

~ Religions *for* Peace

Welcoming the Other

*Strengthening Advocacy and Action for Refugees
and other Forcibly Displaced Communities*

Event Report



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Religions for Peace Hosts “*Welcoming the Other* Strengthening Advocacy and Action for Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Communities” in Celebration of World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day, observed annually on June 20, highlights the resilience and strength of forcibly displaced individuals who flee conflict, violence, or persecution. With over [114 million](#) forcibly displaced people worldwide, this day emphasises the urgent need for international solidarity to protect their rights and support their future. Faith communities, including *Religions for Peace*, have a long history of providing sanctuary and humanitarian aid to refugees. For instance, at the 9th World Assembly of *Religions for Peace* in 2013, over 600 religious leaders [committed](#) to “[Welcoming the Other](#)” or “[Welcoming the Stranger](#)”. Collaborations, such as the [Interfaith Affirmations on Belongingness](#) and the [Multi-Religious Council of Leaders \(MRCL\)](#), formed with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), continue to advocate for and support refugees as well as look into addressing the root causes of forcibly displacement.

It is in this context that on 20 June 2024, *Religions for Peace* hosted the virtual webinar, ***Welcoming the Other: Strengthening Advocacy and Action for Refugees and Other Forcibly Displaced Communities***, bringing together religious and faith leaders, former refugees, youth, and other stakeholders, to engage in dialogue and best practices to strengthen advocacy and mobilisation efforts for the protection and participation of refugees and other forcibly displaced communities in decision-making and peacebuilding processes.

The event began with opening remarks from **Dr. Francis Kuria**, Secretary General, *Religions for Peace*, who provided an overview of World Refugee Day, emphasising its significance in recognising the strength and resilience of those displaced from their homes. Dr. Kuria highlighted that religious leaders have long offered their places of worship and homes as sanctuaries for those fleeing conflict and natural disasters, providing much-needed refuge and solace. People of faith continue to play a crucial role in delivering humanitarian assistance across the globe, demonstrating the enduring power of compassion and community.



Underscoring the enduring role of religious leaders in offering places of worship and homes as sanctuaries for people fleeing conflict and persecution, **H.E. Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela**, Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), noted that refugees need the solidarity of faith actors more than ever, as the right to asylum is increasingly under threat in many parts of the world. She continued to address the

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challenges faced by refugee host communities, such as strained relations with refugees due to competition for jobs and resources. However, she emphasised that refugees bring valuable skills and qualifications that can enrich host societies and help them flourish. She noted that no action is too small, and that it is crucial to have advocates who support refugees and back policies that benefit them. She emphasised the critical role that people of faith play in providing humanitarian assistance, fostering community, and advocating for the equitable distribution of resources. **H.E. Ms. Menikdiwela** then concluded her remarks by calling upon religious leaders to advocate for a world where refugees are welcome.



Echoing the message of the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, **H.E. Cardinal Charles Bo**, Archbishop of Yangon; President, Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference; Co-President, *Religions for Peace*, stressed that many different religious traditions teach the importance of 'welcoming the other' and helping those who are displaced. Highlighting examples of teachings from Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, Cardinal Bo emphasised the need for compassion, hospitality, and justice for all. He urged for simple actions such as offering friendship which can be a meaningful start in welcoming refugees. Advocating for policy changes to address the root causes of displacement, Cardinal Bo noted that one of the most effective ways to support refugees is through providing education and employment opportunities, equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need to rebuild their lives.



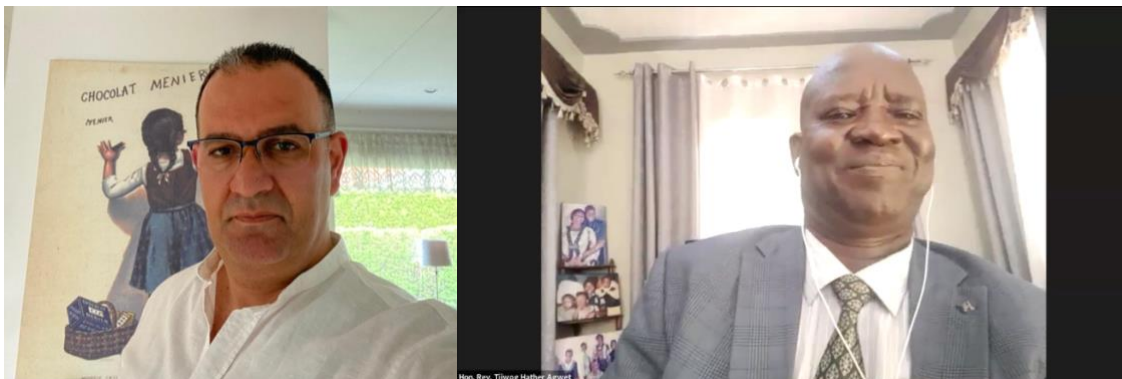
Moderating the panel discussion, **Ms. Deepika Singh**, Deputy Secretary General, *Religions for Peace*, welcomed panellists and participants and reminded them that World Refugee Day not only honours

