



UPF EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST NEWSLETTER



WORLD NEWS

UPF HOLDS HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

By Jacques Marion, Regional Vice President of UPF for Europe & the Middle East

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the historic Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), together with the Paris Academy of Geopolitics, Human Rights without Frontiers, Women’s Federation for World Peace International and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, convened in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, on December 12, 2018,

two panels of eminent scholars and human rights activists to consider the theme “Europe and the Future of Human Rights.”

Hosted by Hon. Patricia Lalonde, a member of the European Parliament, the event was attended by several members of the European Parliament and their assistants and by representatives from Strasbourg-based consulates.

The event began with a minute of silence for those who had died or been injured in the terrorist attack on Strasbourg’s Christmas Market the day before. In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, the UPF chairman for Europe and the Middle East, introduced about the vision and life of the UPF founders, noting that their regard for human rights was rooted in their suffering

experience as refugees in their war-torn homeland of Korea.

The first panel, on the theme “Europe and Fundamental Freedoms,” was moderated by Dr. Ali Rastbeen, president of the Paris Academy of Geopolitics. Panelists included Mr. Willy Fautré, director and co-founder of the Brussels-based Human Rights without Frontiers; Hon. Tomáš Zdechovský, MEP for the Czech Republic; Ms. Diana Constantinide, a London-based barrister specializing in human rights; Dr. Farida Valiullina, a Berlin-based lawyer specializing in public international law and human rights law; and Mr. Jacques Marion, the UPF vice president for Europe and the Middle East.

Topics ranged from the current threat of Islamism in Europe, the need for a stronger legal system to

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER *Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, Chairman, UPF Europe & Middle East*



Dear Readers,

At the dawn of 2019, let me express my sincerest wishes for good health, prosperity and success in all your endeavors.

We closed the year on December

12 in Strasbourg with a conference at the European Parliament on “Europe and the Future of Human Rights”. The act of terror that preceded it, shaking the whole nation, was a tragic reminder of the seriousness

of our peacebuilding mission, notably concerning the dialogue among religions.

UPF's focus on interreligious dialogue and cooperation began in 2018 with inaugural meetings of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) in Vienna and Geneva. It continued with inaugural meetings in Kiev, Jerusalem, Moscow and Paris, as reported in this edition.

In the Middle East and North Africa other significant events were the inauguration of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) at the Moroccan Parliament and the participation of UPF in the World Tolerance Summit in Dubai.

The series of World Summits organized in 2018, beginning in Senegal and Brazil, continued in South Africa, where UPF honored the legacy of Nelson Mandela on his centennial year, and in Nepal, where the Asia Pacific Summit gathered six current heads of state and many other dignitaries.

A culminating event will be the World Summit 2019, to be held in February in Korea, with a large delegation of world leaders - a prelude for many high-level activities this year.

Dear readers, I wish that you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and that you will have a safe and successful new year.

implement the UDHR, to the need for a renewed balance between rights and responsibilities. Czech MEP Tomáš Zdechovský, expressing his commitment to human rights, recalled the words from his grandfather who suffered under the Nazi and communist regimes: “If you fall asleep in a democracy, you will wake up in a totalitarian regime”.

The second panel examined the theme “Philosophical Basis of Human Rights and Future Perspectives”. The speakers were Dr. Aaron Rhodes, the former executive director of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights; Dr. Antonio Stango, president of the Italian Federation for Human Rights; Dr. Adrian Holderegger, professor emeritus at the Department of Ethics and Theology of the University of Fribourg in Switzerland; and Carolyn Handschin, director of the UN Offices of the Women's Federation for World Peace International.

They raised thoughtful discussions on the current “debasement of human rights”; the challenge raised by regional approaches to human rights centering on “traditional values”; and the new concept of Citizen Rights recently promoted by religious leaders at the UN in Geneva.

The European Parliament was a fitting setting for the commemoration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The terrorist attack that preceded it on December 11, however, was a clear reminder of the efforts yet to be made to uphold the European Union motto of “Unity in Diversity”.

