



Office of the Parliament of the World's Religions

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MEDIA RELEASE

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YEAR OF INTERFAITH ACTION KICKS OFF IN MELBOURNE

Hundreds of people from different cultural backgrounds will gather at Melbourne Town Hall on Sunday February 8th for an afternoon of colourful and inspirational entertainment, from a variety of religious and spiritual communities.

"Melbourne: Making a Difference" will feature culturally diverse music, dance, ritual and cuisine, as well as highlighting the issues of reconciliation and climate change.

Tom Calma, Aboriginal Elder and Australian Human Rights Commissioner, will be one of several Indigenous speakers and performers, from Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Australian Conservation Foundation CEO Don Henry will discuss the challenge of climate change with a panel made up of members of the Jewish, Buddhist and Catholic communities including, Wilfred Muller from Pacific Island nation, Kiribati and Sister Geraldine Kearney, who spent four years working in Kiribati, which is being threatened by rising sea levels.

Melbourne's Sikh community will serve a traditional Indian vegetarian meal as an act of community service. Sikh community representative Gurdarshan Singh says, "Eating together is central to the Sikh religion, because it symbolises our equality as human beings regardless of religion, colour, gender or social status."

Azmeena and Nazeem Hussain of "Salam Cafe" fame will host a range of Indigenous and world music performers including local Indigenous dance group Wunsyaluv, Native American singer Joanne Shenandoah, world Indigenous musician Pero, classical Indian flautist Vinod Prasanna and Yiddish folk band Klezmania.

"Melbourne: Making a Difference" is a preparatory event for the Parliament of the World's Religions, the world's largest global interfaith gathering, to be held in Melbourne at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 3 - 9 December, 2009.

Date: Sunday 8 February, 2009

Time: 4.00pm – 8.30pm

**Location: Melbourne Town Hall
Swanston St, Melbourne**

For further details and registrations contact 1300 852 156 or info@parliamentofreligions2009.org, alternatively you can visit www.parliamentofreligions.org.

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