



Some of the speakers and participants at Espace Barrault, Paris.

29TH FRANCOPHONE SCRIPTURAL SHARING **Sunday, September 17, 2023, from 5 to 6.30pm.**

This year's theme of the International Day of Peace is Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals. It is a call to action that recognizes our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. As on September 18, we celebrate also the International Forgiveness Day (<https://www.journeeinternationaledupardon.org/>), the "Dialogue & Alliance" interfaith circle held its monthly meeting on Sunday September 17, 2023, on the theme of "**Cultivating forgiveness...**", because forgiveness is an essential habit for any peacemaker.

The main meeting was held face-to-face at the Espace Barrault in Paris, with Zoom connections from several countries, including: Austria, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Italy, Lebanon, Mauritius, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, USA, etc.



Ms Soraya AYOUCHE opens the meeting.

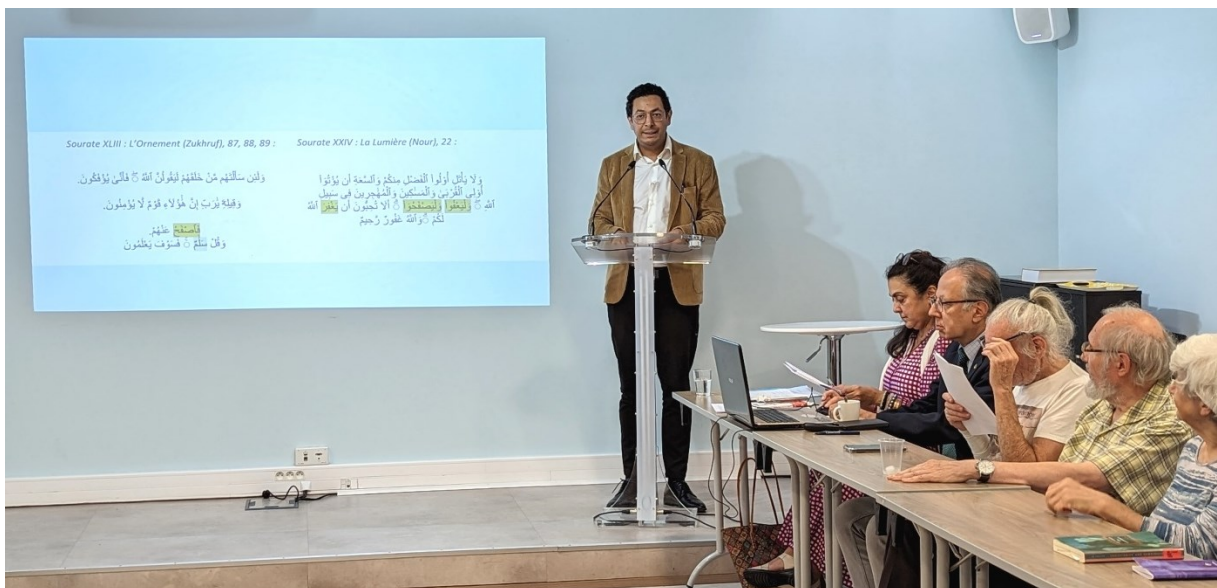
To start the meeting, the moderator, Madame Soraya AYOUCHE, clinical psychologist, invited us to a minute's silence in solidarity with the victims of the earthquake in Morocco and the floods in Libya.



Ms Brigitte WADA presents the "Bridges of Peace" initiative.

In her first speech, **Ms Brigitte WADA**, President of the Women's Federation for World Peace in France (<https://wfpw-france.org/>), presented the "Bridges of Peace" initiative. At international level, this has been a flagship project of the FFPM for nearly 30 years. The "Bridge of Peace" is a practical tool designed to facilitate the process of healing and reconciliation, and to bring together people who are enemies or who have been wounded in the depths of their souls. Committing to building a relationship with another person can enable participants to move beyond victimhood and become agents of their own personal change.

