

Conference of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World: Religious Freedom and Universal Human Rights

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Respected peace leaders! Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), advocated for lasting world peace, where Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, Universally Shared Values are realized by sealing the conflicts and divisions that prevail not only on the Korean peninsula but also around the world, so we can accomplish the vision of a "heavenly unified Korea" and a "heavenly unified world" based on "Godism," and the ideal of "one human family of mankind under God" with God, our Heavenly Parent, as the true parent of humankind.

In order to realize such a vision of peace, UPF, the Universal Peace Federation working with two of their six major affiliate pillars, the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) and the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) launched Think Tank 2022, consisting of 2022 world-renowned experts, and focused on a heavenly unified Korea and a heavenly unified world, and has held dozens of World Summits, Regional Summits and Rallies of Hope with former and incumbent leaders from all over the world, hosted on online platforms, and drawing the participation of billions of people worldwide from 120 countries.

In February this year, the "Summit for Peace on the Korean Peninsula" was held in Korea to provide a venue for national unity and international cooperation through the support and participation of the 157 countries that have established diplomatic relations with both Koreas to create a foundation for peace consolidation on the Korean peninsula.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, chairman of the ASEAN Union, co-chaired the World Summit, attended by 85 current and former world leaders, including former U.S.

President Donald Trump and Senegalese President Macky Sall, who participated as keynote speakers, and broadcast live on 3,517 national and private channels around the world.

The distinguished leaders who attended the World Summit unanimously supported the peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula and adopted the "Seoul Declaration" which is based on "one territory, one nation, one culture."

In addition, at the Summit and Leadership Conference held in South Korea in August a new resolution, expanding on the Seoul Declaration with the motif of "One Earth, One Humanity, One Culture" was introduced and adopted, to be legislated by country and continent under the name of "Universal Peace Charter" marking a new dimension quantum jump for the creation of a heavenly unified world.

Building on that foundation, world leaders have joined in supporting Think Tank 2022's Universal Peace Charter as a step toward protecting fundamental human rights, and it is the basis for the 'Declaration of Freedom of Religion Based on the Universal Peace Charter' which is being presented for adoption at today's conference.

Distinguished international leaders! The globally accepted belief in freedom of religion, the most fundamental right of human life, is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations in 1948.

The historical origins that directly influenced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights begin with the Pilgrim Fathers, a group of British puritans who risked their lives to seek freedom of faith and emigrated to the continent of North America. In 1620, Pilgrim Fathers arrived in North America to avoid religious persecution by the Anglican Church at the time. Later, in 1776, the 13 colonies of Great Britain at the time gathered together and adopted America's "Declaration of Independence" declaring independence from Britain at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. In the "Bill of Rights," the first ten amendments made to the US Constitution, which was adopted about the same time, among the 'fundamental human rights' was stipulated the following: First Amendment to the US Constitution. *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

Distinguished international leaders! Freedom of religion is a human right conferred by heaven and is one of the most basic rights that cannot be transferred to anyone. Going one step further, Rev. and Dr. Moon said that the 'human rights to the free practice of religion' goes beyond the mere faith in God and is an innate human right to seek and attend one's true parents.

Respected Leaders! Based on the Universal Peace Charter, the "Conferences of Hope," which begin today, seek to create a macro-discourse on freedom of religion based on the interpretation of human rights as the natural and universal human right to visit God, the true parent, beyond the right to believe in God. In this way, we would like to contribute as a small step in the great journey for the creation of a heavenly unified world where people around the world embrace the concepts of "One Parent" and "One Earth, One Humanity, One Culture" and I offer a warm welcome to all of you and especially to the 12 leaders who agreed to share their valuable time with us by offering speeches today at this Conference, despite their busy schedules. Thank you very much.