

Proposals from the Parliament of the People

This issue of **Your Voice** is dedicated to the proposals that were made at the third session of the **Parliament of the People**. Following the earlier sessions on **Vision** and **Challenges** participants were invited to offer **Proposals** for projects or activities that would incorporate the visions, and/or address the challenges that had been identified. Among the proposals that were presented were three proposals that had been prepared in advance for the **Parliament of the World's Religions** and one resolution that was drafted in the early days of the Parliament. A preliminary effort has been made at grouping the proposals according to the general area addressed; however, the interests of publishing the proposals before the **Parliament** ends -- along with the other elements of the **Parliament of the People** and the continuing publication of **Your Voice** -- has not left enough time to complete the process of grouping the proposals.

Commitments

We will commit ourselves to continue to bring our visions into reality in ourselves, in our communities, and in the world interfaith community.

Maintenance of spiritual/faith practice

Interfaith Prayer!

Come out of the spiritual closet - Speak out. Walk your talk. It's about coming out.

Maintain a personal spiritual practice.

Before each of us leave the Parliament, we ask someone of a religion different from our own to teach us a brief prayer/ritual for world peace and unity, and that we commit ourselves to offering this prayer once each day thereafter. Brother Joseph Kilikevce, OP - Dominican Friars, Oak Park, IL

Immediate action to do rather than hear.

Ribbons; Love-from the heart; New symbol; walk your talk out of the spiritual closet.

Do it here! Begin now!

Action that meets needs and changes hearts.

Be aware of all Spiritual Development which underlies religions.

Allow our faith to be informed (new cosmology-unity).

Set aside a day:

Connect globally/conscious
Negotiate skills
Visit sick/serve people in need
Personal responsibility

Harmony and not power control;
transformation; love all/serve all; new stories.

Wisdom of the oral tradition.

Communication that shares our diverse realities.

Commitment/clear objectives. Inner and outer challenges. Unity not uniformity.

Parliament - Interfaith Council

To repeat the Parliament in the near future, say 2-5 years.

That the Parliament set a date to reconvene - 5-7 years from now.

Another Parliament in 2 to 5 years from now.

An interfaith council. Exchange of faith community news letter.

Form a task force/network to determine how we will penetrate and share technology with society that will promote peace. Siri Ram K Khalsa - Sikh Dharma - 505 753-634?

Integrate existing organizations at UN and local level and co-ordinate with existing groups such as Amnesty International, Bread for the World etc.

Interfaith task force to work with TogetherNet to support communication and networking.

Develop organizational process utilizing other models.

Conflict resolution

Create situations where people who are locked in violent disagreement can come together in a shared survival type experience that will require them to cooperate and form a basis for communication.

Invite those disagreeing groups who have left in protest to come together to experience the rituals of the group they have a problem with so they can find their commonality.

Teach ourselves basic negotiation skills. Beginning where we worship and in families.

Non-violence and conflict resolution taught in public and private schools.

Peace / disarmament

To oppose oppression such as genocide - sign proposal - 9:00, 6th Floor AA. many types of killing are letting people die locally and far away.

That the world's religions all work for the banning of **international sale** of weapons and armaments.

The religious freedom project is spear heading a grassroots movement to end religious violence by 2005. Let's put some reality into the Declaration to end religious war.

Peace army. A world of peace from military conflict. Mission: create a force of people willing to become a living barrier between antagonists, and through non-violent, assertive means to end conflict. Tools: Media, prayer, chants, our bodies, plus whatever transportation and food, etc.

Eliminate nuclear weapons.

Inter-faith meditation calendar

Have interfaith calendars.

Global practice of spiritual meditation observed rhythmically on first day of each month. First day of each month dedicated by the Global Spiritual Community to spiritual meditation, prayer, meditation fastening, e.g.

