1st Assembly on Women, Faith & Diplomacy

Religions for Peace – General

Where Religions Come Together to Create a Peaceful World

Religions for Peace has been bringing together the world's religions to work collaboratively for peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development for 50 years. *Religions for Peace* is more than an organisation – it is a movement creating mechanisms for religious institutions and communities to work together.

For *Religions for Peace*, peace has always been more than the absence of war or violence. Since its inception in 1970, *Religions for Peace* has engaged in a wide range of social, political, economic, and humanitarian issues and has amassed an impressive record of multi-religious engagement. Ranging from conflict transformation to environmental protection, this history has included mediating conflict and negotiating the release of child hostages in Sierra Leone, providing care and support for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS, mobilising 21 million multi-religious youth for global disarmament, and forging partnerships between religious and indigenous communities for rainforest protection, to name but a few.

Religions for Peace advances its mission through:

- 90 national and 6 regional "Interreligious Councils" or IRCs
- Global, grassroots interfaith women and youth networks
- A governing body of nearly 100 senior-most religious leaders representing all the world's religious institutions and faith and spiritual communities
- Strategic partnerships with faith-based organisations, governments and multilateral institutions, including the United Nations

Religions for Peace is the only international multi-religious organisation with presence – affiliated and legally registered Interreligious Councils (IRCs) – around the world. These IRCs, at national and regional levels, drive culturally appropriate, human rights based multi-religious actions to advance the *Religions for Peace* mission, vision, and priorities, in their respective countries and regions.

Religions for Peace is a movement of religions coming together to implement the identified priorities of the world's 193 governments – the Sustainable Development Goals. *Religions for Peace*'s six strategic priorities and all corresponding actions, per the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, are to:

1. Promote Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies
2. Advance Gender Equality
3. Nurture a Sustainable Environment
4. Champion Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion
5. Strengthen Interreligious Education
6. Foster Multi-religious Collaboration and Global Partnerships

Religions for Peace maintains a broad portfolio of ongoing programmes and strategic partnerships, all of which are witnessing dramatic and innovative shifts to accommodate COVID-19. *Religions for Peace*'s established, yet flexible, multi-religious movement allowed it to immediately launch the [Multi-religious Humanitarian Fund](#) in response to the global pandemic in April 2020. The Fund has financed 20 different interreligious COVID-19 humanitarian projects reaching tens of thousands of people with either direct aid and/or public health messaging in 20 different countries across the world. All projects are implemented by people of diverse faiths working together to meet the needs of vulnerable community members of faith and no faith. The Fund is in the process of providing additional grants to further strengthen multi-religious collaborative efforts in response to COVID-19.