



ECOPEACE TEEN CAFE
ECOPEACE GLOBAL SUMMIT
&
WORLD INTERFAITH
HARMONY WEEK
CELEBRATIONS

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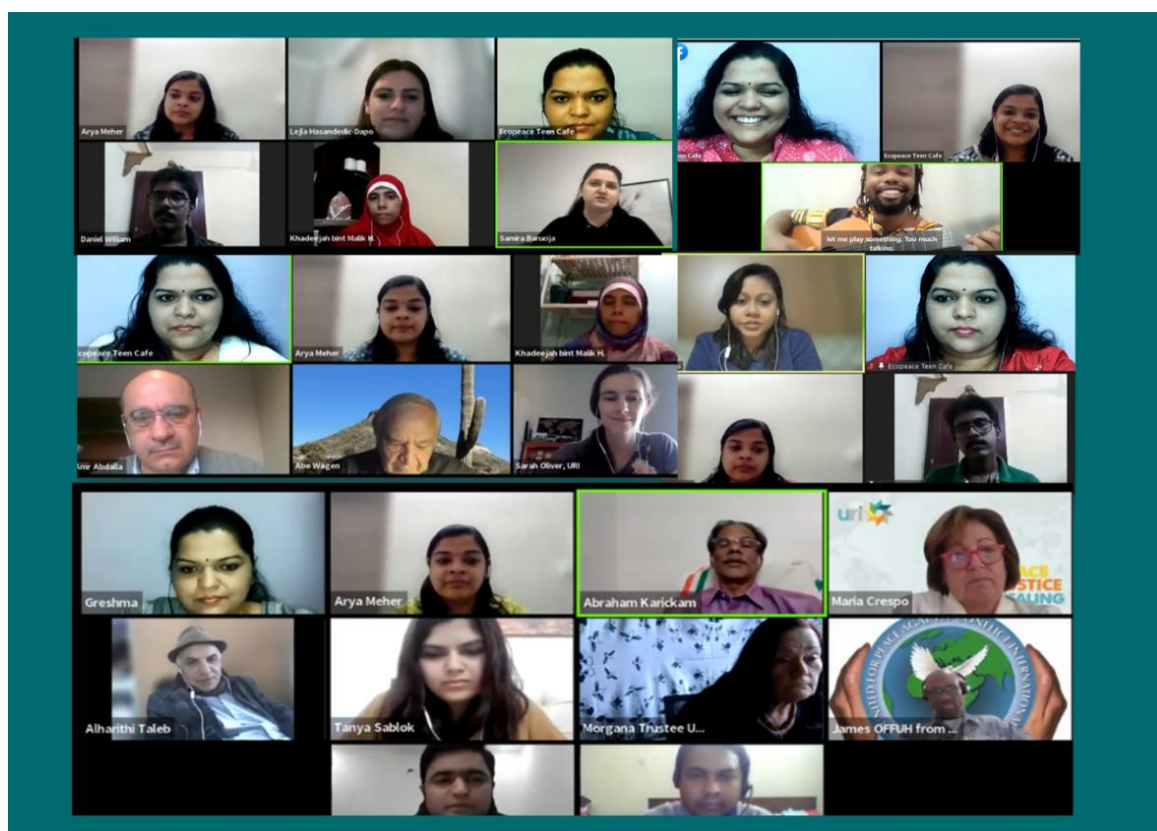
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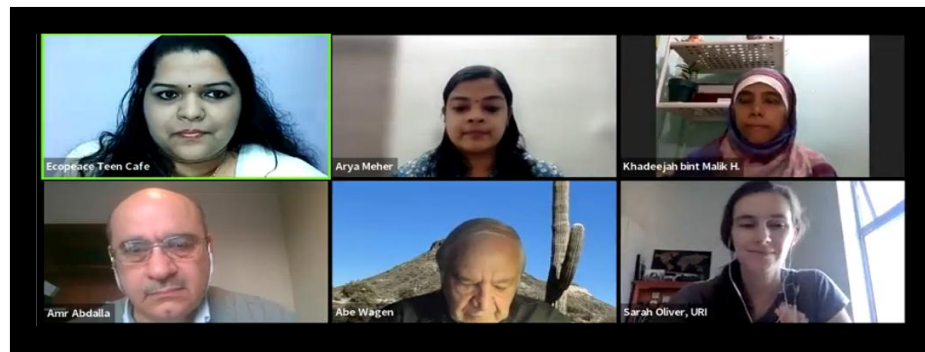
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ecopeace Teen Café had organized Ecopeace Global Summit to connect people from all around the world and celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week with the theme Speak with Compassion and Love.

We organized interviews, panel discussions, paper presentations and music nights. Our programs tried to celebrate humanity by listening peacebuilders, youth activists and change makers. We explore the interfaith journey of peacebuilders and organizations who work at the grassroots and international levels. It helps to transform our thoughts and connect to the common points of religions.

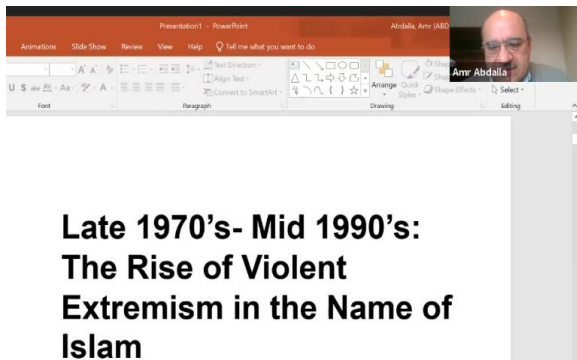
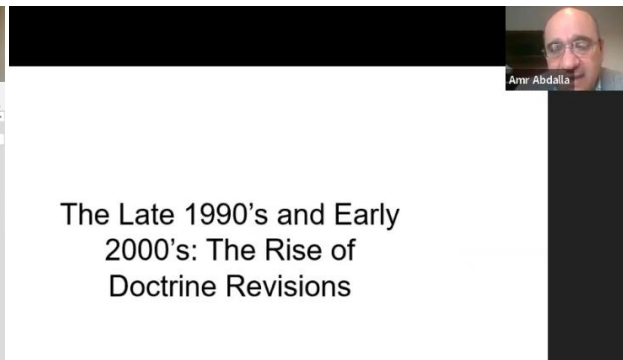


INAUGURAL CEREMONY



The inaugural ceremony of Ecopeace Global Summit and World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration started with Interfaith Prayer on February 1, 2022, at 7 PM IST. Aaron Bensier, a student of St. John's School, Kerala, offered a prayer from Christianity, Islam prayer offered by Khadeejah bint Malik and Hinduism offered by Arya Meher.

The keynote speaker was Dr Amr Abdalla, Professor Emeritus at the University for Peace, Costa Rica and Residence Scholar at Juniata College. He shared about how religions can save people during the conflict. He explained it by sharing the stories in Rwanda, Egypt and Nigeria.

	
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The keynote speaker mentioned the transformation that happened in the life of a terrorist after twenty-five years of imprisonment. The perpetrator became a peace hero, and he wrote books on the peaceful interpretation of the Quran. The meeting was attended by Dr Abraham Karickam, Secretary-General of United Religions Initiative, Maria Crespo, Director Uri and Sarah, Associate Director of Uri, and hundreds of people viewed the event through Facebook and YouTube.

