

WCRP - Europe

Religions for Peace Europe

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

INTRODUCTION

WCRP-Europe/Religions for Peace Europe (RfP Europe) is an inter-faith body affiliated to Religions for Peace International (RfPI) which is the world's largest and most representative multi-religious coalition advancing common action for peace by working to foster multi-religious consensus on positive aspects of peace as well as concrete actions to stop war, help eliminate extreme poverty and protect the earth. It is the world's largest partnership between different religions pursuing planetary peace, starting from within one's soul. While remaining true to their individual belief systems, the members of this global coalition commit themselves to working together towards lasting peace on earth enjoyed by all.

Since its founding in 1970 RfP has been guided by the vision of a world in which religious communities co-operate effectively for peace by taking concrete common action. Its mission is to bring together different religious people, communities and organisations to uphold lasting peace, which can be enjoyed by all.



United in their belief about the precious value of every human life and nature, and in the universal values that they all share, RfP Europe wishes to empower people at all levels to make a unique faith-based contribution to peace in collaboration with other actors in civil society and the European Institutions. This renewed vision emerged from a process of reflection that WCRP-Europe/RfP Europe implemented in 2015 involving religious communities, individual people of faith and experts on various issues related to peace building.

For WCRP-Europe/RfP Europe, peace is the spiritual centre of human life and for believers; it is a gift of the Divine. It is the bond that creates community among human beings, bringing about mutual

respect for upholding the sacredness of life and all life-support systems that the earth and our natural environment provide. In receiving this Divine Gift, we take on a mission to share that gift with the whole world.

Our organization has had the opportunity to intervene in formal and informal ways in a variety of European meetings (around 20) where it has contributed an interfaith perspective on different themes and issues discussed: media and religion, the role of women in society, round tables on active citizenship, religions and human rights, freedom of religions and others.

In the present report we include the main activities implemented at the regional level as well as on the national level. The different entities (European Council of Religious Leaders, the Women of Faith Network (EWFN) and the Youth Interfaith Network) as well as the Chapters and Interreligious National Councils have implemented many other activities and have their own reports.

WCRP-Europe plays a decisive role in interreligious matters both at national and European level, by ensuring its representation at numerous meetings. The intensification of cooperation with our various partners and friends has considerably increased its visibility.

WCRP-Europe remains the “direct or indirect motor” of the organizations it has generated:

It draws in the path of its projects, these organizations. It should be added, however, that a core group of women from the EWFN is directly involved in the WCRP-Europe.

The main objective of WCRP-Europe is to create and expand connections between cultural, religious, interreligious, interconvictional people, communities, associations and non-governmental organizations.

In the majority of cases, the initiator is the motor, who invites people to organize common actions, projects and programs, carried by all of diverse religions. This might be at the front line, but also in supporting any initiative that can create a synergy where everyone can work together for the common good!

The added value of WCRP-Europe is the interreligious dimension in all actions and activities.

The activity report is a an example of the activities of the previous years but the increasing need for a more harmonious living together (in fact: combating discrimination, racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance) has grown so much that *this* will be the starting point for all activities in the years to come.

Indeed, after intense years of WCRP-Europe in the concrete organization of events and actions, as well as a “motor” for interconvictional platforms and other associations, the Board has focused on reflection.

In 2016, many meetings to coordinate the network took place throughout the year to devote time to the evaluation of its achievements, to understand how to envisage the continuation. This period of deepening on reflection has made it possible to better understand the challenges Europe is facing today while taking into account the adequacy of its actions in relation to the evolution of the associative world in terms of interconvictional dialogue.

The migratory crisis and the refugee problem have also been the subject of numerous meetings which provided the basis for launching the actions in 2017.

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We therefore endeavour to attach to this report the reports of 2015 which have largely contributed to our reflection as well as the results that emanate from it for 2017

MAIN ACTIVITIES on the pan-European level

“WELCOMING EACH OTHER IN EUROPE: A CALL TO NON-DISCRIMINATION”

Participants coming from fourteen European countries gathered in Brussels from 18 to 21 March 2015 to reflect and share their best practices around the project “Welcoming each other in Europe: a call to non-discrimination”. The meetings were organized by Religions for Peace Europe (RfPEU) in collaboration with the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and brought together prominent personalities from the major religious communities, religious leaders, women, children and youth.



The gatherings in Brussels were part of a series of interfaith encounters, set up by Religions for Peace Europe in the framework of its RfPEU Programme 2014-2015; on « Welcoming each other in Europe: a call to non-discrimination ». The one-year plan started in September 2014 with a strategic planning meeting where participants decided to join the project and expand it to other countries with a focus on ethnic and religious discrimination. After six months of implementation, representatives from 14 countries met

and designed strategies for the next six months until the RfP Europe Assembly that took place in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, at the end of October 2015. Participants were very pleased with the one-day event at the European Parliament and the dialogue with Ms. Katharina von Schnurbein. They manifested their hope that effective collaboration with the European Institutions would continue and religions as well as faith based organizations, leaders and grassroots initiatives would have the platform and support they deserve.

LIVE BUILDING PROCESS DAY AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



On 19 March 2015, 120 people including eminent religious leaders, women, youth and children, together with experts in various fields, participated in an important event that took place at the European Parliament in Brussels. This event was hosted by Mrs. Anna Zaborska, MEP; Mr. Borislav Škripek, MEP, the European Intergroup of Freedom of Religions or Beliefs and Religious Tolerance. This full day spent at the EU Institutions, gave delegations the opportunity to act as participative European citizens. They took part in round tables, met decision makers and got new skills on inter-faith work.

The meeting offered young delegates a unique opportunity to experience the value of the European process, through participation in various round tables, meeting with EU representatives and members of the European Parliament. The Live Building Process Day aimed at witnessing and fostering a peace building process across Europe, where religions play an important role, articulating the contribution of the various delegations coming from Albania, Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Through participatory methodologies and considering each participant as a peace builder, participants could try out new strategies for non-discrimination to take back to their own countries.



<https://vimeo.com/154593083>

INTERFAITH CHANTING FOR UNITY AND PEACE

A high moment on 19 March was the participation in a Chanting ceremony organized by Religions for Peace Europe with the important collaboration of Father Peter Baekelmans, in the Church of the Dominicans in Brussels.

The spiritual music and sung prayers from the Community of Taizé (group from the KU Leuven University Chaplaincy), the Sufi group of the International Alawiyya Sufi Association and the Siddha Yoga group of the Academy of Sadhana vzw came together in an atmosphere of great harmony. The 120 participants were touched by the beauty of the peace prayers and joined in the singing. The whole celebration was a tangible symbol of wonderful unity.



