



**Sikh Participation at
Parliament of the World's Religions
Toronto, Nov 1-7, 2018**

Metro Toronto Convention Center

Coordinated & Published by



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Background to PWR Toronto Sikh Planning Process

The Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations (SCIR) coordinated the Sikh participation and presentations at the 2015 Salt Lake City Parliament of the World's Religions at which about 300 Sikhs attended from across the world.

In view of the Nov 2018 Toronto Parliament of the World's Religions (PWR), a Parliament Sikh Task Force was established by SCIR in early February 2017. The task force has been meeting since then about every other week to plan the Sikh participation under the leadership of Dr. Satpal Singh of Buffalo, NY as Convener and Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia (PWR Trustee) as Secretary.

The charge of the task force is **to coordinate and implement the active participation of the worldwide Sikh community at the upcoming parliament through:**

- 1) **Significant international Sikh presence and engagement,**
- 2) **Presentations at plenary and parallel sessions focused on interfaith and intrafaith issues, and**
- 3) **Guru ka Langar, if possible, at the parliament to be led by the local Sikh community.**

Task force includes over 20 Sikh representatives from Canada, USA, Europe, India, and Australia as listed below:

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| - Satpal Singh, <i>Convener</i> | Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations, USA |
| - Tarunjit Singh Butalia, <i>Secretary</i> | Trustee of Parliament of World's Religions, USA |
| - Kanwaljit Kaur | Global Sikh Council, UK |
| - Jasjeet Singh | World Sikh Organization - Canada |
| - Ajit Singh Sahota | World Sikh Organization - Canada |
| - Sukhvinder Kaur Vinning | World Sikh Organization – Canada |
| - Manjit Singh Parmar | Ontario Sikh and Gurdwara Council, Canada |
| - Gobinder Singh Randhawa | Ontario Sikh and Gurdwara Council, Canada |
| - Inderdeep Singh | Ontario Sikh and Gurdwara Council, Canada |
| - Ranjit Singh Dulay | Dixie Road Gurdwara, Toronto, Canada |
| - Sagina Kaur Hanjrah | Trustee of Parliament of World's Religions, USA |
| - Sukhwinder S Dhillon | United Sikhs, Canada |
| - Jasbir Singh Suropada | Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria, Australia |
| - Manohar Singh Grewal | Trustee of Parliament of World's Religions, USA |
| - Kuldeep Singh | Trustee Emeritus - Parliament of World's Religions |
| - Balwant Singh Dhillon | Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjab, India |
| - Jaideep Singh | Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations, USA |
| - Anahat Kaur Sandhu | Sikh Educational and Religious Foundation, USA |
| - Harleen Singh | Kaur Films, USA |
| - Manmohan Singh | Gurdwara Singh Sabha, Dallas, USA |

Executive Summary

Over 500 Sikhs from across the world are expected to attend the Parliament in Toronto. About 50 Sikhs speakers will be presenting at the Parliament.

Plenary speakers include:

- **Gobinder Singh Randhawa**, Chairman of Ontario Sikh and Gurdwara Council, will address the Opening Ceremony on Nov 1 evening
- **Simran Jeet Singh** of Sikh Coalition will speak at the Opening Plenary session on Nov 1 evening
- **Tarunjit Singh Butalia** of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations will be the Emcee for the Nov 2 evening plenary at which **Valarie Kaur**, interfaith activist, will speak (by video link)
- **Valarie Kaur** will address ((by video link) the Women's Assembly on the morning of Nov 3 and **Tripat Kaur** as well as **Mahnaam Kaur** will participate in the opening processional
- **Keertani Jatha of Sikh Youth Alliance of North America** will participate in the Sacred Music Concert to be held Nov 4 evening and share a Sabad through Keertan by young adults
- **Valarie Kaur** will address (by video link) the Justice Assembly on morning of Nov 5
- **Kanwaljit Kaur**, OBE, President of Global Sikh Council, is coming from UK as an invited guest of the Parliament to address the Closing Plenary on Nov 7 morning

More than 50 concurrent Sikh panelist sessions are being presented at the Parliament with about over 10 Sikh sessions per day of the parliament. Some such sessions are:

North American Sikh Experience: Emerging from the Fringes (Nov 2, 12:15pm to 1:45pm) - A four-member panel will discuss how Canadian and American Sikh organizations brought together new community members, organized, and challenged institutional biases. The panel will address legal challenges that changed religious freedom accommodations, international advocacy, and geopolitical events that brought the community together to challenge human rights injustices. Panelist will outline how global events challenged established community frameworks and how addressed issues were brought back to the forefront. A particular focus will be placed on educating institutions, such as school boards, universities, police agencies, and municipal governments in Canada and the USA.

Moderator: Balpreet Singh Boparai, WSO-Canada

Panelists: Mukhbir Singh, President WSO-Canada; Amrith Kaur, Legal Director, Sikh Coalition; Jaskaran Sandhu, Brampton, Mayor's Office; Gian Singh Sandhu, WSO-Canada

Breaking Bread Together: Sikh Concept of Langar (Nov 3, 6pm to 7pm) - In this seminar on langar, several Sikh panelists will come together to engage with each other on (a) how they perceive the concept and implementation of the Sikh practice of langar, (b) what role can langar play in religious communities serving the needy in their local communities, and (c) how can local Sikh Gurdwaras across the world partner with their neighboring places of worship of other faiths to alleviate hunger and homelessness?

Moderator: Dr. Anahat Kaur Sandhu, President of Sikh Educational and Religious Foundation

Presenters: Mr. Kuldeep Singh, Sikh Youth Alliance of North America; Harleen Kaur, Sikh Youth Alliance of North America; Jasvir Kaur Singh. Co-founder, The Healing Collective, Chicago; Giani Gurbax Singh, Sikh Preacher, UK

North American Sikh Experience: Lessons from History (Nov 4, 6pm to 7pm) - A four-member panel will discuss the Sikh journey from Punjab, India to Canada and United States. The panel monitor will provide a background of significant events that the community endured in both countries, including the Komagata Maru incident. Comparisons will be drawn between how journeys between the two countries varied, the familial approach to migration, detailed accounts of labor relations issue, and different community responses. Panelist will outline how democratic and legal frameworks of the United States and Canada enabled the Sikh community to challenge unaccommodating frameworks.

Moderator: Balpreet Singh Boparai, WSO-Canada

Panelists: Pardeep Singh Nagra, Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada; Jaideep Singh, Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations; Amrith Kaur, Legal Director, Sikh Coalition

Interfaith Peacemaking in South Asia: Diverse Perspectives (Nov 5, 2:15pm to 3:45 pm) - South Asia is home to many of the great religions of the world. Yet religiously motivated violence, especially against religious minorities, is prevalent across many South Asian countries despite a long history of interfaith interactions. Lessons learned will be shared. Q&A will follow the panel presentations.

Moderator: Dr. Satpal Singh, Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists: Muralivallabhan, Hindu – India; Jayendra Soni, Hindu – India; Muhammad Umer Adeel, Muslim – Pakistan; Oonnoony Thomas, Christian – India; Thenmozhi Soundarajan, Dalit - India

Persecution of Religious Minorities (Nov 6, 12:15pm to 1:45pm) - Persecution of minorities is a worldwide issue that needs to be addressed at international forums so that minorities all over the world can be helped and protected. Initially persecution explicitly referred to oppression due to one's religious practices and faith, it now encompasses race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation as well as religion. Persecution can be a two pronged attack from the governments through its actions, laws and policies, as well as hostile acts from private individuals, organizations and social groups with the concurrence or toleration of state actors. Presentations of speakers from Rohingya Muslim, Dalit, Sikh, Baha'i, Hindu, Chinese and Indian Muslim will highlight the problems from their individual experiences and explore avenues for assisting oppressed minorities and explore the role of interfaith engagement in this work.

Moderator: Mr. Gurbux Singh Alag, Chair of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists: Dr. Geoffrey Cameron, Director of Public Affairs, Bahá'í Community of Canada; - Ms. Thenmozhi Soundarajan, Dalit Buddhist Activist and Executive Director of Third World Majority; Ahmed Ramadan, Chair of Burma Task Force Canada (Justice for All); Dr. Anahat Kaur Sandhu, President of Sikh Educational and Religious Foundation; Swami Agnivesh, Arya Samaj scholar and social activist; Khalid Ansari, Indian American Muslim Council; Rukiye Turdush, Chinese Muslim Representative

Sikh morning religious observances will be held Nov 2 to Nov 6 from 8am to 9am. For a complete list of Sikh programming, please email parliamentsikh@gmail.com.

The Ontario Sikh and Gurdwara Council (OSGC) is taking the lead in organizing **Guru ka Langar** during lunchtime from Nov 2 to 6. Other Sikh communities from Canada and internationally are providing support for implementing the langar.



Two Sikh exhibits will be highlighted at the PWR Toronto. The Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada will showcase its award winning **Sikhs and Canada Timeline Exhibit**. An **Exhibit on Langar** will be placed in the langar hall by OSGC in collaboration with Khalsa Aid.

