

# BRITAIN AND BREXIT

---

Impact on World Peace

## AND **Peace Beyond Borders** *Book Launch*

*Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2016  
19:00 – 21:00*

*Quaker Meeting House  
7 Victoria Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH1 2JL  
Scotland*

VIJAY MEHTA

[vijay@vmpeace.org](mailto:vijay@vmpeace.org) | [www.unitingforpeace.com](http://www.unitingforpeace.com) | [www.europeforpeace.org.uk](http://www.europeforpeace.org.uk)

1. Introduction
2. Europe in Conflict
3. Formation of EU and Positive Peace
4. 10 Peace Factors made War Unthinkable in Europe
5. Challenges and Urgent Reforms of EU
6. Brexit and Danger to Peace
7. Better Together – Exporting EU Model to Rest of the World to End Conflicts
8. Options for Scotland after Brexit
9. Way forward
10. Conclusion



## Introduction

The decision of UK leaving the EU sent shockwaves throughout the world and left both the UK and the EU in a state of uncertainty. What will happen next? Many critics believe that Brexit marks a victory not of the people but of nationalist populism and tribalism which if unchecked will replace peace and social democracy. The world is now standing by to see what the impact will be and if Brexit will trigger the movement of further referendums throughout membership states of the EU. Can the EU really pull together through strong words matched by decisive action—from a crisis that is without precedent in the past 70 years or could Brexit mark the end as the EU altogether? There is a risk that Europe's great peace-promoting project will start to unravel.

My book offers a pacifying framework that has been proven to work in the European Union. *Peace Beyond Borders* is divided in two parts. The first part deals with how EU brought peace in Europe? The second part explores how exporting it would end conflicts in the world? According to Global Peace Index, out of the 30 peaceful countries in the world, 20 are in Europe. That says a lot for the success of the European Project.

My reasoning for writing the book "**Peace Beyond Borders**" was to find a universal model which can be applied around the world to end long festering and intractable conflicts ranging in some parts of the globe. My search began after Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to European Union for advancing over six decades the cause of peace, reconciliation, democracy and Human Rights in Europe. After long and hard research lasting over two years, I found the factors by which EU kept the peace for last 70 years by forging political, social, economical and cultural integration. Why this model worked in Europe and what should we do to apply it to the rest of the world for the elimination of violence, wars and militarism.

In my talk today, as explained in the book, *Peace Beyond Borders*, I will examine how Europe, a continent always mired in conflict became the most peaceful one. This model of relative peace was realised by applying 10 peace factors and also by the formation of institutions and infrastructure of regional architecture culminating in European Union leading to enormous economic, political and cultural growth. I will also discuss how this peaceful model of political integration fostered by European Union can be exported to Africa, The Americas, Asia, Australasia and the Middle East and North Africa region providing a promising glimpse of world peace. I will also examine the shortcomings of EU, current challenges to UK and Europe especially after Brexit and what are the urgent reforms which should be adopted to

build a safer world. Also, while in Edinburgh, we will explore what options are open to Scotland after the UK's Brexit vote to leave the European Union as Scotland voted overwhelmingly to stay in the EU.

## **Europe in Conflict**

Anyone thumbing through the history books will notice one bold thing – almost every war and conflict either took place on European soil or involved a European nation and its often flawed government. It is amazing, therefore, to see today's Europe standing tall and proud as the world's most peaceful integrated continent; and it is all because of the European Union.

Historically, Europe has been the planet's most violent continent: Today, this truth is almost forgotten, a testament to the remarkable change in Europe's internal relations after 1945. Until that point, war was a perpetual fact of European life. What changed?

Put simply, European countries systematically cancelled their own motives for war. I would like to dispense with alternative explanations for peace, such as culture change, the threat of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) or the security "guarantee" provided by the United States and NATO. Instead, what brought peace was Europe's institutional alignment and economic integration in European Coal and Steel Community, than European Economic Community and finally European Union. In my book, **"Peace Beyond Borders: How the EU brought peace to Europe and how exporting it would end conflicts around the world"** I have identified 10 peace promoting mechanisms that dispelled the mutual belligerence in Europe, creating permanent peace by binding nations together in a way that preserves good will.

