

2023 G20 INTERFAITH SUMMIT”
SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2023
PUNE, INDIA

OVERVIEW

Article: “Fostering Global Peace and Holistic Development: G20 Interfaith Summit at World Peace Dome, Pune”

In an increasingly interconnected World Grappling with pressing challenges like violent conflicts, inequality, the climate crisis, and diminishing trust and public institutions, the G20 Interfaith Summit stands as a beacon of hope. Organized in collaboration with the Maharashtra Institute of Technology World Peace University, Pune, and the G20 Interfaith Forum Association, this summit, scheduled to take place at the world peace dome in Pune on September 5th-6th, 2023, aims to pave the way for a future marked by peace, sustainability, and comprehensive development. Initiative to organize is taken by W. Cole Durham Jr. President, G20 Interfaith Forum Association and Rahul Karad President, Executive President, MITWPU, Pune, India. This initiative would have a long lasting impact on policy making on a world scale. The G20 Interfaith Summit seeks to unite diverse perspectives from religious leaders, faith-based organizations, experts, and practitioners to address multifaceted crises plaguing our world. By recognizing the intricate interdependencies of these challenges, the summit aims to forge new pathways for leadership that integrate ethical values with pragmatic strategies.

This fusion of vision and insight is crucial for effective global and local engagement, ensuring a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to problem solving. Promoting a Culture of Peace: By engaging religious leaders and faith-based organizations and meaningful dialogues, the summit aims to underscore their pivotal role in conflict resolution and peace building. It seeks to emphasize their contributions and harness their influence to foster a culture of peace across communities. Addressing Interlinked Crises: the summit recognizes the interconnectedness of challenges like conflict, inequality, climate change, and eroding trust. It strives to identify Innovative approaches that integrate various sectors and stakeholders to develop Sustainable Solutions that tackle these crises holistically. Empowering Vulnerable Communities: with a focus on children affected by the human trafficking and covid pandemic and those facing climate change related disparities, the summit aims to amplify their voices and address their unique challenges. by empowering these communities, and envisions a more equitable future. Fostering Hope for a Better Future: practical initiatives, successful case studies, and visionary ideas showcased at the summit are intended to inspire optimism and belief in the transformative power of interfaith collaboration. By highlighting tangible outcomes, the summit seeks to instill hope for a brighter tomorrow.

The G20 Interfaith Summit will be a hub of high-level dialogues, panel discussions, and breakout sessions. Religious leaders will engage in global debates, focusing on peace building, holistic development, climate change, and social anomalies prevailing in society. These discussions will highlight best practices and initiatives implemented within communities, offering real world solutions that can be skilled and adapted. By facilitating networking and collaboration opportunities among participants, the summit aims to create a web of partnerships that can collectively address identified challenges. By fostering cross-sectoral cooperation, it will enable a more coordinated and effective response to global crises.

The G20 Interfaith Summit at the World Peace Dome in Pune stands as a testament to the power of unity and collaboration in the face of adversity. By bringing together religious leaders, experts, and practitioners the summit promises to spark innovative solutions to interconnected Global challenges. Through its emphasis on vulnerable communities, it seeks to empower those most affected and, in doing so, cultivate a sense of hope and optimism for a better future. As the

world grapples with complex issues, the G20 Interfaith Summit serves as a powerful reminder that by working together across faiths and backgrounds, humanity can forge a path toward lasting peace and holistic development.

WRITTEN BY: GANESH MANTRI, FACULTY AT MITSOG

STUDENT/FELLOWS' EXPERIENCES

WRITTEN BY: SOPHIA GUNTER

The G20 Interfaith Summit in India proved to be a very worthwhile experience for myself, the other students in my group, and for many students who remained at BYU-Hawaii. Not only did I learn techniques for building peace and improving religious freedom internationally, I was also able to make meaningful connections with other visitors. I am grateful for the things I learned in my short few days attending the conference.

India, perhaps soon to be referred to as Bharat as announced during the conference, is a massive country rich with intellectual and natural resources. It is also very ethnically and religiously diverse. This diversity has the potential to make India a leading country in global politics as leaders discuss the religious impacts of their population and the valuable roles of ethnicity in the workplace. Unfortunately, it appears that the individual states of India are struggling to find cohesion, tolerance, and accountability within religious, political, and ethnic spheres of conflict. As my Indian friends shared with me during the conference, many people still adopt a “colonist mindset,” which suggests that Indian identity is threatened by anything that seems foreign or controversial. Thus, instead of embracing differences, many Indians fear them.

It was in this setting that the conference began. The conference was held at the World Peace Dome located at the Maharashtra Institute of Technology - World Peace University. The purpose of the dome is to demonstrate the harmony that can exist between religion and science. On the outside of the dome are large statues of scientific leaders, old and new. Circling the inside of the dome are statues of religious leaders, old and new. There was even a recent statue added of Joseph Smith.

Morning and evening sessions were typically held in the peace dome itself. Smaller sessions aimed at facilitating question-and-answer formatting were held in smaller rooms beneath the dome. I had the opportunity to space during one of these breakout sessions. I spoke during the Global Youth and Peace dialogue session which was held inside the Peace Dome itself. The topic I chose to speak about was the role of Pacific indigenous faith practices in conflict mediation. This semester I am taking IPB 400 Conflict Mediation which discusses both the narrative and HIVA models of mediation. I brought these two together during my speech.

During my time at the conference I found that many of the attendees were unprofessional peacebuilders. By this I mean that many lacked any formal peacebuilding training in mediation, facilitation, or other conflict transformation skills. Everyone had great desires for peace, so I wanted to capitalize on that desire and offer a brief training that would help the attendees be better conflict mediators in their own spaces.

One aspect of the conference that was especially significant for me was the opportunity to talk to the students attending MIT-WPU. The students that were assigned to help me around the conference were master's degree students in the School of Government. They were very excited to ask me lots of questions about politics in the United States and the role of interfaith dialogue there. They were also more than willing to answer my questions about India, and I feel that we had the most productive conversations compared to my conversations with other attendees. Some

of the things I asked the Indian students about included the positive and negative long-term impacts of colonialism on the country, factions within states causing political unrest and uncertainty, the reality of xenophobia within India, the position of differing religions, and the impact of the caste system. I felt that they were the most honest with me with regard to these topics. I expect that is because many of them were hoping for change and were studying to be that change in their country. I was very grateful for the things I learned from those students and I expect that they will be an important network for students from India at BYU-Hawaii moving into the future.

There are a few key people that I was able to connect with that I would like to mention here in the hopes that they may be helpful for future connections. First, I was able to reestablish connections with King Hussein (an Indian member of the Church and large donor to religious freedom activities), Cole Durham (CEO of G20 Interfaith), and Brian Grim (Religious Freedom & Business Foundation). These are people with whom BYU-Hawaii has worked in the past and I was able to confirm their interest moving forward.

There were several women there who may be important networks for BYU-Hawaii students and myself moving forward. Kimberlie Orr holds a JD from BYU with a specialization in immigration and alternative dispute resolution. She now works partly at Notre Dame University, but mostly spends her time working with issues regarding immigration, human trafficking, and displacement. For students interested in these issues or in pursuing law, she would be a great contact.

Another was Tauna-Lyn Ford. Ford is an adjunct faculty member at BYU-Provo where she teaches World Religions. Her full-time job is working for the Church History Department where she has assisted in writing *Saints*, global histories, and other articles. Her expertise is the history of the Church in India. For those Indian students interested in working for the Church, she would be a wonderful connection. She would also be greatly helpful to those interested in pursuing writing or research careers.

One person who was interested in working with BYU-Hawaii students was Jeanette Schiwiek Kleijweg. She is from the Netherlands but currently lives and works in Germany. She is passionate about connecting youth and young adults within the Church and would like to adopt the help of international students from BYUH.

Personally, I attended the conference with hopes to find connections to Armenia and/or Azerbaijan. This is a region of the world I am deeply interested in having done much research on the Nagorno-Karabakh and with plans to move to Yerevan in the fall of 2024 following my graduation. One of the speakers in a general session of the conference was the grand mufti of Azerbaijan, Allahshukur Pashazadeh. He left quickly and I was unable to connect with him, but it was interesting to hear his speech and perspective of the Armenia/Azerbaijan conflict. More details on the speech can be found below. Another Azerbaijani representative spoke during a breakout session. His name was Ivan Hasanov and he came from the Baku International Multicultural Center. More info on his discussions during the panel can be found in the breakout session reports.

My success in this area was found when I met Rachel Miner, CEO and founder of Bellwether International. Bellwether International is an NGO that operates around the world on issues pertaining to genocide. The organization is two-fold: anti-genocide and genocide resistance. I am excited to be working with her in conjunction with the Religious Freedom and Human Dignity Initiative to provide assistance for anti-genocide work in Armenia aimed at relieving vulnerable populations of religious background. I learned much from the conference, which will be evident throughout the report. I know I am a better student, employee, and global citizen because of it. For that I am grateful to BYU-Hawaii and sponsors for the opportunity to have attended the conference.

WRITTEN BY: AARON JAMES

The G20 Interfaith Summit in India was an extraordinary chapter in my life, filled with remarkable encounters, insightful discussions, and a profound appreciation for the intricate interplay of religion, ethics, and technology in our dynamic global landscape. As a student at Brigham Young University-Hawaii, I embarked on this journey with curiosity and a thirst for knowledge, and I returned with a treasure trove of experiences and insights.

My interactions with a diverse group of individuals during the summit were invaluable. One memorable encounter was with Nirav Ghaadiya, a distinguished political leader associated with the Shivsena. His deep involvement in local politics and his insights into the multifaceted realm of Maharashtra politics left an indelible mark on my understanding of the complexities involved. Through our conversations, I gained a deeper appreciation for the nuanced and fascinating world of Indian politics.

Dr. Vijay G. Prabhakar was another significant personality I had the privilege of meeting. Holding prominent positions like Chairman of GLOBAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCE INC., USA, and President of GSA India @75 Expo USA Metro Cities Sequels 2023, Dr. Prabhakar's expertise extended to various domains, including the American Association of Multi-Ethnic Physicians and the Indian American Business Coalition. Our discussions highlighted the importance of forging international connections and collaborations that transcend geographical and cultural boundaries. It was a lesson in the power of cooperation to address complex global challenges.

Adhik Kadam, an Indian social entrepreneur and peacebuilder, was an individual whose mission profoundly resonated with the summit's overarching theme of conflict resolution through understanding and love. Mr. Kadam's mission of working in the conflict zones of Jammu and Kashmir was both inspiring and eye-opening. In a candid interview, he shared his perspective on the Indo-Pak conflicts, emphasizing that the core issue lies not with countries, but with individuals. His words underscored that love has the power to bridge even the deepest divides, offering a compelling message of hope and unity.

My interactions with a group from the Catholic Church, dedicated to noble causes and world peace, were equally enlightening. It was a testament to the strength of unity among individuals from diverse faiths, all united in their mission to promote peace and harmony.

The pivotal moment of the summit for me was my participation in the Youth Dialogue session, where I addressed the topic, "How can the intersection of religion, ethics, and technology be harnessed to advance and sustain global peace and harmony in an increasingly complex and technologically-driven world?" This topic encapsulated the very essence of the summit's mission and the core theme that had ignited passionate discussions throughout the event.

In my speech, I began by acknowledging the profound impact of technology on our lives. I emphasized the historical connection between ethics (dharma) and success, drawing from the ancient wisdom of "यत्र धर्मस्तत्र जयः" (Yatra dharmastatra jayah). This historical context underscored the timeless role of religion and ethics as moral compasses, guiding societies toward compassion, justice, and tolerance.

The discussion extended to the critical role of technology in preserving cultural and religious heritage. I cited the wisdom of "सर्वेभ्यः प्राणिभ्यः च सर्वे प्राणिः" (Sarvebhyah pranibhyah cha sarvam pranih), emphasizing the interconnectedness of all life and the importance of safeguarding traditions for future generations.

The environment, an issue close to my heart, was a prominent theme. Many religions emphasize stewardship of the Earth, and technology's role in mitigating environmental challenges through sustainable innovations was underscored. The speech delved into the ethical challenges of technology, such as AI and automation, discussing job displacement and bias, and how religious ethics can offer insights into addressing these issues. In the digital age, a crisis of ethics has arisen, with challenges like misinformation, cyberbullying, and social media addiction. Religious teachings were highlighted as guides to promoting online civility and empathy.

Interfaith dialogue was celebrated as a means to bridge gaps between diverse religious and cultural communities, fostering understanding and cooperation. This was particularly relevant in our interconnected world, where technology plays a crucial role in facilitating such dialogue.

In conclusion, I stressed the enormous potential that lies at the intersection of religion, ethics, and technology to shape a more peaceful and harmonious world. By harnessing the principles and wisdom found in various religious traditions and using technology responsibly and ethically, we can navigate the complexities of our modern world with a shared commitment to global peace and harmony. The speech was a call to action, a reminder that the future of our world, one characterized by peace and harmony, rests in our collective hands.

The G20 Interfaith Summit was indeed a transformative experience. It was an occasion where I met remarkable individuals, delved into diverse cultures, and left with an enlightened understanding of the power of unity amidst diversity.

Moreover, this conference held personal significance to me. Growing up in a family marked by diverse religious backgrounds and interfaith marriages, I witnessed the beauty of coexistence and harmony. The summit reinforced the importance of respecting and embracing differences while working collectively towards a peaceful world. This realization was a delight, a reaffirmation of the values instilled in me through my family's rich tapestry of faiths. As I reflect on this incredible journey, I'm reminded of the power of unity amidst diversity, the warmth of shared values, and the profound lessons that transcended borders. The G20 Interfaith Summit served as a vivid tapestry of human connection, where people from all walks of life came together, transcending geographical, cultural, and religious boundaries.

With gratitude in my heart and a renewed sense of purpose, I carry the lessons learned at the summit, the words of wisdom from the remarkable individuals I met, and the realization that our world's future rests in our collective hands.

As I return to the serene shores of Brigham Young University-Hawaii, I do so with the knowledge that this journey has transformed me. It has rekindled my commitment to being an ambassador of peace, harmony, and understanding in an increasingly complex and technologically-driven world.

In the spirit of "Namaste & Aloha from Hawaii," I extend my greetings, not just from this beautiful island but from the depths of my heart, to every corner of the world. May the lessons we've learned, the connections we've made, and the shared commitment to global peace and harmony inspire a brighter future for all. Together, let us embark on this remarkable journey, knowing that with compassion, knowledge, and love, we can be the answer our world needs.

WRITTEN BY: PRASHANTH RAMISHETTY

One morning, an invitation to the G20 Interfaith Forum in Pune, India, arrived from the Administrative Assistant to the Dean at Brigham Young University, Hawaii. As a sophomore majoring in Computer Science, the prospect of returning to my roots in Hyderabad, just 562 KM away, was particularly exciting. Selected by the RFHD Initiative Advisory Board, our university had the honor of participating in this global dialogue at the World Peace Dome from September 5th to 9th, 2023. The dome, renowned as the world's largest dome of peace, housed 54 larger-than-life bronze statues, including one of Joseph Smith Jr., a significant leader in my faith, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Having met Elder D. Todd Christofferson during the inauguration of Joseph Smith Jr.'s statue months ago, the personal connection added an extra layer of anticipation.

As our small group, comprising three students (including a friend from India) and a professor, embarked on the journey, the warmth of camaraderie among us set a positive tone. Upon landing in India, the liaison officers' hospitality was a welcoming touch, and the feeling of stepping onto familiar soil was indescribable—a return to my roots. The grandeur of the World Peace Dome, with its colossal structure and symbolic significance, exceeded all expectations upon arrival. Exploring the surroundings and absorbing the atmosphere, my excitement grew.

The personal narratives of those who had experienced the dome before, especially during the inauguration, had already heightened my expectations. Now, being physically present, the anticipation of what lay ahead in the G20 Interfaith Forum discussions intensified. The mix of personal connections, the symbolic significance of the venue, and the impending global discussions all contributed to a blend of emotions—excitement, curiosity, and a profound sense of privilege. The journey had just begun, and the impressions of our arrival were already shaping what promised to be a truly memorable experience.

The arrangements at the G20 Interfaith Forum in Pune, India, were nothing short of exceptional. From the moment we landed, the hospitality extended by the liaison officers was noteworthy. The seamless coordination in transportation, with officers efficiently picking us up, ensured a smooth transition from the airport to our accommodations. The conference venue, the World Peace Dome, stood as a testament to meticulous planning and execution. The well-organized registration process and the availability of conference materials showed a keen attention to detail.

The hospitality extended to us as attendees was evident in the well-appointed facilities, comfortable accommodation, and the availability of resources for both academic and personal needs. The event organizers' commitment to creating a conducive environment for dialogue and collaboration was reflected in the thoughtfully arranged meeting spaces, ensuring that every participant could engage meaningfully in the discussions. Overall, the arrangements were a testament to the dedication of the organizers in making the G20 Interfaith Forum a memorable and enriching experience for all attendees.

The G20 Interfaith Forum in Pune, India, proved to be a gathering of intellectual prowess and diverse perspectives, featuring tremendous speakers and exceptional students from our university. The lineup of speakers was nothing short of impressive, with each presentation

offering unique insights and fostering engaging discussions. From renowned experts in interfaith dialogue to scholars delving into global agendas such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the caliber of the speakers elevated the conference to an enlightening experience.

Equally noteworthy were the contributions of our university's students, who showcased their depth of knowledge and passion for the subjects discussed. Their presentations and active participation in discussions underscored the quality of education and commitment to academic excellence at our institution. The forum not only provided a platform for renowned speakers but also highlighted the intellectual prowess and potential of the students, making it a truly enriching experience for all participants.