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those who have fled their homes, but it is a day to amplify their voices and celebrate their courage and contributions in new communities as well as share how we have and need to continue to further provide solidarity and support to them. She noted that it is critical to come together to further strengthen efforts for the rights and well-being of refugees and the importance of multi-pronged approach as well as multi-religious and multi-sectoral collaboration, dialogue, and action to bring about meaningful change. She also noted that *Religions for Peace* recognises and acknowledges the need for refugees, displaced communities, women, and youth to be involved in decision-making processes to ensure more sustainable solutions.



The plight of refugees is a challenge that not many can understand until they have been in that situation themselves. To shed light on their own journey, **Dr. Hayder Karim**, Former *Religions for Peace* Coordinator for Iraq; Former Iraqi Refugee, and **Rev. Tijwong Hather Agwet**, Former Presidential Advisor on Religious Affairs, Republic of South Sudan, detailed their lives as an Iraqi refugee living in Sweden and a Sudanese refugee living in Egypt, respectively. Despite their struggles, they are optimistic and continue to have hope for the future. Dr. Karim was a doctor and social activist in Iraq and faced many challenges adapting to his new reality in Sweden. However, he remained hopeful and despite his challenges is now grateful for the opportunity to contribute to his community that helped him when he first arrived in Sweden. Rev. Agwet hopes that as a religious leader, he can continue to be a channel for help for those in need. He also noted that one way to improve the experience of a refugee is to implement effective communication tactics with refugees and ensure they are taught how to navigate new communities, cultures, and customs.



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Drawing from [data from the report released on the 2024 World Refugee Day](#), **Ms. Şafak Pavey**, Senior Adviser, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), noted that three-quarters of society have positive attitudes toward refugees and that low to middle income countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America host 80% of the world's refugee population. She inferred that there is a cultural inclination in these regions to welcome and support refugees, which emphasise the importance of compassion and hospitality, especially in faith communities. She noted that faith-based organisations have played a significant role in shifting opinions and attitudes towards refugees. Religious leaders' efforts in promoting understanding and compassion have been instrumental in fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for displaced individuals and that by leveraging their influence and teachings, these organisations continue to inspire communities to embrace refugees with open hearts and minds.



Ms. Emina Frljak, Programme Coordinator, Youth for Peace; Deputy Coordinator, *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee (IYC); Member, *Religions for Peace*-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders (MRCL), addressed the critical issue of gender-based violence (GBV) faced by women and girls during displacement. These already vulnerable groups become even more susceptible to various forms of abuse and displacement, which often lead to a decline in mental health, with many experiencing anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Children and youth, frequently separated from their families, suffer from fear and insecurity, which can hinder their emotional development and ability to form secure attachments later in life. She emphasised that these issues are deeply interconnected, creating a vicious cycle that exacerbates the suffering of displaced populations and that to effectively address these challenges, multi-stakeholder partnership is essential.

She also offered actions that could be taken to address issues of hate speech against refugees such as: the need to empower women and youth to counter hateful narrative; facilitating dialogue and understanding between different groups; providing psychosocial support for those who are targets of hate speech; and holding governments accountable to develop new policies that will work to address hate speech. She provided examples of the recent work of the *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee (IYC), most notably the campaign 'Welcoming the Neighbour' as opposed to 'Welcoming the Other' or 'Welcoming the Stranger', as changes in how incoming refugees are addressed has effects on the public's perception and feelings.

