

UPF and IAPD Italy: Freedom of Religion, Belief, and Conscience roundtable

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"Freedom of Religion, Belief and Conscience: foundation for Dignity and Human Development" is the theme of the roundtable discussion held on Tuesday, February 7th, 2023, in online mode. The meeting was organized by Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the Interfaith Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) to celebrate World Harmony of Faiths Week and Human Brotherhood Day.

With this initiative in support of the two anniversaries established by the United Nations, IAPD wanted to take up and make it's own the UN's call aimed at supporting the spread of the message of interfaith harmony, mutual respect, and cooperation among people that are the foundation of the culture of peace.

Speakers at the panel discussion were **Michele Cavallotto**, coordinator of UPF Italy's IAPD project; Agata **Distefano**, psychiatrist; Don **Valentino Cottini**, a diocesan priest of Verona; Francesco **Canale**, the evangelical pastor of "Equippers Church," **Luis Miguel Perea Castrillon** bishop of the Anglican Episcopal Church (A.E.C.E.), **Nader Akkad**, Imam of the Grand Mosque of Rome, **Tenzin Khentse** Tibetan Buddhist monk, **Sergio Coscia** director of the Family Federation (FFPMU) of Turin -- moderator of the meeting **Maria Gabriella Mieli**, external and international relations manager of UPF Italy.

Authoritative interventions with many insights from all speakers enriched the meeting, followed by a very interested and motivated audience. Many questions arose in the concluding part, especially from the connected young people. The atmosphere of unity and cohesion, especially among the representatives of the various faiths, contributed to the success of the panel discussion and in creating a climate of the concrete fraternity of purpose in promoting and upholding the value of freedom of religion, belief, and conscience as critical factors in building a free and fraternally united human family for the good of all.

Below is the LINK to follow all the speeches bit.ly/3IrrmH8