



VESAK MESSAGE 2019

On behalf of the United Nations Association of Australia, it gives me great pleasure to extend our warmest best wishes for the 2019 observing of Vesak, to commemorate the birth, enlightenment and passing of Buddha GUATAMA.

We are proud to be associated with this most significant Day, which this year marks the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Day of Vesak. The United Nations General Assembly by its Resolution 54/115 of 1999, recognised internationally the Day of Vesak to acknowledge the contribution that Buddhism has made for over two and a half millennia and continues to make for the betterment of humanity.

In 2007, the Buddhist Federation of Australia in collaboration with the UN Information Centre, United Nations Association of Australia and other Government and community organisations, introduced national celebration under the title, "Australian Observance of the UN Day of Vesak". This year's theme, "Sustainable Development in Peace", motivates all Australians to lead productive lives and contribute to building a more prosperous and peaceful nation.

Notably, millions of global citizens have been inspired by the timeless teachings of Buddha, which can help us to overcome many of the global problems we face today. It provides us with the opportunity to unite and contribute to building thriving multicultural and socially harmonious communities.

The values and principles of Buddhism including compassion, respect and understanding as well as non-violence and selflessness help pave the way to build a more caring and inclusive world for all. The message of service to others is most relevant in Buddha's teachings. On this Day, let us all commit to helping the less fortunate and in creating a better world for all in the wonderful spirit of humanitarian mateship.

Once again, sincerest best wishes for memorable celebrations where much happiness and spiritual bliss abounds.

All the very best

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Jenkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Patricia Jenkins
President
United Nations Association of Australia (NSW)
UNAA National Board Director