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2009 Parliament of the World's Religions 3 – 9 December 2009 • Melbourne, Australia Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth

Dear friend,

It is with pleasure that we invite you to the fifth Parliament of the World's Religions, 3–9 December 2009 in Melbourne, Australia. The Parliament will offer opportunities to share about your religious tradition, learn about other religious traditions, engage in dialogue, and connect with others who share similar concerns.

Our theme, ***Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth*** reflects the urgent need for religious and spiritual communities and all people of goodwill to act on their concerns for the environment, peace, and overcoming poverty, and to take responsibility for cultivating awareness of our global interconnectedness. This Parliament will focus on the struggles and spiritualities of indigenous peoples around the globe, particularly highlighting the Aboriginal communities of Australia. Thousands of people from around the world will convene to renew their work for the future of the planet.

Ours is a partnership between the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions and the Melbourne Parliament of the World's Religions, both with large boards and advisory committees bringing in the wisdom of our diverse communities. The planning process is evolving and inclusive; we welcome your participation.

On behalf of the Program Committee for the 2009 Parliament, we encourage you to register to attend the Parliament. Please also consider submitting a proposal to present a lecture, dialogue, workshop, panel discussion, religious or spiritual observance, workshop, training session or artistic performance. The following pages introduce the 2009 Parliament's theme, sub themes, and daily schedule, and define the criteria for program selection. Please use the online proposal form, or the form provided here.

Melbourne is a beautiful and vibrant city of cultural and religious diversity, a wonderful site for this next Parliament. Please join us.

Dr. Joseph Prabhu
Chair, CPWR Program Committee

Prof. Desmond Cahill
Chair, Melbourne Program Committee

“On behalf of the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of this land, I welcome you to the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne.”

Prof Joy Murphy Wandin AO
Senior Woman of the
Wurundjeri People

Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth

Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth

The 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions offers a unique and dynamic opportunity to address the pressing concerns of humanity from religious and spiritual perspectives.

We live in an age of enormous opportunity and challenge, of dire threat and of great potential. To survive and flourish as a human community, we must find ways to live and work together – East with West, developed North with developing South, men with women, elders with youth, religious with non-religious, traditional with post-modern. The decisions that we make and the actions we take as individuals, as members of diverse communities and as a global community will determine our future.

We can make a difference. Our diverse religious and spiritual traditions are tremendous resources which can be shared and strengthened at the Parliament as we strive towards achieving reconciliation, overcoming poverty, creating social cohesion and building peace. The hope of a renewed world can emerge from this world of difference.

The obvious yet difficult first step in this process is to hear each other. Technology now enables communication from most points on the planet so we can no longer ignore our interconnectedness. Active listening and engagement builds respect for self and others. It gives us the insights we need to right all our relationships, including our relationship with the earth and its life – of which we are an integral part.

The very survival of humanity depends on the state of our environment. Religious and caring people the world over are being called to respond to urgent environmental concerns. Healing the earth requires a change in mindset and in behaviour so that sustainable patterns of life can be created. The earth is everyone's home so we are all in this together. The need to manifest our spiritual values is urgent.

In our differences lies great opportunity; we can make a world out of our difference. Hearing each other, we can move towards a more just, peaceful and sustainable future. Healing the earth is our common task: to heal is to set right and repair, to restore to health and spiritual wholeness. This is hopeful work.

The 2009 Parliament in Melbourne will address a number of crucial topics from religious and spiritual perspectives. Our overall framework of programming includes:

**Observances ... Intrareligious Programs ... Interreligious Programs
Engagement Programs ... Celebrations**

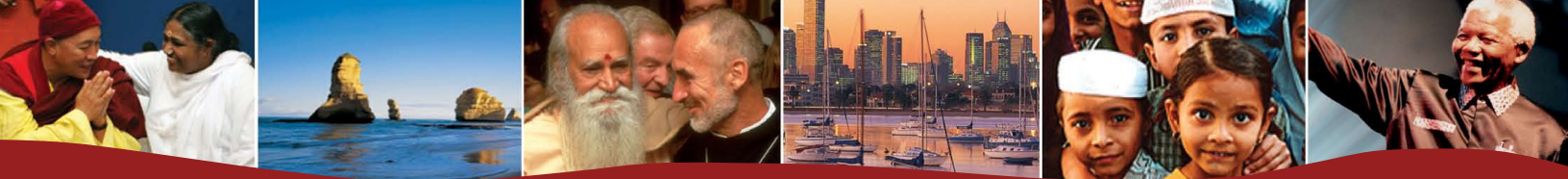
These programs will address the following, and more:

- Healing the Earth with Care and Concern
- Reconciling with the Indigenous Peoples
- Overcoming Poverty in a Patriarchal World
- Securing Food and Water for All People
- Building Peace in the Pursuit of Justice
- Creating Social Cohesion in Village and City
- Sharing Wisdom in the Search for Inner Peace

We are open to programs on all topics of pressing concern. The Council's website, www.parliamentofreligions.org, will post additional topic clusters as they develop, including:

**Youth Leadership ... Women's Leadership ... Religion and Sport
Chaplaincies ... Religious Education ... Religious Arts, Architecture and Media
Science and Religion ... Confronting HIV/AIDS across the World
The Internet and the Mobile: Religious and Moral Perspectives**





CALL FOR PROGRAMS

The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions invites proposals for programs from all persons, groups, communities and organisations for presentation at the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne, Australia, 3–9 December, 2009.

The mission of the Council is to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and to foster their engagement with society and guiding institutions to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world. The Parliament is, in the historic sense of the word, "a place for civil discourse." Program types may include: lecture, academic paper, seminar, panel discussion, religious or spiritual observance, workshop, training session or artistic performance. Regular programs will be 90 minutes in length, although other durations are possible. Symposia (1–3 day series of programs on a particular topic) may also be considered.

As you will see in our daily schedule, we are interested in:

- **Observances** from diverse religious and spiritual traditions
- **Intrareligious programs** – people from a single religious tradition express their identity, discuss their challenges and showcase their messages
- **Interreligious programs** – people from two or more religious traditions engage with each other seeking greater understanding
- **Engagement programs** – people from different religious traditions focus on how to work together to address key topics

Special attention will be given to programs that use creative methods of communication, that involve members of two or more religious or spiritual communities or groups, and that offer interactive approaches to engage participants. Program proposals are now being received; we will review them on an ongoing basis, with final decisions made in April 2009. We encourage early submissions!

Programs and presenters will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- relationship to the 2009 theme, *Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth*
- contribution to the overall balance of the Parliament in terms of religious and spiritual traditions, new and well-known voices, academic and experiential formats and gender.
- demonstrated capacity to successfully engage participants in the topic
- contribution to the presenter's ongoing interreligious work in her or his own context

The principles guiding the 2009 Parliament are respectful dialogue – which includes non-proselytizing, a willingness to engage in interreligious dialogue, and a commitment to explore topics, including those that are potentially divisive, from a variety of viewpoints.

CALL FOR PROGRAMS

Financial Matters

- Presenters will need to register and pay the registration fee.
- We offer a reduced registration fee for students.
- Early registration is reduced in price.
- We anticipate subsidizing the participation of indigenous persons.
- We will be offering a “Home stay” option to help make the Parliament more affordable for presenters and participants who would otherwise find it difficult to attend.
- We encourage you to explore possible sources of funding from within your community and/or external grant programs.

Timeline

May 2008	Call for Programs is issued. Ongoing review begins.
December 31, 2008	Program proposal submission deadline
April 2009	Final confirmation of program acceptance
December 3–9, 2009	The 2009 Parliament of the World’s Religions

Language

English will be the official language of the 2009 Parliament. Information regarding translation will be made available at a later date. We encourage you to consider seeking a co-presenter able to assist with language issues.

