

## Fostering Unity: Collaborative Efforts for Global Harmony

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This article intends to explore the potential that Buddhist principles hold to foster global unity and harmony in the contemporary issues of political nature. The teachings offered by Buddhism promote the idea of world peace and global harmony. Through the concepts of such the theory of interdependence or dependent arising (*pratītyasamutpāda*) and compassion (*karuṇā*), a world that has harmony and peace can be cultivated. (Anālayo, 2020) Yu et al. (2020, p 1239) explains the concept of dependent origination as-

*“Interconnectedness is a central tenet underlying all Buddhist teachings. It is expressed in Buddhism as “When there is this, that comes to be; with the arising of this, that arises. When there is not this, that does not come to be; with the cessation of this, that ceases” (Ñāṇamoli and Bodhi 1995, p. 655). It delineates the interdependent nature of all phenomena in the world, implying that the arising of all matters is conditioned on the arising of one another. In other words, all matters are mutually influencing one another and co-arising dependently ...”*

Buddhism’s emphasis on the interconnectedness through the concept of dependent-origination (*pratītyasamutpāda*), helps form a framework for comprehending our shared humanity and common psychological vision. The acknowledgement that we all share one thing in common, that is, existence, can help us inculcate in us a sense of empathy and compassion for others even with differences in cultures, religious practices and social backgrounds. Through the realisation of this shared humanity and shared existence, the gaps between diverse communities can be bridged. Buddhism’s primary objective is to move society towards humanism. Similarly, its aim was to identify societal issues and offer recommendations to steer it towards humanism, the welfare of its constituents, and a more equitable distribution of resources.

The practice of compassion (*karuṇā*), which is the core teaching of Buddhism, encourages actively working towards reducing the suffering of others. The sense of harmony for the well-being of all humanity can be fostered through practising compassion, as Buddhist principles propound. Synergistic attempts inspired by Buddhist principles, such as interfaith dialogue, social justice initiatives, and environmental conservation projects can bring together people from different backgrounds to work towards common goals, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. Compassion has been a major theme in Buddhist thought history. In ancient Buddhist canons, *mettā/maitrī*, translated as ‘loving kindness’, is prominent and in the *Mahāyāna* Buddhism, *karuṇā*, translated as ‘compassion’, is more widespread. We also can move in the direction Baumann (2001) moves in as ‘Global Buddhism’. According to Baumann (2001) -

*“Global Buddhism can be understood as a specific kind of global religion with its transcultural flows, deterritorialized universality, and centripetal “global religion space.” It is characterized by*

*“transnational and transcontinental flow of Buddhist ideas and practices and the global travel of Buddhist teachers and students.”*

The *Dīgha Nikāya* proposes its own method of fostering unity as was observed in the oldest republics of *Veśali*. The *Vajjians* according to the *Mahāparinibbāna Sutta* of the *Dīgha Nikāya* follow seven essential principles to prioritize living together in solidarity. Amongst the seven are to meet through regular meetings and assemblies, to arrive and leave meetings in unison and perform their tasks together and also to preserve, respect and honour all religious beliefs. Another Buddhist principle of wisdom, especially in Mahāyāna Buddhism, emphasizes the core virtues of compassion and wisdom. This principle guides us to navigate complex social and political issues with sophistication. Buddhism furthers the idea that through wisdom one can learn to apprehend the interconnectedness in all things which is a result of dependent origination, the underlying cause and the resultant effect. This wisdom can guide us in the social and political sphere to make informed decisions and guide our actions towards putting in collaborative efforts for the long-term well-being of all.

