



Religions for Peace North American Young Adults Retreat
15-17 April 2011 | New York

On the weekend of April 15-17, 20 vibrant and active religious young adults throughout North America will convene in Stony Point, New York for a retreat that will equip them with the skills and knowledge to advance multi-religious cooperation for peace in the North American context. The retreat will also address how religious youth can help shape the *Religions for Peace Arms Down! Campaign* (<http://www.armsdown.net/>) and advocate for disarmament in both the United States and Canada.

More concretely, the participating religious Youth* will learn how the three goals of the Campaign - the abolishment of nuclear weapons, an end to the proliferation and misuse of conventional weapons, and the reallocation of military expenditure towards development - can be achieved through education, mobilization and advocacy.

They will also be given the opportunity to discuss, review, and finalize advocacy letters calling for full ratification and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions by the United States and Canada. These two letters will be rooted in a multi-religious perspective and will be later distributed in the respective religious communities for signatures.

Last, the youth religious leaders will also be given the opportunity to work in small groups with leaders from other religious communities on specific future Arms Down! activities. Each activity will be supported by a small *Religions for Peace* grant and guidance by *Religions for Peace* staff to ensure the successful advancement of the Arms Down! Campaign in North America.

Individuals and organizations participating in the retreat will have the opportunity to be members of the North American Interfaith Youth Network and to contribute to the youth participation in the projected 2012 IXth World Assembly of *Religions for Peace*.