

UPF International hosts World Conference of Religious Leaders in Seoul Korea

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Seoul, South Korea - From August 19 to 22, 2025, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) hosted the World Conference of Religious Leaders. The conference gathered 60 international faith leaders, scholars, and peace advocates from 16 nations to emphasize dialogue, mutual respect, and shared responsibility as essential tools for building peace. Major themes included religious freedom, interfaith solidarity, and the vision of one family under God.



The conference included prayers, panel discussions, regional sessions, and cultural programs. Representatives of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Judaism, indigenous traditions, and other faiths joined in a symbolic Water Ceremony, affirming humanity's common origin and shared destiny. Delegates also addressed the importance of protecting universal values, including religious freedom, as a foundation for lasting harmony.

In his keynote address, Dr. Tageldin Hamad, International President of UPF, underlined the urgency of unity in a time of global uncertainty. He stated, "Peace and unity are urgent as humanity stands at a critical juncture facing profound challenges that will shape our shared future. Faith leaders are entrusted with a heavenly mission to guide humanity. We are gathered here not to debate, not to divide, but to declare: We are brothers and sisters before God. We are guardians of truth. We are defenders of the freedom of faith."

Regional sessions highlighted peace initiatives in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas, while discussions focused on youth mobilization, interfaith cooperation, and reconciliation across political and cultural divides.

Notable contributions were made by Dr. Michael Jenkins, President of UPF-USA; Attorney Patricia

Duvall, keynote speaker on global religious liberty; Jatinder Singh Birdi, Co-Chair of the Interfaith Network for the UK; Dr. Surinder S. Gill, Sikh community representative; Rev. Richard Greene, Christian leader from the USA; Pandit S.R. Tewarie, Hindu scholar; Rev. Prescott Butler, Christian pastor; Imam Shahid Tameez from Birmingham; and Pastor Mark Burns, evangelical leader from the USA. Each highlighted the role of interfaith cooperation in addressing global challenges.



The conference closed with the adoption of a joint declaration on religious freedom, affirming universal values and a collective pledge to advance interreligious cooperation, reconciliation, and respect for human dignity. Delegates pledged to continue working together beyond the conference to advance peace and strengthen interfaith unity worldwide.