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Drawing from his experiences living in the United States, **Rabbi Rick Jacobs**, President, Union for Reform Judaism; Honorary President, *Religions for Peace*; Member, *Religions for Peace*-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders (MRCL), noted that we live in polarising times, where the language used to describe refugees is often dehumanising. He stressed that the religious community must speak up regularly, not only within their faith circles but also in everyday communities, to emphasise that refugees are not “others” but part of the human family. Rabbi Jacobs provided an inspiring example of this unity at a summer camp for refugee children in California, United States, staffed by religious leaders from various faiths. This initiative shows these children that they are loved and supported by the faith community, reinforcing a sense of belonging and acceptance.



The speakers' call to action was clear: religious leaders must intensify their efforts to work with one another and in partnership with other stakeholders such as government, international organisations, and civil society to ensure a world where refugees are welcomed and supported. *Religions for Peace* persists in spreading messages of hope and love to refugees and displaced persons and strives to increase resources available to them. The need to foster a sense of shared well-being and flourishing grounded in the sacred was underscored by the participants, reinforcing the commitment to support those who have been uprooted from their homes.

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In Celebration of World Refugee Day 2024

Welcoming the Other
**Strengthening Advocacy and Action for Refugees and Other Forcibly
Displaced Communities**

Thursday, 20 June 2024 | 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM EDT ([Click here for your local time](#))

A Virtual Event

Concept Note

Background

[World Refugee Day](#), celebrated each year on 20 June, serves as a reminder of the strength and resilience of people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes to escape conflict, violence, persecution, or natural disasters. With a record number of over [114 million people](#) forcibly displaced worldwide, there is an urgent need for the international community to come together and take meaningful strides to safeguard their fundamental human rights and support them in building a better future. This year, World Refugee Day presents a critical opportunity to strengthen collective action to promote the protection and well-being of those uprooted from their homes across the globe.

Faith communities have long offered sanctuary to refugees and other forcibly displaced populations in their journey to safety, as first responders mobilising to deliver lifesaving humanitarian assistance. *Religions for Peace*, as the world's largest multi-religious leadership movement, brings over 50 years of experience in advancing multi-religious and multi-stakeholder collaboration and action to mobilise advocacy and critical service delivery to refugees and other forcibly displaced communities across the globe.

At the 9th World Assembly of *Religions for Peace* in 2013, over 600 religious leaders united in the religious imperative to welcome the “other,” and [committed](#) to work together in resisting rising hostility toward vulnerable populations, including refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons. Building on this commitment, *Religions for Peace* and the World Council of Churches (WCC) issued the [Interfaith Affirmations on Belongingness](#), grounded in the perspectives and experiences of religious scholars from different traditions and stateless people. In 2021, *Religions for Peace* and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) established the [Multi-Religious Council of Leaders \(MRCL\)](#), which continues to mobilise action for refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless, and internally displaced peoples by addressing the root causes of forced displacement and facilitating the meaningful participation of the most vulnerable forcibly displaced communities – including women and girls – in peacebuilding processes. At the Global Refugee Forum 2023, the MRCL [pledged](#) their collective support to refugees, committing to share the responsibility

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with those who host them and work together and inter-religiously to improve the lives of refugees, regardless of their nationality, race, religious beliefs, class, or political opinions.

Continuation

Building on this foundation, *Religions for Peace* will convene diverse religious and faith leaders, women of faith and interfaith youth, and key stakeholders for the virtual event, ***Welcoming the Other: Strengthening Advocacy and Action for Refugees and other Forcibly Displaced Communities***, to be held on **Thursday, 20 June 2024 at 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM EDT**, in celebration of World Refugee Day 2024. The event will engage religious and faith leaders, and other stakeholders, in dialogue and action towards strengthened advocacy and mobilisation efforts for the protection and meaningful participation of refugees and other forcibly displaced communities in decision-making and peacebuilding processes.

The 90-minute virtual event will feature opening remarks, followed by a keynote presentation and a short film screening on the theme of the event. The subsequent interactive panel discussion will address the root causes of forced displacement. Panelists will delve into concrete strategies for enhancing advocacy efforts, ensuring the meaningful participation of refugees and other forcibly displaced communities in decision-making and peacebuilding processes, and empowering women and youth within these communities. The discussion will also highlight the crucial role of religious and faith leaders in supporting refugees, as well as the importance of a whole-of-society approach in addressing the complex challenges faced by displaced communities globally. The programme will end with concluding remarks that will summarise the key takeaways and establish the way forward.

Logistical Information

- The event will be a virtual Zoom webinar.
- Discussions will be conducted in English.
- *Religions for Peace* will send personalised Zoom links and connectivity information to all speakers by **Thursday, 13 June 2024**.

