

Promoting the Institutionalization of Peace Through Education

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To everyone at the Summit here today, greetings!

Today is a very special day, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Korean people and government and non-governmental organizations, as well as to the international community for supporting Ukraine at this difficult time. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to HWPL for their cooperation, and for the opportunity to be present at this grand event.

Through tears, despair, and loss, this war broke into our lives. Ukraine, which broke free from the shackles of a totalitarian regime, sought to assert and develop itself on the principles of democracy, rule of law, equality, and human rights, which have the highest values of justice, peace, and freedom. Throughout its historical development, the nation of Ukrainian demonstrated its peace-loving and consistent commitment to universal, humanistic values. However, the hostile intentions of its aggressor—the Russian Federation—have torn our lives apart, taking away happy childhoods from our children, forcing millions of Ukrainians to leave their homes, and destroying millions of lives and destinies.

The "HWPL Peace Education" project came to the Poltava State Medical University at the sounds of howling sirens, the buzzing of Shaheds drones, and ballistic missiles. How much more important would peace education be at a time such as this? After all, in such moments, the value of peace is especially felt, not only as a form of safe existence for people, society, and humanity, but also as a condition that ensures the realization of our social, cultural, and existential needs.

Cooperation with HWPL has become an important step for us on the path to promoting peace and forming a deep global understanding of the value of peace among young people. Taking into account the professional direction of our educational institution, we should note that "lessons of peace" have become the quintessential lessons in all the humanitarian disciplines taught at the university. At the same time, they have been innovative and an educational challenge to not just the students, but to the teachers as well.

12 peace lessons led to the idea that the problems and challenges of today and tomorrow cannot be escaped or shied away from. In such moments, we need courage. "Courage that can save lives, that will spread the love of peace to others."

Today, Ukraine is undergoing a difficult time: it is in the second year of a full-scale war and the ninth year of a hybrid war. Ukrainians are unbreakable, but they are physically tired and morally exhausted. So, awareness of the value of peace and human life is more important for us now than ever. As darkness allows us to know all the majesty of light, and as we can only distinguish good by knowing evil, we know the concept of peace and its value through the state of war; the value of human life is under the threat of being lost. Moreover, today it is important for young people to realize that the world can exist without wars, that there are means of achieving peace. This is exactly what the implementation of the "HWPL Peace Education" project in Ukraine contributes to.

We are convinced that peace, harmony, tranquility, and order can be achieved through the restoration of common values and civic virtues, the path to which lies in the education system. Education should appeal to every child and young person with the message that there is no alternative to a peaceful way of thinking and living.

An important step towards institutionalizing peace and promoting its culture will be the installation of a Peace Monument on one of the central streets of Poltava City. This monument will symbolize the unity of humanity in support of Ukraine. We are convinced that the construction of the Peace Monument during a time when enemy missiles tear apart the peaceful Ukrainian sky—leaving behind ruins and devastation, death and maiming—will direct the wishes of the people gathered in letters to our only goal: for this long-awaited peace, a quick end to the war, and the restoration of territorial integrity. The construction of the Peace Monument in this Ukrainian city will be a significant event for our people and the international community, serving as a message of tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and non-violent conflict resolution for future generations, and as a contribution to the development of a culture of peace worldwide. It will become a symbol of unity and cooperation, harmony and mutual understanding, and will serve as a source of inspiration and a stimulus for changes in social relations.

Dear Summit attendees, I want to note the extreme importance of the peace-making activities that you carry out. Your tireless efforts in the development and maintenance of peace are incredible, and we appreciate your contribution to the development of strategies to ensure global peace. You are a shining example of commitment

to universal values, and we must work together to create a better world, a world without wars, where a culture of peace and mutual understanding will prevail.

We sincerely thank you for your cooperation and for all your efforts to preserve peace on our planet. We hope that our synergy will contribute to the unification of our efforts for the unity of all peoples in the name of peace.

Thank you for your attention! Glory to Ukraine!

