

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERFAITH HARMONY



Organized by

**Subaltern's Alliance for Peace (SAP)**



In association with

**Indian Academy Degree College  
(Autonomous)**

Supportive Partners

India Peace Center

IARF Karnataka Branch

Human Rights Resource Center

World Fellowship of Inter Religious Council

World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation

Karnataka Communal Harmony Forum

United Religious Initiative (URI), Bangalore South

National Assembly of Religious Brothers India

Centre for Amenities Rehabilitation and Education

Peace Makers

**Theme : “Interfaith Initiatives in Promoting  
Peace & Reconciliation with Specific Reference  
to Religious Values & Tradition.”**

**Date** : 8 & 9 Feb, 2019

**Venue** : Indian Academy Degree College,  
Bangalore, India

**Subaltern's Alliance for Peace (SAP)**

BIRDS Campus, Geddalahalli, Kothanur Post,

Bangalore – 77, Karnataka, India.

E-Mail: [birdsbrothers@gmail.com](mailto:birdsbrothers@gmail.com) / Ph: #91-7619202757

## About Subaltern's Alliance for Peace (SAP)

Subaltern's Alliance for Peace (SAP) is a network (an apex forum) of NGOs working for promotion of peace and reconciliation among marginalised communities, particularly Dalits, Adivasis and Minorities. This initiative is supported by Mensen met een Missie, The Netherlands. SAP envisages building resilience among local communities to counter violence and create a culture of peace. The over-arching Goal of SAP is to "contribute towards a peaceful & dignified coexistence of Dalits, Adivasis and other minorities with other communities exercising their rightful claims / entitlements".

Brothers Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS), Bangalore

Neethi Vedhi, Kerala

Dynamic Education and Empowerment Promoting Agency for Marginalized (DEEPAM), TN

Good Shepherd Convent, Amaravathi, Andhra Pradesh

Dalit Human Rights Center (DHRC), Tamilnadu

Center for Awareness and Reintegration for Empowerment (CARE), Andhra Pradesh

Mahalir Vidiyal Trust's, Tamilnadu

Jagruthi, Mysore

Vimukthi Vidya Samasthe, Karnataka

## The Indian Academy Degree College - Autonomous

The Indian Academy Degree College (IADC) started with a modest beginning in the year 1998. Currently, it is poised to have student strength of more than 3000 – an amazing growth by all standards. The student profile spans over multi-cultural and diverse backgrounds ranging from over 37 countries and across & over 10 states of India. An important feature of IADC is that it is always student – centric in academic design and delivery, besides giving a wide academic flexibility to the students. The academic features have enabled the college to be accredited by NAAC with 'A' grade and to obtain TUV Rheinland ISO 9001:2008 certifications. The university ranks which the students get every year are testimony of what the college stands for and stands by.

## About the Conference

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to mark February 1-7 as World Interfaith Harmony Week. In honor of this week, SAP is organising a conference on the theme "Interfaith Initiatives in Promoting Peace and Reconciliation" on February 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Bangalore.

In today's world, it is widely believed that religion fosters hatred and violence. But the reality is that religious people and organizations have often been at the forefront of interfaith relations and restoring peace. As many long-running conflicts remain unresolved, the present society is looking for strategies for effective peace building and conflict resolution. The need for Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace is a theme that has attracted increased attention amongst governments, UN agencies, religious communities, spiritual movements, civil society and humanists since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The effects of globalization processes, international travel and migration, the fast expanding capacities of communication, tensions amongst diverse ethnic and religious groups, the realities of war, worldwide threats of terrorism, and the grave consequences of global climate change, have all highlighted the urgent need to deepen the cooperation and understanding

between cultures, religions, and civilizations. Multi-stakeholder partnerships need to be developed to respond effectively to these global crises, enabling the shared engagement of very diverse constituencies.

