



Universal Peace Federation and Women's Federation for World Peace

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Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid

European Representative World
Council of Muslims Inter-faith
Relations

European Leadership Conference

Human Rights and the

Protection of the Unempowered and Dispossessed.

June 15-16, Houses of Parliament and Royal National Hotel, London

You are cordially invited to attend a European Leadership Conference from June 15th to 16th under the theme 'Human Rights and the Protection of the UnEmpowered and Dispossessed.' Distinguished delegates from many European countries will be in attendance. A draft programme can be found below listing topics as well as confirmed and invited speakers.

The European Leadership Conference (ELC) is sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and is part of a series being held in Parliaments and at UN institutions around Europe. For reports of previous ELCs please follow this [link](#).

Human rights concerns are a major driving force behind current events. Those presented here have been selected as particularly pertinent to the overarching theme of the event by human rights specialists drawn from among UPF's and WFWP's 'Ambassadors for Peace' network. The spirit of The U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights resonates very strongly with UPF's and WFWP's sense of the sacred value of humanity and with their vision of humankind as 'One Family under God'.

After international arrivals on June 14th the conference programme will convene on June 15th in the Houses of Parliament with speakers including Baroness Sandip Verma (UK government spokesperson for Business, Innovation and Skills), Willy Fautré (Human Rights Without Frontiers International), Keith Best (C.E.O. Freedom from Torture), Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid and hosted by UPF- UK Patron, Lord King of West Bromwich. The second day of the programme, June 16th will take place at the Royal National Hotel on Russell Square and will explore insights into education for human rights and dignity.

A fee of 320 Euros for each participant will include two nights stay in a twin – bedded room in the Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, with meals, transport and all aspects of the programme. To notify us of your wish to attend, please complete the attached registration form and send it to your local UPF or WFWP contact person. We look forward to hearing from you soon and hope that you will be able to take time out of your busy schedule to join us for this very meaningful conference.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Yong Cheol Song
Chairman, UPF Europe

Carolyn Handschin-Moser
President WFWP Int. - Europe

Draft Programme

Human Rights and the Protection of the Unempowered and the Dispossessed.

14-16 June 2012

Houses of Parliament and Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, London

Thursday, 14th June 2012

From 14:00 Arrivals and Registration for international guests
Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, Bedford Way London WC1H 0DG

Friday, 15th June December

07:00 Breakfast at the Royal National Hotel

08:00 Depart for the Parliament by chartered bus from the Hotel

08:30 Parliamentary security check and registration for day guests

09:00 **SESSION I:** Committee Room 14 House of Commons – overflow into Comm. Room ...

Human Rights and Human Security

Chair: **Carolyn Handschin-Moser**, President WFWPI- Europe

Welcoming Remarks:

Tom Brake MP and **Lord King of West Bromwich**, Patron, UPF UK and UPF Int. Pres. Council

Speakers:

Mr. John Hilary, President, War on Want (TBC)

Dr. Krishna Ahooja-Patel, President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Chair Displaced Women Committee, UN Geneva (TBC)

Prof. Siddharth Saxena, Chair of the Cambridge Central Asia Forum: Universal Human Rights

Baroness Sandip Verma, UK Government Spokesperson for Business, Innovation and Skills (TBC)

Dr. Yong Cheon Song, Chair UPF Europe

10:30 Break

11:00 **SESSION II:** Concurrent Session A - Committee Room 14 House of Commons

Religious Freedom: Religious Minorities, Majorities and the State

Chair: **Rev. Dr. Marcus Braybrooke**, President of World Congress of Faiths

Mr. Willy Fautre: Director, Human Rights Without Frontiers International

'Open Doors' Persecution Index (TBC)

Imam Dr. Abduljalil Sajid JP, Chairman Task-force European year of Inter-cultural Dialogue, President Religions for Peace UK

SESSION II: Concurrent Session B – Committee Room 4a House of Lords

Human Rights and Torture

Chair: **Lord Tarsem King of West Bromwich** and **Margaret Ali**, Director UPF – UK

