

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**September 20, 2000**

**United Nations Association of Australia**  
**Media Peace Awards 2000, Finalists Announced**

**Aboriginal Reconciliation and East Timor Dominate**  
**Media Peace Awards**

The United Nations Association of Australia today announced the finalists for the 2000 Media Peace Awards (**see list attached**).

Calls for tolerance and the celebration of diversity were common themes in this year's nominations reflecting the concerns that have dominated political and social debate in Australia over the past twelve months. The East Timor conflict inspired many outstanding entries, especially by documentary film makers, and the large amount of reportage and analysis devoted to Aboriginal reconciliation suggests that this continues to be the nation's most pressing issue.

The Media Peace Awards, now in their 22<sup>nd</sup> year, recognise the vital role the media can play in helping to build a more peaceful and tolerant society through the presentation of positive models for conflict resolution. The awards are judged across print, television and radio media and separate awards are also given for the promotion of specific social issues. An award for examples of media reporting that serve to increase awareness and understanding of women's issues has been included this year for the first time.

In 2000 a record number of entries were received presenting the preliminary judges with an extremely challenging task. Finalists were chosen on the basis that their work demonstrated balanced media reporting, served to improve public awareness and fostered understanding about specific issues.

The award winners will be announced at an Awards Presentation Dinner, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Melbourne, on October 20, to coincide with the observance of United Nations Day. Mary Kostakidis, Presenter, World News, SBS Television will host the evening.

**For further details, please contact Patricia Collett, UNAA Executive Director, on 9482 3655 or 0418 544 315.**

