

DOCUMENT

# *Global Peace and The Contemporary World*



**Australian Centre for Education & Training**

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## **Global Peace and The Contemporary World**

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Global peace is a very significant issue in the contemporary world. Millions of lives are being destroyed in the name of violence and war in the world today. If we take a step forward in the direction of promoting peace, we can save many lives.

The Global Peace Project created by ACET-Global is based upon the philosophy that if we speak, work and act for peace anywhere in the world, our actions will have a ripple effect. This will lead to incremental positive steps towards world peace. Achieving a harmonious world, based upon love and compassion, is possible if we all work together.

Unfortunately, conflict and killing is occurring throughout a sizable part of the world. Given the present levels of achievement in the field of knowledge, and improved global communication, it is hard to believe that people are still killing each other. The world is in the grip of a violent frenzy that is killing thousands of people and rendering millions homeless. According to one estimate, as a result of recent wars approximately 370 000 people in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan have been killed, from 2001 to 2014 (Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University [WI] 2015). Of these people, 210 000 were civilians (WI 2015). The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights states that 76 021 people were killed in Syria in 2014 alone (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights 2015).

Those people who have been affected by wars are living in miserable conditions. They are risking their lives attempting to cross seas and borders. About 50 million people around the world are condemned to live the lives of refugees, or are internally displaced, because of conflict and violence (Institute for Economics and Peace [IEP] 2015). The estimated economic impact of violence on the global economy in 2014 was 13.4% of world GDP (IEP 2015). If this amount were to be spent on developmental projects around the world, millions of people would be able to experience the basic human rights to which they are entitled, instead of living with the misery of starvation and the ever-present threat of violent death.

Some of the most violent conflicts of the contemporary world have originated from conflicting ideologies and misinterpreted religions. Religions are used as an excuse for war and oppression, with the resulting violence dividing people and creating distrust, hatred and fear. Islam is often associated with the ongoing violence in many parts of the world, as extremist elements seem to have hijacked this religion, claiming it as justification for waging war. This creates confusion and misgivings towards Islam, putting the world's Muslim community on an undeserved apologetic defence.

The use of Islam to “justify” acts of terror is both misguided and inherently contradictory to the true teachings of this religion. It is the ignorance and misinterpretation of the religion that is the cause of such violence and destruction. The Global Peace Project of ACET-Global aims to provide an

explanation of the core ideas of peace, love and harmony that are present across some of the most practiced religions in the world today, including Islam.

Religions have united people, bringing them together and encouraging them to live harmonious lives. Religions may have different names, but the core values of most religions are the same. Religions promote love, compassion, tolerance and peace. Recognising this common thread that runs across religions encourages understanding between people with different faiths and beliefs. Understanding the connections between religions is useful in bringing people together.

ACET-Global's book, *Global Peace: An Islamic Perspective*, seeks to explore the core values of Islam through the teachings of the Quran. It shows that the use of Islam as an excuse for violence is inherently flawed and misguided, as Islam is essentially a peace-loving religion. It is through education, knowledge, and understanding of various religions that we can help to reduce violence, and promote a more peaceful and harmonious world.

It is largely understood that a vital attribute of the civilized human race is a reduction in violence by human beings against one another. By understanding others' religious or non-religious views, we can help to reduce violence, and this would be a step forward in the service of humanity.

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#### References:

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