Additional copies of the Call for Programs can be requested from the program staff, or downloaded from the Parliament’s website at <http://www.parliamentofreligions.org>

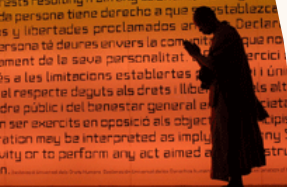
Please submit your proposal via email to program@parliamentofreligions.org, using the online template. If necessary, you may mail it to one of the addresses indicated below, Attn: Program Staff. An online submission form is currently under development.

Outside Australia

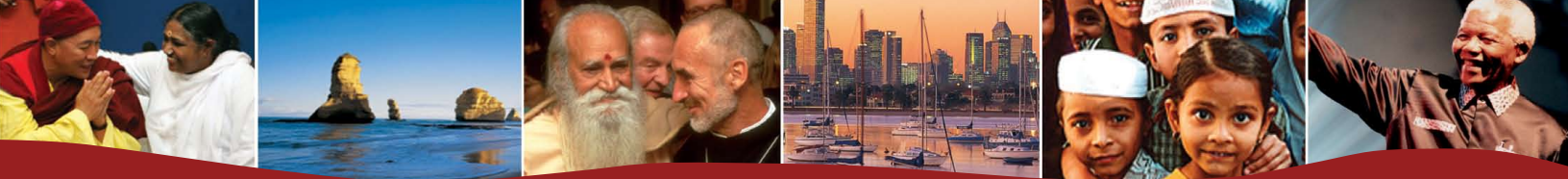
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Council for a Parliament
of the World’s Religions



DAILY SCHEDULE

TIME	SESSION	THEMES	PREFERRED FORMATS
08.00 – 09.00	OBSERVANCES	Experiences of religious and spiritual observances, meditations, and prayers.	Meditations, prayers, reflection
09.00 – 09.30	BREAK		
09.30 – 11.00	SESSION A <i>Religious and Spiritual Communities Share their Stories</i>	A wide variety of programs focusing on: a basic understanding of religious and spiritual communities, and the teachings, practices, and dynamics of their traditions; resources and rationales from within religious and spiritual communities and movements for dialogue, engagement and cooperation; and tools for intrareligious reflection and dialogue.	INTRARELIGIOUS Primarily single-tradition panel presentations
11.00 – 11.30	BREAK		
11.30 – 13.00	SESSION B <i>Religious and Spiritual Communities Dialogue with Each Other</i>	A wide variety of programs focusing on: structured opportunities for interreligious encounter and dialogue; sharing the convictions and motivations for engaging with each other and the world; and innovative methodologies for interreligious encounter, dialogue and cooperation	INTERRELIGIOUS Primarily multiple-tradition panel presentations and facilitated dialogues
13.00 – 14.30	LUNCH BREAK		
14.30 – 16.00	SESSION C <i>Religious and Spiritual Communities Work Together</i>	A wide variety of programs focusing on: building capacity for religious and spiritual people, communities and organisations to collaborate with guiding institutions in service to a peaceful, just and sustainable future; examples of successful programs and best practices that are addressing critical issues around the world; and creative approaches and tools for effective dialogue and collaboration.	ENGAGEMENT Primarily facilitated dialogues, workshops and multi-religious panels
16.00 – 16.30	BREAK		
16.30 – 18.00	OPEN SPACE / GATHERINGS	Free time or opportunity to engage with participants from around the world on topics of special interest through facilitated “open space” dialogue and working sessions. Spaces are also available for meetings of groups, organisations, and delegations.	ENCOUNTER Open Space, dialogues
18:00 – 19:30	DINNER BREAK		
Evening Time TBD	PLENARY	Plenary sessions and large group gatherings.	CELEBRATION Arts and evocative presentations

PROGRAM PROPOSAL FORM

Religious/Spiritual Traditions involved in the program:

Availability: Please check or circle dates that you will **NOT** be available in December 2009.

- 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th

Biographical Statement: Attach brief statement to be edited for use in the 2009 Parliament program book (75 word limit).