Visit www.europe.upf.org/nl3 for the complete report.



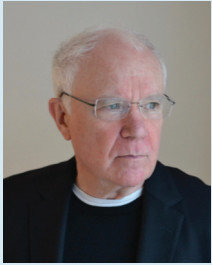
1 The speakers, moderators and audience at the end of the conference

2 View of the speakers in the first session

3 Hon. Tomáš Zdechovský, MEP for Czech Republic

4 View of the European Parliament in Strasbourg

EXCERPTS FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG



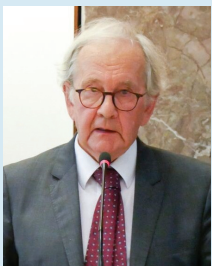
Dr. Aaron Rhodes

Former Executive Director of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights

As a human rights advocate, I am concerned about two main problems in the way we approach international human rights today.

First is the problem of politicization. By this I don't mean the way authoritarian states exploit the human rights system in order to pursue a political agenda. I mean that the very idea of human rights upheld in international institutions is politicized. When you listen in on debates in human rights institutions today you hear mainly about social policy questions, about how public resources should be redistributed to change societies for the better. We need those discussions, but they are not discussions about human rights, that is, about protecting individual freedom from coercion. The core challenge of ensuring political freedom occupies only a small, and shrinking part of today's human rights discourse, which is thoroughly saturated with partisan ideology.

The second, and clearly related main problem of international human rights is the sad and embarrassing state of international human rights institutions, especially the UN Human Rights Council, but also other forums. [...]



Dr. Adrian Holderegger

Professor Emeritus of theological ethics, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

On June 25, 2018, representatives of the six major world religions gathered at the UN headquarters in Geneva and adopted a declaration. The gathering was under the patronage of Prince El

Hassan bin Talal of the Hashemite kings of Jordan. I was invited as well. The event is of great importance not only because, for the first time, high-ranking representatives of the respective religions gathered together in the UN Forum, but especially because they signed a joint declaration to the attention of the UN General Assembly. It states that religions are committed to a "recognition and understanding of the universal values of the concept of equal citizens' rights, which are rooted in human rights". Secondly, it wants to reinforce "the promotion and the strengthening of equal citizens' rights, which

Both the meaning of human rights, and the way we seek to protect human rights, are clearly in trouble. Meanwhile, freedom is in retreat around the world. For example, recent studies by the Pew Foundation have shown that 83% of the world's population now lives under conditions where there are "high or very high levels of overall restrictions on religion"—either through government policies or the failure of governments to protect members of threatened groups. The most targeted groups were Christians (in 144 countries), Muslims (142 countries), and Jews (in 87). What is more, and despite the enlarging human rights bureaucracy, and the expanding human rights agenda, we are failing to address major human rights and humanitarian problems, like in Yemen, where 14 million people are beginning to starve, and in Syria, where half a million civilians have been killed.

Our approach to human rights needs to be reformed, and in this situation, and at junctures like this anniversary, it is appropriate to reflect about the founding documents of the international human rights system, what they say about the nature of human rights, and to take guidance from those principles as we look ahead.

include economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights". Third, the assembly makes the commitment to hold an audit under the auspices of the United Nations every five years. [...]

The World Conference of Religions (2018) presents a multi-layered document. Not only are different legal traditions - eastern and western - linked, but different traditions of commitment are interwoven: on the one hand, the discourse on citizens' rights; they should be rooted in human rights; on the other hand, religiously founded values (such as dignity, equality, freedom, love) are mentioned, for which there is great convergence in religions; they should exert a strong regulatory power on the practice and organization of the national community. [...]

Visit www.europe.upf.org/nl3 for the complete speeches.

WORLD NEWS

PARIS SYMPOSIUM

By Jean-François Moulinet, Regional President of FFWPU for West Europe

From October 26 to 28, 2018, Paris had the honor of hosting the inauguration of the European branch of the Hyojeong Academy of Arts and Sciences Foundation. The event was organized by UPF Europe. The largest number of participants came from Europe, the second largest group was from Korea, which sponsored and co-hosted the event, and there were also participants from Japan and the United States.

