

Prayer Vigil

Dublin, Ireland, 9. August 2014



On August 9th UPF Ireland held a prayer vigil at the Lantern Centre.

The event was decided upon within a very short time in collaboration with Ambassadors for Peace Robert Samson to take a stand on the escalation of violence that is happening around the world.

In the recent weeks, particularly after the conflicts in the Middle East, there have been many demonstrations and rallies in Ireland and around the world defending one side or the other, each with convincing arguments for their cause.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

With this inspiration we planned for representatives of different faiths to meet and hold a prayer vigil to ask the Almighty God to touch the heart of the decision makers to end the cycle of violence.

We gathered at the Lantern Center, an Interfaith Hospitality Centre in the heart of Dublin, at 7pm on August 9th, 2014.

Representatives of Islam, Church of Ireland, Sikh community, Catholics, Focolarini, various Christian denominations, Unificationists, Religious Society of Friends and Unitarian Church gathered in a circle. After a short presentation from UPF about the shocking reality of conflicts around the world and the importance of religious people in shaping society in the right direction, each representative took turns and prayed in their own way for peace creating a growing sense of unity among everyone. It was very

touching to hear all those voices in prayer; we realized that different traditions and beliefs are not an obstacle to create peace because the universal values of heart and love are the very core of each faith; these core values make the difference in any person's heart regardless of the faith they believe in.

Each one offered beautifully their unique prayer, some by singing, some reciting their traditional prayers, others by offering a spontaneous prayer and others simply expressing their desire for peace among all people. The final prayer was led by a very inspired lady from a Christian group; we all stood up and joined hands for the invocation.

We were over 30 people and definitely all these prayers made us feel close to each other and created a deep sense of unity among everyone. We also recognize that prayers must be followed by deeds, so we all signed a declaration of peace to start spreading the sense of unity created during the event among our neighbours.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who participated and those who could not come but wanted to be there. I'm looking forward to meeting again at the future UPF event on peace in September 2014 (details to follow).

I also would like to thank the Lantern Centre for the help and hospitality in hosting the event.

Bruno Miresse

UPF Ireland Secretary General

Tel: 087 2653058

*Email: [Bruno.miresse@upf-ireland.org](mailto: Bruno.miresse@upf-ireland.org)
bruno12m@gmail.com*





Declaration of Peace



We would like to propose to everyone to make a Pact of Mercy and Reciprocal Love that we start today when we shake each other's hands.

With this pact, we promise to put aside whatever wrongdoings others have done against us and instead to go ahead in building Peace wherever we are by trying to love each and everyone around us through concrete Acts of Kindness.

By shaking each's other hands, we promise to live our lives for Peace most especially in places ravaged by wars and in all places threatened by any form of violence.

We invoke God's help to give us the extraordinary grace for everyone to have peace in their heart.

August 9th 2014

The Revd Abinua Ulaganra (Church of Jesus)
 Shaykh Dr Umar Al-Gadei (Islamic Centre Brunei)

Robert A. Somers
 J.S. Puri
 Valerie A. Bria
 Dr. Umefah
 Pulu Pulu
 Nani Sulung
 Zony Brady
 James Piz
 Robert
 Bob Mcateer etc
 Robertson Oke
 Michael Murray
 Mear
 Drumming
 Jan Lok
 Hsu

