

Overcoming threats to freedom of thought, conscience and religion

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Beloved peace-loving leaders and peace associates! The world is still suffering from the COVID 19 pandemic and as a result we have seen a lot of difficulties in the economic and political realms. Also even in terms of development, countries are leaning towards nationalism. Rather than cooperation, they are moving towards conflict and discord. That is why the co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon is working to resolve these conflicts through interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values and is saying that a fundamental solution to the problems of the world can be found through attending God as our Heavenly Parent and that we can create a world of lasting peace and establish the dream of one family of humanity under our Heavenly Parent by realizing a heavenly unified Korea and heavenly unified world.

To realize the vision of peace, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) launched 'Think Tank 2022' consisting of 2,022 world-class leaders and world-class experts who have come together based on the six pillars in different fields of endeavor under its unifying umbrella. Under the auspices of Think Tank 2022 The World Summit, Think Tank forums as well as various other peace projects have been initiated around the world. Various visions have been provided, so that peace-loving citizens can come together and work to advance the cause of lasting peace throughout the world. In particular, in February of this year, 85 current and former leaders from 157 nations who have diplomatic ties to both North and South Korea, attended the event. During the Summit for Peace on the Korean Peninsula, the Seoul Declaration was adopted; a resolution that advocated for one Peninsula, one culture and one people. In the name of the Universal Peace Charter for the establishment of a heavenly unified world, efforts are being made for its adoption as legislation in various nations of the world.

In such ways Think Tank 2022 has worked to establish a practical theoretical foundation for the renewal of the UN. Various rallies of hope including the latest in November were held to provide solutions from a macro perspective on the numerous challenges the world is facing. Today we are holding a Conference of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World -- Overcoming threats to freedom of thought, conscience and religion to present a new alternative vision for the most basic human rights based on the Universal Peace Charter.

Respected leaders from around the world! Modern liberal thinker John Stuart Mill emphasized freedom of thought and expression, freedom of discussion, and respect for individuality based on diversity in his book *On Liberty*. However, on the horizon of modernity, along with the ideology of liberalism, we find the formation of ideologies that suppress individual freedom. A typical example is Communism.

In the Communist Manifesto of Marx and Engels, the premise is that "All history is the history of class struggle." We know all too well of numerous cases of human rights abuse that have been committed

Respected leaders! The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was unanimously adopted by the United Nations in 1948, affecting all countries that joined the United Nations and emphasizing "freedom of religion" and "freedom of thought" under the principle of separation of church and state.

In a recent case, the Roundtable on International Religious Freedom sent a written statement to the Japanese Diet. This statement expresses concern from the viewpoint of religious freedom regarding the bill currently under discussion in the Japanese Diet on preventing unfair donations.

About the bill to prevent unfair donations currently being discussed in the Japanese Diet. This bill will have a negative impact on all religious communities and groups in Japan, and it will leave a stain on the country by setting a destructive precedent that other countries could follow, so the Roundtable strongly urged Japan to truly abide by the Japanese Constitution and conform to international agreements.

Communism does not recognize freedom of religion and freedom of thought, which is the most basic of all freedoms. And the suppression of human rights, compromising freedom of religion and thought continues to this day. In this respect, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han have presented a new approach to human understanding centered on the family. Human beings grow up experiencing children's love, brotherly love, conjugal love, and parents' love with the motive of heart in the family, and again form a new family. And since these humans were first born through God, their relationship with God also becomes a parent-child relationship, that is, the essence of family. Today, we would like to open a new chapter of integration in the fight between freedom and equality, seeking a path to life and peace. If we do so, I am confident that all people around the world will attend One Parent and complete the vision of a heavenly unified world where One Earth, One Humanity, and One Culture is realized. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who attended this 2nd Conference of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World along with the 12 leaders who gave valuable speeches today. Once again, Thank you.