

## **Carnegie Foundation Guideline for (assessing requests for) events at the Peace Palace**

The Peace Palace is dedicated to the peaceful settlement of international disputes in the world through judicial or arbitral mechanisms (via the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration). Priority is therefore to be given to the activities of these two leading institutions and other activities should be compatible with their objectives.

When parties wish to submit their case to one of the Courts housed inside the Peace Palace, parties should feel welcome. This calls for an image of the venue that is as non-controversial as possible. The non-controversial character of the Peace Palace must be upheld at all times, so as not to obstruct nor to influence the Courts' work and the legal proceedings for the parties.

Andrew Carnegie himself, founder of the Peace Palace, stipulated in the founding Deed that the purpose of the Peace Palace was to banish war and to serve as a Temple of Peace for the world. Hence, the Peace Palace is also a venue for events promoting peace and harmonious relations. Events however, should not interfere with the core activities of the Courts. For this reason, when assessing requests for events at the Peace Palace the Carnegie Foundation takes the non-controversial character of the Peace Palace into consideration. To do so, it uses a number of criteria, summarized in the guideline below.

First and foremost, the calendar shall be consulted to check whether events do not clash with sessions of the Courts or The Hague Academy in the calendar. Court hearings take precedence. This is particularly relevant for event requests in the main monumental building. Events/activities are more likely to be allowed in the Auditorium of the Academy building.

Topics and groups which could cause controversy about the Peace Palace and are therefore considered incompatible with the Peace Palace, shall be refused. These include e.g.:

- Political parties: the image of the palace cannot be linked to one political movement/party.
- Religious movements: the image of the palace cannot be linked to one single religion. .
- National day celebrations shall not be held at the Peace Palace.
- Political statements by countries (about other countries or pending cases)
- Corporate events shall not be accepted.
- Organizations which may in any way contentious, shall be refused.

Topics and parties which are generally considered compatible include e.g.:

- Events/activities bearing on peace, international law, international cooperation and peaceful and harmonious relations.
- Requests from trusted organizations such as international organizations related to the United Nations, recognized charities, civil society organizations (NGO's), and non-profit partnerships.

In specific situations, the Courts shall be consulted. This is always the case for requests for events in the Great Hall of Justice, the Small Courtroom, the Entrance Hall or gardens in front of the Palace during Court Hearings. The Courts can be consulted in particular requests, at the discretion of the Carnegie Foundation.