Vishvajit Singh, Founder of Sikh Toons, will be a part of the Interfaith Family Festival at the parliament and interact with attendees as Captain America.

Exhibit booths are being planned by World Sikh Organization – Canada, American Sikh Council, and Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations.

Current Sikh Trustees of the Parliament are Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia (Ohio, US), Dr. Manohar Singh Grewal (Vermont, US), and Dr. Sagina Kaur Hanjrah (Illinois, US).

For more information on the Sikh participation at PWR Toronto, please email parliamentsikh@gmail.com

Plenary Sessions

Thursday, November 1

Opening Ceremony: **Mr. Gobinder Singh Randhawa**, President of Ontario Sikh and Gurdwara Council will offer a welcome on behalf of Canadian and international Sikh community.

Opening Plenary: **Dr. Simran Jeet Singh**, Senior Religion Fellow at the Sikh Coalition, is invited speaker.

Friday, November 2

Evening Plenary - Faith and Interfaith: From Grassroots to Global: **Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia**, Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations, will be Emcee and **Valarie Kaur**, Interfaith Activist, is invited speaker (by video link).

Saturday, November 3

Women's morning Assembly: Sikh Granddaughter **Mahnaam Kaur Shergill** and Sikh Grandmother **Tripat Kaur Butalia** and will participate in the opening processional. **Valarie Kaur**, Interfaith Activist, is invited speaker (by video link).

Sunday, November 4

Sacred Music Night: **Keertani Jatha of Sikh Youth Alliance of North America** will share a Sabad through Keertan.

Monday, November 5

Justice morning Assembly: **Valarie Kaur**, Interfaith Activist, will speak (by video link).

Wednesday, November 7

Closing Plenary: **Lady Kanwaljit Kaur, OBE**, President of the Global Sikh Council, will address the closing ceremony of the Parliament.

Concurrent Sessions - Friday, November 2

(Room assignments are subject to change so please check Parliament App)

Nov 2, 8am to 9am, Room 202AB

Sikh Religious Morning Observance

Join the Sikh community in the morning for a one hour prayer service. The service will follow the following structure: Ardaas (Supplication), Keertan (Congregational signing) – 2 Sabads (verses), explanation of Sabads in English, Anand Sahib, and Ardaas. English translation of Gurmukhi materials will be provided.

Presenters: Toronto and International Sikh Community

Nov 2, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 701A

North American Sikh Experience: Emerging from the Fringes

A four-member panel will discuss how Canadian and American Sikh organizations brought together new community members, organized, and challenged institutional biases. The panel will address legal challenges that changed religious freedom accommodations, international advocacy, and geopolitical events that brought the community together to challenge human rights injustices. Panelist will outline how global events challenged established community frameworks and how addressed issues were brought back to the forefront. A particular focus will be placed on educating institutions, such as school boards, universities, police agencies, and municipal governments in Canada and the USA.

Moderator: Balpreet Singh Boparai, WSO-Canada

Panelists:

- **Mukhbir Singh**, President WSO-Canada
- **Amrith Kaur**, Legal Director, Sikh Coalition
- **Jaskaran Sandhu**, Brampton Mayor's Office
- **Gian Singh Sandhu**, WSO-Canada

Nov 2, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 105

Faith, Secularism, and Democracy

This session explores the intersection of faith, democracy, and secularism from three lenses: a) the role of faith in a secular democracy, b) the threats to religious freedom posed by an aggressive, oppressive religious majority, and c) threats to secular democracy in the U.S.

Moderator: Dr. Jaideep Singh, Founding Trustee, Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- **Dr. Jaideep Singh**, Founding Trustee, Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations
- Rev. Dr. Michael Reid Trice, Associate Dean of Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue at School of Theology and Ministry, Seattle University
- Ms. Daisy Khan, Executive Director of the Women's Islamic Initiative for Spirituality and Equality
- Sana Uddin, Muslim
- Bruce Knotts, Director of United Nations Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association
- Dr. John Pawlikoski, Catholic Theological Union and Trustee Emeritus

Nov 2, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 606

Righteousness and Self-Righteousness: Faith Perspectives

While the world-view of many of the religions of the world may be different, each religious tradition calls upon its followers to uphold righteousness and morality. Historically people of faith have taken inspiration primarily from their own faith. This can give rise to not just a sense of righteousness but also possibly a sense of self-righteousness i.e. I am better than others because of my faith. This multi-faith panel will explore this issue from the perspective of a) causes and effects of such behavior, b) how to self-identify such characteristics, and c) if and how to intervene when a fellow person of faith exhibits self-righteousness.

Moderator: **Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia**, Trustee of Parliament of the World's Religions and Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Ms. Valerie Dana, National Spiritual Assembly of Bahai's in the United States and Board Trustee PWR
- **Dr. Anahat Kaur Sandhu**, President of Sikh Educational and Religious Foundation
- Rev. James Childs, Joseph A. Sitter Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Ohio
- Alan Scott Bachman, Jewish - Aleph Alliance for Jewish Renewal
- Laura Eva-Tesimale, Founder of One Global Family Foundation

Nov 2, 12:15pm to 1:00pm, Room 104D

How to Organize an Experience Interfaith Event

This session demonstrates how to develop and produce an Experience Interfaith event. We will demonstrate what an Experience Interfaith event looks like and how to make it an effective event in any community for better understanding of each faith represented. We have been doing this annual event for several years and have found it to be a very good resource for people learning about our organization as well as serving the community by dispelling myths and misunderstandings of the various faith communities. We will end with a Langar meal provided by the Sikh community.

Moderator: Larry Fultz, Arizona Interfaith Movement

Panelists:

- Courtney Lonergan
- **Gurukirn Kaur Khalsa**
- Anita Rangaswami
- Ginny Leason

November 2, 1:15pm to 2:00pm, Room 602B

Perspectives of the Prominence of Women in Caodism and Sikhism

Hear the fascinating juxtaposition of the prominent role of women in a relatively new religion of Caodai in Vietnam which has a Constitution that sets forth the rights of women to pursue the priesthood, achieve promotions, have independent management of women's affairs and perform Caodai ceremonies and services in which women preside side by side and on equal footing with

their male counterparts; with Sikhism and its historical background of inspiring Sikh women who helped to instill Sikh values to build strong community-nation. The universal principles enshrined by Siri Guru Granth Sahib will be presented as a model demonstrating peaceful co-existence through empowerment.

Moderator: **Dr. Sagina Kaur Hanjrah**, PWR Trustee

Panelists:

- **Dr. Kanwaljit Kaur**, President of Global Sikh Council, UK

- Hoang Le, Caodism representative

Nov 2, 2:15pm to 3:00pm, Room 706

Pluralistic learnings from the explorations of the Sikh Legacy remnants across Pakistan

In 1947, the region where Sikhism evolved was politically partitioned into two countries, India and Pakistan. As the dispersed Sikh community evolved in new lands around the world, the geopolitical situation deprived them access to their ancestral lands. The research on the remnants of the Sikh Legacy in Pakistan that Amardeep has conducted after seven decades of partition, offers insights about the rich pluralistic past which was adversely impacted in the postcolonial era. This documentation has enabled a positive dialogue between communities of the region, offering an opportunity of reconciliation and change.

Presenter: **Amardeep Singh**, Singapore

Nov 2, 2:15 pm to 3:4pm, Room 103A

The Ornament of the World

"The Ornament of the World" tells a story from the past that's especially timely today: the story of a remarkable time in history when Muslims, Christians and Jews forged a common cultural identity that frequently transcended their religious differences. Ornament will retrace a nearly 800-year period in medieval Spain, from the early 8th through late 15th centuries, during which the three groups, though they competed and sometimes fought, managed for the most part to sustain relationships that enabled them to coexist, collaborate and flourish. We'll discover what made this rare and fruitful collaboration possible and what ultimately tore it apart.

Documentary by: **Kiran Kapany & Michael Schwartz**

Nov 2, 2:15pm to 3:45pm, Room 713B

Religious and Cultural Appropriation in Interfaith Engagement: Where do we draw the line?

As communities of faith engage more closely with each other, it is natural for some adherents to adopt the symbols, artifacts, name, article of faith, etc. of other faiths without fully understanding their significance. This interfaith panel will explore this issue to discuss what is appropriate and what is inappropriate from each faith's perspective. A robust Q&A with the panel is expected.