With rapid globalization, post the decolonisation in the 20th Century and the exponential development in communication and transport technology there has been a renewed significance for Global Unity. Through technology, trade and exchanges of culture, the world is getting more and more interconnected, therefore, there is an increased need for cooperation and understanding amongst nations. Global unity refers to the idea of a world where diverse cultures, nations, and individuals come together to address shared challenges and work towards a common future. Chua (1999) writes -

*“The problem is not whether one defends or defies the notion of unity but whether anybody knows what unity is ... [There needs to be a critique of unity, or at least some kind of definition that acknowledges that there is no unity to the notion of unity.]”*

Arriving at a consensus on what unity is will be a question of a separate article, however we shall continue to understand it for the sake of brevity as the idea of a world where diverse cultures, nations, and individuals come together to address shared challenges and work towards a common future. The importance of global unity has increased now with an increase in the complex and interconnected nature of contemporary issues. Climate change, poverty, inequality, and pandemics are global problems that require global solutions. No nation can, single-handedly, address these challenges by itself. These challenges require collaboration and combined efforts from countries, to take essential strategic decisions, share resources and build and implement policies that are beneficial for all of humanity.

The *Aṅguttara Nikāya* compares the unity of monks to living in the Brahman way as express in Sutta 93 of the text -

*“as the monks dwell together in unity, courteous,  
without quarrelling,  
like milk and water mixed, looking on each other with the eye of affection,  
at such time they beget much merit: at such time, monks,  
they dwell in the Brahmā-way”*

This sutta from the *Aṅguttara Nikāya* beautifully illustrates the power of unity and harmony within a community or the buddhist Saṅgha. The image of monks dwelling together "*like milk and water mixed*" evokes a sense of seamless integration and interdependence within the community that is observed in the colloquial life of the Saṅgha. This harmonious coexistence, characterized by courtesy, non-quarrelling, and mutual affection, is not merely a pleasant state but a source of "much merit." The sutta elevates this harmonious dwelling to the "Brahma-way," suggesting a state of noble and virtuous living. This principle of unity and harmonious coexistence can be extended beyond the monastic setting to promote global unity. By cultivating Buddhist values like mutual respect, understanding, and compassion, and by setting aside conflict and discord, individuals and nations can create a world that mirrors the peaceful and meritorious community of the Saṅgha as described in the sutta. In such a world, differences blend like milk and water, and humanity as a whole progresses towards a more harmonious and virtuous existence.

More than that, global unity is essential for peace and security. Through dialogues, understanding, and mutual respect, the risk of conflict and violence can be mitigated. International cooperation and collaboration through peace treaties can help to resolve disputes peacefully and along with that build trust among nations thereby creating a more stable and secure world. By encouraging cultural interchange and understanding, global unity may improve our lives in addition to tackling global issues and advancing peace. When individuals from various cultural backgrounds come together, they can challenge one another's viewpoints, learn from one another, which leads to the recognition of the variety of human experiences that are available. Innovation, creativity, and a greater comprehension of our common humanity can result from this cross-cultural interaction that has only been on the rise in the current age of digitised globalisation. This is one element of manifesting the element of interdependence in the practice of our daily lives that shall effectuate the process of fostering global harmony and unity among us.

The *Gopakamoggallāna* of the *Majjhima Nikāya* emphasizes the importance of the sangha and propounds the rules and internal discipline the sangha ought to maintain after the passing of the Buddha. In the *Kosambiya Sutta* of the *Majjhima Nikāya*, the bhikkhus at Kosambi were divided over various social issues. During that period Gautam Buddha gave a sermon on identifying the six virtues to create love and unity amongst themselves. The first three of these six acts include bodily, verbal and mental love and compassion for fellow bhikkhus. The other three are to share things in common with fellow bhikkhus and follow virtuous life (MN 48.7).

Buddhist ethical values as the core principle, contains within it the potential to contribute to the advancement of global harmony as was done in the past. Buddhist tenets, which shall be elaborated further in this article advocate for compassion (*karuṇa*), wisdom (*prajñā*) and dependent origination (*pratityasamutpada*), rendering it an invaluable framework for cultivating global unity and harmony. Buddhism teaches us to embrace the unity of humanity over egotism, compassion over animosity, and tolerance over violence, and through this the world becomes a realm of peace and happiness, an ideal environment of work, living, and enjoyment is created.

