



UPF's Vision and its Principles of Peace - 27 April 2024

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Universal Peace Federation's (UPF) Vision and its Principles of Peace:

Saturday 27 April 2024, 43 Lancaster Gate Introduction

In four presentations, Rev. Dr. David Hanna and Dr. David Earle, elucidated the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Vision and its underlying Principles of Peace on April 27th at UPF UK HQ.

The session, started with a video introduction to UPF's global activities, centered on it's founding in 2005 with a mission to foster peace and unity across nations and religions. With over 100,000 ambassadors worldwide, UPF's collaborative ethos was emphasised, along with its non-confessional stance and inclusive approach to all faiths. The video highlighted UPF's partnerships across sectors, striving for a harmonious world based on interdependence and universal values. UPF's vision encompasses global peace initiatives, interfaith rallies, and marriage blessings, emphasising the importance of relationships, family, and ethical decision-making.



Art Exhibition and Short Stories Book Launch

UPF presented an Nepali influenced art exhibition and book launch alongside the seminar, featuring the work of Mr P Singh and Sangita Swechacha and their artist daughter Rhoslyn, with a portion of the proceeds going to charity. Sangita introduced, 'Rose's Odyssey' a collection of short stories originating from a Nepali background, emphasising an ability to captivate readers with the underlying message of the importance of love, personal growth, and the consequences of wrong action.

Rev Dr. David Hanna delivered three insightful presentations, each illuminating key aspects of UPF's ethos.

1. **Universal Values as a Foundation for Peace ([Video Link](#)):** Dr. Hanna delved into the intrinsic connection between the human heart and love, underscoring their profound roles in fostering creativity and meaning in life.



Through a lens of relational theology, he explored the dynamic interplay between individuals and their environment, stressing the transformative power of these interactions. Emphasising the principles of mutual respect and understanding, Dr. Hanna underscored the significance of dialogue and conflict resolution. He elucidated the essence of God's love and the pivotal role of relationships in nurturing joy and fulfilment. Moreover, he highlighted the concept of complementary pairs and the foundational importance of family in personal and societal growth. Dr. Hanna concluded by advocating the expansion of love beyond familial bounds to embrace individuals of similar age in the broader community, encapsulating UPF's vision of interconnectedness and unity.

Small Group Discussions followed each presentation by Rev Dr David Hanna. The UPF led discussion groups facilitated an open forum for comments and suggestions, with an emphasis on maximising the opportunities for reflection and sharing each person's perspectives.

2) In the session titled " **The Root Causes of Conflict ([video link](#))** ," Rev Dr David Hanna delved into Father Moon's profound insights on the root causes of conflict. Central to his explanation was the importance of cultivating a balanced worldview that prioritizes the common good. By examining the pitfalls of ideologies like communism and exploring the concept of the conflicted self, those insights shed light on humanity's perpetual struggle between morality and malevolence.

Furthermore, the Rev. Hanna explored the moral dimensions of religious narratives, particularly concerning issues of sexuality and ethical conduct. Encouraging participants to contemplate the metaphorical nuances of stories like Adam and Eve from Genesis, they sought to deepen understanding and foster introspection.

Expanding on the notion of the "fallen nature," Rev Hanna underscored its pervasive influence on human behavior, even within professional settings. He emphasised the imperative of self-reflection and heightened awareness to counteract detrimental tendencies.



Drawing from the Jewish Torah, Rev. Hanna offered profound insights into human behavior and conflict resolution, framing them as allegories for spiritual transformation. Through these discussions, participants gained invaluable perspectives on navigating interpersonal dynamics and enabling inner growth, echoing UPF's commitment to promoting harmony and understanding.

3) In the session titled " **Bringing Peace and Reconciliation ([video link](#))** ," Rev. Dr. David Hanna illuminated key principles drawing from timeless narratives like the tales of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and the family of Abraham.

Participants engaged in reflective small-group discussions, delving into themes of love, responsibility, and restoration inherent in these narratives. Dr. Hanna then expounded on the concept of "indemnity" and its pivotal role in repairing relationships and forestalling future conflicts.

Transitioning to the broader context, the subsequent presentation underscored the imperative of individual contributions to societal peace. Citing the United Nations and UNESCO, recognition was given to religion's potency as a force for peace, particularly in its capacity for restoration. The notion of indemnity was further elucidated, emphasising the necessity of genuine contrition and demonstrable trustworthiness in the process of reconciliation.



The discourse encompassed the transformative potential of spiritual practices, cautioning against unsustainable extremes while



...advocating for the power of love and forgiveness in breaking cycles of abuse. Drawing from narratives like Cain and Abel, the session illuminated the consequences of unresolved conflicts and underscored the importance of addressing historical grievances to pave the path for unity and reconciliation.

Emphasising the need to overcome resentment and bridge cultural divides, the discussion traversed stories of Cain and Abel, Jacob and Esau, illuminating the dangers of unchecked emotions and the significance of conflict resolution skills.

The overarching message conveyed the transformative potential of understanding and respecting diverse cultural and religious traditions, envisioning a unified world guided by principles of empathy, reconciliation, and the transcendence of animosity.

4) In the fourth presentation titled, "**Father Moon's Life and UPF's Global Peace Efforts – The UPF Touch ([video link](#))**," **Dr. David Earle** eloquently depicted the extraordinary life and endeavors of Father and Mother Moon.

Delving into Father Moon's remarkable journey, Dr Earle spoke of his harrowing experiences, including imprisonment during the Japanese occupation of Korea and under communist rule in North Korea. Despite enduring torture and narrowly escaping execution, Father Moon emerged resolute, spearheading global peace initiatives and fostering interfaith dialogue. He recounted poignant anecdotes of Father Moon's engagements with world leaders such as Gorbachev and Kim Il-sung, advocating for religious freedom and peaceful Korean reunification. Highlighting UPF's collaborations with ministries, universities, and the UN, the presentation underscored its commitment to implementing peace education curriculums worldwide.

Moreover, Dr Earle reflected on its impactful Middle East Peace Initiative and the instrumental role of the Little Angels dance troupe in amplifying Father and Mother Moon's vision.

The presentation extended to the invaluable contributions of peace activist Mother Moon, lauding her tireless efforts in organizing interfaith peace rallies and blessings across the globe. Notable mentions included UPF's endeavors in America, South Africa, Niger, Birmingham, and Albania, exemplifying its global reach and commitment to fostering harmony.

UPF's ongoing projects, such as collaboration with former Albanian President Moisu to promote peace on the Balkan Peninsula and the introduction of character education curriculum in Dakar, Senegal, showcased its dedication to effecting positive change in different areas of the world.

Furthermore, Dr Earle commended the significant contributions of individuals, particularly in parliamentary advocacy, underscoring the pivotal role of grassroots activism in advancing peace initiatives. In essence, the presentation encapsulated UPF's unwavering commitment to peace-building and its enduring legacy of promoting harmony and reconciliation on a global scale.

In an appropriate conclusion there was an appointment as Ambassadors for Peace for two individuals who have contributed greatly to community harmony. Ms. Prachi Desai was appointed by Patricia and David Earle for her community work in Birmingham. Ms. Catherine Tuitt was appointed an Ambassador for Peace for her dedication over many years, most recently with supporting the Co-op local charity work in London.



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