitivity. "Drawing the RIGHT Impression" is our way of letting the world know that respect and peace should be a priority for us all," said one student from Stoneham High School in Stoneham, Massachusetts.

As the students explained their various pieces during the 90-minute exchange, it became apparent that there may be a few young Picassos amongst the group. "It is amazing how clearly their (students) visions come through in their artwork," said Caressa Kislus, outreach coordinator for Empower Peace. All of the artwork can be viewed at the Empower Peace website, and plans for a traveling exhibit are currently in the works. To share your vision of the "right impression", log onto www.empowerpeace.com and share your drawings with the rest of the EP community.

"Drawing the RIGHT Impressions" is our way of letting the world know that respect and peace should be a priority for us all.

-Empower Peace



▲ Artwork by a Beaconhouse (Pakistan) Empower Peace Student entitled "The Children of the World"

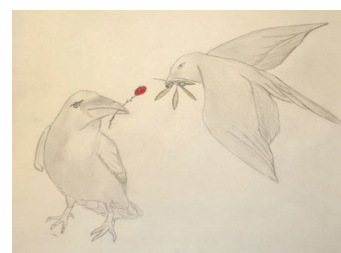
Artwork by a Beacon House (Pakistan) Empower Peace Student entitled "The Panda, the Dove & Peace"



Artwork by an Al-Noor Academy (Mansfield, MA) Empower Peace Student entitled "The World Flag"

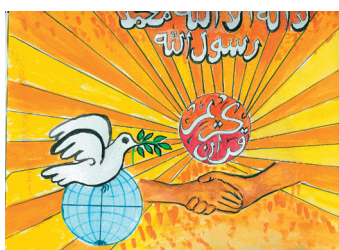


"Help us prove that the world still belongs to those united for peace; those willing to live in peaceful co-existence, those striving to make the world a better place for future generations. We can show the world that we, today's youth and tomorrow's leaders, are not complacent in the face of intolerance and bias."



▲ Artwork by an Stoneham High School (Stoneham, MA) Peace Student entitled "The Crow & the Dove"

Artwork by an Cairo, Egypt Empower Peace Student entitled "The Flags of the World"



▲ Artwork by a Khwala School (Bahrain) Empower Peace Student entitled "The Sun & Hands of Peace"

Contributors to Peace



Shahid Ahmed Khan

Shahid Khan has served as a contributor to peace from early on in the Empower Peace program. Khan, a Pakistani-American possesses the benefits of an international education having attended Punjab University in Pakistan, as well as Western New England College. Aside from his job in the Pharmaceutical industry, Khan is also a well-known political and social activist and a recognized authority on South Asian affairs. Mr. Khan has held a number of impressive positions including Chair of the Pak-Millennium Conference, Vice President of the Pakistani-American Congress, Commissioner of the Governor of Massachusetts' Asian American Commission, member of the board of trustees of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, national finance co-chair of the John Kerry for President Committee, and liaison to Muslim Americans and South-Asian American communities.

A strong believer in the change of policy through social change, Khan is also committed to creating a greater and positive understanding of Pakistanis amongst Americans and, of Americans amongst Pakistanis, to build the bridges of understanding between communities. Khan has been an avid participant in various Empower Peace programs, specifically the Pledging for Pakistan telethon, put on to raise money for victims of the 2005 Earthquake disaster in Pakistan. Shahid will also be serving as co-chair of the upcoming Women2Women Cultural Exchange and Leadership Conference in August. On behalf of Empower Peace we would like to thank Shahid Khan for his invaluable contributions to this global effort.

Empower Peace Presents Awards To Media Partners

On May 4, 2006, Empower Peace acknowledged the hard work and dedication of four of our media partners by presenting them with awards at the "Drawing the Right Impressions" broadcast. The following individuals/organizations were recognized:

Boston's WB 56 for their support in producing and broadcasting the "Pledging for Pakistan" Telethon which helped to raise \$10,000 following the South Asian earthquake disaster. Accepting on behalf of the television station was Emmy award winning news anchor and broadcaster Karen Marinella who has also generously donated her time to our victim relief efforts.

GEO TV, South Asia's first Urdu language channel who actively carried the "Pledging for Pakistan" telethon live, as well as continuing to air the program several times subsequent to the initial broadcast.

Geo TV is set to be the "voice of freedom from the Asian subcontinent" with ratings already exceeding all satellite delivered Television channels in their market.

Al Hurra TV for their displaying their joint commitment to Empower Peace's mission by airing numerous Empower Peace events and youth exchanges. Accepting on behalf of the Arabic-language American satellite news network was Al Hurra representative Deidre Kline, who spoke about the importance of exposing youth to such programs as a way of opening the doors of communication between the U.S. and the Middle East.

DJ Pup Dawg of Boston's Jamn 94.5 FM's morning show was recognized for serving as one of the hosts for the telethon, in addition to being an active member of the Pakistani-American community who has worked tirelessly to raise awareness for victims of the earthquake.



▲ Peace Maker Award Recipients
Front Row from Left to Right: Dr. Naheed Usmani (APPNA), Joe Dalton (Office of Congressman Edward Markey, Shahid Ahmen Khan (Empower Peace), Sami Abraham (GEO TV), Deidre Kline (Al Hurra), Karen Marinella (Boston's WB 56), DJ Pup Dawg (Jamn 94.5 FM), Rick Rendon (Empower Peace); Back Row: Jim King (Empower Peace)

Coming Soon

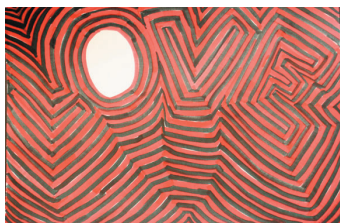
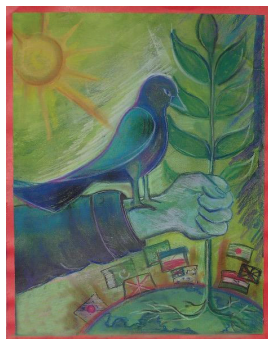
For more information about Empower Peace, check out the our web site at:
www.empowerpeace.org.

- Los Angeles to Lebanon Broadcast
- EP Radio
- Women2Women Conference
- Detroit to Dubai Broadcast

Educators Worldwide - Join Empower Peace TODAY!

To View the Artwork Submitted by Empower Peace Students, Please Log on to: www.empowerpeace.org

Artwork by a Beaconhouse Boys School (Pakistan) Empower Peace Student entitled "Branch of Peace."



▲ Artwork by a Stoneham High School (Stoneham, MA) Empower Peace Student entitled "Love."

Artwork by a Cairo, Egypt Empower Peace Student entitled "Branch of Peace."



▲ Artwork by a Khwala School (Bahrain) Empower Peace Student entitled "The Hands of Friendship."