<https://vimeo.com/125665817>

RfP EUROPE ASSEMBLY 2015

The Religions for Peace European Assembly 2015, took place at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, on 28 October - 1 November 2015, and gathered 290 faith and religious people, leaders, women and youth from 28 countries and ten different religious communities and faith traditions.



The venue was the Mariapolis Center of the Focolare Movement in an atmosphere of peace and deep spirituality.

The Assembly theme “Welcoming each other in Europe: From Fear to Trust”, enabled participants to reflect on one of the crucial issues that Europe is facing today. Fears are spreading throughout the different nations of the continent: anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and the

waves of refugees cause fears on many sides. Religious communities are encouraged to act in cooperation with all people of good will.

The theme was addressed in three sub-sections: inner peace, freedom of expression and protecting the most vulnerable. Experts, religious leaders, young people, women, all were urged to become more aware of how each one’s contribution was vital to reach the goal of this encounter. This was implemented through a programme articulated in three steps: a plenary session with panels involving a variety of voices from religious people, experts and also people directly affected by the main problems Europe is facing today; followed up by a variety of workshops where the participants deepened their reflexions on the issues and prepared recommendations for future action; and back in plenary again where reports and recommendations were presented as outcomes of the participants’ contributions during the workshops followed by sharing of examples of best practice.

The Assembly reinforced the feeling of belonging to: “different faiths and common aspiration to become more proactive to contribute to a united family”. “It was like a forum, a spiritual market where people come and go and expressed their ideas, worries and wishes”.

Through sharing reflexions, best practice in small groups and plenaries, participants listened to important and effective action religious people and communities are taking in order to contribute to a more welcoming society in Europe.

They affirmed the importance to give visibility to these positive actions and work closely together and with other social and political actors in society for being more effective in contributing to real peace based on respect, justice and solidarity.

These experiences included participation in dialogue between communities and with political leaders and authorities, advocating for the rights of the excluded, training opportunities for young people, solidarity with migrants and refugees, empowering of women, using sport and art to promote peace, alternative respectful ways to communicate, inner spirituality as a contribution to peace and others.

What was brought home: Peace depends on each of us; concrete action as well as advocacy is needed. Politicians realised they need



Two young participants

religious communities to play their part in creating a more peaceful and harmonious society.

What was learned: dialogue - not only intellectual, but with our heads, our hearts and our feet is essential in our living together

News ways of methodologies shared: using sport, music, art and other action. Many examples were presented in this assembly, especially of working for the refugees and marginalized in our societies. Johannes Lähnemann, chair of the Peace Education Standing Commission (PESC) shared a brochure “The role of Interreligious Education in Overcoming Fear and Building Trust” that gathers together work done by PESC and other organizations. It informs about the welcoming atmosphere and knowledge, which can be created through interreligious education. It identifies 24 Spiritual and moral dispositions (from the Birmingham Syllabus); It describes 4 Best Practice Examples in the European Context: 1) The pedagogical Work of the Foundation Global Ethic, 2) the project “Open Doors – Hopen doors” as an initiative for religious-communal cooperation, 3) the Christian-Muslim study “Sources of Humanity” in Bible and Koran, 4) the development of Standards for Interreligious Textbook work. It further explains new approaches to dialogue for interreligious rising of awareness concerning Freedom, Equality and Dignity - and finally presents ideas for more multi-religious actions.

Working for the well-being of all people in accordance with the Golden Rule, by:

- Encouraging our religious communities to reject and work against all forms of extremism, fundamentalism and the misuse of Holy Scriptures and Traditions in our own or other communities
- Creating a welcoming atmosphere and stand up against those who oppose it.
- Building trust through personal encounter and through coalitions with communal agencies at the European, the national and the local level
- Involving young people, trusting them, offering them space for leadership and encouraging them in their efforts to stand together against all prejudices, learning from the commitment and hope they have demonstrated
- Advocating the rights and dignity of the “vulnerable ” before local, national and European authorities, both religious and political, public opinion and media
- Using the spiritual patrimony of our religious traditions for the empowerment of our communities
- Engaging ourselves in the necessary educational and learning processes
- Finding imaginative ways to assist all who live in need and in areas of political tension and humanitarian crisis.

In responding to the present refugee and migration crisis, religious people and communities are urged to:

- Serve the poorest and create common projects for providing food, with care to include a range of communities, religions and cultures
- Encourage asylum seekers (from different cultures and religions) to visit elderly people, creating connections and enhancing spirituality (example from Finland and Sweden)
- Organize local charity and hospitality as our scriptures exhort us to, through common action and following good examples
- Create networks using social media or web applications to increase inclusiveness, prevent loneliness, sharing love through digital means such as writing prayers, hymns, memories, music
- Organize festivals and concerts, with chanting, prayers, interaction

- Integrate children coming from Syria and elsewhere, and of different faiths into our society, with strong manifestations of love (example from Albania).

“EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR INTERFAITH AND MULTICULTURAL PEACE ACTION”



An

An International Youth Training Seminar took place in parallel with the RfP Europe Assembly “Empowering Youth for Interfaith and Multicultural Peace Action”, from 27 October to 2 November in Castel Gandolfo, Italy. This Youth Exchange, supported by Erasmus+ and other sponsors, brought together 54 young people and facilitators from 12 European countries and 8 religious communities and non-believers. They participated in some of the Assembly activities and presented a report in a special youth plenary session with recommendations.

“Empowering Youth in Interfaith and Multicultural Peace Action” aimed to empower young people of faith and other interested young people providing them with interfaith and multicultural tools for preventing and eliminating xenophobia and intolerance. The project responded to the problem of growing intolerance over religion and religious expression, which is endangering societies in Europe. The youth exchange responded to the lack of awareness of key concepts of a culture of peace, lack of information about other faiths



and religions, and lack of knowledge about other cultures. This is manifested in hate-speech or discriminatory speech or action often involving young people.



There were eight workshops and panel discussions led by the participating organizations on the following topics: Cultural and Spiritual Values and Religious Inheritances that Unite us in Europe; Coming Closer to the Needs and Feelings of the Other; Building a Culture of Peace; Organizations’ Good Practice in Peace Building and Non-Discrimination; Building Partnership and Funding Opportunities; Art, a Contribution to Peace,

Inspiration and Creativity; Formation of Youth Citizen Reporters; Changing our way of thinking towards a holistic approach for contributing to peace.

Through the workshops participants gained the following experience:

Capacity to show empathy and to understand the needs and feelings of other young persons and people in general; awareness of the causes of racism and xenophobia; new knowledge and understanding of different cultures/faiths and increased capacity to respond to concrete situations of



intolerance and xenophobia; fundraising and capacity to conduct information campaigns and youth activities; ability to share with other young people in their communities and organizations and strengthen the network; capacity to respect and understand cultural and religious differences in networking; expand their horizons, strengthen confidence in youth engagement, and help overcome some of the challenges young people are facing; communicational tools for disseminating their activities and project results based upon ethical values; ability to offer genuine assistance to others.