Moderator: **Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia**, Trustee of Parliament of the World's Religions and Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Rabbi Or Rose, Director of The Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College

- Rev. Linda Mercadante, B. Robert Straker Professor of Historical Theology at Methodist Theological School in Ohio
- Imam Malik Mujahid, Sound Vision and Former Chair of PWR Board
- Rev. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, Buddhist Council of New York, Heiwa and Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York
- **Dr. Anahat Kaur Sandhu**, President of Sikh Educational and Religious Foundation
- Ms. Sana Saeed, Harvard Divinity School
- Mr. Anuttama Dasa, International Society for Krishna Consciousness
- Ms. Phyllis W. Curott, Temple of Ara and PWR Trustee Emeritus
- Chief Phillip Scott, Ancestral Voice – Institute for Indigenous Lifeways

Nov 2, 2:15pm to 3:45pm, Room 701B

Seminar on Forgiveness and Reconciliation Perspectives from the World's Religions

What is the relationship between forgiveness and reconciliation? Are both necessary for healing relationships between communities after conflict and for sustainable peace? What public reconciliation processes and types of initiatives have shown positive results? What role do justice and reconciliation have in peacebuilding? Viewpoints from diverse religious traditions are being considered and the pioneering Charter for Forgiveness and Reconciliation is being presented.

Moderator: Joseph Boehle

Panelists:

- **Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia**
- David Rosen
- Mohammed Abu-Nimer
- Ilham Nasser

Nov 2, 6pm to 7pm, Room 717B

Sikhi 101

The session is designed to familiarize the audience with the basic tenets of Sikh Faith (Sikhi) through a brief interactive presentation followed by extensive question and answer with attendees. An opportunity to learn about the world's 5th largest faith and its position on issues of vital interest to humanity in these turbulent times, is available through this session and should lead to a better understanding and appreciation of the faith and its traditions.

Moderator: **Dr. Gurbux Singh Alag**, Chair of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- **Dr. Satpal Singh**, Convener of Parliament Sikh Task Force
- **Ms. Balpreet Kaur**, Sikh Youth Alliance of North America
- **Ms. Jasvir Kaur Singh**, Co-founder of Sikh Healing Collective, Chicago
- **Dr. Karen Kaur Singh**, Houston Sikh Youth Camp

Nov 2, 6pm to 7pm, Room 712

Reimagining Interfaith: Addressing the Taboos of Religious and Secular Pluralism

Reimagining Interfaith was a Pre-Parliament gathering hosted in Washington, DC from July 29th to August 1st of this year between 20+ organizations and communities of faith. The goal of the conference was to gather an international cohort of activists, peacebuilders, and changemakers in tackling the major issues that arise in society and within spaces of interfaith dialogue and engagement. This panel will discuss major outcomes of the conferences, themes that stuck out, and further steps to mitigate the issues that continue to prevent the interfaith movement from becoming more mainstream.

Moderator: Tahil Sharma, Interfaith Minister in Residence for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

Panelists:

- **Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia**, Trustee of Parliament of the World's Religions and Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

- Donna Bollinger, Executive Director of Religions for Peace (RFP) - USA

Concurrent Sessions - Saturday, November 3

(Room assignments are subject to change so please check Parliament App)

Nov 3, 8am to 9am, Room 104C

Sikh Religious Morning Observance

Join the Sikh community in the morning for a one hour prayer service. The service will follow the following structure: Ardaas (Supplication), Keertan (Congregational signing) – 2 Sabads (verses), explanation of Sabads in English, Anand Sahib, and Ardaas. English translation of Gurmukhi materials will be provided.

Presenters: Toronto and International Sikh Community

Nov 3, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 718B

Role of Religious Leaders in Alleviating Violence Against Women

Over one-third of women in the world (more than a billion women) suffer from physical and sexual abuse in their life. Violence against women is so woven into the fabric of our society that even highly egregious and brutal cases register only momentarily on our consciousness radar before disappearing forever. An important root cause underlying violence against women is a pernicious premise that God has created women as inferior to men. Many men, and women, even believe that women have been created to fulfill men's needs – both routine and vile. We must shed such warped notions that women are created as subservient to men, for the same Divine Light dwells in women as in men. We must stop accusing our infinitely compassionate and all-loving God of misogyny, and of being a co-conspirator with men for them to brutalize women under the ruse of it being God's Will. The leaders of faith have a responsibility, and a critical role to play, in ending the current nightmare for humanity, and in redeeming God.

Moderator: Dr. Satpal Singh, Convener of Parliament Sikh Task Force of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Ms. Daisy Khan, Executive Director of the Women's Islamic Initiative for Spirituality and Equality
- Dr. Vandana Shiva, Founder of Navdanya, India
- Ms. Thenmozhi Soundarajan, Dalit Buddhist Activist and Executive Director of Third World Majority
- Phyllis W. Currott, Esq., Temple of Ara and PWR Trustee Emeritus
- **Dr. Kanwaljit Kaur**, President of Global Sikh Council

Nov 3, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Rom 717B

Compassion as a Fundamental Ethical Imperative

One of the fundamental value underlying nearly every religion is compassion and love for fellow human beings. This multi-faith panel will present perspectives from several religious traditions on the role of compassion from each faith, how we live it out in our daily lives, and what can we

do collectively in an interfaith manner to address the rise of hate and sectarian divisions. Input from the attendees will be invited followed by Q&A.

Moderator: **Dr. Karen Kaur Singh**, Houston Sikh Youth Camp

Panelists:

- Rabbi Michael Balinsky, Chicago Board of Rabbis
- Rev. Dhammadipa Sak, US Zen Institute and PWR Board Member
- Rev. Dr. Leo Lefebure, Professor of Theology at Georgetown University
- Dr. Colleen Keyes, CAIR-Connecticut
- **Giani Gurbax Singh**, Sikh Preacher, UK
- Rev. Drake Spaeth, Earth Traditions Church

Nov 3, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 705

Welcoming the Stranger: With Our Head, Heart, and Hands

The world has always been multi-faith. However now the streets we live on are also becoming increasingly multi-faith. How can we welcome neighbors of different religious traditions who move into our neighborhoods? How may we work together as communities of faith to welcome and support refugees coming into our towns? These questions will be addressed by a multi-faith panel on how we can use our intellect, feelings, and actions to help our fellow human beings in our own local contexts in order to make a global impact.

Moderator: **Amrith Kaur**, Legal Director, Sikh Coalition

Panelists:

- Dr. Dawn M. Nothwehr, OSF, The Erica and Harry John Family Endowed Chair in Catholic Theological Ethics at Catholic Theological Union and PWR Board Member
- Rabbi Or Rose, Director of The Miller Center for Interreligious Learning & Leadership at Hebrew College
- Ms. Sahar Alsahlani, Al-Khoei Foundation and Community of Living Traditions
- **Dr. Manohar Singh Grewal**, Trustee of Parliament of the World's Religions
- Rev. Marian Stewart, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, Ohio
- Rev. Donna Bollinger, Executive Director of Religions for Peace – USA

Nov 3, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 713 B

Speaking Truth to Power: An Open Invitation for Declarations on Religion, Justice, and Context

The WWII "Barmen Declaration" is an example of a religion digging into its own spiritual wisdom to "speak truth to power" in a crisis of severe injustice and violence. Coming to PWR with input from various spiritual traditions culled locally, we invite other faiths present to create their own contextual declarations. We encourage each tradition in the workshop to use their foundational wisdom to address contextually relevant issues highlighted in The Global Ethic. Gleaning resources from many spiritual traditions that speak to particular crises, we plan to convene an interfaith group to construct a mutual declaration for the next Parliament that represents our harmonious and mutual interchange and action.

Moderator: **Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia**, Trustee of Parliament of the World's Religions and Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Rev. Linda Mercadante, B. Robert Straker Professor of Historical Theology at Methodist Theological School in Ohio
- Rev. James Childs, Joseph A. Sitter Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Ohio

Nov 3, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 711

From Five Rivers to Turtle Island: The Sikh Struggle for Justice & Allyship for Indigenous Peoples

Sikhs are familiar with trauma. We have been persecuted throughout our history. Sikhs have suffered genocide in the last thirty years and continue to face systemic economic, social and political discrimination in India. Sikhs also have a long history on Turtle Island. We settled here over 100 years ago and have faced our share of discrimination in Canada. However, we are not the original inhabitants of this land. We are settlers on land stolen from the First Nations, Metis and Inuit. Sikhs need to look back into our own struggle in order to be empathetic and be better allies to Indigenous Peoples who are struggling for their rights, culture and language in a colonial system.

Presenter: Santbir Singh, Toronto Sikh Activist

Nov 3, 2:15pm to 3:00pm, Room 701A

How Should Religions Venture Beyond Thoughts, Prayers, and Hug Fests to Contribute Towards World Peace?

In a recent interfaith discussion on achieving peace, a proposal for a call for action, rather than issuing bland statements, was objected to by a cleric: “The resolution of ... conflict is beyond the scope and ability of [religious] entities.” Is that so? ‘Religious peacemaking’, an unreported field, provides successful examples in mediation and reduction of conflict. In the Balkans, religious leaders inspired by scriptures worked effectively to achieve peace. Jain, Sikh, and Zoroastrian panelists will present their faith-based views on achieving peace. The moderator will present the experience achieved in ‘religious peacemaking’.

