

International Interfaith Organisations Network

Representatives from international interfaith organizations, part of a growing interfaith movement, met in Oxford in March 2001, to discuss more effective communication and cooperation. Since then they have met in Budapest, Oxford and Kerala.

Interfaith education and e-learning, connection with the UN, and joint programmes at the Parliament of World's Religions in Melbourne 2009 are current areas of cooperation.



Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions (CPWR) was created to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in order to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world. Its vision includes a world where cultural fears and hatreds are replaced with understanding and respect, where people everywhere come to know and care for their neighbors, where the world's most powerful and influential institutions move beyond narrow self-interest, and where the Earth and all life are cherished, protected, healed and restored. The first Parliament was held in 1893. Since then there have been Parliaments in USA, South Africa and Spain. The fifth Parliament will convene in Melbourne, Australia, 3-9 December, 2009 around the theme: 'Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other; Healing the earth.'

Contact: Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, 70 East Lake Street, Suite 205, Chicago, Illinois 6060, USA. Phone: +1 312.629.2990.

Email: info@parliamentofreligions.org; www.parliamentofreligions.org



Elijah Interfaith Institute, initiated in 1996 by Rabbi Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein, is a multinational organization dedicated to fostering peace between the world's diverse faith communities through interfaith dialogue, education, research and dissemination. Its unique programming generates interfaith dialogue at the highest levels, bringing together world religious leaders and renowned scholars the world over, through research projects, public conferences and community-based initiatives. The Institute's vast range of contacts and networks allows it to carry out work on a variety of levels, and to offer a coordinated program of interreligious study—leading on the one hand to peace making and social change, and on the other to the growth of individuals and their religious traditions.

Contact: The Elijah Interfaith Institute, 10 Caspi St, 93554, Jerusalem, Israel. Phone: 972-2-672-9276. Email: admin@elijah-interfaith.org; www.elijah-interfaith.org



Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) builds mutual respect and pluralism among young people from different religious traditions and philosophical perspectives by empowering them to work together to serve others. An essential part of being a leader today is having the skills and knowledge to navigate our religiously diverse world. IFYC is training a new generation of leaders and transforming youth-focused institutions. Our mission is to build a global movement of interfaith youth cooperation by generating mass public support for interfaith youth work, equipping youth-focused institutions to positively engage their religious diversity, and nurturing the emerging leaders of this movement. IFYC's four programmatic areas: Outreach Education and Training; Leadership; Media and Culture; and Policy and International Affairs, work cohesively to attain these goals.

Contact: Interfaith Youth Core, 1111 N. Wells, Suite 501, Chicago, IL 60610, USA. Phone +1.312.573.8925. Email: info@ifyc.org; www.ifyc.org



International Association for Religious Freedom

(IARF) was founded in 1900 as an organisation to bring together people 'striving to unite Pure Religion and Perfect Liberty'. It has affiliated member organisations in 33 countries and 13 national chapters, mostly in Asia, Europe and N America. The purpose of IARF is to work for Freedom of Religion and Belief because it is a precious human right that potentially enables the best within our religious lives, or our search for truth or enlightenment, to flourish. It requires freedom from oppressive outside interference or discrimination, mutual understanding, respect and the promotion of harmony (or at least tolerance) between religions and an essential accountability towards the rights of their own members and others.

Contact: International Association for Religious Freedom, c/o Konko Church of Izu, 3-8-21 Sangenya-Nishi, Taisho-ku, Osaka 551-0001, JAPAN. Phone: +81 (0) 675 035602. Email: hq@iarf.net; www.iarf.net



International Interfaith Centre (IIC) was founded in 1993 by the World Congress of Faiths and the International Association for Religious Freedom. It has organised many conferences, seminars, lectures, educational courses and international programmes and now concentrates primarily on internet education and its coordination of the International Interfaith Organisations Network, founded in Oxford in 200. Annual IION meetings have taken place in the UK, Hungary and India.

Contact: International Interfaith Centre, PO Box 750 Oxford, OX3 3BR, UK. Email: iic@interfaith-centre.org; www.interfaith-centre.org

INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT FOR A JUST WORLD

International Movement for a Just World (JUST) is a response to the challenge to harness our values and our knowledge to create a just world. More specifically, our primary goal is to establish a spiritual and intellectual foundation for a just world. Just's goals include developing public awareness about the iniquities and injustices in the existing global system, creating better understanding of how control and domination of the global system by a privileged minority challenges human dignity and social justice, nurturing a deeper appreciation among people everywhere of the urgent need for alternative institutions and arrangements more conducive to the emergence of a just world, and raising global consciousness on the crucial importance of fostering attitudes, values and ideals which will help attain and sustain a just world.