This event provided an excellent opportunity to revive the Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA) in Europe and promote networking and cooperation between prominent professors and researchers from all over the world.

On Friday, October 26, the Hyojeong Academy Europe was launched in the Espace Barrault Center in Paris.

On the second day, the opening and main session of the symposium took place at the Maison des Polytechniciens, a beautiful, historic building not far from the River



Seine. The Ecole Polytechnique (Polytechnic School), founded by Napoleon, was originally a military school that trained generations of engineers and has become over time the most prestigious engineering school in France.

The opening session was held under the title of “The Vision of the Unity of the Sciences and Hyojeong World Peace” with presentations by Dr. Michael Balcomb, chair of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) for Europe and the Middle East; Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, chair of UPF for Europe and the Middle East; Mr. Masayoshi Kajikuri of UPF Japan; Dr. Jinsung Bae, president of the Hyojeong

Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Mr. Didier Guignard, founder of the Club-Science in Paris.

Following the opening session, six interesting sessions were held during the day. There was also time during breaks and lunch for the participants to discuss the contents and to get to know each other.

On Sunday, October 28, a Unification Thought Institute seminar was organized in Espace Barrault, with nine presenters from Sun Moon University in Korea. The participants appreciated the thought-provoking conferences and went home with a lot of food for thought.



- 1 Mr. Jean-François Moulinet, Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, Dr. Michael Balcomb, Dr. Jae Young Lee, Dr. Jinsung Bae and Dr. Young Hee Ahn
- 2 The main part of the symposium was held in the Maison des Polytechniciens in Paris, France.
- 3 Dr. David Hanna, regional President of FFWPU Northern Europe
- 4 Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, Chairman of UPF Europe and the Middle East, was the main organiser of the symposium.



WORLD NEWS

AFRICA SUMMIT Honoring the Legacy of President Nelson Mandela

By Jacques Marion, Regional Vice President of UPF for Europe and the Middle East

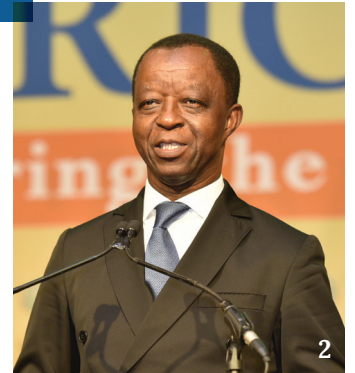
Cape Town, South Africa—On November 21–24, 2018, the international conference on “Peace and Human Development in Africa,” hosted by the Universal Peace Federation and the Royal House of Mandela, took place at the International Convention Center in Cape Town, South Africa. Attended by 700 dignitaries from throughout the continent, the summit provided a platform to honor the legacy of President Nelson Mandela during this centennial celebration year (1918–2018) and to exchange views on current critical issues.

As a co-host of the event, Chief Zwelivelile Mandela, the grandson of Nelson Mandela, had invited his colleagues from the Cape Town - based South African Parliament and from the Pan African Parliament, the legislative body of the African Union.



In the Opening Plenary, UPF Founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon gave insightful guidance to the gathered assembly: “We must transcend race and religion and know that God, the Heavenly Parent is our parent...The True Family Movement is the only shortcut to a world of peace”, she said. Together with representatives from 20 nations, she then launched the International Peace Highway, described as “a world superhighway starting from Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, to Santiago in Chile, and from London to New York, making the world a single community.”

Mr. Adama Doumbia, UPF Africa Secretary General introduced 10 projects undertaken by UPF in Africa involving parliamentarians, religious leaders and traditional rulers, ranging from the promotion of family values and character education to economic sustainable development.



In a session dedicated to “Honoring the Legacy of Nelson Mandela”, Chief Mandela captivated the audience by his personal accounts of his grandfather’s life, and how he came to understand the value of his grandfather breaking racial barriers, amid dangerous social conflicts, to secure a prosperous future for his country.

