

Religious Leaders at the Annual Meeting 2017

A community of 16 Religious Leaders join in Davos to help inspire responsive and responsible leadership

Swami Agnivesh, President Emeritus, World Council of Arya Samaj, India



Socio-spiritual activist. Early 1970s, formed a new political party in India which renounced both communism and capitalism in favour of Vaidik social spirituality. Jailed for over a year during Indira Gandhi's administration. Later, entered a before devoting himself to social justice movements in India. Has championed nearly all human rights issues. Best known for work to stop bonded labour and child labour. 1981, founded the Bonded Labour Liberation Front (BMM), to wage a battle against the pernicious bonded labour system in India. It has achieved the release of over 176,000 bonded Indians from slavery. BMM has been campaigning for a national minimum wage. Has worked with the UN to end slavery. Nine years as Chairperson, UN Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. Instrumental in trying to initiate a peace process between the government of India and the Naxalites/Maoists. Recipient of awards: Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award (2004); Right Livelihood Award (2004) for dedication to promoting values of cooperation, tolerance and understanding.

Abdallah Bayyah, President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, United Arab Emirates



Studied sacred sciences, Mauritanian centres of learning known as Mahadhir; law studies, Faculty of Law, Tunisia. 1961, trained in Tunisian courts. Former: Judge, High Court of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania; first Minister for Islamic Affairs and Education; Minister of Justice and Official Holder of the Seals. President, Forum for Peace in Muslim Societies, Abu Dhabi. Co-Moderator and Executive Committee Member, Religions Peace. Chairman, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies. President, Global Centre for Renewal and Guidance, London. Lecturer, King Abdul Aziz University, Saudi Arabia. Named one of the Most Influential Muslims (2009-2013). Awards for work as an Islamic scholar and advocate for peace.

Bani Dugal, Principal Representative, Bahá'í International Community's United Nations Office, New York



1979, BA (Hons) in Sociology, University of Delhi, Jesus and Mary College, India; 1982, LLB (Hons), University of Delhi School of Law, India; 1994, LLM in Environmental Law, Pace University School of Law, New York. 1979-80, Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific for the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women, and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in New Delhi. 1982-88, practised before the Supreme Court of India. 1994-97, Alternate Representative to the United Nations, Bahá'í International Community's United Nations Office. Since 1997, has represented the Bahá'í International Community at many UN conferences and meetings. Since 2003, Principal Representative to the United Nations, Bahá'í International Community's United Nations Office. Former: Convenor, NGO Committee on UNIFEM; Chair, NGO Committee on Human Rights; Co-Chair, Global Forum, NGO Committee on UNICEF. Member, Steering Committee, NGO; Member, Committee on UNICEF's Working Group on Girls.

Pinchas Goldschmidt, Chief Rabbi and President, Conference of European Rabbis, Russian Federation



MA, Ner Israel, Baltimore; MS, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, US. Since 1993, Chief Rabbi of Moscow. Since 2011, President, Conference of European Rabbis, the first from Eastern Europe in the organization's 54-year history. Spring 2009, Visiting Scholar, Davis Center, Harvard University, US. Takes an active part in interfaith dialogue gatherings with Christians and Muslims and has spoken at major events on this theme in New York, Paris, Astana, Seville and Moscow. Has also addressed the US Senate, EU Parliament, Council of Europe, Israeli Knesset, Prime Minister Netanyahu's Ne'eman Commission, Oxford University, OSCE Berlin Conference on

anti-Semitism, and Harvard University, discussing the state of the Jewish community, and the threats of anti-Semitism.

Nasereldin Haghamed, Chief Executive Officer, Islamic Relief Worldwide, United Kingdom



Naser was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) in April 2016. Since joining IRW 23 years ago, Naser has worked in numerous leadership roles, including as Director of International Programmes and as the Operations Director of the Islamic Relief Academy.

Naser has over 25 years of expertise in both the private and third sector, running company-wide operational functions, leading complex projects from inception to successful completion and making sound strategic decisions. Naser has also served on the boards of various private and third sector organisations.

As a successful leader, mentor and negotiator, Naser has travelled across 35 countries, is fluent in three languages and has rich experience in dealing with people of different ages, cultures and backgrounds.

Naser obtained an Executive MBA with Distinction from Aston University in 2016.

Ahmad Irvani, President and Executive Director, Center for the Study of Islam and the Middle East (CSIME), USA



1997, received the highest possible degree in Islamic Studies (Ijtihad), Qom; 2010, DPhil, Iranian Institute of Philosophy, Tehran, Iran. President, Center for the Study of Islam and the Middle East. Since 2000, teaches courses in Islamic Law, Theology and Modern Iran, Catholic University of America (CUA). Leading expert in the United States on the relationship of law, religion and policy.

Kevin Jenkins, President and Chief Executive Officer, World Vision International, United Kingdom



President and CEO, World Vision International since October 2009. Board Chair, International Civil Society Centre; Principal on the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, which represents the largest agencies that respond to relief crises. Formerly, 25 year career in business, which included: President and CEO, Canadian Airlines; President and CEO, The Westaim Corporation (turning technological innovations into marketable products); Managing Director, TriWest Capital Partners. Law Degree, University of Alberta; MBA, Harvard Business School.

Suzanne Matale, General Secretary, Council of Churches in Zambia, Zambia



Rev. Suzanne Membe Matale is Ordained Minister of the word and sacrament in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Currently, Rev. Matale is the General Secretary of the Council of Churches in Zambia, a membership umbrella organisation of mainline churches in Zambia. The vision of the Council is to promote justice, peace and dignity for all people. The work includes capacity building for churches to tackle inequalities in society; poverty, gender and development, social, political, and economic justice from a faith perspective. The Council also advocates for political/economic policy change in the nation to bring them in line with the urgent demands for positive change for the common good.