## **Formation of EU and Positive Peace**

The framework that delivered these 10 mechanisms is today the European Union. The EU grew out of smaller and less ambitious regional bodies such as the European Coal and Steel Community and then the European Economic Community. The 10 principles for peaceful co-existence swiftly accreted around these structures. They provided a template for other continents to follow.

The success of the European Union has been in establishing a 'positive peace'. This kind of peace is established when different nations, groups of people or organisations become so vested in the interests of one another, and dependent on mutual cooperation, that the prospect of conflict becomes remote to the point of

impossibility. In a remarkably short length of time – Europe has peace and cooperation where before there was conflict and cynicism. It is also worth emphasising that Britain has played a key role in all of it.

Europe is peaceful and we need to remember how novel that is, why it is an achievement and, most importantly, what led to it being so normal that we don't even question it any more. Namely, the structures, organisations and processes of the European Union which ended wars in Europe, before which war was an annual event on the continent.

EU has been the most successful peace project in history. Both within Europe and for global peace as it is evident from various peace initiatives. EU diplomacy helped to avoid an Iran centred Middle East war and has been helping resolve the Serbia-Kosovo dispute. EU's integral role in the Northern Ireland Peace process; in which EU provided billions of Euros in development aid which became one of the main factors for continuing peace in Northern Ireland. EU has championed Human Rights globally.

## **10 Peace Factors Made War Unthinkable in Europe**

EU's practical role in securing peace can be broken down in the following 10 mechanisms:

**1. Enshrined Democracy and Rule of Law** – First and foremost, the EU maintains democratic standards. To become a member, a country must elect its governments, and those governments must operate according to the rule of law. Leaders are held accountable to their own statutes, by independent judges. Backsliding is punished.

Countries such as Spain, Portugal and Greece were military dictatorships until as recently as the mid-1970s, and it was only after they returned to civilian rule that they were permitted into the EU (then the EEC), an objective which in Portugal, for one, became a touchstone of unity between otherwise disparate civilian parties.

**2. Economic Truce** – The second 'pro-peace' mechanism is a form of disarmament, by preventing trade controls being used as a form of economic sanctions and reduce economic disparity.

Free participation of all bodies and agencies, united within a regional or federal structure governed on mutually agreed principles which can help eliminate some of the misery of the poorest regions of Europe.

**3. Open Borders and Human Ties** – By opening borders , the EU blurs the lines between separate nations and disputed territories – this reduces the need for governments to employ heavy-handed security methods to preserve national integrity. Open borders also reduce the appeal of separatism – furthermore by enabling the free flow of people as well as goods, the EU makes it difficult to demonize other nationalities with propaganda – the human connections between the countries are so dense that resorting to war would be enormously disruptive to both sides, in a way that ordinary citizens of the countries would feel deeply.

**4. Soft Power and Shared Values** – In respect of the European Union, the value of friendly-persuasion builds mutual trust, through a nurturing of a common identity. EU has no national identity, but a regional identity, which is central to the thesis of ‘peace through unity’. cultural and sporting events like Eurovision song contest and golf’s Ryder Cup serve to encourage Europeans to think of themselves as a united group, rather than disparate factions.

EU’s relentless move is towards defusing tensions and generating momentum toward peaceful co-existence through its soft power of dialogue. In this way, it lays the foundation for concerted action in such critical areas as human rights, human security, and human development which are the absolute prerequisites for the peace and happiness of the world’s people.

**5. Permanent Discussion, Dialogue and Diplomacy** – EU emphasis is on the crucial importance of preventive engagement with global problems, by creating collaborative frameworks for diffusing tensions among its members.

EU provides an umbrella for previously alienated member governments to discover interests they actually share with their perceived ‘adversaries’, as was the case between the UK and Ireland. Even the most contentious legislation, covering a whole range of disputes, is brought to discussion in order that negotiations can take place within the most peaceful atmosphere. Again, shared values are forged by soft power, and from which peace can be built, and maintained.

**6. Financial Incentives and Support** – The money handed over by member countries to the EU goes toward funding development schemes addressing social issues and research programmes across member states. Rather than challenging the cohesion of member states, EU regional spending actually strengthens them by closing the gap between rich and poor regions. The EU has dedicated more than €30 billion to the development of southern Italy, for example, which lags far behind the

industrialized north. Ensuring some degree of regional equality prevents the poverty and inequality being exploited by violent political movements.

