



**FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2009  
MEDIA ALERT**

**Office of the Parliament of the World's Religions**

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### **Melbourne officially welcomes the Parliament of the World's Religions**

Following last night's opening ceremony celebrating the world's diverse spiritual traditions, today marks the first full day of lectures, workshops and performances at the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions, the largest and most diverse multifaith gathering of religious and spiritual communities in the world.

Each morning, we will send a media update with highlights for each of the six days of the event. For more information, contact Porter Novelli (details at the bottom of this media alert).

#### **DAILY MEDIA UPDATE FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2009 - HIGHLIGHTS:**

##### **Poverty must no longer be with us**

9:30am – 11am

Plenary Hall

The poverty symposium will explore how faith communities are addressing the many dimensions of contemporary poverty. The agenda explores ideas and paths taken by faith communities and new forms of partnerships inspired by faith and the core values of human rights.

Speakers include Rev Tim Costello, Dr Haruhisa Handa and Jim Wallis.

##### **Former US President Jimmy Carter via video link**

9:30am – 10am

Room 109, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Former US President Jimmy Carter will discuss religion and the role of women in society in a video link to the Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne. Reverend Dirk Ficca, Executive Director of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, will pose questions to President Carter about his beliefs, to create open dialogue and discussion among participants at the event.

##### **The Human Face of Climate Change**

2:30pm – 4pm

Plenary Hall

Climate change is the most serious emerging humanitarian concern of our age. This symposium will demonstrate that societies who contributed the least to climate change are the ones who will suffer the most from its devastating effects. It will challenge participants of all faith traditions to unite to avert the coming environmental crisis.

Speakers include Martin Frick and Mary Evelyn Tucker.

To download official event images please go to [www.flickr.com/photos/raymessner](http://www.flickr.com/photos/raymessner)

For further interview requests, accreditation or further media information please contact **Porter Novelli Melbourne** on 03 9289 9555, [pwrmelbourne@porternovelli.com.au](mailto:pwrmelbourne@porternovelli.com.au)