The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation initiates and supports worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, to strengthen international law, to use technology responsibly and sustainably, and to empower youth. Founded in 1982, the Foundation also performs research and analysis on critical issues of peace and global survival, and prepares and distributes educational materials by leading thinkers on these issues.

The Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international educational organization. We have consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and we are recognized by the UN as a Peace Messenger Organization.

Waging Peace Series

As far as is known, the term “Waging Peace” originated with Warren Wells of Santa Barbara, late husband of Ethel Wells, in a letter to President Eisenhower. It was a long-standing practice of Mr. Wells to keep in close touch with key national figures and give them his views on peace issues as well as other vital matters. This series is dedicated both as a memorial to him and in gratitude to Mrs. Wells for her continued efforts in this cause.

In this series the Foundation publishes and distributes short booklets stressing ideas for attaining peace. Concepts expressed will include views of many authorities, and will not necessarily be those of the Foundation. Suggestions for topics and ideas about this issue are welcome. Booklets in this series and two anthologies of Waging Peace booklets are available from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

“Peace on Earth to men and women of goodwill. In truth we trust.” — Ethel Wells

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The Responsibilities of World Citizenship

by

Queen Noor al Hussein

Photo: Moin Photography
Queen Noor is a citizen of the world and a woman who cares deeply about peace. In April, she came to Santa Barbara to receive the Foundation’s Distinguished Peace Leadership Award on behalf of her late husband, King Hussein, and to receive the Foundation’s World Citizenship Award for her own work. The World Citizenship Award was presented to the Queen by Foundation Board members Diandra Douglas and Eli Luria. In addition to the ceremony at which the awards were presented to the Queen, she also addressed a Youth Rally for Peace, at which she inspired young people to make a greater contribution to creating a peaceful world.

The Queen was born Lisa Najeeb Halaby to a distinguished Arab-American family. She was educated at Princeton University, where she graduated with a degree in Architecture and Urban Planning. Her work as a young woman took her to Jordan, where she met and married King Hussein. For 21 years she stood by his side and was his partner in his efforts to raise the standard of living for the Jordanian people and to achieve peace in the Middle East. She was with King Hussein during his final illness when he went to the Wye River Plantation to breathe life into the Middle East peace negotiations. She shared her life with a man who rose above his leadership of a country to become a leader for peace.

In presenting the Foundation’s Distinguished Peace Leadership Award for the year 2000, posthumously, to King Hussein, I stated:

Peace is not simply and cynically the interval between wars. Rather it is a complex process of interactions and institutions that requires consistent and dedicated efforts, and is often built upon a foundation of courageous leadership.

The easiest path for a political leader to walk is often the path most traveled, even if this path is a path of violence and war. In
the Middle East, this has been the most traveled path for more than half a century. To set out on a new path seeking peace requires courage, commitment and compassion.

It was these traits that marked the leadership of King Hussein of Jordan. He was willing to take risks for peace and to forge new paths. He did not lead by opinion polls, but by bold vision – a vision of peace in his troubled region of the world. He gave of himself all that he had to achieve this vision, rising even from his hospital bed in his final illness to bring life to the Wye River negotiations.

Our tribute to King Hussein must be more than words alone. It must be a commitment from each of us to work for and support the peace he envisioned. It is in this spirit and with this commitment that I am honored to present the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s Distinguished Peace Leadership Award to a man of courage, conviction and compassionate vision, a warrior for peace, His Majesty Hussein of Jordan.

Queen Noor is a gracious and noble human being. She cares deeply about people everywhere and the conditions of their life. She has taken over the role of Patron of the Landmine Survivors Network that was once filled by Princess Diana. She also serves as President of the United World Colleges, ten colleges throughout the world that stress multicultural diversity. She also serves as Chair of the King Hussein Foundation, which is dedicated to giving expression to King Hussein’s vision of a more peaceful, just and democratic world.

In this Waging Peace Series booklet, we publish Queen Noor’s remarks on the occasion of receiving the Foundation’s awards for herself and for King Hussein. She makes a powerful case for World Citizenship and the responsibilities that must accompany it.

David Krieger
President
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

The Responsibilities of World Citizenship

by

Queen Noor al Hussein

It is so much more than an honor for me to accept your Distinguished Peace Leadership Award on behalf of my husband, His Majesty King Hussein. Of course I must admit to some bias, but as someone who believes in the ideals your organization represents, I cannot think of a more appropriate recipient.