**7. Veto and Consensus Building** – Government policies of countries that affect the European Union must be agreed at a European level. This need for consensus, although sometimes frustrating, prevents one member embarking on a political collision course with other members. It also prevents the agglomeration of strong factions or coalitions within the union of the kind that fought the First World War.

**8. Resistance to External Interference** – The fundamental impediment in the flow of democracy is when ‘undesirable outside influence’ works its mischief. In respect of the safeguards required by the EU to counter such pernicious meddling, it reiterates the need for a new approach towards consensus through Qualified Majority Voting (QMV). It works through the broad channel of diplomacy, firmly rooted in a functioning democratic superstructure.

The factors discussed, impede any outside power from setting up or sponsoring proxy governments in member states. This prevents the kind of puppet dictators and monarchs that have torn apart much of the developing world, or the level of corruption and opacity that allows foreign intelligence agencies to buy the services of ministers and generals.

**9. Rules, Human Rights and Multiculturalism** – The European Human Rights Act is designed to make it difficult for governments to treat ethnic, religious or regional minorities so unfairly that they resort to violence. In modern Europe the legal sanctity of individual rights should ensure that no such rebellions occur - further that – the EU through its charter of fundamental rights and community spirit, fosters tolerance among its members. The ‘shared values’ concept encourages secularism, peace, cosmopolitanism and multilateralism. Its multilateral organizations mediate between states and thus guarantee international law and establish respect and cooperation between people of diverse physical appearance, culture and belief systems, averting any hatred, division and conflicts.

Differences and distinctions that could enrich our lives instead become the target of attack or are seen as a barrier that separates people. All too often this escalates into violent conflict or gives rise to other conditions that threaten people’s lives and dignity. To offset these differences EU works on creative coexistence.

**10. Mutual Trust and Peaceful Coexistence** – Of the ten ‘pro-peace mechanisms’ that form the European model the tenth and final factor is a by-product of the first nine, which have consolidated mutual trust between the member states.

From a teleological perspective, the evolution of nation states into regional unions has the air of historical inevitability. By casting the protective net over a wider area, regional unions such as the EU bring a lasting peace to entire continents. However, the continent’s most desperately in need of regional unity are those that most lack the administrative and communications capacity to build those unions. However, as the UN 2014 Human Development Report put it advances in technology, education and incomes hold ever greater promise for longer, healthier, more secure lives. Globalisation has on balance produced major human development gains, especially in many countries of the South.

These 10 factors prevented inter-state conflict during the latter half of the 20th Century by defusing specific flashpoints in Western Europe. These included the territorial dispute between Spain and the UK over Gibraltar; the dispute between the UK and Ireland over the six counties of Ulster; and separatist movements in Spain, Belgium and in Scotland.

This kind of separatism is potentially devastating to the EU project. If Scotland and Catalonia were to win independence and become new countries within the union, this would redouble the momentum of dozens of other separatist movements across Europe who would be strengthened. New ones would be launched. If this seems far-fetched, consider the following. The Scottish and Catalan separatists share an EU parliamentary bloc with parties seeking an independent Corsica and Brittany (France), Frisia (Netherlands), Aland (Finland), Bavaria (Germany), South Tyrol (Italy), Silesia (Poland and Czech Republic), to name only a few.

### **Challenges and Urgent Reforms of EU**

EU is far from perfect and need far reaching reforms. All big organisations, like the UN, World Bank, IMF etc., EU has to address new challenges which were not anticipated at its inception. EU recognises that it now faces its greatest ever crisis: the ongoing financial and economic crisis in the Eurozone, rising inequality, the refugee and migrant crisis, civil war in Eastern Europe, and the crisis of confidence in the EU causing the rise of anti-EU populist movements in several EU states. Erratic terrorism in recent times by the state and non state actors such as Boko Haram, Al Qaida, Taleban and Islamic State (IS) have added to the woes of the European Union project. Furthermore, urgent EU reforms are needed for descaling its pro-NATO

alignment, addressing democratic deficit, changing its neo-liberal economic agenda and liberalising its hard stance and policies on refugees and immigrants. It also needs to promote pluralism and multiculturalism to counteract nationalism and terrorism.

