



online conference "Paths to Reconciliation Contributions of religions to personal and social peace"

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Agrees with the Family Foundation for World Peace: About 200 people participated in this online conference... The moderator of the online conference is Maria Hutter for World Peace, President Elisabeth...

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“Paths to Reconciliation- Contributions of Religions to personal and social Peace”

Vienna, Austria, July 8, 2021

By Elisabeth Cook

This was the topic of an Interreligious conference online on 8th July 2021, organised by FFWPU and UPF Austria.

All the speakers came from a Christian background, starting with Dr. Roger Wüst, who shared his experiences in leading an ecumenical program in one of the Viennese Catholic parishes. He had to see that it is not easy to awaken the interest of people in the topic, but nevertheless he continued his meetings of exchange and reconciliation between Catholics and Protestants, and later between Catholics and other faith communities for many years.

Mag. Markus Gerhold, Lutheran pastor, recalled the difficult path of the protestants in Austria – from fierce persecution and surviving in the underground to final recognition. He reminded us of the fact that we should always be grateful if we enjoy freedom of religion.

Mr. Gottfried Hutter, theologian, psychotherapist and author of the book „Honorable Peace“ explained how peace could be established between Jews and Palestinians, very much after the example of the biblical Jacob and Esau.

Finally, Mr. Peter Haider from UPF Austria gave an overview of the interreligious work of UPF in Austria and in the world. He then explained

more detailed that UPF's endeavor is to unite different areas of society, such as politics, economy, culture and religion, and that UPF's main focus lies in supporting the peaceful unification process between North and South Korea.

Before the closing of the conference the speakers answered questions from the audience, and the meeting concluded with a round of final statement by each speaker.

One day after the conference an extensive report was published in the internet newspaper „Citizens Voice“, the Austrian pendant of a Pakistani newspaper, by the Austrian correspondent, an enthusiastic UPF-member.