

UN Peacekeeping and the Inside Out Project will host art activation in Times Square for 75th anniversary

New York, 22 May 2023 – United Nations Peacekeeping is marking its 75th anniversary by participating in a special Inside Out art activation in New York’s historic Times Square to celebrate all those who work together in the cause of global peace.

The event, which will take place at 11am on 26 May, recognizes the efforts of United Nations peacekeepers and the communities they serve as they strive together to secure peace in some of the most fragile political and security environments.

The Inside Out Project, founded by artist JR to help communities around the world to stand up for what they believe in, has seen the participation of more than 500,000 people in 149 countries and territories, with more than 2,000 Actions created. Featuring large-scale photographs of New Yorkers, the Project first turned Times Square into a giant art gallery in 2013.

On this occasion, Inside Out’s famous black and white posters will cover the iconic space with portraits of UN peacekeepers, community members and other partner working for peace and progress.

“UN peacekeepers are ordinary people working in very difficult conditions to achieve extraordinary outcomes for the communities they serve. They risk their own lives to save and change the lives of others. This exhibition recognizes their contribution to the cause of peace in conflict zones around the world,” said the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

“We are not alone in our endeavors. Many partners work alongside us, including community members who inspire us with their resilience and determination to secure lasting peace. This event also acknowledges the importance of their contribution,” he added.

The United Nations is conducting a year-long global campaign, titled Peace Begins with Me, to honor the service and sacrifice of more than two million men and women who have served as peacekeepers under the UN flag since 1948. The Inside Out Action shares the faces and tells the story of these individuals who persevere in the face of adversity.

“We’re honored to host United Nations Peacekeeping in Times Square -- a place where art and important public dialogue can be positioned to engage up to 300,000 people in one single day- - and continue to build on our collaborations with JR, which began one decade ago,” said Jean Cooney, director of Times Square Arts, that collaborates with

artists and cultural institutions to experiment and engage with one of the world's most iconic urban places.

Join us at Duffy Square in Times Square to celebrate the 75th anniversary of United Nations Peacekeeping, and have your portrait taken in the Inside Out photo booth at the venue, adding your image to the art installation and your voice to the call for peace.

Photos, for press use, are available here: <https://trello.com/b/lyqyDq3X/inside-out-peace-begins-with-me-un-peacekeeping>

Media enquiries:

Aditya Mehta

mehta2@un.org

+1 917 775 4249

Gaelle Johanna Sundelin

gaelle.sundelin@un.org

+1 347 530 4707