ACTION TO BUILD – STRENGTHENING AND BUILDING PARTNERSHIP

Besides searching for funding support, RfP Europe has further strengthened contacts, and holds partnership discussions with governments, EU institutions, and European associations.

Through its work RfP Europe has

- Strengthened ties with the EU institutions
- Participated in the European agenda by taking part in a variety of different EU meetings
- Implemented action in favour of dialogue, coexistence, mutual understanding, mutual inclusiveness and self mediation
- Participated in a consultative process to introduce a document at an EU level Consultation on “Tolerance and respect: preventing and combating anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim hatred in Europe”

In building partnership RfP Europe believes that love and compassion must be at the centre of the peace process. Words and action must be in full harmony, creating friendship and manifesting mutual recognition for the work done in the field.

FINAL REMARKS

It is important to adopt, testify for and educate for an open-minded approach by building bridges, reinforcing links of confidence, trust and friendship between individuals, communities, and all people to generate together a more harmonious society.



It is vital to support the work of young people and women, strong peace builders, and disseminate their action. One priority for RfP Europe is to value the work in the National Chapters and encourage them to establish connections for reinforcing their relationships with religious leaders, women and interreligious associations.

The mission of WCRP-Europe/RfP Europe is possible thanks to the great contributions from religious leaders, young people and women, NGOs working on peace issues, a network of volunteers and the European Union Institutions. Our gratitude goes to all of them.

“We continue in the hope that we may all be effective instruments for peace and reconciliation. With the deep desire that all who feel marginalized be embraced in love and compassion and will find their place in our communities and society” said a youth.

MAIN ACTIVITIES at the national and local level

Germany: “Foerderkreis WCRP-Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Weltkonferenz der Religionen für den Frieden.

Conference on Refugee Projects: Diversity and Integration – Challenges for Religions organized by WCRP-Deutschland in Erbacher Hof - Stiftung Weltethos / Foundation for a Global Ethic in the Catholic Academy Erbacher Hof, Mainz (Germany), 25 March 2017, with

Dr Stephan Schlenzog (Foundation for a Global Ethic) and Dr Franz Brendle (president of WCRP-Germany)

Remained that Pope Francis highlighted the role of cities in integrating diversity (Encyclical Letter *Evangelii Gaudium* 2013, EG 71-75)

Main Projects were organized by

Religions for Peace group Aachen lead by *Gehrt Hartjen*

Meetings were organized: “Comparison of refugee stories 1945 (World War II), 1979 (Iran Revolution), 2015 (Africa / Middle East / Afghanistan)”

As results: RfP Aachen brings support for establishment of a Coptic Orthodox community, networking of Arab Christians, network of quickly available interpreters, qualification programme (school degree

/ medical care apprentice exam) for African refugees, help with authorities and with finding an apartment

Religions for Peace group Hannover *lead by Ali Faridi.*

They have close cooperation with interfaith House of Religions Hannover. The organized practical interfaith dialogue (no lectures), was a new experience for refugees.

They explored and presented refugee stories, music and theatre plays from refugees.

They realized 2 projects: one, an invitation by a Jewish rabbi, many encounters, meetings, 70 people. The other project was more focused on families and education work with school classes

Religions for Peace group Bonn/Siegburg *lead by Michael Schmiedel*

This group is very committed with refugees. The Interfaith Peace Network Bonn (IFN) started an initiative: Café international in Siegburg.

They have established regular weekly Wednesday afternoon coffee / cake encounter with refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo (Muslims, Christians, Ezides). 15 senior citizens and three youth volunteers manage the meeting; now refugees themselves start co-organizing the event, 1500 visitors since September 2015. They are very active by helping to find an apartment for refugees, dealing with authorities, organising language classes.

Religions for Peace group Heilbronn

- Contact with families, regular visits
- Intercultural theatre work shop
- Story café: people (not only refugees) meet and tell their migration story (30-70 participants)
- Refugee stories + photo exhibition, articles about refugee stories in local newspaper
- Film / Song Video by refugees (cooperation with Catholic Education Institute)
- Dancing for Peace (40-50 people), guided bike tour

Religions for Peace / ISKCON Rhein-Main

In the regional county 17 organizations (mostly Church-based) offer assistance, help, German language classes for refugees, local Welcome Centre / Pro Job Rheingau Taunus GmbH

- First check / Competence check diagnosis
- 6 week intensive language class, preparation for integration class, courses fundamental rights in Germany, equal rights for men and women, freedom of religion, norms and values, legal system, European Union
- Visits to churches, mosques, synagogues, state parliament
- International musical cooking book (songs, countries, recipes)
- Intensive classes at vocational training schools, help with recognition of diplomas

Religions for Peace group Osnabrück, lead by Prof. Dr. em. Reinhold Mokrosch

- 13 refugee work groups in the cities of Osnabrück, Münster, Bielefeld
- Relocation initiative: 50 refugees to Osnabrück, 44 other cities followed in Germany (idea: if each city relocates 50 people from Greece / Italy, the German quota of 27.000 from the European Union relocation target of 160.000 refugees can be reached)
- RfP Osnabrück members went to refugee camp in Idomeni (Greece) at the Macedonian border in January 2017 and helped to bring refugees to Germany

- RfP Osnabrück thus managed to reunite refugee families in Germany and France

Coptic Orthodox Church Community Mainz-Mombach

- Refugee work since 2013, now 400 refugees (Christians from Egypt, Syria, Iraq) in the community, bible group
- 2 families (persecuted Christians, speak Arabic, long-time residents in Mainz) went to refugee shelters in Mainz, offered clothing, translation assistance
- Study / homework help for pupils
- Encounters of senior citizens and refugees in church

UK RELIGIONS FOR PEACE UNITED KINGDOM

Religions for Peace United Kingdom is a chapter of the World Conference of *Religions for Peace*, the largest international coalition of representatives from the world's great religions who are dedicated to achieving peace.

Religions for Peace United Kingdom is a member of *Religions for Peace* Europe, one of the five regional bodies of the worldwide organization.

Religions for Peace United Kingdom is a registered charity (1109076).

PATRONS (FORMERLY PRESIDENTS)

Following the practice of other chapters of Religions for Peace globally, we appoint senior religious leaders, who will help us shape our policies and further our activities.

