

**Dialogue for Peace Initiatives**  
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**DIALOGUE  
FOR PEACE  
INITIATIVES:  
KASHMIR**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STUDENTS INITIATE A UNIQUE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AT  
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE WITH A SYMPOSIUM ON THE INDIA-PAKISTAN  
CONFLICT**

Swarthmore, PA - August 5, 2003 -- 'Dialogue for Peace Initiatives', an independent and politically neutral group of students and faculty at Swarthmore College, will host one of the biggest conferences thus far in the U.S. on the Jammu and Kashmir conflict. The conference, titled 'Dialogue for Peace Initiatives: Kashmir' will take place at Swarthmore College premises on September 19, 20 and 21. Using diversity of opinions as its key strength, 'Dialogue for Peace Initiatives: Kashmir' seeks to connect involved communities that include: the South Asian community residing in the US, which has the potential to contribute immensely to a peace process in South Asia; the concerned American public, and speakers, who bring with them personal experiences and knowledge about the conflict. During the conference, these eclectic people will participate in informational presentations and action-oriented workshops that will build a space for mutual trust and understanding.

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**Dialogue for Peace Initiatives** is a neutral and independent effort committed to the amicable and peaceful resolution of conflicts across the world. It is sponsored by the William J. Cooper Foundation at Swarthmore College, PA.

The symposium will engage many academics and speakers, including leading nuclear-politics experts, historians, prominent journalists, authors, film-makers, and human rights activists. Usmaan Ahmad, Ravina Aggarwal, Abir Bazaz, Urvashi Butalia, Cabeiri deB. Robinson, Sumit Ganguly, Husain Haqqani, Sudha Koul, Lawrence Lifschultz, Adil Najam, Deepa Ollapally, and Siddiq Wahid have confirmed their attendance at the conference. Among the many renowned speakers is the 17-year-old peace activist and 2002 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee from Colombia, Gerson Andrés Floréz Pérez. Participants will examine the history of the region, the consequences of the conflict, and flaws in previous peace processes to address key issues surrounding the Kashmir conflict.

Through panel discussions, community-building workshops, interactive forum theatre, film screenings, and poetry readings, the three-day-long conference is designed to facilitate a better understanding of the conflict and contemplate possible measures for political stability in South Asia. In the final session, participants will have the opportunity to reflect upon their experiences and present a Statement of Common Ground, summarizing the collected efforts of the participants and speakers during the conference. 'Dialogue for Peace Initiatives' has received technical help from various experienced facilitators and academics in formulating the conference structure and content.

"I was impressed to learn of these activities, which can surely be instrumental in bringing about a peaceful and amicable resolution of conflicts that are causing great suffering and carry the risk of great catastrophe," commented Noam Chomsky,

prominent political commentator and MIT linguistics professor, while expressing his wholehearted support for DPI's mission. A recent U.N. report declared Kashmir to be the most dangerous place in the world. In the last thirteen years alone, over 70,000 civilians have died and nearly half a million people have been displaced

'Dialogue for Peace Initiatives' cordially invites every interested individual to attend the conference and join the effort to start a dialogue geared towards a peaceful solution. This conference is open to all members of the public. There is no conference fee. Dining services will be available at the college premises at a cost. Swarthmore College will provide housing for visiting students only. Information about nearby accommodations for other participants is available upon request. Advance registration is strongly recommended due to limited space availability. To register, please visit <http://dpi.swarthmore.edu/registration> or write to [dpi@swarthmore.edu](mailto:dpi@swarthmore.edu). Media members wishing to cover the conference should contact Tom Krattenmaker in the Swarthmore College News and Information Office at [tkratte1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:tkratte1@swarthmore.edu) or 610-328-8534.