PeacEd GATEWAY



Written by Julie Lillie & Gal Kleinman

Picture a world where peace isn't just hoped for, it is actively taught and practiced. We are planting the seeds of that transformative educational reality – for everyone, everywhere. PeacEd Gateway (PEG) is a project and global movement that we co-lead with the help of an esteemed international advisory group. Believing deeply in the coming together of people, schools and organizations in realizing this peace education evolution, we invite you into the PeacEd Gateway story and community.

Gal's Why:
Founding Education for Global Peace

I am the son of a holocaust survivor and have witnessed war firsthand. I couldn't grasp the sheer insanity of the world we live in (I still cannot grasp it to this day). I've always been naturally inclined to think the world would be a better place if everybody just got along. Long I have pondered: why can't people live in peace?

With the birth of my sons, I realized more deeply that I did not want them, and all children worldwide, to experience war, violent conflict, and the trauma my family and I went through. I have often reflected and since realized that each one of us is born into a certain social background - a swirl of forces and systems - that shape who we are, including our identities, values, beliefs and behaviors.



Gal Kleinman

I believe that my suffering, and the suffering of multitudes of people today and throughout history, could have been avoided if we possessed the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to learn about each other and solve conflicts in constructive ways.

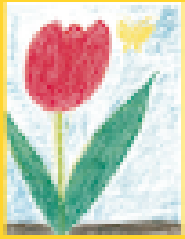
Ignorance and lack of communication breed fear and division, while understanding and connection can lead to unity and peace. So, for me, the answer to bringing about a world based on cultures of peace is mainstreaming peace education worldwide and forming meaningful connections between students worldwide as a basic part of education. In honor of this belief, I, with the help of others, created the nonprofit organization Education for Global Peace (EGP) in 2013.

EGP is committed to developing research, projects, and strategies on peace education at different levels worldwide. I imagined a tech platform and whole school approaches that would support the mainstreaming of peace education. From this, one of EGP's core projects, PeacEd Gateway, was conceived!

PeacEd Gateway (PEG) envisions a global transformation in how education is viewed and practiced whereby the foundation of education is to empower students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to build and sustain justice and peace in the world around them.

As an entirely volunteer-run organization and project, it was oftentimes challenging to advance this project quickly, given the fullness of life and work for me and the initial advisory group. In these early stages, I realized how important it was to really get to know people and ensure they resonated with and were able to commit to engaging with the project.

I was pleasantly surprised one day back in February 2023 when Julie Lillie sent me a LinkedIn message and we discovered our shared passion for peace education. Julie has since been a wonderful driving force and visionary in the development of PEG. Sometimes you meet wonderful people!



EGP

Education for Global Peace



Julie Lillie

Julie's Why:
Co-leading PeacEd Gateway

As a school-based preK-12 educator and leader for over 15 years, I've experienced and observed the prevalence of trauma, conflict, and violence affecting our children and school ecosystems. Violence can take many forms, including bullying, cyberbullying, fighting, weapon use, gang violence, sexual violence and emotional abuse and harassment. Anxiety, fear, insecurity, apathy, loneliness and depression impact the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being of students and staff, rippling within and throughout the entire community.

Conversely, I've also experienced the profound care, love, joy, and connectedness possible within our schools and communities. These attributes, swirling with empowered action and hope, are inherent within all of our children, who, as I have repeatedly witnessed, are born with the internal instructions to cultivate and seek peace. Illuminating and deepening these gifts for pursuing and sustaining peace ought to be the primary role of education.

Later in this issue, you can learn more about my story, The Peace Pad, and co-authored peace education guidebook. For now, follow me back to the winter of 2022-23 as I contemplated my purpose, role, and next steps in helping to evolve education. In meditation, I received a vision of 'flying geese', symbolizing helping to bring people, organizations and projects together to make the biggest collective impact that advances peace education. This channeled guidance illustrated the shared leadership and interconnectedness of the flock. I was shown how geese fly as a team, supporting each other, taking turns 'leading'



and resting, while coordinating their collective (in)action based on the available expertise, gifts, and resources. Reflecting on this vision, my intuition guided me to find and connect with, among others, Gal Kleinman and Education for Global Peace. Anchored by our emerging friendship and shared beliefs, I volunteered to join and co-lead PeacEd Gateway.

PeacEd Gateway Beliefs

We believe that leading dignified lives in peace is a basic human right and the most cross-cutting topic of our human existence as it affects each and every one of us. When we decide to prioritize creating cultures of peace above all else, this will be our greatest human achievement.

We believe that in order to create a world based on cultures of peace, we must educate for peace from a young age and throughout life. Peace education must be mainstreamed in educational systems worldwide.

We believe that the most important endeavor of our time is to transform the way we view and practice education to one based on peace education; so that we and future generations possess the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to live in peace with ourselves, others, and the world around us.

Overview of PeacEd Gateway

PeacEd Gateway's (PEG) mission is co-creating a global movement and collective uniting early childhood and K-12 educational institutions and settings, educators, students, and organizational partners with a common vision, meaning, and purpose to mainstream peace education. PEG is forging an educational transformation to one based on cultures of peace, meaningful connections, purpose, and solidarity in taking care of our fellow humans and the world around us.

The PeacEd Gateway provides a peacelearning framework and foundation for creating cultures of peace in schools; embodying the process of acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes to live in harmony with oneself, with others, and with our environment. Though the primary audience and beneficiaries are K-12 schools worldwide, folks in early childhood settings, homeschoolers, after school or extended day programs, nonprofit organizations, and other informal schoolings will also benefit from access to PeacEd Gateway.