January 1	World Harmony
February 1	World Peace
March 1	World Brotherhood
April 1	One Truth
May 1	Reverence for Life
June 1	Love of Earth
July 1	Gratitude for Creatures
August 1	Gratitude for the Child
September 1	etc.

The World Parliament could point their own interfaith calendar for mass distribution (donation offered by membership to cover printing/postage) - Each calendar would dedicate the 1st day of the month to a specific cause (peace, healing of famine etc. women's rights) that would incorporate a practice (prayer, fasting or meditation) that everyone could observe. this practice could even incorporate a spiritual practice that different religions observe. In other words, each month could have a different religious prayer, i.e.

January 1	World Peace
February 1	World harmony
March 1	World Brotherhood
April 1	Reverence for all Life
May 1	Truth is one
June 1	Honoring the child
July 1	Healing hunger
August 1	Healing earth
September 1	etc.

Each person in community observe a single day be connected with global community through prayer and meditation-first day of each month with common theme.

Local interfaith activities

Local, open-air interfaith prayer service once a month or on a regular basis.

Pamela Meidell - Nevada Desert Experience

WPOR help grassroots people set up forums for learning the skills of true dialogue and help us set up local interfaith dialogue groups.

Interfaith (or "Multi-faith") Centers in local neighborhood settings to serve as home for 2-4 different religious communities rather than having separate houses for worship. Witness - the Town of Columbia, MD

Go beyond dialogue and work together. Start an **Interfaith Garden**, for example, where adults and children of several faiths would physically work alongside each other toward a goal of growing and harvesting food to feed the hungry (first purchasing a highly visible plot of land for the garden). Besides serving others, it might help break down barriers and facilitate understanding/acceptance.

Take the unity of this conference back to our communities and form similar meetings there.

Pick small things in local area - offer something to people - Be of service.

Faith communities could do things together-religious and social activities.

Taking the W.P.R. message of human community-peace; harmony to local levels and village communities.

Courage to get to the heart of differences between people; recognize that religion and personal spiritual quest are not synonymous; recognize precarious state of the world and concentrate on real local watch which truly helps -- while keeping a global vision.

Participate in other faith and cultural communities.

Speaking engagements in local community and writing to news paper.

Education

Provide a Forum for an educational opportunity to show the common practices of the many groups.

Propose the encouragement of teaching of some sort of meditation technique by all religions. R Moreiras, San Francisco, CA

Coalitions for teaching about world religions in schools, to show how similar religions are.

Universities contact leaders in each religion to get all aspects of each religion.

Educational institutions teaching good values and emphasis.

Develop a religious, educational model which incorporates all religious experiences and use this as a teaching bases--use teachers who embrace a wide, all encompassing appreciation of all religions.

Educational focus on continuing to know your self and your own unconscious process which interfere with others.

Create educational structures that include free flowing short and long term experiences, beginning with children, and including inter-generational experiences-(free flowing short term for those who don't like to join long term groups).

Art and spirituality

Be aware of role of artist. Establish in local community a Parliament of the People. Contact ourselves in our spirituality. Establish a non-government organization in the UN focusing on religion.

Be aware of the role of the artist to bring forth the message and stir the heart.

Gender equality

An appeal to our consciences and the consciences of all the leaders of the world's religions to practice gender equality both in practice of doctrine and of ritual. Women must be an integral part of their religions if we are to make any social growth.

Common language

Create a common language - some choices such as **Esperanto, English** suggested.

Unclassified

Create new traditions.

Have a mental check list of goals for world. Look at impact of events in light of goals.

Humility to invite suggestions from other traditions

If we all give up our labels then we will be One.

It is the personal connection we have with one another as real people that will heal the differences.

Look at basic needs of people -- touch, food, medicine that we need to service and bring to people we meet.

People decide where tax dollars are spent.

Please, we will be so happy if it is possible for us to see the sikhs and hindus giving an embrace. Thanks.

Programs for developing tolerance and respect to honor people.

