

UPF Finland's webinar: Interfaith Cooperation as A Tool for Peace

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February 21, 2021



Nana's TV Channel hostess Mrs. Nana Boateng opened the webinar and welcomed the audience, including participants through social media outlets such as YouTube and Facebook.

The webinar MC Mr. Keijo Mikkanen connected today's session with the most significant interfaith event of recent times, the World Summit 2020 held one year ago in Seoul, Korea, and with the initiative of Interreligious Peace Council at the UN in 2000, by UPF Founders Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, in their ongoing commitment to realizing interfaith understanding and cooperation.

The first presenter of this webinar was Mr. Sanal Edamaruku, an Indian-born author, and the Chair of Rationalists International. He brought up the need of mutual respect in finding a better world, saying that humanity has now more serious challenges to tackle than to fight about faith. We need to work together in order to survive and live. Scientific knowledge is the most important. There are many countries where a person can be sentenced to death for not believing in the majority religion of the country or in anything at all. I am an atheist, that is my faith.

The next speaker Evangelist Samuel Osinnaike encouraged to learn from children the way of peace. They play with each other irrespective of nationality or skin color. Jesus taught that is the way to heaven. We can choose whether we build or destroy. The Bible teaches to love your neighbor. Who is my neighbor? It is the person next to me. To unite means to respect each other.

A cultural ambassador of Sierra Leone to Europe, Mr. Sorie Obai Kamara was the next presenter. Peace is the ultimate goal, it transcends this world into eternity. Christ is the Prince of Peace. We have various views and we are different, but still peaceful co-existence in this world is better than conflicts. Faith-based ideology respects life and brings tolerance.

Rev. Lauri Oinonen of Evangelical-Lutheran Church and an Ambassador for Peace put it compact together of what is needed for peace: love and goodness.

These are sometimes missing with those who are talking and pushing for peace.

Finally, MC asked the panelists: "What in your view is practically the most initial factor as a tool towards interreligious cooperation?" The answers varied from becoming an image of God, the Creator, to being a good example and to taking away prejudice.

In conclusion, webinar participants recognized and thanked UPF and Nana's TV for having the mind and a platform for such a fruitful sharing beyond boundaries.