Please watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/mJh6ma2JpdY>

CHAT WITH INTERAITH PEACEBUILDERS: DR ABRAHAM KARICKAM



The Chat with Interfaith Peacebuilder is a special event to explore and celebrate the life of interfaith peacebuilders. Peacebuilders are contributing their precious time and tireless efforts to establishing peace in the world. Ecopeace Teen Café appreciate their efforts and provides a dialogue platform to share their experience with next generations especially teenagers. Our first interview was with Dr Abraham Karickam, a great visionary who care about young people and guide them to lead a life that appreciates the values and principles of interfaith.

Dr Abraham Karickam is serving as the Asia Secretary-General of United Religions Initiative and as a Dean of URI Travelling Peace Academy. Author of sixteen books. Founder president of the World Fellowship of Interfaith Students' Movements, founder General Secretary of Dr Alexander Mar Thoma Centre for Dialogue, founder Director of Comparative Literature Research and Study Centre (Mar Thoma College), founder Director of URI International Peace Research Institute, founder General Secretary of Karickam Y. M. C.A, founder Governing Board Member of Mar Thoma College of Science and Technology and founder Chairman of Karickam International Public School (affiliated to CBSE).

He reflected that interfaith dialogue is the best available tool to promote harmony and peace. When there is no fear, there is no enmity. Human language is the best gift from God, we can talk with anybody, which leads to peace.

Concept of salvation in other religions- salvation is available to other religions, twenty-three meeting points..let us not worry about the difference, let us rejoice in the meeting points of the religions.

He believes that interfaith dialogues contribute to establishing tolerance and peace in the community. His research on the concept of salvation in other religions helped him to find common points in different religions.

“I have given 23 points at the end of my book 23 meeting points where all three these three religions can join together so we in dialogue we say let us not worry about the differences let us marvel let us let us rejoice at the meeting points at the oneness wherever we can meet together .”

He also mentioned the work of the United Religions Initiative, a global grassroots network of religions actively working in 112 countries and people accepted the ideology of interconnectedness. He started the global campaign One Billion Youth for Peace with the strong belief that if we really want to see a change in the world, we have to start working with children.

His book ‘Super Souls Revisited’ is a great contribution to interfaith harmony and peace. He shared his experience while writing this book.

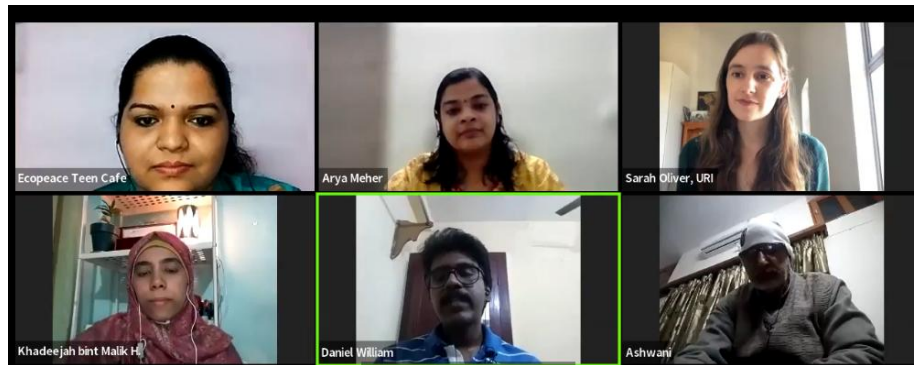
“Super Souls definitely the super source and I kept the Quran open on my table till I finished my book”.

This chat was a great inspiration for the young generation to involve in interfaith dialogue. The participants shared their reflections after the event.

Please watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/yn4aMICrMs8>

CHAT WITH INTERAITH PEACEBUILDERS: SARAH OLIVER

Sarah Oliver is Associate Director of Global Programmes for Youth Engagement for the United Religions Initiative (URI). Sarah works to support, connect, resource and inspire young people across the network, with an intention of building the capacity of young people to lead and create peace in their own communities and around the world.



Sarah shared about her goals and future projects in interfaith peacebuilding. She said that one of the great challenges faced by young people is the assumption from elders that they are not productive and they spend their time on social media. Because of this wrong assumptions, the role of youth are not valued and respected. She also shared that it is important to include youth as decision makers and also provide support and enough resources for making it as a meaningful leadership.

“The values and the principles shared by religions are about love and connection. We are connected not just to each other but to the planet and to the world. Each of our faith traditions share that and it's asking people kind of where your conviction comes from like where your purpose and your drive comes from for for wanting to create a better world and I think our interfaith communities and people of faith have an important message again to share in terms of why we need to be looking after our planet better and why we need to be really changing our mindset in terms of how we think about the earth and that it is not there for our consumption and for resources just to be used and abused but really seeing ourselves as part and as one with the whole world.” This is how Sarah see the connection between faith and climate change actions.

Please watch the video on YouTube: https://youtu.be/9IS0_rNyFtg

CHAT WITH INTERAITH PEACEBUILDERS: SOHINI JANA



The session Chat with Sohini Jana was held on February 4, 2022 at 7 pm on Zoom. Greshma Pious Raju, Daniel William and Arya Meher were joined for this conversation. We were tried to explore on how to promote harmony among different faith communities and also discussed about the role of women in peacebuilding process.

Sohini is the acting Chapter President for the India chapter of a non-profit organization based in the United States called the Euphrates Institute. She identifies herself as a bridge-builder. In the light of building bridges, she had spearheaded a successful effort to bring Americans (mostly Christians) in conversation with South Asian Islamic studies scholars from the Centre of Peace and Spirituality in order to combat Islamophobia and promote Islam as an ideology of peace for the post-scientific era. She had hosted a concert in collaboration with the Society for Social Regeneration and Equity on the occasion of Daniel Pearl Foundation World Music days to promote interfaith harmony through music and theatre. Recently, she had also delivered a live session to train the students of the Institute of Management Sciences in Peshawar, Pakistan on Interfaith Harmony. She has won the Euphrates Institute scholarship for her service in the field of interfaith harmony targeted towards “turning the other into a brother”. Her motto remains to bring the world one step closer to witnessing the unity of all existence.

Sohini is young peacebuilder who works for connecting people from diverse faith backgrounds. For that she initiates, different projects to connect and support people. She also work for promoting peace and deconstructing the prejudice and stereotypes. She also mentioned about Mahatma Gandhi and his nonviolence approach that connects values different faiths.

“As a Hindu girl coming from family with a history of the partition. I obviously grew up with preconsiderations of the Muslim community. And when I met one person that shifted. So that was I think my first encounter with Listening for the sake of listening, listening to open up and learn. And then it was like you know thirst. I wanted to know more. I wanted to understand more. I could see more connecting points than differences.”

She founded Online Circle of Compassion, a volunteer community that support young people from Asia and Africa who are facing mental and emotional stress during the crisis like COVID 19. This online group bring youth from different cultural, religious and geographical location, and provide an inclusive space to have dialogues. They supported and listen stories of other with compassion.

“Learning to respect another community for who they are and what they believe in does not take anything away from you. It doesn't threaten you existence. Nor does it threaten your identity or your point of view. So I explored those very contentious questions you know. About whether or not somebody who is going to listen to an Islamic scholar. Do they feel like they are being converted? Do they feel like there is an effort to sort of pull them over to the other side? Does that really happen? What did we feel?” Sohini advice the youth to be curious and find new paths and possibilities. Also, she encourage young people to learn and listen more.

