



PREM RAWAT

A Life Dedicated to Peace
and Human Dignity



PREM RAWAT – A Life Dedicated to Peace and Human Dignity

The necessity for peace is becoming an obvious truth, as peace is perceived by many as a key element for individual growth and a prospering society. And yet it seems to be an elusive and challenging goal to achieve.

It is widely recognized that the commitment of governments and institutions toward establishing peace and justice cannot ever hope to achieve complete success if this peace is not deeply rooted within the minds and hearts of each and every human being. In this context, a voice of great authority has emerged in recent years: Prem Rawat, truly a citizen of the world.

Born in India to a prominent family, Prem Rawat left his homeland as a teenager to travel to Europe and America, with the desire to promote, to every person, a compelling vision of peace.

Four decades later, his aspiration remains as strong as ever. His ongoing commitment to encourage people to consider the topic of peace sees him travelling around the globe for most of the year in response to the numerous invitations he receives.

In his public addresses Prem Rawat presents a profound and original perspective on peace and the central role of the individual, which attracts people of the most diverse cultures and backgrounds.

Prem Rawat considers peace an innate need in everyone's life, as fundamental as human rights, primary needs and access to opportunity. His message is based on the pressing invitation to find peace inside and recognize the thirst for it as the primary force for one's aspirations. If such a peace is nurtured by every single person, it can become the foundation on which personal relationships and society can thrive.

At the center of Prem Rawat's vision are values like human dignity, peace as a precondition for prosperity, and the constant search for what unites us as human beings. His approach is independent from cultural background, political views and religious beliefs, which is why his message holds a truly universal value.

Alongside his work as an international keynote speaker, Prem Rawat has many other interests. Very much a modern man, he embraces creativity and cutting-edge technology. He is an inventor and highly accomplished pilot. Prem Rawat is married and father of four grown-up children.



The Prem Rawat Foundation

With the understanding that the topic of peace is closely connected to that of human dignity, more than a decade ago Prem Rawat founded The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF). Guided by its founding principles “Dignity – Peace – Prosperity”, this nonprofit organization with headquarters in Los Angeles operates on two levels.

They intervene in humanitarian emergencies, especially in areas where larger foundations may not be present. TPRF also sponsors long-term humanitarian initiatives, like the innovative program called “Food for People”, which provides facilities offering hot meals and agricultural and hygiene education to rural populations in disadvantaged areas. During the last few years, TPRF has opened three such structures, one each in India, Nepal and Ghana successfully reversing the downward cycle of poverty in the villages covered by the program.

Although the Food for People initiative is still young, it has been credited with improving community health, increasing school attendance and attainment, lowering crime levels and inspiring a growing sense of hope in the communities served.

The aim is to give people a second chance in life while respecting their dignity and their local culture. As Prem Rawat describes it, “Our objective is to help people through the rough times without interfering with the beautiful things that exist in their culture, their beliefs, or their religion. When we offer a hand of help, it is on equal ground, with respect for each person as a human being.”



FFP Ghana



FFP India



FFP Nepal

The efforts of TPRF are funded by the generosity of donors from over 50 countries. Most of the Foundation’s staff, including the Board of Directors, are volunteers. One hundred percent of donations designated for a specific program are allocated to that program.

TPRF’s financial statements are audited annually by an outside accounting firm. Tax returns for all years have been filed with the Internal Revenue Service and the State of California and are available for viewing online at: www.guidestar.org.

For more information: www.tprf.org AND www.youtube.com/user/tprfyt

Education for Peace

Can peace be learned? This question has inspired public debate, and there is a growing appreciation for a more structured approach to peace involving an educational process. The aim is to help the learner rediscover the value of peace and understand how peace can play a fundamental role in each person's life.

Peace Education Program

Over the last six years The Prem Rawat Foundation has developed a media-based educational course, called Peace Education Program (PEP). The purpose is to help participants to explore the possibility of personal peace and to discover inner resources — tools for living such as inner strength, choice, appreciation and hope. The curriculum consists of 10 one-hour videos, each focused on one of these core themes. The workshops include video excerpts from Prem Rawat's international addresses and written material to support the themes. There is also time for reflections and expressions.