Links to Key Resources

- [Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders \(2013\)](#)
- [The Vienna Declaration: Welcoming the Other – A Multi-Religious Vision of Peace \(2013\)](#)
- [Religions for Peace and United Nations Children’s Fund \(UNICEF\) #FaithOverFear | Faith Communities Stand with Refugees \(2017\)](#)
- [Guide to Action on Mobilising Faith Communities to Welcome Migrants & Refugees \(2018\)](#)
- [Religions for Peace and World Council of Churches \(WCC\) Joint Statement on Belonging – Affirmations for Faith Leaders \(2022\)](#)
- [Report of the Religions for Peace-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders \(MRCL\) Mission to Moldova \(2023\)](#)
- [Statement of Religious Leaders at the Global Refugee Forum \(2023\)](#)

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In Celebration of World Refugee Day 2024:

Welcoming the Other:

Strengthening Advocacy and Action for Refugees and other Forcibly Displaced Communities

Thursday, 20 June 2024 | 9:00AM – 10:30AM EDT ([Click here for your local time](#))

A Virtual Event

Programme

9:00 – 9:01	Moment of Silence
9:01 – 9:06	Opening Remarks Dr. Francis Kuria , Secretary General, <i>Religions for Peace</i>
9:06 – 9:13	Keynote Presentation H.E. Cardinal Charles Bo , Archbishop of Yangon; President, Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference; Co-President, <i>Religions for Peace</i>
9:13 – 9:17	Short Film Screening
9:20 – 10:25	Interactive Panel Discussion Moderator: Ms. Deepika Singh , Deputy Secretary General, <i>Religions for Peace</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rev. Tijwog Hather Agwet, Former Presidential Advisor on Religious Affairs, Republic of South Sudan• Ms. Emina Frljak, Programme Coordinator, Youth for Peace; Deputy Coordinator, <i>Religions for Peace</i> International Youth Committee (IYC); Member, <i>Religions for Peace</i>-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders (MRCL)• Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President, Union for Reform Judaism; Honorary President, <i>Religions for Peace</i>; Member, <i>Religions for Peace</i>-UNHCR Multi-

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	Religious Council of Leaders (MRCL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Hayder Karim, Former <i>Religions for Peace</i> Coordinator in Iraq; Former Iraqi Refugee • Ms. Şafak Pavey, Senior Adviser, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
10:25 – 10:30	Closing Remarks Dr. Francis Kuria , Secretary General, <i>Religions for Peace</i>

A large, faint, light blue graphic in the background depicts two hands cupping a small human figure. The hands are positioned at the top and bottom, with fingers slightly spread, and the figure in the center has a circular head and simple limbs.

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Welcoming the Other

*Strengthening Advocacy and Action for Refugees
and other Forcibly Displaced Communities*

Thursday, 20 June 2024 | 9:00AM – 10:30AM EDT

Speaker Biographies



Dr. Francis Kuria Kagama,
Secretary General, *Religions for Peace*

Dr. Francis Kuria Kagama is the Secretary General of *Religions for Peace* International, Secretary General of the African Council of Religious Leaders – *Religions for Peace* and former Executive Director of Interreligious Council of Kenya (IRCK-RfP), a position he has held since 2008.

Dr. Francis Kuria Kagama previously served as Programmes Director and head of the IRCK-RfP secretariat for a period of six years. Before joining the IRCK-RfP, he worked as the National Coordinator for the Small Business Network, an organisation advocating for small and medium enterprises. He has also worked as a financial analyst at the Nairobi Stock Exchange and as a volunteer with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, where he served for 16 years, retiring in 1998 as Assistant Commissioner, Training and Operations. He holds degrees in veterinary medicine and surgery.



H.E. Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela,
Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 06 November 2023 the appointment of Ruvendrini Menikdiwela of Sri Lanka as Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Ms. Menikdiwela succeeds Gillian Triggs of Australia.

Ms. Menikdiwela, who currently serves as the Director in UNHCR's New York Office, brings to the position several decades of professional experience working with and for refugees in UNHCR, including as UNHCR's Representative in Pakistan and in Thailand. She also held a number of other critical legal posts during her long career with the Organization, which began in 1988.

An expert in international refugee law, Ms. Menikdiwela holds a Maîtrise en Droit Publique Internationale from Université de Paris II (Assas), France. She speaks English, French, and Sinhalese.