Please watch the full video on YouTube : <https://youtu.be/4ovfcF13EjM>

CHAT WITH INTERAITH PEACEBUILDERS: SAMIRA & LEJLA

The chat with Samira Fatma Baručija and Lejla Hasandedic Dapo was held on February 5, 2022 at 7PM IST. Greshma Pious Raju, Arya Meher, Daniel William and Khadeejah from Ecopeace Teen Café joined the chat. We were tried to understand the difficulties faced by people during the war and post war situations. They both shared the life different ethnic communities who fought each other and saw each other as enemies. Both speakers were worried about the current situation off Bosnia and Herzegovina. But they are hopeful that peace can be established in their region with the efforts of peace heroes.

Samira Fatma Baručija is from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and works as the Regional Coordinator for the URI Multiregion. She is a peacebuilder, trying to facilitate dialog, interfaith work, and reinforce the importance of living together for the sake of peace and security. Most of her work nowadays is focused on peacebuilding and creating cultures of peace.. The work that Samira is doing locally is done through a youth-led, youth-founded organization called Youth for Peace.

Samira mentioned about the life of displaced people and their rehabilitation and re-adaptation to the societies. As a child, who grown up during the post-war period actually helped her to overcome the crisis. It also developed critical thinking and also enabled to deconstruct the prejudices and stereotypes. She believes that dialogue is a key to fight against discrimination and stereotypes.

Lejla Hasandedic Dapo is a psychologist, psychotherapist, lecturer, activist, peacebuilder, and volunteer from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Currently she is doing her PhD in psychology at Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University, in Turkey. She is working as United Religions Initiative (URI) Europe CC Liaison Officer. She was URI Youth Ambassador and she is co-founder of Youth for Peace, an organization that positioned itself as one of the most prominent youth-led organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, working in the field of peacebuilding. She is also a Non-violent communication trainer, Learning to Live Together (Arigatou International) trainer, she holds a Diploma in Islamic studies from the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and she is PPA and KAICIID fellow.

Lejla shared that all who overcome the war are peace heroes who lead a n extra ordinary life. She also shared about how United Religion Initiative support her in her journey of peacebuilding.

Lejla share about her experience in her school where she met students from other side. She mentioned that she was so curious to meet students and amilies who were their enemies but she could not have an opportunity meet them due to the post war and divisions. But she had an opportunity to attend the school were students from both groups are studied together. From there she came to know about the common interests among them. That gave her new perspectives and interest.



“ Humanitarian aid package as a kid and so he was rejoiced that he got new toys but a few minutes after that my mom saw him and he took a hammer and he crushed all of the toys that he got and my mom started like screaming like what did you do and he was like well this is what cars look like don't they because that's the only card that he saw around him was crushed burnt and that's the memory that he wanted to recreate with his toys that's how a normal car looked like to him.”

While sharing the reflection from a war happened years ago now the human kind witnessed another war in Ukraine. Children lost their lives and their childhood. May peace prevail on earth as soon as possible and let's rejoice our children in sustaining peace.

Please watch the video on You Tube :<https://youtu.be/N0JIZTSfeUU>

CHAT WITH INTERAITH PEACEBUILDERS: JAMILA AISHA

Jamila is the founder of Women Empowered to Act for Dialogue and Peace in Mindanao, a Marawi-based small organization that started its work after the crisis. Jamila has extensive peacebuilding work in Mindanao for over twenty years. She teaches, designs, implements, and facilitates training workshops on various topics in peace and conflict studies, gender mainstreaming, religious peacebuilding, Philippine and Mindanao history.



She is a member of Silsilah Dialogue Movement and Area Coordinator of Silsilah Forum Lanao. She has actively promoted Silsilah's Culture of Dialogue as a Path to Peace for thirteen years now. Jamila is a Salzburg Global Fellow and holds M.A. in Gender and Peacebuilding from the United Nations-Mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica.

Jamila explained about the 4 pillars of dialogue. They are Dialogue with God, Dialogue with the self, Dialogue with others, Dialogue with creator.

When she shared about the challenges she faced during her journey. She reflected that "There were times when we are suppressed but as long as you will express what you believe in the most compassionate and in the most in a respectable way then people would accept you and your ideas." She also shared about how she started her organization and empower women in her communities. She is working tirelessly for building peace among communities.

Please watch the video on YouTube : <https://youtu.be/moZHZeafFes>

GLOBAL INTERFAITH PRAYER

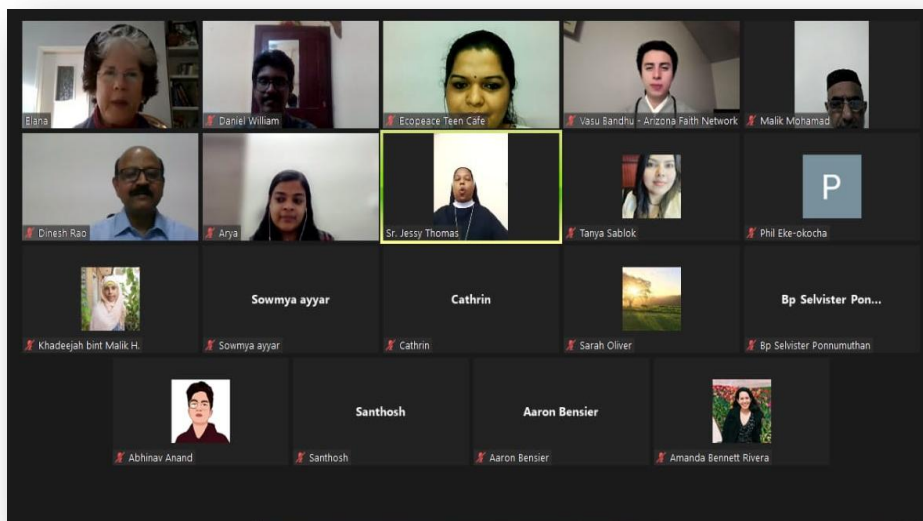
World Harmony Week was celebrated by Ecopeace Teen Cafe with Ecopeace Global Summit. As part of the Summit, A global interfaith prayer was conducted on 7th February 2022. Faith leaders from eight different faiths across the globe came to offer prayers for world peace.

Mr.Vasu Bandhu introduced Buddhism. He quoted from Dharmapadha the importance of being in this world without causing harm and without hurting each other. He also presented to the attendees the importance of mindful breathing by leading a mindful breathing session.

Ms.Poorvi introduced Jainism explaining the birth of Jainism and explaining karma, where deeds determine one's future. She also tried to transcend about the perceptions where the same truth comes in different forms to different people depending upon their perceptions. She also recited a prayer from Jainism.

Ms. Elana introduced Judaism. She explained the belief systems in Judaism. She offered a prayer for peace to all people of the world.

Sr.Jessy Thomas introduced Christianity. With the help of Bible verse, she urged everyone to have a universal outlook beyond ones race, religion, or country. A world peace prayer was Offered by Sister Jessy.



Prof.Malik Mohamad introduced Islam.He explained how Quran asks humans to understand the spirituality and purpose of the creation of humans. The core of humans should be Seeking truth and not nurturing ego. There are common good teachings in every religion of the world. Prof also offered a prayer from Quran.

Mr.Dinesh Rao introduced the Bahai faith. He explained the principles of the Bahai faith how service and prayer go hand in hand in the Bahai faith. He urged everyone to have an integrated life with morality and spirituality as core in tackling life's everyday hurdles. He offered a prayer asking for strength to serve humanity wherever one is.