The Buddhist concept of anatta, the non-existence of a permanent self, offers a powerful antidote to violence. By recognizing anatta, we begin to dismantle the ego that often rationalises violence in the name of self-preservation. We see through the illusion of separation between subject and object, realizing the interconnectedness of all beings. This understanding of oneness is central to Buddhist thought. While similar to the Advaita Vedanta concept of non-dualism, the Buddhist notion of oneness, perhaps best captured by the term *ananyata*, has a distinct character. Advaita emphasizes the absence of duality—there are no two. *Ananyata*, on the other hand, points to a more profound unity where all distinctions dissolve, and there are no "others" at all. This difference, though subtle, leads to a distinct 'rasa' or experiential quality in each tradition.

A core element of Buddhism is the idea of dependent origination (*Pratītyasamutpāda*), which asserts that all phenomena emerge in reliance on the other occurrences, it reestablishes the cause and effect. This principle underscores the interdependence of all entities, asserting that no individual lives in isolation. Understanding this interconnection between beings and their actions helps kindle the states of empathy and compassion for others. Knowing that all suffering is a cause of action and is rooted in the notion of karma shall bring about empathy and compassion. Compassion, called *karuna* in Pali, is a fundamental virtue in Buddhism. It entails proactively striving to mitigate the distress of others and enhance their welfare. Buddhists are urged to develop compassion via meditation, ethical behaviour, and benevolent actions. Practicing compassion enables individuals to cultivate empathy and understanding for those who differ from them, thus promoting cooperation and harmony. Compassion, as understood in the *Visuddhimagga* is -

*"It is compassion in the sense that when there is suffering among others, it moves the heart of good people (literally, it makes the heart tremble). Furthermore, it is compassion in the sense that it is scattered among those who are suffering; it is extended to them by means of pervasion."*

Further, it is said,

*"It is compassion because of the desire to remove misfortune and suffering in a manner beginning with 'Oh, let them be released from this suffering!'"*

An essential Buddhist idea is the concept of *anattā*, or non-self. This principle posits the absence of a permanent, autonomous self or soul. The self is a multifaceted interaction of physical and mental elements that are ever-evolving. Understanding the transient nature of the self fosters detachment and equanimity, enabling individuals to engage with others with openness and comprehension. Richard Taylor (1969) in "The *Anattā* Doctrine and Personal Identity" states that according to the Buddha "there simply is no self" in the sense of "an inner enduring self," and that this claim is logically equivalent to the thesis that "there is no personal self-other than just the body." Therefore, the spirit is completely annihilated and the identity rests not on the soul or the *ātman* as otherwise understood by the *Vedāntic* traditions.

Buddhism underscored the significance of mindfulness. Mindfulness as understood entails focusing on the current moment with awareness and acceptance of one's environment and

circumstances in a non-judgemental way that does not hamper their tranquil state of mind. By practicing mindfulness, the respective individuals enhance their self-awareness and emotional intelligence, allowing them to respond to circumstances with insight and empathy by remaining consistent with Buddhist ethical ideals as mentioned in the eleven books of the *Anguttara Sutta*. Practicing mindfulness also alleviates tension, worry, and unpleasant emotions, fostering a sense of inner tranquillity and balance. This paper seeks to investigate the possibility of collaborative initiatives based on Buddhist principles such as compassion, wisdom, and interconnectedness. We aim to pinpoint particular solutions and practices to tackle global issues and foster harmonious interactions among individuals and nations, such that Buddhist ideals remain at the core of the action.