Moderator: Kersi Shroff

Panelists:

- Homi Gandhi
- **Jasvir Singh**, Co-founder of Sikh Healing Collective, Chicago
- Arvind Vora

Nov 3, 2:15pm to 3:00pm, Room 711

Justice Through Spirituality

Injustice in society is the amplification of an individual’s lack of self-control. The guiding discipline that is required for a fair society can only come by viewing others as an extension of oneself. This sense of emotional generosity shall ultimately drive the restraint on oneself, creating room for everyone’s needs and wants. This form of giving shall ultimately generate happiness for oneself as well. How can religion help us form this sense of togetherness? What impacts, if any, spirituality can have on social justice? Or is the notion of keeping religion separate from state the right way to continue?

Presenter: Jagdeep Singh, United Sikhs - Canada

Nov 3, 2:15pm to 3:00pm, Room 604

The Sustainability of Women’s Spiritual Leadership: Stable Wisdom & Simple Clarity in Volatile Times

Although women have been traditionally under-represented in the leadership of religious and spiritual organizations, they have always sustained the heart of humanity with their stable wisdom and simple clarity. In volatile times such as the present, mothers are looked to in order to offer the world the love and care it needs. The Brahma Kumaris is an organization led by women. Although there are many male adherents, the leadership remains female. Join us for this panel conversation to explore the role of women’s authority in a patriarchal world.

Moderator: Debbie Castle, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization

Panelists:

- **Jaspreet Kaur Bal**, Professor at Humber College, Toronto
- Silvana Padron
- Aliya Khan
- Chandru Desai

Nov 3, 3:15pm to 4:00pm, Room 718B

Taking the Interfaith Plunge: Making Interfaith Engagement Accessible to Everyone

What improvisational techniques can we come up with to spark fresh and exciting interfaith relationships in our hometowns when we return from the Toronto Parliament? Might we consider some unconventional forms of interfaith engagement such as flash mobs, sit-ins, and alliances with secular/ecological/indigenous/animal-rights groups? The goal is to come up with new ideas/ways/means/platforms beyond the traditional formats of interfaith dialogue in order to encourage newcomers to take “The Interfaith Plunge.” We will also explore how we might use the Global Ethic as an invitation for secularists and atheists to become more comfortable with the idea of diversity within unity and interfaith collaboration.

Moderator: Ruth Broyde Sharone, Jewish

Panelists:

- Dr. Rini Ghosh, Hindu
- **Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia**, Trustee of Parliament of the World’s Religions and Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations
- Maneck Bhujwala, Zoroastrian
- Dr. Joseph Prabhu, Christian

Nov 3, 3:15pm to 4:00pm, Room 704

Diversity & Inclusion in Arts and Museums

The North American Sikh community, including the US-based Sikh Foundation and Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada, have worked to create inclusive museum spaces based on the belief that art has the ability to engage, educate and inspire. Art has the potential to empower the youth and nurture interfaith understandings to counter hate and prejudice. The Sikh community has a 150-year history in the US and Canada, but its culture, traditions, history and art are still invisible. While our goal is to get Sikh Art displayed in museums across the world, our vision

goes beyond the four walls of a physical space, embracing cultural and heritage sites and bringing them into the focus of communities worldwide.

Moderator: **Sonia Dhami**, Sikh Foundation

Panelists:

- **Sonia Dhami**, Sikh Foundation
- **Amardeep Singh**, Singapore
- **Pardeep Singh Nagra**, Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada

Nov 3, 4:15pm to 5:45pm, Room 718B

Change Agents: Activists on the Frontlines

From gun control to racial justice, young people aren't just fighting to fix our world's most pressing issues: they are the ones leading the way to a better future for everyone. The young people on this panel are on the front lines of justice around the world. They're showing us the world can and should be different. Come learn about their strategies and approach, and get inspired to plug into and support their efforts for bold, unapologetic change. This panel will feature Abhayjeet Singh Sachal and Sukhmeet Singh Sachal, 2 brothers in Canada who created "Break the Divide" to connect youth and initiate action through personal connections. The panel will also feature Habiba Dahir from Nairobi, Kenya, who is combating violent extremism and promoting peace and security for women in the Horn of Africa. Finally, the panel will also include Pardeep Kaleka. Kaleka is one of the recipients of the 2015 Parliament's Faiths Against Hate award for his advocacy work with Serve 2 Unite.

Moderator: **Pardeep Singh Kaleka**, Serve 2 Unite

Panelists:

- Habiba Dahir
- **Sukhmeet Singh Suchal**, Canadian Sikh Youth
- **Abhayjeet Singh Sachal**, Canadian Sikh Youth

Nov 3, 6:00-7:00pm, Room 602B

Breaking Bread Together: Sikh Concept of Langar

In this session on langar, several Sikh panelists will come together to engage with each other on (a) how they perceive the concept and implementation of the Sikh practice of langar, (b) what role can langar play in religious communities serving the needy in their local communities, and (c) how can local Sikh Gurdwaras across the world partner with their neighboring places of worship of other faiths to alleviate hunger and homelessness?

Moderator: **Dr. Anahat Kaur Sandhu**, President of Sikh Educational and Religious Foundation

Presenters:

- **Mr. Kuldeep Singh**, Sikh Youth Alliance of North America, Trustee Emeritus of Parliament of the World's Religions
- **Ms. Harleen Kaur**, Sikh Youth Alliance of North America
- **Ms. Jasvir Kaur Singh**, Co-founder of Sikh Healing Collective, Chicago
- **Giani Gurbax Singh**, Sikh Preacher, UK

Nov 3, 6pm to 7 pm Room 713A

Worldviews of Peace Education

Peace education provides an opportunity to prevent faith-based violence in local communities. This panel discussion will bring together panelists from South Asia, Middle East, and other parts of the world to discuss this issue. Lessons learned will be shared. Q&A will follow the panel presentations.

Moderator: Ann Hamling

Panelists:

- **Surender Singh Kandhari**, United Arab Emirates
- Nnaumrata Arora Singh

Nov 3, 6pm to 7 pm Room 718B

Bearing Witness to Suffering from an Interfaith Perspective

Within an hour of the August 5th, 2012 Sikh Temple shooting, people of neighboring faith communities began to gather across the street to bear witness to the suffering of the Sikh community. By evening, there were people of all faiths standing in love and solidarity. Pardeep Kaleka lost his father Satwant Singh Kaleka that day. In this workshop, alongside his brother Arno Michaelis, a former neo-Nazi skinhead who helped to start the white power gang that the shooter belonged to, the theme of compassion will be explored. As the common threads of human spirituality are revealed, we find reason to be inspired by other expressions of spirituality rather than intimidated by them.

Presenters:

- **Pardeep Kaleka**, Serve2Unite
- Arno Michaelis, Serve2Unite

Concurrent Sessions - Sunday, November 4

(Room assignments are subject to change so please check Parliament App)

Nov 4, 8am to 9am, Room 202AB

Sikh Religious Morning Observance

Join the Sikh community in the morning for a one hour prayer service. The service will follow the following structure: Ardaas (Supplication), Keertan (Congregational signing) – 2 Sabads (verses), explanation of Sabads in English, Anand Sahib, and Ardaas. English translation of Gurmukhi materials will be provided.

Presenters: Toronto and International Sikh Community

Nov 4, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 602A

Rising Hate Violence in a “Post-Racial” Society

This panel will discuss the extent and effects of the growing hate attacks against racial and religious minorities in the U.S., since the ascent of the Trump Administration, within the context of 17 years of institutionalized social and political Islamophobia/racism. The panel will also interrogate the links between hate crimes and state policy as cyclical and reinforcing, also offering solutions to push back against hate violence and racism.

Moderator: Dr. Jaideep Singh, Director of Education and co-founder, Sikh American Legal Defense

Panelists:

- **Dr. Jaideep Singh**, Director of Education and co-founder, Sikh American Legal Defense
- Malik Mujahid, Sound Vision and Former Chair of PWR
- Zahra Billoo, Executive Director of Council on American-Islamic Relations - San Francisco Bay Area
- Amrith Kaur, Legal Director, Sikh Coalition

Nov 4, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 705

Theology of One Humanity

International community has come together as one human family to tackle global challenges such as poverty and climate change. Our focus should be on a shared humanity for creating a better world for future generations while also upholding people’s safety, dignity and the right to thrive. This session will focus on theological perspective of several faiths on shared humanity to bring people together and alleviate the forces that cause disruption, prejudices and hatred. Speakers from different faiths will emphasize oneness of humanity quoting from their respective religious traditions and scriptures. Acceptance of the principle of shared humanity should lead to elimination of prejudices whether it is religious, racial or gender related. Faith communities working together can find ways and means to eliminate prejudice, anger and ego to create a society with compassion.

