

Thank you very much  
ありがとうございました

The *Peacebycycle* team would like to thank everyone who supported Bornfree Art School and gave their time and energy to realise this important project. Without your dedication and generous support, *Peacebycycle* would not have been possible. Even though *Peacebycycle* has come to an end, we feel this is just the first step in achieving more for the rights of working children and strengthening the relationship between India and Pakistan. Throughout the ride *Peacebycycle* brought the issue of child labour to local communities and educational institutions. We challenged those we met to imagine a better future, where all children are equal and have access to education. *Peacebycycle* team members interacted with people along the way explaining "Why *Peacebycycle*?". Bornfree Art School students educated the public about the number of working children, the conditions and life of a working child, and the amount of government spending on education compared with defence in both India and Pakistan. By listening to these facts from young children with experiences most are unable to imagine, people were inspired and expressed amazing support for the *Peacebycycle* campaign. Bornfree Art School students are very satisfied with their accomplishments and have truly gained immense knowledge and insight about India and its diversity. They are now digesting what they have learnt and are thinking about how they will utilise their experiences in their future endeavours.

To all the people we met long the way, those who offered unconditional support and a reason to pedal on, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude. From everyone at Bornfree Art School and the entire *Peacebycycle* team, -  
THANK YOU.

**Peacebycycle**  
Bangalore to Lahore ~ one ore one heart





# Peacebycycle

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## Events & Media Coverage

**November 1<sup>st</sup>** - Bangalore: Waving off ceremony at the Mahatma Gandhi Statue, MG Road, Bangalore. Many people gathered to wish the *Peacebycycle* cyclists the best of luck. Students of RV Public School presented letters of friendship they had written to the children of Pakistan. Students wrote over 1,000 letters in total and attached their photograph to their letter. Some International University students joined the *Peacebycycle* team for the first 10km out of Bangalore City. Food for the first day was kindly provided by Erica's Kitchen and Yahoo! India.



**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Ananthapur: Press Conference - The Deccan Chronicle, Indian Express & Tergu Newspapers interviewed the *Peacebycycle* cyclists. Several children from the Bornfree Art School also talked about their experiences as a working child.

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** - National Child Labour Program (NCLP) School, Dharward: A performance and interactive workshop was held with the students of the school. NCLP School is a government run school for ex-working children. During the time in Dharward, Bornfree Art School also took in three new children. Robin Balu, a member of Bornfree Art School talked to three girls begging on the street and as a result they decided to join the Bornfree Art School. Furthermore, another student of the school, Sanjana Juanita Devaraj, was given the opportunity to re-visit her family home after a long time.



**November 10<sup>th</sup>** - Performance at a Primary School in Pune: Students interacted with Bornfree Art School students and talked about child labour, peace, and friendship. Following which everyone enjoyed a performance by the Bornfree Art School students. The students later joined *Peacebycycle* on a symbolic ride around Pune City highlighting the campaign. One student of Bornfree Art School, Persuram, was reunited and returned to live with his family. Another, La Frida Shanthi, returned to her hometown for the first time since leaving 10 years ago.



**November 12<sup>th</sup>** - Mumbai, Churchgate: Media Event outside VT Station with TV interviews. Press Conference at the Press Club Mumbai, *Peacebycycle* received extensive coverage during their time in Mumbai. They enjoyed performing for and interacting with the students of Al-Burkat English Muslim School.

**November 14<sup>th</sup>** - Dandi: *Peacebycycle* visited the Gandhi monument for the Dandi Salt Satyagraha by Cycle. Bornfree Art School students re-enacted the making of salt on the beach.

**November 15<sup>th</sup>** - Vadodara: Interactive workshops took place with students of Nav Rachna Higher Secondary School. Various newspaper & TV interviews were held throughout the day.



**November 17<sup>th</sup>** - Ahmadabad: Performance at Mahatma Gandhi International School, a school for children who have previously dropped out of formal education. Students wrote letters of friendship and peace for the children of Pakistan. Bornfree Art School students later visited the Sabarmati Ashram to learn more about Mahatma Gandhi. Later in the evening they performed *Shiroi Hana* - a peace ballet about the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings at Darpana Performing Arts Institute.

**November 18<sup>th</sup>** - Ahamadabad: Students of the Mahatma Gandhi International School participated in a symbolic ride around the city to raise awareness of the *Peacebycycle* goals.

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** - Jaipur: Symbolic bicycle ride around Jaipur City & street campaigning to raise awareness of *Peacebycycle*.