The youth dialogue, a pivotal component of the G20 Interfaith Forum in Pune, India, emerged as an excellent forum for the exchange of ideas and perspectives among young participants. The energy and enthusiasm of the youth delegates were palpable, contributing to vibrant discussions on pressing global issues. However, it is worth noting that the overall experience could have been enhanced with more explicit instructions and a more structured timeline. Clear guidelines and a well-defined schedule would have allowed for a more organized flow of discussions, ensuring that every participant had ample time to express their thoughts and engage in meaningful dialogue. This constructive feedback aside, the youth dialogue undoubtedly served as a catalyst for empowering the next generation of leaders, fostering connections, and cultivating a sense of shared responsibility for addressing the challenges outlined during the forum

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, September

- 8:15 – 8:30 AM - Welcome
- 8:30 – 9:00 AM - Visit to sacred site
- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM - Unveiling of the Dr. Vishwanath Karad Statue
 - Elder D. Todd Christofferson
 - Shri. Rahul V Karad
 - Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM - LUNCH
- 2:00 – 4:00 PM - Discussion with students from School of Government MIT-WPU
- 4:00 – 5:00 PM - Tour of campus and video interviews
- 5:00 – 8:30 PM - Welcome Reception
 - Hon'ble Dr. Gautam Bapat, Program Director; School-of-Business, MITWPU, Pune
 - Hon'ble Shri. Rahul Karad, Managing Trustee & Executive PResident, MAEER's MIT and Executive President, MITWPU & Chief Initiator - NLC, BCS, NTC
 - Hon'ble W. Cole Durham, Jr., President, G20 Interfaith Forum
 - Hon'ble King Husein, Chairman & CEO, Span Construction & Engineering, Inc. USA
 - Hon'ble Shri. Vikram Kumar (IAS), Pune Municipal Commissioner
 - Hon'ble Dr. Rajesh Deshmukh (IAS), District Collector, Pune, Bharat UNESCO Chair Holder
 - Hon'ble Rev. Prof. Dr. Vishwanath D. Karad, Founder & Chief Patron, MAEER's MIT, Pune & President, MIT WPU, Pune, Bharat
 - Hon'ble Acharya Lokesh Muni, Founder, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, New Delhi (Jainism)
 - Hon'ble Dr. Izaac Malekar, Head Priest (Rabbi) and Honorary Secretary of the Judah Hyam Synagogue, New Delhi
 - Hon'ble Dame. Dr. Prof. Meher Master Moos, Eminent Parsi Scholar & President, Zoroastrian College, Sanjan, Gujarat, India
 - Hon'ble Sayed Aziz Nizami, Sajjada Nashin, Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia (R.A.), New Delhi
 - Hon'ble Rahul Bhante Bodhi, Maha Thero (Senior Buddhist Monk), Mumbai
- 8:30 - 10:00 PM - DINNER

Wednesday, September 6

- 8:30 – 9:30 AM - Procession and Opening Ceremonies
 - Ringing of the World Peace Bell

- Lighting of the Lamp
- Playing the Shankh Dhwani
- Introduction by Dr. Gautam Bapat
- National Anthem
- World Peace Prayer
- World Peace Meditation led by Prof. Milind Patre, Associate Dean, Faculty of Peace Studies, MITWPU, Pune
- Felicitations of Chief Guest and Distinguished Guests
- 9:30 – 10:15 AM - “Setting the Context - The G20 Interfaith Journey”
- 10:15 – 10:45 AM - “Welcome Remarks”
- 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM - “Interfaith Voices at the G20 Table”
- 12:00 – 1:30 PM - Breakout Sessions:
 - 1A: “Religion, Ethics & Technology”
 - 1B: “Benefitting From Religion in the Workplace”
 - 1C: “Women Empowerment”
 - 1D: “Social Cohesion”
- 1:30 – 3:00 PM - LUNCH & MINGLE
- 3:00 – 4:30 PM - Breakout Sessions:
 - 2A: “Vulnerable Communities: Leaving No One Behind”
 - 2B: “Perspectives on Indian National Education”
 - 2C: “Peacebuilding and Social Peace”
 - 2D: “Food Security”
- 4:30 - 5:30 PM - Extension of “Perspectives on Indian National Education”
- 5:30 - 8:00 PM - Closing Session
- 8:00 - 9:30 PM - DINNER

Thursday, September 7

- 8:00 – 9:00 AM - BREAKFAST & MINGLE
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM - “The 4 C’s: COVID, Climate, Conflict, and Children”
 - Michael K. Young, Prof. of Law and Former President Texas A&M Univ., Former Chair, US Commission on International Religious Freedom
 - Rodrigo Vitorino Souza Alves, Research Leader, Centro Brasileiro de Estudos em Direito e Religião – CEDIRE
 - Dr. Kezevino Aram, Director, Shanti Ashram
 - Ganoune Diop, Director, Director Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Seventh-day Adventist Church

- Shri. Rahul V Karad, Managing Trustee, Executive President, MAEER's MIT and Executive President, MITWPU, Pune, Bharat
- 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM - Breakout Sessions:
 - 3A: “Global Perspectives on Education”
 - 3B: “Health Care”
 - 3C: “Protecting Children and the Vulnerable”
 - 3D: “Climate”
- 12:30 – 2:00 PM - LUNCH & MINGLE
- 2:00 – 4:30 PM - Breakout Sessions
 - 4A: “Protection of Religious and Cultural Heritage”
 - 4B: “Trafficking”
 - 4C: “Global Youth and Peace Dialogue”
- 4:30 – 5:00 PM - “Valedictory Session”
 - W. Cole Durham, Jr.
 - Shri Rahul V. Karad
 - Narayan Bablani Ji, Vice President Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Writer, Social Worker, Founder President Sindhi Heritage Foundation
 - Shri. Bandaru Dattatreya
- 5:00 – 5:30 PM - “India to Brazil Handover”
 - Roderigo Vitorino Souza Alves, Chair, 2024 G20 Interfaith Forum Local Organizaing Committee
 - Alexandre Brasil Carvalho Da Fonseca, Ministry of Education, Federative Republic of Brazil, Director of Higher Education Policies and Programs
 - Irenilda Aparecida Maria Francisco, General Coordinator for the Promotion of Religious Freedom National Secreatriat for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, Ministry of HUMAN Rights and Citizenship
 - Ivo Pereira da Silva, Analyst for Social Policies, General Coordination for the Promotion of Religious Freedom, General Directorate for the Promotion of Human Rights
 - Fabio Nascimento, Translator
- 5:30 – 7:00 PM - “Concluding Thoughts and Transition Reflection”
 - Cole Durham Jr.
 - Rahul V Karad
 - Vishwanath Karad

SUMMARY REPORTS

DAY 1

WRITTEN BY: SOPHIA GUNTER

D. Todd Christofferson: *Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Prior to his call to serve as a full-time General Authority of the Church, Elder Christofferson was associate general counsel of NationsBank Corporation (now Bank of America) in Charlotte, North Carolina. Previously, he was senior vice president and general counsel for Commerce Union Bank of Tennessee in Nashville where he was also active in community affairs and interfaith organizations. From 1975 to 1980, Elder Christofferson practiced law in Washington, D.C., after serving as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica during the trials and other proceedings known as Watergate (1972-74).

In his remarks, Christofferson discussed the importance of religious harmony. He pointed to the many religious leaders and other faithful people gathered as an example of the way that religious communities should gather in discussing relevant topics. He also referred to the unveiling of the statue of Vishwanath Karad. He suggested that such a statue was an example of the love and honor of many of Dr. Karad's followers and those that have been blessed by him through education, religion, or otherwise. Ultimately, Christofferson's message served to demonstrate that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is willing to engage in interfaith dialogue with faith members around the world.

Rahul V. Karad: *Managing Trustee & Executive PResident, MAEER's MIT and Executive President, MITWPU & Chief Initiator - NLC, BCS, NTC*

An educationist at the forefront of the 70+ institutes strong MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions, Pune (Est. 1983), known for imparting Universal Value Based Education in the sphere of Higher Education & Learning. Led the expansion of MIT-Pune from Engineering Education to fresh streams like-Management, Arts, Science, Commerce, Humanities, Politics and Governance. Founder-MIT School of Government- Asia's first Institute imparting education in Political Leadership and Governance. Founder - BCS- India's first and largest platform hosting Indian Students Parliament, Founder- National Teachers' Congress, Founder - Sarpanch Sansad- a platform that raises Rural concerns, Founder- National Women's Parliament. Mentor & Advisor for on Campus Student Development Initiatives- ROBOCON, ACCELERACERS, MITWPU Sports Summit, Smart India Hackathons, BAJA, NIRMITEE, MITSOG Model Parliament among other. Inspiring Generations with Instituted National Level Awards- 'National Level Felicitation of 100+ UPSC Rank Holders and Qualifiers' since over a decade, Bharat Asmita National Awards presented annually to most deserving Gems of India across categories, Arya

Chanakya Awards to mention a few. Rahul V Karad-is committed to Championing the Noble Cause of 'Promotion of a Culture of Peace' through all University endeavours.

Karad's remarks were most especially a token of gratitude as a representative of MITWPU. He set the stage for the purpose of the conference and of gathering together to discuss topics of religious freedom. He spoke specifically to the diversity of religions within India, which he mostly referred to as Bharat, and the importance of their coming together to engage in dialogue. To him, dialogue was one of the most important things for communities and states, within and without India, to create harmony and peaceful coexistence. He also prioritized the role of education in promoting coexistence and tolerance. His role within the University system, and most especially at MITWPU, has been his platform for influencing Indians for peace.

Vishwanath Karad: *Founder & Chief Patron, MAEER's MIT, Pune & President, MIT WPU, Pune, Bharat*

Founder of various initiatives such as World Peace Dome, Maharashtra Institute of Technology, WORLD PEACE CENTER of MAEER's MIT, Pune, UNESCO CHAIR for Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, MIT World Peace University Shree Kshetra Alandi Parisar Vikas Samiti, Saint Shree Dnyaneshwara and Saint Shree Tukaram Endowment Lecture Series Trust.

Karad's remarks were largely directed towards the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. Swami was one of the inspirations for the World Peace University as evidenced by his work promoting religious freedom and religious harmony in India and internationally. Karad spoke to the importance of educating young people in such an environment in order to build a sustainable future of peace in India.

Following the introductory remarks. We moved from the outdoor gathering into the World Peace Dome. The next section of notes are the order of speakers in this indoor session.

Gautam Bapat: *Program Director; School-of-Business, MITWPU, Pune*

Dr. Gautam Bapat is a distinguished academician known for his strong administrative acumen and remarkable research prowess. Holding a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in General Management from MIT World Peace University, he has demonstrated his expertise in the realm of academia and research.

Bapat was the primary moderator of this general session. Thus, his remarks were mostly made up of Hindu sayings or scriptures that supported principles of religious harmony and world peace. Bapat emphasized that peace can be achieved not just by one religion, but by many and all.

Rahul Karad: *Managing Trustee & Executive PResident, MAEER's MIT and Executive President, MITWPU & Chief Initiator - NLC, BCS, NTC*

[see bio above]

In this portion of Karad's remarks, Karad leaned further into the role of the World Peace Institute in creating a framework that can and should be adopted around the world to prioritize sustainable peace and religious harmony. Karad spoke about the significance of the many religious figures represented around the inside of the dome and the importance each one of them carried for those gathered for the conference.

W. Cole Durham, Jr.: *President, G20 Interfaith Forum*

The director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, W. Cole Durham, Jr. is Susa Young Gates University Professor of Law at J. Reuben Clark Law School. Professor Durham has received multiple honors, including appointment as co-chair of the OSCE Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, and service as vice president of the International Academy for Freedom of Religion and Belief.

A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Professor Durham has been heavily involved in comparative constitutional law and church-state relations throughout his career. He has published widely on Comparative Law, has served in the past as the chair of both the Comparative Law Section and the Law and Religion Section of the American Association of Law Schools, and is a member of several U.S. and international advisory boards dealing with religious freedom and church-state relations.

Durham spoke about the purpose of the Interfaith Forum in creating a space to inform the official G20 summit on matters of world policy. He emphasized the capability that religious communities have in enacting and sustaining the changes proposed by G20. Durham also addressed the fact that the Interfaith Forum is an unofficial forum as it would require the approval of all G20 countries in order to be classified as official. However, some countries do not want religious leaders informing their policies, so the IF20 will continue to operate unofficially.

King Husein: *Chairman & CEO, Span Construction & Engineering, Inc. USA*

King Husein was born in Bombay, India. He received received a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Bombay. He also received his master's degree in Civil and Structural Engineering from Brigham Young University. After completing his education, he was hired by Priggen Steel Buildings, a regional builder affiliated with Varco Pruden Buildings. From there he moved to California, where he eventually established Span Construction and Engineering, which he now heads as the Chairman and CEO. In addition to his business ventures, King has been a prominent philanthropist, focusing his efforts particularly on engineering education (he recently headed an \$80,000,000 project for funding new facilities for

the College of Engineering at Brigham Young University,) and what is most relevant to this application, he has been a major supporter of religious freedom initiatives worldwide.

Husein touched upon his Indian roots and his experience with religious freedom in India and abroad. He talked about the importance of communicating with people with whom we disagree or are unfamiliar. Husein also honored Vishwanath Karad for his role in establishing the World Peace University as an example of what can be accomplished around the world.

Vikram Kumar: *(IAS), Pune Municipal Commissioner*

Kumar was the metropolitan commissioner at Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) since March 2019. Kumar (43) is one of the youngest bureaucrats to be the PMC commissioner. He holds a Bachelor of Architect degree and is from the 2004 batch of Indian Administrative Service (IAS).

Kumar spoke about the interconnection between the government and religion. He echoed the words of others that religious communities and leaders have an unparalleled ability to reach into areas and support people that the government is otherwise unable to contact.

Rajesh Deshmukh: *(IAS), District Collector, Pune, Bharat UNESCO Chair Holder*

Prior to joining as Pune district collector, Deshmukh served at Haffkine Bio Pha.

Deshmukh emphasized much of what Kumar spoke about, but expounded upon the role of religion in assisting communities during times of crisis. These crises extend to economic downturns, unexpected natural disasters, and others.

Vishwanath D. Karad: *Founder & Chief Patron, MAEER's MIT, Pune & President, MIT WPU, Pune, Bharat*

[see bio above]

Karad's remarks were primarily an official welcome to all visitors. He addressed the religious leaders who were seated on the stand and commended them for making the time to be at the IF20. He noted that some had come from very far away, and others came only representing a small population, yet each one would play a vital role not only in the discussions at the conference but in further dialogue opportunities.

The following speakers represent different religious faiths. Their speeches were confined to being “religious blessings.” Each speaker shared a pillar of faith, a scripture, or a prayer representing their religions.

Acharya Lokesh Muni: *Founder, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, New Delhi (Jainism)*

H.H. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji a versatile thinker, writer, poet and social reformer has been continuously making efforts for National character building, development of human values and establishing non- violence, peace and mutual co-operation in the society from last 33 years. He has traveled on foot about 20000 kilometers throughout the country for removing social evils and for propagating moral values. In order to give practical shape to these values he founded “Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti” and thus made his field of activities spread throughout the world.

Ezekiel Izaac Malekar: *Head Priest (Rabbi) and Honorary Secretary of the Judah Hyam Synagogue, New Delhi*

Rabbi Ezekiel Isaac Malekar is the head of the Jewish community in New Delhi, India. He is the Honorary Secretary of the Judah Hyam Synagogue at the corner of Humayun road, where he works voluntarily. Malekar, in addition to being a scholar of Judaism, is a noted human rights activist and a Deputy Registrar (Law) with the National Human Rights Commission in India. He was a key participant in the 15th International Conference on Human Integration (inaugurated by Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj, a Sikh religious cleric and President of the World Council of Religions), at Kirpal Bagh, New Delhi on February 6, 2006.

Meher Master Moos: *Eminent Parsi Scholar & President, Zoroastrian College, Sanjan, Gujarat, India*

Moos is the Founder President of the Zoroastrian College, Sanjan, India. She has a number of firsts to her credit and many global awards for her social, religious and legal work. She was the first person in India to be awarded the prestigious UNO Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld Award – the only other lady so honoured was Late Mother Teresa, also in 1968. Moos is the only person in India to be awarded the Albert Schweitzer Medal for Humanitarian work internationally by the illustrious Polish Academy of Medicine in 1998; and by the Austrian Albert Schweitzer Society in 2000. She was conferred the medal for Inter Faith Peace by His Holiness Pope John Paul II in 1986 and the medal of Chokhan Valikanov by the Kazakhstan Academy of Sciences in 1992.

Sayed Aziz Nizami: *Sajjada Nashin, Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia (R.A.), New Delhi*

Sahab, Sajjada Nashin & Head Incharge of Dargah Sharif.

Rahul Bhante Bodhi: *Maha Thero (Senior Buddhist Monk), Mumbai*

Bodhi is a senior Buddhist monk located in Mumbai. He has done much by way of establishing religious freedom and coordinating religious harmony.

DAY 2

WRITTEN BY: SOPHIA GUNTER, AARON JAMES & PRASHANTH RAMISHETTY

The information on Day 2 is organized by session.

Opening Plenary: “Interfaith Voices at the G20 Table”

Archbishop Felix Machado: *Archbishop of Vasai; Secretary General, Catholic Bishops Conference of India*

Felix Anthony Machado (born 6 June 1948) is an Indian prelate of the Catholic Church who has been Archbishop of Vasai since 2009. He spent a decade in the Roman Curia as under-secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Machado touched upon the role that Catholicism has played in India. He spoke to the difficult history of colonialism and Catholicism and how that has played a role of fear for many in India. However, he stressed that the Catholic church aims for peace and religious harmony within India.

Sheikh Ul-Islam Allashukur Pashazade: *Spiritual Leader of Muslims in Azerbaijan and the Caucasus*

Haji Allahshükür Hummat Pashazade (Azerbaijani: Allahşükür Hümmət Paşazadə) is the Sheikh ul-Islam and Grand Mufti of the Caucasus which includes the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Georgia, and Dagestan, Kabardino-Balkaria, Ingushetia, Chechnya, Karachay–Cherkessia, and Adygea in the Russian Federation. He is also the chairman of the Religious Council of the Caucasus.

Pashazade gave his remarks in Azerbaijani, but a script was available on a screen nearby in English. He primarily spoke about the dangers of religious domination in any country. He expressed the realities of occupation and competition amongst different religions. Pashazade spoke specifically about the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and the feelings of Azerbaijanis to recapture lands that “the enemy” Armenia has occupied for centuries.

Marzia Dalal: *Bahá’i Community, Pune*

Marzia Rowhani-Dalal was educated in Mumbai and has Master’s degrees in Science and in Law which were pursued at the Institute of Science and Government Law College, respectively. She works in Pune as a legal consultant. She has experience in the field of moral education for children and young adults. In addition, she pursues other educational endeavors related to the role and status of women in society, issues of social and economic relevance, and human rights.

Dalal spoke primarily about the role of women in interfaith dialogue. To her, women play a primarily supportive role. They do not participate in policy or government functions, but they can be voices sharing the concerns of religious and political leaders. Dalal also emphasized that the woman’s role in religion was to educate children properly and raise them in environments of peace and tolerance.

Vishwanath Karad: *Founder & Chief Patron, MAEER's MIT, Pune & President, MIT World Peace University, Pune, Bharat*

[See bio on Day 1]

Here, Karad encouraged everyone participating to engage in meaningful dialogue, even with people of opposing faiths. He pointed to the diversity of speakers in the opening plenary as an example of what could be possible in further sessions of the conference and as guests returned to their own spaces of influence.

Breakout Sessions Day 2 Part 1

1A: “Religion, Ethics & Technology”

Location: Mahatma Gandhi Hall

The impact of technological changes propelled by the COVID-19 crisis, as well as challenges posed by the rapid advance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and social media, pose a multitude of ethical and practical challenges.

Religious voices bring important insights and implementation capacity to challenges involving the way that technological forces shape society.

Technology changes the way people do things and changes that connection, often cutting off or harming spiritual relationships to self, planet, and others.

Faith leaders must help bridge the gap between faith and technology through education, advocating for better analysis, better ethics, and a more values and needs- based approach to tech development in addition to reliance on profit motives.

Moderator - Marianna Richardson: *Director of Communications, G20 Interfaith Forum Association*

Marianna Richardson is Currently the Directory of Communications for the G20 Interfaith Forum. She is also an adjunct professor at the Marriott School of Business (MSB) in management communication and the editor-in-chief of the Marriott Student Review, a student-run, peer-reviewed journal. She is also the faculty advisor for Measuring Success Right, a business podcast. She was recently awarded the Wendy C. Archibald Meritorious Service Award from the J. Reuben Clark Law School and the Outstanding Adjunct Teaching Award at BYU MSB. She is also on the International Advisory Council for the International Center for Law and Religious Studies. She has published books and articles on a variety of subjects. She received her master’s degree from Johns Hopkins University and her doctorate from Seattle Pacific University.

Arash Fazli: *Professor and Head; the Baha’i Chair for Studies in Development at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore*

Dr. Arash Fazli is Assistant Professor and Head of the Bahai Chair for Studies in Development at Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore. Prior to joining the Chair, Dr. Fazli worked as a journalist

with The Hindu and The Times of India and as a Principal Researcher with the Institute for Studies in Global Prosperity at Haifa, Israel.

Manisha Jain: *Senior Partner, Architect Azure Machine Learning Platform, Microsoft*

My first job after Masters was building educational software. I felt a sense of responsibility for my choices, whether it be the images I choose or the language I use, as they would shape young minds. It taught me to be cautious with technology. After spending over a decade in the eLearning industry from building software for elementary schools through enterprises, I joined Google in 2005 working on infrastructure and later Machine Learning including Gmail SmartReply and Google Translate. I am currently the senior architect for Azure Machine Learning, the platform serving OpenAI models for the Microsoft products and Azure customers. I am blessed to be working in a company that has made investments in Responsible AI generously.

Mahant Yogi Amarnath: *Renowned Scholar & Sadhak & Himalayan Yogi*

[no bio available]

Deepak M Ranade: *Neurosurgeon, Author of Speaking Tree, Column in TOI, Pune*

Dr. Deepak M. Ranade has completed his M.Ch (Magister Chirurgiae) Neurosurgery in 1994 from University of Bombay (K.E.M. Hospital). He is “Professor and Head of Department” of Neurosurgery at D.Y. Patil Medical College, Pimpri. Working as Post Graduate Guide for M.Ch (Neurosurgery) students. He worked as an Honorary Consultant Neurosurgeon at K.E.M. Hospital Pune (Feb. 1996 to 2000) and performed around 300 major neurosurgeries independently. He pioneered Neurosurgery at Baramati and performed brain and spine surgeries since 1996.

