



**American Ethical Union**

**Resolution  
on**

# **Renewal of Commitment to a Culture of Peace**

*Proposed by National Ethical Service, an affiliate of the American Ethical Union, to the 2021 Assembly of the American Ethical Union.*

WHEREAS the American Ethical Union has supported a Culture of Peace throughout its existence, asserting the worth and dignity of all human beings without exception, and has repeatedly called upon our national leaders as well as its own members to act to resolve conflict peaceably and equitably;

WHEREAS the United Nations 1996 resolution on a Culture of Peace recognizes that a culture of peace requires “respect for human rights, democracy, tolerance, dialogue, cultural diversity and reconciliation, and efforts to promote development, education for peace, the free flow of information and the wider participation of women, as an integral approach to prevent violence and conflicts and to contribute to the creation of conditions for peace and its consolidation”;

WHEREAS the American Ethical Union explicitly supported the establishment of a United States Department of Peace and nonviolence in a resolution in 2006;

WHEREAS the latest proposal to establish a Department of Peacebuilding, H.R. 1111 introduced in 2021, stresses not only the continuing human and economic costs of violence and war in global wars involving the United States but also the continuing human and economic costs of violence within our nation;

WHEREAS H.R. 1111 includes the need for looking into root causes of violence, building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society, and confronting and uprooting systemic racism in America as a driver of violence and obstacle to peace in the United States;

WHEREAS climate change continues to be a significant factor in war and violence worldwide;

THEREFORE The American Ethical Union in 2021 resolves to:

- Renew our commitment to a Culture of Peace within the United States and globally;
- Continue to stress in our public presence the importance of a Culture of Peace in our personal relationships, in our homes, in our local communities, in the work of our Ethical Societies, and in our nation, including how our work against systemic racism and climate change promotes such a Culture of Peace;
- Support the National Ethical Service, an affiliate organization, in its work in coalitions that support a Culture of Peace internationally; and
- Urge Ethical Societies and their members to take actions to promote a Culture of Peace, including:
  - (a) support H.R. 1111, through appropriate activities and actions;
  - (b) continue to educate themselves and others on root causes and effective solutions to violence and war;
  - (c) continue efforts to educate about and dismantle systemic racism as a key root cause of violence;
  - (d) continue efforts to educate about and act to reverse climate change; and
  - (e) support in coalitions and by their own efforts other global, national, local, and interpersonal peacebuilding efforts to end violence and build a Culture of Peace, including human rights, economic justice, and an environment that can sustain human thriving.

## Resources

### Federal Legislation

[Text - H.R. 1111 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2021 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

### UN Resolutions

[A/RES/51/101 - Culture of peace - UN Documents: Gathering a body of global agreements \(un-documents.net\)](#)

## Related AEU Resolutions

[American Ethical Union » 2018 – Climate Action](#)

[American Ethical Union » 2016 – Systemic Racism in the United States](#)

[American Ethical Union » 2015 – Recommitment to Peace, Disarmament, and World Cooperation](#)

[American Ethical Union » 2015 – Criminal Justice](#)

<https://aeu.org/resource/2006-support-of-a-us-department-of-peace-and-nonviolence/>

<https://aeu.org/resource/1987-peace-in-central-america/>

<https://aeu.org/resource/1984-united-states-involvement-in-central-america/>

<https://aeu.org/resource/1983-government-role-in-militarization-of-central-america/>

<https://aeu.org/resource/1975-middle-east-situation/>

<https://aeu.org/resource/1960-strong-advocacy-for-disarmament-united-nations-peace-forces-and-world-organization-and-cooperation/>

<https://aeu.org/resource/1949-aeu-reaffirms-its-resolve-to-support-world-peace-2/>

<https://aeu.org/resource/1948-aeu-recognizes-need-to-promote-cooperation-towards-world-peace/>

## Related AEU Statements

<https://aeu.org/resource/the-american-ethical-unions-statement-on-the-derek-chauvin-verdict/> - 2021

<https://aeu.org/resource/statement-on-the-march-17-shooting-in-atlanta-area/> - 2021

[American Ethical Union » Black Lives Matter to AEU](#) - 2020

<https://aeu.org/resource/aeu-supports-federal-justice-oversight-of-police/> - 2017