EU's arms export are counterproductive to European security which is evident from this dangerous situation developing in Eastern Europe with the West including NATO and Russia starting a dangerous new cold war with military exercises in front of each other's borders. It is all happening under strong pressure from arms industries and benefits elites on both sides of the divide. In the West the tension with Russia has given NATO a new lease of life and made it easier for Western arms manufacturers to sell their weapons. Every NATO member is being urged to commit 2% of GDP to defence spending. It has also benefited Russian arms companies as Russia has increased its military spending particularly on high tech weapons.

It is dangerous for Europe's foreign policies to be formulated by NATO alliance, led by the USA, persisting in presenting Russia as an aggressor as a pretext for continued interference around the borders of Eastern Europe. The ambition of NATO to outmatch Russia militarily serves no purpose other than isolating Russia diplomatically and does little to advance the interest of world security. However, the moneyed interest of the Western Military Industrial Complex and of Russia do little to bring about the realisation of such a vision anytime soon. As the Romans always asked: "Who Benefits?" – the answer to that question tells you who did it, i.e. military in this instance.

I am not a fan of Vladimir Putin, or some of his policies. However, demonising Russia by propaganda and not facts is lethal. Western Propaganda portrays Russia as the aggressor and NATO as the victim. This has led towards escalating international tensions and dangers of a drift towards a world threatening military conflict which has already started a new cold war. The US and its allies are destabilising other countries, starting a new arms race and promoting conflict instead of diplomacy. US is warning Europe of Russia's belligerent policies and asking NATO and EU countries to increase their military arsenal in case of a possible war. At the same time, US is also seeking meetings with their Russian counterpart to help them negotiate a peaceful solution to Syrian crisis, while orchestrating and funding the regime change in Ukraine in alliance with NATO. Russia has legitimate cause to doubt whether the West was actually a friend or playing a double game?

EU reforms should include ditching its dual nature, at once a realm of open solidarity overcoming historical differences and a cartel of oligarch run by unaccountable,

unelected bureaucrats and judges to expand their sway. It should also abandon its free market and austerity agenda, leading to curb inequality and adopt pro people policies, revive participatory democracy and economy, opening new opportunities for all. The policies of the European Union should reflect the 500 million Europeans living on the continent not just elites and corporations. EU need to cater the requirements of its citizens, be accountable to them and work for them in a transparent and decentralised way. The future of EU is to evolve a Federal model of government like the Canadian Model where the power resides in the states/provinces, not in the centre. This will transform EU to become fit for its citizens and also pave the way out of its current unprecedented crisis.

As per the refugee crisis, the West has to claim its responsibility and acknowledge the fact that US and some of the NATO countries by continuous warfare in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan and destroying their economy and infrastructure are collectively guilty of creating the refugee crisis. These wars have displaced and increased the refugee population to staggering 65 million people. The West is capable of helping the refugees by adopting humane and friendly policies. We need to show more solidarity to refugees and their children. EU furthermore have a legal obligation for their protection under UN convention relating to the status of refugees. EU should also work against exclusion, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and promote the positive aspects of diversity and multiculturalism in Europe and beyond.

Let me endorse the EU against its critics. Whatever the troubles of the Eurozone, peace is a necessary foundation for prosperity and that economic arguments against the EU will always fall at this hurdle. Acknowledging the union's difficulties, I suggest new ways in which Europe can overcome its growing pains by adopting a new, de-militarised strategic approach to expansion and a compassionate approach to internal migration and refugee crisis. Global challenges call for a global, common effort: they will be tackled multilaterally or they will not be tackled at all.

### **Brexit and Danger to Peace**

After Brexit, UK should not follow policies of isolation from the rest of the world. We cannot go back to the 90's when Euro and economy of Europe was growing every year. We cannot go back to the 1940's when Europeans were killing each other. At this moment 40 conflicts including 11 civil wars are raging in the world including in Eastern European soil. Let us move away from racial, religious, social and political, sectarianism and hatred which are some of the causes of these active conflicts and build a peaceful world together by following the EU model and its 10 Peace Factors.