Ms. Arya Meher introduced Hinduism. She explained dharma and peace as core values of Hinduism. She offered prayer by reciting hymns from Upanishads asking for peace within, peace with everything around, and peace with the universe.

Soumya Ayyar introduces as a no-faith tradition. She explained the philosophy of yoga and how it was also embraced by other Indian Faith traditions. She explained how Mindfulness and alertness are the core of yoga. Being aware of the actions will definitely bring in peace. All participants also could perform a small meditation session with Ms.Soumya.

Starting with mindful breathing and ending with a cleansing meditation was an excellent experience for all attendees. Even though having various religions and faith, it was a particular time for everyone to understand and participate in multiple prayers, though written in different languages but embody the same truth.

Khadeejah bint Malik, Ecopeace volunteer recited her poem Our Interfaith Community during the event.

Our Interfaith Community

Khadeejah bint Malik

Peace... peace prevailed on earth
Before men left their faith
And caused humanity to death.

Why did we carry a stone in our hearts?
Why is the world broken into many parts?

We see this once peaceful land
Be destroyed by ruthless bands.
All are armed, all are panned.
All this fighting is for what?

They downgrade others' faiths and smother
Why did they trample over worshippers?
We extinguish fires
Yet the fire inside is flaming with pride

A man with a beard and cap isn't a sign of terrorism,
Nor is a man with a turban.
A woman with a hijab isn't a sign of insecurity or oppression
Nor is a woman who chooses to be bald.

Denial is not an answer
If we envision a future that is better.
If we are to choose between love and hatred
We know within us what should be imbedded

Our beliefs may differ
But never did our scripture
Instruct terror or build barriers between faiths.

Human beings we are
Gifted with a mind to think
So let us think, what is our universal law?
What is our common interest?

Respect, care, and justice,
The good deeds we practice.
Human rights and peace,
Our shared values are our duties.

We will see a day
When men and women of all faiths

Everyone stands to pray
Even in their own ways
'Cause there's no limit to the diversity of faiths.

What a merry it is to see
Once dry land, become the centre for world peace.

As our diversity of faiths bring us together,
Let us hug each other, like sisters and brothers.

Peace within me, Peace be on you, Peace prevails on Earth.

Please watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Sw0soGH8P6c>

YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY: DIVING DEEPER INTO ROLE OF YOUTH IN PEACE PROCESS



The panel discussion on Youth, Peace and Security was held on February 9, 2022 at 7pm IST. The discussion was moderated by Daniel William. The conversation tried to find the importance of Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in South Asian region. The role of youth played in diverse field in preventing violent extremism. The panelists were Anojitha Sivaskaran, Gajithira Puvanendran, Faisal Ilyas and Sameer Yadav.

Anojitha Sivaskaran is a youth activist working with grassroots and different civil society organizations in Sri Lanka for more than three years. She is serving as a member of the Global Refugee Education council Anojitha is a recipient of The Diana Award 2021. She is working as a project officer at the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka, specifically under the project called “Creative Youth Engagement for Pluralism”.

She reflected on why it is important to include young people in peace process. She experience difficulties during and after the war in Sri Lanka. She also mentioned that our world is home to 1.8 billion youth, the majority of victims in conflict zones are youth. So it is important to address the needs of youth and include their voice in peace process. She also emphasis on the importance of providing education for young people. During the pandemic, schools were shut down globally and the youth were there to help them and providing free classes for those kids. The role of youth in development and providing essential support to the society has to be appreciated. The society has to recognize their role in the society.

Gajithira Puvanendran is a Trainer and Facilitator working in the areas of active participation of youth in peacebuilding, reconciliation, countering violent extremism and preventing radicalization of youth. She is one of the core team member of a youth-

led initiative CREATE and a co-founding member of Global Youth Leadership Council . Gajithira shared about the projects that transform the life of people . The project ‘girl talk’ initiated by a woman who belongs to a community that marginalized women. The founder started a platform where women can gather and share their stories. They started sharing the stories of movie they watch, and they started sharing small things happening in their family. This sharing helped them to find the commonness and they found they are connected one way or the other. These talks empowered them and gave them the feeling of appreciated.

Faisal Ilyas is doing research studies in Peace and Counter Terrorism, Youth Peace Activist, member of Amnesty International & Asian Peace Youth Network (APYN). Alumni of Paris Peace Forum since 2018, Young Scholar for religious studies at Academy of Religions-Italy, Alumni of Pyeong Chang Global Peace Forum South Korea, Country Representative for Youth Business Startups at 6th Eastern Economic Forum held in Vladivostok-Russia. He has facilitation skills on peace building, interfaith harmony, youth awareness & development, women empowerment, minority rights, gender equality and environment protection.

Faisal shared about the role of women in peacebuilding. He mentioned about the role of mothers in building peace at home. “The basic training or the basic education that can a mother a mother can do is very important , the narrative building or the mother who is a good teacher who know how to motivate their children to move in the society with the good behavior and ethics and I think yes women are playing a good role in in different walks of life.”

Sameer Yadav is the Founding Director of No Borders Consultancy Private Limited. He was a Young Researcher and now a Fellow at project #ALLY: Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism in South Asia. ALLY is funded by the European Union. He is a Steering Committee Member of the Asia Working Group of Network of Religious and Traditional Peacebuilders. He is also a core member of the Indian Collation for Youth Peace and Security. During the conversation, Sameer encouraged young peacebuilders to start their own social entrepreneurship as an approach to make changes in the society and try to create jobs rather than seeking jobs or doing jobs that does not gives happy.

Please watch the conversation on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/dgzgOC0aFzc>

VOICE OF ECOPEACE TEENS

During the event, Voice of Ecopeace Teens, the participants of the Ecopeace Ambassadors program presented a paper on various topics. The event was held on February 12, 2022. Fr Prasad, Secretary of Interfaith Dialogue and Ecumenism of Kerala Catholic Bishops Council and Sarah Oliver, Associate Director of United Religions Initiative were the special guests.

Lakshit Tirkey is a student of St. Thomas School, Jharkhand, India. He presented a paper titled “Building Communities and Spreading Awareness through Bike Rallies. He explained the strategies that can be used to promote awareness about social issues among people.

Aaron Bensier is studying at St John’s Central School in Kerala, India. He presented a paper titled Sustainable Development Goals. He explained seventeen Sustainable Development Goals and how an individual can contribute to achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Shreya Dey is a student of St Thomas School, Jharkhand, India presented a paper on ‘Peace and Nonviolence’. She shared information about peace leaders and how they promote peace with the world.

Voice of Ecopeace Teens allowed the participants to share their voices with the world.



Please watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/9kSukL5KOlw>

ECOPEACE TEEN CAFE Y PRINCIPIOS DE LA CARTA DE LA TIERRA

Ecopeace Teen Café launched in Latin America- Caribbean region on February 19, 2022. This event held in Spanish language with Spanish speaking experts.

Greshma Pious Rajú: De la República de la India. Una joven profesional, tiene un fuerte deseo y pasión por ser una constructora de paz interesada en promover colaboraciones internacionales a través de diversos programas y proyectos. Para complementar su objetivo, obtuvo una maestría en Estudios Internacionales de la Paz de la Universidad para la Paz, Costa Rica. Como parte de la graduación, realizó su pasantía en el Secretariado Internacional de la Carta de la Tierra.

