

The Challenge of the Family in the Modern Era

Key Takeaways

Peace begins in the family. The family can serve as a "school of love", teaching compassion, forgiveness, responsibility and respect.

Faith communities can strengthen family life together. Religious leaders and participants from many traditions demonstrated that shared values can overcome cultural and religious differences..

Strong families strengthen society. The Exemplary Family Awards highlighted families whose commitment, service and relationships provide positive examples for their communities.

On the 19th of September, to celebrate the UN Day for Peace, we held a beautiful Family Festival and Peace Blessing, a combined [Universal Peace Federation \(UPF\)](#) and Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) event. More than 150 people came, including 125 of our very good friends, a melting pot of people from all races, cultures, faiths, social backgrounds and different generations! All of us standing for the value of the family in a very divided society.

Also making a new beginning in our own heart, and life, asking for the strength to love and forgive, beginning in ourselves and in our home. Seven religious leaders who have been to UPF events in South Korea came for the event. They were so inspired and spoke highly about UPF. Such wonderful friends, and very close to our [Mother Moon, Dr Hak Ja Han](#), co-founder of UPF.

Among all the people who came, there were eight Christian Ministers, three Imams, the Co-founder of the very first Interfaith Council in the UK, a former Co-Chair of the UK Interfaith Network, the Interfaith Chair of the Clifton Road Mosque, the Chair of the Indian Ladies Club, a senior trustee of the Sikh Soho Rd Gurdwara, the National Secretary General of the Namdhari Sikh community, two City Councillors and one former Lord Mayor. Such wonderful people who are supporting our peace work and UPF.






The Challenge of the Family in our Modern Era

Maintaining our values and passing them on to the next generation



Saturday 19th
September



St Mary's Parish Centre
Vivian Rd, Harborne B17 0DN



2 to 5 pm

Let's come together,
celebrate the family,
and create a better future

Refreshments will be provided

Join us for
Inspirational Talks, a
Cultural Programme,
and Sharing

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The event began with beautiful prayers from seven of our different faith traditions, followed by an insightful presentation about the 'Family as the School of Love', where peace begins. Then we all took part in the Interfaith Peace Blessing, making a new start individually and all together. It was such a privilege to share the Blessing, creating a beautiful atmosphere of holiness and purity.

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We heard responses from four different religious leaders, Father Abba, Jatinder Birdi, Nasim Pirmohamed, and Imam Pirzada, and then finished by presenting six 'Exemplary Family Awards'.

One member of each family shared an insight about meeting the challenge of maintaining a good family in our present-day society. Many young adults were there to support their mum and dad for the occasion, which was very touching to see!

It all ended with us sharing a wonderful meal together, when we could feel so much good energy and happiness. A big thank you to all those who came to support.



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VISION & IDENTITY

One Family Under God: The Vision Behind the Universal Peace Federation

Learn more about the deeper vision that inspires UPF's work for peace, unity and human dignity.

COMMUNITY ACTION

Strengthening Communities Through Volunteer Action

See how service, partnership and practical action help build a culture of peace in local communities.

Broader UPF Context

Explore more of the vision, values and peacebuilding work that help place this article within the wider UPF story.

UPF BACKGROUND

UPF Celebrates 20 Years of Global Peacebuilding

A reflection on UPF's global contribution to peacebuilding, dialogue, cooperation and bridge-building.

LEADERSHIP VISION

Dr Hak Ja Han – Mother of Peace: A Life Dedicated to Unity, Family and Global Peacebuilding

Learn more about a life of leadership centred on peace, family renewal, reconciliation and global harmony.

CORE VALUES

Universal Peace Federation Declares Spiritual Unity and Religious Freedom

A wider look at UPF's commitment to conscience, faith, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.

FOUNDING LEGACY

Honouring a Legacy of Peace – Rev Dr Sun Myung Moon

Discover more about the founding inspiration and enduring peace vision behind UPF's work.