



Nomination of

Pierre Weil

For 2003 Nobel Peace Prize

Why Professor Weil should be nominated?

How you can help?

Dear Mr. (Mrs.),

Following the birth of the idea in the minds of two students, each living on a different continent, UNIPAZ brought Professor Pierre Weil forward as a candidate for the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize, their desire for such recognition for Weil based on his creation and utilization of an educational method focused on how to bring about Peace, a method that breaks new ground concerning differences between Eastern and Western cultures.

Weil's work has been summarized in the book *The Art of Living in Peace*, the second edition of which has been printed by UNESCO and will be distributed throughout the world. UNESCO has also honored his innovative methodology by twice nominating him for the Education for Peace Prize, nominations which resulted in his winning honorable mention in 2000 and first place in 2002. Having dedicated his entire life to Education for Peace, Weil received the title of Honored Citizen of Brasilia in 1998 and considers himself a true Citizen of the World.

[Why are we proposing Weil's nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize?](#)

As you know, a primary objective of the United Nations is reinforcement of Education for Peace. In keeping with that objective, the UN has produced a document, signed by all living former winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, declaring 2000-2010 to be a decade dedicated to the promotion of a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the children of the world.

Since its beginnings in 1901 the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded for meritorious efforts and achievements of individuals in areas other than that of Education for Peace.

The foundation of a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence lies in Education for Peace, above all, in the Education of children. The nomination of Professor Pierre Weil would not only further recognize his innovative work in the field of Education for Peace and his life-long personal example of how to best live in Peace, it would also provide reinforcement by the esteemed Nobel Prize Foundation of the importance of Education for Peace, and benefit the facilitation of Education for Peace around the world, not only for UNIPAZ, but for all existing and future organizations in this area.

It should be noted that if Professor Weil is awarded the Nobel Peace

Prize, all financial support received as a result of the Prize will be donated to UNIPAZ so as to continue his fine work in Education for Peace.

Biographic Summary

Graduated in Education and Psychology with a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Paris, in Sorbonne, educator, psychologist and writer Pierre Weil was born on April 16, 1924, in Strasbourg, France, and has lived in Brazil for 54 years. He is the author of more than 50 books, including many best sellers, which have been published in several languages.

In 1932, at the age of eight, Weil amused himself with his cousins creating a group they named the Catholic Association of Jewish Protestants. At the age of 14 he wrote in his diary: "My country is not only France, my country is the entire world." At the same age he shared with his family his idea of eliminating borders between the countries of Europe and of creating a Europe with only one currency, and he was very moved many years later when he obtained his European passport and had the opportunity to see his youthful visions becoming concrete.

In 1941, at the age of 17, the consciousness of the young Frenchman led him to enlist as a "Maquis" to make his contribution toward expelling the Nazis from the France. Told to choose one of the machine guns presented to him, he rejected the idea of killing, refused to carry a weapon, and offered to contribute to the war effort by working as a nurse. Thus, he discovered his nonviolent nature, even before his eventual contact with Gandhi. One day while his comrades were preparing to explode a railway bridge, Weil walked over the trail and imagined himself as the organizer of a future school, one with all of the modern educational facilities and dedicated to the service of Peace. (This dream was realized years later with the creation of UNIPAZ.)

From that day on one could say that the fate, not only the mission, of Pierre Weil became clear and precise.

From 1941 to 1947 he prepared to be a Peace educator, and was a pupil of such well-known psychologists and educators as Léon Walther, Henri Piéron, Henri Wallon, André Rey, and Jean Piaget. He then underwent an intensive period of study in psychotherapeutic methods with Igor Caruso, Jacob Lévy Moreno, Zerka Moreno, and Anne Ancelin Scutemberger.

he invitation of one of his teachers, Leon Walther, Weil came to Brazil in **July 1948**. Like his advisor, Weil planned to stay only three months, but he felt Brazil was a country with a great potential for peace, due to its being a land of miscegenation, of religious fusion, of embraces, and of people who work together (“mutirão” in portuguese). These qualities caused Weil to view Brazil as a county with many values to export to the rest of the world, and he decided to make Brazil his home.

