

Father Moon's Legacy of Faith, Interfaith Cooperation and World Peace Remembered in London

14th Anniversary of the Ascension of Rev. Dr Sun Myung Moon | 27 August 2026 | UPF-UK, London

The life, spiritual convictions and peacebuilding legacy of [Rev. Dr Sun Myung Moon](#), co-founder of the [Universal Peace Federation](#), were remembered during a special gathering at the UPF-UK headquarters in London on 27 August 2026.

Held on the 14th anniversary of his ascension, the event brought together people from different religious, cultural and professional backgrounds to reflect on Father Moon's life and the continuing relevance of his vision of "[One Human Family under God](#)"—a world founded on [interdependence](#), [mutual prosperity](#), [universal values](#) and living for the sake of others.



Opening the programme, **Robin Marsh, Secretary General of UPF-UK**, recalled Father Moon's dynamism, charisma and determination to nurture people who could positively influence society and future generations.

Key Takeaways

Father Moon's spiritual convictions shaped his approach to peace. Speakers emphasised that his commitment to God, religious unity, strong families and living for the sake of others provided the foundation for his wider peace initiatives.

Interfaith dialogue and international cooperation remain central to his legacy. The event highlighted Father Moon's efforts to bring religious and political leaders together, particularly after 9/11, alongside calls for stronger international law and reform of global institutions such as the United Nations.

His peace vision was connected to urgent challenges facing the world today. Participants discussed religious conflict, artificial intelligence, changing patterns of communication and the need to engage younger generations, asking how Father Moon's principles can be applied practically in the 21st century.

The Inner Life Behind a Global Mission

Rev. Dr David Hanna, former President of UPF North Europe, gave the principal presentation, focusing on the spiritual convictions that motivated Father Moon and his wife, [Dr Hak Ja Han](#), Mother of Peace.

Dr Hanna explored eight areas in which Father Moon described the insights he had sought to develop: his understanding of God; the origins of evil; the divided human condition; the spiritual world; the mission of Jesus; the scriptures and wisdom of the world's religions; the direction of human history; and the importance of God-centred families.

He emphasised Father Moon's concern with comforting and "liberating" the heart of God from the suffering caused by human conflict and division. He also highlighted his conviction that religious unity was essential for peace, together with his respect for different religious traditions, including his study of both the Bible and the Quran.



Dr Hanna also recalled joining Father Moon on a fishing expedition on the Hudson River, observing his determination, clear purpose and love of God and nature. He remembered him as a man deeply rooted in prayer.

A video presentation then traced important episodes in Father Moon's life against the turbulent background of 20th-century Korean and world history.

Rev. Dr. David Hanna's Presentation: <https://youtu.be/l3i5nvGiia8>

From 9/11 to a New Vision of Interfaith Cooperation

Bogdan Pammer, National Director of FFWPU-UK, reflected on Father Moon as a figure who lived through many defining events of the 20th century while anticipating the challenges of an increasingly interconnected world.

He highlighted Father Moon's response to the **11 September 2001 terrorist attacks**. Rather than viewing the crisis only through a political or military lens, Father Moon called on religious leaders to transcend denominational boundaries, offer moral guidance to political leaders and prevent tragedy from producing a wider cycle of retaliation.

Within weeks, around 500 religious and political leaders from 101 countries were brought together in New York to discuss the religious roots of violence, relations between Islam and the West, poverty and inequality, and reconciliation as an alternative to escalation. This contributed to further dialogue involving former Indonesian President **Abdurrahman Wahid** and American Muslim leader **Louis Farrakhan**, before the establishment of UPF in 2005.

Bringing the discussion to the present, Mr Pammer suggested the phrase **"Peace Needs Parents"** to express an important dimension of Father Moon's vision. International institutions, he argued, need a "parental heart" capable of protecting the vulnerable, reconciling conflict, treating nations fairly and encouraging countries to live for the sake of one another.

He concluded with a recollection of seeing Father Moon shortly before his passing. Despite serious illness, Father Moon expressed regret that he could not do more or love people more. For Mr Pammer, this captured the parental heart: true love continually asks what more it can give.

Video of Presentation <https://youtu.be/HzGpyYOHpgo>



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International Law and Reforming the United Nations

Senator, Lieutenant General Abdul Qayyum HI (M)
Former chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence Production, Former member Senate standing Committees on overseas Pakistanis, Former member faculty Pakistan National Defence University, Former liaison Officer with United Nation Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), Former Military Secretary with Prime Minister of Pakistan, UPF Ambassador of Peace Award.

Lt. Gen. Abdul Qayyum, approached Father Moon's legacy from the perspective of a soldier, political leader, advocate for international peace and UPF Ambassador for Peace.

He emphasised peaceful coexistence, interfaith harmony and the practical implementation of Father Moon's ideals. He drew parallels between UPF's peace objectives and those of the United Nations, including conflict resolution, human rights, education and protection of vulnerable people.

He argued that international institutions are weakened when nations disregard international law and when global structures are not sufficiently representative. He called for reform of the United Nations, including consideration of the Security Council veto and



broad representation of different regions and peoples.

Rather than relying on military intervention, he advocated **international law, dialogue, tolerance, pragmatic diplomacy and respect for differences**, warning of the potentially catastrophic consequences of further global military confrontation.

Video of Presentation <https://youtu.be/-cbHUcO44Ak>

Applying the Vision to Today's World

Audience contributions showed how strongly the discussion connected with current concerns.

Reverend Olufemi Karunwi spoke about communities in Nigeria affected by religious violence and expressed the hope that Father Moon's vision of different religions coming together in peace could be developed more strongly there.

Harmeet Shah Singh, drawing on more than 25 years in the media, raised the challenge of **artificial intelligence**, particularly the growing tendency for people to turn to AI for moral and even spiritual guidance. He suggested that religious and peacebuilding organisations need to consider how their role should develop in a rapidly changing technological environment.

Victoria Lamaure, representing members of the Latin American community in the UK, stressed that peace also begins with simple individual actions: showing kindness, listening to different opinions, respecting different cultures and religions, and helping those in need. "Peace begins with each one of us," she said.

Another contribution emphasised the need for peace organisations to modernise their communication through digital platforms to reach younger generations who are increasingly analytical about where and how they receive information.

The evening became more than an occasion of remembrance. It was also an opportunity to consider how Father Moon's lifelong commitment to **interfaith cooperation, strong families, international dialogue and living for the sake of others** can be translated into practical responses to today's challenges.

Fourteen years after his passing, the central question was not simply how Father Moon should be remembered, but how his aspiration for **one human family living together in peace** can continue to inspire action in a rapidly changing world.

Video of the event <https://youtu.be/M1j1zqMTK5k>

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