

Press Release; 15. September 2021

United Nations, united religions: Speakers and program promise diplomacy at the highest level in Lindau in October - and a gripping duel of arguments

- Keynote addresses by UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth **Jayathma Wickramanayake**, UN High Commissioner for Refugees **Filippo Grandi** and WHO Director-General **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.
- Participants in the **14 "Diplomacy Roundtables"** will analyze current social and political issues such as vaccination justice, hate speech, and migration.
- Young participants join a **competitive debate** on the topic: Religions were helpful in the Covid-19 pandemic - true or false?
- Results of YouGov study on the **importance of religion and faith in different generations** to be published on 23 September

LINDAU The international conferences of Religions for Peace and Ring for Peace, supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, are establishing themselves: locally in Lindau and programmatically on the highest diplomatic level. The list of speakers taking part in the "Conference of the World Council of Religious Leaders on Faith and Diplomacy: Generations in Dialogue" confirms this.

"Once more, I consider the motto of this year's event appropriate and timely," said Lindau's Lord Mayor Dr. **Claudia Alfons** at the press conference on Wednesday, September 15, in the Inselhalle Lindau. "The Corona pandemic has made it abundantly clear to us how important it is for the generations to be in good dialogue with each other and to show solidarity."

No less than three high-ranking United Nations officials will deliver keynote speeches: UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention and Combating Hate Speech Alice Wairimu Nderitu and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi. But this UN trilogy is only the beginning, as the Director-General of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has also address the audience.



Religions for Peace, New York, USA:

Generalsekretärin / General Secretary
Prof. Dr. Azza Karam

www.rfp.org



Ring for Peace, Lindau, Germany:

Geschäftsführer / Managing Director
Ulrich Schneider

Vorstand / Board
Prof. (em.) Dr. h.c. Wolfgang Schürer

Stiftungsratsvorsitzende /
Chairperson Board of Trustees
Dr.h.c.mult. Annette Schavan

www.ringforpeace.org

Pressekontakt | Press contact:

presse@ringforpeace.org

Jessica Knall
Michael Scheyer
Suzanne Toma

Presseinfos, Fotos & Videos
Press infos, photos & videos
ringforpeace.org/presse

"In cooperation with the team from Religions for Peace in New York, we have succeeded in assembling a challenging program again this year," said **Ulrich Schneider**, Executive Director of the Lindau Foundation for Peace Dialogue of World Religions and Civil Society.

Over 50 speakers are on the program who will address peace and security policy, protection of the environment and humanitarianism over the four days of the conference. Whether **Gilles Carbonnier**, Vice President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), or **Helga Maria Schmid**, Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), whether **Jeffrey Sachs**, President of the UN's Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), or **Ursula Müller**, Assistant Secretary General at the Office for Humanitarian Affairs and highest-ranking German employee at the United Nations - the list is as extensive as it is diverse.

They all meet in Lindau the numerous and influential religious leaders of the World Council of Religions for Peace, which convenes there for its plenary session. Two worlds meet to think, discuss and seek solutions together - for example, in the **14 parallel "Diplomacy Roundtables"**. These are closed to the public and have limited seating. Their titles are, for example, "Demographic Dynamics, Religions and Politics" or "No more Religious Troubles in Northern Ireland?" The roundtables are each moderated by a diplomat together with a religious representative. These 14 Diplomacy Roundtables are the central nervous system of the conference program, as the title promises: **Faith and Diplomacy**.

"The roundtables will also address cross-cutting issues and intersections of our three main themes," explained **Azza Karam**, Secretary General of Religions for Peace. "Of course, we will also address policy issues; for example, the first 'roundtable' will be on Afghanistan. This will be about multi-faith approaches."

But shouldn't today's decision-making include the voice of a younger generation looking at the future from different perspectives and bringing in new ideas? The world of tomorrow can only be created together with the people who will live in it. And that is why this year's conference is all about intergenerational dialogue. No discussion, no series of lectures and no roundtable without a representative of the young generation. Young women human rights activists, like **Alejandra Acosta** from Spain, or young women climate activists, like **Vanessa Nakate** from Uganda will be a central part of the conference.

"It is also important that the voices of activists from the Global South are brought out," explained **Vanessa Nakate**, "that is why platforms like this are important for us. To be involved in decision-making processes, it starts with being invited to conferences like this. That's why I appreciate being able to participate and contribute."

One of the program highlights will certainly take place on Wednesday, the third day of the conference: **the debate**. In a contest of arguments, two groups of young people will compete rhetorically to debate the following topic: "Religions are uniquely helpful in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic - true or false?" We promise: The repartee will be thrilling: intellectually and emotionally.

Finally, please note: On Thursday, September 23, the Foundation for Peace Dialogue of World Religions and Civil Society will publish the results of a representative survey among Germans commissioned for the conference by the research institute YouGov. We wanted to know **what significance faith and religion, sustainability and justice have for different generations** and what values people associate with faith and religious communities. This we can already reveal: 81 percent of respondents in Germany said they felt the world was unjust. We will announce the results of the study via a press release and they can be viewed starting 13 September.

Further information:

The digital press kit for the press conference, which includes the conference program brochure and fact sheets, as well as images and resumes of the panelists, can be found at the following link: <https://de.ringforpeace.org/presse/presse-kit>

Please also visit the internet platform of the "Conference of the World Council of Religious Leaders on Faith and Diplomacy: Generations in Dialogue": <https://gid2021.ringforpeace.org>

All further information on the Foundation can be found on the Internet at: <https://ringforpeace.org>