Promoting peace and prevention of communal crimes require different approaches, from preventive to proactive actions oriented to bringing about positive and lasting change in the structures, systems, and policies that perpetuate conflict and injustice. It is important that religious leaders and faith-based organizations promote tolerance and respect for diversity, interfaith dialogue and cooperation with the purpose of preventing extremism and challenging fundamentalist rhetoric. In particular, religious leaders play a paramount role in preventing and curbing incitement to national, racial and religious hatred that can be predominant in societies where religious tensions and violence are prevalent.

This conference aims to strengthen efforts of interreligious and intercultural understanding and cooperation by engaging a variety of actors. It also seeks to promote a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, advance multi-stakeholder coalitions, including with the private sector on related issues, further strengthen the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, and translate shared values into action in order to achieve sustainable peace in today's society.

Participants will learn about the conflicts that have shaped our world, region and country, and efforts to prevent and resolve such conflicts. It helps to identify and showcase the policy and societal contributions of faith traditions and philosophies on leading national religious conflict issues. It creates opportunities for communication and relationship building, and raises the profile of participating communities, groups, and organizations. The aim is to develop recommendations on priority conflicts that draw on interfaith insight and experience. Particular attention is paid to ways that religious communities can contribute to the host communities' priorities. Dialogue and networking facilitated by this conference aim to raise the level and effectiveness of religious input on major Peace development with recommendations and action geared to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a key outcome.

### **Objectives of the Conference**

- Gain perspectives on peace building and conflict resolution in today's context, and develop a conceptual apparatus for understanding contemporary peace building efforts, especially in India
- Understand concepts that are considered in detail including violence, truce, justice, trauma, peacekeeping, reconciliation, anomie, truth, healing and resolution, with special attention to those situations where peace processes have consistently failed to achieve their goals.
- Strengthen ecumenical advocacy for peace by bringing key stakeholders together to share existing initiatives and best practices on advocacy for peace in India.
- Develop a joint advocacy plan for peacebuilding in India considering national, regional and international factors contributing to the conflict

### **Program Schedule**

**08/02/2019**

(09.30am)

- Opening Ceremony

Panel Discussion - I

- "Role of religious education in facilitating development, justice and peace"

- Session - I - Faith and religion in strengthening secularism and democracy in the context of growing polarization
  - Panel Discussion - II - Inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue – a precursor for peace and reconciliation
- 09/02/2019**
- Session - II - The Role of the Religious Leaders in politics in promoting the culture of peace
  - Panel Discussion - III - How religious teachings support the young adults to come together to promote peace
  - Session - III - “Challenges in promoting peace and harmony in today’s socio-political context”
  - Session - IV - Root causes of violence in Indian society and how religious faith can encounter it
- (03.30pm) - Closing Ceremony

### **World Interfaith Week**

The World Interfaith Harmony Week is based on UNGA Resolution A/65/PV.34 for a worldwide week of interfaith harmony. It was proposed in 2010 by HM King Abdullah II and HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan. The World Interfaith Harmony Week will fall on the first week of February of every year and aims to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith.

Recognizing that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding,

1. Reaffirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace;
2. Proclaims the first week of February of every year the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs;
3. Encourages all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world’s churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, based on love of God and love of one’s neighbour or on love of the good and love of one’s neighbour, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

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<b>Registration</b>		
	With Accommodation	Without Accommodation
Adults	1500	500
Students	750	150
Register before 5 <sup>th</sup> February, 2019		
<b>Venue</b>		
Indian Academy Degree College, Kalyan Nagar, Hennur Cross, Bangalore		

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERFAITH HARMONY

## RESOURCE PERSONS



**Dr. Wooday P. Krishna**

President, Karnataka Gandhi Smarak Nidhi  
Gen Secretary, Seshadripuram Educational Trust  
President, IARF, Karnataka Branch



**Dr. Chand Bhardwaj Singh**

Ambassador, Peace and Harmony,  
New Delhi



**Rev. Dr. Packiam**

Secretary General, Interfaith  
Coalition for Peace, New Delhi  
Director, Henry Martyn Institute, Hyderabad