A K Merchant: *General Secretary, Temple of Understanding India Foundation, New Delhi*

Dr. A. K. Merchant is the General Secretary, Temple of Understanding India Foundation (a global interfaith association). He also serves as National Trustee, Sarvodaya International Trust; President, Mintra Foundation (resource centre for waste plastics management); Visiting Faculty, Centre for Cultural Resources & Training, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. He is an active member of the Baha'i Faith since 1975 and continues to hold administrative positions serving on the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Delhi since 1987 and the on National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of India from 1989 until 2023.

Takeaways:

1. Ethical Challenges: The panel, echoing the sentiments of countless individuals, stressed the existence of numerous ethical and practical challenges stemming from the rapidly evolving technological landscape. The shadow of the COVID-19 crisis cast an even brighter spotlight on these issues, necessitating meticulous contemplation of their ethical dimensions.

2. **Impact on Spirituality:** A particularly noteworthy discussion centered on the impact of technology on spirituality. The speakers articulated how the accelerating pace of technological advancement can disrupt spiritual relationships, not only with oneself but also with the planet and other human beings. They highlighted the imperative need for a mindful approach to technological adoption to preserve and strengthen these essential connections.
3. **Faith's Role in Bridging the Gap:** At the core of the session was a profound emphasis on the indispensable role of faith leaders in bridging the often gaping divide between faith and technology. The panel fervently advocated for faith communities to take an active part in education, emphasizing the importance of ethical analysis and a values-based approach to technological development. They called for a shift in focus from profit motives to building a technology framework that aligns with ethical values and human needs.
4. **Value-Centered Tech Development:** The panel's passionate plea was for a transformation in the way technology is developed and utilized. They urged for a departure from a profit-centric approach towards a new paradigm of technology development, guided by ethical values and a commitment to human needs. This shift aims to nurture deeper connections among individuals and achieve more beneficial outcomes for society as a whole.

In summary, the "Religion, Ethics & Technology" session stood as a pivotal platform for the exchange of ideas and strategies to navigate our constantly evolving technological landscape. The bedrock of these discussions was the urgent need for a robust ethical foundation. Furthermore, it underscored the irreplaceable role of faith leaders in shaping a more responsible and values-driven approach to technology, aligned with the overarching goals of the G20 Interfaith Forum. The insights and commitments made in this session offer a path forward towards a more ethically informed technological future.

1B: "Benefiting from Religion in the Workplace"

Location: Gautam Buddha Hall

Dr. Brian Grim will be leading a panel at the G20 Interfaith Forum that describes how business is a powerful force for interfaith understanding and peace. INdeed, the technological and scientific advances tied to business that put India on the moon are an example of how development and business can bring people together when they see success as a benefit to everyone. Business can make significant contributions to advancing interfaith understanding and peace through both core business and outreach activities. Case studies from the UN Global Compact Business for Peace platform and the Religious Freedom and Business Foundation fall into four areas:

- Using Marketing Expertise to Bridge Borders
- Incentivizing Innovation
- Incubating and Catalyzing Social Entrepreneurship
- Supporting Workforce Diversity

The session will discuss case studies of various ways that workforce diversity builds peace. Discussion will focus on ways that the world's largest industry – travel and tourism – can become the world's first global peace industry.

Moderator - Brian Grim: *President, Religious Freedom and Business Foundation*

Brian is founding president of the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation and global chairman Dare to Overcome, a corporate diversity initiative that promotes mutual respect and engagement among differing groups in the workplace. Brian is the world's leading expert on the relationship between economic sustainability and freedom of religion or belief for all (including those without a religious faith).

Sukie Gandhi: *Manager, Technical Consulting and Executive Vice President of Salesforce's "Faithforce Global Equality Group"*

Sukie Singh is a dynamic individual with a diverse background and passion for making a positive impact on the world. She currently holds the position of Manager of Technical Consulting and Executive Vice President of Salesforce's "Faithforce Global Equality Group" in Hyderabad. She embodies creativity, drive, and a strong humanitarian spirit. Singh holds a degree in Information Systems from the Kelley School of Business (Indiana University Bloomington), her journey into the tech world began in 2016. Her love for analytics led her to pursue further education, specializing in business analytics and intelligence. This academic foundation, combined with her global experiences, has shaped her into a well-rounded Technology Architect at Salesforce Marketing Cloud.

Raised in a Sikh household, the speaker learned the importance of uncut hair, which symbolizes their faith's commitment to equality and respect for all. After graduating from Indiana University, the speaker joined Salesforce, where they have been instrumental in leading the company's charity initiatives, such as volunteer hours and tree planting. In their current role as EVP of Salesforce's "Faith Force Global Equality Group," the speaker is committed to using their platform to promote diversity, inclusion, and equity in the workplace and beyond.

Kiran Yadav: *Vice President, India chapter of the International Institute for Peace through Tourism (IIPT India)*

Yadav holds an MBA from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies, a premier institute of India. He is presently Chairman and Managing Director of Success TryAngles (a unit of Livewire Training & Management Services PVT Ltd) a company dedicated to management education and corporate training in the field of aviation, banking, emergency care, travel and tourism. He has over three decades of professional experience serving the aviation, education and travel and tourism industry in various capacities. He has been a board member of many International organizations. He is responsible for launching several business enterprises with the reputation for creating Innovative services. While commenting on IIPT's India's creation, Kiran said "We deeply appreciate the help and support of IIPT founder and president, Louis D'amore and IIPT chapter coordinator Daphne Low Kelly extended to us informing the India chapter and we promise to make it one of the most active and vibrant chapters of IIPT."

Yadav discussed the connection between business and peace, highlighting the impact of the Travel and Tourism Industry on peace. They cited Loui, the mini-Mahatma Gandhi, as a symbol of peace through tourism and emphasized the importance of International Peace through Tourism. Yadav also highlighted the three tenets of peace: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. They argued that businesses can play a vital role in promoting peace by embracing these values and creating a more inclusive and equitable world.

Harshal Jawale: *Vice President, Zensar Technologies, Pune, India*

Jawale Is it seasoned technology leader with over 22 years of experience in the information technology and services industry. Currently serving as a Vice-President at Zensar Technologies in Pune, he plays a pivotal role in shaping the company's It strategy, pre-sales efforts, software development, support, and integration services. Jawale's expertise extends to artificial intelligence, where he maintains a forward-looking focus. Furthermore, Jawale's commitment to personal growth and development extends to his role as a certified life transformation coach. As a Heartfulness Meditation Trainer and an Internal Coach accredited by the International Coaching Federation (ICF), he has positively impacted hundreds of individuals, including youth, parents, and adults. He consistently conducts annual summer camps for children, embodying his dedication to guiding others through life's challenges.

Jawale emphasized the importance of connecting hearts through meditation and the role of personal peace in contributing to world peace. They argued that meditation is a powerful tool for cultivating inner peace, compassion, and understanding. When we are at peace within ourselves, we are better able to connect with others and build a more harmonious world. Jawale also spoke about the importance of personal responsibility in promoting world peace. We cannot wait for others to create peace for us. We must each start by cultivating peace within ourselves. When we do this, we become a force for peace in the world.

Prashant Pansare: *Founder, Global CEO, Inteliment Group, Pune, India*

Pansare Is a mechanical engineer and MBA in marketing and finance by education, an innovator at heart, and an entrepreneur by profession, Prashant is a known name in the field of big data analytics industry. He forsook his corporate career to do something more, something Innovative and started Inteliment as a bootstrap company in 2004. Under his leadership, Inteliment Technologies has grown and developed into a full-fledged niche player in the Big Data science, analytics, IoT space globally. His vision has empowered the creation of Inteliment's innovation lab, and incubator for ideas that disrupt the technology space, Open Source Innovation and project engineering space.

Pansare discussed the transition in work settings before and after the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the importance of the Three P's: People, Profit, and Planet. He also emphasized the importance of individual responsibility in Facebook's global community, as well as the spiritual sense and the impact of UPI in India. In his discussion of the stages of education, preparation, performing, and the importance of the middle phase, Pansare emphasized the need for proactive

driving instead of being driven. He also spoke about the significance of personal contribution to the planet and leaving a positive legacy, as well as the need to address the issue of plastic waste on Earth.

***Q/A Session: ***

1. ***Challenges in Peacebuilding: ***

- Global recession.
- Salesforce's unwavering commitment to peace.

2. ***Interfaith Practices in MSME: ***

- Utilizing Bollywood examples and goals driven by small to large budgets.

1C: “Women Empowerment”

Location: Nelson Mandela Hall

As a priority focus for both IF20 and G20 agendas, it is important to highlight innovative solutions, areas of debate, and translation of principles of women’s empowerment into action.

Religion and gender empowerment have not always had a happy relationship, and work must continue to be done to create meeting platforms, dialogue between religious and secular voices, and contexts where the role of women can be enhanced.

Education is central to women’s empowerment at all levels, and contexts for expanding women’s opportunities should be identified and actualized.

Data conclusively demonstrates that inclusion of women is vital to finding optimal solutions to virtually every social challenge. Action requires not only focus on but inclusion of women, young women, and girls in national and international mechanisms designed to address major global and local problems. In particular, women need to be given a more prominent role in conflict resolution settings.

Particular attention needs to be paid to protecting women in private as well as public spaces.

Moderator - Audrey Kitagawa: *President and Founder, The International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation, President of the Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family*

Kitagawa, J.D., is the President/Founder of the International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation, the President of the Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family, the Chair of the Anti-Racism Initiative and Co-Chair of the Gender Equality Working Group of the G20 Interfaith Forum, and the former Advisor to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict at the United Nations. She is a United Nations Representative for the United Religions Initiative, an Ambassador of Religions for Peace International, and Chair Emerita of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global

Concerns, A Committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. She has been enstooled into the royal family as the Nekoso Hema, (i.e. Queen Mother of Development), of Ajiyamanti in Ghana, West Africa, and has a school which she helped to build named after her in her African name, the Nana Ode Anyankobe Junior Secondary School.

Bani Dugal: *Principal Representative of The Bahá'í International Community to the UN*

Dugal is the Principal Representative of the Bahá'í International Community to the UN. As part of the community of international NGOs at the UN since 1994, she is currently serving on the Steering Committee of the NGO Working Group on the Security Council. She has served as President of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, as co-facilitator of the NGO Working Group on UN Access, co-facilitator of the GEAR campaign (Gender Equality Architecture Reform), Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, and Chair of the Global Forum of the NGO Committee on UNICEF and member of the Steering Committee of the NGO Committee on UNICEF's Working Group on Girls, Convener of the NGO Committee on UNIFEM and Convener of the Advocates for African Food Security. Dugal holds a Master's degree (LL.M) in Environmental Law from Pace University School of Law, New York, and a law degree (LL.B) from the University of Delhi, India. She has authored published articles, statements, and papers. Prior to relocating to the U.S. in 1988, she practiced law before the Supreme Court of India.

Zahra Al Hilaly: *A Common Word Among Youth (ACWAY)*

Zahra is an internationally recognised vocalist for change. She is an advocate for gender equality, and peace and security. She is the Co-Founder of the Christmas Island Youth Project, a leadership program intended to elevate the voices of Christmas Islanders in Australian policy. She has trained thousands of young people to become leaders from all walks of life, despite challenges obtained during their migration and refugee journey. Zahra is also the chairperson of the Western Australia Government Youth Council representing thousands of young people through policy. She has worked on policy for government regarding gender equality, security and refugee and migrant issues. She is also a journalist and has been published by Vogue, SBS Australia and Al Jazeera, for her work in security and refugee affairs. In 2021 she was recently named the inaugural under 25's Asian-Australian and in 2022, the Young Multicultural Person of the Year in Western Australia.

Denisse Molina: *Journalist, Thailand*

I am Denise Molina from Ecuador, but I currently live in Thailand. I was a news presenter and reporter for 20 years on one of the most important television channels in Ecuador, I worked 20 years as a reporter traveling to low-income communities in all the provinces of my country, with children and women. I am also a lecturer and master in communication. I decided to leave my country to come live in Thailand and volunteer with my grant children and women from Malaysia. I hope women in the field of empowerment. I also teach like a volunteer in an underprivileged child economic resources for empowerment known as the Good Shepherd once per week.

Justice (Retd) Roshan Dalvi: *Former Justice, Bombay High Court*

Dalvi Has been in the legal field for 47 years, 27 of them as judge. She was appointed judge, Bombay City civil court in September 1989, served as principal judge, family court, Mumbai from July to December 2004 and was elevated to the Bombay high court in June 2005. She retired as a Bombay high court judge in November 2015. She practices as arbitrator, mediator and legal consultant. She studied gender and law at Warwick University, UK. She was invited by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to consider the protocol on the rights of children of sexual abuse. She was granted a fellowship in Peace and Conflict Resolution for Advanced Mediation and as such as a rotary peace fellow. She's a fellow and vice president (Asia) of the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, Halifax, Canada. She was invited to give the keynote address on gender perspectives in the South Asia Conference of Wisconsin University, Madison, Wisconsin, USA. She is a guest lecturer in the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in the master's program on Access to Justice. She conducts workshops for judges, lawyers, law students and law teachers on gender sensitization, arbitration, mediation, human rights, case management, commercial contracts, etc. in the National and state judicial academies. She has contributed articles on various subjects including gender justice, human trafficking, firm management, conflict resolution and the practice and procedure of arbitration.

Sudeshna Mukherjee: *Assistant Professor, Centre for Women's Studies, Bangalore University, Bangalore*

A Comparative Sociological Analysis of the Job-Stress, Vulnerability & Subsequent Security need for Women in ITES & Garment Industries in the Silicon Valley of India, Bangalore.

Nasrin Ejner: *Corporate Consultant ICE Consultants, Pune*

Nasrin is a Petrochemical Engineer with an MBA in International Business. With 25+ years of training, mentoring and coaching experience, she is currently focusing on her core strength areas, offering life-skill, soft-skill and experiential training programs to the Oil & Gas / Petrochemicals industry. Apart from her international education and certifications, Nasrin has also lived in various parts of the world, making her a true global citizen, and in the process, enriching her with skills to have meaningful interactions and the ability to connect with people of any cultural background. This makes her skills especially suitable for the diverse world of Oil & Gas.

Swati Karad-Chate: *Trustee, Secretary General, Executive Director, MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions*

Prof. Swati Karad – Chate joined MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions, Pune as an Executive Director in 2006. She possesses a strong administrative strand in establishing and operating various educational units under this conglomerate. She is a Masters' in Electronics & Tele-Communications Engineering and has attended various Executive programs in Leadership capacities, Potential leadership qualities among Professional Women and in Organizational Leadership.

1D: “Social Cohesion”

Location: Joseph Smith Hall

One of the most profound challenges in our day of increasing diversity and polarization is finding optimal approaches to achieving social inclusion and social harmony. Different societies have tried different approaches with respect to this vital issue, and part of the thrust of this session is to identify what can be learned from different societies and civilizations. At the same time, dialogue between different groups in the form of interfaith dialogue may open important practical doors.

Questions to consider:

- What are practical steps that can be taken to building a culture of mutual respect in society?
- How should interfaith dialogue be structured to achieve maximum beneficial effect?
- What is the relative value of interfaith diapraxis as compared with interfaith dialogue?
- What are the most effective strategies for promoting stable patterns of social inclusion and harmony?

Moderator - W. Cole Durham Jr.: *President, G20 Interfaith Forum Association*

[see bio on Day 1]

Durham discussed the link between the UN SDGs and religious communities. He suggested that religious communities can facilitate the accomplishment of these goals. One goal he talked about in particular was the role of women; he pointed that women rely heavily on religion, making religion an avenue for their support. He also argued that countries will be more effective if there is religious freedom. Durham reminded the audience that 75-80% of people live in regions where there is strong restriction of religious beliefs. This fact stifles social capital.

Asher Maoz: *Dean, Peres Academic Center Law School*

Professor Asher Maoz is the Founding Dean of the Peres Academic Center Law School. He was for many years on the Faculty of Law at Tel-Aviv University, where he taught Constitutional Law, State and Religion, Freedom of Speech, Family Law, and Succession Law. Professor Maoz holds the degrees LLB and LLM, both summa cum laude (Hebrew University), M Comp L (University of Chicago), JSD (Tel-Aviv University) and Doctor Honoris Causa (Ovidius University, Romania). He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of Law, Society and Culture; a former editor of the Tel-Aviv University Law Review; a member of the Scientific Board, Review Dionysina; a member of the Academic Council of The International Academy for Jewish Leadership; and a member of the Academic Council, Shalem College, Jerusalem. Maoz was Chair of the Law Commission for Journalists’ Privileges; served as academic advisor to the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee on adopting a constitution for the State of Israel; and serves with many other organizations. He has taught at several universities in the United States, Europe, and Australia, and is the author of numerous publications on the

intersections of law and religion. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies (ICLARS).

Maoz argued that it is wrong to suggest a need for improving the world, pointing to his belief that God created a perfect world. He reminded the audience that they are not guests in the world, instead, they are upon it to improve themselves. Maoz shared that the world was created for a single person, so the destruction of even one soul is equivalent to the destruction of the world. Similarly, the salvation of one soul is the salvation of the world. Maoz prioritized the importance of preparing the world for the next generations, and one thing he suggested was to keep an eye on environmental challenges.

Elias Szczytnicki: *Secretary General of the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Religious Leaders (LACCRL) and the Director of Latin American and Caribbean Regional Office of Religions for Peace*

Elias Szczytnicki has extensive and distinguished experience in interreligious relations. Since 2004, he has served as Secretary General of the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Religious Leaders (LACCRL) and the Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Office of Religions for Peace. Szczytnicki comes to Religions for Peace after serving as Secretary of Religions for Peace's Interreligious Council of Peru. He also has been a Member of the National Executive Committee of the Consensus-Building Table on Fighting against Poverty of Peru and a Lecturer in Judaism at the Center of Oriental Studies of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (PUCP).

Szczytnicki discussed the difficult reality that many religions do not find a place in interfaith dialogue. It is the role of religions with a seat at the table to advocate for these smaller sects. He also noted that religious leaders should respect those religions who do not want to participate in interfaith dialogue. Szczytnicki shared that interfaith dialogue has the capacity to expand beyond religion, culture, or identity. However, the basis of such dialogue should be the right to religious freedom in the enhancement of multicultural respect. He emphasized a need for practical solutions of how to live and work together.

Javier Martinez-Torron: *Professor of Law, Complutense University (Madrid, Spain)*

Professor of Law at Complutense University and Vice-President of the Section of Law and Religion and Canon Law of the Spanish Royal Academy of Jurisprudence and Legislation. Titular Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law. Member of the steering committee of ICLARS (International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies). Member of the the Advisory Council of the Cambridge Institute on Religion and International Studies, and of the Faculty and Fellows of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University. Honorary Foreign Member of the National Academy of Law and Social Sciences of Córdoba, Argentina. He has been a Member of the OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Council on Freedom of Religion of Belief (2005-2013), and of the Advisory Commission on Religious Freedom of the Spanish Ministry of Justice (2002-2014). Visiting professor, lecturer and researcher in numerous Universities and institutions in the five continents (among them Stanford, Cambridge, Oxford, Chicago, Columbia, Berkeley, Harvard, Freiburg, Strasbourg, Turin, Messina, Haifa, UNAM

(Mexico), and National University of Colombia). His academic work focuses on the legal analysis of freedom of religion or belief, and its interactions with other fundamental rights, from a comparative and international perspective. His writings, published in 23 countries and in 13 languages, include 24 books as author, co-author or editor, and about 130 essays in legal periodicals or collective volumes.