Currently our Patrons are:

- Imam Mufti Dr Abduljalil Sajid who is Chairman of the Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony UK, Chairman of the National Association of British Pakistanis and World Conference of Religions for Peace European Board member, amongst other posts and appointments.
- Bhai Sahib Dr Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia who is chairman of the Sikh organization Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha and who has been knighted by the Pope for his dedicated work to Roman Catholic-Sikh relations and his enthusiastic commitment to working for peace among people of all faith.
- The Venerable B Seelawimla, Head Priest of the London Buddhist Vihara and Chief Sangha Nayaka of Great Britain.
- The Very Reverend John Hall, Dean of Westminster.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Our Executive Committee is responsible for the management and guidance of *Religions for Peace* United Kingdom and our current Chair is James Cresswell who is President of the European Buddhist Union.

Trustees include members of the Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and

MULTI FAITH COMMISSION ON SHARED SECURITY

Stephen Herman, a member of the Jewish faith, is Director of our Multi Faith Commission on Shared Security. We have a number of volunteers who help with our initiatives and are grateful to them for their hard work. We would welcome further volunteers.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Over the last year we have continued with the work of improving our website and our presence on social media. Ms Cinde Lee has led this process and we are very grateful for her hard work and expertise.

PROGRESS TOWARDS A WORLD FREE FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Nuclear weapons represent a unique threat to humanity. This year the Multi Faith Commission on Shared Security have pressed ahead with our work of campaigning for a peaceful world free of this threat in partnership with other faith and inter faith groups.

FORMATION OF YOUTH AND WOMEN OF FAITH NETWORKS

We continue with the work of building the following national networks:

- United Kingdom Women of Faith Network
- United Kingdom Interfaith Youth Network.

The aims of these Networks is to build mutual respect and pluralism among women's groups and youth groups from different religious traditions by empowering them to work together to serve others, going beyond mere tolerance of diversity and creating respect for one another's religious and ethnic identity.

INTERNATIONAL

Religions for Peace is, above all, a global family of organizations working at national and regional level for peace and we continue to support the work of *Religions for Peace* International.

In December we were delighted to welcome to London a delegation from the China Committee on Religions and Peace. Visits were arranged to various places of worship in London and we were able to discuss opportunities for multi religious co-operation and exchanges

THE FUTURE

Religions for Peace United Kingdom will continue its work for peace and justice. We will work to raise the profile of *Religions for Peace* and create paths to peace here in the United Kingdom, in Europe and beyond.

ITALY

ANNUAL REPORT RELIGIONS FOR PEACE ITALIA ONLUS 2016

Most relevant activities during the year

- Diffusion of multi-religious CALENDARS RFP 2016 (about 8000 copies) to schools, hospitals, prisons, interreligious and cultural meetings and events.
- In February: a delegation of RfP Italy visited India and was involved into interreligious meetings in *New Delhi* and *Jaipur*, expressly organized for our visit.
- In March: meetings in Belluno and Bassano del Grappa for presentation of *Religions for Peace*.
- In April: a two-days meetings with students and citizens in *Turi (Bari) / Region Apulia* (Several events on the item "From Fear to Trust : let's build bridges of peace")
- In April: important interreligious meeting in the Province of Varese on the item of facing discrimination and xenophobia.
- In May: meetings on "*Welcoming of religious diversities within hospitals and health facilities*" in towns of three regions: Padua, Parma and Caltanissetta.
- In August: lectures held by our members on Interreligious Dialogue within the annual Course *Abu'l Fadl* of the Italian Bahà'ì Community.
- In September: Interreligious meeting in Rome (panel with religious leaders of all traditions), connected with the Universities Jubilee on the item "*Mercy and*

Reconciliation / Interreligious Dialogue as a resource for the peace"

- In September: involvement in the meeting of Assisi in occasion of 30 years from the historical interreligious meeting of the Prayer for Peace.
- In October: involvement in the 19th edition of *Religion Today Film Festival* based in Trento.
- In October : editing of the 7th edition of the multi religious CALENDARI di RFP ; the title for 2017 is "*Taking care of the earth together*".
- On October 26th: meeting with the students of Parma and first presentation of the new CALENDARI; interreligious event for peace in the province of Parma and olive tree planting in an area of the so-called *Sacre Terre* (Sacred Lands).
- On October 30 involvement in Diwali Holiday in Rome: "*From Gange to Tiber: lights for Peace*".
- On November 18th Interreligious Pilgrimage to the Holy Door of S.Peter's in Rome at the end of the *Mercy Jubilee*.
- On December 6th involved in the meeting held in gregorian University of Rome, related to Diwali: "*Lights of peace/ Christians and Hinduists in dialogue*".
- On December 27 starting of the monthly interreligious encounter of prayer and meditation for Peace.

The Youth Group RfP of RfP Italy organized encounters of *Scriptural Reasoning* with persons of different faiths and participated to the European Meeting in UK on young people radicalisation.

The Women Group of WCRP-EU "*Women in Dialogue*" organized meetings and events on the item of mutual welcoming and no-discrimination with a special attention to the women experience in this regard.

Luigi De Salvia (President of Religions for Peace Italia Onlus)

THE NETHERLANDS

WCRP / Religions for Peace –The Netherlands

Most relevant activities from June 2015 - December 2016

In the International Year of the Soils, June 2015: Conference, workshops and theatre “Celebrating The Earth”, in cooperation with Christians, Muslims, Buddhist, Hindus (see flyer). With Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish of Sekem Egypt.

For impression, see: <https://youtu.be/JJhwFay8pVc> Sustainability and cooperation from various (religious) points of view.

- September 2015: Symposium Combating and Preventing Radicalism
- October 2015: start with Twitter account of Religions for Peace
- October 2015: two youth members attend Training Seminar in Rome by Erasmus+ and RfPE



- November 2015: Newsletter, see website www.religiesvoorvrede.nl
- November 2015: Help-action by RvV Nederland in two cities in The Netherlands for the private refugees organization www.sboverseas.org
- November 2015: Meeting of political party CDA with members of RvV as guest-speakers about Islam
- February 2016: Attending First Stone for House of Peace (AISAngo)
- March 2016 Freedom Walk Leiden
- April 2016: attending a meeting in a mosque in The Hague with the Dutch Minister of Social Affairs
- May 2016: Newsletter, see www.religiesvoorvrede.nl
- Visiting the European Parliament with experts on Middle-East situation to talk with Christian Democrats in the Parliament
- June 2016: With various organizations active with workshops on the Day of Living Together and opening House of Peace of AISAngo in Almere



- October: meeting at the Ministry of Social Affairs with various organization about preventing and combating radicalism
- During the year RfP Netherlands attended and contributed to various regional and local meetings for interreligious dialogue and combating discrimination.

ROMANIA ASOCIATIA ECOMONDIA BUCURESTI - Youth Department

Activities within the required domain of combating discrimination (through bridging cultures, traditions, religions and various gaps – gender, ethnicity, age, etc.)

