

UPF UK: Week 13 of the 100-Day Campaign: Bridging Dialogue and Development

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January 17, 2026



Universal Peace Federation - UK *A Global Network of Peacebuilders*



How economic ethics and interfaith understanding build harmony and shared prosperity

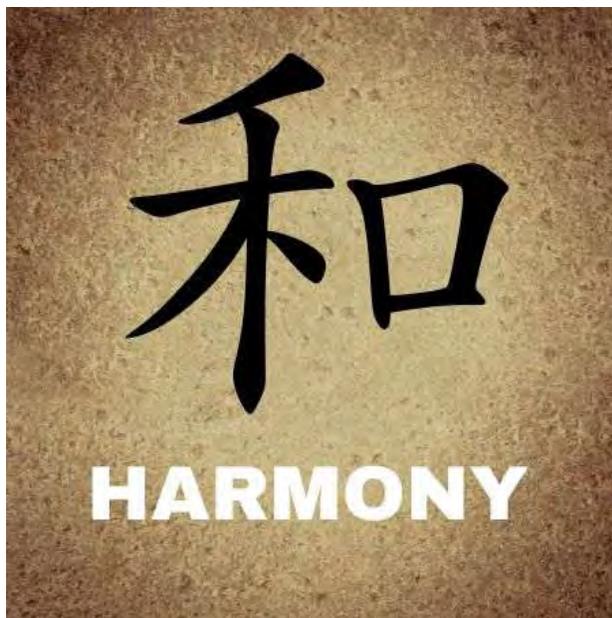
Week 13 of UPF's 100-Day Campaign (16 - 23 January 2026) brings together two global moments - World Religion Day and the World Economic Forum - to show how interfaith ethics and economic cooperation can build shared prosperity. With cooperatives recognised by the UN as a driver of people-centred development, and religions offering moral foundations for justice, stewardship, and solidarity, this week highlights a practical truth: sustainable economies require ethical leadership and dialogue across sectors.

As part of UPF's global 100-Day Campaign for Peace and Renewal, Week 13 (16-23 January 2026) builds on the legacy of [Dr. Hak Ja Han](#) and [Dr. Sun](#)

[Myung Moon](#), bringing together the themes of peacebuilding, economic cooperation, and interfaith dialogue.

World Religion Day, Davos and the ethics of cooperation

As the world gathers for the [World Economic Forum Annual Meeting \(January 19 - 23, Davos\)](#) and many communities mark [World Religion Day](#) (18 January), UPF highlights the link between economic justice, good governance, and interfaith cooperation. The UN's [International Year of Cooperatives, 2025](#) calls for development rooted in people-centred initiatives such as cooperative enterprises.



World Religion Day, first initiated by the Bahá'í community, invites all faiths to emphasise harmony over division, and to recognise the spiritual values we share.

Taken together, they point toward an "economy of peace" in which markets are guided by conscience, compassion, and respect for human dignity.

UPF: Interfaith dialogue shaping economic ethics

As part of preparations for [World Interfaith Harmony Week](#), UPF's [Interreligious Association for Peace and Development \(IAPD\)](#) is encouraged to host encounters that show how spiritual principles can shape cooperation, solidarity and social entrepreneurship.

In the UK this includes:

Events in London and Birmingham, bringing together faith, civic and community leaders.

A programme at UPF-UK HQ titled ['Building Bridges: Faith Communities Advancing Peace and Inclusion'](#), exploring practical ways faith communities can strengthen social cohesion and inclusion in everyday life.

These dialogues reflect the call of the co-founders, Dr Hak Ja Han and the late Rev. Dr Sun Myung Moon, to "live for the sake of others." That same spirit is seen in initiatives such as MEPI's interfaith pilgrimages, which foster empathy across divides and model a culture of service.

This principle, central to UPF's vision of "one family under God", connects naturally with:

[IAED](#) (International Association for Economic Development) - advancing peacebuilding through ethical and inclusive economic development.

[IAPP](#) (International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace) - encouraging policies that reflect public ethics, transparency and social protection.

UPF serves as a neutral platform where faith leaders, business leaders and policymakers can work together, integrating spiritual wisdom with practical development.

Dialogue and development in UN frameworks

The link between dialogue and development is also recognised in recent UN designations, including:

The International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace ([2023](#))

The International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development ([2021](#)).

Both affirm that inclusive governance, cultural innovation and cross-sector partnerships are central to peacebuilding. This aligns closely with UPF-UK's emphasis on [interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values](#) as a framework for practical peace work.

A week of historic milestones in the UPF, and pre-UPF, story

The relevance of these values is echoed in several landmark events that occurred during this same calendar week. On [January 16, 2008](#), the Parliamentarians for Peace conference in Kathmandu gathered approximately 120 members of Nepal's House of Representatives, including the speaker and deputy speaker, to reflect on their democratic transition and peace process. The event, co-hosted by Universal Peace Federation - Nepal and the Ex-MPs Club, underscored the impact of interparty dialogue and the need for family-based ethical governance.

