

## UPF Hungary holds *The Voices of Peace* event at the Peace Embassy in Budapest

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On the 16th of December 2023, UPF Hungary held an inspiring event, "The Voices of Peace," at the Peace Embassy in Budapest. This initiative aimed to instill hope in the face of the escalating challenges in our region. Seeking collaboration with religious representatives, we received positive responses from several Ambassadors for Peace, affirming their support. Our vision is to expand the involvement of more religious leaders in future interfaith endeavors.



Péter Mészáros, Secretary of UPF Hungary, set the tone with opening remarks, paving the way for a brief presentation titled "Thoughts on the Need for Interfaith Cooperation." Erzsébet Sturmne Tomka, President of UPF Hungary, summarized UPF's interfaith activities, emphasizing the imperative of collaboration across faiths. She concluded by conveying parts of the core messages of UPF founders Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon: "One family under God" and "Peace starts with me." The performers resonated with these messages, incorporating them into their entertainments.

The Interfaith Water Ceremony for Peace followed the presentation, featuring three participants: Sliman Ahmed, President of the Sahara Foundation, representing the Muslim faith; Dániel Szurasenko, Leader of the Messiah Jewish community in Miskolc, representing the Jewish faith; and Gábor Albert Tóth, President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, representing the Unification Community of Hungary. Unfortunately, Protestant pastor György Kulin, unable to attend due to illness, joined us in spirit through prayers. The ceremony concluded with a moment of silent reflection.





The program's second half showcased captivating performances by various artists. Alma Latina, the family ensemble of Csaba Labant, commenced the concert, followed by the soulful Jewish songs of Dániel Szurasenkó, and the enchanting piano and vocal talents of Mónika Nanys, Co-chair of Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) Hungary, as affiliated organisation. Following a brief technical interlude, the Hungarian Association of Medical Musicians delivered a 40-minute performance, creating a truly uplifting atmosphere. Daisy Kertay, the head of the Association, consistently delights in bringing the Medical Musicians to our events.

The event concluded with closing remarks, transitioning into an informal discussion accompanied by Christmas cake. The public warmly embraced this event as a prelude to Christmas, with a turnout of 42 attendees.