Ms WADA presented several examples of sisterhoods organized in France since 1997, often to mark a commemoration between two countries: Christian and Muslim women, France-Germany, France-Africa, France-England, France-America, France-Korea, France-Japan, France-Algeria, etc.



Professor Boumediene BENYAHIA comments on two passages from the Koran.

The second reading brought a Muslim perspective. It was verse 22 of Sura XXIV of the Koran: The Light (Nour) and verses 87, 88 and 89 of Sura XLIII: The Ornament (Zukhruf). They were commented on by **Professor Boumediene BENYAHIA**, Dr. Honoris causa 'Administration de la Paix', Director of the

Institut de la Parole (Kalima <https://institut-kalima.com/>) and Secretary General of the Coordination des organisations islamiques suisse (COIS).

He explained very well how, in Islam, forgiveness is built up on three major levels:

- integral" forgiveness, which is the great divine forgiveness, with a total willingness to wipe the slate clean,
- intermediate" forgiveness
- horizontal" forgiveness between human beings, before moving on to the higher levels.

"Forgiveness is a divine duty and a human duty", he concluded.

We then had a short musical break, "Pardonner" (to forgive), performed by **Mr Jean-Claude GIANADDA** (www.jeanclaudegianadda.net). Specializing in religious songs, he is the author of more than 1,000 Christian songs.



Mr Pascal BERNAGAUD presents, via Zoom, the Circles of Forgiveness.

The last presentation was based on the "Four Toltec Agreements" and was explained, via Zoom, by **Mr Pascal BERNAGAUD**, facilitator of Circles of Forgiveness and member of the Association "Pardon International, API" (<https://www.cerclesdepardon.fr/>). He gave us a brief history of the Circles of Forgiveness created following Olivier CLERC's experience of meeting Don Miguel RUIZ. Forgiveness is like a "heart shower" that we administer to ourselves, and it is essential to understand that we are the actors of what we cultivate in our hearts.



Questions-and-answers session at the Espace Barrault in Paris.

The meeting concluded with a questions-and-answers session moderated by **Mr Laurent LADOUCE**, a researcher with the Universal Peace Federation.



Mr Jean-François MOULINET closes the meeting in Paris.

Mr Jean-François MOULINET, coordinator of the *Dialogue & Alliance circle*, finally announced that the next meeting would take place on Sunday 22 October on the theme "Cultivating gratitude".

He also sincerely liked to thank and acknowledge the *Dialogue & Alliance* main partners, for their continuous support, in particular:

- the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (AIPD- France)
- the United Religions Initiative (URI) <https://www.urieurope.org/>
- the Interreligious and Intercultural Alliance of Geneva (GIIA)
- and the Comité Mondial des Trois Testaments (CMTT), in Mali.

>>> A recording of this program is available at <https://youtu.be/tOQ39cppNLQ> .

September 18 International Day of Forgiveness

It's amazing to see how the forgiveness movement continues to grow! We are all ready to open our hearts, soothe our minds, and heal our emotional wounds through this beautiful practice.

On September 18, 2023 , we will celebrate the 5th edition of the International Day of Forgiveness.

Previous editions have been a great success, with more than 400 events organized in around twenty countries. Forgiveness circles, meditations, Ho'ponopono rituals, radical forgiveness and other practices have helped to encourage the opening of our hearts and the welcoming of our differences. Film screenings, prayer vigils, conferences, festivals, concerts, dances and spiritual ceremonies were also organized for this occasion.

If you too use the power of forgiveness to heal hearts, we invite you to join the movement and share your action. Together we can be that drop of water that transforms the ocean into something beautiful and great.

If you would like to organize an event for this day, whatever your religious, philosophical or spiritual belief, we invite you to register via the link below. And if you simply prefer to participate in an activity, you can consult the agenda which brings together all the activities organized for this occasion.

Join us for this memorable day, and together let's help create a world where forgiveness, love and compassion are at the heart of our actions.

Roger Baumann & Marc-Antoine Tschopp
Organizing committee of the JIP 2023
[Association Pardon International](#)

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