**Dr. Somasekhar Thummala**

Chairman, Indian Academy Degree  
College - Autonomous



**Dr. Homi B. Dhalla**

President, World Zarathushti Cultural  
Foundation, Mumbai



**Mr. Michael Fernandes**

President, Hind Mazdoor Kisan  
Panchayat



**Srm. Kathyayini**

Executive trustee CIVIC, Bangalore



**Mr. Ashok**

State President, Karnataka Communal  
Harmony Forum, Karnataka

## RESOURCE PERSONS



**Sri. Umar Shariff**

President, Discover Islam  
Educational Trust, Bangalore



**Prof. Sardar H.S. Bhatia**

State Secretary - Gurudwara,  
Sri Guru Singh Saba, Bangalore



**Dr. Mythili P. Rao**

Dean, School of Humanities and Social  
Sciences, Jain University



**Dr. Justin Antony**

Member, UN Youth Council, India



**Rev. Dr. Fr. Yesumarian**

Convener, Subaltern's Alliance  
for Peace



**Prof. Dr. Reka Jain**

Ret. Prof. Jain University, Bangalore



**Ms. Anjana T.J**

Asst. Manager - Talent Sourcing Flexi  
Partners, Bangalore



**Mr. Ambrose Christy**

Co-ordinator, MMM Program, India



**Ms. Mathangi Kalithas**

Programme Asst. International Study and  
Life Center, Lady Doak College, Madurai



**Mr. Dinesh Rao**

Secretary - State Baha'i Council of  
Karnataka

## **Inaugural Celebration: (08 February, 2019 at 09.30am)**

**Inaugural Address** : **Dr. Chand Bhardwaj Singh**  
Ambassador, Peace and Harmony, New Delhi

**Keynote Address** : **Dr. Wooday P. Krishna**  
President, Karnataka Gandhi Smarak Nidhi  
Gen Secretary, Seshadripuram Educational Trust  
President, IARE, Karnataka Branch

**Presided by** : **Dr. Somasekhar Thummala**  
Chairman, Indian Academy Degree College

**Guests of Honour** : **Dr. Homi B. Dhallia**  
President, World Zarathushti Cultural  
Foundation, Mumbai  
**Mr. Ambrose Christy**  
Co-ordinater, MMM Program, India  
**Rev. Dr. Yesumarian**  
Convener, Subaltern's Alliance for Peace, India

**Dr. Reka Jain**  
Ret. Proff. Jain University, Bangalore

**Rev. Dr. Packiam**  
Secretary General, Interfaith Coalition for Peace,  
New Delhi, Director, Henry Martyn Institute,  
Hyderabad

**Dr. Justin Antony**  
Member, UN Youth Council

**Sri. Umar Shariff**  
President, Discover Islam Educational Trust,  
Bangalore

**Dr. Kasta Dip**  
Director, India Peace Center, Nagpur

**Rev. Fr. Roby Kannanchira CMI**  
Secretary General, World Fellowship of Inter  
Religious Council



## **Closing Ceremony: (09 February, 2019 at 03.30 pm)**

**Presidential Address : Mr. Michael Fernandes**

President, Hind Mazdoor Kisan Panchayat

**Keynote Address : Dr. Homi B. Dhalla**

President, World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation, Mumbai

**Guests of Honour : Mr. Ambrose Christy**

Co-ordinator, MMM Program, India

**Dr. Chand Bhardwaj Singh**

Ambassador, Peace and Harmony, New Delhi

**Mr. Ashok**

State President, Karnataka Communal Harmony Forum

**Mr. Manohar Ranganathan**

Director, Centre for Amenities Rehabilitation and Education

**Srm. Kathyayini**

Executive trustee CIVIC, Bangalore

**Dr. Jerome Xavier**

Principal, Indian Academy Degree College Autonomous

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### **Conference Committee**

**Br. Albert Xaviour SHJ**

**Dr. Jerome Xavier**

**Fr. Yesumarian**

**Fr. Stephen Methew**

**Ms. Teringwar Jangvei**

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