

**YPC OPENS NEW ‘CLOSING THE GAPS’ EXHIBITION IN NEW YORK
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NEW YORK CITY**

It is my belief that the essence of goodness is the aspiration toward unity, while evil directs itself toward division or sundering.

—SGI President Ikeda, 1994 Peace Proposal

Last September—inspired by SGI President Ikeda’s words above—the Youth Peace Committee began discussions on creating an exhibition to continue the Victory Over Violence campaign that took place across America last summer. YPC members and volunteers sponsored the exhibition, “Closing the Gaps to Create Cultures of Peace,” opened at the New York Culture Center on Feb. 11, the centennial of the birth of second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda.

The exhibition looks at some of the choices and challenges we have about “gaps”—the thoughts, words and actions that we use to separate ourselves from others and our environment. The exhibition shows some real-life examples of people who have bridged many gaps by taking action and sharing peace, culture and education with those around them.

The YPC wants to put into action the SGI’s goal of supporting the United Nations and developing dynamic alliances with relevant U.N. agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The YPC was fortunate to have a distinguished keynote speaker at the Feb. 11 opening, the permanent ambassador for Bangladesh at the United Nations, Mr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury. Ambassador Chowdhury, who took the lead among the member states in producing the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, talked about the background and significance of the culture of peace and thanked the SGI for its continued efforts toward this. He reiterated how important it is that people all around the world make concerted efforts to create a culture of peace.

Almost 200 guests and members attended. The United Nation’s radio station taped the evening’s events and guests from Amnesty International also attended.