Rocío Collantes: De la República de Panamá. Licenciada de Relaciones Internacionales de la Universidad de Panamá en el año 2011. Obtuvo su Postgrado Internacional de Cambio Climático – Negociaciones Climáticas Internacionales del Fondo Verde, Huancayo, Perú en el año 2016, como becaria de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Ha sido becaria de los Diplomados en: Enfoque de Igualdad de Derechos y de Igualdad de Género en Políticas, Programas y Proyectos de la Organización de los Estados Americanos en el año 2017; Innovación Política de Asuntos del Sur y la Academia de Innovación Política con el Proyecto Destacado “La Huerta de Rosy” en el año 2017 y el Programa de Liderazgo, Sostenibilidad y Ética de la Carta de la Tierra en el año 2017.

Representó a la Facultad de Derecho y Ciencias Políticas de la Universidad de Panamá como Delegada Juvenil en el Seminario de Agricultura Protegida y el Desarrollo Industrial de la Arena en los países de Asia 2015 en la República Popular de China. Coordinadora Regional de los Jóvenes Líderes de la Carta de la Tierra Panamá desde el año 2017. Coordinadora Nacional de la Red Internacional de Promotores ODS Panamá desde el año 2020. Coordinadora Regional de Ecopeace Teen Café Panamá desde el 04 de enero de 2022.



Astrid De La Lastra: De la República de Panamá. Es licenciada en Artes Culinarias por la Universidad Interamericana de Panamá, donde presentó su trabajo de graduación “Restaurantes Sostenibles en Panamá”. Miembro de la Soka Gakkai Internacional de Panamá, donde es coordinadora del Team Soka en la Agenda 2030, grupo que tiene como objetivo la promoción de dicha agenda en la sociedad panameña. Tiene más de 5 años de experiencia en proyectos sociales que promueven la paz, la cultura y la educación. Tomó el curso de Liderazgo, Sostenibilidad y Ética de la Carta Internacional de la Tierra 2020. Continúa con su formación en Sostenibilidad tomando actualmente el curso “Introducción a la Sostenibilidad” de la Universidad de Illinois. Actualmente desarrolla junto a Yisel Remón un proyecto llamado «Miércoles de Cappuccino» espacio de dialogo virtual para el empoderamiento femenino, promoviendo el ODS 4, 5 y 10 y el principio 11 y 12 de la Carta de la Tierra.

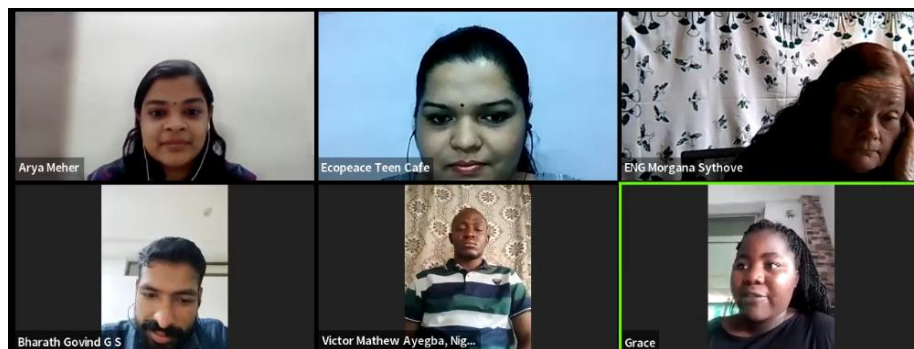
Laura Restrepo Alameda: es Cofundadora y Presidenta de la Fundación CIAP Uma Kiwe, Coordinadora Regional de los Jóvenes Líderes de la Carta de la Tierra Colombia, Coordinadora de Boroló, Coordinadora Nacional de la Red de Promotores ODS Colombia, Vicepresidenta de Desarrollo Estratégico en SPEED (Student Platform for Engineering Education Development), líder de Cambio Climático de Climate Reality Project y embajadora del Institute for Economics and Peace. Además, es miembro de la red nacional del agua, de la red colombiana de ingeniería y desarrollo social y de Cinetribu.

Please watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/VsZYz4Wkn98>

ROLE OF YOUTH IN ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION

The panel discussion on Role of Youth in Environment Conservation was held on 16 February 2022 on the role of youth in environment conservation. The panelists were Shumbosho Patience, Victor Mathew Ayegba, Bharath Govind, and Grace Chilongo.

Shumbosho Patience is an Author, Conservation Artist, CEO of Eco Arts, Focusing on Sustainable Conservation and Environmental heritage. Patience also focused on the importance of biodiversity conservation. His focus area involves art in environmental education. He is concentrating on primary schools. Engaging children to understand climate change. Biodiversity and the need to conserve are instilled in children through books containing simple illustrations of flora and fauna and easy-to-understand poems and short stories. He also identifies the role of women in conservation. Especially mothers who can play a significant part in environmental education in children. He also advocates for providing clean cooking fuel for households.



Victor Mathew Ayegba is a climate change activist from Nigeria. He is also an environmental educator, Earth Charter Young Leader, and Graduate fellow of Green faith International. He has a keen interest in community building

He believes that biodiversity is life itself, and as humans, we have a responsibility towards the environment we live in. He focuses on the pivotal role that youth can play in conservation management and biodiversity sustainability. Also he identifies that Environmental education in Nigeria is essential. He says, "It is important to adjust the mindset of the people towards conservation and then only one we can channel our energy into more conservation activities. Education will liberate people from wrong perspectives and belief system".

He also shared how the Northern parts of Nigeria have a harsh environment due to illegal felling of trees, industrialization, etc. The impact of climate change is so real.

So his work focuses on teachers; through Climate leadership fellowship training, teachers are trained on the impacts of climate change. Through teachers, it will be taught to children. He is a great advocate of Think global and acting local. He also shared how the journey as an Earth Charter Young leader was fulfilling and mind transforming in understanding the interdependence of humans and nature. His goal is to change people through education and convert the conscious into practical actions. He firmly puts out the message that We have a role to play to make the world a better place; that role involves you, me, and everyone.

Bharath Govind is an Environmentalist, peer educator, CEO of Climatehood Foundation, European Climate Pact Ambassador, Climate Ambassador of India by Global Youth Climate Network of World Bank, Disaster Management Professional, and Researcher. Bharath started Climatehood in 2018 identifying the importance of climate education in the student community where careless behavior towards the environment was evident. He believes that to instill awareness, there should be a citizen-centric approach. He could undertake many projects involving the general public focusing on behavioral change like reducing waste generation, sustainable shopping, etc. He rightly pointed out that society is ignorant about our consumer culture's impacts, even though the world is saying about circular economy. His activities are focused on behavioral change for active and passive climate action. Most of these activities are concentrated across schools and colleges in Kerala. He says, "I could see a big change in the student community. I could see some action on scientifically educating children. Small actions can contribute to big changes". He also focused on gender inclusiveness. He strongly believes that women should lead from the front. On quoting Mahatma Gandhi, he tried to showcase the importance of minimalism in all walks of life for a safe and sustainable environment.

Grace Chilongo is a Climate change advocate, educator, researcher; She focuses on educating young girls. For Grace, protection, conservation, and management of biodiversity are equivalent to life, and it is so essential to protect our ecosystems, as it supports life. Humans need biodiversity more than anything on earth to survive. To keep biodiversity intact will only help humans from extinction.

