

A CALL FOR PEACE: OUR GLOBAL ETHICS AGENDA BOSTON RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Everyone associated with the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century shares the shock and grief of millions of others in the wake of the tragic events of Sept. 11. In the aftermath, each human face and each personal story has reminded us of the critical importance of building cultures of peace to counteract and, one day, transform the culture of violence and war that is so prevalent in our world today.

Since 1993, the BRC has worked to build bridges and create dialogue among peace-seeking people from many cultures and religious perspectives. We will continue to do that work, albeit with an even stronger sense of conviction.

As our founder, Daisaku Ikeda, said in his public remarks following these events: “There are a number of short-term measures that may be implemented to combat violence and terrorism, but the only viable and fundamental long-term solution is education. There is no other alternative but to educate people on the loftiest humanitarian values and views of life in order to establish a foundation of peace and stability for humankind in these times of tumultuous change. What we must strive to bring about is a century upholding the dignity of life, a century predicated upon humanistic education” (Sept. 28 *World Tribune*, p.1).

As we move ahead with our global ethics agenda that focuses on education, women’s leadership for peace and the Earth Charter, we invite you to join us as we listen and learn from each other. It is our deepest hope that the horror of the Sept. 11 assault will cause all of us to reaffirm our commitment to peace in our own hearts and reach out to others around us in this spirit. This peace is the only lasting one. As the Earth Charter suggests in its 16th principle, a culture of tolerance, nonviolence and peace ultimately rests upon “the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth and the larger whole of which all are a part.”

BRC WEB SITE PROVIDES PERSPECTIVES ON TERRORISM AND NONVIOLENCE

The urgent need for dialogue in the aftermath of Sept. 11 calls for the ideas and perspectives of many people. To fulfill this need, the Boston Research Center for the 21st Century had developed a new page on its Web site in the “Resources” section titled “Perspectives on Terrorism and Nonviolence.”

On this page you will find numerous links in reverse chronological order to commentaries, essays, letters and opinions on how the world might respond to the “new kind of war with a new kind of peace movement,” in the words of BRC Executive Director Virginia Straus. New commentaries will be added weekly as the BRC follows the day-to-day developments of the world crisis.

Please check out www.brc21.org today and use this resource in your own conversations, meetings and social interactions.