September 21-22 marked the celebration of the International Day of Peace by JRS in Bamiyan. As a strategy, sports was chosen as a medium to communicate the message of Peace on day one of the event, at Shahid Mazari Stadium. Elocution and Peace show were used to express the message of Peace at Human Rights Commission Hall, Mullaghulam. The day of International Day of Peace saw the football and volleyball teams uniting together to communicate the message of peace. Eight football teams of boys and ten volleyball teams of girls, well coordinated their efforts to promote values of peace and harmony through their game. The sportspersons spirit hovered all through the day while keeping the message of peace at its core. Peace show performances were heart touching and strongly communicating the message for need of peace. The elocution completion saw a series of eloquent speakers expressing their views on the processes adapted for peacebuilding in the communities. A strong sense of commitment and conviction were expressed by the students in their presentations in various forms.

Lena, JRS student shared;
“From the time I have joined JRS, I have learned many things beside learning English language. I have learned how to live in a society and how to deal with people. Now, I find myself more active and it interests me to work with people to make them aware about various social issues.”
Viewers encouraging the players during the tournament.
Various representatives of CSOs, elders of the community, school and university students, Shura members, and JRS students at Shokofan, Rawashan and Andisha villages of the Herat province, witnessed the celebration of the International Peace Day. More than 250 people at each location participated in the celebration and resonated at the similar wavelength for peacebuilding in their communities.

The Peace Day celebration for 2019 was themed on the Child Rights to address and advocate for the right to equality, adequate nutrition, special protection and free education for children. The role plays, articles, paintings, anthems, and speeches by the children at the celebrations brought out importance of reconciliation, compatibility, friendship, peace building and compromise as a necessity for the community. Symbolically, releasing peace balloons, peace chants and poems were used as a gesture to vow the commitment of the community to peace.

SOACS, a JRS Afghanistan’s partner organization, organized Peace day celebration at Ghawsnan High School through the School Peace Committee by conducting peace shows, role plays and games at this event. As an expression of peace, pigeons were released to commemorate freedom and peace.

The principal of the school appreciated the peace program and spoke about the importance of peace in society and expressed the commitment of the Ghawsnan High School towards fostering peace and bring about reconciliation.
On September 13, 2019, JRS celebrated the International Day of Peace with the Afghan and Chin Refugee community living in Delhi. In a world that is increasingly tilting towards violence and hate, sharing food can break cultural and religious barriers; that it has a role to play in conflict resolution, was the rationale behind this event which was served on its implementation. Feast for Peace was conducted to facilitate the interaction between the Chin and Afghan communities. Children welcomed the elders and their friends with a peace ribbon and also decorated the place to ensure a more peaceful and friendlier environment at the centre. People from both the communities had come to cook together, share their traditional food recipes, eat together and share their stories and their life journey with each other. Children danced to their favourite music and also developed a special bond of friendship through dance and music. Not often do refugees get to interact with a different community; the event served its purpose to encourage the communities to forget their differences and come together in unity and love to spread Peace.

The Global Feast is a simple and profound expression of peace that everyone, no matter how humble or blessed their circumstances, can connect with and enliven the global celebration. Feast for peace!

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MC Dynasty, student from cooking class.
Peace Day celebration
In a far-flung remote area Shaikhmeran, located to the South East of the Daikundi province in Afghanistan, JRS celebrated the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2019. Children from the Shaikhmeran’s Boys and Girls High school actively participated in this program with much enthusiasm.

On this occasion, Afghan Development Association, an organization working with the children sent gifts for the participating students. The ceremony was conducted in a very peaceful, joyful, and meaningful manner. The Governor of Asherlay, Director of Education, NDS (National Defence Security) department, School principals from all the JRS ‘Each One Teach Some’ centers, were present during the celebration. The officials shared their thoughts and commitment to bring peace with the students. The schoolteachers, community elders and parents were also present among the participants.

The program on ‘Peace and Reconciliation’ symbolized hope for the better and brighter future for the participants, and the community of Shaikhmeran.

Sahar a peace program student shares;

“Peace education helps me to recognize kindness, respect and honesty. It has helped me to keep away from conflict while preserving our rights. It has also encouraged me to respect people, listen respectfully to what others say, and bring order into society to prevent conflict”
Peace Day celebration
JRS Afghanistan celebrated the International Day of Peace at all its Kabul centers by organizing different events. The theme of the celebration was ‘Child Rights’, with an aim to raise awareness on the rights of children to all the students of JRS as a means to promote peace. Interactive sessions with the community leaders and the parents in its centers was used as an opportunity to impart useful information.