Torrón discussed the need to confront conflicts between freedom of speech and freedom of religion. He suggested that offense is one of the most divisive acts as it distances the reach between people, especially when the offense is made public on social media. Freedom of religion suggests that the religion can be practiced naturally, with ease, and without risk of attack. Torrón gave the example of the burning of the Quran in Scandinavia in recent events, suggesting that this is a violation of religious freedom. He offered four points to consider:

1. Issues of religious freedom cannot be solved only by the use of law because the law is defined by winners and losers.
2. Public figures need to be conscientious users of language of respect for people and tolerance of ideas.
3. Violence is never the appropriate response against abuse of religion. This only causes the conflict to spiral.
4. Members of any religion should not invent offenses by another religion.

Kimberlie Orr: *International Legal Fellow, Religious Liberty Initiative, Notre Dame*

Kimberlie Orr is the International Legal Fellow for the Religious Liberty Clinic, where she helps to oversee students' work on issues related to international persecution, including representing religious clients seeking asylum in the U.S. and assisting government officials, international organizations, and NGOs seeking to investigate and address religious liberty issues worldwide.

Prior to joining Notre Dame Law School in 2023, Orr worked as an asylum officer for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, an attorney advisor for the Executive Office for Immigration Review, and a policy analyst for the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Policy for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Her current research focuses on the intersection of international law, migration, and the freedom of religion or belief.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate from Brigham Young University and a Master of Global Affairs with a specialization in forced displacement policy and a minor in peace studies from the University of Notre Dame. She also earned a certificate in Religion and the Rule of Law from the International Center for Law and Religion's Oxford Program.

Orr's remarks were primarily centered around the human flow crisis. She mentioned that 110 million people have been forcibly displaced by climate change and conflict. This interconnection demonstrates how climate change exacerbates conflict and social unrest in volatile nations. Because of the crisis, countries are not measuring up to the standards of refugee and asylum seekers. One example she gave was of the Rohingya people of Bangladesh who were displaced because of religious persecution, but they have yet to find a safe country where they are not persecuted for their religious beliefs. This has led them to areas especially at risk for

environmental disasters. Another problem caused by the displacement crisis is that many people are moving from rural to urban societies, many of which are already struggling communities. This places greater strains on host communities. Interfaith plays a vital role in offering social support for host communities of displaced persons.

Ravan Hasanov: *Executive Director, Baku International Multicultural Center*

Ravan Hasanov received a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Law of Baku State University, graduating with honors. He received a master's degree in law from the University of Potsdam in Germany and successfully completed the Department of Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Criminology program. On February 16, 2018, he defended his dissertation for PhD at the Institute of Law and Human Rights at Azerbaijan National Academy of Science, specializing in penal enforcement law. From March 2016 to April 2017 he worked as a senior specialist for the State Advisory Service of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on International, Multicultural and Religious Affairs, and from April to July 2017 he was a counselor. By the order of President Ilham Aliyev, in February 2019 Hasanov was appointed as Executive Director of the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre.

Hasanov shared that multiculturalism can generate social cohesion. According to him, there is a global need for interactions and exchanges of culture and identity. This form of multiculturalism increases social unity and harmony. Additionally, religious leaders need to promote an environment of acceptance in opposition to inequality, discrimination, polarization, migration, etc. which destroy cohesion. Hasanov argued that Azerbaijan has achieved multiculturalism despite inner tensions that occurred within the nation at the fall of the Soviet Union.

Yuyun Wahyuningrum: *Chair and Representative of Indonesia to ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)*

PhD Candidate at The Global Governance Law and Social Justice, at the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague, Erasmus University Rotterdam (2016 – onwards). MA Human Rights, Mahidol University, Thailand, 2007. Diploma, Library Science, University of Indonesia, 1995.

2001-2003: Program Officer for Trafficking in Persons and Child Labour, American Center for International Solidarity (ACILS), Jakarta, Indonesia.

1998-2001: Assistant to Director for Data and Information, National Commission for Child Protection, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Wahyuningrum's remarks focused on the negative influence of extremism and lack of proper representation on social cohesion. According to her experience and work in ASEAN, these two factors lead to divisions of all kinds. She then gave an overview of what ASEAN is and connected its efforts to the similar efforts of religious freedom.

Pramod Mujumdar: *Author and Activist for Social Harmony, New Delhi*

Reporting Manager with an indelible reputation for delivering large scale management reporting requirements and aligned with business strategies, client-focused solutions. With 18 years of

experience in reporting and transforming large scale delivery and operations across the globe in industries varying from Banking, Telecom and Technology Share Service Center. An energetic and articulate communicator who easily builds consensus amongst C-level executives, Project Management Teams, Technical Personnel, senior decision makers, and key stakeholders based on talent for quickly earning their trust, confidence, and respect.

Mujumdar said that India has a need for active intervention of religious polarization. His remarks mostly consisted of autobiographical comments.

Breakout Sessions Day 2 Part 2

2A: “Vulnerable Communities: Leaving No One Behind”

Location: Mahatma Gandhi Hall

A core mission of religious and interreligious communities is to advocate for the poor and displaced and to focus sharply on vulnerable communities, including those affected by humanitarian crises, children, and others. The COVID-19 crisis spurred both action and reflection on social safety nets of many kinds, including among interreligious institutions and communities. There is, however, need for further work and dialogue to integrate and look ahead, with pressing needs for more inclusive, humane policies and active efforts. Religious actors should be central to the agenda-setting process.

Many vulnerable communities are “left behind” for the simple reason that they have not been included in the first place. The session will address ways of more effectively highlighting vulnerable groups that should be among those *not* left behind.

Not leaving anyone behind requires concrete efforts from faith leaders, government, the private sector, and media. What steps can be taken to assure that social protections are guided by human dignity and are targeted to those who need them most, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable?

Religious groups have a crucial role to play in challenging stigmatization and promoting inclusion towards these groups. Empowering women to bring along others left behind can be particularly effective.

As the problems creating inequality and vulnerability are often moral at their roots, how can issues of social protection be addressed more holistically in a way that addresses root causes? How can humanitarian efforts be best structured to build resilience rather than leading to dependency? How can assessment of social protection and humanitarian needs be assessed so as to assure that programs are based on genuine needs of the community rather than on faith or government agendas?

Moderator - S. N. Pathan: *Former Vice Chancellor, Nagpur University, Nagpur and Vice Chairman Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Govt. of India, New Delhi*

Pathan has a unique combination of an excellent academic career coupled with outstanding achievements in academic and administration. He started his career as a Lecturer & Head, Department of Botany at Padmashri Vikhe Patil College, Pravaranagar. Later on, he served as Principal in Pune for about five years. He then joined as Principal of esteemed Government Sydenham College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai with Additional charge as Director, Government Sydenham Institute of Management, Research & Entrepreneurship Education, Mumbai. He was subsequently elevated to the prestigious position of Director of Higher Education, Maharashtra state in 1999 till 13th July 2005.

Dr. S.N. Pathan highlighted the importance of bringing vulnerable communities along rather than leaving them behind. He spoke of spreading India's ancient culture to different parts of the world and shared his personal experiences as a Muslim in India, emphasizing that despite being a minority, he had been given numerous opportunities. He noted the divisions created by the caste system and the need to recognize that all are children of God.

Rawaad Mahyub: *Executive Director, ACWAY*

Rawaad Mahyub is the Director of 'A Common Word Among the Youth' (ACWAY), a global youth movement delivering local activities to promote interreligious and intercultural peace and understanding. Rawaad has been working in the field of humanitarian and social development for over 15 years, delivering projects in adult education, livelihoods, social mobility and health. He has developed initiatives to improve global collaboration between international and local actors in the aid sector and advocates for local humanitarian organisations on issues of aid financing to decision making and delivery. He is also passionate about engaging young people to promote change through civic activism. He graduated with a Bachelors and Masters degree in Chemistry from York University and an Executive MBA from the University of Birmingham. He is originally from Yemen, lives in the UK and has two children.

Adhik Kadam: *Maharashtra Bhushan, Social Worker, Kashmiri People Borderless Foundation*

Kadam Is a notable Indian social entrepreneur and philanthropist known for his dedicated work in Conflict zones, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir. He co-founded the Borderless World Foundation (BWF), a non-governmental organization focused on supporting disadvantaged and victimized individuals in India's border areas. During the Kargil war, he worked to aid refugees in the Kargil, Batalik, and Drass sectors. Later, he collaborated with Balraj Puri and The Institute of J&K Affairs on a UNICEF sponsored project addressing children affected by armed conflict and cashmere. Kadam's dedication to humanitarian work has earned recognition, including the Mother Teresa award and the Spirit of Mastek award.

Shri Adhik Kadam spoke about the role of faith and its misuse to divide society. He stressed that there are only two kinds of people in Jammu and Kashmir, male and female, and there should be no barriers to helping anyone.

Lenin Raghuvanshi: *Founder, People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR), Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India*

Raghuvanshi is an Indian Dalit rights activist, political thinker and social entrepreneur. He is one of the founding members of People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR), which works for the upliftment of the marginalised sections of the society. His work has been recognized with awards like Gwangju Human Rights Award (2007), the ACHA Star Peace award (2008), the International Human Rights Prize of the city of Weimar (2010), Special Mentions Prize of Human Rights of The French Republic (2018), Public Peace Prize(2018) and Karmaveer Maharatna Award (2019). He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to combat masculinity driven militarist traditions, for his contribution to bettering conditions for peace in the world and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of masculinity driven militarist traditions as a weapon of war and conflict.

Mr. Lenin Raghuvanshy highlighted the significance of unity and diversity, emphasizing the importance of breaking down barriers of caste, creed, and patriarchy. The examples of Malala and her struggle for education were cited.

Deepak Kumar Verma: *Director, Research, Extension and Training Dean School of ATP Dr B R Ambedkar University of Social Sciences, Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, India*

[no bio available]

Prof. Dr. D.K. Verma emphasized the concept of "Vasudev Kutumbhkam," stressing the importance of inclusivity and empowerment for all. He shared the ancient wisdom of India and called for a united approach to education.

Esther Karema Mutua: *Assistant Director Ministry of Education, Kenya (Education Attache)*

Mutua, a Kenyan born on June 28th, 1968, has had an incredible career, beginning as a lecturer at the Kenya Institute of Special Education from July 2007 to 2015, and currently serving as Education Attache, Kenya High Commission, New Delhi, India, and Assistant Director of Education in the Ministry of Education, Kenya. She is a member of the Ministerial Committee on the Registration of Basic Education Institutions, the Ministerial Committee on the Vetting of Expatriate Teachers, the technical committee on the development of educational mentorship policy, and the KISE Research Committee. On top of that, she has represented the Principal Secretary State Department of University Education in Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service Board and Pwani University Council. She is also represented by the KISE Director in KNATCOM-UNESCO Meetings.

Me Esta Karima appreciated the organizing committee's efforts and underscored the importance of women's empowerment, emphasizing equal opportunities for all. Education was identified as a vital tool for political, economic, and sociological empowerment.

H.E. Victoria Samuel Aru: *Ambassador to India, South Sudan*

[no bio available]

Ms. Victoria Samuel expressed her gratitude to the organizing committee and discussed the challenges faced by women during their time in prison, emphasizing the need to address cultural mindsets and stereotypes.

Summary:

A thought-provoking question-and-answer session addressed issues related to gendered religion, inclusivity, and the journey towards leaving no one behind. The discussion emphasized the importance of sensitization and empowerment.

In conclusion, the second day of the conference was a platform for passionate discussions on inclusivity and empowerment, particularly concerning vulnerable communities. The speakers reiterated the need for unity, education, and cultural change to create a more inclusive and empowered society, emphasizing that we must work together to leave no one behind.

2B: “Perspectives on Indian National Education”

Location: World Peace Dome

This session will bring together a number of prominent Indian educational leaders to discuss their views on national education policy within India and what implications this may have for education policy in other parts of the world.

Questions to consider:

- What do Indian leaders see as the major issues in national education policy?
- What are important focuses for the future?
- Are there areas where India is particularly well-placed to suggest important types of innovation in educational policy, and what types of innovation should be encouraged?
- Are there traditional areas of education in India that could provide attractive educational patterns for others?

Moderator - R. M. Chitnis: *Vice Chancellor, MITWPU*

Dr. R. M. Chitnis is associated with the noble field of education for more than 3 decades and has contributed significantly to every organisation’s growth that he worked for. He was nominated and actively worked in various academic roles and responsibilities at Savitribai Phule Pune University (formerly known as the University of Pune). He has been a pioneer of various important activities at MIT WPU like International Summer Schools, the Business Simulation Program for management students, intercollegiate festivals such as Enthusia and Sports Fiesta, and Short-term Certificate Courses like Business English to name a few. He is recognised as a Ph.D. research guide by VU University, Amsterdam, Netherlands. He is also recognised as a PhD guide by Savitribai Phule Pune University and Symbiosis International University. He has executed more than 4 National and 2 International projects. Dr. Chitnis has more than 11 National and International research publications to his credit and has authored 11 books.

Vishwanath Karad: *UNESCO Chair and Founding Chancellor, MIT-WPU*

Founder of various initiatives such as World Peace Dome, Maharashtra Institute of Technology, WORLD PEACE CENTER of MAEER’s MIT, Pune, UNESCO CHAIR for Human Rights,

Democracy and Peace, MIT World Peace University Shree Kshetra Alandi Parisar Vikas Samiti, Saint Shree Dnyaneshwara and Saint Shree Tukaram Endowment Lecture Series Trust.

Shailendra Sharma: *Principal Advisor (Hon) to the Minister and the Director of Education, Government of Delhi*

Sharma is Principal Advisor (Hon) to the Director Education, Govt. of Delhi. An alumnus of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, Shailendra started his career with Pratham in 2002 and has been a part of its Senior Leadership Team. He has worked in the area of community based early childhood education and school based learning enhancement program for children. In his current role as Principal Advisor, he works with the Education Minister and Directorate of Education of Delhi Government in shaping the education reforms of the Government. These reforms are majorly in the area of children's learning, teachers training, parental engagement and school infrastructure improvement. He is also a member of advisory groups and committees of the government to recommend measures to improve learning, enhance access and reform in governance.

Faizan Mustafa: *Professor, Aligarh Muslim University, Former Vice Chancellor of Nalsar University of Law*

Mustafa is the Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna. He was the founder Vice-Chancellor of National Law University, Orissa and Vice-Chancellor of NALSAR University of Law for ten years. He was given the prestigious award of Best SAARC Law teacher in 2014. He has also served as Dean, Faculty of Law, Aligarh Muslim University and Registrar of AMU. He is the founder Director of KIIT Law School. He has been the Advisor to National Law School & Judicial Academy, Assam. He is known for his institution building abilities and democratic leadership. He is also visiting faculty to several reputed institutions in India and abroad. He has visited and lectured in several countries of the world. He has earlier served in U.A.E. and Africa. Mustafa is a gold medalist in LL.M. from Aligarh Muslim University. He completed his Ph.D. in Copyright Law. He also has a diploma in International and Comparative Human Rights from International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg, France.

Ankur A. Kulkarni: *Vice Chancellor, SAGE University, Indore, India*

I am the Kelkar Family Chair Associate Professor at the Systems and Control Engineering group, also affiliated with the Centre for Machine Intelligence and Data Science, IITB Trust Lab, and the Koita Centre for Digital Health at IIT Bombay. I presently serve on the IT-Project Advisory Board of the Securities and Exchange Board of India and as a Research Advisor to Tata Consultancy Services. I am a systems theorist with an interest in systems with strategic agents and informational complexities. I do fundamental research on game theory, information theory, stochastic control and operations research. My recent work is on problems such as security, stealth, nudging and information disclosure and elicitation. On the applied side I have worked with industries to study systems where such issues show up, such as financial markets, power systems and smart cities.

Arun Patil: *Vice Chancellor, Chandigarh University, Chandigarh, India*

I am currently Vice-Chancellor of Chandigarh University, India's Number 1 Private University (as per QS World University Rankings 2024), with a large, diverse student cohort, from all 28 Indian states, 8 Union Territories and 40 Nations more than 65% of them coming from other states and Countries. Prior to this role, I was Vice-Chancellor at Sanjay Ghodawat University, Kolhapur, India, one of the youngest but very progressive universities in western Maharashtra. My previous leadership positions include, Vice-Chancellor and President at Amity University Rajasthan, India; Director of Postgraduate Coursework Studies and Director of Deakin Engineering Education Research (DEER), Deakin University, Australia; Deputy Dean (L&T) at Central Queensland University, Australia; an Academic Dean (Engagement and Partnerships) and also Dean for Melbourne Campus at Victorian Institute of Technology (VIT) Australia and Research Scholar and Project Officer at Monash University, Australia.

Rajesh Dixit: *Vice Chancellor, Renaissance University, Indore, India*

[no bio available]

M. D. Lawrence: *Vice Chancellor, Dr. P.A. Inamdar University, Pune, India*

[no bio available]

Prasad Khandekar: *Founding Vice Chancellor, DES Pune University, Pune, India*

Prof. Prasad D. Khandekar, is a Professor of Electronics and Communication Engineering having 25 years of teaching experience and 5 years of industry experience. He is a well known name in engineering education for his leadership skills and for his efforts in improving industry readiness of engineering graduates. Presently, he is a Dean of Engineering and Technology, Director Admissions and member of Board of Management at MIT World Peace University, Pune. He has also worked as Director Industry Partnerships He was a core team member in transformation of MIT institutes on Kothrud Pune campus into Dr Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University, Pune. He is regularly invited for expressing his views on Indian Higher Education scenario at conferences organized by various Chambers of Commerce, World Education Summit, Print and Electronic media. He was invited to ABET Symposium 2016 in Florida, USA to present his model of preparing industry ready engineering graduates. He has travelled to France, USA, Austria, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Dubai, HongKong and Japan for academic and research partnerships. His statement “Universities have to be ready to compete with third party aggregators who will change the way Universities are functioning now” is being seriously discussed and debated in the higher education circle of India.

Amitabh Saxena: *Vice Chancellor, Dr. CV Raman University, Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, India*

Saxena is designated as the Vice-Chancellor of Dr. CV Raman University Khandwa. He is known for his leadership qualities and his inspirational methods to handle situations. In an exclusive interview with Mayank Kothari, Mr. Saxena, revealed his views on the education sector in India, talked about his institution and more.

V N Rajasekharan Pillai: *Vice Chancellor, Member, Somaiya University & PERA, Mumbai, India*

Pillai has been at the helm of affairs of many higher educational and scientific research establishments for the last 47 years of service as a teacher, researcher, professor, and executive head of Education, Science and Technology establishments in the country and abroad.

Sunil Rai: *Chancellor at UPES University, Dehra Dun, Uttarakhand, India*

Academician & Consultant to provide and support world class quality education to serve the needs of growing India and an equitable world order. To transform organizations to attain Western efficiencies with Eastern ethos - "Vasudhaiv Kutumbh." Specialties: Business plan development, Change management. Internationalization, Accreditations, Quality upgrade and building internal organizational strengths.

Session Notes:

Introduction Video: Discussing the Issues in India's National Education Policy

*What is the National Education Policy offering to us? *

*Institutional Architecture: *

- Proposed reduction of Gross Enrollment Ratio (GR) value from 50% to 20 or 30%.
- Aiming to create a more inclusive and accessible education system.

Dr. R. M. Chitnis: Vice Chancellor

Dr. Chitnis began by mentioning Rev. Prof. Dr. Vishwanath Karad, the founder of MIT in 1983. He emphasized the importance of noble causes being supported by higher forces and spoke about the geographical locations of MIT across India. He highlighted the G20 Interfaith discussions about the sustainable goals of the United Nations and mentioned the G20 Education Group as one of the most active working groups. Dr. Chitnis stressed the need for feedback to implement a wise and effective National Education System. He discussed the history of education policies in India, referring to the 1986 policy. He questioned the wisdom of having stopped education policy updates for a significant period and welcomed the 2020 National Education Policy.

Holistic Multidisciplinary Education:

The speaker highlighted specific clauses in the National Education Policy, including the emphasis on Liberal Arts and the transition from STEM to STEAM education. They also mentioned the introduction of a compulsory 8-credit program, regardless of the student's major, suggesting that the policy aims to offer a comprehensive and well-rounded education.

Prof. Shailendra Sharma:

The speaker pointed out that a quarter of the education budget is allocated to resources, energy, and augmented architecture and curriculum performances in New Delhi. They discussed the importance of a "Mindset Curriculum" and "Happy Curriculum" that focus on holistic child

development. They also expressed the belief that Indian education is already a global leader and underlined the need to safeguard it.