Moderator: Mr. Gurbux Singh Alag, Chair of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Paloma Cabetas, Co-Director of the Focolare Movement in North America

- Ven. Karma Lekshe Tsomo, University of San Diego
- Dr. Gerald Filson, Member of National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Canada
- Dr. Naeem Baig, Moderator Religions for Peace- USA
- Phyllis W. Currott, Esq., Temple of Ara and PWR Trustee Emeritus
- **Mr. Kuldeep Singh**, Sikh Youth Alliance of North America, Trustee Emeritus of Parliament of the World's Religions

Nov 4, 1:15pm to 2:00 pm, Room 710

Innovation in Faith-Based Giving

This session will focus on charitable crowdfunding as an important component of an overall fundraising strategy. We will provide an overview of the platform we launched six years ago (dvnetwork.org) to serve the Sikh community, as well as lessons from crowdfunding platforms serving other faiths.

Presenters:

- **Inderpal Singh**, Dasvand Network
- **Suneet Bedi**, Dasvand Network

Nov 4, 2:15pm to 3:00pm, Room 201C

Love Songs of Guru Nanak

In 1499 Guru Nanak began a revolution that challenged oppressive and divisive social, political and religious norms. Traveling throughout south and central Asia, he conveyed a message of love, equality, unity and peace. Instead of preaching, Guru Nanak sang. The songs sung and collected by Guru Nanak, his successors and their followers have been remembered through the centuries and their message remains relevant to the challenges we face today. Through music and stories we will explore these songs and the vision they offer for systemic change.

Presenters:

- **Nirvair Khalsa**, President of Anad USA
- **Baldeep Singh**, Gurbani Keertan Expert, Delhi, India

Nov 4, 2:15pm to 3:00pm, Room 710

Faith – The Healer

Faith and spirituality are known to be healers for not just the heart and the mind but also for the body as a whole. This panel explores the role of faith in healing from two perspectives. The first one is from a Sikh physician and the second one from an indigenous healer.

Moderator: **Dr. Sagina Kaur Hanjrah**, PWR Trustee

Panelists:

- **Dr. Anahat Kaur Sandhu**, Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations
- Chief Phillip Scott, Ancestral Voice: Institute for Indigenous Ways

Nov 4, 3:15pm to 4:00pm, Room 710

Challenging Hate Through Social Media

The presenter will talk about how North American Sikhs continue to challenge hate speech and acts of violence through social media. The presentation will outline how ongoing hate is challenged through peaceful, factual, and artistic, social media approaches. Key examples of social media campaigns will be presented. Mr. Sandhu will also outline how to challenge hate very efficiently and effectively that is generated through geopolitical events. The audience will be provided with tools to create hate challenging social media movements that take hate head on through positive new age activism.

Presenter: **Jaskaran Singh Sandhu**, Senior Advisor to Office of Mayor of Brampton

Nov 4, 4:15pm to 5:45pm, Room 106

White Supremacy: Its Origins and Contemporary Perils

The massacres that occurred at the Gurdwara in Oak Creek, WI and at the Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC are glaring examples of how the rise of white nationalism impacts religious communities. In the United States, we saw their rise during the Obama presidency and normalization during the Trump presidency. A Sikh social scientist documents the breadth of the startling and terrifying rise of contemporary white supremacy; while a Catholic theologian sees the problem woven deeply in the nation's history, making the claim that white supremacy has its origins in Christian supremacy.

Moderator: Dr. Shanta Premawardhana, Former PWR Trustee

Presenter:

- **Dr. Jaideep Singh**, Director of Education and co-founder, SALDEF
- Dr. Jeannine Hill Fletcher, Professor, Fordham University

Nov 4, 4:15-5:45pm, Room 718A

Faith and Interfaith Engagement in Toronto

This session looks at interfaith engagement in Toronto. Join us to explore the following:

- Assets: What initiatives are faith communities and others currently undertaking and what impact are these efforts having?
- Liabilities: What is not being done and where are the biggest omissions?
- Future: How do youth respond to interfaith and what might this mean for the future of faith engagement in Toronto?
- Uniqueness: Lastly, given Toronto's diverse landscape, is there anything unique about interfaith engagement here?

Moderator: Brian Carwana

Panelists:

- **Dr. Jaspreet Kaur Bal**, Professor at Humber College, Toronto
- Tina Grimberg
- Hector Acero Ferrer
- Hamid Slimi

Nov 4, 6pm to 7pm, Room 716B

North American Sikh Experience: Lessons from History

A four-member panel will discuss the Sikh journey from Punjab, India to Canada and United States. The panel moderator will provide a background of significant events that the community endured in both countries, including the Komagata Maru incident. Comparisons will be drawn between how journeys between the two countries varied, the familial approach to migration, detailed accounts of labor relations issue, and different community responses. Panelist will outline how democratic and legal frameworks of the United States and Canada enabled the Sikh community to challenge unaccommodating frameworks. A Q and A session will follow the discussion.

Moderator: **Balpreet Singh Boparai**, WSO-Canada

Panelists:

- **Pardeep Singh Nagra**, Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada
- **Jaideep Singh**, Trustee of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations
- **Amrith Kaur**, Legal Director, Sikh Coalition

Nov 4, 6pm to 7pm, Room 703

Honoring the Holiness of the Religious Others

In interfaith dialogue we come across many different ways to relate to people of other faiths such as tolerate and respect. Respect for the religious other can be taken a step further by honoring the holiness of the religious other irrespective of whether one agrees with the practices of the other faith or not. This panel will explore how various religious traditions have historically lived up to this high standard and what we need to do in our daily lives to practice this precious virtue.

Moderator: **Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia**, Trustee of Parliament of the World's Religions and Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Ms. Ruth Broyde Sharone, Co-Chair Emeritus of Southern California Parliament of the World's Religions and Jewish activist
- Mr. Maneck Bhujwala, Federation of Zoroastrians Associations of North America
- Dr. Joseph Prabhu, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Religion at Cal. State LA and Adjunct Professor, Claremont Graduate University
- **Dr. Satpal Singh**, Board member of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations
- Ms. Rini Ghosh, President of Vedanta International Cultural Center

Nov 4, 6pm to 7pm, Room 716A

Sacredness of Nature and Reverence to Mother Earth and Other Elements

According to Sikh scriptures living beings and nature is made of five elements: Air, Water, Earth, Fire and Sky (Space). Guru Nanak in Sikh prayer Jap Ji Sahib elevates the elements of nature and the Mother Earth to a sacred status. He states that Air is Guru, Water is Father, and Earth is great mother of all, day and night are two nurses in whose lap the all the world is at play. We are part of the nature and to preserve our existence we have to preserve nature and environment. This panel consisting of representatives of Sikh, Hindu, Zoroastrian, and Jewish

faiths, will present and discuss their views on Sacredness of nature and the relationship of human beings with nature and environment. Such relationship with the nature has the potential to create a mindset that would help humans to live in harmony with nature.

Moderator: **Dr. Manohar Singh Grewal**, PWR Trustee

Panelists:

- **Kiranjot Kaur**, Shromani Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee, Sikh
- Taha Ghayyur, ISNA Canada, Muslim
- Firdosh Mehta, FEZANA, Zoroastrian
- Alan Brill, Jewish
- Swami Tyagananda, Hindu

Concurrent Sessions - Monday, November 5

(Room assignments are subject to change so please check Parliament App)

Nov 5, 8am to 9am, Room 202AB

Sikh Religious Morning Observance

Join the Sikh community in the morning for a one hour prayer service. The service will follow the following structure: Ardaas (Supplication), Keertan (Congregational signing) – 2 Sabads (verses), explanation of Sabads in English, Anand Sahib, and Ardaas. English translation of Gurmukhi materials will be provided.

Presenters: Toronto and International Sikh Community

Nov 5, 10am, Room: IFF Workshop 1

Discovering Our Own Stories & Superheroes: An Interactive Cartoon Workshop

Children, young adults, and families are invited to a workshop by cartoonist, storyteller, and performance artist based in New York City, Vishavjit Singh. He is the creator of Sikhtoons.com, a website that hosts his cartoons full of turbans & beards capturing the story of Sikhs. He travels across North America hosting talks & workshops touching on themes of diversity, finding our voices, carving our narratives, standing compassionately tall against hate & intolerance. He is also known as Sikh Captain America and is a Diversity & Creative Arts Fellow at SALDEF. Come join the fun of discovering our own superheroes through our own stories.

Presenter: Vishavjit Singh, Founder of Sikhtoons

Nov 5, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 707

Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Stories of Faith

Can we forgive our enemies and reconcile possibly with them and if so how? This multi-faith, panel representing Catholic, Jain, Zoroastrian, Sikh and Buddhist religious traditions, will explore the role of forgiveness and reconciliation in world religions through two lenses. The first one will highlight examples from history of various faiths and the second will focus on personal stories of the panelists – each of whom have had a powerful transformational experience dealing with faith inspired forgiveness or reconciliation.