She says, "Human environment relations, to me, is a phenomenon. Humans depend on nature. People depend for livelihood. Taking care of the environment comes second, considering the harsh conditions to live in. Reforestation is quite challenging. Now interventions are happening involving young people. Example of hands-on training on

drones to young people and use of drones to monitor the biodiversity and vegetation. She rightly pointed out the need for youth to work on the ground and in policymaking. She believes that educating people on biodiversity is the Right Response to anthropogenic activities as extreme weather events and natural disasters are frequent in Africa and other parts of the world. She urges everyone to involve in conservation.

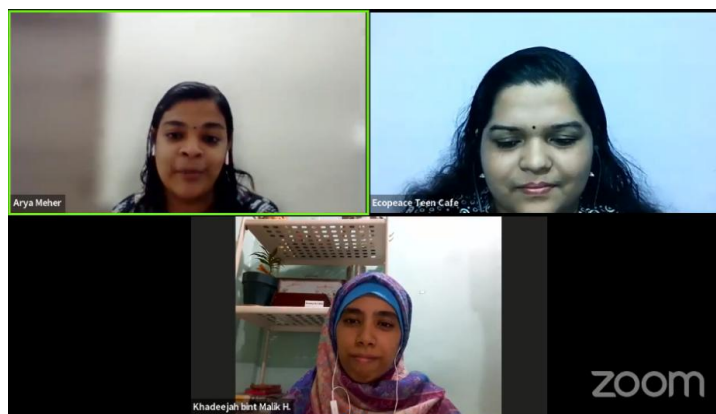
In her view, gender plays an important role. Women have a distinctive role in conservation. So adopting a gender-based approach is very important. In community discussions and management initiatives, women should be pivotal. Traditional gender roles and expectations need to be changed. Women have more knowledge on resource management and conservation decision making also women need more representation. For the effectiveness of protection, all stakeholders should be involved. She says, "Men, women, boys and girls, and everyone should come together for effective conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity."

The discussion was followed by interaction between panelists and the meeting attendees, reflecting views on the need for environmental protection and youth involvement in it.

Please watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/34QJzXad2oU>

CHITTER- CHATTER WITH ECOPEACE FAMILY

The informal conversation with the Ecopeace family members including the teenagers and the volunteers February 19, 2022. This session was to explain the working of Ecopeace Teen Café and the reason behind the Ecopeace Global Summit.



Please watch our conversation on YouTube: https://youtu.be/6u_npinHykI

ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SHAPING PEACE

Dr Abraham Karickam is a former Principal of Mar Thoma College, Tiruvalla, Kerala (affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University), where he worked for 28 years in the Department of English. He holds PhDs in English and also in Inter-Religious studies. Dr Abraham is a Graduate of Bossey Ecumenical Institute (affiliated with Geneva University) and has attended several summer institutes in Peace Studies at the Eastern Mennonite University, United States. He is the coordinator for the URI South India -- Sri Lanka Zone and Secretary-General for the URI Asia Region. Dr Abraham has authored fifteen books and edited several books and journals. His important works are “The Concept of Salvation in the Upanishads, the Bible and the Qur'an” and the interfaith novel “Super Souls Revisited”. He also organises the International Conferences on Holy Books at regular intervals in different parts of the world.

He represented Mar Thoma Church and URI in three General Assemblies of the World Council of Churches (Canberra, 1991, Harare, 1998 and Port Allegre, 2005). He has been a fellow traveller of Taizé Community, France from his student days. He has been engaged in interfaith dialogue for more than thirty years. He is the founder of the global campaign One Billion Youth for Peace. Dr Abraham shared about his initiative One Billion Youth for Peace. He mentioned that Children are like angels who can change the world. He emphasizes the importance of sharing the value of interfaith with younger generations and making them understand that we are one.

María Crespo is very active in the Roman Catholic Church in Argentina. She has been involved in many interfaith activities and programs at the local, regional and global levels. She teaches “Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue” at two different Catholic Seminars in Buenos Aires. María Crespo is Director of Member Support at the United Religions Initiative, an organization that fosters interfaith cooperation to prevent religiously motivated violence and create cultures of Peace, Justice and Reconciliation. This organization brings together in a network more than 1,100 interreligious groups in more than 110 countries around the world called Circles of Cooperation. Maria explained about the working of United Religions Initiative and its impacts on grassroots level peacebuilding initiatives. Her dream is to see more young people involved in peace process.

Sylvia is a facilitator of, advocate for, and believer in peace leadership. She is a Co-Founder and Board Member of Sarus, a peacebuilding nonprofit that equips and

accompanies the next generation of peace leaders in Asia. Her work is centered on community-led peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and peace education, and has experience in philanthropy, community reconciliation, compassionate communication, and organizational capacity building. She holds an MA in Coexistence and Conflict and an MBA in Social Impact. Sylvia currently serves as the Head of Programs and Strategy at Euphrates Institute, an organization that equips, connects, and uplifts peacebuilders worldwide. Sylvia shared about Euphrates Institute and how it support peacebuilders through Peace Practice Alliance program.

Fr Prasad Joseph, a Carmelite Monk. Serving as Rector& Superior, Sacred Heart Philosophy College& Monastery, Aluva, Kerala. He is the Secretary of Commission for Dialogue and Ecumenism Commission of Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council (KCBC). Fr Prasad share about the need of appreciating the value of life and existence in our own planet. He encourages youth to come back to the nature and celebrate the beauty of life.



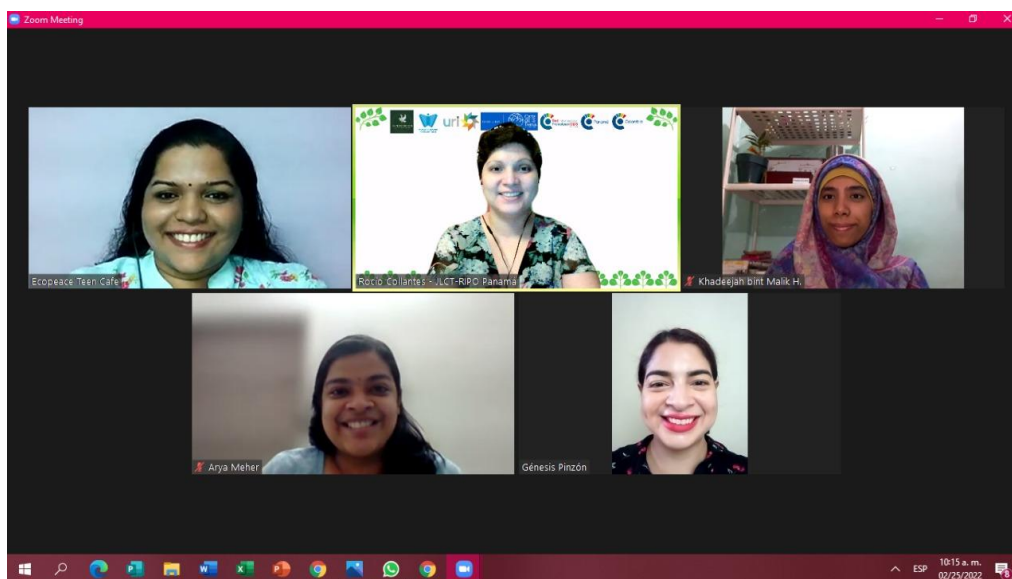
Please watch the discussion on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/potQcSktMps>

EARTH CHARTER : THE SOUL OF ECOPEACE TEEN CAFÉ

The Earth Charter is a document that consists of sixteen principles that drive the global movement towards a more just and sustainable world. Ecopeace Teen Café find the soul from the preamble of the Earth Charter that states “ We are once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked. Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well being of the human family and the larger living world. The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the gift of life and humility regarding the human place in nature.” The webinar on Earth Charter: The Soul of Ecopeace Teen Café was held on February 25, 2022, at 7 pm IST. Panellists were talking about the role of the Earth Charter in the current time.