The program is about individual self-discovery — something that is unique for each person. The focus is on developing positive life skills and building inner resources, the innate resources every human being already has but might not have explored or realized were there.

Currently, a variety of Peace Education Programs are offered to different types of audiences including: adult education programs for colleges, universities and lifelong learning organizations, community programs, hospital and hospice staff programs, retirement communities and senior center programs, nursing home programs, veterans and youth programs.

In addition, PEP has proven to be particularly relevant for Parolee Programs, Prison & Correctional Facility Programs. The Peace Education Program is currently being used in 28 correctional facilities in North and South America, Europe, South Africa, and throughout Asia.



Education for Peace

According to letters from inmates and staff, the PEP classes have had a positive life-changing effect on many prisoners.

Thanks to the growing interest, Prem Rawat has visited and spoken at several prisons and correctional facilities around the world including the Dominguez State Jail in Texas, USA; Ezeiza Women's Prison in Argentina; Zonderwater Prison in South Africa, Tihar Prison in New Delhi, India.

Speaking engagements in the education environment

The topic of peace itself and peace education are considered with growing interest in academic circles. Prem Rawat has been invited to speak at prestigious universities like Oxford, Salamanca, Thammasat University in Bangkok and Synergy University in Moscow. On several occasions, he also met with school and college students, answering their questions in very lively and interactive events. Recent meetings of this kind happened in Mazara del Vallo in Sicily, at the European Parliament and at the Italian Senate.



Words of Peace Global

To sustain the growing interest in Prem Rawat's message around the world, a second international charitable foundation that is associated with TPRF, has been registered in 2008 in the Netherlands: Words of Peace Global (WOPG).

The Foundation is comprised of a small staff team and supported by an expanding network of volunteers in 82 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific, who are inspired by the work of Prem Rawat. It is funded by donations from sponsors and the sale of materials.



WOPG hosts live events with Prem Rawat ranging from small, intimate talks to international tours. In addition, WOPG hosts television programs on a wide range of channels across the world, and publishes regular broadcasts and webcasts of Prem Rawat's talks.

WOPG's *Words of Peace* program airs internationally on a variety of channels and time slots.

The program is a three-time winner of the Brazilian Association of Community Television Channels' (ABCCOM) highest award and won first place honors in the "Interview/Talk" category, at the 2007 Community Access Magic Awards, in Maryland, USA.

It has been awarded on other US community TV channels and in the Netherlands. Viewers of Cable TV Promovision Channel 10 in Mexico have chosen *Words of Peace* as their favorite program in 2011.



*CAM awards
Maryland USA*



*Brazilian Association
of Community Television*



*People's Choice
Amsterdam, Netherlands*



*AMTV's Monty Awards
2010*

Words of Peace Global

After 10 continuous years of broadcasting *Words of Peace* on his local TV channel in São Paulo, Fernando Mauro Trezza, Director of the Community Channel Association of Brazil, invited Prem Rawat for an interview exploring the important issue of peace today, both for individuals and society.

Trezza has been a keen advocate for TV that has a positive message and leaves the viewer with optimism, encouraging depth of thought and feeling. He believes that *Words of Peace*, which is now reaching over 10 million homes in Brazil, fits this criteria perfectly.

The city of São Paulo has suffered from high levels of violence for many years, and is seeking to develop peace tools to counter this destructive force. TPRF's Peace Education Program is now being implemented in many parts of the city to help. Combined with the *Words of Peace* TV show, these efforts are helping to build a culture of peace in a city where it's desperately needed.

As Prem Rawat put it during the interview, "It is very easy to touch a person's mind. It is very difficult to touch a person's heart. But when a person's heart is touched, a beautiful reality starts to take place. Like, when it hasn't rained for a long time, and the first rain begins: there is an incredible smell, a beautiful perfume. It is the smell of the earth absorbing that water. And the same thing happens when the heart gets touched."



