

INSTITUT DIAN/INTERFIDEI



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Institut  
Dialog Antariman  
di Indonesia (Institut DIAN)  
Institute for  
Interfaith Dialogue  
in Indonesia (Interfidei)



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Every **21st September**, the whole world, including Indonesia, celebrates **International Day of Peace**, especially among interfaith groups in various regions, generally young people. This year the theme is **"Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world."**



The important and interesting thing is that it is a good "sign" that PEACE is still expected **in Indonesia and needs to be prayed for and fought for.** Why? "Peace" and "reconciliation" are not automatically synonymous with "freedom". Peace and reconciliation are very dependent on the circumstances and the existence of living and people's lives in an independent country, such as Indonesia. In other words, "independent" but not living peacefully among fellow citizens of a people in an already independent country means "independence" does not mean anything to the lives of its citizens, its people.



For example, **what about the rights of life and existence as a citizen of a different religion who is still dealt with unjust practices** controlled by the understanding that the majority gets priority or gets better service than the minority citizens. Likewise, the problem of human trafficking. Many are forced to return in the mortuary cargo. That means the meaning of the values of living together is reduced to the level of mere numbers, quantities, statistics, not the quality, value, the importance of life in society and the nation that quicken each other amid differences. **The question is, what is the meaning of living in peace and reconciliation for all Indonesian citizens in a country and state that has been independent for 76 years?**



# HAPPY INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

**"There is no power that can overcome  
peace because peace is the essence of  
life itself."**

**Gedong Bagoes Oka (1921-2002)**

DIAN Institute/Interfidei

Yogyakarta, 21 September 2021

Elga Sarapung and team