PEG's Peacelearning Framework Pillars

- Well-being (mental, physical, emotional)
- Relationships & Communication
- Environment & Nature
- Diversity & Perspective
- Global Citizenship
- Empowerment & Service

PeacEd Gateway's Objectives

- Design and offer a flexible and action-driven peacelearning framework and foundations for creating a culture of peace in schools.
- Create shared physical and virtual spaces that foster a worldwide sense of belonging and invite exploration and discovery of life's meanings and purpose.
- Empower students, educators, and the community to build a sustainable, just, and peaceful world for all.
- Form a collective of partners that will launch, sustain, and expand the PeacEd Gateway to facilitate the introduction, mainstreaming, and/or extension of peace education in early childhood and K-12 educational institutions and settings.

A key tool for supporting the implementation of the peacelearning framework and the foundations to transform our educational systems is through an *innovative and dynamic web platform* that empowers learners and educators worldwide to:

- **Connect** classrooms with each other, as a basic part of education, to form meaningful relationships - developing the profound connection of youth worldwide - and encouraging continuous facilitated dialogue and engagement between youth from different communities and countries.
- **Collaborate** and act as "solutionaries" on projects with peers in the community and around the world. Open classroom doors to interact and contribute more to the local community and also interact internationally (globally). This is "Glocalized" learning and teaching.
- **Access** quality and vetted peace education programs, curriculum, resources, research, and evaluations through a dynamic system based on needs, interests, and selected pathways.
- **Showcase** promising practices, programs, and successes from within the PEG community.
- **Unleash** the collective genius of a global community.
- **Learn** and interact in a safe, secure, and supportive physical to virtual environment.

From Vision to Reality

To date, PeacEd Gateway has been entirely volunteer run. With feedback from an international advisory group, PEG's strategic plans have been completed and foundations laid, including an overview document of the project and movement, key competencies of peace education, the peacelearning framework pillar, roles of core partners and collaborators, outline of 3-5 years of implementation and sustainment of cultures of peace in schools. Additionally, we have: researched comparable platforms, solutions and tech elements; compiled potential partners (150+), funders and collaborators to enhance, scale and sustain our efforts; and drafted strategies and impact metrics for expanding the PEG collective (partners and collaborators) and engaging stakeholders.

Though PEG is a passionate priority, we also have to balance it with our financial, relational, and physical realities and well-being needs. We are proud of all we have accomplished and are smiling as we look forward to the pilot and next stages of development. Yet, there is a desire to move faster and it is important that PEG is sustainable - and sustained.

The PEG Collective is a primary avenue for the sustainment of this work. Like geese flying together, core partners, stakeholders and collaborators will coordinate our actions, resources and support for our shared commitment to facilitate a global educational transformation to one that is based on a culture of peace. As we scale, the collective will include educators; schools and districts; colleges and universities; governments; community groups; researchers; organizations; program-curricular developers; Edtech companies; and businesses who believe the foundation of education is to empower students to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to build and sustain peace in the world around them.



The PeacEd Gateway Collective

The PEG Collective formation has already begun, as illustrated through our preparation of a comprehensive grant application for the pilot implementation and study! Once funding is secured, we estimate the pilot will engage around 150 students and a minimum of 3 primary/elementary and 3 secondary classroom teachers. Our pilot coordinators are PEG members Whitney McIntyre Miller (Chapman University, CA-USA), Moses ABOLADE (Peace Education and Practice Network-Nigeria), Christina Barruel (The Peace Foundation, New Zealand) and Julie Lillie (The Peace Pad, AZ-USA). We will provide curriculum guides, training, and implementation support for the classrooms to collaborate asynchronously and synchronously about creating cultures of peace in their classrooms and schools. The groups will act as "solutionaries" in a safe and secure virtual environment, implementing projects aligned to a pillar of our framework.

Through this process, students and educators will form meaningful connections, and engage in intercultural dialogue, empowered sharing, and actionable problem solving as they implement and reflect on their glocalized peace projects.

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How You Can Help

If you are feeling called to take peace action, there are many ways you can support PeacEd Gateway! Join us in building a global network and movement that is dedicated to bringing about a world based on cultures of peace through the power of education. Our multifaceted and coordinated approach will make PEG the primary destination and resource for PreK-12 peace education globally. Let's harness our collective genius, energy, connections, and resources to change educational priorities and policies to mainstream peace education and help create, build, and maintain a just, peaceful and sustainable world! Here are ways you can take action:

- Reach out about joining the PEG Collective as a core partner, stakeholder, or collaborator.
- Donate and/or help set up a crowd source funding campaign for the pilot. Be a seed investor and establish a fund for a paid project coordinator position.
- Express your interest in being a pilot or early-stage implementer.
- Consult and/or help with the design and building of the platform.
- Intern to conduct grant research & spreadsheet entry.
- Support the planning and execution of a future PEG summit.
- Is your organization working on informal and non-formal peace education efforts? Make sure you are on the map! Mapping Peace Education.
- Stay updated on EGP & PEG news by subscribing to The Peace Pad's newsletter.
- Follow us and share about peace education on social media:
  - Facebook
  - Instagram
  - LinkedIn

It is time to come together and commit to shaping a future where every classroom, community, and nation embraces the power of peace education to build a more just, compassionate, and sustainable world for all. Join us in cultivating a future where peace isn't just a dream, it's a shared way of life!

Email info@educationforglobalpeace.org with a brief introduction and let us know how you would like to get involved!

"It is time to come together and commit to shaping a future where every classroom, community and nation embraces the power of peace education to build a more just, compassionate and sustainable world for all."