In an interconnected and complex world, alliances are needed more than ever among continents and civilisations to end conflicts and build partnerships.

We live in an increasingly interlinked and globalised world. No nation can afford to be isolated. What unites the people of Europe is greater than what divides them. Despite some shortcomings, the European Project had been a triumph and all the member states should strive to strengthen rather than to weaken it.

Brexit is as much Europe's problem as ours, and Europe is our problem as much theirs. Geographically, culturally and economically Britain and Europe are bound together. What's good for them is good for us and vice versa. Isolating ourselves from Europe, will not make the UK any stronger.

### **Better Together – Exporting EU Model to Rest of the World to End Conflicts**

One of the core message of my book, *Peace Beyond Borders*, is, that without peace there can be no prosperity, or human development, or hope of a stable and just society. Without it, questions of economics and public policy become inconsequential. It is remarkable that in a world where only one continent is free of extreme and persistent violence - Antarctica - so much energy is dedicated to the discussion of finance and economics, and so little to the structures of peace.

The world in general is moving away from states, towards regions, sharing problems and solutions in cooperation with other regions around the world. It started with European Union and is spreading around the world. The formation of the African Union, keeps peace between Egypt and Ethiopia over the supply of water from the Renaissance dam, and because of it there is less likelihood of military coups which was a common occurrence in the '90s on the African continent. ASEAN Union influences its members towards peace and no war has taken place after its formation. The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) is binding the countries of South America for peaceful integration. So is Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and others. However, the badly missing ones where regional co-operation is urgently needed, are in West Asia with Israel and Palestine, Iraq and Syria; Central Asia with Afghanistan, North East Asia with two Chinas, the two Koreas, Far East, Russia and Japan, dangerous flashpoints in the world where the EU model is needed most to bring peace.

Nation states unipolarity is in decline and multipolarity and regional organisations like African Union, UNASUR, ASEAN and Pacific Islands Forum have been formed based on the EU model the most successful peace experiment in international co-

operation in the world. Countries in other parts of the world are building institutions on the model of EU to pre-empt conflicts before they erupt to guarantee peace, freedom and security.

By exporting the EU model to other parts of the world would help end conflicts. In fact, several other parts of the world have indeed been regionalising in recent decades, from South East Asia (ASEAN) to the Gulf Arab states (GCC) and South America (UNASUR). None has up till now gone as far in terms of economic let alone political integration as the EU, but they all acknowledge that they are stronger together.

Each continent or sub-continent in turn, seeing how cooperation has overcome divisions and historic rivalries, as well as championing the potential of further cooperation. This strengthening of a multipolar global reality is healthy, rather than the United States being the only super-power (as it became after the collapse of the Soviet Union), acting like some sort of world policeman. There are nationalist forces resisting the sharing of sovereignty, just as within some countries (including the UK and Spain) there are forces that want more regional autonomy or even independence.

It is vital, then, that the EU's frameworks for peaceful unification be transplanted to every continent, before violence and militarisation establish a very different model. To prevent war, education is essential for elites as well for as the masses. Rather than seeking advice from officials whose careers depend on the identification of new enemies and threats, leaders must instead ensure that peace is the first priority for their advisers.

### **Options for Scotland after Brexit**

Scotland is already re-examining the case for independence and hoping to get a good deal from the new UK Government. Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, have said repeatedly after the UK Brexit vote, that Scotland wishes to remain in the EU in line with the wishes of the Scottish people who overwhelmingly voted to stay in the EU. This is not tenable as UK has voted to exit from EU

Scotland has got a few choices:

- i) Firstly, Scotland could stay in EU by going independent
- ii) Secondly, it could, in theory, stay in the EU and the UK – perhaps in a reverse Greenland Model or follow Swiss option, Turkish option or World Trade Organisation (WTO) option. All of which are halfway house to EU.

- iii) Thirdly, Scotland could be outside the EU and adopt a Norwegian European Area approach (whether as a part of UK or independent)
- iv) Scotland could be a part of the Brexit deal, whatever the UK and EU agree
- v) Fifthly, which I have discussed in my book and my favourite one, is UK, as a whole to adopt federalism with most of the powers devolved to Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England. Provincial autonomy like in Canada may be the answer for Scotland to stay in UK and also have a special relationship with EU, as it can directly deal with EU without interference from Westminster, complying with the principle of subsidiarity.