For more information: www.wopg.org

Prem Rawat – Global tour highlights 2012

In 2012, Prem Rawat spoke at 81 events in 63 cities around the world. These events have been very diverse in terms of types of audiences and numbers. They range from very intimate functions to large scale events: at Kensington Palace in London, Prem Rawat spoke to a small group of dignitaries on the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, at a fundraising event which was held in support of the St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital as part of TPRF's ongoing humanitarian effort. His speaking commitments also included trips to rural India, where audiences exceeded 200,000 participants.



At the beginning of 2012, Prem Rawat visited the Dominguez State jail in Texas to speak to prisoners who have been participating in TPRF's Peace Education Program. Following this visit, Prem Rawat spoke at the University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) to students, staff and peace education volunteers. He shared the platform with leading Restorative Justice academics, Professors Gilbert and Tapia of the University of Texas School of Public Policy. They spoke of their interest in the growing evidence of reduced re-offending as a result of the peace classes and expressed their desire to study the phenomena.



Prem Rawat was honored at the event by Congressman Joaquin Castro, and awarded the honorary Mayoralty of San Antonio for his work in supporting prisoner reform.

In 2012, Mr. Rawat visited yet another prison, the maximum security wing of Zonderwater prison in South Africa, where the Peace Education Program has been running for over four years and has been having a profound effect on the inmates there.

During his African tour, Prem Rawat also inaugurated the third TPRF Food for People facility near Accra, in Ghana. The ceremony was presided by tribal elders and representatives of the Ashanti King.



Other highlights included Mr. Rawat's first visit to Russia, where he was invited to speak at the Synergy University in Moscow, and extensive tours through Europe and South America.

Prem Rawat – Global tour highlights 2012

In the second part of the year, Prem Rawat traveled through the Pacific speaking at events in New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong and Penang, Taiwan. The tour included the second visit of the year to Malaysia, where he received the BrandLaureate lifetime achievement award of the Asia Pacific Brands Association.



The prestigious award is reserved for statesmen and individuals whose actions and work have positively impacted the lives of people and the world at large. Other recipients include Nelson Mandela and Hillary Clinton.

On two occasions, Prem Rawat sent personal video messages instead of attending an event in person. The first one was sent in August to the Nordic Peace Conference in Oslo, organized by young students from the United World College Norway who had participated in the signing ceremony of the Pledge to Peace at the European Parliament in Brussels in November 2011, and the second one to the Elton John UN Peace Day concert in London in September 2012.

The last event Prem Rawat attended in 2012 was held at Palazzo Giustiniani, home to the Presidency of the Italian Senate in Rome. The event was hosted by the Hon. Renato Schifani, President of the Italian Senate, and was dedicated to the presentation of the Pledge to Peace towards Italian institutions.



The Pledge, a declaration promoted by the 1st Vice-President of the European Parliament, Hon. Gianni Pittella, and first signed by 37 institutions and organizations during a conference in November 2011 at the EU Parliament House in Brussels, aims at promoting peace initiatives. The Pledge's single activities will be presented annually, on occasion of the UN Peace Day on 21st September.

The event in Rome was attended by Ministers of the Italian Government and Lifetime Senator Emilio Colombo, considered one of the leading figures of Italian postwar politics and strenuous promoter of the European Union. Concluding the evening, the Hon. Gianni Pittella declared Prem Rawat officially Ambassador of Peace for the Pledge to Peace.

Prem Rawat – Honors and Awards

For his commitment, both as an ambassador of peace and a promoter of humanitarian initiatives, Prem Rawat has received honors and awards by numerous institutions and organizations all around the world.