1. Book donations from the urban level students to remote area libraries and schools (Sulina, the southern most town of Romania, in the Danube Delta) thus encouraging education within a community of ethnic Romanians, ethnic Russians (old rite Russian orthodox), ethnic Tatars and Turks (Muslim), Greeks (Greek orthodox), Jews (Judaic) and Hungarians (catholic)
2. As a follow-up to this activity, we are involved in planning and organising a Summer School on the theme of Cultural Diversity, religious diversity and biodiversity in the Danube Delta (World Biosphere Reserve) and the entire Black Sea region, along with local authorities in respective locations (town hall of Tulcea, Sulina, etc.)
3. In the same region, at Tulcea, we will develop an cultural and religious diversity program, benefitting from the long historical presence of the various communities there living in peace and harmony and sharing the same values to a point. This program will bring together participants from Bulgaria, Greece and Cyprus, Ukraine (locally) and Turkey (perhaps including the UNESCO Heritage “dancing dervishes”) in a celebration of both diversity as well as unity. We are working on this with collaborating NGO’s (Piolet) and the Town Hall of Tulcea
4. We have been actively involved in disseminating and contributing to activities of the Teacher’s House of Ilfov county, in Branesti, (government institutions in network of “Teacher Houses” for each county + Bucharest). Branesti and Ilfov county itself, (a “belt county” around Bucharest) being home to a vast Roma population, thus being the focus point for various European HR projects on building / accessing the work market, providing training for various trades and occupations, as well as sustained efforts in combating school abandonment

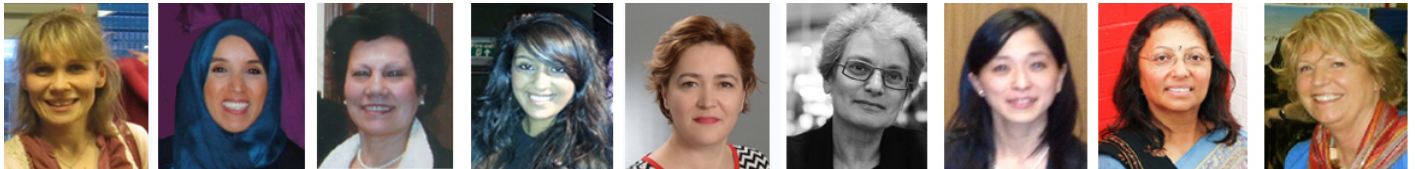
Note: In replying strictly to the anti-discrimination request, various of our activities have not been included in this presentation, such as:

- Events dedicated to the Martisor tradition, celebrated in the entire Balkan region in various forms, in Bucharest, combined with bridging the gap between generations and parents and grandparents along with children participated in creating various traditional crafts in marking the occasion
- Kindergartens, schools and high schools across the country (Bucharest, Targoviste, Craiova, etc) planting trees to mark the Month of the Forest (as well as a 10yo national heroine's commemoration) with ecological and environmental awareness on the guideline thematic as well

Several others can be presented upon request, as the yearly activity report is both not translated into English as well as varying in activities (where the principal focus was cultural diversity, environmental protection, combating pollution, biodiversity, extracurricular education, etc)

WOMEN OF FAITH IN EUROPE

A call from the EWFN co-ordinating committee:



During the European Women of Faith Network meeting in Brussels (September 2014)
8 women read out this statement in their own language:

Heidi **Rautionmaa** - Finland, Christian/Lutheran; Aïcha **Haddou** - Belgium/Morocco, Muslim by her proxy; Mehri **Afsahi** – Sweden, Baha'i; Rupal **Maru** – UK,- Hindu representing young people; Olivera **Jovanovic** - Bosnia Herzegovina, Christian/Orthodox; Nadine **Iarchy** – Belgium, Jewish; Yuka **Mizumo** - Italy, Buddhist; Bharti **Tailor** – UK, Hindu; Yolande **Iliano** – Belgium, Christian/Catholic

Urgent appeal

to every political and religious authority,

to every community, government

and to every human being,

to each of us!!

Enough injuries, tears, and destruction!

It is urgent to reinforce the roots of Peace

Unconditional dialogue is the only option; weapons must be silenced. Humility, friendship and solidarity must replace contempt, provocation and growing violence. Forgiveness, accepting the past and moving forward, having learnt from our mistakes.

Let us plant the seeds of peace, instead of sowing seeds of war in the hearts of our young people.

We can unite and together, take action in implementing processes for peace.

It remains our duty to join hands in partnership, and to secure the peaceful future of our younger generation. We can achieve this by striving towards Human Security, Human Rights, Justice and Sustainable Peace. It is our supreme obligation to endeavour to bring peace and prosperity to our countries and to humanity.

Today it is urgent to stand up against all forms of violence. Persecution of women and girls, men and boys, has reached its peak. These brutalities perpetrated in the name of religion are against the spiritual and moral elements contained in the messages of all our religions.

The nature and purpose of religion is to promote harmony and influence people for the good and is vital for the survival of humankind.

Peace seldom becomes reality because priorities tend to be destructive in nature: lack of will and norms, and religious prejudices. Military tactics, tearing social structures to pieces, are the cruellest assaults of our time. We have agreed on what torture is, what rape means, what child prostitution is, what discrimination against religious minorities is. Let us not pretend not to know what human rights and human security truly represent. Tools and international arguments are aimed at eradicating the root causes of war.

UNIFEM (UNWomen) launched in 2008 a new partnership with “Religion for Peace” in the “Say No to Violence” campaign, which seeks to engage faith communities worldwide to lead efforts to end violence against women. We, the European Women of Faith Network, are committed to peace and condemn the patterns of domination and violence.

We strive to enhance awareness and respect for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that boys and girls should grow up in safety, have access to education and aim to promote their social, spiritual and moral well-being, mental and physical health.

This dignity is inviolable. It is not something provided by cultures, states, societies, communities or individuals, nor can it be taken away by them. But the recognition of this dignity must be “restored” whenever it is violated. It must be actively respected, honoured and protected.

We recognize the UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion and Belief (UN. Dec. A/36/684 (1981)). We recognize the inherent dignity of all human beings based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights which are God-given rights, and that they should be applied for the well-being of all and the unity of mankind.

Recommendations to all:

- To call for meaningful debate and necessary action to move members of our communities towards a new culture of peaceful conflict resolution and peace building.
- To inspire religious followers to change perspectives and contribute to a change of direction away from violent conflict to peaceful societies.
- To generate strategies and action that contribute to conflict transformation, give key insights for preventing violence so as to save both lives and resources, and to invest in social development instead of destruction.
- To highlight and identify spiritual principles within our own scriptures and traditions that find an echo in unity and justice in human affairs.

Concrete Commitment of Women of Faith in Europe to the goals of the UN-Women programme

MEHRI AFSANI

Our concern is human rights violations and the existing discrimination against women. In our modern society, transparency and knowledge of decision-making processes and systems are important. We are trying through our networking to empower women to develop all their potential in the building of just and peaceful communities. For this we maintain and reinforce grassroots contact.

