Press Release

10 Religions Under One Roof: Largest Worldwide Interfaith Meeting Takes Place in Germany for the First Time

10th World Assembly of Religions for Peace in Lindau in August: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Other Religions Talk About Their Socio-Political Responsibility

Berlin, 17/06/2019 – 900 participants from over 100 countries, 10 religions with their renowned representatives under one roof – the organizers of Religions for Peace (RfP) presented a number of superlatives at their program press conference in Berlin. The 10th World Assembly of the world’s largest interfaith non-governmental organizations will take place between 19 and 23 August in Lindau on Lake Constance, and for the very first time in Germany. Under the motto “Ensure our common future – promoting well-being for everyone”, the religious representatives at the conference will address their own socio-political responsibility so as to peacefully deal with differences and hence contribute towards peace.

Bishop Gunnar Stålsett, Honorary President of Religions for Peace and former Oslo Bishop, introduced the program of the four-day World Assembly in Berlin: “The German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will open the conference. Guests will also include high-ranking religious leaders who join forces to find peaceful solutions in conflict areas such as Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. A key issue will be the role and specific skills of women in peace processes. Religious women from the Middle East and North Africa will receive particular mention.”

Dr. William F. Vendley, Director of Religions for Peace, explained: “Religious people help to fundamentally transform conflicts and promote fair societies. These range from the violent conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Sierra Leone extending to today’s challenges in Myanmar and the Central African Republic; religious communities are indispensable peacemakers.” While also illustrating: “The common good is becoming increasingly global. Over the long-term, we are all no more secure than the most vulnerable among us”. For almost 50 years, Religions for Peace has been implementing this principle by cultivating interfaith action in favor of peace, supporting religious communities in overcoming violent conflicts, building fair societies and promoting human development. In tangible terms, RfP establishes interfaith councils, which respond flexibly with concrete actions to local, national, regional and global needs.

The Foundation Peace Dialog of World Religions and Civil Society with headquarters in Lindau, was specifically set up in order to conduct the 10th World Assembly. The Director, Ulrich Schneider, describes the venue as ideal: “Guests from all over the globe meet in an international, decentralized environment, whose rich nature reminds us that climate protection is an essential part of a peace vision. The Tripoint of Germany, Austria and
Switzerland manifests a certain level of neutrality. We hope that Lindau develops into a permanent meeting place for religions and creates a space for interfaith encounters.”

The “Religion and Foreign Policy” department of the Federal Foreign Office will guide the 10th World Assembly and provide RfP with both conceptual and financial support.

The event will be opened with a joint spiritual ceremony at the Ring for Peace, the symbol of the 10th World Assembly and a permanent symbol of peace between the religions. The Ring for Peace is a 7.5 meter high wooden ring in the form of a Moebius strip that is being built on the island in Luitpold Park – it is made of wood from various world regions.

The organizers emphasized that the 10th World Assembly is not an isolated event without contact to the outside world; but is instead open to active participation from the public. Meetings with delegates are scheduled as well as live broadcasts of various plenary sessions. In Lindau, the Catholic and Evangelical church will also set up a large table of religions on the island, at which interested parties can engage with delegates from the World Assembly. People in Lindau are invited to take part in the opening ceremony of the Ring for Peace in Luitpoldpark.

Journalist Accreditation for the 10th World Assembly in Lindau:

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