

## &gt;&gt;&gt; NEWSLETTER &lt;&lt;&lt;



# PEACE EDUCATION NEWS

ICEP project: Positive Peace Education in Kazakhstan



## TOP NEWS OF THE PROJECT

### ABOUT PEACE EDUCATION



### AIM OF THE PROJECT

- The role of education in creating **positive peace** is vital. Kazakhstan is a multiethnic country that places a high premium on maintaining peace within and across its borders, but there has so far been little attention to peace building in school education. The purpose of this project, therefore, is to explore possibilities for culturally relevant positive peace education in schools in Kazakhstan.
- The team consists of researchers from Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education (NUGSE) and National Academy of Education named after Y. Altynsarin (Kazakhstan), the University of Cambridge (UK) and Toda Peace Institute (Japan).

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



It will be done through critical discourse analysis of the national curriculum, combined with action research in at least 10 schools across Kazakhstan that will then feed back into curriculum discussions about the future of culturally relevant positive peace education in the country. Proposed **research questions** are:

- How is peace education reflected in the current national curriculum?
- How is positive peace education conceptualised and enacted among education leaders, teachers and students?
- How can culturally relevant enactment of positive peace education inform curriculum innovations in Kazakhstan?

### HOW THE AIM WILL BE OBTAINED?

# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

## THE PROGRESS DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT

1



### >>> THE FIRST POLICY AND CURRICULUM ANALYSIS

- The analysis of the educational policy and curriculum was done between May and June, 2023.
- The team members analyzed several school subjects that are more appropriate in terms of “culturally relevant positive peace education” in Kazakhstan.

### >>> JULY WORKSHOPS AND PILOTING STAGE

- The University of Cambridge researchers - Hilary Cremin (dean of the Faculty of Education) and Roy Leighton (co-founder of CPERG) led the 2-days' workshop for six teachers from the pilot school in Astana. CPERG stands for Cambridge Peace Education Research Group. Hilary and Roy introduced participants to the concept of positive peace and how it can be operationalized in schools.
- The research team planned and conducted the pilot with one of the schools in Astana in July, 2023.

## DIGITIZING OUR POSITIVE PEACE

With the aim of making the project's aims, achievements, updates, and outcomes transparent to the teaching and learning community, we developed the website.

### >>> PROJECT'S WEBSITE

The Positive Peace Project's virtual platform, an oasis of profound insight and collective endeavor dedicated to the advancement of education system in Kazakhstan and worldwide. At the heart of our digital platform lies a fervent commitment to the principles of positive peace – a paradigm encompassing not merely the absence of conflict, but the deliberate cultivation of empathy, justice, and peace education in schools.

The project's website was designed and developed in three languages (Kazakh, Russian, and English). The website consists of different aspects of the project development, including information about its updates, team members, brief summary of the project, pilot school, resources, and contact details (see the picture below).



HOME ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS RESOURCES CONTACT ENG

## Positive Peace Education

Establishing lasting peace is the work of education,  
All politics can do is keep us out of war.  
Maria Montessori

Visit Us to Know More





# CURRENT WORK AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

2

## >>> ETHICS APPLICATION

- The team is applying for Ethics to Nazarbayev University Institutional Research Ethics Committee (NU IREC) to safeguard the rights and welfare of study participants and ensure ethical compliance for our research project.

## >>> TRIP TO CAMBRIDGE

- Next, researchers from Kazakhstan plan to visit the University of Cambridge and UK schools in October, 2023. The team includes researchers and research assistants from Nazarbayev University Graduate School of Education, policy-makers and practitioners from the National Academy of Education named after Altynsarin. The goal of the trip is to collaborate and communicate with teachers and school leaders in the UK, who enact positive peace education in their schools as well as to hold discussions with the UK-based researchers and the wider network of peace education researchers in Cambridge.

## >>> LIGHTS.CAMERA.ACTION (RESEARCH)

- The team with the help of teachers from Nazarbayev Intellectual School (NIS), conducted a session on Action Research for pilot school teachers.
- Umit Adekenova, the teacher of English (NIS), demonstrated to the audience her in-depth knowledge of Action Research and facilitated teachers to understand the theoretical basis, practical implementation, research-specific attributes and instances of Action Research, and possible ways of implementing it within the potential Action Research projects that will start from September.
- Ardak Taybotanova, the teacher of Kazakh language and literature (NIS), shared her experience of using Action Research in her daily teaching practice. She also showed how with the help of Action Research teachers can develop their research skills, participate in scientific international and local conferences, and publish their works/projects on various journals and conference proceedings.



## >>> ACTION RESEARCH PLANNING AND PROJECT TEMPLATES

- The team drafted a Positive Peace Education Template Project generic and several project template for teachers. The first Peace project was developed by PI of the project, Lynne Parmenter, and was entitled as "Integrating positive peace education into schoolwide tarbie strategy and activities".
- Based on these templates and examples, the team drafted different project templates as examples for teachers to use when they plan their own projects. Specifically, the templates were developed emphasizing the curriculum of some school subjects and aspects of Positive Peace matrix. For instance, the project template on Biology lesson was created to facilitate inner, outer, and ecological peace.
- Similarly, other projects, such as "Facilitating positive peace education in World Cognition classrooms", were designed to implement peace education into primary schools, while the project on "Improving Collaborative Learning Practices in Grades 10-11 Science Subjects" focuses on integrating peace education in upper-secondary school curriculum. In addition to this, the project "Building Student Agency for Climate Action" can be implemented and applied for all school grades and age groups. All these projects include their translations into Russian and Kazakh and their distribution among pilot school teachers.

TRANSITIONING  
CONCEPTS  
INTO  
PRACTICAL  
APPLICATION