Humanity has entered a new era, one in which the equity of women and men has been fully revealed as a spiritual principle and in which its social practice will ultimately be fully realized. The historic oppression of women in society and also by some male religious leaders can be reversed if we all live according to the values coming from our religions.

Through educational activities in our religious gatherings, we can bring a pattern of understanding and moral development amongst today's children and young people. They need to recognise their own identity and purpose in Life.

Oslo: During the Annual council meeting of ECRL,

The Women delegation has a informal meeting discussing about radicalisation



UNITED KINGDOM

Launch of the United Kingdom Women of Faith Network

Religions for Peace 

United Kingdom Women of Faith Network



The United Kingdom Women of Faith Network was launched with high-level support at the House of Lords in London in March 2016. Baroness Uddin hosted a packed auditorium, with Members of Parliament and representatives from diverse international, national and local religious and multi-religious organisations. Written support was welcomed from the Prime Minister's

office; the Secretary of State for Education and Minister for women and equalities, Right Honourable Nicky Morgan; and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Further contributions were from:

Professor Ursula King, Professor Emerita of Theology and Religious Studies at Bristol University,

Jehangir Sarosh, Secretary General of the European Council of Religious Leaders,

The Archduchess of Austria and Princess of Tuscany, Camilla Habsburg-Lothringen,

Jenny Kartupelis, Strategy and Development Officer at the World Congress of Faiths

Ravinder Kaur Nijjar, Chair of the UK Women of Faith Network and International Co-ordinating committee member on Religions for Peace Global Women of Faith Network, whilst the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon talked about women shattering the glass ceilings of our boardrooms, the reality for most is very different. The best way to give women of faith a voice is to build a dynamic network that mainstreams them in to public and leadership roles. Ravinder called on all people, men and women, to play their part in restoring the dignity of women, and honouring them as our respective scriptures instruct.

A lively question and answer session followed, including comments from Religions for Peace Co-President, Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh, who reminded us that mothers are the first gurus and educationalists. If they are stressed, the unborn child is stressed. Harriet Crabtree, Director of the Interfaith Network; Kiran Bali, CEO of United Religions Initiative UK; Lady Gilda Levy, co-founder of the Women's Interfaith Network; Alison Judd, Area President of Methodist Women in Britain; Sister Maureen Goodman from the Brahma Kumaris; Ella Matheson, Founding Director of Peace in the City and trustee of the Tutu Foundation UK; Jean Dalglish of the Westminster Institute for Ethics and Human Values; and many others offered their wholehearted support to the United Kingdom Women of Faith Network. The meeting closed with high aspirations and encouragement for the future of the women of faith in the UK.



International Women's Day: Women in Leadership–Tony Blair Faith Foundation

To mark International Women's Day, the Co-Chair Ravinder Kaur Nijjar took part in a global videoconference with young people from the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Indonesia. She spoke about women in leadership from a Sikh perspective but also spoke of the work of the RfP European Women of Faith Network. The Tony Blair Faith Foundation leads a global education programme that connects young people to learn about how faith and belief can shape their lives. Students from the Westminster School, UAE, SMA Islam Dian Didaktika, Indonesia, Al-Mojadedon Academy and the Islamic Educational College IGCSE, Jordan were given the opportunity to ask questions after she had shared more about herself and her ideologies in relation to women. This included her faith and aspirations for a better future for all children as her greatest inspiration, the struggles of being heard as a woman – particularly in the male dominated fields of politics and religion, the power of one

person to garner change in the world and the power of her faith in assisting her in the face of adversity.

Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict 10-13 2014, London

The Foreign Secretary of the UK William Hague and Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Co-chaired a Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict on 10-13 June 2014 at the ExCel Centre, London. RfP European Women of Faith Network's Co-Chair Ravinder Kaur Nijjar was invited to attend and participate in the Experts and Ministerial sessions. The summit was the largest gathering ever brought together on this subject, with a view to creating irreversible momentum against sexual violence in conflict and practical action that impacts those on the ground. The summit brought together the governments from all countries who have endorsed the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. It involved militaries, judiciaries, civil society and UN agencies and was open to the media and members of the public. Countries involved were asked to support a new International Protocol aimed at increasing accountability for those culpable of sexual violence in conflict, to ensure their militaries can prevent and respond to rape and sexual violence, to pledge practical support for survivors of rape; and to join in partnerships to help conflict-affected countries.

Morocco

Women at the heart of monotheisms: a plural history November 2014

Under the High Patronage of HM King Mohammed VI



Aïcha Haddou, representative of the EWFN, a Muslim, Co-chair of the Belgian Women of Faith Network co-ordinated the Symposium.

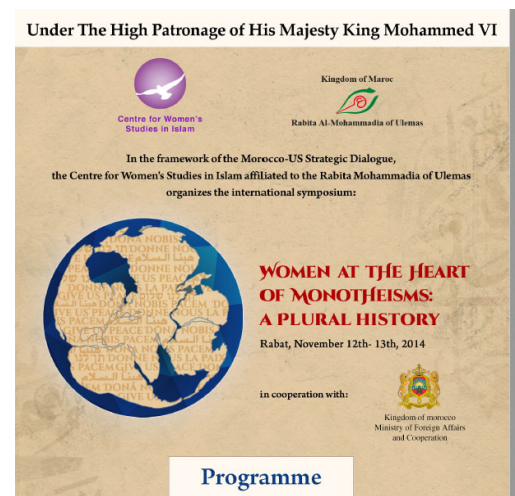
7 members of EWFN were panellists: Ravinder Kaur Nijjar (UK), Martina Heinrichs (NL), Olivera Jovanovic (B&H), Pastor Laurence Flachon (BE), Christina Lee (IT), Heidi Rautionmaa

(FI), Yolande Iliano (BE)

In the framework of the UN International Week of Science and Peace, the Centre for Women's Studies in Islam, affiliated to the Rabita Mohammadia of Ulemas, organized an international symposium titled « **Women at the heart of monotheisms: a plural history** », on November 12th-13th, 2014 in Rabat.

Following the five sessions of the symposium, a number of recommendations were made:

- **At the academic level:** create an international scientific network to reflect on women's issues and working among other things to:
 1. Promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue.
 2. Empower women at the economic, social, political and religious levels.
 3. Revise the patriarchal interpretations found in the monotheistic religions.
 4. Identify the common concepts in monotheistic religions such as the concepts of equality and justice.



5. Carry out a study on women's history and the impact of globalization and power structures on it.

To achieve these objectives, the following complementary recommendations were presented:

1. Work according to a global approach that considers the text and the context.
2. Facilitate accessing religious knowledge within the official religious institutions.
3. Collaborate with social, cultural, economic, political and religious institutions.