Contact: [JUST] International Movement for a Just World, P.O. Box 288, 46730 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, MALAYSIA. Phone: 603- 7960-3207. Email: muza@just-international.org; www.just-international.org



Minorities of Europe (MoE) is a Pan European charity, established in 1995. It delivers non-formal education to young people and minority groups on a range of topics including interfaith understanding, community cohesion and global citizenship. MoE aims to: support and assist co-operation,

solidarity and exchange between different minority communities and young people across Europe; support and promote positive intercultural relations between different communities; overcome prejudice among different communities; challenge the perception of powerlessness that young people from minority communities often feel; support the participation and integration of minority communities into the mainstream of European civil society; initiate and promote shared projects between people of different faiths, cultures and traditions; and provide a framework for co-operation and exchange between minority groups across Europe.

Contact: Minorities of Europe, Legacy House, 29 Walsgrave Road, Coventry CV2 4HE, UK. Phone: 44 (0)2476 225 764.

Email: admin@moe-online.com; www.moe-online.com



North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) is a non-profit association of interfaith organizations and agencies in Canada, Mexico and the United States. NAIN's programs seek to build communication and mutual understanding among diverse religious groups throughout North America. Through its annual conference, newsletter, web site, member organizations, Board and supportive participants, NAIN offers networking opportunities to numerous interfaith organizations. NAIN affirms human-

ity's diverse and historic spiritual resources, bringing these to bear on contemporary global, national, regional and local issues.

Contact: www.nain.org



**PEACE
COUNCIL**

Peace Council is a diverse group of religious and spiritual individuals who are internationally known and respected and who have decided to come together 'to understand one another and work together so that those of us who profess belief in our respective faiths can work for the common cause of humanity.' The mission of the Peace Council is to demonstrate that peace is possible, and that effective interreligious collaboration to make peace is also possible. In a world where religion too often is used to justify division, hatred, and violence the Peace Councilors offer an alternative: the example of religious leaders working effectively together to relieve suffering and make the world whole.

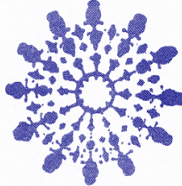
Contact: International Committee for the Peace Council, c/o Joseph Elder, 1112 Grant Street, Madison, WI 53711, USA. Email: elder@ssc.wisc.edu ; www.peacecouncil.org



Religions for Peace - the world's largest and most representative multi-religious coalition—advances common action among the world's religious communities for peace. Religions for Peace consists of a World Council of senior religious leaders elected at World Assemblies, five Regional and more than seventy National Inter-religious Councils, and Networks of Religious Youth and Women of Faith. Guided by respect for religious differences and a

vision of the world's religious communities cooperating effectively for peace, Religions for Peace assists religious communities to collaborate on deeply held and widely shared moral concerns.

Contact: Religions for Peace, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA. Phone: +1 (212) 687 2163. Email: info@wcrp.org; www.wcrp.org



Temple of Understanding (TOU) was founded in 1960 to advance the worldwide promotion of interfaith dialogue and education to achieve understanding, respect and coexistence among the people of the world's religious and spiritual communities. The TOU has hosted regional and international spiritual summits of the world's religious and spiritual leaders and sponsored, in cooperation with other organizations, Consultations on Interfaith Education that have begun to define this new field and create a network of interfaith or-

ganizations and educators. As a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Department of Public Information, the TOU works to support the United Nations by advocating for recognition of spiritual values in UN documents, committees, programs and conferences.

Contact: The Temple of Understanding, 211 East 43rd Street, Suite 1600, New York, NY 10017, USA. Phone: 212-573-9224. Email: info@templeofunderstanding.org; www.templeofunderstanding.org

THREE FAITHS FORUM



Three Faiths Forum has been generating understanding, goodwill and friendship between Muslims, Christians and Jews, as well

as people of other faiths and wider society since 1997. We are not a religious organisation, but work with government, religious leaders, educators, students, the work force and other interfaith groups. We develop and support interfaith dialogue leading toward tangible change in the perception of the 'other'. Our programmes widen horizons, confront prejudice, encourage harmony. Our overall objective is to build lasting relationships between people of different faiths and beliefs. The Three Faiths Forum offers faith-based consulting and advice, interfaith programmes for schools and youth, student mentoring programmes, dialogue through scriptural study, adult discussion forums, forums for professionals and support for local and international interfaith groups.