Promote "Dialogue-Preaching" in Roman Catholic, Protestant Churches. Develop basic trust in homes. Decentralization of power in the structure of the parliaments. Wholistic Peace Clinics to deal with prejudices/violence.

Replace power, control and greed with harmony and compassion.

Speaking the truth from heart-wisdom.

Spiritual insight for physical problems.

Statement representing One group at Parliament of the People

Study what is working (among our groups).

That each of us reach out in personal friendship to at least one person of another faith tradition. e.g. Christian to Muslim, Buddhist to Jew, Hindu to Native American.

The leaders say, "We will respect diversity, but maintain 'our' traditions." How about respecting the birth of the recognition of the **already** existing Interfaith Tradition within all world faith

communities?! Jesse Arana - Ann Arbor MI

Think globally, Act locally.

Urban communities work with rural communities in setting up multi-cultural networks sharing ideas which in turn obtain results on a global scale as well as in their own communities.

Exercise of consumer power to endorse consumer concerns.

People's power

Disintegration of religious, economic, social, political power towards people's power.

Population control / contraception

Provide contraceptive information to control population.

Draft resolutions proposed

Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Whereas nuclear weapons pose the ultimate threat to life on Earth,

Whereas the use of nuclear weapons is inhumane, immoral and a violation of international law,

Whereas the illegality of nuclear weapons is disputed by nuclear and near-nuclear countries,

Whereas the International Court of Justice (ICJ), as the World's supreme judicial organ, is empowered to rule on matters of international law,

Whereas a ruling from the ICJ that nuclear weapons are illegal would greatly increase the prospects of eliminating such weapons,

Whereas the threat of nuclear weapons will remain as long as they continue to exist,

Whereas Chemical and Biological weapons have been prohibited, leaving nuclear weapons as the only weapons of mass destruction remaining,

The Parliament of World Religions supports the initiative seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legality of the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons,

The Parliament of World Religions calls for the negotiation of a convention to eliminate nuclear weapons and urges the conclusion of such a convention by the year 2000.

International Year of Nonviolence: Reflection on the Nuclear Age

Whereas, The 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions is meeting in Chicago from August 28 to September 5;

Whereas, Chicago is also the site of history's first sustained nuclear reaction in 1942 at the University of Chicago's Stagg Field, which led to the Manhattan Project and humanity's entry into the Nuclear Age;

Whereas, the Cold War has utilized the resources of the human and natural communities to inflate economies with massive buildups of nuclear arsenals; and in the post Cold War world, the people of the earth are seeking ways to live in harmony as a global community in a clean environment and with a moderate standard of living for everyone;

Whereas, all of the world's spiritual traditions encourage and teach the discipline of reflection as a way to understand the past and move into the future with hope;

Whereas, our nuclear history and its costs have been hidden from us and have robbed us of the ability to face our present and our future realistically and with hope;

Whereas, our faith in nuclear weapons to provide for our security betrays our faith in the millennia-old spiritual traditions of humankind;

Whereas, the full consequences of our entry into the Nuclear Age are still unknown;

Whereas, humanity faces a critical historical moment where the world's religious and spiritual leaders can point the way to harmony; therefore,

Be It Resolved That The 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions declares 1995 a Year of Non-violence and Reflection on the Nuclear Age and calls on people everywhere to;

- 1) reflect, in ways appropriate to their traditions, on the history and impact of nuclear weapons on the world,
- 2) pledge to move into the Third Millennia basing their personal, community and international relationships on non-violence, and to oppose, resist and overcome violence and oppression through non-violent action; and

Be It Further Resolved that The 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions supports the 1995 Atomic Mirror Pilgrimage, an inter-faith pilgrimage of remembrance, healing and renewal, retracing the route of humanity's first atomic bomb on the 50th anniversary of the Nuclear Age; and

Be It Further Resolved that The 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions forward this resolution to the United Nations, and call upon that body to declare 1995 as United Nations International Year of Non-violence.