Greshma Pious Raju is a young professional, has a strong desire and passion to be a peacebuilder interested in promoting international collaborations through various programs and projects. To complement her goal, she earned an MA in International Peace Studies from the University for Peace. She is the founder of Ecopeace Teen Café. She shared how Ecopeace Teen Café use Earth Charter Principles as guiding principles for implementing training sessions, guiding students to act for betterment of the world.

Khadeejah bint Malik: Is a 19-year-old Filipino Jordanian born and raised in the United Arab Emirates. She was homeschooled, and currently is taking 11th Grade Humanities and Social Sciences in Manila. She is passionate in arts, poetry, peacebuilding, sustainable development, and caring for nature. She took the "Leadership, Sustainability, and Ethics" course in 2017 and joined the Earth Charter Young Leaders network. At 16, she delivered her first workshop with 24 schoolgirls of 14 nationalities held in Canadian University Dubai. With efforts from the Earth Charter, she conducted the first Earth Charter virtual poetry event in September 2021 with the theme "Sustainability and Women Empowerment". She volunteers with Ecopeace Teen Cafe and volunteers with Earth Charter as a cofacilitator for the "Leadership Sustainability and Ethics course." S reflected on Earth Charter principles and environmental protection.



Rocio is the Regional Coordinator of Earth Charter Young Leaders Panama since 2017 recognized by UNESCO. National Coordinator of the International Network of SDG Promoters Panama since 2020 Regional Coordinator of Ecopeace Teen Café Panamá since 2022 She explained about Earth Charter Peinciples and why it is important for community of life. She also explained about Maping, A mobile application which helped to promote sustainable development goals. This mobile application developed by Earth Charter International and Soka Gagai International.

The Earth Charter is a document consists of sixteen principles that act as a compass for humanity to follow ethical and sustainable lifestyles. Earth Charter is a living document which is relevant to generations.

Please watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/3lin84rCIeM>

VOICE OF ECOPEACE TEENS

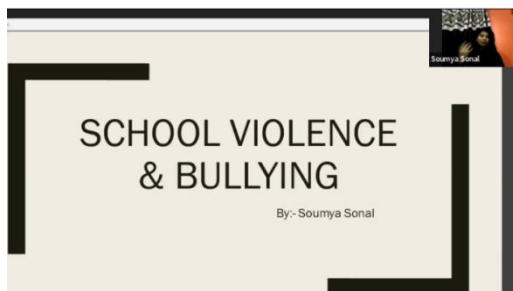
The special event for teenagers held on February 26, 2022, at 7 pm IST. This session was filled with the powerful voice of teenagers. They shared their opinions without any kinds of fears.

Soumya Sonal, a student of St. Thomas School Jharkhand, India, presented a paper on the topic 'School Violence and Bullying'. She explained the issues faced by children at school. She also shared how to overcome those challenges.

Adheena Saleem, a student of GHSS Kollam, India presented a paper on Gender Equality. She explained gender equality and how can we achieve gender equality through our actions

Riya Mariam Abraham, a student of Karickam International Public School, Kerala, India, presented a paper on 'Social Justice for Women'. She explained why social justice is important for women. She also mentioned the discrimination she faced due to her feminine gender.

Jash Sahay, a student of St. Thomas, Jharkhand, India presented a paper on the topic 'Helping Poor and Supporting Them'. He shared about different types of poverty and also explained how can we support people who are suffering due to hunger and poverty.



Please watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/RSU1acjImHE>

THANKS GIVING NIGHT



The closing ceremony of the Ecopeace Summit was held on February 28, 2022, at 7 pm IST. Music heals the minds of humans. Our celebration of unity come to an end with music. Rhythms energize us and encourage us to contribute more actions for peace and harmony. We offered a prayer for people suffering due to the war in Ukraine.

Tiyamike Mkanthama is a doctoral candidate at the University for Peace. His research focus is on how social action, as a tool of empowerment, can facilitate autonomous sustainable development for local/indigenous peoples. Specifically, he is researching a social action program aimed at empowering the Bribri Indigenous community of Talamanca to pursue their self-determined development efforts. As an aspiring environmental sustainability academic and practitioner, he is keen on exploring the middle ground where indigenous/local knowledge and scientific knowledge can converge. He is also a part-time professor in undergraduate courses at the Faculty of International Relations at the Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencia y Tecnología (ULACIT). His past time includes dancing, playing music, painting, and stage acting—and he has been exploring how best to use these talents as tools for community building.

Tiyamike sang songs connected to his roots and homeland, Malawi. He also reflected on the role of religion in spreading harmony and making human life more meaningful. He believes that interfaith harmony brings unity and connectedness among humans. In the end, he offered a prayer for Ukraine and world peace through his song.

Please watch the video of on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5KbxE859htA>

CONCLUSION

Ecopeace Global Summit provides the opportunity for people to meet and greet like-minded people from all over the world. We celebrated humanity by listening to diverse voices and initiating new collaborations with individuals and organizations. We experience enlightenment through wisdom shared by the speakers. Ecopeace Global Summit and World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration transforms the lives of hundreds of people who joined the events virtually.

May peace prevail on earth!

Khadeejah bint Malik, Ecopeace Volunteer wrote a poem about Ecopeace Teen Café.

Ecopeace Teen Cafe We Are
-Khadeejah bint Malik

I saw a rough, unstable world
Turning into gray.
Borders built ahead
And people go astray.

Doors of houses closed,
When a rampant virus spread
Many sat at home.
And left their voice unheard.

An enthusiast started Ecopeace
To plant peace within teens
Growing their love for nature,
And recognising our responsibilities.

Today I see faces of smiles,
In all colours of skin.
Greeting each other
With positivity within.

Today I see people of all cultures,

Come together and form a rainbow.
Exchanging talks of harmony,
And building nations they grow.

Today I see people of all generations,
Holding hands and setting aside ratios.
All sit together
Learning and forming connections.

Today we look back on day one,
When we were but individuals
Searching for a peaceful space to be.
A space we formed for the world to see.

Ecopeace Teen Cafe we are
Bringing lights to our communities.
Nature is our love,
Radiating it to the humanities.
We connect bridges of faiths
And build a world of peace.

Please watch the video of closing ceremony on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/zuuAUW5iuuE>

APPENDICES

Program Schedule



ECOPEACE TEEN CAFE

ECOPEACE GLOBAL SUMMIT

February, 2022

Time : 7-8 pm IST



SUMMIT SCHEDULE

01 February,2022 : Inaugural Ceremony
02 February,2022 : Chat with Interfaith Peacebuilders- Dr.Abraham Karickam
03 February,2022: Chat with Interfaith Peacebuilders- Sarah Oliver
04 February,2022 : Chat with Interfaith Peacebuilders- Sohini Jana
05 February,2022 : Chat with Interfaith Peacebuilders- Samira & Lejla
06 February, 2022: Chat with Interfaith Peacebuilders : Jamila Aisha
07 February,2022 : Global Interfaith Prayer
09 February,2022 : Youth,Peace and Security-Diving deeper into the Role of Youth in Peace Process
12 February,2022 : Voice of Ecopeace Teens

14 February 2022 : Ecopeace Teen Cafe y Principios de la Carta de la Tierra
16 February,2022 : Role of Youth in Environment Conservation : Let's have a dialogue with Global Youth
19 February,2022 : Voice of Ecopeace Teens
21 February,2022 : Earth Charter-The Soul of Ecopeace Teen Cafe
23 February,2022 : Role of International Organizations in Shaping Peace : A Conversation with Changemakers
26 February,2022 : Voice of Ecopeace Teens
28 February,2022 : Thanks Giving Night

Let's Dialogue and Act !

