



## FaithInPeace *Do you believe in Peace?*

80% of the world's population identifies with a religion, and more than 40% of the population is connected to the web. As both these figures are expected to grow in the years to come, it is clear that faith and the internet will play a key role in our globalizing world. With this in mind, we hope to demonstrate that both religion and the internet can, and should, be used as powerful resources to address the challenges and opportunities posed by our diversity.

FaithInPeace aims to bring together people of all faiths and creeds, by creating an online interactive mosaic of a dove of peace. The dove, shaped by two interlaced human hands, will be made from the contribution of photographs of thousands (potentially millions) of individuals from across the world as illustrated by the following [zoomable interactive demo](#).

Through this collective effort, we seek to give voice to those who believe in peace, and respect one another's right to be different. This will counter that of extremists who exploit the internet to incite and to promote hatred, and who use the name of God to justify the profanation of human life, held sacred by the world's main religions.

The dove of peace is a symbol of how faith might inspire peace, and how different religions reflect and treasure our common humanity. It has its origins in the biblical story of Noah, where a dove carrying an olive leaf is the proof that the Great Flood had ended. Christians, Jews, and Muslims alike tell the story of Noah and cherish him as a righteous man, though he long predated the teachings of Moses, Jesus, and Muhammed. Many more cultures and traditions also share a myth of a global flood, and the universal principle of treating others as we would wish to be treated ourselves.

The colors of the image symbolize peace in different parts of the world, such as green and white in Hinduism, and blue in Buddhism. Each hand is colored differently to illustrate our diversity. Together, both hands, also resemble the Yin-Yang, an eastern symbol of how seemingly opposites may actually be complementary, interconnected, and interdependent parts of a greater whole.

Like Noah's dove, this peace dove, to be created by people of all faiths and secular beliefs across different cultures and continents, aspires to be a sign of hope. A reminder that most of us strive for a world in which all people live with dignity, cooperation, and mutual respect. **A sign that most of us believe in peace and prize human diversity.**

Our wish is that leaders, organizations, and communities from around the world join us in creating this collective-artwork, and that the picture, as well as its creation process, will be displayed in multiple venues, such as schools, academic institutions, and places of prayer around the world.

This project was initiated by Javier Gelbwaser in response to the Presidential Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge, in which he had the honor of participating, invited by the White House, as a member of the International Higher Education Interfaith Leaders Forum in 2015. Javier has led different collective-art projects which have been created by tens of thousands of participants to promote different causes. These works have been exhibited in distinguished venues breaking the Guinness World Record for the 'Most artists working on the same art installation' in 2009.