His tireless quest for peace earned him his own people’s devotion and respect the world over. Time and time again, he vividly demonstrated that peace was worth more to him than his own life – from the beginning of his reign, when he braved the same intolerance and hatred which had claimed the life of his grandfather King Abdullah, to the end, when he rose from his hospital bed to guide the Wye Accord from stalemate to agreement.

When the Middle East seemed forever mired in limbo between peace and war, King Hussein devoted much of his time to promoting an equitable negotiating process that has opened the way, enshambled, to a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace. He envisioned a peace that satisfies the aspirations of all peoples of the region, addresses their political, development and security concerns, enhances the region’s well-being and secures the interests of the international community – a peace that does not stop with ending the state of war, but that proactively attempts to foster cooperation and prosperity among all neighbors in the region. Addressing the Joint Session of the US Congress in 1994, King Hussein said, “We in Jordan have always sought a bold peace. We have been conscious of our responsibilities towards coming generations – to ensure that they will have the certainty of leading a dignified and fulfilled life. We have sought a peace
that can harness their creative energies, to allow them to realize their true potential, and build their future with confidence, devoid of fear and uncertainty."

Although he was a gifted diplomat and mediator, his work toward that bold peace extended far beyond negotiation. King Hussein realized that peace, although the dream of many in our region, is not instinctive; it is a skill that must be learned. He understood the value of education for peace and democracy, and staunchly supported programs which promote cross-cultural understanding and conflict resolution skills. He knew that lasting peace required a new way of looking at the world, and one's place in it; a view that transcended borders. It was these values and enduring idealism and humanitarian commitment that originally drew together a young activist urban planner and a monarch remarkable for his openness and his vision. We shared a dream, in fact many dreams, in spite of the differences in our backgrounds. Working together to pursue them was my practical training in peacebuilding throughout our 21 years together.

World Citizenship

I am further honored, therefore, to receive the Foundation's World Citizenship Award, not so much for what it says about me, but what it says about us. The name of this award should give us pause to think. More and more every day, by necessity, we are all becoming World Citizens. Daily we are witnessing the dissolution of borders – political, economic, ecological. My husband, among many other things, was a keen pilot, and flying with him taught me the irrelevance of national boundaries. From the air, it is clear that lines on the map are not drawn in the earth. And with modern technical advances, it is possible to communicate instantaneously, independent of any terrestrial borders at all.

In the midst of the rush caused by our rapidly shrinking world, it is worth stopping for a moment to ponder what world citizenship means. We all share the same problems and must be part of the same solutions. Globalization increases opportunities, yes, but for exploitation as well as for growth. World citizenship implies sharing cultures and benefits, but also risks and responsibilities. Recognizing we are all citizens of the world is the first step towards peace.

"Nothing is more useless in developing a nation's economy than a gun, and nothing blocks the road to social development more than the financial burden of war. War is the archenemy of national progress and the modern scourge of civilized man."

—King Hussein
nuclear programs of Israel and Iraq, the dangers are only proliferating. Some 1.8 tons of explosive power for every person on earth raises to new heights the definition of overkill. There has been a great deal of concern in recent years about terrorism and chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction, but what are nuclear arms if not the archetypal weapon of mass destruction? What is a defense policy based on the threat to murder countless innocent civilians but terrorism on a massive scale!

Nuclear weapons have been declared illegal under international law by the International Court of Justice. They must be considered immoral by anyone with a conscience. The sheer folly of trying to defend a nation by destroying all life on the planet must be apparent to anyone capable of rational thought. Nuclear capability must be reduced to zero, globally, permanently. There is no other option.

Anti-Personnel Landmines

Less dramatic but perhaps much more of a day-to-day threat in the lives of millions is another type of weapon, anti-personnel mines. These pose a more insidious threat to civilians and progress because they continue killing after the conflict has stopped. When peace is declared, the guns and mortars are stilled, but no one turns off the mines. And because they are small, and destroy lives one by one, their horrific consequences can go as unnoticed as the mines themselves.

You may by now be familiar with the ghastly statistics: some 300,000 people around the globe are living with shattered limbs and lives, and the number is growing! Every month around 800 people are killed and 1,200 maimed by landmines—primarily civilians, often children attracted by their toy-like shapes and colors—a new tragedy every 20 minutes.