Whatever happens, the issue of Scotland to be part of EU or not is not going to go away some time very soon and is going to be with us till next few years, till the dust is settled one way or the other. From my point of view, living in London and being in this country for over 40 years, it will be very hard to bear Scotland's separation from UK after 300 years of unity and cooperation.

## **Way Forward**

The idea that because we are so interdependent that armed conflict between countries will remain off the table is no more than a lazy assumption. Going forward, we need to realise the potential of Peace Beyond Borders and its ten principles application of which will reduce conflicts in other regions of the world. We need to foster regional cooperation and community spirit, mutual trade resurrect the European social model of development to build a peaceful world. We need to follow the example of European Union's 10 peace factors which brought peace and prosperity not only in EU countries but also to Norway and Iceland which have seen tangible effects of EU's orbit of peace.

US and EU/NATO countries should curtail war making abroad as well as in Eastern Europe. It should stop selling weapons to the world and stop bombing, invading and occupying poor countries. It is a wakeup call to the international community to adopt EU style model for the rest of the world before violence and wars engulf our planet. These should take the form of:

- Starting a worldwide organisation for implementing EU style unions in the rest of the world for political, economic cultural integration
- Applying 10 Peace Factors for creating continents of peace around the world
- Applying non-military solutions – by de-legitimising war as a way of solving the disputes

- Starting dialogue, diplomacy, mediation to create an atmosphere of tolerance and nonviolence to end wars, terrorism and violence
- Curbing the power of NATO and US Military Industrial Complex which spends trillions on procuring armaments
- Instead of opening war academies and recruiting soldiers, establishing peace cities, peace universities, peace ministries to develop peace policies adopting alternatives to violence
- Building peace by working in the areas of protection of Human Rights, poverty reduction, conflict resolution and reducing weapons proliferation.
- Creating an inclusive society based on peace education, community spirit, shared values, social justice and economic equality.

One of the best ways to make present century less violent than the last one is to continue the peace project that has transformed Europe for the better over the course of post war era making war unthinkable on the continent. A new Europe is emerging, let us build a vibrant Europe on European values, capable of contributing to the establishment of international relations based on peace, mutual respect, economic and social justice. Prosperity is important, but one cannot have prosperity without peace.

## **Conclusion**

After Brexit we should not lose our way and give in to populist nationalism, racism and xenophobia which are on the rise in Europe. These have been instrumental for instigating the wars in the past. We need to adopt internationalism, solidarity and cooperation as a way forward to strengthen the European Project.

The core message of book *Peace Beyond Borders* is that the spirit of peace enshrined in the European Union (EU) should be spread globally to reduce tensions and end war in the world. Peace on the Continent has been forged through cooperation, unity and rule of law and not because of NATO or the US security paradigm which is based on aggressive military force.

Robert Schuman – one of the founding fathers of European Union – said that "world peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it." Collectively, we must be more creative than ever to fulfil the ambition that the founding fathers of the European Union visualised seventy years ago.

Let me conclude by saying that you cannot have war to stop war. It defies logic. You cannot fool people, at least not in the long run with false flag of terrorism, corporate greed and purporting constant lies for continued warfare. People sense where there is true humanity, and where it is dogs barking at the moon. In these dark times, where the state organised violence and injustice is on the rise and terrorism is rampant, we need to counter balance these atrocities by daily actions of resistance and people working to achieve social, economic justice, championing Human Rights, democracy and freedom. What we need is an outline of practical steps to understand that all human and planetary life is sacred. We need not despair and inaction, but courage and dedication to build global peace. We need a movement that swells into every street and across borders and does not give up, ultimately stop the war mongers. Optimism is the only option, for all of us committed to save the future and make our world a better place. The future belongs to optimists to grab the opportunities that exists and help to build a world of hope, joy, tolerance and solidarity.

Thanks for listening.

**Notes:**

Excerpts for this speech are taken from the book “Peace Beyond Borders” by Vijay Mehta, published in June 2016 by New Internationalist in print and ebook (both £9.99) with a foreword by Jose Ramos Horta, Nobel Peace Laureate.

