

## **RELIGIONS FOR PEACE 10th World Assembly**

### **The Facts**

#### **900 Participants from More Than 100 Countries**

The 10th World Assembly of Religions for Peace between 19 to 23 August in Lindau aims to achieve a global impact. There is expected to be a total of 900 representatives from various world religions, governments and civil society (including NGOs and multilateral institutions). This also includes high-ranking religious representatives from Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Jainism, Judaism, Islam, Sikh, Shintoism, Taoism and Zoroastrianism as well as indigenous groups whose aim is encourage interfaith religious action for the common good. What is more, representatives of government, international organizations, charitable foundations and civil society will participate in the assembly. It provides the framework for forging partnerships between various stakeholders for the benefit of the common good as well as for in-depth exchange about significant achievements with regard to peace, development and security.

The 10th World Assembly will be inaugurated by the Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

### **The Topics**

The 10th World Assembly is guided by the motto “Ensuring Our Common Future – Multireligious Action for the Common Good”. This involves religious representatives confronting their own moral and social responsibility so as to “ensure our common future” and to pave the way for peace on the basis of common values.

The central questions addressed by the World Assembly are: What can religions do in times of war, intolerance and terror to transform conflicts, cultivate fair and harmonious societies and contribute towards sustainable development and the protection of the planet? How can they build a community that is united in solidarity – united in the understanding that the safety and dignity of each individual person is inevitably linked to that of other people? How can they, motivated by this common aim, advance interfaith cooperation that gives rise to joint and concrete action?

The World Assembly is a forum for interfaith action. National interfaith councils and groups will exchange ideas about success factors in order to have a better and more sustainable impact in their home regions. The World Assembly affords religious representatives a unique

opportunity to participate in conflict mediation. *Religions for Peace* will create a framework for several non-public negotiations between religious representatives from conflict zones to promote joint peace and reconciliation. Similar efforts at previous World Assemblies have achieved substantial progress; such as in the Balkans, in West Africa, the Middle East, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

The World Assembly will shed light on the central role played by women and young people as peacemakers especially in the Middle and Near East, but also in other regions of the world, too. The overarching objectives are the development of a strategic action plan for interfaith action based on deeply rooted and shared values as well as the creation of a neutral framework in which religious representatives meet and jointly tackle the world's most urgent problems.

## **Lindau: Tripoint on Lake Constance**

Lindau on Lake Constance will play host to the 10th World Assembly of *Religions for Peace*. Located at the tripoint of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, the location as the geographical center of Europe prepares a certain "neutral ground". The exchange of cultures in Lindau and the Lake Constance region is deeply rooted in the past. Even today, this tradition achieves global reach for example by promoting generational dialog and assuming responsibility for the future in the organization of the Nobel Laureate Meetings.

The unique geographic location of Lindau, surrounded by water and having influenced life in the city since time immemorial, facilitates the inclusion of water as a symbol when designing this year's World Assembly.

The new Inselhalle in which the World Assembly is held, affords the opportunity to carry out workshops and discussions in both small and large groups.

## **Active Participation of Civil Society**

During the meeting, the public will have various opportunities to become part of the World Assembly: Meetings with delegates, a café and a "exchange" for exhibitions by civil society organizations and institutions are planned on the Agora, a central festival, assembly and market hall in front of the Inselhalle. The „Opening Session“, the „ClosingSession“, in other words the opening and closing ceremonies, as well as the plenary event will be broadcast live on the Agora. You can also follow the events in a live stream on the website <https://ringforpeace.org/>.

In Lindau, the Catholic and Evangelical church will also set up a large table of religions at which interested parties can engage with delegates from the World Assembly. The public is invited to take part in the opening ceremony of the Rings for Peace in Luitpoldpark.

## The Partners

The „Stiftung Friedensdialog der Weltreligionen und Zivilgesellschaft“ [Foundation for the Peace Dialog of World Religions and Civil Society] was founded to conduct the World Assembly in Germany; the Chairman is Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Schürer and the Director is Ulrich Schneider. The central office of RfP in New York coordinates the program of the World Assembly as well as local preliminary meetings and appoints the delegates.

The “Religion and Foreign Policy” department of the Federal Foreign Office will support the 10th World Assembly. As part of the “Religions’ Responsibility for Peace” initiative established by the then Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, there has been a regular exchange on the Religions for Peace initiative since Autumn 2016.

## Ring for Peace: A Permanent Symbol of Peace between the Religions

The Ring for Peace sheds light on the guiding theme of the 10th World Assembly and is intended to serve as a permanent symbol of peace between the religions. During the World Assembly in Lindau, a 7.5 meter high wooden ring in the form of a Moebius strip will be erected on the island. As a «round whole», equal and absolute in itself, the ring symbolizes the complementary and mutually completing nature of world religions, whose unity embodies the entirety of the consciousness. An interfaith and spiritual ceremony among delegates and invited guests will take place at the Ring for Peace to mark the opening of the World Assembly. The idea is for Lindau to be the venue for regular and ongoing interfaith meetings in the future, too, as well as promoting further meetings held by Religions for Peace.

Ring for Peace is the campaign of the Foundation for the Peace Dialog of World Religions and Civil Society together with the 10<sup>th</sup> World Assembly of *Religions for Peace*.

### For further information see:

<https://ringforpeace.org/>

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