Other Presenters: If applicable, list the names of the other presenters and attach their contact information with brief biographical statements.

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Please answer the following questions briefly:

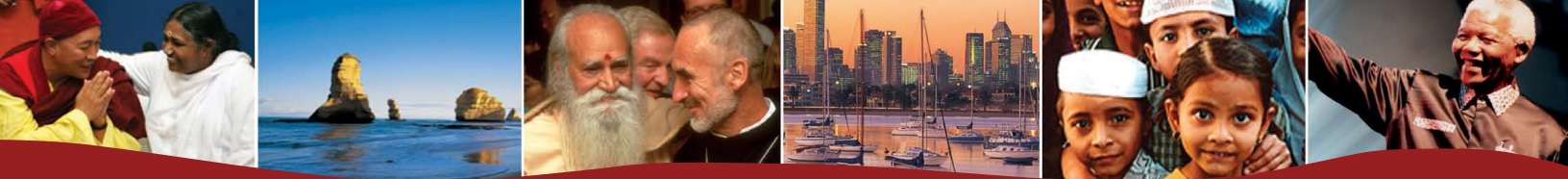
- How does your program relate to the 2009 Parliament theme: *Make a World of Difference: Hearing each other, Healing the earth?*

- How does your program relate to the following goals of the Parliament:
 - In seeking justice and sustainable living, we actively express our commitment to a better world.
 - In recognizing the humanity of the other, we create the conditions for community.
 - In deepening our spirituality, we experience personal transformation.

- How do the content, format and design of your program help to achieve these goals?

- Who do you predict your primary audience will be? Why?





The Organisers

The 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions is being organised by the Chicago based Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions together with the Melbourne office of the Parliament of the World's Religions. The Melbourne office has been working for nearly two years in their diverse religious communities conducting outreach and holding focus groups to solidify the groundwork for a truly Melbourne-based Parliament. This community development will be enhanced by the Parliament event, ensuring an even more robust local multireligious engagement with guiding institutions going forward. The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions works with religious and spiritual communities and other guiding institutions in their efforts to achieve a more just, peaceful and sustainable world. For a full description of the Council's work, including the Partner Cities Network and the Goldin Institute for International Partnership and Peace, visit www.parliamentofreligions.org.

Opportunities To Get Involved

- **Volunteers** – serve as a member of the support staff during the Parliament.
- **Outreach** – promote the Parliament in your community.
- **Hospitality** – provide accommodations for participants requesting “home stays” during the Parliament. Please contact us at homestays@parliamentofreligions.org.
- **Sponsorship** – donate a full or partial registration, or purchase space in our program book.
- **Host a Pre-Parliament Event** and help your city join the Council's Partner Cities Network.
- You may have **other ideas** of how you'd like to contribute. Please feel free to contact us.

Melbourne, Australia

Melbourne, the capital city of Victoria, Australia has a rich diversity of cultures, languages and religions. There are more than 180 languages spoken in and around the city, with 10 per cent of the population speaking a language other than English at home. More than 100 different religions and faiths are practised by Melbourne residents.

There is always something exciting happening in and around Melbourne, be it a festival of one of the world's faiths, special days of religious significance, a world-renowned sporting event, an exciting arts festival or a conference of leading thinkers.

Melbourne is the events capital of Australia, matching world class facilities and unique experiences with a warm and cosmopolitan community. Within an hour's drive of the city you'll find landscapes of immense natural beauty including pristine beaches and mountains, historic towns and boutique wineries.

The Parliament of the World's Religions will be an opportunity for people of all religions to celebrate their faith and build networks with those of different faiths.

Privacy Statement

Parliament of the World's Religion (PWR) is bound by and committed to supporting the National Privacy Principles (NPPs) set out in the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000 which is available online. PWR will not use or disclose your personal information unless it would reasonably be expected that such purpose is related to the offer, provision and improvement of this or future Parliaments or where such purpose is required by law.



**Council for a Parliament
of the World's Religions**