H.E. Cardinal Charles Bo,

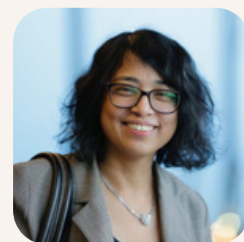
Archbishop of Yangon; President, Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference; Co-President, *Religions for Peace*

After studying at the Nazareth Aspirantate of the Salesians Don Bosco in Anisakan, Pyin Oo Lwin, from 1962 to 1976, H.E. Cardinal Charles Bo, made his temporary vows in May 1970, followed by perpetual vows in March 1976. After his priestly ordination as a Salesian in Lashio, Shan State in April 1976, he served as a pastor in Loiham (1976-1981) and Lashio (1981-1983). From 1983 to 1985, he taught in the seminary of Anisakan.

H.E. Cardinal Bo served as Apostolic Administrator in Lashio from 1985 to 1986 and its Apostolic Prefect from 1986 to 1990. When the prefecture was elevated to the status of a diocese in July 1990, he was appointed its first bishop. He was consecrated bishop in December of that year. St. John Paul transferred him to the Diocese of Patheingyi in Ayeyarwaddy Region in May 1996, but he continued as Apostolic Administrator of Lashio until November 1998. In May 2003, he was appointed Archbishop of Yangon. From 2000 to 2006, he headed the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Myanmar.

H.H. Pope Francis made him Myanmar's first cardinal at the consistory in February 2015 in the Vatican. Subsequently, he was appointed a member of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Pontifical Council for Culture, and Secretariat of Communication in the Vatican.

H.E. Cardinal Bo was elected the president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) in November 2018.


Ms. Deepika Singh,

Deputy Secretary General, *Religions for Peace*

Deepika Singh is the Deputy Secretary General at *Religions for Peace*, the world's largest and most representative multi-religious coalition that advances common action among the world's religious communities for peace.

Ms. Singh directs the overall programme strategy and implementation at *Religions for Peace*, work that is informed by over two decades of professional experience in international affairs and development, including service in USAID-funded programmes in Nepal and consultancies with UNDP, UNICEF, and other international NGOs. In addition, she provides technical guidance in areas of conflict, integral human development and organizational strengthening to *Religions for Peace* global, regional, national and local affiliated organizations, including their Women of Faith and Youth Networks in over 90 countries.

Ms. Singh holds a MPA degree from Pace University, USA; MA from Dhaka University, Bangladesh; and BA (Hon) from St. Bede's College, India.



Dr. Hayder Karim,

Former *Religions for Peace* Coordinator for Iraq; Former Iraqi Refugee

Dr. Karim was born and raised in Baghdad, Iraq. He graduated from Al-Mustansiriya University Medical School in 2000 and worked as a medical doctor from 1993 to 2000. Dr. Karim furthered his education by earning a Master's degree in Medical Studies from Wonkwang University in South Korea.

Throughout his career, Dr. Karim has been actively involved in peace organisations dedicated to protecting civilians in Iraq. In 2007, he and his wife, Summer, sought asylum in Sweden, where they embarked on new careers while continuing their commitment to humanitarian and peace-building efforts.



Ms. Şafak Pavey,

Senior Adviser, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Şafak Pavey's background embraces humanitarian affairs, human rights, peace and security work at the United Nations and as a politician. She currently serves as the Senior Adviser for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), leading global strategic partnerships for multilateral engagement at the HQs in Geneva. During her parliamentary mandates between 2011 and 2017, she was the Deputy Speaker of Turkish Parliament, Vice-chair of Turkey-EU Accession Committee and NATO Parliamentary Assembly. Previously, she had served for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and as a spokesperson on humanitarian missions in the Middle East, South-West Asia and Central Europe from 2003 to 2011. Şafak is an alumna of Westminster University, London School of Economics and Harvard Kennedy School executive education. She is an author of three books and a board member of Women Political Leaders Global Forum. Amongst the recognitions for her work, Şafak was honoured with the International Woman of Courage Award by US State Department and selected as Young Global Leader by World Economic Forum and Munich Young Leader by Munich Security Conference.

