



# Religious Leaders Unite for Climate Peace in Solidarity with Refugees

At the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), UNHCR will be hosting regionally diverse religious leaders, faith representatives and institutions to build on their strong contributions and collaboration with each other through inter-religious dialogue.

UNHCR and Religions for Peace (RfP) created the first-ever Multi-Religious Council of Leaders (MRCL) in 2020. Work with religious leaders and institutions continues with UNHCR's long-term partners, and the World Council of Churches (WCC), to address the root causes of conflict, displacement, and statelessness by promoting reconciliation, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding.

Building on significant faith-based engagement and efforts at COP28 in the UAE, the GRF-linked event will continue to build inter-religious synergies for solidarity and support for climate-related displacement, allowing religious leaders and faith actors to share their individual and collective commitments.

## Expected Outcome

Increased solidarity with and support for dynamic ways for religious leaders and faith actors to support the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, Climate Peace in solidarity with Refugees through inter-religious dialogue and cooperation.

## Programme Tuesday 12 December 2023

Ecumenical Centre 1, Route des Morillons 1218, Le Grand-Saconnex - Switzerland

Please reply to [media@wcc-coe.org](mailto:media@wcc-coe.org) for participation

14:00–15:00 Inter-Religious Ceremony for Peace in Solidarity with Refugees

15:00–16:00 \*Planting of trees for Climate Peace and Solidarity with Refugees

Welcome by World Council Churches

H.E. Archbishop Dr Aykazian Vicken, Vice-moderator of the WCC central committee

Keynote address:

H.A.H. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (7–8 min)

Key Speakers invited: (3-4 minutes) - Inspirational – Motivational Keynotes by Religious Leaders on the Theme of Climate Peace in Solidarity with Refugees

Mr. Mohammed Hussein Sulaiman, Member, UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council

H.E. Archbishop Buti, First Metropolitan Archbishop of Archdiocese of Johannesburg, Member of RfP-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders

Rev. Dr. Anne Burghardt, General Secretary, Lutheran World Federation

H.H.E. Metropolitan Emmanuel, Elder Metropolitan of the Chalcedon, Member of RfP-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders

Rev. Kyoichi Sugino, President, Rissho Kosei-kai Gakurin Seminary

H.E. Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, Member of RfP-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders

Mr. Jong Su CHOE, President, Korean Conference on Religion and Peace

Rabbi Diana S. Gerson, Assoc Exec. Vice-President, New York Board of Rabbis, Interfaith Alliance for Safer Communities

Imam Razawi, Chief Imam, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society, Member of RfP-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders

Ms. Bani Dugal, Principal UN Representative, Bahá'í International Community

Rt. Rev. Mark Eddington, Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

Emina Frljack, Youth for Peace, Member of RfP-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders

Venerable Phra Medhivajirodom UNHCR Patron & Member of RfP-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leader (Video Message)

Mr. Khaled Khalifa, Senior Adviser & GCC Regional Representative, UNHCR

16:00–16:30 Coffee Break & media interviews

16:30–18:00 High-Level Roundtables: Religious Leaders & Faith-based GRF Delegates pledging and commitment announcements

Special Remarks by Ms. Noor Azizah, Rohingya Maiyafuinoor Collaborative Network

The session opened by a dialogue between Rev. Dr. James Movel Wuye & Imam Muhammad Nurayn Ashafa on the role of religious leadership and inter-faith dialogue on responses and solutions for peacebuilding.

Followed by an open floor Davos-style conversations for pledging and commitment announcements in thematic areas of GRF multi-stakeholder pledges.

Endorsement of the joint statement to be released at the end of the event

Moderators: Ms. Safak Pavey & Archbishop Vicken

\*Live streamed: [www.oikoumene.org/live](http://www.oikoumene.org/live)