Bio – **Vijay Mehta** is a distinguished author and leading peace activist and a champion for Development and Human Rights. He is the chair of Uniting for Peace ([www.unitingforpeace.org](http://www.unitingforpeace.org)) and Founding Trustee of Fortune Forum Charity ([www.fortuneforum.org](http://www.fortuneforum.org)). He is a Director of Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND)

Working since 1979, Uniting for Peace is a non-profit organisation devoted to creating and promoting a global culture of peace, nonviolence and poverty reduction. The flagship campaign of Uniting for Peace is called 4D for World Peace. It is a campaign to create global frameworks for taking actions on interconnecting global issues of disarming and demilitarising the world and the savings thus achieved to be deployed for development and democracy. In 2016, Uniting for Peace have initiated a new campaign “Europe for Peace – Count Me In” ([www.europeforpeace.org.uk](http://www.europeforpeace.org.uk)) – It is an educational campaign aims to contribute positively to the upcoming UK referendum on EU’s membership highlighting the EU’s peace endeavours.

The charity Fortune Forum whose founder is Renu Mehta, daughter of Vijay Mehta, held summits (2005 and 2006) where Former US President Clinton, Former US Vice President Al Gore and Actor Michael Douglas were keynote speakers. The summits raised over a million pounds for charity and attracted a worldwide audience of 1.3 billion people (one fifth of humanity) including print and media coverage.

Vijay Mehta’s books include The Economics of Killing (2012), The Fortune Forum Code: For a Sustainable Future (2006), Arms No More (2005) and The United Nations and its Future in the 21st Century (2005).

Vijay Mehta's new book **Peace Beyond Borders: How the EU brought peace to Europe and how exporting it would end conflicts around the world** is now published in print and ebook by New Internationalist. The book contributes positively to the upcoming UK referendum on EU membership by highlighting the EU's peace endeavours, with a foreword written by Jose Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Laureate and former president of Timor-Leste.

In 2014, Vijay Mehta's bio, "The Audacity of Dreams" appeared in the book Karma Kurry, published by Jaico Publishing House (India). It included 25 other inspiring change-makers' biographies. Nelson Mandela who wrote the foreword to the book, had this to say, "Ordinary people do extra ordinary things. These stories have that power to inspire people to rise and act, to make a difference." To read Vijay Mehta's full bio, please follow this link: <http://goo.gl/JcUGwr>

He has appeared in various TV programmes including BBC World, Press TV, Ajtak-24 hour Indian news channel, and Think Peace documentary, Canada, among others. The Sunday Times, The Sunday Mail, Independent, Observer and Guardian newspapers, among other journals have written about him. His life is devoted to the service of peace, humanity and our planet.

Vijay Mehta is the recipient of the Global Indian Karmaveer (Action hero) Puraskaar (Award) by iCONGO (International Confederation of NGO's). He is now a noble-laureate 2012 – 2013 of the iCONGO team of advisors and mentors ([www.icongo.in](http://www.icongo.in)). It is an award for outstanding luminaries working for peace and social justice. He has been awarded as Global Peace Ambassador by Global Diversity Peace Centre London in 2015

"Vijay....a long standing activist for peace, development, human rights and environment"  
**The Sunday Times Magazine, London** 1st February, 2009

"Vijay Mehta lends intellectual credibility to the project and wrote 'The Fortune Forum Code for a Sustainable Future', a sort of manifesto that will underpin the group's future activities."  
**The Independent, London** 26 September 2006

"Thank you for all you do Vijay - both the Organisation and yourself are inspiration and give us all hope that both yourself and Uniting for Peace can bring a world without war. Indeed it is possible, even in our own time."  
**Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate (1976)**

"You have given UK, Europe, and the world much to think about and thanks for your wisdom good guidance."  
**Glenn D. Paige, Founder, Center for Global Nonkilling**

Vijay Mehta is among the 1,300 Notable Peacemakers Throughout History  
[http://peace.maripo.com/p\\_peacemakers.htm](http://peace.maripo.com/p_peacemakers.htm)

He is among the 98 Peace Philanthropists around the world.  
[http://peace.maripo.com/p\\_philanthropy\\_bios.htm](http://peace.maripo.com/p_philanthropy_bios.htm)