To create a long-lasting impact on the minds of students, the students along with the school authorities of Mirwais literacy school, Ismail Hassan Zai school, Hakim Nasir Khisraw high school and Shahrak Police Camp participated in wall painting at the school premises. In addition, awareness to JRS teachers were provided on child rights.

The culmination of the International Peace Day celebrations was in Mawlana School on September 22, 2019 through various peace celebration activities like skits, songs etc.

School authorities shared;

We have drawn some meaningful pictures and inscribed thought-provoking messages on Peace and Child Rights in Dari and English. As the painted wall is located in a visible area, it will help in creating more awareness among population.”
English teachers at Pohand Abdul Ahmad Jaweed High School, 
“Peace education has led the students to have a positive views on diverse lifestyle and to live in a peaceful environment with others.”
JRS organized a 10 days’ workshop for Child Friendly Space (CFS), Psychosocial Support Service (PSS) and Women Friendly Space (WFS) facilitators, conducted by Clown Science Dream from September 9-18, 2019. The training focused on enabling the facilitators of CFS-PSS-WFS to improve the quality of their work with children, women and youth at the CFS-PSS-WFS. The training was to capacitate the CFS-PSS-WFS team members to make their daily sessions interesting, joyous and promote a positive learning experience.

The sessions on Scientific Learning Methods and Art of Clown Science Dreams/Skills, Piaget’s theory of the stages of child cognitive development and Educational methodology of Montessori helped the participants to gain greater learning experience to understand the children/youth/women and meaningfully engage them in various learning activities.

Jaume and Mayra also had face-to-face interactions with children at all the 11 CFS which resulted in positive impact on the psychosocial wellbeing of these children. In addition, the field-based training enthused the CFS facilitators implement the different methods adopted to conduct exercises and games with the children of various age groups.

The entire CFS, PSS and WFS teams felt enriched, equipped and empowered by new skills and ideas received through the training, and foreseeing better implementation of the CFS activities and sessions.
On the occasion of the International Peace Day, JRS conducted a peace education workshop for seventy children and forty-five women, at DEEPAM Centre in Pattiveeranpatti camp of Tamil Nadu. Ten teachers working with DEEPAM study centres also attended the workshop. DEEPAM is a Dynamic Education and Empowerment Promoting Agency for the Marginalised. It promotes the education of under-privileged children by sponsoring their education and facilitating evening study centres in different villages around Vathalagundu.

The participants at the workshop comprised of school going children from different schools and women from the neighbourhood of Vathalagundu region of Tamil Nadu.

The workshop included an interactive session on the consequences of violent conflicts, the need for peace and the goal of peace. A song on the theme of unity and harmonious living and a short video Parisu (a Tamil word meaning a gift) that emphasized values like compassion, truthfulness, justice and peace initiated the workshop. JRS framework of reconciliation helped the children and women to realise the importance of practicing compassion, truthfulness, justice and peace.

They realized their potential to be an active agent of transformation in the family, classroom, school and among their peers. The students and women were positively responsive throughout the workshop. They shared their views on the interesting and challenging nature of the workshop which infused confidence in them to bring about difference in the attitude and approach of themselves and their community.
“Our distance from success depends upon how firm are we to achieve our set goals and plan. A goal must not be only for self, it has to be for the good of the whole nation”,
said Abdul Bashir who has scored 328.64 out of 360 in the Konkur Exam, possibly securing second position in the Bamiyan Province. Abdul is set to live his dream to become a Civil Engineer and serve his war-torn country.

Due to lack of basic educational facilities and qualified teachers, each year a large number of school-going children are forced to drop out after failing to qualify the Konkur examination (national university eligibility test). The scores of Konkur examination determine the selection of courses by students for their higher education.

JRS committed to the education of youth, prepare students for Konkur Examination, along with other courses. Innovative teaching methods are used to teach complex concepts. Regular class-tests, model test papers ensure systematic preparation of the students.

In year 2018-19, a total of 1034 JRS students appeared for the Konkur Exam out of which 913 students cleared the exam. Many students have scored above 300 out of the total score of 360. The class, teachers at JRS and study material which we are provided, are important resources to crack Konkur, but our sheer hard work is necessary”, Abdul added.

“"I studied in other centers for a brief time but if I compare, JRS is the best center for students. The teaching methods, updated study materials and the continuous motivation from the teachers at the center is the reason behind my success. I thank each one at JRS from the bottom of my heart!"
God will help us on our way, if we try our best to create a peaceful world.

- Lalrinchhan, JRS student
Thank You...