



## Speakers and Programs announced for the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne, AU

**Chicago, Illinois (September 24, 2009)** — In its role as a leading force for interreligious harmony, global peace and environmental sustainability, the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions announces over a dozen new speakers at the 2009 Parliament of the World Religions. The Parliament will be held in Melbourne, Australia, December 3 — 9, 2009.

In addition to **His Holiness the Dalai Lama**, **NPR journalist Margo Adler** and Obama administration official **Dalia Mogahed**, newly-confirmed presenters include:

- Buddhist teacher, author and peace activist **Thich Nhat Hanh**
- Yale Professor **Mary Evelyn Tucker**
- Native American leader **Chief Oren Lyons**
- Timorese spiritual activist **Constantino Pinto**
- **United Nations** delegation on Climate Change

**The Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh** is one of the world's leading Buddhist teachers. Founder of the Plum Village Monastery in southern France, he has helped spread Buddhist spirituality and teaching throughout the West.

**Professor Mary Evelyn Tucker** is Co-Director of Yale's Forum on Religion and Ecology and has organized numerous international conferences on world religions and ecology.

**Chief Oren Lyons**, Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation, is a passionate spokesperson for Indigenous human rights and spiritual perspectives and is active at the United Nations.

**Constantino Pinto**, founder of the Good Crocodile Foundation, is one of East Timor's leading cultural and spiritual leaders, instrumental in reclaiming Timorese traditional beliefs and spiritual values.

In addition, a special **United Nations delegation** will lead a program on "The Human Face of Climate Change."

With over 500 speakers, events and workshops, the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions is the largest and most inclusive interreligious gathering in the world. Host for the 2009 Parliament is the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, which convenes Parliaments every five years, each in a different international city. Past Parliaments have been held in Chicago (USA), Capetown (South Africa) and Barcelona (Spain).

Bringing together spiritual leaders and people of faith, the 2009 Parliament aims to address our planet's most urgent issues while creating a worldwide movement founded on respect and understanding among the world's spiritual communities.

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