These indiscriminate killers constitute one of the greatest public health hazards of the late 20th century—a modern man-made epidemic. As Patron of the Landmine Survivors Network and international spokesperson for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), I have visited with survivors in the Middle East, United States, Vietnam and Cambodia. I have seen first-hand the devastation caused by loss of life and limb. The only way to relieve the suffering of the survivors of
landmines is to rid the world of landmines, and achieve universal compliance with the Ottawa Convention.

Fortunately, over the past few years we have witnessed the growth of a new coalition activism which brought into force, in record time, the Ottawa Landmine Ban Treaty, the first international arms treaty to encompass humanitarian obligations to the weapons' victims. Working together in unprecedented networks, concerned nations, organizations and individuals are united in a pledge to win back blighted land, to fulfill our humanitarian responsibilities to the survivors, and to make peace on the ground a reality as well as a declaration. Inspired by this progress, Jordan hosted in July 1998 the first Middle East Conference on Landmines Injury & Rehabilitation, for which I was proud to announce that Jordan was signing the Ottawa Convention, which we subsequently ratified. The conference brought together from throughout the Middle East and North Africa the largest group of landmine casualties ever gathered in one place.

My country was an unfortunately appropriate place to convene, because the Middle East is littered with, by estimates, more than half of the world's deployed landmines. In Jordan, children and adults are routinely injured, and about ten percent of our population lives in areas still dangerous and economically unproductive because of landmines. Scarce agricultural lands and some of the most beautiful and sacred historic landscapes in the country, especially in the biblical Jordan River Valley, were scarred and forbidden until recently.

Recent events in the news have re-emphasized both the urgency of the fight against landmines, and the tremendous progress we have made. The first of these was the horrific flooding in Mozambique. Not only did it leave nearly one million people homeless, threatened by disease and starvation, but in some areas, the floodwaters uncovered buried mines, and washed them from marked minefields to new areas, previously thought of as safe. In 1998 Nicaragua faced the same threat as a result of hurricanes. In these tragic cases, natural disasters joined with man-made ones, therefore posing new and heightened threats to already suffering peoples.

There have been more hopeful signs. In March 2000, His Holiness Pope John Paul II visited Jordan and made a pilgrimage to Bethany, the baptismal site of Jesus Christ. His visit would have been inconceivable only a few short years ago, for the area was then heavily mined. There was a sad irony that landmines should hold hostage one of the world's most spiritually significant landscapes, revered by Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Since 1993, we have cleared the Jordan Valley of some 300,000 mines, to allow those who had tilled the land many years ago to cultivate it again, and others to unearth once more our region's precious history. And now, pilgrims who wish to walk in the paths of the prophets can do so in safety. This ancient and holy land is no longer desecrated by mines. The Prophet Mohammed said, "\textit{imamatul aal ha 'an al-tareeq sadaqab}," that "the removal of harmful objects from the path is a good deed." What was once a metaphorical, moral precept is now a literal necessity - a prophecy that has become too true for comfort.

Arms Trade and Global Safety

In a few short years the fight to eradicate landmines has gone from a noble dream to international law, but landmines are only the tip of an iceberg in the problem of armaments of every kind, from nuclear weapons to handguns. Small arms in particular pose a growing threat to conflict prevention and recovery. The indiscriminate sale and distribution of easily carried weapons is the source of a broad spectrum of violence, from schoolyard shootings to civil wars to militia-led genocide, threatening daily the lives of more people than any other menace.

Encouraged first by progress in banning weapons of mass destruction, and then by the unprecedented success of the movement to ban landmines, the Red Cross and other concerned groups have launched similar initiatives against small arms proliferation. Controlling such arms is essential to any lasting peace anywhere in the world; but it is by no means simple. As Martin Amis put it, "weapons are like money; nobody knows the meaning of enough."

What is more, in many cases, weapons are money. The arms trade, both legal and illicit, is a source of tremendous profits, from the military-industrial giants through the gun-runners down to the decommissioned soldier who sells his weapon back on the black market.
Often, ironically, a declaration of peace in one conflict will lead to an escalation of violence in neighboring countries, as weapons filter from former combatants to informal militias or criminal gangs. Small arms are cheap, easy to obtain and difficult to trace. They hold a place in the psyche of many cultures that makes them almost impossible to dislodge. From rural America to Albania to Northern Ireland to Kosovo, the unwillingness to give up guns by those who feel they are their only protection is one of the greatest threats to peace.

