



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Towards Interreligious Understanding and Global Peace

22-24 November 2019



Source: Institute of Canadian Archives

Organized by

**UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding
Malaviya Centre for Peace Research
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India**

in collaboration with

United Religious Initiative (URI), California, USA

About the Conference

The seed is put in the ground, and earth and air and water are placed around it. Does the seed become the earth, or the air, or the water? No. It becomes a plant. It develops after the law of its own growth assimilates the air, the earth, and the water, converts them into plant substance, and grows into a plant. Similar is the case with religion. The Christian is not to become a Hindu or a Buddhist, nor a Hindu or a Buddhist to become a Christian. But each must assimilate the spirit of the others and yet preserve his individuality and grow according to his own law of growth.

(Swami Vivekananda, 1893) <https://www.ramakrishna.org/chcgfull.htm>

Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda, and other illustrious protagonists of interreligious peace, UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding, Malaviya Centre for Peace Research in collaboration with the United Religions Initiative (URI) is organizing an International Conference on “Towards Interreligious Understanding and Global Peace” from 22-24 November 2019 at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

The conference aims to highlight exemplary ideas and practices of interreligious and intercultural understanding in today’s world which challenge the much-hyped legacy of religion as a source of conflict. Indeed, the religious communities with their credible appeal with vast human resources and reach could readily inspire forgiveness and reconciliation within and across their communities. There are innumerable instances wherein religious and faith-based actors have engaged in mediation and trauma healing and providing valuable humanitarian in conflict-torn areas. New and creative forms of interfaith dialogue are being practiced across cultures to assuage religious disaffection and promote interconnectedness. The Conference will bring together salient stories/practices drawing on interreligious/interfaith dialogues from the hinterlands and grassroots and also examine critical perspectives about the contemporary modes of religious peacebuilding.

The inclusive framework of the conference will engage researchers and students concerned with religion and peace along with faith leaders, interfaith practitioners, grassroots organisations and activists. The holistic template will interface with issues of social inclusion, ecological peace and women’s issues. Feel free to take up any theme which you might consider relevant to the spirit of the Seminar.

Some suggested areas are:

- Religions for Peace: religious leaders and grassroots activists
- Imperatives of peace building: polity and society
- Good practices at the grassroots
- Religions and ecological peace
- Issue of women empowerment
- Challenges at global level

Any other related topic is also welcome.

Please send your abstracts of 300 words (English: Times New Roman, 12 & Hindi: Kruti Dev 010, 14) with your bio of 100 words, to unesco.internationalseminar@gmail.com on or before 30th September 2019.

You will receive intimation on your proposal by 15 October 2019. Last date for the submission of full research paper is 05th of November, 2019.

Registration Fee: 1500/-INR

Patron

Professor Rakesh Bhatnagar
Vice Chancellor
Banaras Hindu University

Co-convener of the conference

Dr. Manoj Kumar Mishra
Associate Professor
MCPR, BHU

Convener of the conference

Professor Priyankar Upadhyaya
UNESCO Chair Professor
MCPR, BHU

Organizing Secretary

Dr Ajay Kumar Yadav
Assistant Professor
MCPR, FSS, BHU
+91-9451720906

Organizing Secretary

Dr Prashant Kumar
Assistant Professor
MCPR, FSS, BHU
+91-9431905998

Organizing Committee

Professor Priyankar Upadhyaya
Dr Manoj Kumar Mishra
Dr Ajay Kumar Yadav
Dr Prashant Kumar
Dr Sunita Singh
Professor Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya

Conference Organizers

UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding
Malaviya Centre for Peace Research [MCPR], BHU
www.mcpr-bhu.org

The ancient city of Varanasi has traditionally been a site of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and discourses. Continuing this tradition, the Banaras Hindu University has taken the lead in institutionalizing an interdisciplinary centre for peace research and conflict resolution. Deriving its name from the illustrious founder of the University, the Malaviya Centre for Peace Research (MCPR) was launched in 1998 under the VIII UGC Plan as the first centre of its kind in the Indian University system. In the past twenty year, the MCPR has established itself globally as a hub of scholarly and practical activities concerning varied dimensions of conflict analysis and sustainable peace. The granting of UNESCO Chair for Peace in 2010 has been worthy recognition of the continuing peace work at MCPR.

UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding has been mandated to serve the following objectives:

- Explore and highlight the potentials of cultural and, in particular religious, diversity as a resource for peace rather than a barrier;
- Create a critical mass of trained and sensitized peace workers in this particular field;
- Create an integrated regional hub for research, training, information and documentation in the fields of peace, human rights, conflicts resolution and human development sensitive to the issues of structural and cultural diversity;
- Develop a curriculum for Asian and African Universities focussing particularly on the cultural and religious dimension

United Religions Initiative [URI]

<https://uri.org/>

United Religions Initiative (URI) is a global grassroots interfaith network that cultivates peace and justice by engaging people to bridge religious and cultural differences and work together for the good of their communities and the world. We implement our mission through grassroots groups, called Cooperation Circles, which bring diverse people together to jointly engage in community actions such as conflict resolution and reconciliation, environmental sustainability, education, women's and youth programs, and advocacy for human rights.

For further information:

unesco.internationalseminar@gmail.com