Moderator: Dr. Karen Kaur Singh, Houston Sikh Youth Camp

Panelists:

- Fr. Thomas Ryan, CSP, Paulist Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations
- Russi Surti, President of Zoroastrian Society of Ontario
- **Dr. Satpal Singh**, Board member of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations
- Rev. Matthew Reagan, International Buddhist Association of America & International Buddhist Committee of Washington DC

Nov 5, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 107

Religious Leaders Join Hands with the United Nations: A Plan of Action to End Incitement to Violence and Atrocity Crimes

Atrocious acts of violence are frequently incited by hate speech. The United Nations office of Genocide Prevention and Responsibility to Protect has developed, with religious leaders across the world, a Plan of Action to prevent incitement to violence, which was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General at UN Headquarters. It is the first to engage religious leaders and actors to prevent incitement to violence. The religious leaders on this panel will discuss the importance of the plan itself, and how initiatives under this pioneering document will not only prevent incitement to violence, but also strengthen diversity and build inclusive and just societies.

Moderator: Mohamed Elsanousi

Panelists:

- Adama Dieng
- David Rosen
- **Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia**, GNNSJ, UK
- Metropolitan Emmanuel
- Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati

Nov 5, 1:15pm to 2:00pm, Room: Women's Hospitality Suite

Women's Leadership in Sikhism: Networking and Mentoring

For the first time in Parliament history, come join a networking and mentoring session created for women to explore leadership opportunities within their faith traditions. This session on Sikh Faith will be co-hosted by Dr. Elizabeth Ursic, Parliament Women's Task Force Chair with 2 female Sikh representatives.

Moderator: **Elizabeth Ursich**, PWR Trustee

Panelists:

- **Dr. Kanwaljit Kaur**, President, Global Sikh Council
- **Dr. Sagina Kaur Hanjrah**, PWR Trustee

Nov 5, 2:15pm to 3:45pm, Room 601B

Pathways to Peace: Different Perspectives

Each religious tradition calls upon its followers to work towards peace and justice. This panel will focus on this common theme among world religions and the different paths taken by people of faith to move towards this objective. A group of presenters from several faith traditions will discuss their perspectives on pathways to peace, based on the wisdom of their traditions.

Moderator: **Mr. Manmohan Singh Chima**, Gurdwara Singh Sabha North Texas

Panelists:

- Mr. Nikhil Bumb, Jain Board member of Parliament of the World's Religions
- Ms. Sahar Alsahlani, Al-Khoei Foundation & Community of Living Traditions
- **Ms. Jasvir Kaur Singh**, Co-founder of Sikh Healing Collective, Chicago
- Ms. Ruth Broyde Sharone, Co-Chair Emeritus of Southern California Parliament of the World's Religions and Jewish activist

- Swami Varadananda, Vivekananda Vedanta Society and Board member of Parliament of the World's Religions
- Roberto Catalano, Director of the International Office for Interreligious Dialogue of the Focolare Movement, Italy
- Rev. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, Buddhist Council of New York, Heiwa and Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York
- Rev. Marian Stewart, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, Ohio

Nov 5, 2:15pm to 3:45pm, Room 106

Interfaith Peacemaking in South Asia: Diverse Perspectives

South Asia is home to many of the great religions of the world. Yet religiously motivated violence, especially against religious minorities, is prevalent across many South Asian countries despite a long history of interfaith interactions. Lessons learned will be shared. Q&A will follow the panel presentations.

Moderator: **Dr. Satpal Singh**, Trustee of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Muralivallabhan T V, India – Hindu
- Muhammad Umer Adeel, Pakistan – Muslim
- Jayendra Soni, India - Hindu
- Oonnoonny Thomas, India - Christian
- Thenmozhi Soundarajan, India - Dalit

Nov 5, 6pm to 7pm, Room 605

Taking On Our Own: The Inter-faith Inter-caste Coalition for Inclusive California

Textbooks

When California wanted to revise its textbook curriculum, South Asian scholars came up with a balanced and inclusive set of improvements—but religiously oriented lobby groups attacked the academics, launching a campaign to frame all South Asian history through an Indian Hindu upper-caste nationalist narrative that erased the stories of Sikhs, Dalits, Buddhists, Muslims, women, and other South Asian nations. Our panel will discuss the strategies used by South Asian Histories For All (SAHFA, southasianhistoriesforall.org) to create a multi-faith and inter-caste coalition spanning 8 religions and 25 organizations that centered the most-impacted communities, stood up against misleading media and hashtag campaigns, and won major victories in representation of Dalits, Muslims, Sikhs, and other communities.

Moderator: Ms. Thenmozhi Soundarajan, Dalit Buddhist Activist and Executive Director of Third World Majority

Panelists:

- **Dr. Jaideep Singh**, Director of Education and co-founder, Sikh American Legal Defense
- Dr. Maari Zwick Maitreyi, Dalit
- Sana Uddin, Muslim
- Ganganithi Sivapandian, Dalit

Nov 5, 6pm to 7pm, Room 701A

An Interactive Follow-up to “Making Friends Across Religions”

Following a screening of a three minute clip, prepared for the Make Friends campaign of the Elijah Institute, each panelist will share a story of a friendship across religions and offer practical advice for practicing friendship between members of different faiths. This will then be followed by engagement between panelists, and, time permitting, with audience.

Moderator: Rabbi David Rosen

Panelists:

- Alon Goshen-Gottstein
- **Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia**, GNNSJ
- Susan Johnson
- Chidanand Saraswati
- Sadhvi Bhagwati Saraswati

Concurrent Sessions - Tuesday, November 6

(Room assignments are subject to change so please check Parliament App)

Nov 6, 8am to 9am, Room 202AB

Sikh Religious Morning Observance

Join the Sikh community in the morning for a one hour prayer service. The service will follow the following structure: Ardaas (Supplication), Keertan (Congregational signing) – 2 Sabads (verses), explanation of Sabads in English, Anand Sahib, and Ardaas. English translation of Gurmukhi materials will be provided.

Presenters: Toronto and International Sikh Community

Nov 6, 10am, Room: IFF Workshop 1

Discovering Our Own Stories & Superheroes: An Interactive Cartoon Workshop

Children, young adults, and families are invited to a workshop by cartoonist, storyteller, and performance artist based in New York City, Vishavjit Singh. He is the creator of Sikhtoons.com, a website that hosts his cartoons full of turbans & beards capturing the story of Sikhs. He travels across North America hosting talks & workshops touching on themes of diversity, finding our voices, carving our narratives, standing compassionately tall against hate & intolerance. He is also known as Sikh Captain America and is a Diversity & Creative Arts Fellow at SALDEF. Come join the fun of discovering our own superheroes through our own stories.

Presenter: Vishavjit Singh, Founder of Sikhtoons

Nov 6, 12:15pm to 1:00pm, Room 201F

Including Minority Religions in School and Interfaith Curricula and Conferences

In order to acknowledge and respect the diversity of religions in today's global society, this session will discuss the importance of moving beyond the current representation that is usually limited to major religions only in: school curricula, interfaith organization membership, education, and conferences, religious leaders organizations at local, State, and National levels, etc.; the extent and kinds of limitations currently practiced, and the reasons for such limitations. The goal for this session is to explore ways to motivate and promote inclusion of minority religions in all such areas.

Moderator: Ardesht Irani, FEZANA

Panelists:

- Maneck Bhujwala, Zoroastrian
- **Jaideep Singh**, Sikh
- Rini Ghosh, Hindu

Nov 6, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 705

Persecution of Religious Minorities

Persecution of minorities is a worldwide issue that needs to be addressed at international forums so that minorities all over the world can be helped and protected. Initially persecution explicitly referred to oppression due to one's religious practices and faith, it now encompasses race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation as well as religion. Persecution can be a two pronged attack from the governments through its actions, laws and policies, as well as hostile acts from private individuals, organizations and social groups with the concurrence or toleration of state actors. Presentations of speakers from Rohingya Muslim, Dalit, Sikh, Baha'i, Hindu, Chinese and Indian Muslim will highlight the problems from their individual experiences and explore avenues for assisting oppressed minorities and explore the role of interfaith engagement in this work.

Moderator: **Mr. Gurbux Singh Alag**, Chair of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Dr. Geoffrey Cameron, Director of Public Affairs, Bahá'í Community of Canada
- Ms. Thenmozhi Soundarajan, Dalit Buddhist Activist and Executive Director of Third World Majority
- Ahmed Ramadan, Chair of Burma Task Force Canada (Justice for All)
- **Dr. Anahat Kaur Sandhu**, President of Sikh Educational and Religious Foundation
- Swami Agnivesh, Arya Samaj scholar and social activist
- Khalid Ansari, Indian American Muslim Council
- Rukiye Turdush, Chinese Muslim

Nov 6, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 604

Accommodation of Religious Identity in the Workplace: A Canadian Perspective

This panel will explore the role of religion and religious identity in the Canadian workplace. It will cover a brief background of how faith has been accommodated at work in Canada (with examples), the current status, and the future outlook.