Speakers:

Keith Best, CEO of Torture Care

Lord Nazir Ahmed of Rotherham (TBC)

12:30 Lunch

- 14:00** **SESSION III: Concurrent Session A - Committee Room 14 House of Commons**
Europe's Role in Global Human Rights Issues
Chair: TBC
Dr Aaron Rhodes, Executive Director, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (1993 - 2007) (TBC)
Ambassador (Retd) Dr. Walther Lichem, Former Head of Dept. for International Organisations, Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs: (TBC)
Professor Dr. Maurits S. Berger, Chair of Islam in the Contemporary West at the Institute for Religious Studies at Leiden University, Senior Research Associate with the Clingendael Institute for International Relations in The Hague
- SESSION III: Concurrent Session B - Committee Room 4a House of Lords**
Youth Unemployment a Threat to Dignity
Chair: **Haesul Fagcang**, UPF Youth Committee
Speakers:
Kanchan Jadeja, Chair National Council for Voluntary Youth Services UK
Maja Micic, Director Youth Initiative For Human Rights Serbia
'Young Member of Parliament' (TBC)
UPF/WFWP Youth Representative (TBC)
- 15:15** **Break**
- 15:45** **SESSION IV: Committee Room 14 House of Commons – overflow into Comm. Room ...**
Women's Empowerment and Human Rights
Chair: **Mitty Tohma**, President, Women's Federation for World Peace UK
Speakers:
Lady Fiona Hodgson (Invited TBC)
Aisha Abdul Latif, Consultant for Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)
Madi Sharma, UK Representative, European Economic and Social Council: Domestic Violence
Emeritus Prof. Ursula King (TBC)
Carolyn Handschin, President, WFWPI- Europe
- 17:00** Group photo in Westminster Hall
Leave for Evening Venue (Chartered Bus from the Parliament to Lancaster Gate)
- 18:30** **Dinner and Cultural Programme for International Participants**
At 43 Lancaster Gate, London, W2 3NA
- 21:00** Close (Chartered Buses to Royal National Hotel, Russell Square)

Saturday, 16th June 2012 - Royal National Hotel, Russell Square

- 07:00** Breakfast at the hotel
- 08:30** **SESSION V: Royal National Hotel**
Concurrent Session A - Human Rights Education and Religious Freedom Issues
Chair: TBC
Mr. Peter Zoehrer: FOREF Austria
Speaker 2 TBC

Concurrent Session B - Human Rights Education and Gender Equality

Chair: TBC

Ms. Manuela Mesa Peinado, Director Center for Education and Research for Peace (CEIPAZ) within the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, President of the Spanish Association for the Research of Peace (AIPAZ)

Carolyn Handschin-Moser, President WFWPI- Europe

09:45 Break

10:00 **SESSION VI: Royal National Hotel**

Concurrent Session A - Human Rights in a Multicultural Society

Chair: TBC

Dr. Amiira Neff, Director Terre des Femmes, Switzerland, integration expert.

Speaker 2 TBC

Concurrent Session B - Human Rights and Global Citizenship

Chair: TBC

Sheikh Dr. Hojjat Ramzy,

Speaker 2 TBC

11:10 Coffee Break

11:30 **World Café Round-Table Discussions** (4 x 12 minute sessions)

A wonderful opportunity for participants to interact and discuss

12:30 **Lunch: Royal National Hotel**

14:15 **SESSION VII: Royal National Hotel**

Chair : TBC

Human Value and Dignity

Mr. Jack Corley, Chair UPF United Kingdom

Commentator TBC

As a Peace Loving Global Citizen - an insight into UPF's Origins and Founders

Mr. Timothy Miller, Vice-Chair UPF Europe

Commentator TBC

15:30 Break

16:00 **SESSION VIII: Royal National Hotel**

Vision, Projects and Recent Activities

Chair: **Mr. Robin Marsh**, Secretary General UPF United Kingdom

Mrs. Mitty Tohma, President WFWP United Kingdom

Mr. Mark Brann, Secretary General UPF Europe

Ambassador for Peace Awards and Participant Reflections

17:30 Departures

Partial List of Biographies:

Keith Best, the CEO of Torture Care, said “Torture is no respecter of class, status or achievement. I met people who have been deeply traumatised by the experience of torture – they bear the scars both physically and mentally.” He has spent 20 years in the voluntary sector, advocating for the rights of people on the margins of society. He initially worked for NCH Action for Children, as director of Prisoners Abroad, and most recently as chief executive of the Immigration Advisory Service for the past 16 years. Best was named in Society Guardian as one of the 100 most influential people in public services in the UK.

Rev. Dr. Marcus Braybrooke is a retired Anglican parish priest who has been involved in interfaith work for over forty years, especially through the World Congress of Faiths, which he joined in 1964 and of which he is now President. He was Executive Director of the Council of Christians and Jews from 1984-8. He is a Co-Founder of the Three Faiths Forum, Patron of the International Interfaith Centre at Oxford and a Peace Councillor. He has travelled widely to attend interfaith conferences and to lecture. He has studied for a time in India and in Israel. In September 2004, he was awarded a Lambeth Doctorate of Divinity by the Archbishop of Canterbury ‘in recognition of his contribution to the development of inter-religious co-operation and understanding throughout the world.’ He is author of over forty books on world religions and Christianity. Marcus is married to Mary, who is a social worker and a magistrate. They have a son and a daughter and six granddaughters. Together with UPF he has coordinated a series of conferences on the topic of ‘Forgiveness and Reconciliation’.

Willy Fautré is the Director of Human Rights Without Frontiers International. He was a Consultant for INSPAD, Institute for Peace and Development in Brussels (2006); 1995 - 1996: Director of the Phare Democracy Programme (European Commission Project) "Religious Minorities in Albania, Bulgaria and Romania"; Mission at the Belgian Parliament (1989 -1990); Mission at the Cabinet of the Belgium Ministry of Education (1984 -1985); He is a frequent commentator and author on religious freedom and human rights issues around the world.

Carolyn Handschin is a Vice President of WFWP International and President of WFWPI in Europe, Deputy Director of the WFWPI Office for United Nations Relations and its Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva since 1997. Coordinator of the UN Office of UPF in Geneva and contributing to the work of the Human Rights Council (was Commission) since 1994, in the areas of peace-building, leadership and governance, women’s human rights and their empowerment, education for peace and fulfilling the MDG’s. Until recently in 2011, Secretary of the UN NGO Committee on the Status of Women and remains a member of the Committee, as well as the Working Groups on “Peace”, and “Human Rights Education and Learning” at the United Nations in Geneva. She contributed to the NGO task forces on “Disarmament” and “Culture of Peace”, the latter of which she chaired. She is a Founding member of the Fribourg Peace Forum in Switzerland and Co-founder/Vice-President of the Geneva Interfaith and Intercultural Alliance (GIIA) currently coordinating its “Youth Interreligious Council” Model-UN program.

Lord King of West Bromwich (UPF-UK Patron) served as Councillor of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council from 1979 to 2007. He was a Deputy Mayor from 1982 to 1983. He was created a life peer in 1999 as Baron King of West Bromwich, in the County of West Midlands. From 1999 to 2003 he belonged to the committee *Member Hybrid Instruments*. Since 2006 he is Treasurer of the India Group.

Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid JP is a Muslim scholar, thinker, speaker, educator and mentor. A British Muslim of Pakistani origin, he is at present Chairman of a number of organisations including the Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony UK, the National Association of British Pakistanis and the UK Chapter of the World Conference of Religion and Peace. He is also a consultant to a number of statutory and voluntary agencies on race, multi-cultural and religious issues. Imam Sajid is the founding member of Alif-Aleph UK British Muslims-British Jews and the Standing Conference of Jews, Christian and Muslims in Europe (JCM). He is Imam of the Brighton Islamic Mission.