Key areas of inquiry for this article include:

1. **The Role of Buddhist Principles in Global Collaboration:** How can Buddhist principles be applied to contemporary global challenges? What strategies can foster intercultural dialogue based on Buddhist teachings? How can Buddhist practices contribute to the development of empathy and resilience among global citizens?
2. **Case Studies of Collaborative Initiatives:** What are successful examples of Buddhist-inspired collaborative initiatives? How have these initiatives contributed to societal well-being? What lessons can be learned to inform future efforts?
3. **The Impact of Buddhist-Inspired Collaboration on Global Harmony:** The question of 'How can Buddhist-based collaboration reduce conflict and promote peace?' and 'What is its potential for contributing to sustainable development and social justice?', and 'How can these initiatives foster a sense of global citizenship and shared responsibility?'

This article shall examine the above-mentioned inquiries and provide insights about the potential of Buddhist elements in promoting global peace. The focus will be on examining how the integration of Buddhist principles such as *pancāśīla* in the international political scenario may address urgent global challenges and motivate organizations to strive for a more equitable, compassionate, and sustainable society. Global unity as a concept has been at the forefront of international debates and has been the primary factor for the formation of the United Nations after the Bretton Woods agreement. The relevance of Buddhist principles in addressing the same objectives as the international institutions is paramount.

## Existing Literature on Global Unity

In recent times, countries with political and cultural strife come together to attain their shared objectives with particular attention paid to the significance of "unity in diversity." This has been most prevalent in scientific research such as the International Space Station, where countries such as the USA, China and Russia, along with others, work in harmony to attain collective ends. The Global Cooperation Barometer underscores that, although geopolitical difficulties, there are favourable signs of collaboration across states, especially in climate action and health projects. The G20's pledge to mobilize \$100 billion yearly for climate finance until 2025

exemplifies how collaborative initiatives can yield concrete results. (Unity in Diversity Amidst Global Challenges, n.d.)

Recently the address of the now former president Biden at the United Nations General Assembly highlighted the significance of global unity in maintaining peace and addressing pressing issues like climate change and economic disparities. Biden called for active participation from nations all over the world to encourage ideals similar to that Buddhist values such as mutual respect and cooperation, illustrating how international cooperation can pave the way for a more sustainable future.

## **Challenges to Global Unity**

Achieving global unity is not without its problems. The ongoing conflicts in both Gaza and Ukraine are a perfect example of the challenges that exist in global unity. The conflicts across the landscape have divided the masses across the globe. The need for an open discussion and trust between these bordering states is of importance. Recently, Philémon Yang, the President of the UN General Assembly, emphasized the UN's strength in uniting disparate nations towards shared objectives, while cautioning against the misallocation of resources to military spending, which may intensify global tensions, he also urged for the immediate resolution of conflicts with durable solutions (Business Standard, 2024). The study also indicates that while global unity facilitates collaboration and resource-sharing, it also raises issues regarding cultural uniformity and the potential erosion of unique identities.(Singleton, n.d.). Balancing collaborative action and preserving diversity remains a critical issue. While there are promising avenues for encouraging global unity through combined initiatives like any other collective goal, significant challenges need to be addressed to realize its full potential.

Buddhism's role in social and political engagement, particularly through the lens of Global Buddhism as explained by Baumann (2001), has been explored in Buddhist scholarly literature. The emergence of the Global Buddhism movement in the 20th century, aims to employ Buddhist principles as mentioned in the eleven books of the *Anguttara Sutta* to address contemporary social issues, fostering peace, justice, and environmental sustainability, thereby transitioning Buddhist teachings to the masses and making them politically relevant.