The second day featured the IAPP Assembly with Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Parliaments from various African countries, the IAPD Assembly which brought together religious leaders and the IATP Assembly featuring traditional rulers.

The summit concluded with an Interfaith and Peace Blessing Ceremony attended by 3,000 interreligious couples. Dr. Prophet Samuel Radebe, founder and leader of one of the largest traditional churches in South Africa, gave a profound testimony to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who prayed for blessings upon the continent and for the future of Africa.

Concluding the Festival, H.E. Mahamane Ousmane, former president of Niger, said, “When we look back on this remarkable ceremony, we will surely see that it will have marked an historic upturn in having released all the deepest values, ideals and longings in the hearts of our people.”

1 Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, UPF Founder, gave the keynote speech

2 Hon. Roger Nkodo Dang, the Cameroonian president of the Pan African Parliament

3 Chief Zwelivelile Mandela, grandson of Nelson Mandela and a member of the South African Parliament

4 Hon. Baleka Mbete, the president of the South African National Assembly



WORLD NEWS

UPF AT FIRST WORLD TOLERANCE SUMMIT

By David Fraser-Harris, Secretary General, UPF-Middle East

A UPF delegation of six attended the first World Tolerance Summit, which took place from November 16 to 18, 2018 in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE). UPF was an official supporting partner of the two-day conference, whose theme was “Prospering from Pluralism: Embracing Diversity through Innovation and Collaboration”, and which was held on the centenary of the birth of HRH Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder of the UAE who gathered different tribes in the 1960’s to form one united nation. The delegation included the co-chair of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) for the Middle East and North Africa, Dr. Mohamad Habash.

For the full report see www.europe.upf.org/nl3.

- 1 The panel in the session on the responsibility of educational institutions in ingraining qualities of tolerance in today's youth
- 2 Mr. Angelucci, UPF Middle East and North Africa chair and Dr. Hamad Al Shaikh Ahmad Al Shaibani, managing director of the International Institute of Tolerance, signed a memorandum of understanding.



WORLD NEWS

IAPD CONVENES RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN NEW YORK

By UPF International Staff

Under the banner of “Overcoming Division, Building Unity,” close to 300 clergy and lawmakers from 28 nations convened at the iconic New Yorker Hotel on November 10 to 12, 2018, to discuss paths to reconciliation. The participants endorsed the proposal to establish and develop the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD). Participants included Cardinal Kelvin Felix from Dominica; Imam Muhammad Elahi of Detroit; Protestant clergy from dozens of denominations, as well as Orthodox priests, Buddhist monks, Shinto priests from Japan and yogi masters from India. Lawmakers included Dan Burton and Todd Tiaht, both former members of the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as legislators currently serving around the world.



- 1 The interfaith water ceremony in which representatives of different religions each pour a glass of water into a common bowl.
- 2 Cardinal Kelvin Felix from Dominica was a speaker in Session V.
- 3 The ballroom of the New Yorker hotel, the site of the IAPD global convocation

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY OF LOVE

The following is an excerpt on the topic of "the Freedom and Responsibility of Love" taken from a speech given by Dr. Moon on April 16, 1996.

According to the ideal of love, all love relationships in the animal and plant kingdoms are for reproduction only. Human beings are the sole exception. Humankind enjoys freedom in the conjugal relationship of love, which is humanity's special privilege as the lord of all creation.

God gave the blessing and infinite joy of love to His sons and daughters.

However, the true freedom that God allowed requires human responsibility.

When an individual insists upon and practices freedom of love without responsibility, how much confusion and destruction takes place! Achieving the highest ideal of human love is possible only when one takes responsibility for love.

We can think of this responsibility in three ways. The first is for one to become the master of true love, truly free and thanking God for the freedom of love, wherein one knows how to cultivate and control oneself. This responsibility for a love relationship is not to be taken merely because of law or social convention. Instead, a person needs to establish responsibility through his own self-control and self-determination within a life-committing, vertical relationship with God.