**Rev. Tijwong Hather Agwet,**

Former Presidential Advisor on Religious Affairs, Republic of South Sudan

Hon. Rev. Tijwog Hather Agwet was born in Nasir Town, South Sudan, with his original home being in Malakal. His early life was profoundly shaped by the civil war in South Sudan, which forced him to relocate to North Sudan in 1984. Seeking safety and stability, he later took refuge in Egypt from 1988 to 2000. During his time in Egypt, he dedicated himself to serving the South Sudanese refugee community, initially in Alexandria and subsequently in Cairo. There, he pastored African refugees, with the majority being South Sudanese.

In 2000, Rev. Agwet moved from Egypt to continue his ministry among South Sudanese refugees in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He also ministered to those who had been forcibly displaced to the liberated areas under the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) from regions controlled by the Sudan Government, where they faced significant threats.

Following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, Rev. Agwet returned to Juba, South Sudan. He continued his service, focusing on the internally displaced and refugees, primarily in Uganda. His commitment to his community and faith led to his appointment in 2010 as the Presidential Advisor on Religious Affairs. In this role, he aimed to serve all religious communities in South Sudan. He worked diligently to bring religious leaders together to resolve numerous issues within the country and to heal the wounds caused by the war that had been exacerbated by religious differences between Islam and Christianity.

Rev. Agwet played a significant role in reducing the divisive impact of religion in South Sudan. However, he recognised that tribalism had become the new major challenge, politically fueled and divisive. He believed in the vision of organisations like *Religions for Peace* to create breakthroughs by uniting different groups to resolve conflicts.

From 2013 to the present, Rev. Agwet has continued to face many challenges. Despite the ongoing conflict, he has worked tirelessly to support those in refuge in neighbouring countries and those internally displaced, opening centers to provide aid and support in the face of war's adversities. His lifelong dedication to peace, reconciliation, and service remains a testament to his enduring faith and commitment to the people of South Sudan.

**Rabbi Rick Jacobs,**

President, Union for Reform Judaism; Honorary President, *Religions for Peace*; Member, *Religions for Peace-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders (MRCL)*

Rabbi Rick Jacobs is president of the Union for Reform Judaism, the congregational arm of the Reform Jewish Movement in North America.

A longtime and devoted creative change agent, Rabbi Jacobs spent 20 years as a dynamic, visionary spiritual leader at Westchester Reform Temple (WRT) in Scarsdale, New York. During his tenure, he reshaped communal worship, transformed the congregation into a community of lifelong learners, and strengthened the synagogue's commitment to vibrancy and inclusion. Under Rabbi Jacobs' leadership, WRT completed a new "green" sanctuary, one of only a handful of Jewish houses of worship in the nation to carry this designation.

Prior to his tenure at WRT, Rabbi Jacobs served the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, where he founded and co-directed the first synagogue-based homeless shelter in New York City. He was ordained in 1982 by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in New York, where he received numerous excellence awards. Deeply committed to the State of Israel, Rabbi Jacobs has studied for two decades at Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute, where he is now a senior rabbinic fellow.

Rabbi Jacobs is a product of the Reform Movement, and has held numerous leadership posts within the URJ, the CCAR, ARZA and WUPJ. He also has served on the boards of Jewish organisations in the community-at-large, including American Jewish World Service, UJA-Federation of New York, and, since its inception in 1996, Synagogue 2000 and its successor, Synagogue 3000.

Dedicated to global social justice issues, Rabbi Jacobs was part of a delegation that assessed disaster response following Haiti's devastating earthquake in 2010. He also observed the plight of Darfur refugees as part of an international humanitarian mission to the Chad-Darfur border area in 2005, and in 2009, participated in an annual conference of Muslim and Christian leaders, held in Qatar, designed to build understanding between the West and the Muslim world.

**Ms. Emina Frljak,**

Programme Coordinator, Youth for Peace; Deputy Coordinator, *Religions for Peace* International Youth Committee (IYC); Member, *Religions for Peace*-UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders (MRCL)

Emina Frljak is a Project Coordinator within Youth for Peace (Bosnia and Herzegovina). She is a Deputy Coordinator of the International Youth Committee of *Religions for Peace*.

Her academic background is in educational sciences, interreligious studies, and peacebuilding. Her areas of work and interest are peace education, interfaith dialogue, and religious literacy. Lately, her interest has also been focused on using social media for educational and campaigning purposes, particularly on countering hate speech. Emina has been a Board member of *Religions for Peace* Europe since January 2020. She is also a fellow with the KAICIID International Fellows Program, which is focused on equipping religious leaders, civil society actors, and academics in the field of interreligious and intercultural dialogue.



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**THANK YOU FOR
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