

## **SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S RECENT ENCOURAGEMENT ON NONVIOLENCE**

- Message for the Caltech opening of the “Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century” exhibition on May 14:

“The tragedy in Colorado shocked educators, students and parents around the world. But we must not look away from the issue that this painful incident symbolizes. How can we transform disregard for life, which has been deeply deeply rooted in the minds of children through war and violence that plagued the 20th century? This is the most important issue for us as we stand at the threshold of the 21st century.”

- Message at June 27 kickoff for the SGI-USA Youth Grand Culture Festival (July 9 *World Tribune*):

“I have been informed that you have begun a signature-collecting campaign on your own to promote nonviolence. I would like to ask that you proceed with this drive with joy and the freedom to exercise your utmost initiative to make it a resounding success, so that the memories of this campaign will remain forever golden in your hearts....

- March 16 speech to recent graduates of Soka Junior High and High Schools (July 9 *World Tribune*):

“Ignoring the true purpose and turning schools into places of insult and violence is a terrible thing. Such behavior reflects the state of Animality. If places of learning in Japan and the rest of the world are reduced to arenas of violence, the future of humanity can only be one of never-ending violence.

“The complete rejection of violence is a fundamental principle of the Soka Junior and Senior High Schools. If a violent person should appear in the schools’ midst, I hope you, the students, will make an effort to discuss the the problem and join together to protect your schools from violence.

“The way of true humanity is to love and care for your parents and to avoid worrying or troubling them. You may think your parents are always nagging you, but try to take it in stride, with composure and a big heart....”