Contact: Three Faiths Forum, Star House, 104 Grafton Road, London NW5 4BA, UK. (branch also in Jerusalem) Phone: 44 207 482 9549.

Email: info@threefaithsforum.org.uk; www.threefaithsforum.org.uk

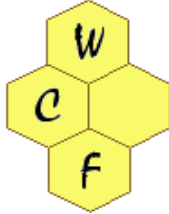
The project **Towards the creation of a spiritual forum for world peace at the United Nations** launched in 1998, redefined in 2006 its main strategic objectives as: to have the United Nations declaring 2011-2020 'Decade of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace' and creating in that framework an 'interfaith forum/network' to facilitate the implementation of the DECADE. The Partnership Committee—the project's steering body—successfully organized in January 2008 a Consultation on a draft proposal for such a decade, which was hosted by the WCC and CONGO at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute, near Geneva. The main outcomes of that consultation have been the launching of the *Initiative for a UN Decade of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace* based on a consensual proposal, the initiation of a Coalition-in-formation of faith-based organizations in support of this initiative, which includes main global ecumenical and interfaith organizations, and the establishment of a Provisional Steering Committee for guiding this process. At present the idea of establishing an interfaith forum/network remains as one possible institutional model for a non-governmental arrangement which would be set up by the Coalition if and when the proposed DECADE is adopted by the UN General Assembly. Since all the members of the Partnership Committee are actively involved in the DECADE initiative and the strategic objectives of *the Project* have been partially achieved, the Partnership Committee has decided to declare the Project in state of *vigilant hibernation*, while continuing to work together with other partner organizations for the DECADE initiative.

Contact: Gerardo Gonzalez. Phone: 56-2-2185578. Email: Gerardo.gonzalez@mi.cl



United Religions Initiative (URI) was founded in 2000 when its Charter was signed by thousands of members from around the world. Today the URI includes members in over 65 countries representing more than 100 religions, spiritual expressions, and indigenous traditions. The heart of URI is the global network of locally organized 'Cooperation Circles (CCs),' local or virtual groups that include at least seven members and at least three different religions, spiritual paths and indigenous traditions. CCs organize around the needs and vision of their local community and their work is united by a common commitment to the principles and practices in the URI Charter. Recent highlights of URI work in the world include a peacebuilding program in Cyprus bringing together young leaders from 10 countries in Europe and the Middle East for training in Non Violent Communication and interfaith peacebuilding and Moral Imagination that focuses on cultivating spiritual and creative capacity as a critical tool for effective peacebuilding in situations of conflict.

Contact: United Religions Initiative, P.O. Box 29242, San Francisco, CA 94129, USA. Phone: +1-415-561-2300. Email: office@uri.org; www.uri.org



World Congress of Faiths (WCF) was founded in 1936. It publishes the leading journal *Interreligious Insight* and arranges a variety of conferences, meetings, retreats, visits and group travel to learn what others believe, what they think about life today and how they pray, meditate and worship. WCF believes that understanding between people of different religions is important for good community relations, for moral and spiritual renewal and for world peace. WCF's educational work encourages interfaith understanding and co-operation at all levels of society.
Contact: World Congress of Faiths, London Inter Faith Centre, 125 Salisbury Rd, London, NW6 6RG, UK. Phone: 44 (0) 20 8959 3129.
Email: enquiries@worldfaiths.org; www.worldfaiths.org



World Fellowship of Inter-Religious Councils (WFIRC) was founded in 1983 as a network of individuals, institutions and movements committed to interfaith dialogue at different levels. WFIRC is committed to work for reconciliation in areas of communal tension, to value education with special emphasis on spirituality and meditation, to interfaith education, to interfaith celebration of festivals etc. WFIRC organises international interfaith conferences and celebrations, and publishes a newsletter, *Sangam*.
Contact: Fr. Albert Nambiaparambil, Upasana, Thodupuzha, Kerala 685584, India.
Tel: 0091 4862 223286. E-mail: upasanadr@dataone.in

The information in this leaflet has been prepared in the hope that it is correct. However, organisations change and data may become out of date. For up-to-date news, please view the website of each organisation concerned.

Direct links to these websites may be found on:

www.interfaith-centre.org/iion/iion.htm

See also IION's own website

<http://interfaithorganisations.net/>

This leaflet has been produced by:
International Interfaith Centre
www.interfaith-centre.org