

JUDO FOR PEACE COMMISSION



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Since the last Congress, the IJF has continued to work on developing its Judo for Peace programmes and is actively involved in peacebuilding activities on all five continents, in war zones, post-conflict areas or places of social unrest, with a particular focus on refugees.

As IJF President Marius Vizer states often, "The IJF promotes peace, friendship and unity wherever the values of judo are needed."

The programmes managed by the JFP Commission are long-term programmes, developed in co-ordination with other IJF commissions directly involved in education and development (Judo for Children, Judo in School, Education, Gender Equality, Military and Police, Development).

Despite the challenges particularly related to the turbulent global geo-political situation, programmes involving refugees are ongoing in Kilis (Türkiye), Meheba, Mayukwayukwa and Mantapala (Zambia), Dzaleka (Malawi) and Tongogara (Zimbabwe) and a large Judo for Peace programme, led by Roberto Orlando (IJF), has been running successfully for almost eight years in South Africa. In recent years, the IJF has been very active in supporting refugees with educational programmes and through the refugee team that once again participated in the Olympic Games, Paris 2024. New programmes are being developed in Kenya and Jordan.

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 women's empowerment and the protection of children in local communities and among refugees in South Africa. A local JFPSA organisation has been established in order to find more local partners. In 2024, Roberto Orlando received the International Centre of Martial Arts (ICM) Award in Korea in the 'UNESCO ICM Martial Arts Education Prize' category.

Judo for Peace in Zambia: Zambia is one of the key players in Judo for Peace programmes in Southern Africa. Under the leadership of ZJA President Alfred Foloko, three refugee camp judo initiatives are now operational in Zambia, with the third one being launched in 2024. Local authorities and governments, the Zambian NOC and the National Olympic Committee of Norway are partners.

Other activities: Other activities related to Judo for Peace were carried out in Türkiye (aid to Syrian refugees and earthquake survivors). The situation is evolving continuously due to the latest events in Syria.



Forever Everest: Following the 2022 Everest expedition, in 2023 Sabrina Filzmoser went to storm K2 and led development activities, particularly for young women, in Pakistan. The programme in Nepal continues.

No Borders: The platform <https://noborders.ijf.org> continues to register new members.

International Day of Peace: Every year on 21st September, on the occasion of the International Day of Peace (#PeaceDay and #peaceday2024), the IJF raises awareness of the situation of refugees.

April 6: Every year, the judo community gets involved in the celebrations of April 6 (International Day of Sport for Development and Peace). In 2023 and 2024, activities took place around the world in the physical presence of thousands of judoka (<https://whitecard.ijf.org>).

World Judo Day 2024: The theme of World Judo Day 2024 was 'Bring a Friend.' The values of judo and those of Judo for Peace were promoted all over the world.

Forums: In 2024, the Judo for Peace Commission participated in the Crans Montana (Brussels) and Peace and Sport (Monaco) forums as well as the Global Forum of the UNAOC (Alliance of Civilizations (Portugal)).

Refugee Team: The IJF continued its support of the refugee team in order to offer them the best possible conditions for training and preparation. 6 team members participated in several events of the World Judo Tour as well as in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, both individually and in the mixed team event. The IJF refugee team coach continues his mission to scout and support the best judoka living as refugees.

Partnerships

- **UNHCR:** UNHCR has been a strong partner of the IJF for several years. Co-operation extends across several geographical areas.
- **Sport for Refugees Coalition:** The IJF is a founding and active member of the Sport for Refugees Coalition and as such participates in numerous interdisciplinary working meetings. In 2023, the IJF participated in the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva (SUI).
- **UNAOC:** Alliance of Civilizations is a United Nations agency with which closer co-operation is being developed.
- **Crans Montana Forum:** The IJF is an active partner of the Crans Montana Forum.

Brand

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