Buddhism is a teaching of unparalleled humanism that believes in the boundless potential within human beings.

—Daisaku Ikeda
Buddhist

Engaged

Community

If the tragedies of this century of war and revolution have taught us anything, it is the folly of believing that reforms of external factors, such as social systems, is the key to achieving happiness. I am convinced that in the coming century, the greatest emphasis must be placed on fostering inwardly directed change.

—Daisaku Ikeda

Inwardly directed change must be placed on fostering the greatest emphasis that in the coming century, happiness. I am convinced that reform of external factors, such as social systems, is the key to achieving harmony amidst diversity. While celebrating the unique characteristics of different peoples and cultures, we have to create solidarity on the level of our common humanity, our common life.

—Shakyamuni Buddha

A fundamental Buddhist teaching is the interdependence of all things—of all beings and phenomena exist in relationship with one another. We believe that all people are equal and that every individual is worthy of deep respect, and we strive to integrate this belief into our daily behavior. As we support fellow SGI-USA Buddhists, we strive to apply Buddhist values by living with confidence, creating value in any circumstance, and contributing to the well-being of family, friends, and community.

—Daisaku Ikeda

Creating harmony amidst diversity is a fundamental issue of the twenty-first century. While celebrating the unique characteristics of different peoples and cultures, we have to create solidarity on the level of our common humanity, our common life.

—Daisaku Ikeda

Buddhism emerged in India 2,500 years ago, when the historical Buddha Shakyamuni awakened to the supreme truth in the depths of the eighth century Japan. Nichiren, a Buddhist teacher and reformer taught that Nichiren Buddhism was the greatest of all Nihonmyohren teachings—and that it contained the core concept that the Buddha-nature, inherent in all life, is the supreme truth. The Nichiren establish a path to make the path to enlightenment clear and accessible to all people.

In 1960, Toda’s disciple, Daisaku Ikeda, became the third Soka Gakkai president and founder of the international SGI network. He has led the organization’s expansion throughout the world. In addition to its role as a Buddhist leader and philosopher, Ikeda is a prolific writer, poet, and educator. He has also worked on a number of international cultural and peace institutions around the world.

In 13th-century Japan, Nichiren, a Buddhist reformer, converted to Nichiren Buddhism, a Japanese educator with a student-centered, humanistic mindset, encountered Nichiren’s teachings. He converted to Nichiren Buddhism, and in 1330 he and his disciple Toda founded what would become the Soka Gakkai. Today the Soka Gakkai is the largest Nichiren Buddhist organization in the world. The SGI-USA Buddhists represent a wide variety of English speakers, for an international range of academics, and practitioners of the healing arts, and an arts department which includes performing artists, visual artists, writers, composers, musicians, and others.

If you wish to join the SGI-USA, we learn from both our diversity and the common humanity we share. Through these dynamic experiences, we aim to nurture the growth of a cosmopolitan peace culture and bring Buddhist values to the larger communities in which we live and work.