Moderator: Rev. John Joseph, PWR Toronto

Panelists:

- **Balpreet Singh Boparai**, Legal Counsel, World Sikh Organization of Canada
- Rabbi Shalom Schachter, Vice President OHALAH - The Association of Rabbis and Cantors for Jewish Renewal
- Imam Imran Ally, TARIC Islamic Centre, Toronto
- Dion Carter, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto

Nov 6, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 715A

Media Relations with Faith-Based Communities

A multifaith panel will discuss the media's access to religious communities. The moderator will outline geopolitical events that have challenged communities due to faith-based perspectives being omitted from media reporting. Key discussion topics will include how faith-based communities are portrayed in the media, interactions, and access to faith-based leaders, and the media's understanding of faith communities. Panelist will include media personalities who will discuss the difficulties of accessing faith-based communities when difficult stories require

reliable insights from community leaders. Panelist will also discuss how the media “frames” issues through multimedia.

Moderator: **Jaskaran Singh Sandhu**, Senior Advisor to Office of Mayor of Brampton

Panelists:

- **Balpreet Singh Boparai**, Legal Counsel of World Sikh Organization - Canada
- Mohamed Hashim, Muslim Council of Peel Region
- Bernie Farber, Former Chief Executive Officer of Canadian Jewish Congress
- **Sarbjit Kaur**, Kaur Communications

Nov 6, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 103B

Drawn Together: Comics, Diversity and Stereotypes - A Documentary

Racism and stereotyping is systemic, it is embedded in every aspect of our social fabric. People of color, women and religious minorities face biases on a daily basis. With a lively backdrop of superheroes, comic books, and animated comics, *Drawn Together: Comics, Diversity and Stereotypes* brings together three talented artists who are challenging the racist stereotyping currently endemic through comics. The award winning documentary boldly encourages viewers to unlearn stereotyping, look beyond the obvious, and confront media prejudices—all through an uncommon and inherently engaging everyday source.

Moderator: **Harleen Kaur**, Founder of Kaur Films

Presenters:

- **Harleen Singh**, Founder of Kaur Films
- **Vishavjit Singh**, Founder of Sikhtoons

Nov 6, 12:15pm to 1:45pm, Room 105

Faith for the Earth: The Role of Faith, Faith Leaders and People of Faith in Preservation of Our Planet

Climate change and ecological degradation threaten the very survival of our planet. Our personal dietary and lifestyle choices have an enormous impact on the planet. What do the world's religions have to say about this and what are the practical implications for us? Many religions address the subject of diet. What are the values that underlie these precepts and what is their relevance for contemporary society? In this panel, leaders and experts will share ways that each of us can make a significant impact on the health of our planet through simple choices of what we eat and purchase.

Moderator: Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati

Presenters:

- David Rosen
- Swami Chidanand Saraswati
- Michael Bernard Beckwith
- **Mohinder Singh Ahluwalia**, GNNSJ, UK
- Vandana Shiva

Nov 6, 2:15pm to 3:45pm, Room 701A

Interfaith Engagement: Past, Present and Future

This interactive panel will explore the interfaith and interreligious movement. The first part will be a discussion held from the lens of what has been accomplished and why it still remains on the fringes of most major religious traditions. What motivates people of faith to engage with religious others? Why has such engagement not become mainstream? The second part of the discussion will focus on how do we deepen the interfaith commitment of those already engaged in the interfaith circle and how do we expand the circle? And what does the future hold for the movement in terms of opportunities and tensions?

Moderator: **Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia**, Trustee of Parliament of the World's Religions and Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Rev. Karen Hamilton, Co-Chair of Toronto Parliament of the World's Religions and former Secretary General of Canadian Council of Churches
- Mr. Taha Ghayyur, Executive Director of Islamic Society of North America Canada
- Ms. Grove Harris M.Div., Representative of Temple of Understanding to the United Nations
- Rev. Donna Bollinger, Executive Director of Religions for Peace – USA
- **Dr. Jaideep Singh**, Founding Trustee, Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations
- Ms. Sari Heidenreich, North American Regional Coordinator of United Religions Initiative

Nov 6, 2:15pm to 3:00pm, Room 605

Using Media for Interfaith Dialogue

While literature continues to enlighten us, mainstream media and social media have provided us a visual alternative to communicating. Research suggests the brain processes images 60,000 times faster than it does text. Visual communication ensures that a clear, unified message is delivered with greater retention. Media is also a reflection of our society, both present and past. They tell us things we never could have known or know little about and help us explore subjects that may be beyond reach. Social Media these days also helps us start and build conversations and create atmosphere for contemplation and discussions. It fosters better understanding and helps in avoiding stereotypes and helps unify. It helps construct our understanding of race, religion and ethnicity.

Moderator: **Harleen Kaur**, Founder of Kaur Films

Presenters:

- **Harleen Kaur**, Founder of Kaur Films
- Ms. Bettina Gray, North American Interfaith Network (by video link)
- Ms. Sahar Alsahlani, Al-Khoei Foundation and Community of Living Traditions

Nov 6, 2:15pm to 3:45pm, Room 107

Sikh Intrafaith Seminar: a) Interfaith Understanding, b) Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation, c) Addressing Prejudice and Hate Crimes

The Sikh Intrafaith Seminar will focus on three topics: a) Interfaith Understanding, b) Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation, and c) Addressing Prejudice and Hate Crimes. Panel speakers will address these issues. Q&A with the audience will follow.

Moderator: Dr. Karen Kaur Singh, Houston Sikh Youth Camp

Panelists:

- **Mr. Hardeep Singh**, Network of Sikh Organisations, UK
- **Ms. Jasvir Kaur Singh**, Co-founder of Sikh Healing Collective, Chicago
- **Dr. Balwant Singh Dhillon**, Professor at Guru Nanak Dev University in Amritsar
- **Mr. Gurvinder Singh**, United Sikhs

Nov 6, 2:15 pm to 3:00pm, Room 601B

Time for a Paradigm Shift for Interfaith

This session may be considered as a matter for serious deliberation for Interfaith organizations. The question being: “Where we have been and where we ought to be heading?” It envisages a discussion among a group of informed individuals who have participated in Interfaith affairs and are familiar with the workings of Interfaith organizations.

- “Preaching to the choir” is often heard among Interfaith circles. Is there any truth to this and if so how do we elevate to the next level and engage a wider circle of individuals?
 - There have been faint voices that have called for the promotion of Intrafaith dialogue. Is that possible and if so how?
 - If peace between and among religions is the goal of Interfaith organizations, are we getting closer to that goal?
 - The formation of a religious arm of the UN has been proposed; is that possible and if so how?
- These are some of the questions we ask ourselves, there are surely others. It is hoped that a discussion on these matters will bring some clarity for those of us who wish to elevate Interfaith organizations to the next level.

Moderator: Rohinton Rivetna

Panelists:

- Asayo Horibe
- **Balwant Singh Hansra**, PWR Trustee Emeritus, Chicago
- Myriam Renaud
- Susan Pudelek

Nov 6, 6pm to 7pm, Room 705

Perpetuating the Faith in Young Adults of Visible Religious Minorities

The objective of this multi-generational panel discussion is to bring forth mechanisms through which faith is passed on to young adults of visible religious minorities in secular societies. Adults employ a variety of such methods to pass along the values and traditions of the faith to young adults – sometimes with success and other times not. The panel will include young adults and adults from Islam, Jewish, and Sikh faiths.

Moderator: Dr. Satpal Singh, Board member of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Rabbi Shalom Schachter, Vice President OHALAH - The Association of Rabbis and Cantors for Jewish Renewal
- Taha Ghayyur, Executive Director of Islamic Society of North America Canada
- **Gurinderpal Singh**, San Jose Gurdwara Sahib, USA
- Saamiyah Syed, Toronto Muslim Community

- Paul Adam, Jewish young adult
- **Dalraj Singh Gill**, Toronto Sikh young adult
- **Sikh young adult**

Nov 6, 6pm to 7pm, Room 717B

Service as Pathway to Alleviating Human Suffering

Religious and non-religious organizations across the globe are using a network of volunteers, donors and partners who believe in the common cause of “Service to humanity” to help people affected by natural and manmade disasters. The objective of the panel discussion is to bring forth ideas and best practices to use service as a mechanism to alleviate human suffering. Each panelist would share their /their organization’s work and its impact. Thereafter the panelists would share best practices and any learnings from their experiences.

Moderator: **Harleen Singh**, Trustee of Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations

Panelists:

- Rev. Donna Bollinger, Executive Director of Religions for Peace – USA
- Dr. Kazuko Hillyer Tatsumura
- Wil Tyrrell, S.A., D. Min, Franciscan Friar of the Atonement, NY and Interfaith Coordinator, Manhattanville College
- **Sukhwinder Singh Dhillon**, United Sikhs – Canada

Nov 6, 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Room 603

Living Religious Pluralism

How may people of different diverse faiths and values live together in harmony and mutual appreciation? This question is being asked by many today. This moderated panel discussion will explore this question and work towards bridging the spiritual divide without dividing or establishing a hierarchy.