Prof. Ankur Kulakarni: Vice Chancellor, Sage University, Indore

The speaker discussed the impact of the National Education Policy on state universities and private institutions. They advocated for education in one's mother tongue and shared a personal experience from attending a university in Odisha, where Christian missionaries introduced tribal people to the Bible and translated it into their language. The speaker stressed the significance of regional language education and its role in preserving cultural diversity.

Dr. Rajesh Dikshit: Vice Chancellor, Renesa University, Indore

The speaker highlighted the transformative power of self-awareness and shared a parable about a king collecting milk but people adding water, illustrating the challenges of policy implementation. They expressed concerns that without societal acceptance, the policy may remain only on paper, rather than being implemented effectively. The speaker advocated for changing the mentality of the youth to bring about real change.

Prof. Bhopal Patek:

The speaker focused on the strength of universities across India and discussed the selection processes for faculty members in universities, which is a major focus of the 2020 National Education Policy (NEP). They emphasized the importance of ensuring high-quality teaching and research staff in higher education institutions.

Dr. MD LAWRENCE: Vice Chancellor of Pune University

The speaker's analysis of the National Education Policy (NEP) by breaking it down into its constituent words: "National," "Educational," and "Policy" is insightful and thought-provoking. It highlights the policy's role in shaping a national education system with a strong focus on educational and policy aspects.

2C: "Peace Building and Social Peace"

Location: Nelson Mandela Hall

In a world increasingly plagued by violence, one of the major questions is whether religious communities can truly become sources of peace building rather than sources of dissension and polarization. This session will address how religious communities can better live up to their potential of fostering social peace.

Points to consider:

- Religious communities have deeply embedded traditions for reconciliation and building peaceful communities. Their peacebuilding work needs to be part of global reflections and action on violence, including hate speech and misinformation and incitement to violence.

- Prevention is an essential focus when talking about peace building.
- The voices of women and children (child soldiers, etc.) are not currently present where decisions are being made about peace building and conflict prevention. Their rights, needs, experiences, and ideas are essential to true solutions.
- If we want peace in the world, we must begin with children. Mandatory peace syllabus as an example at MIT Pune in India.

Moderator - Rachel Miner: *Founder and CEO, Bellwether International*

Miner began the session by discussing the root of the word “peace,” which stems from the concept of “to fasten” and eventually “to reconcile.” She later talked about the importance of looking at peacebuilding as not a resolution to conflict, but the transformation of it. In response to the second answer posed by Upadhye, Miner indicated that the body is a vehicle for peace. She prompted the audience to consider their ears built to hear and their eyes built to see others.

She posed the following questions for the panelists, and their answers are recorded in order:

1. What is peacebuilding?
2. How do we build peace through social movements or institutions?
3. Final Thoughts

Audrey Kitagawa: *President and Founder, The International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation, President of the Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family*

1. Peacebuilding is measurable. She quoted the UN definition which is, “peacebuilding refers to efforts to assist countries and regions in their transitions from war to peace and to reduce a country's risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities for conflict management, and laying the foundations for sustainable peace.”
 - a. Disarmament, integration, reconstruction of society and government institutions are all essential aspects of peacebuilding.
 - b. Kitagawa pointed to “An Agenda for Peace” as a resource for understanding the many different types of peacebuilding.
2. No comment.
3. To conclude, Kitagawa shared that peace is a sacred right, one established by the UN. She also emphasized the vital role that the justice and legal systems play in maintaining peace. Kitagawa argued that each case is contextually relevant and should be treated as such. Notably, GDP may indicate progress, but it does not account for well-being, more analysis must be done on the interplay of justice and peace in societies. Finally, Kitagawa called for a closer look at the power dynamics within ourselves and within society.

Pieter Francoi: *Associate Professor, Oxford*

1. Peacebuilding is a look directly at the trends of conflict. It is to recognize that even though conflicts may look vastly different from each other, they will always have one essential similarity: conflict. Peacebuilding is also an act of conflict prevention.
2. To answer this question, one must ask about the involvement of both groups and individuals and their influence on social movements and institutions. The social context must be evaluated as a snapshot of the contribution of groups. Focusing on youth, education, and leadership aids to strengthen social institutions because this leads to action rather than stagnant dialogue.

- a. Transformation on a large-scale requires individual transformation as well as simultaneous action at both the macro and micro levels.
- b. Political and economic agreements are insufficient for sustainable peace, social contracts are absolutely essential.
 - i. One form of social contract that should be cultivated is that of trust at the micro level of social operations. This form of trust is the principle of seeing people as people.
3. Pieter closed with three questions to consider: (1) How do we share success stories of peace with the world?, (2) How do we implement recommendations formed during interfaith dialogue?, and (3) How do we measure success in implementation?

Priyankar Upadhyaya: *UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding, Distinguished Professor and Senior Advisor, MIT-WPU, Global Fellow, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)*

1. No comment.
2. Peace is a journey of discovery. Gandhi emulated this journey in the way that he was the first to define structural violence. This discovery allowed others to understand the way forward to peace. Personal peace is insufficient, peacebuilding requires combatting structural and cultural violence. Justice must play a vital role in the healing process from violence. According to Upadhyaya, “no one is opposed to peace, but people use it differently.” Here the inference is that peace is also a political agenda.
3. It is important that leaders take constructive lessons from the history of religion. She argued that the world is at its current level of violence because of a lack of general consensus. She encouraged the fostering of a culture of peace, transformative peace that is. She also claimed that peace is not just the absence of conflict, but also the inclusion of the SDGs. For peace to reign among nations, peace must first reign among religions.

Mohammed Gulrez: *Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University*

1. No comment.
2. Community leaders have the responsibility to grant people self-confidence in order to move towards peace. This requires the application of the principles of good governance. Gulrez argued that no individual person or group should be granted “special status” over another. It is important to prioritize the nurturing of social trust.
3. The world is experiencing a plague in which each country is attempting to assert themselves and their own identity. When religion becomes nationalized, it becomes divisive.

Edison Samraj: *Director, Education Department, Southern Asia Division, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives*

1. According to Samraj, “peace is a state of mind.” With this outlook, one must learn to reframe the mind and cleanse it of violence of any kind. The challenge, then, is how to sustain this peace of mind. Samraj argued that the missing link to sustaining peace of mind is the integration of politics, religion, and culture.
2. Samraj applied the input-output principle of consumption to the kinds of information people put into their minds. He suggested that the mind is self-destructive without morals and that people need to develop the ability to control their emotions. Additionally, Samraj

pushed for a correction of any form of prejudice teachings that have long-term consequences. He pointed to the example of Hitler being taught prejudice beliefs. Samraj claimed that intelligence needs to be managed.

3. Samraj closed by reemphasizing the need for peace education and multilateral communication in this effort.

Sanjay Upadhye: *Mentor & Chief Advisor, MIT-WPU*

1. Peacebuilding starts at an individual level in which personal peace is cultivated. From there, peace is spread throughout the world. Upadhye noted that “conflict is not spiritual,” thus, the development of spirituality enhances peace.
2. In Indian philosophy, there are four debts. Of these are the daily debt, the age debt, and the innocence debt. By understanding the need to repay each day, each year lived, and lack of understanding, Indians believe that they should establish relationships of peace and act in ways that align with it. Upadhye added that the human body is standardized, but it is the mind that needs to be standardized (perfected).
3. Upadhye closed with the simple statement that everyone has the right to happiness.

2D: “Food Security”

Hunger is a central focus of religious teachings and action. With rising food prices, the number of people that are facing food insecurity has increased, jeopardizing progress towards SDG’s Zero Hunger. The problems relate both to food prices and to deeper underlying challenges to production and supply chains. This translates to increasing numbers of people requiring urgent relief as well as livelihood support. There are multiple drivers behind the food crises of varying degree in different parts of the world which, according to experts, require a pre-emptive approach rather than simply addressing its consequences.

- What are the main drivers behind food insecurity and how can interfaith leaders or communities address those?
- What are the best practices amongst religious communities in addressing the issue of food security?
- Is it more efficient in addressing the issue individually or is there merit in solving it systematically?
- How can religious communities most effectively mobilize G20 responses to food crisis issues?

Moderator - Jeff Nelson: *International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University*

Nelson is a senior fellow of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies (ICLRS) at the J Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University (BYU). He received his bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of Utah, and his JD from the J Reuben Clark Law School at byu, and also studied at Universität Konstanz, in Konstanz, germany. he practice law, primarily in banking and finance, in New York City and Germany for 32 years. He was then Area legal counsel for the Europe Area of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, for 4 years. He then acted as Senior Counsel for the Church for 2 years in Salt Lake City, Utah, overseeing the legal affairs of various departments of the Church.

He then became a Senior Fellow of ICLRS in July 2022 after affiliating with ICLRS for over 15 years.

Rand Blimes: *Associate Professor, faculty of Business & Government, BYU-Hawaii*

Blimes is a professor of political science at Brigham Young University - hawaii, where his work focuses on international relations. Blimes regularly leads groups of students to meet with UN, and NGO groups in Bangkok, Thailand, and he considers inspiring and mentoring young people to be the most important part of his job. His current research projects include a study of how the international crisis staple foods impacts domestic stability, and on the factors that lead nations to develop greater overall capacity. Blimes is married and has three daughters .

Badiul Alam Majumdar: *Global Vice President & Country Director, The Hunger Project*

Majumdar joined The Hunger Project as Country Director in Bangladesh in 1993 and was named a Vice President in 2003. He is the founder-Secretary of Shujan (Citizens for Good Governance), a civil society organization. Majumdar was born in February 1946 in Comilla, Bangladesh. He received his Bachelor of Commerce with Honors (1967) and Master of Commerce (1968) from Dhaka University. From 1970-71, he took his first trip to study in the U.S. on a Graduate Fellowship for International Understanding, sponsored by the Rotary Foundation, at Claremont Graduate School. He earned a Master of Business Economics (M.B.E.) from Claremont and then went on to earn his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics from Case Western Reserve University, USA. Majumdar was a Lecturer at Dhaka University in 1969-70. He also taught at Seattle University, Central Washington University and Washington State University during 1976-91. In addition, he worked for NASA and the Saudi Royal Family. He came back to Bangladesh in 1991, resigning a full professorship in America. He briefly served on the Board of Governors of BARD. He was a member of the Committee to Strengthen and Revitalize Local Governance, which was set up by the last Caretaker Government in Bangladesh. Dr. Majumdar has authored several books and published many articles in professional journals. He is also a popular newspaper columnist and television commentator.

Johann H. Huleatt: *Bruderhof*

Huleatt Serves as Outreach director for the Bruderhof, a multinational Jesus-inspired church-community network and affiliated entities, including Community Playthings, Hiwassee Products, Rifton equipment, and Plough Publishing. As outreach director, external, government affairs, charitable, and volunteer endeavors are coordinated. Married in 2004, Johann and Nancy have five children, and for over 25 years, Johann has been an entrepreneur and running businesses common nonprofits, farms, church groups, schools, and convenient conferences. he serves on various Boards of directors, including the religious freedom Institute and Orange County Chamber Of commerce, and has earned BA and MPA degrees and is a final year MA Character Education student at the University of Birmingham with a keen interest in sustainability and flourishing societies.

Anjoo Upadhyaya: *Professor, MITWPU, Global Peace Fellow, Peace Research Institute Oslo*

Upadhyaya has served Banaras Hindu University (BHU) for over four decades in teaching and leadership positions and has served as the Senior Professor and Chair of Political Science and as the Dean of Social Sciences. In addition, she has served as the Director of the Centre for Nepal Studies, Director of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development, and Adjunct Professor at the

Malaviya Centre for Peace Research. Professor Upadhyaya has an impressive international background, having done post-doctoral research at the London School of Economics and Political Science and worked as the Research Director at the UN University Institute of Conflict Resolution and Ethnicity in the UK. She has also held various academic positions in prestigious institutions, such as Brown University, the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, and Wellesley College in the USA. Professor Upadhyaya is an accomplished author and has published on various critical themes, including the right to self-determination, election reforms in India, ethnic conflicts and peace, women and peace, food security and governance, and digital technologies and public policies. Her work has been published in leading presses, such as Manchester University Press, McMillan, Cambridge University Press, and Routledge. Currently, she holds the position of Distinguished Professor of Public Policy at MIT World Peace University, which is a UNESCO Chair seat in Pune.

Amit Wadkar: *Director, Robinhood Army, Mumbai*

[no bio available]

Anoop Khanna: *Founder, Dadi Ki Rasoi, New Delhi*

Khanna is an Indian social activist and businessman. He is the founder of Dadi Ki Rasoi, an initiative that works to provide affordable food for the poor living in Noida city in Uttar Pradesh, India. He completed his schooling from Edhradun, Uttarakhand, where he lived in Dakpathar town. His father, PN Khanna, contributed to the freedom struggle in India and accompanied the legendary social activists and politicians Mahatma Gandhi and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Mudit Jain: *Mission Neki*

I am a Senior Machine Learning Engineer at Qualcomm, where I lead the development of visual odometry solutions for AR/VR/MR use cases. I have a Master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of California, San Diego, with a specialization in Machine Learning and Data Science. I have also completed multiple internships and projects in the fields of computer vision, object detection, plume detection, and 3D stereo reconstruction. I am passionate about applying my skills and knowledge to solve real-world problems and create innovative products.

DAY 3

WRITTEN BY: SOPHIA GUNTER, AARON JAMES & PRASHANTH RAMISHETTY

Panel Discussion: “The 4 C’s: COVID, Climate, Conflicts, Children”

Speaker 1:

The speaker's opening remarks highlight two important themes: the importance of learning from tradition and the role of management and technology in driving change and development. These themes are interconnected, as traditional knowledge and practices can often be leveraged to create innovative and sustainable solutions to contemporary challenges.

The reference to "a much bigger reason" suggests that the speaker is motivated by a larger purpose or goal, such as promoting human rights and social justice. These are vital considerations, as they ensure that the benefits of change and development are shared equitably by all.

Speaker 2:

The speaker began by emphasizing the importance of learning from tradition, suggesting a recognition of the value of traditional knowledge and practices in the modern world. They mentioned the role of management and technology, suggesting that these were significant drivers of change and development.

The speaker alluded to "a much bigger reason," hinting at the idea that there was a larger purpose or goal that should guide our actions. They hinted at addressing issues related to human rights and social justice, suggesting that these were vital considerations.

Speaker 3:

The speaker talked about the world as one, suggesting their belief in global unity and interconnectedness. They discussed the importance of instances and examples, indicating the value of real-life situations and case studies. The phrase "the world is one" underscored the idea of global unity and harmony. They also mentioned the importance of understanding, suggesting that knowledge and comprehension were crucial aspects of addressing global challenges.

Speaker 4:

The speaker began by acknowledging the audience and indicating their readiness to continue the discussion. They referenced something with a release, which might have related to a new development or idea. They discussed the past and "what was," suggesting a reflection on history and its relevance. They emphasized the importance of leaving something behind, hinting at the idea of legacy and the impact of our actions.

The speaker also referenced the human body, living, and the soul, suggesting a deeper philosophical or existential perspective. They mentioned challenging questions and motion,

which may have referred to the complexity and dynamism of life's inquiries. Finally, they talked about the significance of long-term relationships.

Speaker 5:

The speaker discussed the importance of communication, understanding, and inquiry in the digital age, highlighting the need for global perspectives and collaboration to address global challenges. They emphasized the value of learning from tradition, while also recognizing the role of management and technology in driving change and development.

3A: “Global Perspectives on Education”

Location: Mahatma Gandhi Hall

The education breakout session will focus on aspects of global education agendas most pertinent for religious and interreligious communities, including education quality and access, and attention to ethics and values education.

- Religions need a place at the table because they are critical providers of education and have the power to make education more inclusive.
- To what extent should educational institutions aim at teaching about religion, as opposed to inculcating religion, and what training of teaching personnel does this require?
- How can education be structured to assist in instilling moral codes to make a difference in eliminating things like corruption, conflict, and prejudice?
- How can faith-based groups best engage with governments in helping to expand access to education?
- Values and ethics-based education is surrounded by a lot of fear from both sides of the equation. How can ethics-, values-, and virtues-based education be structured to be beneficial to all?

Moderator - Michael K. Young: *Prof. of Law and Former President, Texas A&M University; Former Chair, US Commission on International Religious Freedom*

Michael K. Young Having served as the 25th President of Texas A&M University from May 1, 2015, to June 1, 2021, Michael K. Young has a proven track record of academic leadership. During his tenure, Young led Texas A&M as it significantly grew its national and international reputation as a global Tier 1 research institution. As a longtime champion for academic success, Young helped launch the Lead by Example Campaign, an ambitious fundraising effort that raised \$4.25 billion to fund substantial initiatives benefiting students, faculty, and staff. The University also surpassed \$1 Billion in annual research funding under his leadership. Today, Texas A&M University stands as the nation’s largest public institution. Young also served as president and tenured professor of law at the University of Washington from 2011 to 2015, where he led the nation’s top public university in competing for federal research funding, as well as its ambitious plan to double the number of new companies based on UW research. He also launched the Global Innovation Exchange, a partnership between the University of Washington, a major Chinese university and European universities. The university also more than doubled its fundraising during his tenure. Prior to that, Young served as president and distinguished

professor of law at the University of Utah. Under his leadership, Utah raised its stature nationally and internationally, including becoming the nation's top university in the number of new companies generated from university research. The University also built over a million square feet of academic and research space during his tenure. Before assuming the presidency at Utah, he was Dean and Lobingier Professor of Comparative Law and Jurisprudence at the George Washington University Law School, and he was the Fuyo Professor of Japanese Law and Legal Institutions, as well as the Director of the Centers for Japanese Legal Studies and Korean Legal Studies, at Columbia University School of Law for more than 20 years. He also has been a visiting professor and scholar at numerous universities in Japan and Korea. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Young has broad experience across legal, public service, and diplomatic arenas. He served as a law clerk to the late Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist of the U.S. Supreme Court, and he has held numerous government positions, including Deputy Legal Adviser, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic and Agricultural Affairs, and Ambassador for Trade and Environmental Affairs in the Department of State during the administration of President George H.W. Bush. Among many other international agreements, Young worked extensively on the treaties related to German unification, as well as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and Uruguay Round negotiations leading to the World Trade Organization, and the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development. Subsequently, Young served eight years on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, which he chaired on two separate occasions.

Professor Young has also arbitrated several disputes, including as president of the arbitral panel in the case of *Glamis Gold, Ltd. V. The United States of America*, an arbitration under the North American Free Trade Agreement, the predecessor to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. He has arbitrated disputes administered by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and arbitrations subject to the rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). He also served as the Chief Representative on behalf of the United States in the United States-United Kingdom arbitration concerning Heathrow Airport user charges. He has also served as an arbitrator in disputes involving the United Nations. He also published extensively on a variety of topics, including topics relating to Japan — administrative law, judicial review, industrial policy, employment law, commercial transactions and joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, contracts, dispute resolution, the role of lawyers, anti-trust law, among others — as well as U.S. and international trade law, international human rights, international environmental law, and freedom of religion. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a member of bar of the States of New York and California.

Matius Ho: *Executive Director, Leimena Institute*

Matius Ho is the Executive Director of Leimena Institute in Jakarta. He led the development of the Cross-Cultural Religious Literacy program that since 2021 has trained thousands of teachers in Indonesia on competencies to strengthen peaceful multi-faith and multicultural society. Under his direction, Leimena Institute has built partnership and collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights and many leading religious and education institutions. He

has been invited to speak about the program in several countries. He wrote about Indonesia in *The Routledge Handbook of Religious Literacy, Pluralism, and Global Engagement* (2021). He worked in Indonesia and Singapore with Accenture, a multinational consulting firm, and served as Vice Secretary of Akademi Leimena Foundation, Leimena Institute's precursor, before co-founding the institute in 2005. He received his Bachelor and Master degrees from University of Wisconsin, Madison (USA).

