PEACE FIELD PROGRAMME

GLOBAL PEACE GAMES

SEPTEMBER 2026

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PEACE FIELD PROGRAMME'S

2026 GLOBAL PEACE GAMES REPORT

by The Children's Football Alliance.

SEPTEMBER 2026



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GLOBAL PEACE GAMES, 2026
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

November 1, 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This executive summary outlines the key findings from a transnational survey of participants, project partners, and volunteers involved in the 2026 Global Peace Games (14–20 September 2026), part of the Children's Football Alliance Peace Field Programme.

Programme Background and Context.

The Children's Football Alliance (CFA) Peace Field Programme commemorates the past and celebrates peace through play. Marking its 10th anniversary in 2024, the initiative now spans 86 International Peace Field Projects (PFPs) across six continents.

As part of each project, local play areas are officially twinned with the Peace Village's Peace Pitch, overlooking Flanders Peace Field in Belgium—the historic site of the 1914 First World War Christmas truces. Participating PFPs can also apply for the annual Global Peace Games (GPGs), held during the United Nations International Day of Peace. Over the past 12 years, these week-long games have empowered 1,000 young people as Ambassadors for Peace.

Achieved Aims

The Children's Football Alliance, Peace Village, Fair Play Point, and GroepINTRO—alongside special guests Osentede College and Klein College—successfully engaged **approximately 800 participants** in their respective Peace Field Projects (PFPs). From these projects, **52 participants** advanced to the 2026 Peace Field Programme's Global Peace Games (GPGs). The closing ceremony celebrated these achievements by awarding **40 participants** with Ambassador for Peace Certificates and unique GPGs medals for mastering peace education through play. Additionally, **42 special guest participants** received GPGs gifts for their outstanding contributions. Building on this success, all partners are now launching new PFPs through Fair Play Point in the Czech Republic and GroepINTRO in Belgium.

Outcomes Achieved

- Empowered Peace Ambassadors with critical self-learning, leadership, and enhanced life skills.
- Participant appreciation for humanitarian principles, health, and play-based wellness.
- Fostered student ownership of peace initiatives, creating clear pathways to further education and employment.
- Increased understanding of the value of sports in driving higher academic attainment.
- Strengthened organisational capacity in team building, mindfulness, equality, and inclusive diversity.
- Established a network of advocates dedicated to advancing peace education through play.
- Promoted diverse, multi-generational relationships by integrating sports, art, performance, and debate.

Impact

The outcomes achieved are as follows:

The 2026 Global Peace Games (GPGs) brought a powerful week of peace education through play to the Peace Village; participants Fair Play Point (Czech Republic) and GroepIntro (Belgium), clearly found the event enjoyable and inspirational. This incredible multicultural event united participants from **25 different nationalities**, alongside special guests Ostende College and Klein College from Belgium. The gathering also marked a historic milestone: the twinning of Ostende College's new peace pitch—the very first Belgian college peace pitch—with the Peace Village Peace Pitch. With this latest addition, the International Peace Field Project now boasts **86 peace pitches spanning six continents**.

Participants reported high levels of fun, shared learning, and inclusivity, reinforcing how non-formal education successfully complements formal learning. Staff and volunteers highlighted the clear intergenerational value of the GPGs. Because activities were co-designed with 2025 and 2026 participants for all comfort levels, everyone could easily get involved. Furthermore, special guests made an outstanding contribution by introducing participants to the core nature of GPGs: mixed-gender, mixed-ability, and fully inclusive activities.

The **2026 GPGs** continued to advance diverse learning outcomes for teaching staff, including citizenship, mixed-ability and mixed-gender sportsmanship, and a shared heritage through play. Additionally, participants fully embraced their **"Ambassadors for Peace" pledge**. Feedback highlighted significant growth in leadership, critical self-learning, and essential life skills such as **confidence, self-esteem, and self-determination**.

Participants:

- **Internalised** the power of play in advancing humanitarian values.
- **Recognised** how peace education strengthens future academic and career pathways.
- **Embraced** play as a dynamic tool for continuous, lifelong learning.
- **Acquired** practical skills to champion diversity and equality through play.
- **Connected** with the International Peace Field Projects network and discovered how to actively engage.
- **Identified** innovative strategies to advocate for and support peace education.

Conclusion

All participants volunteered to take part. Once again, the Global Peace Games (GPGs) were oversubscribed, with demand far outstripping available places. Despite funding constraints, the 2026 GPGs continue to grow—a success that presents clear logistical challenges. Current financial capacity limits our ability to scale the programme to meet this rising demand. As the beacon project of the CFA's Peace Education Through Play Programme, the GPGs engage diverse communities to support youth personal development through cross-curricular activities. The 2026 report highlights that genuine social inclusion is our greatest social return on investment. Driven by the energy, passion, and focus of all partners and participants, we remain dedicated to creating "Peace Makers for the Future" in a world desperate for reconciliation.

Thank you: THIS COUNTRY 4 PEACE. COMMONWEALTH BOND CHARITABLE TRUST, BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION FOOTBALL CLUB, THE PEACE VILLAGE, GROEPINTRO, FAIR PLAY POINT, MESEN COUNCIL, OOSDTEND COLLEGE, KLEIN COLLEGE, BELGIUM, VERMEEREN TRAVEL, LAST POST ASSOCIATION, PASSCHENDAELE MUSEUM, TYNE COT CEMETARY AND THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION, YPRES, BELGIUM, TRASHBEATZ, BELGIUM, GRAFFITI FUN BELGIUM, CFA SOLUTIONS, UK, WILLIS BURNELL LTD, UK, KENT TROPHIES, UK, DON'T X THE LINE, AND SPYDER CREATIVE, UK.