Moderator: **Yashpal Singh Bains**, Philadelphia Sikh Community, USA

Panelists:

- Sheila Keene-Lund
- Steven Greenebaum
- Ariel Vegosen

Nov 6, 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Room 716A

Interfaith Education in Schools

We live in challenging times. Fear of “the other” remains widespread, and often leads to hate and violence. But when we can help children and adults begin to develop interfaith literacy, we lay the foundation for living together with understanding, acceptance, and respect. We create greater peace. This Session focuses on interfaith education in three different educational settings:

- How Do We Help Young Children Develop an Understanding of Interfaith?
- What Are the Challenges to Creating Inter-Religious Understanding in Islamic Schools?
- How Can We Provide “Best-Practice” Resources for Teachers Who Work with Children of Different Faiths?

Moderator: **Dr. Kanwaljit Kaur**, President of Global Sikh Council, UK

Panelists:

- Sufia Azmat
- **Balpreet Singh Boparai**, Legal Counsel of World Sikh Organization - Canada
- Sue Morrow

Nov 6, 6:00pm to 7:00pm, Room 201D

Gender fluidity in Gurbaani, an exploration of the female voice in Sikh scripture

Ever wanted to walk a mile in the shoes of a Sikh woman? Women's voices and stories are present in the Sikh scriptures in a variety of ways. They come through as mothers, friends, lovers and the earth itself. Sikhism requires that people of all genders include recitation from the perspective of a woman as a part of their regular Sikh practice. This session will look at different Shabads and encourage people of all genders to empathize with the various female voices. As all Sikh scripture is set to musical measures, the interactive session will have live music.

Presenter: **Dr. Jaspreet Kaur Bal**, Member of Board of directors of the Sikh Feminist Research Institute, Canada

Langar

November 2 - 6 | 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Level 800, Exhibit Hall FG

Langar is the Sikh word for “open kitchen.” It was started by the first Sikh Guru, Siri Guru Nanak Sahib, and today represents the principle of equality between all people regardless of religion, caste, color, creed, age, gender or social status. In addition to the ideals of equality, the tradition of Langar expresses the ethics of sharing, community, inclusiveness and oneness of all humankind.

Regardless of who provides the funds for the food and its distribution, it is called “Guru Ka Langar” and not of any person or persons. The Langar institution represents “sharing” and not “charity” and is to be simple meal and not a feast.

Upon entering the Langar Hall, you will be removing your shoes and scarves will be provided so you can cover your head before sitting cross-legged on the floor for the meal. For those who are unable to sit on the floor due to health reasons, a few tables and chairs will be provided. All those who come to share the Langar are treated as equal. To emphasize this, everyone has the same type of seating and the same choice of food which is served. Only vegetarian food will be offered daily to ensure that all people, regardless of their dietary restrictions, can eat as equals and no one will go hungry.

The Langar at the 2018 Parliament is being organized by the *Ontario Sikh and Gurdwara Council* in collaboration with the Canadian and international Sikh community.

Enjoy the Sikh hospitality of this wonderful tradition for the third time at a Parliament! We invite you to join us for a dining experience you will remember for a lifetime.

Exhibits

Open Daily, Level 800 Public Space

Sikhs and Canada Timeline Exhibit by Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada

Through research by the Sikh Heritage Museum of Canada, this ground breaking timeline exhibit with original artifacts features new facts about the link between Canada and Sikhs dating all the way back to 1809 when the Governor General of the Province of Canada from 1843-1845, Charles Metcalfe (1st Baron Metcalfe) was serving as a Civil Servant for the British East India Company. In 1808 he was selected by Lord Minto for the responsible post of envoy to the court of Ranjit Singh at Lahore; here, on 25 April 1809, he concluded the important treaty securing the independence of the Sikh states between the Sutlej and the Jumna. Sikhs have had a long history with and in Canada. From being residents for over 125 years since 1888, to having the first Prime Minister of Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald just after the BNA act, calling for an “army of Sikhs” in 1867. The first wave of Sikh settlers arrived in Canada in the early 1900’s. By 1908, the first Sikh Gurdwara (Place of Worship) was established in Vancouver. The Komagata Maru incident of 1914 still remains a very important historical anecdote in Canadian history as this was the first time Canada turned away migrants. Sikh pioneers played an important role in Canada’s nation building, from working in the lumber mills, to logging, forestry and farming, they toiled the vast land of Canada. Sikh pioneers also worked on the railway and although not given equal rights as Canadian citizens, they also served for Canada in WWI. Sikhs arrived in Ontario around 1911 and Dr. Sundar Singh spoke at the Empire and Canada Club’s. Sikhs secured their Canadian right to vote and full citizenship in 1947. Today, Sikhs in Canada are leaders in many fields & professions including education, law, social justice, banking, medicine, athletics, arts, entertainment, military and policing. Sikhs have been active in the political life of Canada, from being City Councillors, MLA’s & MPP’s, MP’s, Premier and Ministers of State. Recently in 2014, Canada commemorated the Legacy of the Komagata Maru through Canada post in issuing a stamp.

Open Daily, Langar Hall

Exhibit on Guru ka Langar by Ontario Sikh and Gurdwara Council

Exhibit Booths:

- #113 *World Sikh Organization Canada*
- #115 *Sikh Council for Interfaith Relations*
- #815 *American Sikh Council*

Notes

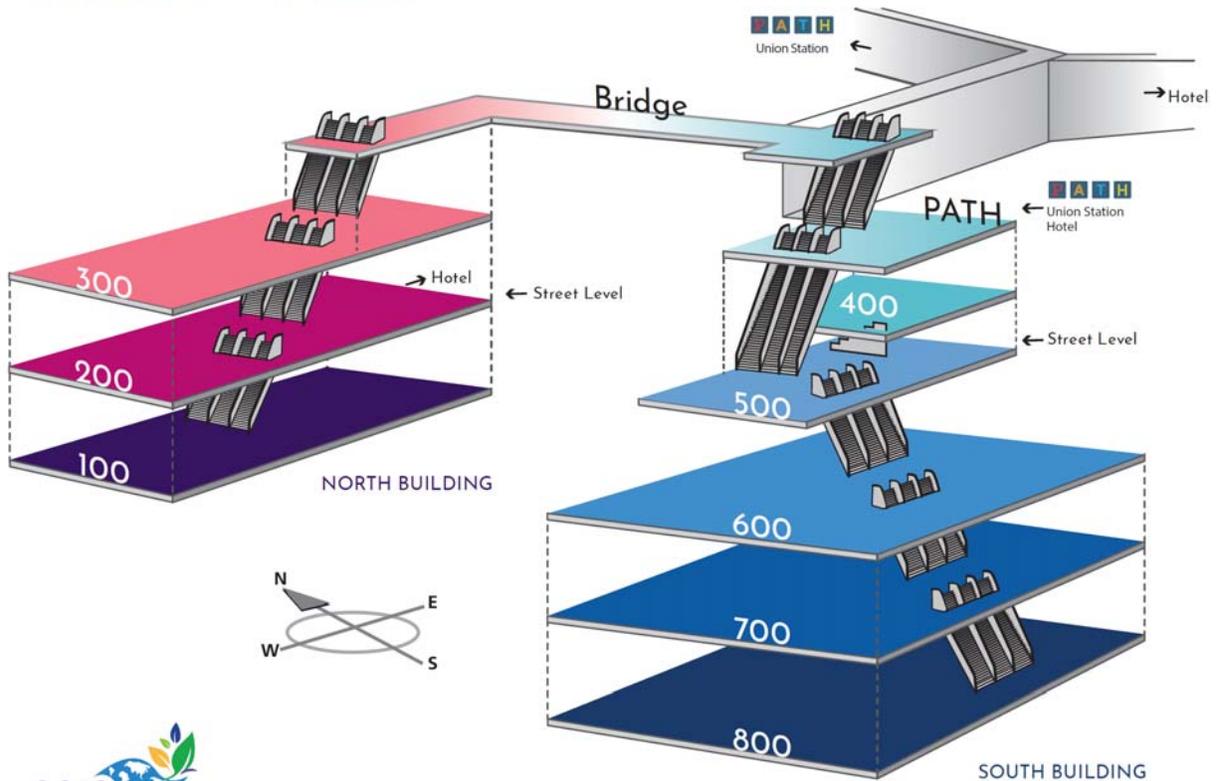
Notes

Notes

Venue Layout - Metro Toronto Convention Center



OVERVIEW



- Level 100 -
 - Film Festival
 - Constitution Hall (105, 106, 107)
 - Labyrinth
 - Quilt of Belonging
- Level 200 -
 - Registration
 - Hospitality Rooms
 - Faith & Worship Spaces
 - Media Room
- Level 300 -
 - Assemblies & Plenaries

- Level 600 -
 - Sessions & Programs
 - Meet & Greet Spaces
 - Art Gallery
 - Women's Sacred Space
 - Portraits of Faith
 - Morgan Model Collection
- Level 700 -
 - Sessions & Programs
- Level 800 -
 - Langar Hall
 - Exhibit Hall
 - Interfaith Family Festival
 - Lodge of Nations
 - Festival Stage
 - Speaker Ready Room
 - Food Court