## **Historical Context and Development of Buddhist Ethics**

Engaged Buddhism gained prominence in Vietnam during the 1950s, primarily through the teachings of Thích Nhất Hạnh (Lion's Roar, 2023). He advocated for applying Buddhist ethics to social activism, promoting non-violent approaches to conflicts and injustices with fourteen principles that go beyond the teachings of the Buddha and are addressed in context of the 21st century. The movement later spread globally, influencing various social justice initiatives, including human rights advocacy and environmental protection. More recently in India, B.R. Ambedkar's Dalit Buddhist movement in India exemplifies this application, focusing on economic justice and political freedom for marginalized communities that are showcased within the boundary of Buddhist teachings(Verma, 2010)

## Core Principles

Thích Nhất Hạnh's Engaged Buddhism is grounded in the Buddha's teachings on compassion (*Karūṇa*) and dependent-origination (*Pratītyasamutpāda*). It encourages practitioners to take responsibility for societal well-being rather than retreating into personal meditation. This perspective aligns with the Buddha's emphasis on community welfare and ethical conduct as essential components of spiritual practice, this goes beyond the immediate neighbourhood and has relevance to make a difference at an international stage. The Fourteen Precepts of Engaged Buddhism, articulated by Thích Nhất Hạnh, serve as guidelines for fostering social awareness and action. Number 12 strikes most appropriately as "Do not kill. Do not let others kill. Find whatever means possible to protect life and prevent war" and number 10 "Do not use the Buddhist community for personal gain or profit, or transform your community into a political party. A religious community, however, should take a clear stand against oppression and injustice and should strive to change the situation without engaging in partisan conflicts." (Lion's Roar, 2023)

## Challenges and Opportunities

Despite its potential, Engaged Buddhism faces challenges, particularly regarding political involvement. Critics argue that some Buddhists prioritize personal enlightenment over collective action, potentially undermining social engagement. While the former is a reference to the arhatship of *Hinayana Buddhism*, the idea of Bodhisattva is a part of the *Mahāyāna* tradition of Buddhism. The *Mahāyāna* tradition of Buddhism by its very nature moves collectively with all sentient life, as noted by the vows of the *Bodhisattvas* who seek incarnation until all sentient life attains nirvana. However, proponents assert that addressing systemic suffering requires a commitment to social activism as a priority, framing political engagement as an extension of Buddhist practice rather than a distraction from it is essential to alleviate the stress points of contemporary issues. As we see from Thích Nhất Hạnh's fourteen points, Buddhism itself should not be the cause of any political conflict and all efforts of such states should be intended to reduce suffering and prevent war.

Scholarly works illustrate that Buddhism can play a transformative role in promoting peace and harmony through social engagement. This approach not only addresses immediate societal issues but also fosters a deeper understanding of interconnectedness among all beings. Which is necessary to move in a direction that has a positive and durable effect on human life that is and the life that is yet to come. The idea of sustainability is also rooted in compassion for the future generations. Successful collaborative initiatives between states that promote intercultural understanding and social change have been observed in various contexts such as space research, medicine, education, heritage, demonstrating the power of partnership in addressing complex societal issues.

Here are notable case studies that exemplify these efforts:

### **Intercultural Health Initiatives in Latin America**

A study conducted by Mignone et al (2007) across five Latin American countries—Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Suriname—demonstrates the integration of indigenous and Western medical practices. Such a methodology is also found in India with the rise of AYUSH mission, which bring together indigenous knowledge and the developments of modern medicine. The initiative aimed to boost healthcare accessibility for local populations through collaboration between traditional healers and medical professionals. Suriname has seen the establishment of dual clinics allowed for mutual respect and knowledge exchange, thereby significantly improving community trust in healthcare services which has had a significant positive impact on the local population. (Mignone et al., 2007)

### **Educational Collaborations in Europe**

The IntRef project focused on intercultural reflection in teaching across various European educational institutions. By implementing reflective methods that encouraged dialogue among diverse student groups, the project aimed to enhance cultural sensitivity and understanding among participants, this way, students could partake in differing perspectives, which would lead to improved intercultural communication skills and a greater appreciation for diversity within academic setting. (Teaching, 2021)

