

Religions for Peace



AT A CROSSROADS

An Intergenerational and Multireligious Response
to the Social and Environmental Crises



Manresa 2022 International Multireligious Forum

28-30 November 2022

Auditori Espai Plana de l'Om

AT A CROSSROADS a project of:

Religions for Peace



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The unexpected stay of St. Ignatius of Loyola in Manresa while on route to Jerusalem was a time of personal conversion. It was a thorough transformation of his whole being, and its impact on aspects such as spirituality, personal values and peace continue to be relevant throughout the world. 500 years ago, in Manresa, St. Ignatius wrote the *Spiritual Exercises* to encourage this experience in others. Today, the call to embody these values of peace and goodness are shared by other social, religious, and interreligious movements as essential for the creation of more inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities (SDG 11).

Today's world is both similar to and different from that experienced by St. Ignatius 500 years ago. The human family has made tremendous advances over the course of these years. However, global challenges remain, some even caused by this progress. Many still suffer poverty, injustice, lack of necessities, and the current health and economic crises from COVID have paralysed the world. Nevertheless, true peace, dialogue, and social commitment continue to be at the heart of all the religious traditions of the world.

We are especially confronted with the environmental crisis within cities, which cannot be adequately understood without seeing and addressing the ecological and social dimensions jointly. Certain modes of exploitation of the earth's resources for development, especially urban, impede our progress toward a common well-being across generations. The unique urban socio-environmental crisis that we are experiencing requires us to act before the tipping point. We have an opportunity to take another path, to build a better future of integral human development. The keys are relationships and collaboration between different actors of life (religious, governmental, non-governmental).

Religions for Peace International, alongside the Manresa City Council, and *Religions for Peace* Spain-GTER, has taken up this transformative call by organising three days of meetings, reflections, and workshops in the city of Manresa in celebration and commemoration of this historic event, looking to a future of multi-religious collaboration. Under the theme, "*At a Crossroads: A Multireligious Intergenerational Response to the Social and Environmental Crises,*" this event seeks to gather and catalyse an intergenerational and multireligious movement to establish a new model for sustainable, just, inclusive, and peaceful cities.

The Ignatian Way

19:00 CET

Forging a New Path: Multireligious and Intergenerational Advocacy for a Sustainable World

Moderator: **Prof. Dr. Joan Hernández Serret**, Professor of Sociology at Universidad Internacional de Catalunya (UIC)

- **Hon. Ela Gandhi**, Trustee of Gandhi Development Trust; Co-President of *Religions for Peace (Virtual)*
- **H.E. Sheikh Shaban Mubaje**, Grand Mufti, Uganda Muslim Supreme Council; Co-Moderator, *Religions for Peace-African Council of Religious Leaders*
- **Ms. Ligia Matamoros**, Co-Chair of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Network of *Religions for Peace*; Member International Youth Committee



St. Ignatius of Loyola

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Day 1 – Identifying the Crisis

Despite holding great potential for promoting intercultural exchange, social development and innovation, cities are in crisis. Inequality and discrimination transform what could be sites of human flourishing into sites of social stratification and exclusion. Furthermore, many cities are governed by a mode of consumption and development that contributes to pollution and climate change while leaving the most marginalised vulnerable to the consequences of environmental degradation. This forum begins with a reflection on the crises of cities and the potential for interfaith actors to find a solution to make SDG 11— “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”—a reality.

9:00 – 10:40 **Opening Plenary**

SDG 11 and Interfaith Partnerships: What is the Role of Multireligious Collaboration in Building Resilient, Sustainable, and Inclusive Cities?

Moderator: **Dr. Renz Argao**, President and CEO of Argao Health Inc. and Coordinator of the *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee

- **Ms. Bani Dugal**, Principal Representative to the United Nations, Bahá’í International Community; Co-President, *Religions for Peace*
- **Rabbi David Rosen**, International Director, Department of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee; Co-President, *Religions for Peace* (Virtual)
- **Sr. Agatha Chikelue**, Nun of the Daughters of Mother Mary of Mercy; Co-Chair Nigerian & African *Religions for Peace* Women of Faith Network; Executive Director Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP)
- **Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, President**, Divine Shakti Foundation; Secretary General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance; Co-President, *Religions for Peace*
- **H.E. Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam**, Senior Representative of His Eminence Grand Imam of Al-Azhar; Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders; Co-President, *Religions for Peace*
- **Mr. Manuel Arturo Coña Pirul**, Vice-President of Chilean Association of Interreligious Dialogue (ADIR) and Spiritual Representative of the Mapuche People

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11:00 – 12:00 Panel II

Rights and Duties: The Role of Faith Actors in Ensuring Access to Vital Services in Cities

Co-Moderators: **Mr. Elias Szczytnicki**, Secretary General of the Latin American and Caribbean Council of Religious Leaders – *Religions for Peace*; **Dr. Karen Hernandez**, Programme Officer of Partnerships and Interreligious Education, *Religions for Peace*