Nevada Desert Experience -- Pax Christi, USA

All Faiths Global Negotiation Action Plans

First disseminated in 1993 via the Parliament of the World's Religions - Chicago and Congress of the International Association for Religious Freedom - Bangalore, India
 Religion has a central role in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of individuals and groups - and we want to use it constructively to promote justice, tolerance and non-violence, counteracting patterns of earlier "religious wars". We recognize the necessity for the separation of church and government - and intend to honor that. We shall use our influence among our own kind to replace compulsions to dominate forcefully with skills to negotiate peacefully.

- 1 We plan to integrate explanation, advocacy and demonstration of negotiation into this faith's worship services at our originating site and at other sites where the faith is preached and practices, dealing with the topic 4-6 times per year at each site during 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997.

Our faith's originating sites will develop during 1994 master and sample readings, sermons, and prayers on negotiation for our own use and for sharing with others, arranging administrative mechanisms and budget to accomplish distribution to leadership at all worship sites.

- 2 We plan to offer religious education classes for adults and other lessons for children on negotiation within each congregation, striving to involve the majority of followers of this faith during the 1994-1996 program period.

We will find and adapt or design lesson plans and teaching aids for teaching negotiation that are appropriate to this faith, readying these during 1994 and arranging administrative mechanisms and budget to accomplish distribution to all sites of this faith.

- 3 We plan to meet with representatives of other faiths practiced in our area to explain the Global Negotiation Action Program and urge that all other faiths commit themselves to bringing it to the followers of their own faith.

We will initiate these contacts during 1994 and offer to share copies of our worship and class materials and to assist other faiths.

- 4 We plan to counsel with the leaders of our faith in every region and community about how to inspire the involvement of government leaders, think tanks and research organizations, colleges and universities, foundations, public libraries, editors, producers, employers, special interest and social groups to implement the Negotiation Action Program in ways available to each.

Each of us credentialed religious and lay leaders will make five to ten such contacts to assure the spread of initiative taking for the Negotiation Action program into other spheres as well.

- 5 We plan to work through the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of the United Nations with which this faith is affiliated to make the Global Negotiation Program a collaborative, multifaceted NGO and UN program.

We urge each NGO to develop strategies to a) teach negotiation skills to its own membership and service population and b) promote and

implement broadly within the communities it touches the Global negotiation action Program.

- 6 We want to make the Global Negotiation Program central to the 50th anniversary of the United Nations and official business of the UN through 1997 communicated via UNDPI and implemented via various UN offices and conferences.

To encourage UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to provide visionary leadership for the Global Negotiation Program around the world and within the UN, we will write to him and to Mrs Gillian Sorenson, c/o 50th Anniversary Secretariat, Room S-3194D UN, New York, NY 10017, fax 212/963-1203, Phone 963-6828.

To put this proposal on the agenda of the UN General Assembly as soon as possible, we and our NGO affiliates will write to and meet with UN member nation delegates to urge co-sponsorship of the Global Negotiation Program.

Petition To Abolish Genocide

Prepared by Parliament of the World's Religions Ad-Hoc Committee to Condemn Genocide

We, the undersigned, as representatives of the world's religions, at the Parliament of the World's Religions, hereby proclaim:

Genocide is an evil and horrific crime condemned by every faith, every religion, every spiritual tradition. Genocide (as outlined and ratified by the United States government in Article II of the Genocide Convention) is an abomination in the light of every faith and path on earth; and cannot be ignored, and thereby condoned by this Parliament. As representatives of all the world's religions, assembled in this Parliament, we categorically condemn the sin of genocide in every form, no matter where, when, how, by whom, or against whom it is committed; we definitively repudiate every claim that genocide is justified, supported or approved by any religion.

We further condemn the use of religion to sanction this evil. We declare that genocide must cease NOW, and that practitioners of genocide may no longer hide behind our authority, our light, our moral responsibility.