Maria Lucia Uribe Torres: *Ethics in Education Arigatou International*

Maria Lucia Uribe Torres is the Executive Director of Arigatou International Geneva. She heads the strategic direction of the Ethics Education for Children Initiative as an International Knowledge and Action Hub with partners in more than 30 countries. She is also in charge of developing and maintaining Arigatou International's engagement in child rights initiatives with UN agencies and child rights focused NGOs in Geneva. Ms. Uribe was previously the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator for Education and Fragility for the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), and served as Program Officer for Arigatou International in charge of coordinating the development of its flagship program, Learning to Live Together. She convenes the International Consortium on Nurturing Values and Spirituality in Early Childhood for the Prevention of Violence, and the Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect. Ms. Uribe serves on the Steering Group of the International Partnership for Religion and Development.

A Halim Mahfudz: *Badan Wakaf Pesantren Tebuireng (Pesantren Tebuireng Waqf Foundation)*

Mahfudz was born in Jombang on July 17 1954. He completed his formal education from Madrasah Ibtidaiyah Nahdlatul Ulama (MINU) in Parimono village, Jombang in 1966, then continued on to Religious Teacher Education (PGA).) 4 years. When he continued to PGA for 6 years, there was a change where PGA 6 years later changed to IAIN Preparatory School (SP), still in Jombang in 1971. Halim continued to the Faculty of Adab, IAIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, and then in 1988 studied Southeast Asian History at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. After completing SP IAIN, Halim was sent by his father, M. Machfudz Anwar to study during the month of Ramadhan with KH. Maksum in Lasem, Central Java in 1972. Because his father was good friends with KH Maksum, Halim was often called by Kiai Maksum to be guided and given a lot of advice. When he was still a student at IAIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Halim taught English at the IAIN Sunan Ampel Language Institute. Halim has also taught at Madrasah Aliyah Negeri (MAN) Surabaya since 1977 as a Non-Permanent Teacher (GTT) and MAN Sidoarjo as a permanent teacher since 1981. In 1985, Halim participated in the Southeast Asian Student Leaders program to visit the United States for a month at the invitation of United States Information Service (USIS) Surabaya. After completing his studies at Cornell University, Halim joined the Surya daily in Surabaya since 1990. In 1995, Halim moved to Jakarta and worked for the donor agency The Asia Foundation. Halim then worked for Burson-Marsteller, one of the world's major Public Relations companies, Halim then worked for Coca-Cola Indonesia in 1997, Standard Chartered Bank in 2000, Partnership for Governance Reform (Kemitraan) in 2004, Astro subscription television in 2006 and founded his own company Halma Strategic in 2008.

Since 2017, Halim has been entrusted with managing the ROHMAH Education and Islamic Boarding School Foundation and taking care of the Seblak Islamic boarding school in Jombang.

J. Heinrich Arnold: *Bruderhof*

Arnold serves as Elder and Senior Pastor for the Bruderhof church communities, focusing on education, youth ministry, marriage, family formation, and following Jesus. As an efficient physician assistant, he puts his preaching into practice to meet his congregations and others' physical and spiritual needs. He has visited countries including Australia, Colombia, Cuba, England, Germany, Haiti, and others. In these countries he has encouraged suffering people and listened to their stories. Closer to home, Arnold serves as an Ulster County Sheriff's chaplain and is a speaker for forgiveness and reconciliation with breaking the Silence of violence. In addition to pastoral duties, Arnold is a part-time teacher at the Woodcrest Elementary school, an Advisory Board member of the Mount Academy, and a contributor to the Plough Quarterly Magazine. Arnold has been married to Wilma for over 33 years and has seven children and five grandchildren.

Vishal Talreja: *Co-Founder, Dream a Dream*

Talreja co-founded Dream a Dream (www.dreamadream.org) along with 11 others. Dream a Dream is a registered, charitable trust empowering young people from vulnerable backgrounds to overcome adversity and thrive in the 21st century using a creative life skills approach. An Ashoka Fellow (www.ashoka.org), an Eisenhower Fellow (<https://www.efworld.org/>), a Salzburg Global Fellow (<https://www.salzburgglobal.org/>) and a Board Member at PYE Global (www.pyeglobal.org) and Goonj (www.goonj.org), Previously, a Founder Director of Unltd India and Board Member of India Cares Foundation.

Marshal Sheldon: *Executive Dean, Faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology, Nelson Mandela University*

Prof Marshall Sheerene Sheldon, holds a Doctoral qualification in Chemical Engineering. She is currently the Executive Dean of Engineering, the Built Environment and Technology at the Nelson Mandela University of Technology and has 24 years higher education experience at various levels. Prof Sheldon currently holds an NRF C2 rating and has successfully graduated 14 Masters and 4 Doctoral students. Her funding sources were mainly from different National Research Foundation (NRF) funding instruments, the Water Research Commission (WRC) and various industry contributions. Prof Sheldon's has published and co-authored international peer reviewed journals; international conference papers; a book chapter and has been involved in multiple WRC technical reports. Her h-index on Google Scholar Profile is 13; Scopus 11 and Web of Science This research work has been presented at more than 60 conferences both internationally, nationally, and locally. Her research and postgraduate students have received numerous awards at both international and local conferences. Prof Sheldon has been involved in organising many local and international symposiums, workshops and conferences and has peer-reviewed numerous accredited journal articles for various International accredited journals.

Abhay Wagh: *Member, Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC), Mumbai*

Dr. Abhay Wagh is a member, Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC), Mumbai. He has excelled in the field of engineering. Dr. Wagh earned his PhD in the field of Electronics & Instrumentation. He was awarded Gold Medal for his Master's Degree in Power Electronics. He has been working in the field of Technical Education from last 29 Years in various capacity : as teaching faculty, trainer, administrator and policy maker. Experience of implementing several projects for Technical Education. He is a recipient of the 'Skoch Gold Award of Excellence' for successfully implementing 10 projects in the State of Maharashtra based on good governance, during the 37th Skoch Summit on 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'. He was also awarded with 'E-Maharashtra' honour for efforts in e-administration by Directorate of Information Technology, Govt. of Maharashtra.

Anant Chakradeo: *Pro Vice Chancellor, MITWPU*

Prof. Anant is a hardcore Engineering Postgraduate having a good innovative mind. A person with a very cool head on his young shoulders is known for his innovative and creative ideas in education. He did his graduation in Mechanical Engineering and his post graduation in Production engineering with 'Manufacturing Automation' as a specialization. After spending 6 years in small and medium scale industry, he joined MIT in 1993 as a junior lecturer in Production Engineering Department. He was instrumental for bringing latest technology to the institute and started MIT CAD CAM Training and Design Centre in the year 2000. His last responsibility was as the Head of Workshop and Production Engineering Department. Presently he is the Dean of MIT Academy of Engineering, MIT Art, Commerce and Science College, MIT School of Telecom Management and Dean – Design Habitat of MIT Institute of Design. His areas of interests are Analytical Drawing, Manufacturing Processes, Product Development, CAD CAM Automation, Tool Design and Development. He has undergone various Training programs in all these areas. He has also worked on many industrial projects dealing with tool design, product design and development. He has visited Italy, France, Germany, China and Malaysia for attending various conferences and meetings.

Sanjay Kamtekar: *Chief Academic Officer, MITWPU*

Kamtekar has an M.S and Ph.D. in Analytical Instrumentation from University of Massachusetts, Lowell; an MBA in Managerial Finance-Strategy from DePaul Driehaus College of Business, and an Executive Education in Leadership, Strategy & Marketing Management from Northwestern University - Kellogg School of Management, USA. Prior to his new role with us, he has served as the Division Vice President, Global Marketing & Strategy with CAMECA, Madison-Paris-Manchester; Managing Partner of SAKU Global LLC, a consulting firm; VP-GM Sales, Marketing & Business Development with Moxtek Inc., a Nippon Kayaku Group Company; Director Sales & Marketing with XOS (X-Ray Optical Systems), Danaher Group company among other leadership roles across the globe.

Akshay Malhotra: *Dean- Academics, MITWPU*

[no bio available]

The discussion centers on the challenges vulnerable children face in accessing quality education. The focus is on the interconnectedness of education with broader societal issues, such as inclusion, social development, and addressing the unique needs of children.

Speaker 1:

Speaker 1 opens the discussion with a stark reminder of the vast number of vulnerable children around the world. They highlight the importance of inclusive education, not only as a means of ensuring that all children have access to quality education, but also as a powerful tool for promoting social development and inclusivity.

The speaker eloquently articulates the notion that children represent the future, and that their education is pivotal for shaping the kind of society we want to live in. They argue that addressing global education challenges, particularly for vulnerable children, is an imperative task that cannot be ignored.

In their view, inclusive education should be a cornerstone in creating a society where every child has equal access to quality education, regardless of their background or circumstances. They emphasize that the role of education goes beyond imparting knowledge; it plays a vital role in societal progress, fostering understanding, tolerance, and respect for diversity.

In essence, Speaker 1 sets the stage for a discussion that is both urgent and hopeful. They remind us that the future of our world depends on our ability to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Speaker 2:

Speaker 2 delves into the unique educational landscape of Indonesia, where the environment plays a significant role in shaping students' attitudes and behaviors. They acknowledge the challenges associated with maintaining a balance between religious and financial objectives in the context of education.

The speaker emphasizes the need for promoting dialogue and understanding among diverse groups within Indonesian society. They argue that in a country with a rich cultural and religious heritage, it is essential to foster mutual respect and appreciation for different perspectives.

The concept of the "5 pillars" network is introduced as a means to facilitate communication and collaboration across various segments of society. By bringing together representatives from government, business, education, religion, and civil society, this network aims to create a more inclusive and participatory approach to addressing societal challenges.

In essence, Speaker 2 highlights the importance of considering the broader social and cultural context in which education takes place. They remind us that education is not merely about imparting knowledge and skills, but also about nurturing responsible and engaged citizens who can contribute to the betterment of society as a whole.

Speaker 3:

Speaker 3 tackles the crucial issue of scaling up education systems while maintaining quality. They acknowledge the challenges posed by the rapid pace of technological change and the pervasive influence of social and mass media. In this digital age, it is more important than ever for educators to be mindful of the impact of these external forces on the learning process.

The speaker also stresses the importance of considering the well-being of society's most vulnerable members. They argue that a society's moral character is reflected in how it treats its most marginalized groups. In order to create a just and compassionate world, we must ensure that all children have access to quality education, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Faith-inspired organizations are seen as having a vital role to play in promoting truth and inclusivity. By providing a safe space for dialogue and understanding, these organizations can help to build bridges between different communities. In a world that is often divided, they offer a beacon of hope for a more just and equitable future.

Speaker 4:

Speaker 4, a pastor with a background in education, eloquently speaks of the preciousness and vulnerability of children. They issue a heartfelt call to protect and educate these young ones, recognizing their immense potential to shape the future.

The four pillars of education - faith, family, schooling, and community - are presented as a framework for holistic development. Each pillar plays a vital role in nurturing the whole child, fostering their intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual growth.

The speaker emphasizes the need for passionate teachers who are committed to igniting a love of learning in their students. They also highlight the importance of supportive social policies that promote family stability.

Ultimately, the speaker reminds us that the responsibility of protecting and educating children lies not only with parents and teachers, but with society as a whole. By working together, we can create a world where all children are given the opportunity to thrive.

The four pillars of education serve as a reminder that learning extends far beyond the classroom. It is about equipping children with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to navigate the complexities of life. Passionate teachers, strong family support, and supportive social policies are all essential ingredients in creating a nurturing environment where children can flourish.

Speaker 5:

Speaker 5's stories of vulnerable children in India serve as stark reminders of the immense challenges they face. The current education system, with its emphasis on academic achievement, is ill-equipped to address the complex needs of these children. In a rapidly changing world, where skills and adaptability are paramount, a narrow focus on rote learning is simply not enough.

A paradigm shift is necessary, one that moves away from academic focus and towards holistic development. This means nurturing children's physical, emotional, social, and spiritual

well-being. It means creating learning environments that are inclusive and supportive, where all children feel valued and respected. Faith-inspired organizations can play a vital role in this transformation, by providing a safe space for children to explore their values and develop a sense of purpose. By fostering empathy and inclusivity, these organizations can help to create a more just and compassionate world.

In order to achieve this, it is essential that we all become more aware of our own biases. We must be willing to challenge our assumptions and open our hearts to those who are different from us. Only then can we begin to create a world where all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

3B: “Health Care”

Location: Gautam Buddha Hall

Moderator - Jarjit S. Bhagat: *CEO, Medidect India*

Colonel Harjit S. Bhagat is a distinguished and highly respected military officer who has dedicated his life to serving his country with unwavering commitment and valor. Born with a passion for defending his nation's sovereignty, Col. Bhagat has built an exemplary career marked by his exceptional leadership qualities and unflinching courage. Throughout his military journey, Col. Bhagat has taken on pivotal roles in various missions and operations, demonstrating his strategic acumen and a remarkable ability to make tough decisions under pressure. He has been at the forefront of national security, tirelessly working to protect his country from threats both domestic and international. Col. Bhagat's dedication to duty and his soldiers is unparalleled. His leadership style is characterized by a blend of compassion and discipline, earning him the deep respect and admiration of his subordinates and peers alike. He has consistently shown a commitment to the highest standards of professionalism and ethics in his military service

Kezevino Aram: *Director, Shanti Ashram*

[no bio available]

Yaqeen Sikander: *ACWAY*

Sikander Is a psychotherapist and research scholar in Clinical Psychology based on Istanbul, Turkiye. Born in Srinagar, Kashmir, Sikander trained in malaysia, india, turkey and germany. He has widely traveled to more than 35 countries to deliver keynotes, lectures, seminars and training on mental health and life skills. He published his first book quotes the true purpose of light quote just at the age of 17, making him one of the world's youngest published authors. videos on mental health, coaching and social issues and his social media has more than 100,000 followers. is an excellent storyteller and fluently speaks English, Turkish, Urdu, Hindi and Kashmiri. He is also humanitarian and is an advisor for several projects related to human development, policy, and progress.

Aditi Karad: *Executive Director - VishwaRaj Hospital, Member Trustee*

Dr. Aditi Karad is a distinguished and accomplished figure in the field of education and healthcare, renowned for her unwavering commitment to fostering positive change and empowerment within her community and beyond. As a visionary leader, Dr. Karad has consistently demonstrated her passion for excellence and her dedication to making a meaningful impact on society. Dr. Aditi Karad's journey is characterized by her impressive academic and professional achievements. She is celebrated for her pivotal role in the establishment and administration of prestigious educational institutions, where her innovative leadership has transformed the landscape of education. Her tireless efforts in the realm of healthcare and education have contributed significantly to the development of human capital, preparing the next generation for success in an ever-evolving world. Beyond her institutional contributions, Dr. Karad's philanthropic endeavors and commitment to social welfare exemplify her compassionate nature. She has consistently championed causes that address critical societal issues, such as healthcare accessibility, education for all, and women's empowerment. Her dedication to creating a more equitable and inclusive society serves as a source of inspiration to many. Dr. Aditi Karad's legacy is one of visionary leadership, academic excellence, and a profound commitment to social betterment. Her relentless pursuit of excellence continues to inspire individuals and communities, illuminating a path towards a brighter and more equitable future for all.

Vijay G Prabhakar: *Chairman, Global Strategic Alliance Inc., Editor-in-Chief, Global Eye - Digital News Monthly, Greater, Chicago, USA*

Dr. Vijay G Prabhakar Ji is a revered spiritual leader and scholar known for his profound wisdom, spiritual teachings, and contributions to the spiritual and philosophical realms. His life's work has touched the lives of countless individuals, guiding them on a transformative journey towards inner peace, self-realization, and spiritual enlightenment. With an extensive background in spiritual studies and a deep understanding of various religious traditions, Dr. Prabhakar Ji has become a beacon of knowledge and inspiration. His teachings emphasize the universal principles of compassion, mindfulness, and spiritual growth, transcending the boundaries of culture and faith. One of his notable contributions lies in his ability to simplify complex spiritual concepts, making them accessible to a wide audience. His lectures and writings have served as guides for those seeking answers to life's profound questions, offering insights into the nature of the self, the interconnectedness of all beings, and the pursuit of higher consciousness. Dr. Vijay G Prabhakar Ji's influence extends beyond his teachings. He has established centers and institutions dedicated to spiritual education and humanitarian efforts, fostering positive change in communities around the world. His legacy as a spiritual leader and philosopher is marked by a profound impact on the lives of his followers and the broader spiritual community, leaving an enduring mark of wisdom and enlightenment for generations to come.

Babasaheb Vishwanath Tandale: *Senior Scientist, National Institute of Virology, Pune*

Dr. Babasaheb Vishwanath Tandale is a distinguished Senior Scientist at the prestigious National Institute of Virology in Pune, India. With a career spanning several decades, Dr. Tandale has established himself as a leading figure in the field of virology and infectious diseases, contributing significantly to scientific research, disease prevention, and public health. Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Tandale has been at the forefront of virology research,

conducting groundbreaking studies on various viruses and their transmission dynamics. His extensive knowledge and expertise have been instrumental in advancing our understanding of infectious diseases, including emerging and re-emerging viruses. Dr. Tandale's research and contributions extend beyond the laboratory. He has actively engaged in epidemiological investigations, surveillance, and outbreak response, playing a crucial role in containing infectious disease threats and safeguarding public health. His dedication to these efforts has earned him recognition both nationally and internationally. As a Senior Scientist at the National Institute of Virology, Dr. Babasaheb Vishwanath Tandale continues to be a driving force in the fight against infectious diseases. His unwavering commitment to scientific excellence, disease control, and public welfare exemplifies the highest standards of professionalism in the field of virology. Dr. Tandale's legacy is marked by his profound impact on our ability to combat infectious diseases and his tireless efforts to protect communities from health threats.

Deelip Mhaisekar: *Former Advisor to Chief Minister of Maharashtra*

[no bio available]

Ramaswamy N: *Secretary, Government of Maharashtra & Former Commissioner of Health, Govt. of Maharashtra*

[no bio available]

Archana Patil: *Former Director, Health Services, Govt. of Maharashtra*

Dr. Archana Patil is a distinguished and highly accomplished professional in the field of healthcare and public administration, known for her exemplary contributions to the betterment of society. Her career has been marked by a deep commitment to public service and a dedication to improving the health and well-being of communities. Dr. Patil's journey is a testament to her exceptional leadership and expertise. She has held significant positions in the public health sector, where her visionary leadership has played a pivotal role in shaping healthcare policies and initiatives. Her efforts have had a profound impact on healthcare accessibility and quality, particularly for underserved populations. Beyond her administrative roles, Dr. Archana Patil's advocacy for public health and her commitment to community welfare have left an indelible mark. She has actively championed causes related to healthcare awareness, disease prevention, and women's health, inspiring positive change at both the grassroots and national levels. Dr. Patil's legacy is one of unwavering dedication to public service, humanitarian values, and the pursuit of excellence in healthcare administration. Her profound contributions continue to serve as a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration for those striving to create a healthier and more equitable society.

Subhash Salunke: *Former Assistant Regional Director, WHO, South East Asia, Mumbai*

Dr. Subhash Salunke is a prominent figure in the field of public health, known for his significant contributions during his tenure as the former Assistant Regional Director for the World Health Organization (WHO) in the South-East Asia region. With a career spanning several decades, Dr. Salunke has played a pivotal role in advancing healthcare initiatives and strategies in one of the most populous and diverse regions in the world. During his time at WHO, Dr. Salunke worked

tirelessly to address a wide range of health challenges facing the South-East Asia region, including infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and non-communicable diseases. His leadership and expertise were instrumental in developing and implementing various health programs, policies, and interventions that have had a lasting impact on the health and well-being of millions of people. Dr. Salunke's commitment to public health, his extensive knowledge, and his ability to collaborate with governments, organizations, and healthcare professionals have made him a respected authority in the field. His legacy continues to inspire the next generation of public health professionals to strive for excellence and work towards achieving better health outcomes for communities across South-East Asia and beyond.

Sachin Itkar: *Senior Program Advisor Strategic Foresight Group*

[no bio available]

Takeaways:

COVID-19 exposed healthcare system vulnerabilities globally. The insufficiency of medical staff, equipment, and resources strained healthcare systems. The urgency of preparing for future pandemics became evident.