- **Maha Shuru Vasu Bandhu**, Faith Community Coordinator for Arizona Faith Network
- **Ms. Ana-Maria Daou**, Head of the Research and Courses' Unit, Adyan Foundation; Deputy Coordinator, *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee (virtual)
- **Dr. Renz Argao**, President and CEO of Argao Health Inc. and Coordinator of the *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee
- **Mr. Pietro Bartoli**, Programme Director of Solidarity Project
- **Ms. Greshma Raju**, Founder of Ecopeace Teen Café
- **Mr. Shameer Rishad**, Youth Chairperson of *Religions for Peace* India



Views of Manresa



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Day 2 – Illuminating the Potential and Reimagining the Possible

We reflect on ways of overcoming social and environmental crises to realise cities' potential to be spaces for human connection and development. Diverse stakeholders including faith leaders, civic leaders, women of faith, youth activists, academics, and secular civil society members come together to re-envision what cities can be.

9:00 – 10:40 Panel III

Multisectoral and Multireligious Collaboration to Realise Sustainable Cities for All

Co-Moderators: **Dr. Francis Kuria**, Secretary General of the African Council of Religious Leaders – *Religions for Peace*; **Mr. Thomas Keppen**, *Religions for Peace* Programme Officer for Interreligious Councils and Collaboration

- **Prof. Dr. Amany Lubis**, Rector of Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University and Member of *Religions for Peace* International Women's Coordinating Committee
- **Rev. Taishi Kato**, Senior Priest of Hattori Tenmangu Shrine.
- **Ms. Merylene Chitharai**, Member of *Religions for Peace* Youth Media Team, South Africa
- **Rev. Peter Jörgensen**, Partnerships Development Officer for *Religions for Peace* Europe
- **Prof. Jordi Solé**, Professor in the Department of Earth and Ocean Dynamics at Universitat de Barcelona and IPCC Reviewer.
- **Mr. Pol Huguet i Estrada**, Councilor of Sustainability of City Hall of Manresa

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11:00 – 12:00 Panel III

Are Leaders Prepared to Implement the *Multireligious and Multisectoral Global Pact for the Development of Resilient, Sustainable, Safe, and Inclusive Cities?*

Moderator: **Mr. Jimmy Obuya**, Global Coordinator for the Faith for Positive Change for Children, Families and Communities (FPCC) Initiative

- **Mr. Christian Kazadi Lupemba**, Chairperson of *Religions for Peace* Interfaith Youth Network of DRC
- **Ms. Sarah Oliver**, Associate Director of Global Programmes, United Religions Initiative
- **Dr. Evelyn Zentner de Falck**, Chairperson of ICJW Interfaith and Intercultural Committee and Coordinator of *Religions for Peace* Latin America
- **Mr. Mohamed Ajana**, Secretary of the Islamic Commission of Spain CIE
- **The Very Rev. Stavrophor Joan Garcia**, Archpriest of Spain and Portugal of the Orthodox Church of Serbia

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Day 3 – Solutions and Proposals

Towards *The Manresa 2022 Multireligious and Multisectoral Global Pact for the Development of Resilient, Sustainable, Safe, and Inclusive Cities*.

9:00 – 10:30 Panel V

Visionary Teaching: Sharing Ways Faith Communities Can Offer Solutions by Working Together

Moderator: **Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Naurath**, Chair of *Religions for Peace* Germany

- **Fr. Andrew Yang Ding**, General Secretary of the Catholic Diocese of Chongqing (*Virtual*)
- **Rabbi Amirit Rosen**, Rabbi of Kehilat Moreshet Avraham (*Virtual*)
- **Ms. Emina Frljak**, Programme Coordinator of Youth for Peace and Member of *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee
- **Ms. Cinde Lee**, Chair of *Religions for Peace* United Kingdom
- **Mr. Rafael Gude**, Research Fellow with the Social Change and Transgressive Studies Project at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY (*Virtual*)
- **H.E. Rev. Mons. Francesc Conesa**, President of the Episcopal Subcommission for Interreligious Dialogue of the Spanish Episcopal Conference

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11:00 – 13:00 Closing Ceremony

Presentation of *The Manresa 2022 Multireligious and Multisectoral Global Pact for the Development of Resilient, Sustainable, Safe, and Inclusive Cities*

Co-Moderators: **Prof. Azza Karam**, Secretary General of *Religions for Peace* and **Prof. Dr. Joan Hernández Serret**, Professor of Sociology at the International University of Catalonia (UIC)

- **Reading of the Pact:**
 - **Ms. Ligia Matamoros**, Co-Chair of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Network of *Religions for Peace* and Member of International Youth Committee
 - **Ms. Merylene Chitharai**, Member of *Religions for Peace* Youth Media Team, South Africa
 - **Mr. Shameer Rishad**, Youth Chairperson of *Religions for Peace* India
 - **Dr. Renz Argao**, President and CEO of Argao Health Inc. and Coordinator of the *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee

- **The Honourable Mr. Marc Aloy i Guàrdia**, Mayor of Manresa, Catalonia

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