Quran Verses

In the Name of Allah—the Most Compassionate,
Most Merciful.

All praise is for Allah—Lord of all worlds,

the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful,

Master of the Day of Judgment.

You [alone] we worship and You 'alone' we ask
for help.

Guide us along the Straight Path,

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

الرَّحْمَنُ الرَّحِيمُ

مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ

اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ

صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ
الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ

the Path of those You have blessed—not those You are displeased with, or those who are astray.

Ameen

آمين

Yunus 10:25

وَاللَّهُ يَدْعُوا إِلَىٰ دَارِ السَّلَامِ وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ

And Allah invites [all] to the Home of Peace and guides whoever He wills to the Straight Path.

Maidah 5:15-16

... تَبَّ مُبِينٌ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ نُورٌ وَكِتَابٌ مُبِينٌ

... There certainly has come to you from Allah a light and a clear Book

يَهْدِيهِمْ إِلَىٰ صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ بِهِ اللَّهُ مَتَّبِعٌ رِضْوَانُهُ سُبُلَ السَّلَامِ وَيُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِهِ

Through which Allah guides those who seek His pleasure to the ways of peace, brings them out of darkness and into light by His Will, and guides them to the Straight Path.

Al Hujurat 49:13

لَيْمٌ نَّيْ وَجَعَلْنَكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may 'get to' know one another. Surely the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous among you. Allah is truly All-Knowing, All-Aware.

Al Asr 103:1-3

By the [passage of] time!

وَالْعَصْرِ

Surely humanity is in [grave] loss,

Except those who have faith, do good, and urge each other to the truth, and urge each other to perseverance.

إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ

إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا
الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ
وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ

Bible Verses

Psalms 17

Prayer for Deliverance from Persecutors

A Prayer of David.

- ¹ Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.
- ² From you let my vindication come;
let your eyes see the right.
- ³ If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;
my mouth does not transgress.
- ⁴ As for what others do, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.
- ⁵ My steps have held fast to your paths;
my feet have not slipped.
- ⁶ I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me, hear my words.
- ⁷ Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.
- ⁸ Guard me as the apple of the eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings,
- ⁹ from the wicked who despoil me,

my deadly enemies who surround me.
¹⁰ They close their hearts to pity;
with their mouths they speak arrogantly.
¹¹ They track me down;^[a] now they surround me;
they set their eyes to cast me to the ground.
¹² They are like a lion eager to tear,
like a young lion lurking in ambush.
¹³ Rise up, O LORD, confront them, overthrow them!
By your sword deliver my life from the wicked,
¹⁴ from mortals—by your hand, O LORD—
from mortals whose portion in life is in this world.
May their bellies be filled with what you have stored up for them;
may their children have more than enough;
may they leave something over to their little ones.
¹⁵ As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;
when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

Shanti Mantra

Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah Sarve Santu Nir-Aamayaah |
Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantu Maa Kashcid-Duhkha-Bhaag-Bhavet |
Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||

Meaning:

- 1: Om, May All become Happy,
- 2: May All be Free from Illness.
- 3: May All See what is Auspicious,
- 4: May no one Suffer.
- 5: Om Peace, Peace, Peace.

Om Asato Maa Sad-Gamaya |

Tamaso Maa Jyotir-Gamaya |

Mrtyor-Maa Amrtam Gamaya |

Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||

Meaning: 1: Om, Lead us from Unreality to the Reality ,

2: Lead us from the Darkness to the Light ,

3: Lead us from the Fear of Death to the Knowledge of Immortality.

4: Om Peace, Peace, Peace.

Om Sham No Mitrah Sham Varunnah |

Sham No Bhavatv-Aryamaa |

Sham No Indro Brhaspatih |

Sham No Vissnnur-Urukramah |

Meaning: 1: Om, May Mitra be Propitious with Us, May Varuna be Propitious with Us,

2: May the Honourable Aryama be Propitious with Us,

3: May Indra and Brihaspati be Propitious with Us,

4: May Vishnu with Long Strides be Propitious with Us,

Om Vaanga Me Manasi Pratisstthitaa |

Mano Me Vaaci Pratisstthitam |

Aavira-Avir-Ma Edhi |

Vedasya Ma Aanniisthah |

Shrutam Me Maa Prahaasiih Anena-Adhiitena-Ah- oraatraan-San-Dadhaami |

Meaning: 1: Om, Let My Speech be Established in My Mind,

2: Let My Mind be Established in My Speech,

3: Let the Knowledge of the Self-Manifest Atman Grow in Me,

4: Let My Mind and Speech be the Support to Experience the Knowledge of the Vedas,

5: Let what is Heard by Me (from the Vedas) be Not a mere Appearance ...

6: ... but what is Gained by Studying Day and Night be Retained

Rtam Vadissyaami |

Satyam Vadissyaami |

Tan[d]-Maam-Avatu |

Tad-Vaktaaram-Avatu |

Avatu Maam |

Avatu Vaktaaram ||

Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||

Meaning: 7: I Speak about the Divine Truth,

8: I Speak about the Absolute Truth,

9: May That Protect Me,

10: May That Protect the Preceptor,

11: May that Protect Me,

12: May that Protect the Preceptor, May that Protect the Preceptor,

13: Om Peace, Peace, Peace.

Om Saha Nau-Avatu |

Saha Nau Bhunaktu |

Saha Viiryam Karava-Avahai |

Tejasvi Nau-Adhii-Tam-Astu Maa Vidviss-Aavahai |

Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||

Meaning: 1: Om, May God Protect us Both (the Teacher and the Student),

2: May God Nourish us Both,

3: May we Work Together with Energy and Vigour,

4: May our Study be Enlightening, not giving rise to Hostility,

5: Om, Peace, Peace, Peace.

Om Dyauh Shaantir-Antarikssam Shaantih Prthivii Shaantir-Aapah Shaantir-Ossadhayah Shaantih |

Vanaspatayah Shaantir-Vishve-Devaah Shaantir-Brahma Shaantih Sarvam Shaantih Shaantireva Shaantih Saa Maa Shaantir-Edhi |

Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||

Meaning: 1: Om, May there be Peace in Heaven, May there be Peace in the Sky,

2: May there be Peace in the Earth, May there be Peace in the Water, May there be Peace in the Plants,

3: May there be Peace in the Trees, May there be Peace in the Gods in the various Worlds, May there be Peace in Brahman,

4: May there be Peace in All, May there be Peace Indeed within Peace, Giving Me the Peace which Grows within Me,

5: Om, Peace, Peace, Peace.

Om Sarveshaam Svastir-Bhavatu |

Sarveshaam Shaantir-Bhavatu |

Sarveshaam Purnnam-Bhavatu | Sarveshaam Manggalam-Bhavatu |

Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||

Meaning: 1: May there be Well-Being in All,

2: May there be Peace in All,

3: May there be Fulfilment in All,

4: May there be Auspiciousness in All,

5: Om Peace, Peace, Peace.