Health plays a pivotal role at the intersection of religion and development. Religious leaders played varied roles during the pandemic, and the need to learn from these experiences is critical for future religion-health engagement.

Panelists emphasized the inevitability of the next pandemic and the need to bridge the divide between religious health assets and pandemic preparedness. They called for the inclusion of religious resources in emergency action plans.

Restructuring existing healthcare systems is imperative, with active involvement of religious voices and resources. The focus is on creating a balanced, ethical approach to health systems, fostering deeper connections, and ensuring better outcomes for society.

The conference highlighted the importance of building equitable and ethical healthcare systems, underlining the necessity for discussions on responsibility, oversight, and defining a minimum level of care. It called for a shift towards a more ethical way of balancing these systems.

Conclusion:

The "Health Care" conference offered a comprehensive platform for an in-depth discussion on the critical intersection of health, religion, and development. The insights and discussions stressed the need for preparing healthcare systems for future pandemics while addressing existing inequities and inefficiencies. Religious leaders, despite their varying responses during the pandemic, play a crucial role in shaping the religion-health nexus of the future.

The inevitability of future pandemics was emphasized, and there was a strong call for better integrating religious health assets with pandemic preparedness. This was seen as essential to ensure nations and communities could respond effectively. The conference urged for the

restructuring of existing healthcare systems, with active engagement of religious voices and resources.

The focus was on fostering a more balanced and ethical approach to healthcare systems to create deeper connections and improved outcomes for society. The responsibility, oversight, and definition of a minimum level of care were debated, with the aim of achieving more ethical and equitable healthcare systems.

The commitment was clear: building stronger, equitable, and ethical healthcare systems with a values-driven approach that aligns with the broader goals of ensuring a healthier and more inclusive future for all.

3C: “Protecting Children and the Vulnerable”

Location: Nelson Mandela Hall

Children around the world are vulnerable to maltreatment and are often well-hidden by their persecutors. Faith communities can help identify vulnerable children within communities and ensure their protection.

- Interpol is unable to address all the transnational exploitation affecting children, and it’s impossible to prosecute it out of existence. Systems must be changed.
- We must pay specific attention to children on the move – both internally displaced children and refugees.
- Education for parents and community members regarding risks and technological developments is critical. Giving children access to technology can open doors to abuse. Best practices need broader sharing.
- What are the best practices for creating safe spaces for children?
- The G20 process may be the ideal vehicle to reach tech companies, to urge engagement in finding solutions, and to hold them accountable. In terms of GDP loss per child sexual abuse victim, that’s \$1.5 Million. One in ten children are victims. And prevention training costs only \$10 per person. With every training session, one adult will make 10 children safer.

Moderator - Bani Dugal: *Principal Representative of The Bahá’í International Community to the UN*

Ms. Bani Dugal is the Principal Representative of the Bahá’í International Community to the UN. As part of the community of international NGOs at the UN since 1994, she is currently serving on the Steering Committee of the NGO Working Group on the Security Council.

Dugal opened the session by sharing that online sexual exploitation is a primary concern for national and global politics. She added that children are in especially vulnerable positions to these types of exploitations and the exacerbations of migration and refugee status add to the problem.

Dugal started an open-ended discussion among the panelists regarding issues they are familiar with and concerned about currently.

At the end of the discussion, two questions were received from the audience as follows:

1. What are some solutions to the issues faced by vulnerable communities and how can we involve religious leaders?
2. Should technology be restricted by the government or in the home?

Yayah Khisbiyah: *Associate Professor of Psychology, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta*

Yayah Khisbiyah is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, and Founding-Director of the Center for the Studies of Culture and Social Change at UMS. She serves as Steering Committee of the International Network for Peace Psychology (INPP), member for the Bureau of International Relation and Cooperation of Muhammadiyah Central Board (LHKI PP Muhammadiyah) in Jakarta, and expert associate of Ma'arif Institute for Culture and Humanity. Previously she served on the Board of Directors for Center for Peace and Conflict Studies based in Cambodia, national senior expert at Presidential Working Unit for Pancasila (UKP PIP), and Program Director at the Centre for Dialogue and Cooperation Among Civilisations (CDCC). Ms. Khisbiyah received Fulbright Scholarship for her Masters at the University of Massachusetts, and for FASI in Boston College. She pursued conflict resolution and peace studies at Uppsala University in Sweden, and European Peace University in Austria. She is a consultant and partner for various UN's organizations; foreign governments' agencies; local and international CSOs and Faith-based Organizations (FBOs).

Khisbiyah identified the major levels of communication that need to occur in order to facilitate child education: local, provincial, state, and global. She also spoke about her own faith as a Muslim and religious values between Islam and the protection of children. Khisbiyah noted that the world needs both intrafaith and interfaith dialogue as there is much conflict even within religion.

1. Khisbiyah answered the first question from the audience as follows. Children should be taught critical thinking and to question adults and teachers so that they are not vulnerable to abuse. This is because in areas of high poverty, religious teachings often become highly conservative and thus lead to regression and discrimination. Khisbiyah continued that children need to be positive peacemakers rather than to be peaceful.

Hesha Perera: *Arigatou International's End Child Poverty - Knowledge Centre*

Hesha Perera is currently working as the Manager at the End Child Poverty Initiative at Arigatou International. She oversees the End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre based in Sarvodaya, Sri Lanka, and ensures action-oriented information gathering and dissemination between the field experience and End Child Poverty global interventions.

Perera spoke about the role of religious leaders in creating safe spaces for children within their communities. As children find these spaces, they can be strengthened by their religious leaders. One major problem Perera has seen in Sri Lanka is that many people do not know how to use Child Protection Services. One solution she offered to mitigating the risks of abuse was to have more children attending school.

Lenin Raghuvanshi: *People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR)*

Lenin Raghuvanshi is an Indian Dalit rights activist, political thinker and social entrepreneur. He is one of the founding members of People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR), which works for the upliftment of the marginalized sections of the society. His work has been recognized with awards like Gwangju Human Rights Award (2007), the ACHA Star Peace award (2008), the International Human Rights Prize of the city of Weimar (2010), Special Mentions Prize of Human Rights of The French Republic (2018), Public Peace Prize(2018) and Karmaveer Maharatna Award (2019).

Raghuvanshi shared that action opens communities for engagement. Moving beyond dialogue and into action facilitates that collaboration. He also talked about the importance of including technology in education as it allows children to participate in global activities. According to Raghuvanshi, technology has roots in indigenous knowledge that can be harnessed to enhance community engagement.

Shruti Nagvanshi: *People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR)*

Shruti Nagvanshi is an Indian women's and child's rights activist and an advocate for marginalized groups in India, including the untouchable caste known as Dalit and rural women. She is one of the founding members of People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) and a founder of Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Panchayat, a women's forum. She has worked with several other projects to empower minorities.

She founded the People's Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) in 1996, with her husband Lenin Raghuvanshi, historian Mahendra Pratap, musician Vikash Maharaj, and poet Gyanendra Pati. Both she and Lenin are converts to Buddhism. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for her contributions to bettering conditions for world peace and for acting as a driving force to prevent the use of masculinity-driven militarist traditions as a weapon of war and conflict.

Nagvanshi spoke about a need for mass-scale education of help lines, thereby bringing relief and support to vulnerable individuals and communities. She also expressed that there are new needs of social programs to combat the effects of addiction and depression in children related to social media use. She shared that this is also largely connected to the education of parents on safe tech use. Adolescents require education in life skills, which can thereby reduce the amount of child marriages.

Col. Binoj Koshy: *Technical Director, UIDAI, New Delhi*

[no bio available]

Koshy expressed his concerns about the lack of the right of children to have access to children. He felt that a lack of access to technology leads to increased marginalization. Koshy also touched on the new biometric identification technology that India is implementing across the country. This process, Adha, is a mapping technology that can be used to protect and find children.

1. Koshy answered the first question posed by the audience as follows. Gaming environments cross borders into areas where law enforcement is subpar or nonexistent. This creates further concerns for international solutions.
2. Koshy answered the second question as follows. “Cyberhygiene” starts in the home. Parents have the best ability to keep their children safe, and thus have the responsibility to monitor technology use in the home and teach the best modes of safety.

Roshan Dalvi: *High Court, Mumbai*

Roshan Dalvi is a former judge of the Bombay High Court, in Maharashtra, India. She adjudicated a number of widely reported and significant cases during her career as a judge, including the dispute between the children of Shiv Sena leader Bal Thackeray regarding their inheritance, and the challenge to a Maharashtra law forbidding dancers in bars from carrying on their profession.

Dalvi shared that the implications of criminalized adults impacts children for generations. She cautioned that often when there are larger numbers of people, there is less attention to the children. She spoke about three important words to remember when it comes to child exploitation: recognize, resist, and report. She emphasized that it is important to educate children on how to recognize abuse. This is the process of protection and prevention, once it is received in court, it becomes prosecution and punishment.

2. Dalvi answered the second question by the audience as follows: Technology safety should start in the home and end with the government. By this Dalvi suggested a need for communities to design and implement creative solutions according to their needs. This is because solutions are most successful when family centric. The government then has the responsibility to enforce these safety procedures and litigate when necessary.

3D: “Climate”

Location: Joseph Smith Hall

The broad impact of changing climate and issues for intergenerational climate justice are essential to all global agendas, from economic and financial policies to political and cultural relations. Religious actors have central roles, both in the formal spaces such as the COP meetings and national and community policies. Points of light in faith’s contribution to climate actions so far include the faith presence at COP27 and COP28, Patriarch Bartholomew's call to action at the Italy IF20, Laudato Si, the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, and more.

- What role can religious voices play in addressing the very complex issue of climate finance?
- In what ways can interfaith organizations help ensure that under-represented voices such as indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups are represented?
- How can communication between religious leaders and scientific experts be fostered so they can better understand each other's issues and each other's respective languages?

- Are there areas such as advocacy for the Global Biodiversity Framework and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans where religious actors may be in a stronger position to make contributions than in the more grid-locked climate space?
- Are there ways that religious voices could have more impact in the environmental sphere if they came together more effectively in developing unified messages and priorities?
- Are there ways that the soft power of faith could contribute wisdom and ethical frameworks that could support nation-states and government with critical support, ideas, and creativity?

Moderator - Rajashree Joshi: *Program Director, BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune*

Dr. Rajashree Joshi is a prominent figure in the field of rural development and agriculture, serving as the Program Director at the BAIF Development Research Foundation in Pune, India. With her extensive experience and dedication to sustainable rural development, Dr. Joshi has played a pivotal role in improving the lives of rural communities and promoting agricultural sustainability. As the Program Director at BAIF, Dr. Rajashree Joshi oversees and guides the foundation's initiatives aimed at addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by rural populations in India. BAIF is known for its pioneering work in areas such as livestock development, natural resource management, and livelihood enhancement for rural communities. Dr. Joshi's leadership is marked by her commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly practices. Under her guidance, BAIF has implemented innovative agricultural techniques, improved livestock management, and promoted sustainable farming practices that have not only increased agricultural productivity but also conserved the environment. Furthermore, Dr. Rajashree Joshi's work extends to empowering rural women and marginalized communities, fostering social inclusion, and ensuring that the benefits of development reach those most in need. Her dedication to rural development and sustainable agriculture aligns with India's broader goals of achieving food security, poverty reduction, and rural empowerment. Dr. Joshi's visionary leadership and practical approach make her a driving force in the quest for a more sustainable and equitable rural India. In summary, Dr. Rajashree Joshi's role as the Program Director at BAIF Development Research Foundation reflects her commitment to improving the lives of rural communities through sustainable agriculture and rural development initiatives. Her work has a profound and positive impact on the livelihoods of countless individuals and contributes to the overall progress of rural India.

Muhammad Hattah Fattah: *Vice Rector, Universitas Muslim Indonesia*

Fattah is a distinguished academic leader who holds the esteemed position of Vice Rector at Universitas Muslim Indonesia. With his extensive experience and dedication to education, he plays a pivotal role in shaping the university's academic landscape and fostering its mission of providing high-quality education. In his capacity as Vice Rector, Fattah is responsible for overseeing various aspects of the university's operations. This includes academic affairs, administrative functions, and strategic planning. His leadership helps ensure that the institution maintains rigorous academic standards, promotes research and innovation, and provides a nurturing environment for students and faculty alike. Fattah's academic background and

expertise contribute significantly to the university's reputation and its commitment to academic excellence. His leadership also plays a crucial role in developing partnerships and collaborations, both nationally and internationally, to enhance the university's global presence and impact. Furthermore, his leadership reflects a dedication to promoting inclusivity and diversity in higher education, aligning with the values of Universitas Muslim Indonesia. Fattah's vision and strategic direction contribute to the university's ongoing growth and its mission to prepare students for success in an increasingly interconnected and competitive world. In summary, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Hattah Fattah's role as Vice Rector at Universitas Muslim Indonesia underscores his commitment to advancing education, fostering academic excellence, and shaping the future of the institution and its students. His leadership is instrumental in ensuring the university's continued success and positive impact on society

Greshma Pious Raju: *ACWAY*

Raju is a young peacebuilder having several years of experience and Interfaith dialogues and environmental peacebuilding. She started her peacebuilding journey at the age of 14 by hosting Interfaith dialogues among her classmates from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. She earned a bachelor's degree in English language and literature from the University of Corolla and India, and a master of arts in English from Indira Gandhi National open University in India. In 2019, this year's degree International Peace studies from the United Nations University for peace comic Costa rica. For the past two years, she has been working on her own project called Ecopeace Teen Cafe, an online transformative education program for teenagers on caring for the community, environmental protection, social justice and nonviolent communication. Raju works in different national and international organizations to promote youth engagement and peacebuilding and initiated various projects for empowering women in rural areas of the global south. Her interest in environmental peacebuilding and its sustainability developed during her internship at the Secretariat of Earth Charter International. She is an Earth Charter Young Leader. She served as youth ambassador of the United religions Initiative for several years.

Lokesh Muni: *Founder President Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti*

H.H. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji a versatile thinker, writer, poet and social reformer has been continuously making efforts for National character building, development of human values and establishing non- violence, peace and mutual co-operation in the society from last 39 years. He has traveled on foot about 20000 kilometers throughout the country for removing social evils and for propagating moral values. In order to give practical shape to these values he founded "Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti" and thus made his field of activities spread throughout the world. With the establishment of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti he started a strong movement against social evils like abortion of female child, drug addiction, Environmental Pollution etc.

H.H. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Ji was born on April 17th 1961 in Pachpadra City. After completing his formal education he deeply studied Jain, Buddhist, Vedic and other Indian and foreign thoughts (Philosophies). He is well read in Prakrit, Sanskrit, Hindi, English, Gujrati, Kannarese and many other languages. Acharya Dr. Lokesh is a writer, he has written more than dozen books in prose and poetry.

H.H. Acharya Lokesh Muni has been working tirelessly for Interreligious and interfaith harmony. He has been invited to discuss Interreligious Harmony with supreme spiritual leaders of the world including His Holiness Pope Francis, Dalai Lama, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and many more.

H.H. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni was honoured with 'National Communal Harmony Award 2010' by Government of India, in a prestigious ceremony organized at Vigyan Bhawan. Acharya Ji has been honored with 'Ambassador of Peace' at London Parliament. He has been honored by United Peace Federation with 'Ambassador of Peace Award' in 2014 at United Nations Centre for his remarkable contributions towards World Peace & Communal Harmony. In 2006, Hon'ble Smt. Pratibha Patil conferred the famous 'Ethical Honor' of Gulzarilal Nanda Foundation to Dr. Lokesh for his distinguished services in establishing Ahimsa, Peace and mutual trust in the society. He is honored with 'Keys of Milpitas City' Mayor of Milpitas twice for his distinguished contribution in the field of non- violence, peace and mutual co-operation. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni has been honored with Bharat Gaurav Award at U.N. Headquarters, U.S.A. Acharya Lokeshji also honoured in the Assembly of California, USA.

H.H. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni is master in the field of Meditation, Yoga, and Peace Education. His contribution is the mode of popular 'Peace Education' which is a combination of ancient meditation- Yoga and current scientific research. It brings an end to the animal instinct in the human beings and awakens the human and spiritual values. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni has made Indian Culture proud by addressing from many national and international platforms likes Parliament of World's Religions, United Nations Organisation and London Parliament. Acharya Lokesh is the Advisory Forum member of KAICIID (King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue).

Mallickarjun Joshi: *Former Director Science, Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh*

Mallickarjun Joshi is a professor in Geology with over 40 years' of teaching, research, and professional field experience. His current research on integrated environmental understanding includes water resources, seismology, landslides and tectonics. He is interested in addressing social issues through geology particularly the water security. He has about 70 publications in peer reviewed national and international journals and books. He has been involved in a large number of research projects funded by agencies outside the University.

Alok Shrivastava: *Dy. Director, URSC, ISRO, Bangalore Team Chandrayan Mission*

Alok Shrivastava holds the esteemed position of Associate Director at the UR Rao Satellite Center (URSC), located in Bangalore, India. URSC, formerly known as ISRO Satellite Center (ISAC), is a premier institution under the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) dedicated to the design, development, and integration of satellite systems. As an Associate Director at URSC, Alok Shrivastava plays a pivotal role in the leadership and management of the center's activities. His responsibilities likely encompass overseeing satellite development projects, ensuring the successful integration of cutting-edge technologies, and contributing to India's space exploration endeavors. With a background in engineering and space technology, Alok

Shrivastava's career is marked by his expertise in satellite technology and space research. URSC is at the forefront of India's space missions, including satellite launches for communication, Earth observation, and scientific purposes, and his role is instrumental in the success of these missions. Under his leadership, URSC continues to be a driving force in India's space program, contributing significantly to the nation's capabilities in space technology and exploration. Alok Shrivastava's dedication to advancing satellite technology and space research further solidifies India's position as a prominent player in the global space arena. His contributions exemplify the spirit of scientific inquiry and innovation that defines ISRO's mission and vision.

4A: “Protection of Religious and Cultural Heritage”

Location: Mahatma Gandhi Hall

Protecting cultural sites is essential to maintain and preserve a nation's history and identity. Sites include religious monuments and iconographies that are part of every community. The risks extend to attacks of various kinds on intangible aspects of cultural heritage as well as the more concrete attacks on physical sites. Addressing these issues to ensure that cultural sites are protected during conflict and as part of the solution for preventing or resolving conflict has broad implications for peace. Attention needs to be paid not only to hazards to physical sites, but broader issues of protection of intangible cultural heritage.

- When it comes to legal protection and preservation of sacred sites, the museum values of the original site often comes into conflict with the worship value of its use. How should these concerns be addressed?
- How can religious communities help assure that the viewpoints of all stakeholders are taken into account, particularly where governments or policymakers are motivated to erase cultural sites or use them to suit their interests?
- Misconstrued views of identities and new narratives of history are creating conflict now where it didn't exist 50 years ago in some locations. How can religious communities contribute to sound resolution of such issues?
- Are there examples of best practices in predicting potential violence and dangerous behavior surrounding sacred sites and in providing appropriate protections?

Moderator - Peter Petkoff: *Editor, Oxford Journal of Law and Religion*

Petkoff is a Senior Law Lecturer at the Brunel Law School. He is also director of the Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, a collaborative International research network at Regent's Park College, Oxford, and managing editor of the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion. Peter is involved in cutting edge research on the relationship between politics and law and religion

M. C. Rajan: *Director at St. Xavier's Legal Aid Military*

[no bio available]

David Burrows: *Prime Minister's Deputy Special Envoy on Freedom of Religion and Belief*

David Burrowes was appointed the Prime Minister's Deputy Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief on 20 January 2022. David is a solicitor specializing in criminal law. Before being elected Member of Parliament for Enfield Southgate in 2005, David was a local Councillor in the Borough of Enfield, which included being a Cabinet Member for Voluntary and Community Development. As an MP between 2005 and 2017, David championed freedom of religion or belief for all and was a founding member of the All Party Parliamentary Group on International Religious Freedom. Since 2017, David has been the Parliamentary Adviser to Fiona Bruce MP and Chair of the Equity Release Council.