Between 1949 and 1958, after working 10 years at SENAC (an educational organization that teaches students about the economy and commerce), Weil considered his work there complete; he had trained more than ten teams of psychologists to guide those entering the field in all of Brazil’s states, and he was promoted to the position of Educational Director of SENAC. During that period he was also the principal Psycho-Pedagogic Consultant at the Pestalozzi Institute in Rio de Janeiro. He then decided to move to the state of Minas Gerais, where he was invited by Professor Pedro Parafita de Bessa to work at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, where he occupies a chair as a professor and has the opportunity to teach social psychology and other subjects whenever his schedule allows. At the same time he also worked as Orientation and Formation Director of Banco Real. By then he was responsible for the regularization of the psychologist profession in Brazil.

At 33 years of age Pierre Weil had done all that education recommended. He was an educator, psychologist and successful writer, but he had not yet found happiness.

Success without happiness led him to an existential crisis followed by cancer. As he says, crises happen to transform us. He underwent surgery and not knowing if he would live or die, he began to ask himself about the meaning of life and death. He discovered that the education that he had received had taught him “to have” but not “to be”. This realization caused him to seek and to find, answers in a synthesis between the East and the West, this 20 years before the UNESCO Venice Declaration, which recommended the complementary integration of the right and the left-brain and of Eastern and Western cultures.

In 1982, more concerned each day about international tension and the danger of nuclear war, he debated between going on a retreat with Tibetan Monks in France for three years, three months and three days, where he would further cultivate his internal peace, and joining Bernard Benson, his close friend, to support his movement for International Peace. One of the monks at the monastery, when asked by Weil for his opinion, responded: “ You can dedicate yourself to being only an activist

for Peace, or to knowing the true nature of the spirit, where the true fountain of Peace lives". He quickly chose the retreat, that is, to begin developing his internal peace. In doing so, he followed the recommendations of the preamble of the 1945 UNESCO Creation Assembly, which declared: "Wars are born in the spirit of men, so, it is in the spirit of men that must be built the fortress of peace." After this retreat Weil found himself ready to fulfill his dream from his days as a "Maquis," the dream of dedicating himself to Education for Peace.

In 1986, shortly after the end of the retreat, Weil was invited by the then Governor of Brasilia, the former Minister and former Ambassador, José Aparecido de Oliveira, to create the City of Peace Foundation, of which Weil was elected President and whose function would be to create and manage the International Holistic University of Brasilia, UNIPAZ (in English, UNIPEACE). His mission for Peace expanded, and today his work is centered in three regions: South America, Europe, and the Middle East, and will reach Africa, the United States, Canada and England in 2003. Clearly, Pierre Weil is a visionary in Peace Education.

In 1987 the City of Peace Foundation was created in the presence of eminent jurists and of the architects of Brasilia, Lúcio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer. On April 14, 1988, in the presence of UNESCO Council President Israel Vargas, the International Holistic Peace University of Brasília was inaugurated.

In 1988, Pierre Weil conceived a theory regarding the genesis of the destruction of life on Earth and the principles and approaches that facilitate a new method of Education for Peace. Inspired by the Venice Declaration, which Weil included in the by-laws of the City of Peace Foundation, and by numerous other UNESCO recommendations, he began to synthesize information he had presented to his students in seminars at Belo Horizonte University, applying the transdisciplinary model of this theory.