Supra-National Structures for Global Safety

In our rapidly shrinking world, national sovereignty must acknowledge supra-national structures to ensure global safety, just as individuals must recognize the need for balancing their right to defend themselves with the necessity of law to defend everyone. The progress of the Ottawa Landmines Treaty, which has now been signed by two-thirds of the world's governments, is a salutary example.

There are other treaties, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, for instance, that need much more comprehensive support. And it is important for the US, in particular, to realize that it cannot expect to be a credible leader among the nations of the world if it lags behind in fighting our most serious problems, including mines and nuclear weapons, and if the US does not meet its financial obligations in full, on time, and without preconditions – where the United Nations is concerned.

As individuals and as nations, we must move from the law of force to the force of law. It is time for all of us, governments and individuals alike, to embrace, extend, and empower the structures for peace created in the last one hundred years. We must invest them with the full legal and moral authority to stop violence before it begins. We must strengthen the mechanisms to resolve differences peacefully and to make their resolution by force ultimately unthinkable by instilling in everyone a culture of peace. This fundamental need was the oxygen behind the global effort in 1998 to create a statute for a permanent International Criminal Court which the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation endorses. Citizens of the world must embrace a culture of peace, moving from armaments to agreements, and in so doing necessitate a coming to terms with the thorny issue of security. As long as a nation or a community or an individual feels threatened, violence and recourse to weapons is never far from the surface. But like so much else, the definition of security today is changing.

Positive Human Security For All

Threats to security today come not only from war, but also from economic and social inequities, human rights abuses, marginalization, and poverty. Over the past decades, my work in Jordan and abroad has been predicated on this premise: that true security is not only a matter of protecting borders from military aggression, but of providing a stable environment for all citizens, women and men of all races and creeds, to participate fully in commercial and political life.

Peace is not merely the absence of hostilities, but a positive human security founded in equity. As King Hussein put it, “What is the real purpose of peace? In our view, it is to promote the security and the prosperity of peoples. Without security, there can be no assured prosperity. And without prosperity, there can be no assured security.”

Providing the prosperity that underpins peace requires taking advantage of the new techniques and technologies of globalization. In this boundary-less information age, with productivity becoming ever more divorced from physical resources, the uniqueness of each country’s contribution is coming to depend more on the distinctness of cultures and the innovation of individuals. The recent innovations in global communication and commerce are instrumental in bringing the world these unique resources, from the mind-work of computer programmers to the handiwork of craftsmen and women.

For example, the Internet has opened the global market to underprivileged women in Jordan who have been trained by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) to produce handicrafts and industrial garments to sustain themselves and their families. Their products are globally accessible through the worldwide website of the NHF, which receives e-mail orders from the US and other markets. This global connection came at an opportune time as the Foundation has been turning over the ownership and management of these income generating projects to the women themselves. Such orders will ensure their long-term sustainability.
The self-esteem and confidence that these women have acquired is as valuable to them as the substantial additional income they earn. In the empowerment of women, especially at the grassroots level, our projects have transformed development thinking in Jordan by moving beyond traditional ineffective social welfare schemes to enable women to become genuine economic and political forces in their communities, thereby increasing their status and influence at every level.

As a result we have seen significant progress in every aspect of quality of life from literacy to family income to population control. These women are building stable, healthy and prosperous communities, which in turn can engage in regional partnerships in the wider pursuit of peace. These programs, which combine innovation with respect for local values and traditions, have received international recognition as development models for the Middle East and the developing world. Through a network of regional partnerships we are supporting their implementation in other countries. Also, as models for sustainable economic growth and political participation, they have not only reinforced social stability and cohesion in Jordan, they are an essential component of our larger quest for justice, peace and understanding in the region and abroad.

Education, A Tool for Peace Building

World citizens need to be educated, both in the skills required to participate and prosper in the information economy, and, more important, in the skills required for getting along with other citizens of the world. We have seen clearly over the past decades that it is not enough simply to sign a peace treaty. We are very conscious of the importance, if we are to overcome the enmity of previous generations, of encouraging the next generation, the future guardians of peace, to understand both their opportunities in a changing world and their duties towards themselves and others.