**November 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Agra: Press Conference and event with Dr. Latachandola. This was followed by a meeting with the Mayor of Agra, who handed over letters of friendship and peace to *Peacebycycle* riders to give to the children of Pakistan.

**November 24<sup>th</sup>** - Faridabad: Performance and interactive workshop at Balaji College, a teacher's training school. Bornfree Art School Students talked about the issue of working children to the students and teachers.



**November 27<sup>th</sup>** - New Delhi: Media Event and campaigning in front of India Gate. Bornfree students performed *Shiroi Hana* at Heritage School, followed by an interactive session about Hiroshima and the effects of the atomic bombing. In the afternoon further campaigning, singing, and dancing was held in front of Parliament building. In the evening *Peacebycycle* cyclists joined the Bharathy Muslim Mahila Association, at an event to discuss issues related to peace and friendship with Pakistan.



**November 28<sup>th</sup>** - New Delhi: Event with the Don Bosco School Ashlayam, a school for ex-working and street children. The Bornfree Art School students and Don Bosco children interacted with each other and exchanged their experiences as working children. Bornfree Art School students also

performed *The Kite* - a theatre piece about working children - and *The Plate Dance* along with music.



**December 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Amritsar & Wagha Border: Press Conference at Spring Dale High School and flagging off ceremony to the Wagha Border. Students of Spring Dale High School joined the *Peacebycycle* team for a short distance as they set off to reach the Wagha Border. Journalists also joined the team along the way as *Peacebycycle* cycled towards their final destination. After reaching the Wagha Border, *Peacebycycle* team members presented the public letters of peace and friendship gathered from various schools and communities along the way to Shafiq Butt, demonstrating peoples hope for a better relationship between both countries.



**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Amritsar: Bornfree Art School Students did their final performance at Spring Dale High School. *Shiroi Hana* is a theatre ballet which portrays the brutal effect war can have on humankind and shows unique footage of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings in Japan. This officially brought a close to *Peacebycycle*. The fact that we were unfortunately unable to reach Lahore in Pakistan brought mixed feelings to the group, however, the sense of accomplishment that the *Peacebycycle* movement has now been established brings excitement and joy to its team members. We look forward to many more *Peacebycycle* rides in the future!

**Statement by Peacebycycle participant, Subramani Dhanakopi:** I am so happy that everybody we meet supports peace between India and Pakistan. Regular people are more powerful when they bond together than any individual ministers or leaders of our countries. Even people on the streets with no money think of the Pakistani people as their sisters and brothers. Our governments spend so much money on the conflict between India and Pakistan, so the message I want to bring through this journey is to eliminate the conflict between India and Pakistan. One of the most meaningful things about this experience for me is that we are following in the footsteps of Gandhi-ji. He first did the Dandi Salt March to fight for non-violence. We are now cycling for non-violence.



**Post Peacebycycle:** As a result of *Peacebycycle* many children have decided to return to formal education. During the ride, they became interested and very motivated to return to schooling. From their *Peacebycycle* experience and through the challenges they faced, they found a new appreciation for learning. Many students learnt to exercise patience and develop endurance throughout the ride. Through their experiences in public speaking and organising events, many of the older students emerged as leaders, becoming more independent and displaying a high degree of initiative when completing tasks on a daily basis. Furthermore, students learnt a lot about cooperation and team work through a month of living closely together. Through the ups and downs, laughter and tears, all *Peacebycycle* riders matured and are left with the will to further spread the *Peacebycycle* message to a wider, global audience.

As India and Pakistan face a challenging time in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on Mumbai city, *Peacebycycle* team members feel that establishing peace and friendship with the people of Pakistan is evermore important. The actions of a minority must not reflect a whole nation and its entire people. The terrorist attacks highlight the need for greater awareness of the issues implicated in society today and for people to actively strive for peace between the two nations. Precedent shows that fighting for peace and rights through non-violent means has brought much positive change to India in the past. Therefore, campaigns such as *Peacebycycle* must continue and is crucial in the context of terrorist attacks and in combating such acts of aggression.

*Peacebycycle* has much support from the people of Pakistan. A group of school children came along to the Wagha Border to meet the *Peacebycycle* team. Unfortunately at the border we were only able to wave to each other. However, we hope and wait for the day when we can shake hands with our friends in Pakistan. We must look beyond the government and its policies, and the fundamental extremists and realise that the average person living in India and Pakistan shares the same dream of peace and friendship.

*johndevaraj*

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