Encouraged by the great acceptance of this seminar, which he titled "The Art of Living in Peace," Weil wrote a pedagogic exposition in which he showed the original aspects of this contribution, primarily regarding a synthesis of Eastern and Western methods, to be also a transdisciplinary theory and vision of Peace and Consciousness. It was truly an international work for Peace. This work was presented to UNESCO by the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil and by the Brazilian Delegation at UNESCO headquarters and came to the attention of Mr. Federico Mayor, who would write the introduction to the first Portuguese edition of the book *The Art of Living in Peace*. In 1981 it was published

in French and English by UNESCO'S Humanistic Education Division, headed by Mrs. Kaisa Savolainen; it has since become available in four additional languages (Portuguese, Spanish, Catalan, and German). Robert Muller, Chancellor of the Peace University and a recipient of the UNESCO Education for Peace Prize, wrote a preface to the Brazilian edition. Shortly thereafter, Professor Weil was invited to present his method at a regional UNESCO seminar in Khartoum, Sudan. All participants very well accepted the seminar, the majority of whom were Muslims who highly praised his work. **In 1993** Pierre Weil presented his seminar at the United Nations Peace University in San Jose, Costa Rica. This experience inspired Professor Weil to make a Peace logotype to be used in publications and to establish an official interchange agreement between the Peace University in Costa Rica and UNIPAZ in Brasilia.

Professor Weil's principal realization in support of Peace is his construction of a new and original model and method for Education for Peace, integrating three important aspects:

Peace within oneself through Inner Cultivation (Personal Awareness)
Peace toward others through Social Cultivation (Social Awareness)
Peace with Nature through planetary Cultivation (Environmental Awareness).

The combination of the three leads to a complete Universal Awareness. This methodology is derived from a theory that Weil elaborated, reconstructing the Origin of the Destruction of Life on the Planet and the Culture of Violence.

As a result his first contribution consists of educational tools for ways to build a Culture of Peace in the World.

There are also various practical contributions in which the potential Nobel candidate is personally involved. Among them are the following:

-Inter- and transreligious activities: Weil regularly organizes interrelations meetings, and he is currently collaborating on a meeting of Christian, Jewish and Islamic leaders that focuses on Jerusalem and negotiations for Peace.

- He has held seminars on The Art of Living in Peace and The Art of Living Life, mainly in South America, Europe, and the Middle East.

- He has coordinated a network for Peace for those who wish to share ideas and gain understanding about Peace.

- He leads an ongoing campaign to change the texts of national anthems that have violent themes, redacted a new "Marseillaise," "The Marseillaise of Peace," which was introduced to the United Nations Choirs by Robert Miller, the chancellor of the University for Peace in Costa Rica.

Today, in the year 2002, at the age of 78, Weil maintains a full schedule of seminars, meetings, and lectures in various countries, at which he vividly transmits his ideas to participants of all ages- essential knowledge of the Causes of Violence and the principals and ways to achieve Peace Within, with Others and with Nature.

Testimony Regarding Pierre Weil

Robert MULLER (UNESCO Education for Peace Prize winner; former Vice-Secretary-General of the UN, and Chancellor of the Peace University of Costa Rica).

"The Peace University, created by the United Nations in Costa Rica, expresses its thanks to Pierre Weil, for his work as the Head of the City of Peace Foundation and of the International Holistic University of Brasilia.

Dr. Weil's contribution is remarkable in regard to the fundamental issue of our days: The Education for Peace.

As he stresses in his work, after centuries or even millennia of silence, education for peace, at last, blossoms on our planet.

. . . Pierre Weil and myself, we are deeply thankful to UNESCO for its benevolent acceptance of these experiments on universal education. . . .

. . . I, myself, after long meditations and observations, was led to research a holistic approach . . . It was this synthesis effort that brought me the UNESCO Education for Peace Prize, in 1989 . . . In the name of the Peace University, I express my sincere gratitude to Pierre Weil and to UNESCO. May God permit this work to become the golden key of a new education as we enter the Third Millennium."

(Summary of the Preface to the book *The Art of Living in Peace*, Brazilian Edition)

Kaisa SAVOLAINEN (Head of the Humanistic, Cultural and International Education Section - UNESCO) - Paris

". . . *The Art of Living in Peace* is the result of a seminar for teachers of colleges of teachers' formation, organized by UNESCO with the purpose of providing the interchange of innovative experiments in international education; and UNESCO wishes to thank its author, Pierre Weil, President of the City of Peace Foundation, International Holistic

University of Brasilia, for his experience, for his dedication and for his untiring energy, which continue with such amplitude, for the development of Education for Peace."