Our experience over the past decades has taught me that education is a supremely effective tool for peace-building, especially when it brings together students of differing ideas, backgrounds and even cultures, at a time in their lives when their minds are most open and receptive to programs emphasizing tolerance, cooperation and conflict resolution. It can give them the tools to make their voices heard on issues that affect them. I have seen this process at work in a number of institutions, in Jordan and around the world. For instance, the Jubilee School in Amman, established as a tribute to King Hussein's Silver Jubilee, was originally conceived in 1977 and has now graduated four years of students. It serves promising scholarship students from throughout the region, with special emphasis on less developed areas of Jordan, promoting community service, creative thinking, information technology, leadership and conflict resolution skills. Our graduates excel at the best US and other international universities, committed to return home to their local communities and to make an extraordinary difference.

The problems that these future leaders will have to address will go beyond politics, economics or even peace. Being a citizen of the world means realizing that we have a responsibility to the world itself, as well as to its human inhabitants, and to future generations.

As King Hussein said to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, “Our goal is to ensure that environmental protection becomes as deeply embedded in our national psyche and in our human spirit as our existing commitments to balanced development, pluralism, human rights, and regional peace based on justice and international law. We are deeply committed to this goal, despite the severe constraints of political, economic and demographic pressures on our country ... for we would be morally, politically, and perhaps even criminally negligent if we were to place financial profits and material comforts above the goal of the integrity of our earth, the welfare of our people, and the life prospects of our children and grandchildren.” I believe that his words best express the responsibilities of being a citizen of the world.

The Emblematic Citizen of the World, King Hussein

In accepting this Award, I must once more express my debt to the one I consider the emblematic Citizen of the World, King Hussein. He was a committed member of the global family. His optimistic belief in his fellow man, a deep and abiding humanism, was unshakable. He believed in the power of mediation and reconciliation, and practiced what he believed. He understood that one can be a citizen of the world, and remain a devoted member of one's own country, culture, and faith.
In my own quest to become a world citizen, he was my motivator and my teacher, enabling me to build upon my earliest beliefs about global responsibility and put them to practical use. In this, he was an inspiration for me, as he clearly was for you and for countless others around the world. These awards, both the one you have conferred upon him and the one with which you compliment me, are fitting tributes to his work and his ideals. He would have appreciated them greatly, for they would have been proof for him that others shared those ideals. I know he would have been honored and touched if he could have been here this evening.

I thank you with all my heart, for both of us.

“He saw no boundaries. He was a pilot. Looking down from an aircraft cockpit you see very clearly that the boundaries, the national divisions and borders that seem to define our lives to such a great extent are, in fact, meaningless. He lived that way, he worked with that perspective, and he knew and focused so much of his effort on young people, knowing that if you don't begin at the beginning and harness that optimism, idealism, energy and ability — and that extraordinary perspective that young people have as they are embarking on a life rich with possibility — before that has become narrowed down, as I am sad to say it does, as we are tempered or mutilated by experience. That energy and spirit can make an enormous difference in the world.”

— Queen Noor al Hussein
Youth Rally for Peace
Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA
April 8, 2000
Queen Noor is the International Patron of the Landmines Survivors Network and a member of the Advisory Board of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. She is Patron of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and President of United World Colleges. She also serves as Chair of the King Hussein Foundation. Queen Noor joined the Advisory Council of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation in April 2000.

King Hussein I

“We quarrel, we agree, we are friendly, we are not friendly, but we have no right to dictate, through irresponsible action or narrow-mindedness, the future of our children and their children’s children.”

— King Hussein of Jordan (1935-1999)

King Hussein I of Jordan was the longest serving executive head of state in the world, and served as a steadfast and outspoken advocate for peace in his country, region, and the world. King Hussein believed that peace, regional security, economic prosperity and democratization are interlocking components necessary for the good of the region. During his reign he built up the infrastructure in Jordan and held what were hailed as among the freest parliamentary elections in the region. He played an instrumental role in bringing together, for the first time, Israelis, Palestinians and Syrians to discuss peace at the Madrid Peace Conference. His act of signing the 1994 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin represented a great stride toward achieving a stable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. In a final demonstration of his commitment to peace, King Hussein left the hospital where he was receiving treatment for cancer, and traveled to the stalemated Wye River peace talks where he personally negotiated with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to bring success to their negotiations. King Hussein was the recipient of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation’s 2000 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award.
“As individuals and as nations, we must move from the law of force to the force of law. It is time for all of us, governments and individuals alike, to embrace, extend, and empower the structures of peace created in the last one hundred years. We must invest them with the full legal and moral authority to stop violence before it begins. We must strengthen the mechanisms to resolve differences peacefully and to make their resolution by force ultimately unthinkable by instilling in everyone a culture of peace.”

— Queen Noor al Hussein