

Press release

## Religious leaders, including Hon. Ela Gandhi, lead efforts to overcome violence against women

Third day of the *Religions for Peace* 10th World Assembly

**Topics: Advocacy for just and harmonious societies – Consultation process in the Uganda conflict – In the afternoon: workshops, short interactive presentations (Lightning Talks) and meetings of religious representatives with international diplomats**

**22 August 2019 | Lindau, Germany** – In the plenary of the *Religions for Peace (RfP)* 10th World Assembly, **Hon. Ela Gandhi**, Trustee of the Gandhi Development Trust and Co-President of *Religions for Peace*, shared her commitment to concrete action in overcoming violence against women, focusing on sexual violence against women during her “Equipping for Action” session. On this same topic, *RfP* supports the Kenyan women’s rights activist **Wangu Kanja**, who is also present at the World Assembly, and the British scientist **Lisa Smith** from the Department of Criminology at the University of Leicester to further develop and test a method she has developed to promote justice for survivors of rape in Kenya. Women are provided with a kit which they can use to secure the perpetrator’s DNA traces in the event of rape. This can then serve as evidence in court. If the test phase turns out to be successful, *RfP* intends to help make the kit available in other countries around the world.

In the plenary, **Grand Mufti Sheikh Shaban Ramadhan Mubaje**, Co-Moderator for the African Council of Religious Leaders-*RfP* (ACRL-*RfP*) and **Archbishop John Baptist Odama**, Archbishop of Gulu, Uganda reported on their experiences in Uganda. In cooperation with the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRC-*RfP*), local national affiliated of *RfP*, the East African Community – Inter-Religious Council (EAC-IRC) and ACRL-*RfP*, *RfP* advocated the opening of the border between Rwanda and Uganda and called for openness to dialogue between the countries.

The “Equipping for Action” session in the afternoon offers conference participants the opportunity to participate in interactive workshops, discussions with high-level diplomats, listen to “Lightning Talks” and view trailblazing presentations. During the afternoon Lightning Talks, local Lindauers and Assembly participants will have the opportunity to hear short talks, personal stories and inspiring ideas from religious representatives and peace activists from around the world. Participants include **Professor Dr. Jeffrey Sachs**, Director of the Center on Sustainable Development, special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General and International Trustee of *RfP*; **Rabbi Sir David Rosen**, International Director of Interreligious Affairs at the

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American Jewish Committee and Co-President of *RfP*; as well as Muslim peace activist **Lejla Hasandedic** from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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