M. Satish Kumar: *Queen's University, Belfast, UK*

Dr. M. Satish Kumar is a renowned scholar in colonial, postcolonial, and decolonial geographies of South Asia, bridging social sciences and humanities to advance Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). His research encompasses three key areas. The first delves into regional and urban development, particularly labor markets' economic policy impacts. The second strand addresses climate change's influence on cultural heritage in fragile ecological zones of Assam, focusing on decarbonization, zero carbon footprints, and indigenous knowledge's role in resilience. The third centers on uncovering underdevelopment's historical roots and decolonization's unfinished agenda in India, studying colonial spaces, subjectivities, and spatial conflicts from the 16th to 19th century, including missionaries' role. Dr. Kumar advises governments, charities, and organizations globally on subjects ranging from international development to Indigenous issues and SDGs. His leadership has earned him positions such as Distinguished Honorary Chair of Global Sustainable Development Goals-India, G20-C20 Summit participation, and membership in ICOMOS/India. He also contributes as a UKRI/AHRC Peer Review College Panel Member and assisted in establishing Future Earth Ireland. Recognized with various awards, including the India-European Union Global Peace and Friendship Award, Dr. Kumar holds esteemed positions and visiting professorships in institutions like Banaras Hindu University and Jawaharlal Nehru University. His contributions extend to inclusivity and diversity initiatives, fostering cross-cultural understanding in Northern Ireland through programs like Young Civic Leaders and BAME Mental Health. His work exemplifies the fusion of research excellence and impactful community engagement.

Siddharth Kak: *Indian Documentary Maker, Television Producer, and Presenter*

Siddharth Kak is a documentary maker, television producer, and presenter, best known as the producer and presenter of Surabhi (1993–2001). Siddharth Kak's Television Company, Cinema Vision India, has won several major Television Awards and three National Awards and has produced more than 100 documentaries and several long running Television series for leading Television Channels in India. In collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Siddharth Kak is, at present, producing and hosting a primetime reality show HUNNARBAAZ! Mission Skill India! for the Prime Minister's Skill Mission. He is also the Founder Trustee of the Surabhi Foundation for Research and Cultural Exchange (Surabhi FORCE) which is developing projects of National Cultural importance He has served variously as a Member and Chairperson (twice) of the National Short Feature Film Awards, Chairperson of the Selection Committee for the

Indian Panorama, a member of the Shilp Guru Selection Committee, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, the International Selection Panel of Judges of the “UNESCO-Seal of Excellence for Handicrafts” Award and member of the Suraj Kund Mela Authority which administers India’s largest annual Crafts Festival. At present he is a member of the Governing Board of the Central University of Jammu and the Executive Council of the Central University of Kashmir. A well known foodie, he has written food columns for many national newspapers and has also produced and directed two very successful food shows, The Good Food Guide and the Star Sunday Lunch. Both these programmes were telecast on Star Television. He has also published a book of poetry Looking in Looking out and compiled a quiz book on India’s heritage Surabhi ke Sau Sawaal.

Vasant Shinde: *Former Vice Chancellor, Deccan University, Pune*

Prof. Vasant Shinde is a distinguished archaeologist renowned for his global contributions. He served as the Vice-Chancellor at Deccan College, Pune, and is the Founding Director General of the National Maritime Heritage Complex in Gandhinagar. Presently, an Adjunct Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, he directs the Rakhigarhi Research Project. With a profound academic journey, he earned his B.A. and Master's degree from the University of Poona and his Ph.D. in Protohistoric Archaeology. Prof. Shinde's impact resonates through his 16 major research projects and excavations across South Asia. His collaborations span institutes worldwide, including those in the USA, UK, Japan, and South Korea. His pioneering work includes DNA analysis and Craniofacial Reconstruction of Harappan people, acknowledged as a global breakthrough in genomics. Founder of the Society of South Asian Archaeology (SOSAA), he fosters young scholars and global collaboration. His administrative expertise shines through his roles as Pro-Vice Chancellor and Vice Chancellor at Deccan College. Prof. Shinde has delivered over 225 lectures in India and 48 abroad, published 13 books, and authored numerous research papers. His commitment to public archaeology and heritage protection is evident through his initiatives in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Haryana. Prof. Shinde's remarkable journey has elevated Indian archaeology's international standing.

4B: “Trafficking”

Location: Gautam Buddha Hall

Human trafficking is a global issue with long and deep roots. Governments and agencies have worked hard to fight this and have taken steps to identify traffickers and transnational criminals. Forced labor, one of the most prominent issues in human trafficking, has become an increasingly important issue in recent decades where activists across the globe are calling for governments to step up and stop forced labor.

- More effective mechanisms need to be found to combat trafficking and forced labor.
- What are the most effective responses? How can profits from trafficking and the associated “tainted money” be restricted or eliminated? How can big tech companies help with blocking trafficking platforms and be held accountable for failing to do so?

- Religious communities and faith leaders must provide a moral compass to governments and legal systems, raising Human Trafficking to the forefront as a crime against humanity.
- The same way cars and planes have safety regulation processes, supply chains should have regulation processes to eliminate trafficking and forced labor.

Moderator - Kevin Hyland: *Former Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, UK; Global Strategic Director, Santa Marta Group*

Kevin Hyland is a former UK police officer serving for 30 years investigating serious crime and heading London Scotland Yard Human Trafficking Unit until 2014. He was appointed as the UK's First Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner until 2018. In September 2022 he was appointed as the Strategy Director (Global) of the Santa Marta Group, a partnership of law enforcement, civil society and faith groups launched at the Vatican in 2014 endorsed by Pope Francis.

Abby Avelino: *International Coordinator Talitha Cumi Unnati*

Sr. Abby Avelino, MM, is the new International Coordinator of Talitha Kum, the International network against Human Trafficking. Sr. Avelino is taking over after Sr Gabriella Bottani, SMC, who has been leading Talitha Kum since 2014 and nurturing its development. The UISG and Talitha Kum gives Sr. Bottani our heartfelt thanks for her devoted work and tireless commitment to the fight against human trafficking. Sr. Avelino, who belongs to the Maryknoll Sisters of Saint Dominic, was born in the Philippines and raised in the United States. Sr. Avelino earned a degree in Engineering and worked as a mechanical/systems engineer before entering missionary religious life. As a missionary, she was assigned to Tokyo, Japan, where she lived for 16 years as a pastoral worker. Sister Abby searched the internet for “Catholic Mission,” and came across the Maryknoll Sisters website. Consequently, she became a Maryknoll Affiliate for two years, during which she met some of the Maryknoll Sisters and her passion grew. After a period of discernment, Sister Abby entered the Congregation in 2006 and made her First Profession of Vows in August of 2008 at the Maryknoll Sisters Center, Maryknoll, New York.

Pallabi Ghosh: *Founder, Impact Dialogue Foundation, New Delhi*

Pallabi is an anti-trafficking activist, ethnographer, and researcher who fights social evils like human trafficking, gender-based violence, child abuse, labor exploitation, and displacement-related conflicts. She is a Master's degree holder in Gender Studies from RGNIYD, Sriperumbudur, and has worked extensively in the social development sector since 2012. Pallabi has actively participated in anti-trafficking raids across India and rescued over 10,000 children, youth, and women. These individuals are survivors of social evils like child marriage, forced marriage, child labor, organ trafficking, arms trafficking, polyandry, and prostitution.

Ajeet Singh: *Director, Guria Foundation*

Hon’ble Ajeet began his activism during college days and got deeply influenced by social justice questions as guaranteed by our Constitution. Subsequently, this led him to register “Guria” to protect women and children from the flesh trade and human trafficking. Guria India began in

1988 when Ajeet Singh, adopted three children from the red light area. His recent work includes formulation of much talked legislation on human trafficking led by Inter-ministerial committee and NHRC SOP for combating trafficking where as a member of the Committees, he played an important role in designing the policy from the perspective of sex trafficking. He has been invited to several judiciary and parliament led processes to assist the Government – to name a few: Allahabad High Court Juvenile Justice Committee, Parliament standing committee on the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Amendment Bill in 2006 and NCW enquiry committee for probing girls being trafficked. He has also been instrumental in sensitizing Judiciary, NGOs, advocates, police & Anti Human Trafficking Units on human trafficking through the National Legal Services Authority of India, National Institute of Public Cooperation & Child Development and UNICEF.

4C: “Global Youth and Peace Dialogue”

Location: World Peace Dome

In this session, each speaker shared about two-three minutes on a topic that pertained to peace. The students from MITWPU addressed the other MITWPU students in the audience to make stands for peace and be leaders in their individual communities and areas of expertise as they enter the economic world. ACWAY speakers touched largely upon issues of concern in their home countries. BYU-Hawaii student topics are included below.

Note: More details were not recorded during this session as all speakers were on stage together in a discussion format including all BYU-Hawaii student representatives.

Moderator - Milind Patre: *Associate Dean, Department of Peace Studies, MITWPU*

I am a Spiritual & Motivational Trainer and a Public Speaker. Watching the monotonous lives of people around, I became aware that most of the people just live a mechanical life, a machine like life, a life conditioned by societies, families, religion & people never become aware about their conditioning. They simply repeat and repeat unconsciously, thinking, that’s the only way, and usually the only right way. After searching for solutions in many literature, I came to the conclusion that “Only MEDITATION can bring this awareness that they are not aware about what they are doing”. They are simply repeating their past and hence the problems persists. I decided to link Education & Motivation with Meditation and creatively designed many simple musical meditations using the current music’s available with meditative awareness. My meditations suits to all generations; from pupil to principals, from peon to officers. I have created India’s 1st Emotional Management Workshop with Musical Mediation “TURNING POINT”. Tens of thousands of people have benefited from this immensely value driven workshop, it’s deep & fundamental life altering messages and the soothing and healing Musical Meditations, which helps to incorporate these Principles or Truths of live even more deeper levels of consciousness, so that people can begin to apply them in their day to day life.

Rawaad Mahyub: *Executive Director, ACWAY*

Rawaad Mahyub is the Director of ‘A Common Word Among the Youth’ (ACWAY), a global youth movement delivering local activities to promote interreligious and intercultural peace and understanding. Rawaad has been working in the field of humanitarian and social development for over 15 years, delivering projects in adult education, livelihoods, social mobility and health. He has developed initiatives to improve global collaboration between international and local actors in the aid sector and advocates for local humanitarian organisations on issues of aid financing to decision making and delivery. He is also passionate about engaging young people to promote change through civic activism. He graduated with a Bachelors and Masters degree in Chemistry from York University and an Executive MBA from the University of Birmingham. He is originally from Yemen, lives in the UK and has two children.

Panji Saputra: *Head of National Sport Affairs Division, Indonesia*

Experienced on Political and Government Affairs with more than 10 years working in the Presidential Office. Advanced in Policy Analysis, Politics, Border and Maritime Issues, Government Liaison, and International Relations Affairs. Strong business development professional with a Bachelor of Political Science focused on Asia Pacific Cooperation.

Jeff and Janet Nelson: *Senior Fellows, International Center for Law and Religion Studies*

Jeff and Janet Nelson are senior fellows of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies (ICLRS) at the J Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University (BYU). Jeff received his bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of Utah, and his JD from the J Reuben Clark Law School at BYU, and also studied at Universität Konstanz, in Konstanz, Germany. He practiced law, primarily in banking and finance, in New York City and Germany for 32 years. He was then Area legal counsel for the Europe Area of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, for 4 years. He then acted as Senior Counsel for the Church for 2 years in Salt Lake City, Utah, overseeing the legal affairs of various departments of the Church. He then became a Senior Fellow of ICLRS in July 2022 after affiliating with ICLRS for over 15 years.

Zahra Al Hilaly: *ACWAY*

Zahra is an internationally recognised vocalist for change. She is an advocate for gender equality, and peace and security. She is the Co-Founder of the Christmas Island Youth Project, a leadership program intended to elevate the voices of Christmas Islanders in Australian policy. She has trained thousands of young people to become leaders from all walks of life, despite challenges obtained during their migration and refugee journey. Zahra is also the chairperson of the Western Australia Government Youth Council representing thousands of young people through policy. She has worked on policy for government regarding gender equality, security and refugee and migrant issues. She is also a journalist and has been published by Vogue, SBS Australia and Al Jazeera, for her work in security and refugee affairs. In 2021 she was recently named the inaugural under 25's Asian-Australian and in 2022, the Young Multicultural Person of the Year in Western Australia.

Zainab Chamoun: *ACWAY*

Lebanese freelance journalist and researcher based in Beirut. Her work focuses on community-led development, religion and politics, and interfaith issues

Alek Barovic: *ACWAY*

Alek Barovic is a Montenegrin political scientist, columnist, and civic activist. He has a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Montenegro. He is currently a master's student in the field of International Humanitarian Action with a specialization in Armed Conflicts at University College Dublin and the University of Warsaw. He writes weekly columns for Portal Analitika, one of the leading Montenegrin media. He is a member of the Main-board of the Social Democratic Party of Montenegro. He is the winner of the prestigious Erasmus Mundus scholarship. He currently interns at two organizations – Genocide Watch and the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention. His areas of scientific interest are genocide studies, mass atrocities, armed conflicts, and nationalism. He published several scientific papers.

Yaqeen Sikander: *ACWAY*

Yaqeen Ul Haq Ahmad Sikander was born and raised in Kashmir, India. He is a young, dynamic & versatile person – an Activist, Author, Motivational Speaker, Spiritualist, Freelance Writer, and Youth Counsellor. He is an ardent learner of many disciplines like Psychology, Islamic Theology and jurisprudence, Comparative Religion, Philosophy and logic, Ethics, Motivation and emotion, Interpersonal Relations, Counselling, Leadership, Debating, and Sexuality. Born on 6th June 1991, he is the son of a businessman and the youngest among the three siblings. His mother, a homemaker and a postgraduate in Political Science raised him up along with his brothers and laid a strong academic and moral foundation for him. He wrote the book *The True Purpose of Life*. The exegesis of what has the author mentioned in this book is that Life is really a precious asset and a trust from God. Life is really worth living only we realize its real purpose and our own self in this universe. Without knowing the purpose of life, life becomes aimless without any final goal.

Himanshu Panday: *ACWAY*

[no bio available]

Greshma Pious Raji: *ACWAY*

Greshma Pious Raju is a young peacebuilder having fifteen years of experience in interfaith dialogues and environmental peacebuilding. Greshma started her peacebuilding journey at the age of thirteen by hosting interfaith dialogues among her classmates from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. She earned a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from the University of Kerala in India, and a Master of Arts in English from Indira Gandhi National Open University in India. In 2019, she earned her Master's degree in International Peace Studies from the United Nations University for Peace, Costa Rica. For the past two years, she is working on her own project called Ecopeace Teen Cafe, an online transformative education program for teenagers, where she focuses on caring for the community, environmental protection, social justice and nonviolent communication. Greshma worked in different national and international organizations to promote youth engagement in peacebuilding and initiated various projects for

empowering women in rural areas of the global south. Her interest in environmental peacebuilding and sustainability developed during her internship at Earth Charter International. Greshma is an Earth Charter Young Leader. She is exploring new paths to strengthening interconnectedness among youth through online platforms. She believes small acts of love and compassion will create positive changes in the global community.

Aardra Prasanna Manoj: *ACWAY*

[no bio available]

Sophia Lestina Gunter: *BYU-Hawaii*

Gunter spoke about the role of Pacific island indigenous faith practices in conflict mediation. She drew upon the Hivā model of conflict mediation as an example of how traditional beliefs can influence the way indigenous communities view conflict transformation. She invited the audience to consider their own faith practices and how those influence they ways they view conflict transformation, then to use that background as a method for doing more good than harm in mediation spaces.

Aaron James: *BYU-Hawaii*

James spoke about the connections between religion, technology, and ethics. He drew upon the role of religion as a moral compass for technological advances and how it can help to maintain ethical considerations within states and cross-borders.

Prashanth Ramishetty: *BYU-Hawaii*

Ramishetty touched upon the meaning of the word peacemakers and what it looks like for individuals to be active peacemakers. He drew upon examples of faith leaders of different religious backgrounds who had various definitions of peace. Ramishetty emphasized the role every person has to be informed on evolving peace spaces in order to be influences for good.

Supriya Babasaheb Thorat: *MITWPU*

I am able to handle multiple tasks on a daily basis. I use a creative approach to problem solving. I am a dependable person who is great at time management. I am always energetic and eager to learn new skills. I have experience working as part of a team and individually. I am an enthusiastic, self-motivated, reliable, responsible and hard working person. I am a mature team worker and adaptable to all challenging situations. I am able to work well both in a team environment as well as using my own initiative.

Andrés Ramos Bonilla: *MITWPU*

About my professional records I can said that I am an Information Systems Engineer focused on Enterprise Architecture. My professional roadmap started almost ten years ago as software programmer, moving rapidly into software analyst and software designer due my high abstraction skills. Until last years I was working as offshore Solution Architect for a Global Insurance company and now I am working as headcount Application Integration Lead in the same company, leading a group of people responsible of maintain finance & BI systems up and

running, as well as improving these systems to align with the enterprise objectives. I have been programmer since I was 12 years old, I have developed software in C, C++, QBasic, Visual Basic, Java, PHP, ASP, C# .NET, BizTalk also using scripting languages such as java script, jQuery, ActionScript among others and different database engines like SQL Server, MySQL, Oracle, PostgreSQL, DB2 and Netezza. I have strong knowledge of development methodologies, project management guided by PMI and process improvement methodologies. Informal training in modeling languages such BPMN, UML, ArchiMate, and other ECore and MOF based languages. Knowledge and experience in enterprise architecture frameworks such as TOGAF and other EA approaches. My research has been settled around Enterprise Architecture, Enterprise modeling and Automated enterprise-model analysis.

Dnyaneshwari Nilesh Virole: *MITWPU*

[no bio available]

Uday Jain: *MITWPU*

[no bio available]

Dharini Nashikkar: *MITWPU*

If you want to move forward in life and grow, becoming a competition to self is more important is what I believe. I am a student learning to develop and share my passion with the world. I am a student at Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University, Pune and am currently studying in the Third Year. I am currently pursuing UIUX as my specialization here. I am currently working in Ed Era and Emerging Talent as a Graphic Designer.

Om Joshi: *MITWPU*

[no bio available]

“Valedictory Session”

Location: World Peace Dome

Recapitulating the themes of the forum

Video review of the G20 Interfaith Forum

Video Message from Governor Dattatreya

Felicitation of guests and delegates

Note: BYU-Hawaii students and faculty advisor left during this session in order to catch their flight.

W. Cole Durham Jr.: *President, G20 Interfaith Forum, USA*

Rahul V. Karad: *Managing Trustee & Executive president, MAEER's MIT and Executive President, MITWPU, Chief Initiator of NLC, BCS, NTC*

Narayan Bablani: *Vice President, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Writer, Social Worker, Founder President, Sindhi Heritage Foundation*

Bandaru Dattatreya: *Governor, Haryana*

“India to Brazil Handover Session”

Location: World Peace Dome

Note: BYU-Hawaii students and faculty advisor left prior to this session in order to catch their flight.

Handover at the hands of W. Cole Durham Jr. and Vishwanath D. Karad

Roderigo Vitorino Souza Alves: *Chair, 2024 G20 Interfaith Forum Local Organizing Committee*

Alexandre Brasil Carvalho Da Fonseca: *Ministry of Education, Federative Republic of Brazil, Director of Higher Education Policies and Programs*

Irenilda Aparecida Maria Francisco: *General Coordinator for the Promotion of Religious Freedom National Secretariat for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights, Ministry of Human Rights and Citizenship*

Ivo Pereira da Silva: *Analyst for Social Policies, General Coordination for the promotion of Religious Freedom, General Directorate for the Promotion of Human Rights*

Fabio Nascimento: *Translator*

“Concluding Thoughts and Transition Reflections”

Location: World Peace Dome

Note: BYU-Hawaii students and faculty advisor left prior to this session in order to catch their flight.

Reading of the G20 Interfaith Forum Final Statement

W. Cole Durham Jr.: *President, G20 Interfaith Forum USA*