



How Can Europe Do More to Advance Human Rights

Robin Marsh
November 8, 2012



**Universal Peace Federation
Women's Federation for World Peace
European Economic and Social Council**

European Leadership Conference
December 4th – 5th 2012, Brussels

“How Can Europe Do More to Advance Human Rights”
Commemorating Human Rights Day 2012

Brussels - European Parliament & European Economic and Social Council

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in cooperation with the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and The European Economic & Social Committee, cordially invites you to attend our European Leadership Conference (ELC) ***“What More Can Europe Do To Advance Human Rights?”*** on Tuesday December 4th and Wednesday December 5th 2012 in Brussels.

The conference will take advantage of the spotlight that U.N. Human Right's Day will shine on this area to consider ongoing human rights campaigns by these three organisations. The Brussels ELC is part of a series that have featured issues of pressing concern for Europe and the world such as the treatment of minorities, religious freedom, violence against women, torture (with Freedom from Torture) or youth human rights issues in different venues across Europe. (Please see programme below.) These have been held during 2011-2012 at the United Nations in Geneva and in Vienna, at UNESCO in Paris, in National Parliaments in the United Kingdom and in Norway, and in the Presidential Palace in Malta. These issues are also raised in many local branches of UPF and WFWP throughout Europe. Europe has led the world in advancing understanding and implementation of Human Rights everywhere.

International participants should arrive in Brussels by the evening of 3rd December and will be accommodated in the Thon Hotel EU Rue de la Loi 75 B-1040 Brussels (Tel: +32 (0)2 204 3911). A fee of 320 Euros will include a two night stay (with departure on 5th December) sharing a twin bedded room with meals and all aspects of the programme on 4th and 5th December (extra nights 80 Euros per person in twin bedded accommodation, single accommodation extra 140 Euros per night).

To notify us of your wish to attend, please use the Online Registration link. We look forward to hearing from you soon and hope that you will be able to join us for this very timely and meaningful conference.

Yours Sincerely,

Robin Marsh
Secretary General
UPF - UK

Margaret Ali
Director
UPF - UK



European Economic and Social Council



Universal Peace Federation



Women's Federation for World Peace

Monday, 3rd December

From 14:00 Arrivals and Registration for international guests at 'Thon EU' Hotel, Brussels

18.00 Dinner (international participants to make own meal arrangements)

Tuesday, 4th December - European Economic & Social Committee

07:30 Breakfast at hotel

08:45 Depart Hotel

09:15 SESSION I: European Economic & Social Committee ("E.E.S.C.")

How can Europe do more to advance Human Rights?

Henri Malosse - President Designate, E.E.S.C. (Welcoming Remarks)

Madi Sharma - U.K. Representative E.E.S.C. Employers' Section (Welcoming Remarks)

Boutros Boutros-Ghali - Secretary-General of The U.N. 1991-1996

Stavros Lambrinidis - Former Foreign Minister of Greece & current E.U. Special Representative for Human Rights (tbc)

Kinga Gal M.E.P. - Vice-Chair European Parliament Home Affairs Committee (tbc)

Yong Cheon Song - Chair UPF Europe

10:45 Break

11:15 SESSION II: How can Inter-religious cooperation Prevent Racial, National and Religious Prejudice?

William MacCormish - Dean Emeritus Geneva Cathedral (tbc)

Stein Wilemstad - European Secretary-General, World Conference of Religions for Peace (tbc)

Prof. Mona Siddiqui - University of Edinburgh (tbc)

12:45 Lunch

14:15 SESSION III: Women & Democracy

Krishna Ahoja Patel - Chair of U.N. N.G.O. Committee on Development and Former Director General of U.N.R.I.S.T.

Carolyn Handschin - President Womens Federation for World Peace, Europe

3rd & 4th speakers (tbc)

15:45 Break

16:00 SESSION IV: Human Rights in Europe - Social Cohesion, Immigration and Minorities

Peter Zoehrer - Secretary-General Forum for Religious Freedom, Austria

Hans Van Baalen - M.E.P "Human Rights and Freedom of Opinion".

Aaron Rhodes - Former Director of Helsinki Federation for Human Rights

"Expressing prejudice and freedom of speech"

Willy Fautré - Director Human Rights without Frontiers, Brussels

Christian Brunner - Former Vice-Chancellor University of Graz

Patricia Duval - Attorney and Expert on Religious Freedom & the Law

17:30 Depart from E.E.S.C. to Thon Hotel

19:00 Dinner and Cultural Programme

21:30 Close

Wednesday, 5th December *Human Rights Day 2012*

07:00 Breakfast at the hotel

08:30 Depart for morning venue (tba)

09.00 Session V: Youth Perspectives: The Right to Information for Young People & Human Rights Education - Foundations for a Democratic Europe

What is the role of the Right to Information and Human Rights Education in securing and fostering Human Rights and Democracy in Europe? Is the right to information for young people in Europe under threat? If so, from what? What strategies are there to ensure the Right to Information for young people in Europe? What role do direct stakeholders governments, NGOs, schools, families or peers etc. play in Human Rights Education for young people?

Davide Capecchi - Director, European Youth Information & Counselling Agency – “ERYICA”.

Ilaria Esposito, Member of the Council of Europe - Advisory Council on Youth, Trainer for Human Rights Education

Bogdan Pammer, Youth Director, Universal Peace Federation – Europe

10:30 Break

11:00 Session VI: Towards Peace Loving Global Citizenship

As a Peace Loving Global Citizen - UPF's Origins and Founder's concern for Human Rights - **Dieter Schmidt** - President UPF Germany

Womens' Federation for World Peace – Vision Projects & Activities (Human Rights emphasis)

Carolyn Handschin - President WFWP Europe

Universal Peace Federation – Vision, Projects & Activities (with emphasis on Human Rights)

Mark Brann - Secretary General UPF Europe

Ambassador for Peace Awards

12.30 Depart for European Parliament

12.45 Lunch (venue tba)

14:00 Session VII: Prevention & Eradication of Torture

Charles Tannock M.E.P.

Keith Best - CEO Freedom from Torture

3rd Speaker TBC

15.00 Break

15:20 SESSION VIII: Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict and Implementation of UNSCR 1325

Elisabeth Rehn - Minister of State, Finland 1995

Humphrey Hawksley - BBC World Affairs Correspondent (tbc)

3rd Speaker (tbc)

16:30 Departures

Robin Marsh
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UPF is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Please see: Global UPF Activities 2011 Review of UPF-UK Activities in 2011 Human Rights Conference Dec 2011