

## **UPF UK: Global Culture of Peace and Peaceful Reunification of Korean Peninsula**

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On August 4 at the UPF HQ in London, UK, was held the second day of the International Leadership Conference on the theme "Toward Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula: Creating a Global Culture of Peace". Following the two sessions cosponsored by UPF and IAYSP in Berlin, Germany, on July 26, three ILC sessions, featuring three different topics, were held at the Lancaster Gate UPF HQ, with approximately 100 participants in attendance and an online audience from Europe and the Middle East.

### **Exploring the Strategy of the Seoul Resolution Toward Sustainable Peace and Prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia**

Author and commentator, Humphrey Hawksley moderated this session in his typical BBC-trained style. Keith Best, the Chair of UPF-UK Board of Trustees and a former MP spoke. Keith Bennett, a recipient of the Friendship Order of the DPRK by President Kim Il Sung, discussed the Seoul Resolution from a DPRK perspective. Mr Yoshihiro Yamazaki, Liaison Director for Europe and Middle East, Institute for Peace Policies, Japan, and the Coordinator of the International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP) for Europe and the Middle East introduced a headwing viewpoint of the Seoul Resolution in the wider context of tensions between China and the United States regarding Taiwan. The role and position of Japan was discussed during question and answers. At the conclusion participants were invited to sign the Seoul Resolution to show their support.

Mr. Jacques Marion, Co-chairman, UPF Europe and Middle East led the Tribute to Mr Shinzo Abe Former Prime Minister of Japan including a minutes silence and a video from Mr. Masayoshi Kajikuri, the Chair of UPF-Japan.

### **Conflict Resolution and the Role of Faith-Based Organizations and NGOs: Creating an Interreligious Council at the United Nations**

Mr. Heiner Handschin, the Director UPF Office for UN Relations, coordinated this session to highlight the significance of True Parent's vision for the Inter-religious Council at the UN. There were two videos of speeches by Amb. Makarim Wibisono, Former Perm. Rep. of Indonesia to the UN in Geneva, New York and Amb. Dr. Jesus Domingo

Current Philippine Ambassador to New Zealand, to give the background of the Inter-religious Council at the UN. These were followed by speeches from Hon. Jan Figel, the Former European Commission Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion and former Vice-President of the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

Ms. Haleemah Oladamade Ahmad, Senior Research Associate and Chief Editor, Da'wah Institute, Islamic Education Trust, addressed the conference from Nigeria. Dr. Lakshmi Vyas, who is the President of the Hindu Forum of Europe and holds many other Hindu and interfaith roles. The Director of the Oxford Islamic Information Centre Sheikh Dr. Hojjat Ramzy who was a Trustee of UPF - UK spoke very passionately.

### **Conflicting Narratives and Values - Perspectives for a Common Vision and Culture of Peace.**

This considered the ideological background to the tensions between east and west Europe in general although the Ukraine and Russian war emerged as the point of focus of those tensions.

The final session was moderated by Ms. Chantal Chételat Komagata who is the Coordinator for UPF Europe. A very dynamic lady, Ms. Caecilia van Peski who is the Academic Fellow for the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Juniata College and a Member, UN Senior Women Talent Pipeline, The Netherlands, spoke partly about her experience with Ukraine military as well as the importance of feminine values in resolving conflicts. Dr. Willy Fautré, CEO and Director, Human Rights Without Frontiers International, Belgium, spoke on the human rights context of Europe. Hon. Niná Nováková, Member of Parliament, Czech Republic, emphasised the protection of the family rights and values. Mr. Paul Gutteridge was the final speaker. He is the Former UK Director, Initiatives of Change; Honorary Fellow, Edward Cadbury Centre, University of Birmingham. He specialises in building trust between extremist groups that are in conflict with each other in order to de-risk societal tensions and spoke of how to use those skills on this wider international context.

The discussion focused on the ideological underpinnings of the new East - West conflict, and on tensions and different perspectives among democracies in Europe regarding individual rights, traditional values, and how can these trends be harmonized to promote a global culture of peace.

In a Closing section Dr Michael Balcomb introduced a practical UPF youth service project, building a peace garden in an eco-park in Birmingham, that has been organised by Dr David and Patricia Earle. It had been underway over the previous 3 days. Photos of the project were shown. Patricia Earle invited Rani Gundhu, a Senior Police Officer, who had addressed the young people participating, spoke of the value of this project.