



Too many countries in the world today simply do not allow for citizens to exercise their right to freedom of religion. Cases abound where states have imposed restrictive sanctions, thereby making it difficult and in some cases impossible for the individual to respond in conscience to the call to transcendence.

Religious freedom is a fundamental right of all human beings, a fundamental tenet of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1976.

While in some nations, freedom of religious worship may receive constitutional recognition, many governments continue to repress religious freedom and even openly antagonize persons on the basis of their religion.

Repression of religious freedom runs contrary to universally shared values and undermines genuine stability. Freedom of religion is essential in order to guarantee a constitutional order of society; it is fundamental for building a society according to justice and peace.

TEDx "ViaDellaConciliazione, Religious Freedom Today" believes that it is through open dialogue and acceptance that we can build a mutual understanding so that we may grow in universal brotherhood and solidarity, towards integral human advancement and towards global and community development.

- **What are we doing to promote respect in our community?**
- **Can religion contribute to development?**
- **If the call to progress drives us to "do more, know more and have more in order to be more", what does it mean "be more"?**
- **What gives real substance to life?**
- **Are human rights at risk when personal freedom is not acknowledged?**
- **Do secularism and fundamentalism exclude the possibility of fruitful dialogue and effective cooperation?**
- **Is reason open to transcendence? Is it closed within immanence?**
- **How are people persecuted on account of their faith?**



With participation from various speakers and doers from vastly diverse fields, the TEDx event “ViaDellaConciliazione-Religious Freedom Today” aims at mutual understanding and the promotion of respect for religious freedom in each nation of the world.

This TEDx program hopes to stimulate dialogue among communities, organizations and individuals through TED-like experiences at the local level. TEDx events are planned and coordinated independently.

What is TED?

The first TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) event was held in 1984, and twenty-seven years later, its legacy of innovation and influence continues. TED’s mission is to spread ideas above all in these three broad subject areas that are, collectively, shaping our future. And in fact, the event is broader still, showcasing ideas that matter in any discipline.

Each year, the world’s leading thinkers and doers gather for three TED conferences. The format of the conference is fast paced: 50+ talks over the course of four days. This immersive environment allows attendees and speakers from vastly different fields to cross-fertilize and draw inspiration from unlikely places.

Attendance at TED is by application and the attendees CEOs, scientist, designers, intellectual are as extraordinary as the speakers. Indeed, TED’s success is based on the extraordinary effect of bringing together a thousand of the world’s most remarkable people across many fields.

The result? Unexpected connections. Extraordinary insights. Powerful inspiration.

On TED.com, the best talks and performances from TED and partners are available to the world for free. More than 900 TEDTalks are now available with more added each week. All of the talks are subtitled in English and many are subtitled in various other languages.

TEDx “ViaDellaConciliazione, Religious Freedom Today” will be held on April 19-20, 2013 at the Vatican. We have initial agreement of participation from the following: Gloria Estefan (Singer, USA), Pilar Mateo (Chemistry Researcher, Spain), Lamia Aly Mekhemar (Human Rights, Egypt), Elizabeth Lev (Art Historian, USA), Mohamed Ali (Artist, UK), Guy Consolmagno (Astronomer, USA), Vlade Divac (Former sportsman NBA, Serbia), Leonel Narváez (Pacifist, Colombia), Barrie Schwartz (Photographer, USA), Etsuro Sotou (Architect, Japan), Alicia Vacas (Gaza Strip Nurse, Spain) James Stavridis (Us Navy Admiral, NATO), Akiko (soprano, Japan).

You too: you can contribute to the success of TEDx “ViaDellaConciliazione, Religious Freedom Today” by your support. Contact us: Giovanna Abbiati mobile: 00393476564735; office: 00390666543903; tedxvdc@gmail.com