(Summary of the preface to the English edition of *The Art of Living in Peace*)

JOSÉ APARECIDO DE OLIVEIRA - (former Governor of Brasilia, former Minister of Culture and former Ambassador of Brazil)

". . . the international activity of Professor Pierre Weil in the field of research and of the modern sciences is a guarantee of his decisive contribution to the construction of the City of Peace Foundation and of the International Holistic University of Brasilia."

(Summary of the reception speech for Professor Pierre Weil, in Brasilia)

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR EDUCATION

A publication of the International Office for Education dealing with Education for a Culture of Peace refers to Pierre Weil's *The Art of Living in Peace* as being the first essay with an interdisciplinary vision of, and approach to, Education for Peace.

The following section of this letter provides details that we hope will be helpful should you decide to join us in seeking the nomination of Professor Weil for the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize.

Nomination Process for the Nobel Peace Prize

Who may place a name in nomination?

a) According to the Norwegian Nobel Institute, those who may place a name in nomination must be:

- 1) Former or current Presidents, Senators, Deputies
- 2) Laureates for the Nobel Prize from any nationality or category
- 3) University Professors of History, Political Science, Law, Philosophy and Theology

What is the official language of the Nobel Prize?

b) The official language of the Nobel Peace Prize is English. We invite

those who wish to place a name in nomination to visit the web site of Professor Pierre Weil, where the text has been written in several languages. The web site can be found at:

<http://www.pierreweil.pro.br>

Those who would like an English translation of their nomination materials may obtain one from UNIPAZ. E-mail addresses for UNIPAZ are included below.

[What is the procedure for nominating Professor Weil for the Nobel Peace Prize?](#)

c) Nominations must be submitted by mail—no e-mails or faxes, please—and must include a brief biography of the individual making the nomination and an explanation as to why he or she believes Professor Weil deserves the Nobel Peace Prize, an award that is so significant, as significant as his contribution to Peace. For more information on Pierre Weil, we again suggest you visit his web site at

<http://www.pierreweil.pro.br>

[When is the deadline for submitting nominations?](#)

d) Nominations must arrive in Oslo by February 1, 2003.

[Where should nominations be sent?](#)

e) Nominations should be sent to:

The Norwegian Nobel Committee
Drammensveien 19
N-0255 Oslo
Norway

Important!

f) We ask those submitting a name for nomination to also send a copy of all of their nomination materials to one of the coordinators of the project in order to facilitate the effort to bring Professor Weil' work to the attention of the Nobel Committee. Their addresses are:

UNIPAZ Brazil

Rua Tinharé 56 - Anchieta

CEP - 30310-470 - BeloHorizonte/MG

unipaz@matrix.com.br

and

UNIPAZ Portugal

Rua D. Pedro V, 60 - 1 ° Dto

1250-094 Lisboa

unipaz@unipaz.pt

Would you like to know more about the Nobel Prize?

g) Visit the Nobel Peace Prize web site at

<http://www.nobel.no/index.html>

The text at the web site is in English.

Would you like to help?

h) Send this letter to everyone you know who is eligible to place a name in nomination and ask that they please do the same.

If possible, send the letter to print and television media, so that they may publicize this effort in support of Professor Weil.

Any Questions?

i) We are always available to answer any questions you might have. Please contact us at one of the e-mail addresses below.

UNIPAZ - Brazil: unipaz@matrix.com.br
peacepaz@matrix.com.br
pazbr@matrix.com.br
pazz@matrix.com.br

UNIPAZ - Portugal: unipaz@portugal.pt

We would like to thank you in advance for your contribution in support of Education for Peace, through what we hope will be your nomination of Pierre Weil.

May Peace be with you, with others, and on our planet.

Maria Emília de Magalhães Viana
Psychologist/Consultant
Holistic Formation at UNIPAZ/MG

and

Dalila Paulo
Psychologist/Psychotherapist
Director UNIPAZ Portugal

Coordinators of the Nomination Process for Professor Pierre Weil for the
2003 Nobel Peace Prize