

IAACP and UPF UK: Canvas of Cultures: A Celebration of Art, Poetry, and Music

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Universal Peace Federation - UK *A Global Network of Peacebuilders*



Canvas of Cultures: A Celebration of Art, Poetry, and Music

International Association of Art and Culture for Peace (IAACP)

Universal Peace Federation UK

Saturday, January 25th, 2025

[Programme Video Link](#) on Youtube [Video Link on Facebook](#)
[Photo link](#)

London, 25 January 2024 – The *Canvas of Cultures: A Celebration of Art, Poetry, and Music* event brought together talented artists, poets, and musicians to celebrate the transformative and unifying power of creativity across cultures.

Organised by the International Association of Art and Culture for Peace (IAACP), operating under the umbrella of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), the programme highlighted how art, poetry, and music transcend boundaries to foster dialogue, empathy, and peace.

Special guest Ian Pelham Turner, an international TV broadcaster, graced the event, along with a welcome address by Duchess Nivin ElGamal of Lamberton, UPF UK Patron. Robin Marsh, Secretary General of UPF UK, and Margaret Ali, Director of UPF UK, spoke about the UPF's activities and the role of the arts in building bridges of understanding.

Chair of IAACP, Dr. Sangita Swechcha, said: “This event takes us on a journey through the transformative power of art. We are privileged to hear from extraordinary individuals whose works transcend boundaries and speak to the universal values of peace, resilience, and unity.”

She continued, "Today, we are not merely spectators; we are participants in a collective celebration of creativity and culture. Together, we are making a difference."

The event featured a discussion with Amina Art Ansari, a celebrated British Pakistani artist with works in Windsor Castle's Jubilee collection, and Rhoslyn Singh, a 20-year-old artist from Nepal whose work reflects British and European influences. Poets from around the globe, including Shahd Karaeen from Palestine, Dr. Rupak Shrestha from Nepal, Nayeema Mahjoor from India, and Catherine Tuitt MBE LLB, shared verses on resilience, heritage, and unity. Musical performances by Italian opera singer Marisa Di Muro and oud player Saife Al-Naffak from Iraq captivated the audience with their unique talents.

The IAACP and UPF UK thanked all attendees and participants for their support in making this event a success, demonstrating the profound impact of art, poetry, and music in fostering peace.

Voices on Canvas: Artist Conversations

Amina Art Ansari, a celebrated Pakistani artist whose two paintings are part of a special collection at Windsor Castle commemorating Her Majesty the Queen's Jubilee.

Rhoslyn Singh, a 20-year-old UPF Young Achiever who hails from Nepal, whose art works reflect a unique blend of British and European influences. ([Ian Pelham Turner Interview](#))

Poetry Session

Shahd Karaeen, a poet, activist, and advocate from Palestine, whose evocative words capture resilience and her commitment to peace. She performed together with oud player Saife Al-Naffak from Iraq who gave an individual performance as well. ([Ian Pelham Turner Interview](#))

Dr. Rupak Shrestha, a Nepali poet drawing inspiration from Nepal's rich cultural heritage.

Nayeema Mahjoor, a journalist, fiction writer and poet from India whose verses focus on themes of unity and shared humanity. ([Ian Pelham Turner Interview](#))

Catherine Tuitt MBE LLB, Former Councillor, member of the Arts and Culture Statutory Council Committee, Windrush Art Exhibition. Poet, Artist and Photographer. ([Ian Pelham Turner Interview](#))

Musical Performance

The event will culminate with a performance by Italian opera singer **Marisa Di Muro**, whose voice transcends boundaries and celebrates the universal language of music.

"This event embodies the transformative power of the arts in fostering dialogue, empathy, and peace. I warmly invite the public to join us on this remarkable journey of creativity and culture," said Dr. Sangita Swechcha.

The IAACP, part of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), is a global network committed to promoting peace and unity through various forms of artistic expression, including music, dance, fine arts, film, and literature.

Dr. Sangita Swechcha

Chair of IAACP