Ephraim Mirvis, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth



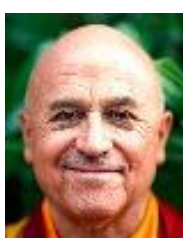
Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis is only the 11th Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth since the office was introduced in 1704. He received his Rabbinic ordination from Machon Ariel, Jerusalem (1978 – 80) and gained a BA in Education and Classical Hebrew from the University of South Africa. Chief Rabbi Mirvis has earned a reputation as one of the UK's most respected community Rabbis. In Finchley he galvanised the community, founding pioneering education projects such as the Kinloss Learning Centre (KLC). He is also the founder Rabbi and Honorary Principal of Morasha Jewish Primary School in Finchley, as well as founder and President of the Kinloss Community Kollel. Chief Rabbi Mirvis transformed the Finchley community into a vibrant centre of educational, social, cultural and religious activity, becoming the fastest growing community in the United Synagogue.

Pietro Parolin, Cardinal; Secretary of State of the Vatican City State, Vatican City State



Ordained as a priest on April 27, 1980 in Vicenza, his diocese of origin and, after spending several years at the pastoral ministry, he began studying law. He completed his studies in 1986, graduating with a Degree in Canon Law from the Pontifical Gregorian University and a diploma in Diplomatic Sciences from the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, where he had begun studying in 1983. Joining the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See in 1986, he offered his services at the Apostolic Nunciatures in Nigeria and Mexico, and, for 17 years, in the Section for Relations with States of the Secretariat of State, later becoming Undersecretary (2002-2009). In August 2009, he was appointed Titular Archbishop of Aquipendium and Apostolic Nuncio to Venezuela. In August 2013, he was made Secretary of State by His Holiness Pope Francis, who has also invited him to join the College of Cardinals in the Papal Consistory on February 22, 2014.

Matthieu Ricard, Founder, Karuna-Shechen, France



PhD in Cellular Genetics, France. Buddhist monk studying Buddhism in the Himalayas for the last 40 years. Founder, Karuna-Shechen, a humanitarian organization that completed 130 projects in the Himalayan region; active in scientific research on the effects of meditation on the brain. Member, Mind and Life Institute. Author of several books, including: The Monk and the Philosopher; Happiness; The Art of Meditation and recently, in French, Plaidoyer pour l'altruisme. Published five albums as photographer, including: Buddhist Himalayas; Tibet; Motionless Journey; Bhutan: The Land of Serenity. Recipient of French National Order of Merit, for humanitarian works.

Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, Cardinal; President, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Vatican City State



Studies, Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome. 1992, appointed Archbishop of Cape Coast by Pope John Paul II; 2003, Cardinal; 2009, Relator, during the II Synod of Bishops for Africa; since 2010, President, Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, World Council of Churches (WCC), Switzerland



Doctorate in Theology, NST-MF. 2001-02, Secretary, Church of Norway Commission on Church-State Relations, appointed by General Synod; 2002-09, General Secretary, Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations; 2007-09, Member and Moderator, WCC Palestine-Israel Ecumenical Forum Core Group; since 2005, Moderator, Church of Norway-Islamic Council of Norway contact group; since 2005, Moderator, Church of Norway-Jewish Congregation contact group in Norway; since 2006, Member, Inter-Faith Council of Norway; since January 2010, current position.

Jim Wallis, President and Founder, Sojourners, USA



President and Founder, Sojourners and Editor-in-Chief, Sojourners magazine, with combined print and electronic media readership of over 250,000 people. Public theologian, speaker, preacher and faith-based activist. Columnist for blogs and newspapers, including The New York Times and Washington Post. Commentator on television and national public radio. Former Chair and current Vice-Chair, Global Agenda Council on Values, World Economic Forum. Author of eight books, including: God's Politics - Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It; The Great Awakening - Reviving Faith and Politics in a Post-Religious Right America; Rediscovering Values: A Guide for Economic and Moral Recovery.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, United Kingdom



1978, MA, Trinity College, Cambridge; 1992, BA and Diploma in Ministry, St John's College, Durham. 1978-83, Société Nationale Elf Aquitaine, Paris; 1983-84, Elf UK, London; 1984-89, Enterprise Oil, London. 1993, Priesthood; 1993-2002, Priest at Astley, Southam and Ufton; 2002-05, Canon Residentiary, Coventry Cathedral; 2005-07, Canon Residentiary and Sub Dean, Coventry Cathedral; 2007-11, Dean of Liverpool; 2011-13, Bishop of Durham. 2012-13, Member, Parliamentary Commission on Banking Standards. Since 2011, Member of the House of Lords. Since 2013, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Hamza Yusuf Hanson, President, Zaytuna College, USA



PhD (candidate), Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California. Currently, President, Zaytuna College, Berkeley, California. Adviser: Islamic Studies Program, Stanford University; Ministry of Higher Education, UAE; Center for Islamic Studies, Graduate Theological Union. Honorary President, Religions for Peace; Vice-President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies. Founder and Director, Deen Intensive/Rihla programmes; Co-Producer and Moderator, The Rihla Series for MBC. Has translated and authored many published books, articles, essays and

blogs. Has also been featured and interviewed on programmes by the BBC, NPR, CBC and KPFA.
Named the Western world's most influential Islamic scholar, 500 Most Influential Muslims.