



JUDO FOR PEACE COMMISSION REPORT

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Since the last congress, the IJF has been working on developing its Judo for Peace programmes and has been actively involved in peace-building activities on the five continents, in war zones, in post-conflict areas or in places with social disorders, with a special focus on refugees.

As stated regularly by IJF President Marius Vizer, “The IJF is fostering peace, friendship and unity everywhere the judo values are needed.”

The programmes run by the JFP commission are long term programmes, developed in coordination with other IJF commissions directly involved in education and development (Judo for Children, Judo in Schools, Education, Gender Equity, Military and Police, Development).

In the aftermath of the pandemic, all activities continued, or resumed for those that had to stop. Despite the challenges, programmes involving refugees are running in Kilis (Turkey), Meheba and Mayukwayukwa (Zambia), Dzaleka (Malawi) and Tongogara (Zimbabwe) and an extensive Judo for Peace programme, led by Roberto Orlando (IJF), has been running successfully for almost six years in South Africa. In recent years, the IJF has been very active in supporting refugees with educational programmes as well as through its refugee team.

Judo for Peace South Africa (JFPSA): JFPSA is a programme funded by the IJF, in collaboration with UNHCR and several partners, including Judo South Africa, Three2Six, Future Families, Nike, Gauteng Department of Education, Italtiles Foundation and Grassroots Soccer. JFPSA is a platform for communities to meet, collaborate and contribute to social cohesion, youth and gender empowerment and child protection of both local and refugee communities in South Africa.

Judo for Peace in Zambia: Zambia has been one of the key players of Judo for Peace based programmes in the Southern part of Africa. Under the leadership of ZJA President Alfred Foloko, two refugee camps are up and running in Zambia.

Other activities: Other Judo for Peace related activities have been running in **Türkiye** (helping Syrian refugees), in **Ethiopia** (programme led by Dr Degineh Tsegaye, President of the Ethiopian Judo Association and Johannes Daxbacher, head of the IJF Police Commission) and in **Nepal** (by Deepak Bajracharya, President of the Nepal Judo Federation and member of the JFP Commission), with an inspirational programme helping orphans. A judo club was founded at the foot of **Mount Everest** with the help and support of **Sabrina Filzmoser** (IJF Climate Ambassador). A new section of the club was inaugurated in May 2022 at the Sir Edmund Hillary School. Special actions were taken to secure Afghan judoka.

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JudoFest: At the end of 2021 the second edition of JudoFest was held. Saudi Arabia and Israel were recognised for their participation at the Tokyo Olympic Games.

Forever Everest: In 2022 Sabrina Filzmoser reached the summit of Mount Everest, departing from sea level. On the way to the top of the world, Sabrina spread the message of 'Judo for Peace' as well as the one of the need to protect the environment.

No Border: To help support refugees from Ukraine, the IJF launched a dedicated website (<https://noborders.ijf.org>), where judo associations can register and support refugees. To date, more than 600 Ukrainian children have been assisted by the IJF in Romania, Hungary and Germany.

World Peace Day: Every year on 21st September, on the occasion of the International Day of Peace (#PeaceDay #peaceday2021 and #peaceday2022), the IJF raises awareness about the situation of refugees. It helps to show the sport's role in addressing challenges faced by refugees, while also encouraging discussion and partnership-building and providing guidance and resources for organisations working on the topic.

April 6: Every year, the judo community is involved in the April 6 celebrations (International Day of Sport for Development and Peace). In 2021 and 2022 activities were held throughout the world in the physical presence of thousands of judoka (<https://whitecard.ijf.org>).

Meeting with the Pope: In September 2022, the IJF President led a delegation to meet Pope Francis at the Vatican and presented him with an honorary black belt.

World Judo Day 2022: The theme of the 2022 World Judo Day was inclusion. The judo values and those of Judo for Peace were promoted all over the world.

Israel/Morocco/U.A.E./France: Several trips involving children and young judoka from Abu Ghosh (Israel) were organised in Morocco, Abu Dhabi and France, promoting the judo peace values among different communities.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **UNHCR:** The UNHCR has been a strong partner of the IJF for several years, especially in South Africa. In 2022, the IJF and UNHCR signed a partnership to support refugee inclusion through judo.
- **#withrefugees:** The IJF is an active contributor to the #withrefugees campaign initiated by the UNHCR.
- **Crans Montana Forum:** The IJF is an active partner of the Crans Montana Forum. In 2022, the JFP Commission made a presentation about its activities during the Crans Montana Forum in Geneva.
- **Leaders of Peace:** The IJF regularly participates in the activities of the Leaders for Peace organisation led by former French Prime Minister, Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin.

BRANDING

It is possible to purchase branded equipment to support activities: <https://judoforpeace.net>