Finally, the recommendations at **the strategic level** were to:

1. Create a follow-up committee aiming to develop the network programmes in the symposium.
2. Reorganize similar meetings in Morocco.
3. Publish the participants' papers.

These are the main recommendations of the symposium "women at the heart of monotheisms". The Centre for Women's Studies and the Centre for Interreligious Dialogue will seek, within the scope of their respective powers, to facilitate the dissemination of these recommendations.

Summit of Consciences Fez, on the framework of the Cup 22



Aïcha Haddou, advisor in Muslim affairs in the Women of Faith Network in Europe, was the coordinator of *The Summit of Climate Conscience* going on in Fez, on the 3th Nov. 2016, in the framework of the Cup 22, with aim to develop the foundations of a new shared ecological consciousness.

This event gave an important place was given to the women.

Yoland Iliano, co-chair of the Women of Faith in Europe was invited as panelist and shared here expertise in Interreligions dialogue through a concrete action lead by women of Faith. « Sacred Water » Sister Jayanti Kirplani interview <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0zI88siH2A>

Commitment to counter violence against women

BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA

The Interreligious Council of Bosnia Herzegovina is implementing many projects led by women, and supported by young people and religious leaders together.

We monitor attacks on religious sites, and every year produce an annual report on it.

We also deliver public speeches on many very different topics and stage a host of activities.

The prime focus is our commitment to counter violence against women. We play "Play Seven" in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Texts are read aloud by women of faith (seven of them). Play Seven

contains seven true stories worldwide. The point is to send the message that religion is against violence of any kind but especially against women. I lead this project and it keeps me very busy, but fills my heart with wonderful emotions.

BELGIUM

2015: World Interfaith Harmony Week Belgian Women of Faith Network

BWFN together with WCRP-BE and RfP Europe were major driving forces for this inter-convictional event in Brussels, organising and co-ordinating 5 events for the WIHW

Monday 2 February “From forgiveness to reconciliation, in a peaceful spirit” in a room of the European Commission



Wednesday 4 February

Prison, reparation, forgiveness, reconciliation

What is our role in restoring dignity to harmonious integration?

How to improve the conditions of detention and reinsertion?

Thursday 5 February

Round table with teachers “The present situation in teaching religion in schools, ethics, philosophy and citizenship”

Monday 09 February

“Forgiveness and Reconciliation, the transit to Peace and Harmony among Peoples”



2016, Valérie Larchy, former representative for the International Council of Jewish Women, has been giving lectures in schools, all kind of associations and to civil servants such as the police academy, the police corps and medical staff about Judaism. In 2014, she gave 99 lectures and training courses. Her aim is to be a bridge builder, try to combat ignorance about Judaism and counter stereotypes and prejudices.

On 1st Dec. 2016, she organized with a small group of different faiths an important encounter: “Dialogue between Christians and Jewish people”, based on important official declarations. The venue was the main synagogue in Brussels. She organized a roundtable between the Cardinal of Belgium, Jozef De Kesel, the Chief



Rabbi of Brussels, Albert Guigui and the President of the Protestant Union in Belgium, Revd Steven Fuite.

A strong friendship and relationship has been forged between religious leaders and women of faith
The synagogue gathered people from all different religions and horizons. The most impressive moment was when Rev. Steven Fuite, in the name of the Protestant Union of Belgium read a declaration to the chair of the Jewish community of Belgium. This declaration officially disavowed the point of view of Martin Luther concerning Jews in his book: "The Jews and their Lies". This happened just before the year commemorating Martin Luther.

NETHERLANDS

Women as peacemakers in the holy books – women study the Koran and the Bible".

In February 2014 women led by Martina Heinrichs in the Netherlands, a member of the EWFN, re-started the yearly dialogue weekend "Women as peacemakers in the holy books – women study the Koran and the Bible". Next year the dialogue will be expanded to a triologue: Jewish women will join Muslim and Christian women. Netherlands is part of EPIL, the European Project of Interreligious Learning. This is a two-and-a-half-year study course for female Christian and Muslim students. They travel to several European countries studying different topics and the challenges faced by women in the various countries. If any women are interested in this course, information can be obtained from the website. www.epil.ch. In Nijmegen (and in Amsterdam and other cities) the Council of "levensbeschouwing/Weltanschauung" and religion has re-started: women and faith groups where Protestant, Catholic, Muslims, Jewish, Baha'i and anthroposophist women work together to promote interreligious dialogue and peace.

A network of tenderness for refugee children and migrants

Mirjam Ates, chair of WCRP-Netherlands and working closely with a group of women of faith, has organised campaigns to support Louma Albik, by collecting clothes and material for schoolchildren in Syria and Lebanon.

Louma Albik, is one of our EWFN members; chair of SB OverSeas, a private Syria-Belgian aid organization for refugees SB OverSeas could do with more and more support! Because financial resources, goods and volunteers are still needed in war-torn areas in the Middle East, where this volunteer organization has helped thousands of children and women and is still providing help.

Mirjam Ates said: "My first encounter with Louma Albik was during our European Peace-Europe Assembly in October 2015. A small, fragile looking young woman, who in peace, but with a huge power, leads the growing organization and continues to provide help in a very professional manner. Having married a Syrian-Belgian man, she moved to Brussels about 16 years ago. After she was shocked by the stories of family and friends in Syria, she took a long hard look at herself, and decided to start a relief operation from Belgium. This grew into an organization that now offers assistance in various camps in Syria, Lebanon and Turkey.

What the children have experienced is often heart-breaking. Children who lost not only family and friends, but also their hope, their trust, their love. They saw the most horrible things happening before their eyes. Many children are traumatized - children who cannot talk, or forgot how to laugh.

"Here I learned to know humanity," said one of the volunteers, who 'closes' every day with the children with a song that things will get better tomorrow.

Volunteers tell SB OverSeas about their work

In addition to providing psychological support and helping to process war trauma, teachers (paid) provide the children with education, which they have not had before, despite being 7, 8 or 9 years old. The women are helped to live independently economically. One sewing machine, for example, already helps several women to generate a small income. For two months, young people can help in the safest (least unsafe) camps. Several of them then continued in Brussels as volunteers at the organization's office, because in Brussels too, SB OverSeas offers assistance to refugees. More information can be found at:

[Http://sboverseas.org](http://sboverseas.org)

In Belgium A group of young people supported by women have been focusing on "how to bring hope to refugee children". They joined Louma's group of volunteers, regularly organising workshops for refugee children in "Le Petit Château" a Refugee Centre in Brussels.

A group of women of faith was strongly involved in the preparation of an event that took place early in 2017.