The second is one's responsibility toward the object partner of love. By nature, people do not want their spouse's love to be shared with others. Horizontal conjugal love, which differs from the vertical love between parents and children, loses its potential for perfection the moment it is divided. This is

because the Principle of Creation requires husband and wife to become one in absolute love. Each spouse has the responsibility given by love to live absolutely for the sake of the other.

The third responsibility of love is toward children.

The love of parents is the basis for children's pride and happiness. Children want to be born through the total and harmonious unity of their parents in true love, and they would want to be raised in that kind of love. The most precious responsibility of parents is not only to rear their children externally, it is also to offer them life elements of true love that can bring their spirituality to complete fruition. This is why the family is so valuable. The daily experience of the heart of true children, true brothers and sisters, true spouses and true parents cannot be acquired in any place other than the true family.

REGIONAL NEWS

IAPP INAUGURATED IN MOROCCO

By David Fraser Harris, secretary general, UPF-Middle East and North Africa



Rabat, Morocco—On November 7, 2018 the president of the House of Representatives, Hon. Habib El Malki, chaired a special meeting in the Morocco Room of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco to formally inaugurate the Morocco Parliament branch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP). In attendance were the vice president of the House of Councillors, Hon. Abdelhamid Souiri, and the leaders of each political group in the parliament, together with other members of parliament.

“Today’s event is central to the spreading of peace as Morocco plays a key role in Africa and the Middle East,” said the president. “One hundred years after the end of the First World War, nations and people all over the world are working hard for peace. Our goal is to spread and strengthen the culture of peace in all parts of the world.”

Dr. Thomas Walsh, chair of UPF, expressed great respect for Morocco’s efforts for peace, in particular for the work of King Mohammed VI in building good relations with neighbouring countries. In its capacity as an NGO with

general consultative status with the UN, UPF through its flagship program, the IAPP, hopes to encourage an enriching exchange of experience between parliaments and civil society.

Mrs. Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, co-chair of the IAPP in Europe and former president of the Parliament of Luxembourg, highlighted the role of parliamentarians as key to the link between the civil population and the legislature. She spoke of the challenges to democracy in Europe, pointing out the great need to address a loss of faith in democracy.

Following brief comments from others in the UPF delegation, including UPF Vice President Taj Hamad, Hon. El Malki spoke again of the importance of this meeting, emphasizing the need to defend representative institutions worldwide. “Our role—together—is vital for humankind. This meeting is a first step to defend peace and stability... I hope this section of the IAPP will be an effective element for the expansion of the culture of peace.”

When the speeches had concluded, Dr. Walsh presented Hon. El Malki with an Ambassador for Peace award.

Moroccan TV included 2.5 minutes of coverage of the meeting. The commentary concluded: “The Moroccan branch definitely will play an important role in cooperation and discussion among parliaments in order to support peace in the world and also to solve the problems of terrorism, fundamentalism and extremism, besides spreading the culture, values and principles of peace, society and equality between men and women and also human rights.”



1 The session in the parliament

2 Hon. Hennicot-Schoepges and Hon. Habib El Malki

3 H.E. Habib El Malki speaking to the press

Go to www.europe.upf.org/nl3 for the speeches of Hon. Habib El Malki and Hon. Hennicot-Schoepges.

“I am convinced that your movement, as a central component in global diplomacy, will be strengthened through the launch of the Moroccan branch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace, which is considered a central pillar in Moroccan diplomacy. Our country’s contribution has always been crucial in building world peace and in calling for moderation and resolving conflicts through peaceful means, opposing terrorism and extremism, and bringing victory for the values of peace, tolerance and coexistence. Through its notable participation in the peacekeeping work of the United Nations in various conflict regions and its embrace of conflict resolution initiatives, the Kingdom of Morocco was an important contributor in establishing the initiatives for alliance amongst civilizations that have been sponsored by the United Nations since 2005.” - Hon. Habib El Malki

REGIONAL NEWS

INAUGURATING NATIONAL CHAPTERS OF THE INTERRELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT



The European IAPD Office Opens in Vienna

Vienna, Austria—The Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) opened its European office in the premises of Peace Museum Vienna in the city center.