Prof. Siddharth Saxena (Montu) is Chairperson of the Cambridge Central Asia Forum, Director of Cambridge Kazakhstan Centre and Honorary Secretary of the Committee for Central and Inner Asia. He trained as an anthropologist, historian and a physicist. His research interests are in the areas of religion and identity, knowledge systems, social and political development and institutional history in Central Asia and the Middle East. In Physics he works on science of strongly correlated electrons, superconductivity and magnetism. He is a Fellow of Jesus College at the University of Cambridge.

Madi Sharma is the founder of the "Madi Group" - Make A Difference Ideas group of International Private and Social Enterprises UK Member, Employers Group, European Economic and Social Committee. Madi is a businesswoman who currently runs the Madi Group, a group of private sector and not for profit companies with a philosophy to create innovative ideas tailored to local action which can achieve global impacts beneficial to society. Madi is a public speaker, particularly in the field of entrepreneurship, diversity and gender balance where she presents and teaches in schools and to forward thinking organisations. The experience was gained when Madi began her first company from her kitchen at home, which grew to 2 factories and 35 staff, for which she received the honours of Asian Woman of Achievement and UK's Best Boss. Additionally Madi is a Nottingham Ambassador and an East Midlands Business Champion, as well as a member of the Employers Group of The European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels, a European Consultative Institution for civil society.

Dr Yong Cheon Song is Regional Director for The Universal Peace Federation in Europe and European President of the Family Federation with overall responsibility for the activities of the Unification Movement in 36 nations of Europe since 2003. Previously he worked extensively in senior roles for UPF and allied organisations in Kenya, Australia, New Zealand, The Solomon Islands and Oceania. He was awarded a doctorate in theology by Sun Moon University, South Korea in 2005.

Baroness Sandip Verma was born in Amritsar in Punjab, India on 1959. She moved as child with her parents to England in 1960. She is a British businesswoman and currently [a Government Whip](#) and Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office, International Development and Equalities and Women's Issues in the House of Lords. In 2006 Baroness Verma was made a Patron of the Tory Reform Group. She was created a [Conservative life peer](#) as Baroness Verma, of Leicester in the County of [Leicestershire](#) in May 2006, having been an unsuccessful parliamentary candidate in two [general elections](#) ([2001](#) and [2005](#)). Since 1977, Lady Verma has been married to Ashok Verma. They have a daughter and a son.

Peter Zoehrer is Chief Editor & Secretary General of FOREF Europe (Forum for Religious Freedom – Europe, President: Prof. Dr. Christian Bruenner, renown human rights- & constitutional expert). During the past 12 years FOREF scored over 30 victories in helping victims of religious intolerance to regain their rights, and gain vindication from injustice, discrimination or persecution. Also Director of UPF –UN office in Vienna, a Member of the Austrian Journalist Association (National Press Club) and President of Family Federation for World Peace – Austria.

Lord Nazir Ahmed of Rotherham was the first Muslim peer at the House of Lords. Later, he went on to build a career as a business development manager while keeping actively involved in his local community. He was a local councillor during the 1990s, as well as serving as a JP on the magistrates' bench, chairing the South Yorkshire Labour Party for four years and acting as a non-executive Director of Rotherham Health Authority. He was raised to the peerage as Baron Ahmed, of Rotherham in the County of South Yorkshire in 1998. As a high-profile leader of the Muslim community, Lord Ahmed has played a role in easing tensions after the London bombings in July 2005 and the 9/11 attacks on the US in 2001. He helps with various charitable causes and is on the board of several organisations. He is president of South Yorkshire Victim Support and a trustee of the British Heart Foundation. The Home Office tapped into his skills when it enlisted him to write a joint report on the issue of forced marriages. He has been very active in international issues involving the Muslim community.