### **Mixed-Religion Marriage Mediation in Mexico**

The chosen case study from Mexico explores the challenges faced by mixed-religion couples navigating familial and societal pressures. Such a practice is also found in India, which is founded on secular principles and has populations for diverse religious backgrounds, giving rise to the age old proverb of Sarv Dharm *Sāma Bhāva*, Which means that all religions lead to the same goal. Through collaborative mediation efforts involving community leaders from different faiths have come together to reach consensus on global issues. The initiative aimed to foster understanding and acceptance among diverse religious backgrounds. Such a methodology has brought about a higher ratio of successful marriages with couples being more inclusive and understanding of various cultures. This is also in line with the 1st precept of engaged Buddhism, which states that one should not consider any doctrine as completely true, not even the Buddhist doctrine; one should always have an open mind. This approach not only supported couples in their personal journeys but also contributed to broader societal shifts towards tolerance and coexistence. (Case Studies in Intercultural Communication, n.d.)

### **The Intercultural Dialogue in the Mediterranean**

The Mediterranean Youth Forum is a collaborative initiative that brings together young people from diverse cultural backgrounds across Mediterranean countries like Portugal, Spain and some African and Nordic countries. The Mediterranean Youth forum fosters intercultural dialogue and understanding through workshops, cultural exchanges, and joint projects addressing common social issues such as migration, climate change, and youth unemployment in the region, thus giving weight to the things that actually matter to the people. The recently held "Cultural Bridges" project was a huge success. It involved youth-led community service



initiatives in various cities of the Mediterranean region. Participants reported increased awareness of cultural diversity and strengthened relationships among youth from different nationalities, ultimately leading to enhanced social cohesion within their communities.

### **The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)**

The UNAOC was established to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding among different cultures and religions globally, with the aim of "Many Cultures, One Humanity". One of its flagship initiatives, the "Youth Solidarity Fund," supports projects that empower young people to engage in intercultural dialogue and tackle issues such as discrimination and violence. The Buddhist principle of ahimsa and no harm to sentient life is reflected in such a collaborative effort between countries which otherwise suffer from political strife. A project funded by the UNAOC involved youth from conflicting regions collaborating on a multimedia campaign to promote peace and tolerance. This initiative has raised awareness about the importance of intercultural understanding and also provided a platform for young voices to advocate for social change in their communities, thus giving relevance to the program in its effectiveness.

### **The "Together for Peace" Initiative**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), launched the "Together for Peace" initiative focused on promoting peace through intercultural dialogue among youth which has relevance for the next generation to promote harmony amongst the masses globally. The initiative has been successful in the creation of local peace committees that continue to work on community projects aimed at fostering inclusivity and understanding among diverse cultural groups; this is a drop in the ocean of global unity but has played its part well. The participants involved in the UNESCO initiative noted significant improvements in their ability to communicate across cultural divides by being more inclusive and understanding of other cultures, leading to more harmonious community relations. This is a step towards a pluralistic society that is similar to the collective attitude of Bodhisattvas in the Mahayana tradition of Buddhism.

The above-mentioned six case studies reflect how collaborative efforts can create meaningful platforms for intercultural understanding and drive positive social change within diverse communities while also being in line with the Buddhist precepts, whether of Siddhartha Gautama himself or that of Thích Nhất Hạnh. Buddhist ethical principles offer profound insights that are highly relevant in contemporary times to various fields of research. The Buddhist ethical values as elucidated in the Nikāyas, promote social harmony, environmental sustainability, and conflict resolution. Four key principles—interconnectedness (dependent origination), compassion (karuna), wisdom (prajna), and non-violence (ahimsa)—serve as foundational tenets in Buddhist philosophy.

## Conclusion

Buddhism's core principles of ahimsa, karuna and anatta as propounded by Buddha offer a sincere framework for fostering global peace and unity. Its focus on interconnectedness, compassion, wisdom, and non-violence, provides practical solutions for individuals and international issues to cultivate global harmony and understanding across cultural and national boundaries.