The opening ceremony took place on October 18, 2018, led by UPF-Austria President Peter Haider. The event was attended by Ambassadors for Peace, supporters of UPF and affiliated organizations, and UPF core staff.

The IAPD is Inaugurated in Ukraine

Kiev, Ukraine—The Ukrainian chapter of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) was inaugurated during a conference titled “Toward Interdependence and Mutual Prosperity: The Role of Public, Youth and Spiritual Leaders.” More than 300 people attended the conference, which was held on October 19, 2018, in the assembly hall of the National Pedagogical Drahomanov University. The event was organized jointly by UPF-Ukraine and the Ukrainian Peace Council.



The IAPD is inaugurated in Israel

Around 50 people gathered for the national inauguration of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) in the coastal city of Acre in northwest Israel on December 20, 2018. Attending the event were senior religious leaders from the four main faiths in Israel—Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Druze—political and educational leaders, and peace and social activists.

The program began with former member of the Knesset (MK) Zouheir Bahaloul, who was the emcee of the event, inviting the religious leaders to offer their messages of peace. Representing Islam was Sheik Samir Aasi; Christianity, Father Masoud Abu-Hatoum; Judaism, Rabbi Yaakov Luft; and the Druze faith, Sheik Samich Natur.

The IAPD is inaugurated in Moscow

Moscow, Russia—In the historic Hotel National, not far from Red Square decorated with New Year’s lights, UPF held a conference titled “Peacekeeping in the Context of Interethnic and Interfaith Separation.”

The December 22, 2018, conference, which was attended by 70 people, was the occasion for the inauguration in Russia of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD), an initiative of UPF.



The IAPD is inaugurated in Paris

On January 19, 2019, IAPD was inaugurated in Paris. Monseigneur Jacques Gaillot, the Catholic Bishop of Partenia, opened the conference on the theme “Addressing the challenges of our time: the contribution of religion”, with a poignant speech on current social issues and human dignity.

Religious leaders and scholars discussed the decline of family values, the ensuing fragility of family bonds, and the challenges raised by Church – State separation, particularly in rapport with the growing Islamic community.

In a solemn Peace Ceremony, 14 participants enacted symbolically, with fire and water, the sharing of religions from their common root in heaven to their common home on earth.

REGIONAL NEWS

FAMILY EXPERTS WARN ABOUT FATHERLESS PROCREATION

By UPF-France

Paris, France—Family advocates discussed the consequences for the family and society of a controversial law on bioethics that would facilitate medically assisted procreation. The program was organized on October 20, 2018 by UPF, together with affiliated organizations Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP), Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), and Families and Values Orsay-Les Ulis (FAVORLU).

One of the guest speakers was Mrs. Agnès Ferrandon, a lawyer specializing in health law, who explained the juridical implications of the projected adoption of medically assisted procreation for all women. Mr. Philippe Oswald, a Christian journalist and author, spoke on the topic of a fatherless society. The crises of fatherhood are the consequence of the crises of manhood and of masculinity in general, he said.



1 Jenny Lambert of WFWP (left) moderates the event. At right is Agnès Ferrandon, a lawyer specializing in health law.



2 Hanna Lotterie, the president of FAVORLU (standing), introduces journalist Philippe Oswald, one of the guest speakers.



REGIONAL NEWS

PEACE COUNCILS ESTABLISHED THROUGHOUT ALBANIA

By Gani Rroshi and Bilbil Zharri, UPF-Albania

Tirana, Albania—Starting in 2017, with the help of the city administrations, the personal support of the mayors and local Ambassadors for Peace, Peace Councils have been founded in 58 of the nation’s 61 municipalities. In 2018, 45 inaugural events were held.

After a local Peace Council was created, and local dignitaries were named as Ambassadors for Peace, the council’s chair and vice chairs were invited to a seminar on the UPF Peace Principles. Three seminars were held in 2018.



