

Mayors Speech for International Peace Day

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and fellow citizens of Peacehaven,

Good morning!

The International Day of Peace is observed around the world each year on 21st September. It was established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution. It provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

Today, as we gather here to celebrate the International Day of Peace, we unite under a profound theme:

"Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals."

This theme is a call to action that recognises our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. It contributes to the realisation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Information on these will be made available. If every country and every society everywhere were to achieve these Sustainable Development Goals, we would create a culture of peace for all and would be closer to living in peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, free from fear and violence.

It is a theme that reminds us of our collective responsibility to not only aspire for peace but to actively work together towards achieving the global agenda of sustainable development.

Peacehaven was **named** to show commitment to peace and harmony after the horrors of the first world war. It has always tried to be at the forefront of creating a better future for all. As the Mayor, I am incredibly proud of our community's relentless efforts to promote understanding, compassion, and a shared vision of a peaceful world. Today, we reaffirm our dedication to this noble cause.

The #GlobalGoals agenda represents our collective ambition to do something about the most pressing challenges facing humanity, from poverty and inequality to climate change and conflict. This agenda recognises the interconnections between peace, justice, and sustainable development. It reminds us that achieving peace is not an isolated endeavour, but one that requires us to tackle the root causes of discord and create inclusive, equitable societies.

Here, in Peacehaven, much has been done but there is still more to do. Today I call upon each and every one of you to rise to the challenge as I am

endeavouring to do. Let us commit ourselves to **concrete actions** that will drive positive change. The Global Goals agenda starts with embracing diversity, **celebrating** our differences, and rejecting all forms of discrimination. It means promoting dialogue, understanding, and empathy, even in the face of disagreement.

Environmental challenges have never been urgent because the response has been too slow. Climate change knows no borders, and its impacts disrupt peace and stability. By adopting sustainable practices, investing in renewable energy, and preserving our natural resources, we not only safeguard the planet but also build the foundations for a more peaceful and resilient future.

How do we do it? All of us here will have our own ideas. But let me suggest just a couple of ideas: **we can empower the young people of Peacehaven**, for they hold the key to our shared ambition. Let us provide young with the tools, resources, and platforms to express their ideas, talents, and aspirations. By nurturing their potential and encouraging **their** active involvement, we can ensure that the torch of peace will be carried forward for generations to come.

Today, we celebrate the International Day of Peace and embrace the theme of "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the *#GlobalGoals*". Let us remember that our actions, both as individuals and as a community, have the power to shape the world we live in. Let us be agents of change, working tirelessly to build bridges, promote dialogue, and create a more peaceful, just, and sustainable future.

So together, let us continue to demonstrate that Peacehaven is not only a name but a state of mind - a mindset that cherishes peace, embraces diversity, and strives for a better world. With our collective efforts, we can truly make a difference and inspire others to follow suit.

Thank you and may peace be with us and the 17 *#GlobalGoals* guide our journey towards a brighter tomorrow.

THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