The principle of interconnectedness is understood through the concept of dependent origination (*pratītyasamutpāda*). The doctrine of Dependent origination states that all phenomena arise due to dependence on multiple causes and conditions which occur in the similar spatio-temporal state as that of the event. The dependence is also linked to the karma of the individual as all karma needs to be exterminated before one achieves the state of an arhat, an individual attaine of Nirvana. This comprehension demonstrates an all-encompassing perspective on reality. Thereby highlighting the fact that our actions have a significant impact on the environment, ecosystem, and other sentient creatures around us. By acknowledging the complex network of relationships that impact social and environmental challenges through human activities, *Pratītyasamutpāda* promotes a systems-thinking approach. Researchers can better grasp the complexities of societal issues and promote solutions that take into account the wider ramifications of their work by recognising interconnection.

Compassion (*karuṇa*) is the most important cornerstone of Buddhist teachings and is highly relevant in the discussion surrounding global unity in the contemporary context. The Mahāyāna tradition calls for empathy towards the suffering of others and motivates individuals to alleviate that suffering; this stands as the core of Bodhisattva's state of being. This principle transcends cultural and religious boundaries, making it universally applicable in efforts to promote peace. Engaged Buddhism as explained by Thích Nhất Hạnh exemplifies this by encouraging practitioners to participate actively in social justice movements, humanitarian efforts, and conflict resolution initiatives.

Wisdom (*prajñā*) in Buddhism emphasizes understanding the true nature of reality and the importance of discernment in decision-making. During the time when Buddha was asked by his followers to deliver an answer to the metaphysical question of the world, life and beyond life, Buddha's silence was a reflection of his silence with an undertone of his pragmatism. This wisdom brings about critical thinking and ethical conduct, essential for addressing global issues around the world such as the South China Sea and the continuing Levant conflict. By cultivating wisdom through practices such as meditation and mindfulness, individuals can develop clarity in their thoughts and actions, which will be reflected in society at large.

The principle of non-violence (*ahimsa*) is integral to Buddhist ethics, without which the message of peaceful living is incomplete. It advocates for peaceful means of conflict resolution and

promotes a culture of respect for all sentient life, which is inclusive of animal and plant life and has serious repercussions for sustainable living by increasing one's karmic baggage on every decision and intention on sets in concern to their actions. In a world rife with violence and discord, the application of non-violence can serve as a powerful tool for change not only in the person but the society at large. A caveat is self defence, which resembles India's 'No first use policy' when it comes to nuclear weapons. By adopting non-violent approaches in personal interactions and broader societal conflicts, individuals can contribute to a more peaceful world that was imagined by the Buddhist way of being.

Finally, the fundamental principles of Buddhist teachings can undoubtedly promote global peace and togetherness, shown at the time of Aśoka as well in his spread of the Dhamma which was inspired by Buddhist teachings. Interconnectedness, compassion, wisdom, and non-violence as mentioned above are attributes through which one can cultivate a healthy life and play a significant part in disseminating these virtues by action to people around and society at large. A mindset that fosters harmony across diverse cultures and societies. Buddhist teachings divert us from immediate self-interests, acknowledge our collective humanity, and facilitate an understanding of our shared psychological perspective which is essential in the current scenario where a spark in one corner of the world can have severe consequences across the globe. An is the Israel-Palestine conflict which has been at the centre of university debates across the globe. In light of the global issues encountered, collective action is imperative and the need of the hour; the teachings of the Buddha offer a pathway for peaceful reconciliation, compassion, and collaboration.

Promoting global peace via institutions and social interventions necessitates collective action, transcending individual endeavours to unite communities worldwide in cooperative efforts. This represents the purpose of the United Nations and their deliverables to the world as a mediating organization. The incorporation of Buddhist principles into our daily existence and societal frameworks fosters the development of a more equitable and harmonious world, where diversity is embraced and regarded as a strength rather than a vulnerability. Thus, Buddhism functions as a guiding ideology and provides a framework for actions aimed at attaining enduring peace and world oneness.

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