1 Creation of Mallakstra Peace Council

2 The Mayor of Vora receiving the title of Ambassador for Peace

REGIONAL NEWS

UPF-DENMARK HOLDS COLLABORATIVE PEACE ROAD EVENT

By UPF-Denmark

Copenhagen, Denmark—UPF-Denmark’s Peace Road 2018 event started with a peace march that was followed by a symposium with the theme “How to Promote Dialogue.” The symposium was hosted by Jacob Holdt in his Ubuntu House: Mr. Holdt became internationally known in the 1970s by creating the book of photography American Pictures, showing the hardships of America’s

poor people. He continues to be a peace activist and collaborates with several peace organizations.

The event was organized together with Minhaj Youth Denmark and took place on Sunday afternoon, November 18th. This event marked the first time that UPF-Denmark held a symposium in conjunction with the Peace Road project.



1 The symposium was hosted by photographer Jacob Holdt in his Ubuntu House.

2 Participants in the Peace Road march held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on November 18, 2018.

REGIONAL NEWS

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the historic Universal Declaration of Human Rights, several UPF chapters in Europe organised commemorative events.



1 Conference speakers with UPF supporters at the conference held on the occasion of Human Rights Day and the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Prague, Czech Republic on December 17, 2018

2 Peter Zoehrer, secretary general of the Forum for Religious Freedom (FOREF) Europe, was the guest speaker at the conference in Bratislava, Slovakia, on December 10, 2018 entitled "Are Human Rights in Europe in Peril?".

3 Journalist Carlotta Morgana speaks at the conference held by UPF-Monza, Italy, on December 10, 2018 to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

REGIONAL NEWS

U.K. WOMEN UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

By James Claxton and Margaret Ali, UPF-UK

London, United Kingdom—The UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women was marked by a conference held in the House of Lords.

The U.K. chapters of Universal Peace Federation and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), an affiliated organization, jointly organized the event.

Speakers included Baroness Pola Uddin, Baroness Meral Hussein-Ece, Ms. Caroline Makaka, Ms. Carole Stone OBE, Ms. Jacqueline Onalo, and Ms. Raj Holness.

The event was kindly hosted in the House of Lords by Hon. Baroness Sandip Verma.

Following the meeting, many of the participants were moved to start programs to help victims of violence.



1 The meeting in the House of Lords commemorates the U.N. International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

2 Several of the speakers with officials from UPF and its affiliated organization WFWP



WORLD NEWS

FIRST ASIA PACIFIC SUMMIT CONVENES IN NEPAL

By Dr. Robert Kittel, president, Youth and Students for Peace

The first UPF Asia Pacific Summit 2018 – Nepal was held in Kathmandu, Nepal from November 30 to December 3, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The theme of the summit was, “Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values.”

Attending the summit were more than 1,500 participants, among whom were 500 international delegates representing 45 nations. The prime minister of Nepal, H.E. KP Sharma Oli, welcomed six other heads of state and government from Cambodia, Myanmar, Nauru, the Philippines, Samoa, and Tuvalu.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of UPF and sponsor of the summit, attended the event. Other high-level delegates consisted of five first ladies, ten former heads of state and government, one deputy prime minister, seven government ministers, and five speakers of parliament and national assemblies.

Representatives of various governments, parliaments, civil society, the private sector as well as the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) were also in attendance and contributed to the success of the Summit.

The Asia Pacific Summit concluded with a special declaration on climate change as well as the Kathmandu Declaration related to peace and development. Also, the International Mayors’ Association for Peace (IMAP) was launched.

- 1 Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of UPF, addresses the summit.
- 2 H.E. KP Sharma Oli, the prime minister of Nepal, speaking at the summit
- 3 H.E. Aung San Suu Kyi, state counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- 4 The inauguration of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) in Asia Pacific

UPF Europe & Middle East Newsletter

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UPCOMING REPORTS

- Europe and Middle East Summit, Albania, Oct. 2019
- World Interfaith Harmony Week Events, Feb. 1-7, 2019
including at the UN in Vienna
- World Summit 2019, Seoul, Korea, Feb. 7-11, 2019
- 3rd Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony, Seoul, Korea, Feb. 9
... and much more!

See the calendar of events at
www.europe.upf.org/agenda/events