

International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2017

I begin with the sacred sound AUM, to invoke the spirit of peace upon this special occasion.
Om.....Om.....Om.

Our Hindu Faith has given us many ancient Sanskrit prayers that are recited for peace and harmony for the whole world and all it's people, irrespective of caste, creed or colour, reflecting our belief in the unity of mankind – core principles that we share with the United Nations Peacekeepers.

Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah
Sarve Santu Niramayaah
Sarve Bhadrani Pashyant
Maa Kaschit Dukhabhahg Bhavet.

May all be happy,
May all be healthy,
May all experience what is good,
Let no one suffer.

Om Saha Naavavatu Saha Nau
Bhunaktu
Saha Veeryam Karavaavahai
Tejasvi Naavadheetamastu
Maa Vidvishaavahai
Om Shaantih, Shaantih, Shaantih

May the Lord protect us,
May He nourish us,
May we work together, uniting our strength for the
good of humanity,
May our learning be luminous and purposeful,
May we never hate one another.
May there be peace, peace and perfect peace.

(Taittiriya Upanishad, Brahmavalli & Bhrgu Valli, Shanti Mantra)

In these times of great turmoil, ceremonies such as these take on a much deeper significance. Standing before us are men and women of incredible courage, strength and determination, prepared to give up their very lives to defend those who are persecuted and living under tyranny and injustice. We remember those who have gone before them, who paid the ultimate sacrifice as keepers of peace, and their loved ones who mourn them still.

Our love and prayers and thoughts go to those who are suffering after the atrocity in Manchester, and to those who are suffering atrocities throughout the world. We stand here, united, to send a message to all who wish to spread evil, terror and hatred in the world.

The message is simple – You Will Not Win.

We join together, as people of faith and people of no faith to say that You Will Not Win.

When you seek to spread evil, we will send Love.

When you seek to spread terror through acts of cowardice, we will send courageous and brave men and women exemplified by those we see before us today.

When you seek to spread disharmony and injustice, we will send peace. And so, You Will Not Win.

I end with the Hindu universal prayer for peace – peace for the individual, peace for the nation and peace for the world. **Om Shanthi Shanthi Shanthi.**