On [January 18 - 19, 2018](#), the First Africa Summit convened in Dakar under UPF's leadership, bringing together heads of state, parliamentarians, faith leaders and civil society to address continental peace and development in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. The summit was co-hosted with the Government of Senegal and attended by President Macky Sall of Senegal, who emphasized regional cooperation and interfaith solidarity. Also in attendance were leaders from The Gambia, Niger, and other African nations including former President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria, along with religious dignitaries and representatives from the African Union. UPF launched collaboration frameworks and showcased UPF's role in bridging governments, faith communities and grassroots networks.

Earlier foundational milestones led by UPF founders also converge in this week. On January 21, 1970, the first Victory Over Communism (VOC) rally in Asia was held in Seoul, drawing 6,000 civic leaders to reaffirm democratic values. The following year, January 21, 1971, marked the launch of the International Women's Federation for Victory Over Communism, affirming women's central role in peacemaking. On January 22, 1995, a Japanese-American sisterhood ceremony held in Washington, D.C., symbolized healing and reconciliation across national divides.

January 17, 1999, saw the start of a major speaking tour in Korea by the founders of UPF, addressing audiences in eight cities with a message linking family values, national reconciliation, and global peace. The tour mobilized tens of thousands and reflected a long-standing commitment to connecting grassroots values with international harmony. And on January 19, 2001, in Washington, D.C., the American Clergy Leadership Conference ([ACLC](#)) honored the founders of UPF with the New Millennium Award for Unity and Renewal, celebrating their work in advancing interfaith cooperation.

Moral foundations for economic and social progress

As Dr Hak Ja Han Moon teaches, "Show others a life of true love by living for their sake."

Her husband, Rev. Dr Sun Myung Moon, affirmed: "True peace comes only through true love; no shortcuts exist."

These insights remind us that:

Economic progress depends on moral and spiritual foundations.

Economic and social development cannot be separated from deeper questions about the meaning of life, responsibility and community.

For UPF, this means that any discussion of jobs, trade, investment or growth must also address ethics, character and the common good.

From principles to practice: IAED, IAPD, IAPP and Peace Road

In this spirit, UPF's global associations - including their UK chapters - are invited to take practical initiatives that reflect:

[SDG 8](#) - Decent work and economic growth

[SDG 16](#) - Peace, justice and strong institutions

[SDG 17](#) - Partnerships for the goals

In practical terms:

[IAPD](#) can host conversations on ethical finance, interreligious cooperation and trust-building between communities.

[IAED](#) can promote values-based business, inclusive growth and models of cooperative enterprise.

[IAPP](#) can encourage laws and policies that uphold human dignity, support cooperatives, strengthen transparency and expand social protection.

Programmes such as [Peace Road](#) and IAED economic forums continue to embody this vision, from infrastructure and trade to education and local governance, aligned with the [UN Summit of the Future's](#) and its emphasis on reforming global governance for inclusive peace.

A call to [Ambassadors for Peace](#) and friends of UPF - UK

As UPF, we affirm that moral transformation precedes economic renewal. The convergence of World Religion Day and the World Economic Forum invites us to examine the ethical dimensions of leadership, finance and development.

The UN Secretary-General's [call for multilateralism](#) grounded in trust and inclusion underlines the urgency of dialogue across sectors and beliefs. In response, UPF - UK calls on:

Ambassadors for Peace,

Faith and community leaders, and

Concerned citizens across the UK

to renew their commitment to building an economy of peace.

This week, we invite each Ambassador for Peace to convene at least one dialogue - whether in a congregation, community group, business, university or online - linking ethical finance, interfaith trust-building and practical steps for shared prosperity.

Beyond speeches and declarations, let us build the structures of peace through:

Moral economy

Principled dialogue

Interdependent partnership

We move forward through cooperation, respect and service, not rivalry. This is the meaning of living as one human family under God, grounded in love and stewardship and reaching toward a common future.

Be Part of Building a Culture of Peace

If this message resonated with you, take the next step with UPF - UK

[Join the UPF-UK Peace Network with Email Updates](#) - thoughtful insights, invitations, and ways to serve.

[Become a Monthly Supporter of UPF - UK](#) - sustain long-term peace initiatives and leadership development.

[Become an Ambassador for Peace](#) - join a global network of ethical leaders and bridge-builders.

[Get Involved in UPF - UK's Charitable Work](#) - interfaith cooperation, youth leadership, gender equality, community service.

Most Relevant Next Reads

Continue exploring how peace, dialogue, and ethical leadership are shaping a more just and harmonious world:

[UPF and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#)

[A Decade of Action for the Global Goals](#)

[Interfaith Council at the United Nations](#)

Broader UPF Context

Discover more about UPF's vision and work:

[UPF Celebrates 20 Years of Global Peacebuilding](#)

[Dr Hak Ja Han - Mother of Peace, A Life Dedicated to Unity, Family, and Global Peacebuilding](#)

[Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universal Values](#)