

UPF Düsseldorf Germany Holds Seminar on UPF's Principles of Peace

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On 15 June 2024, a one-day seminar was held in Düsseldorf main library to introduce the 'Principles of Peace', UPF's vision for a peaceful world community as well as measures towards that goal. Moderating the event were Anja and Sergio Brina, UPF Düsseldorf.

Christian Hausmann, chairman of UPF Germany, opened the seminar with a presentation entitled: 'Universal Values as the Foundation for World Peace'. He explained that, just as there are natural laws, there are universal values such as freedom, justice, compassion and peace which have already been formulated by the world's religions. The original ideal, planned by God and based on these universal values, was to have expanded from the individual to the family, to society and the world. Hence the importance of these values as a point of orientation. Hausmann went on to say that the psychologist Jordan Peterson warned about the nihilism and terror that could follow the loss of these values. Therefore, religions, as a source of these values are indispensable for peace.



In the second presentation, Gudrun Hassinen, deputy chairperson of UPF Germany, spoke on 'The Causes of Conflict'. She explained that the origin of human conflict lies in the alienation of our human ancestors from their original nature. This concept is found in the Bible as well as in the scriptures of other religious traditions, and is the reason that our ancestors could never achieve true love, and thus were only able to pass on an immature and limited love to subsequent generations.

After a pause for a tasty lunch in the nearby restaurant Antalya, with the opportunity to discuss the material presented so far, the seminar was resumed.

Christian Haubold representing UPF Bonn, opened the afternoon session with a presentation on "Peace and Reconciliation". He highlighted historical aspects of peace and reconciliatory efforts and proposed a way to move from a world of suffering to one of peace, stressing the need for reparation and restoration. The path to peace starts with each individual who makes a conscious spiritual decision, centered on God. Religious traditions such as prayer, meditation, sacrifice, and the study of holy scriptures can be means to restore our relationship to God. He cited the biblical story of Esau and Jacob as an example of reconciliation demonstrating a path to the restoration of man's original nature.



The final presentation was delivered by Dr. Dieter Schmidt, UPF representative for Central Europe, setting out the solutions proposed by UPF. He emphasised that Rev Moon, the founder of UPF, always stressed that we should forgive our enemies and not be dominated by resentment. Schmidt presented innovative initiatives such as the Peace Road Project and underlined the meaning of a culture of mutual service. He also presented the international work of Hak Ja Han Moon, Rev. Moon's widow, as well as UPF's diverse global activities.



This was followed by a report by Petra Heuwind about her eighteen -year experience as a member of UPF

and Ambassador for Peace. Active in many associations, she invests herself in bringing together people of different cultural backgrounds in dialogue to work together for a harmonious and respectful society.



Pastor Edna Noupa, a nurse and community leader, and Mr. Gholamreza Bayat, who is committed to international understanding were then recognised as new Ambassadors for Peace.

After the seminar, the participants gathered in a nearby cafe to continue lively discussion and fellowship.



Report: Anja Brina (English: Catriona Valenta)