

Religions for Peace



In celebration of Earth Day 2024:

Love and Respect for the Earth: Furthering Multireligious, Multisectoral, and Intergenerational Collaboration to Address the Climate Crisis

Event Concept Note

Date: April 22, 2024, 8:30-10:30AM EST/3:30PM-5:30PM CET (An Online Event)

1.0 Background

[Earth Day](#), celebrated each year on 22 April, serves as a reminder of the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability, and the need for the international community to come together and take action for a healthier planet and brighter future. This year, Earth Day presents a critical opportunity to heed the [global call](#) for accelerated action to reach climate goals and protect our common home.

Religions for Peace, as the world's largest multireligious leadership movement, brings over 50 years of experience in advancing multireligious and multistakeholder collaboration and action to meet the needs of our common home and all of humanity, including the most vulnerable communities. In November 2022, *Religions for Peace* and the City Council of Manresa commemorated the 500th anniversary of St. Ignatius' journey to the City of Manresa with a historic interfaith pilgrimage through the *Camino Ignaciano*. This event culminated in the signing of [The Global Manresa Pact 2022](#), a landmark multireligious and multisectoral agreement aimed at fostering resilient, sustainable, safe, and inclusive cities. Following this, the inaugural Earth Day Event titled "*Love and Respect the Earth: Multi-Religious Collaboration to Address the Climate Crisis*" was held.

2.0 Continuation

Building on the success of the event, Earth Day 2024 will serve as a platform to revisit the commitments made since 2022 and to catalyze further action towards their realization. This event, organized by *Religions for Peace* International, including interfaith youth from the *Religions for Peace* movement, in collaboration with *Religions for Peace-Spain* (RfP-Spain GTER), the City of Barcelona, and the City Council of Manresa, aims to engage a diverse array of stakeholders in dialogue and action towards sustainable urban development. The event will commemorate **Earth Day 2024** aimed at "*Advancing shared well-being in protecting the earth through Interfaith, Intersectoral, and Intergenerational Collaboration for Climate Mitigation.*"

Earth Day 2024 aims to be a milestone in the ongoing journey towards building resilient, sustainable, safe, and inclusive cities, guided by the spirit of multireligious cooperation and shared responsibility.

3.0 Theme

Continuing the Journey: Strengthening Multireligious Collaboration for Sustainable Cities.

4.0 Objectives

- i. Facilitate dialogue among diverse stakeholders on environmental stewardship, highlighting the shared values of love, respect, and responsibility towards the Earth across different faith communities.
- ii. Foster intergenerational dialogue and partnerships, emphasizing the importance of intergenerational cooperation in promoting sustainable urban development, tackling climate change and preserving the planet for present and future generations.
- iii. Showcase innovative solutions and actions taken by participants in addressing climate change and other commitments in the *Manresa Pact of 2022*.
- iv. Foster global intergenerational, multireligious, and multisectoral solidarity and collective responsibility in climate action, with an emphasis on promoting sustainable urban development to preserve and protect our planet for present and future generations.
- v. Encourage and facilitate commitments to sustainability and climate action among individuals, organizations, cities, and governments, while establishing a platform for tracking and sharing these commitments to foster accountability and collective progress.

5.0 Audience: Youth leaders, religious leaders and representatives, civic leaders and policymakers, environmental activists and advocates, academics and researchers and community members and stakeholders.

6.0 Expected Outcome

- i. Renewed commitment to the principles and spirit of the Manresa Pact.
- ii. Enhanced collaboration and partnership among stakeholders.
- iii. Ensuring youth leaders are appointed and empowered to take the lead in this ongoing initiative.
- iv. Concrete initiatives and projects for sustainable urban development.
- v. Strategic roadmap for the continuation and expansion of the Manresa Pact beyond 2024.

7.0 Structure of the Event

Welcome and Opening: Dr. Francis Kuria, Secretary General, *Religions for Peace*

Panel 1: Taking Stock of Progress and Lessons Learned from Multireligious and Multisectoral Climate Action

- i. **Moderator:** Prof. Joan Hernandez-Serret, Secretary General, *Religions for Peace* Europe
- ii. **Panelists:**
 - a. Councilor, City Hall of Manresa
 - b. **Dr. Renz Argao**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Argao Health Inc.; Moderator, *Religions for Peace* Asia and the Pacific Interfaith Youth Network (APIYN); Coordinator, *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee (IYC)

- c. **Bhikkhu Vasu Bandhu**, Faith Community Coordinator, Arizona Faith Network; Member, *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee (IYC)
 - d. **Ms. Ligia Matamoros**, Latin American Youth Pastor, Latin American Catholic Episcopal Council (CELAM); Member, *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee (IYC)
- iii. Focus:
- a. Reflecting on the significance of Earth Day 2024 in the address climate change.
 - b. Assessing progress, key learnings, and challenges in the implementation of the Manresa Pact for the Development of Resilient, Sustainable, Safe, and Inclusive Cities
 - c. Reflecting on the global call for accelerated action to reach climate goals and protect our common home.
 - d. Highlighting case studies of successful multireligious, multistakeholder, and intergenerational climate action.

Panel 2: Building on Global Commitments for the Development of Sustainable, Safe, and Inclusive Cities

- i. **Moderator: Ms. Merylene Chitharai**, Youth Coordinator, *Religions for Peace* South Africa
- ii. **Panelists:**
 - a. **Mr. Paul Solanilla**, Commissioner for City Promotion, Barcelona City Council
 - b. **Ms. Emina Frljak**, Program Coordinator, Youth for Peace; Deputy Coordinator, *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee (IYC)
 - c. **Mr. Christian Kazadi Lupemba**, Chairperson, *Religions for Peace* Interfaith Youth Network of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Honorary President, *Religions for Peace*
 - d. **Mr. Shameer Rishad**, Founder of Javed Adibi Foundation (JAF); Youth Chair, *Religions for Peace* India; Secretary General, *Religions for Peace* Asia and the Pacific Interfaith Youth Network (APIYN)
 - e. **Mr. Elias Szczytnicki**, Secretary General and Regional Director, *Religions for Peace* Latin America and the Caribbean
- iii. Focus:
 - a. Exploring opportunities for sustained impact and engagement of all stakeholders in tackling climate change and protecting our common home for present and future generations.
 - b. Building on the commitments of the Manresa Pact for the Development of Resilient, Sustainable, Safe, and Inclusive Cities.
 - c. Catalyzing strengthened commitments for multireligious, multisectoral, and intergenerational collaboration to address the climate crisis through sustainable urban development.

Closing: Dr. Francis Kuria, Secretary General, *Religions for Peace*

8.0 Technical Particulars

- This will be an online, Zoom webinar
- *Religions for Peace* will provide all the Zoom links including:
 - A personalized Zoom link to all Speakers/Moderators
 - As well as provide the webinar/live streaming format
- All Speakers will receive an Agenda and Concept Note by 18 April 2024
- All speakers will receive clear connectivity directions by 19 April 2024
- This event will be live streamed on the *Religions for Peace* [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) page.
- Invitations will be drafted and sent from the *Religions for Peace* International Secretariat in English, Catalan, and in Spanish
 - All invitees will be decided upon by the organizers