Ambassador of Peace

“Pledge to Peace” – Brussels declaration promoted by 1st Vice-President of EU-Parliament

Basilicata Region, Italy
Sondrio Town-hall, Italy
UNIPAZ, Brazil

Honorary Citizenship

Sao Paolo, Brazil
Corleone, Italy
Agrigento, Italy
Mazara del Vallo, Italy

Keys to the City

Tainan, Taiwan
Kyoto, Japan
New York City, New York, USA
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
Oakland, California, USA
Detroit, Michigan, USA
Miami and Miami Beach, Florida, USA

Medals and Awards

Freedom of the City of London, UK
Honorary Mayor of San Antonio, Texas, USA
Gold medal, Basilicata Region, Italy
Medal, Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy
Seal of the City of Padua, Italy
Recognition for Commitment towards Peace: Sicilian Regional Assembly; Trieste Province; Potenza Province; Trieste Town-hall; Palermo Town-hall – Italy

Illustrious Guest of the City, Quito, Ecuador
Bharat Gaurav Award and Certificate, India
International Friendship Society, New Delhi, India

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Asia Pacific BrandLaureate Lifetime Achievement Award, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Humanitarian Achievement Awards

Distinguished International Humanitarian Achievement Award, National Women’s Council of the United States, USA

Resolutions & Proclamations

Governors of Michigan, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and New York
State Resolution, Texas, USA
General Assembly of the State of Connecticut; Pennsylvania House of Representatives; Rhode Island General Assembly; Wisconsin Legislature – USA
Court of Common Council, Hartford, Connecticut – USA
Mayors of Boston, Massachusetts; Los Angeles, California; Buffalo, New York; Boulder, Colorado; Miami, Florida; Fort Lee, New Jersey; San Francisco, California – USA

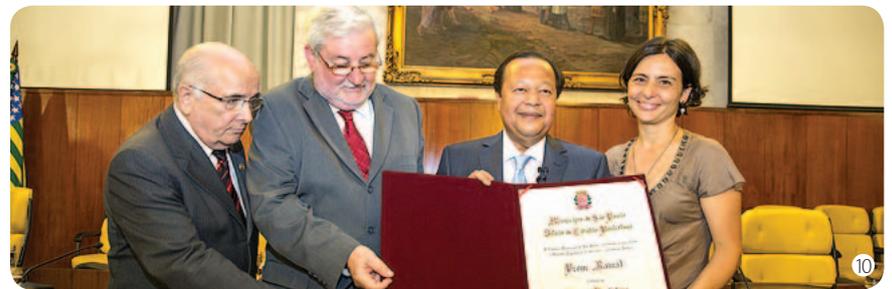
Official letters of appreciation

United States Library of Congress
City of Atlanta, Georgia, USA
National Geographic Society, USA
Vermont Historical Society, USA



*Prem Rawat with the Hon. Gianni Pittella,
1st Vice-President of the EU Parliament*

Life in pictures



1. With biographer Dr. Anthony Seldon at event at the EU Parliament, Brussels (2011); 2. With Pavel Borodin, State Secretary of the Union State of Russia and Belarus, and Hon. Gianni Pittella, 1st Vice-President of the EU Parliament, Brussels (2010); 3. With Agrigento Mayor Marco Zambuto and wife (right), and TPRF President Linda Pascotto (2009); 4. With HRH The Duke of Gloucester at Kensington Palace, London (2012); 5. With City Councillor Anna Milvia Boselli at event in Padua, Italy (2010); 6. Prem Rawat awarded by Dean Uriy Rubin at Synergy University, Moscow (2012); 7. With Mayor and winner of Peace project contest sponsored by the Town-hall and TPRF, Mazara del Vallo, Sicily (2011); 8. With the Hon. Renato Schifani (left), President of the Italian Senate, and Italian State TV/Radio (Rai) director and journalist Antonio Preziosi (middle); 9. With Lifetime Senator Emilio Colombo at Senate event in Rome, Italy (2012); 10. With town-hall officials at honorary citizenship ceremony in Sao Paolo, Brazil (2013); 11. Walking from the town-hall to the outdoor event, with Corleone Mayor Antonino Iannazzo, City Council President Mario Lanza (left) and other local officials in Corleone, Sicily (2008); 12. EU Parliament 2010.