



**International Association of Educators for World Peace**  
***Dedicated to United Nations Goals of Peace Education,***  
***Environmental Protection, Human Rights and Disarmament***  
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**To Whom It May Concern:**

I am the President of the *International Association of Educators for World Peace*. I have been a friend of Sri Chinmoy for more than a decade and I have been deeply impressed by an educational module developed by Sri Chinmoy, through his humanitarian service organization, the Oneness-Heart-Tears and Smiles. The programme called, Kids to Kids was developed in response to a request in 2004 by United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor to Africa, Professor Ibrahim Gambari to send educational materials to the children of Angola. At the time a peace accord had just been signed after 40 years of civil war.

It brings the guiding principles of the United Nations in elementary school students to university students. Rather than give a lecture on equality, respect for self and others and environmental protection, the program has developed a series of projects where children participate in service programs for children in disadvantaged countries. These projects or activities foster the development of skills which will enable students to develop friendship, empathy and cooperation with children in developing countries. They create attitudes of self-respect and respect for others as well as social justice and equality.

The projects are several types

1. Creating **Kids to Kids Kits** where children make their own personal care package for a child living in an area of natural disaster or extreme poverty. In a 12 xx 12 ziplock bag they choose a small toy, school supplies and art supplies. A personal note of friendship and a drawing is also included. For many countries a kids to kids hygiene kit is also created with toothbrush, paste and a little cloth.

2. **The Drawings of Love** project was created after the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia. The first lady of Indonesia in a press release asked the children of the international community to encourage the 8,000 new orphans in her country by sending messages in some way. Kids to Kids mounted a huge effort involving 22,000 children in 30 countries. Several thousand of the drawings and messages were mounted in the national museum in Jakarta before distribution in Banda Aceh.

3. **The Handmade Book** project was inherited from another organization with a similar name. American children created their own books to teach children to read and learn math. The pages are laminated and each child tells his own story on the last page.

4. **The Dolls for Africa** project was created after visiting Archbishop Desmond Tutu's office in South Africa. We learned that to the thousands of children who lost their parents to AIDS, that to them a doll has such a deep meaning. Archbishop Tutu said "Dolls for Africa is a project of great compassion and caring. I endorse it enthusiastically." School children make their own dolls in art class or home economics.

The teams of educators show a short video and share a little of the challenges facing the recipient children in each case. The donor children are deeply moved by the strengths of the different cultures, the courage for children to overcome obstacles. The donor children feel empowered to make a difference in the face of natural disasters. It widens their perspective. The Kids to Kids volunteers act as ambassadors between donor and recipient children, delivering the goods and bringing back photos and often artwork expressing gratitude. As one principal in Banda Aceh said, the children were given a new spirit to learn children in other global parts care for them.

This project created a little United Nations within the lives of our youngest citizens in the United States. Teachers have stated that bullying disappeared in some classes, that compassion and concern were so evident and that the American students seemed to be much happier and were kinder to each other. I applaud this educational module and endorse and encourage further activities to support the children of the international community and to develop our American children in great global citizens of the world.

*Charles Mercieca, Ph.D., President  
International Association of Educators for World Peace  
NGO, United Nations – ECOSOC*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Mercieca". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name and title.