Samen opkomen
voor
vluchtelingenkinderen
United
to empower
refugee children
Onis
pour soutenir
les enfants réfugiés
متحدون لدعم الاطفال اللاجئين



29-1-2017

KYRGYZSTAN

In October 2016, Denis De Jong MEP, co-Chair of the EP intergroup Freedom on religions and Belief and Religious Tolerance invited Yolande Iliano to stage a conference on examples of best practice by Women of Faith in Kyrgyzstan and in Syria and Lebanon. Following up the visit to Kyrgyzstan 2012, closer partnership is now needed to link the women from Kyrgyzstan to the Women of Faith Network in Europe.



The group of women which the Interfaith Council of Kyrgyzstan was able to help, have successfully developed small businesses, and their living conditions have improved significantly. When last visited in 2015, all sewing workshops and 2 welding workshops established by IFC were operating well.

In 2014 IFC implemented a number of small humanitarian aid and development projects in the North of Kyrgyzstan. There were two small hairdressing salons established for socially vulnerable women in Karakol and Tokmok. IFC established a chicken farm (100 hens) at the orphanage in Tokmok. IFC also organized several humanitarian aid projects for 35 indigenous families in Bishkek, and some separate one-off support for 5 large indigenous families. A desire to establish a link and partnership with Kyrgyzstani women and the European Women of Faith Network is also one of the challenges, in collaboration with Ms. Galina Kolodzinskaia, Secretary General of the Executive Committee of the IFC of Kyrgyzstan.

SWEDEN

World Interfaith Harmony Week :In Stockholm during the World Interfaith Harmony Week, participants from different religious communities discussed the issue of survival, the environment and the question of climate change. The public manifestation called Light at Medis consisted of lectures, a children's room, spiritual space for reflection and workshops. The workshops were related to the theme of the environment and planning for the coming years has already started, led by Carin Gardbring.

The interfaith network is very active and we have regular meetings, plus a programme, and also work closely with our National Interfaith Council. Many interfaith networks in Sweden were invited by the Interfaith Council to a one-day seminar in Stockholm on March 6. It was an inspiring meeting. The Council has planned for the whole year ahead and been invited to deliver a series on education, seminars on Leadership, Human Rights and Communications which is to take place in May, August and November.

ITALY

RfP Italy Donne in Dialogo participated in and organized the following conventions and events in the years 2015-2016

2015

“Women and Hebrew law” Conference and discussion with Janner Klausner, a leading Rabbi from London, held in the “International House of Women” in Rome. “Women and Religions”, 5th Convention; Dialogue and comparison

between Science, Theology and Institutions. “Submission or free will? The feminine condition as a symptom of cultural and social growth and progress”, held in the Palazzo San Mancuto in Rome

“Bridges. Living together among different cultures and religions: experience from the past, ideas for the future”, held in the Casa della Memoria, Biblioteche di Rome

EXPO 2015 in Milan. “Women’s World Conference Peking twenty years later. The charter of women of the world.”

“Science for Investigation and security” Perugia University graduates’ course, held in Narni (Terni)

A panel at the “The European Convention of Religions for Peace Europe”, held in the Centro Mariapoli/Castel Gandolfo.

Lesson on “History of Italian Jewish Women” given by Franca Coen together with Professor Renata Pepicelli

on “Women in Islamic law and traditions”, held in the LUISS University in Rome.



2016

Convention “Women, migrants...between forced exile and conscious journeys with faith, hope and love” with the Jewish- Christian Friendship Association, held in the Chiesa Metodista, via Firenze,

Rome

ROMA CAPITALE
MUNICIPIO ROMA I CENTRO

Religions for Peace
Sezione Italiana

RELIGIONS FOR PEACE

IDENTITÀ DIVERSE ALL'INTERNO DELLA COMUNE IDENTITÀ UMANA
Il rispetto accogliente come risposta alla sfida della differenza

Conversazione con esponenti di tradizioni religiose diverse
MERCOLEDÌ 25 MARZO ore 9.30
Aula magna dell'Il. C. Dante Alighieri-Via Cassiodoro, 2a

Saluti:
GIOVANNA D'ARCO Dirigente Scolastica I.C. Dante Alighieri
SABRINA ALFONSI Presidente del Municipio Roma I Centro
PAOLO MASINI Assessore alle Politiche Educative e Scolastiche di Roma Capitale

Proiezione del Film **OTHERNESS**

Riflessioni, commenti e dialogo con gli studenti ed i genitori:
Pastore Antonio Adamo (Chiesa Valdese di Roma)
Franca Coen Eckert Presidente Comitato Etica Beth Haim
Silvio Danese Movimento dei Focolari
Maurizio Casagrande Direttore Istituto Tevoni - Pro Dialogo
Luigi De Salvia Segretario Generale Religions for Peace/Italia

Durante l'incontro saranno presentati i **CALENDARI 2015** di Religions for Peace, che riportano

Convention “Women and Institution: Comparison between two realities, between obstacles and prejudices” organized by “MAI Più +VIOLENZA INFINITA”, and held in the Sala del Consiglio Metropolitan in Naples Meeting on “Women of faith for an inclusive world.

Women, religions and dialogues”, held in the LUISS University in Rome “Women and dialogue between Christianity and oriental religions” and a seminar on “Women and Christianity”, held in the Pontificia Università di Teologia Marianum.

Rome “Festival of Women were contribution to Project on Perugia Terni. Memorie di un of a guardian Livne, held in the



Sociology”, where RfP invited because of their the University Research “Gender and Religions” at University, and held in Narni- Presentation of the book “ angelo custode” (Memories angel” by Angelica Edna Calò Biblioteca Marconi in Rome

Our group started its activities on 25 November, 2014 by organising a big event on the occasion of the “International Day for Eliminating Violence against Women”, holding a convention called “A roof of parchment: the responsibility of religions for the destiny of women”.

FINLAND

The Women of Faith Network in Finland keeps up the tradition of organizing a number of public interfaith events every year, and holds group meetings.

This year (2017) it has started to run a dialogue cafe once a month in co-operation with the International Union of Muslim Women and the Open doors for dialogue – project by the Union of Lutheran Parishes in Helsinki. The Network participates regularly in the Social Forum in Finland and this spring it organized a seminar on best practices and challenges of interfaith activities, in co-operation with the International Union of Muslim Women and the Open doors for dialogue – project. The international guest speaker at this interfaith seminar was Stuart Scott, an Executive Director of the United Planet Faith & Science Initiative (Interfaith Climate Declaration).



Photos: Hindu forum. Women are on the way back home to Espoo from the launch party of the Hindu Forum in Stockholm in 2015; showing the relations of co-operation with our neighbouring country and that we also have people from dharmic faiths. Hindu forum 2. Celebrating the launch of the Hindu Forum in Stockholm in 2015.

Dialogue cafes. A Dialogue café is for women from various faiths and cultures to befriend each other.

