

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER, 2009
DAILY MEDIA UPDATE



PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS
MELBOURNE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE

Office of the Parliament of the World's Religions

The Hub 17 Waterview Walk Docklands Victoria 3008

Phone: +61 3 8622 4809 Fax: +61 3 9417 0899

Email: info@parliamentofreligions2009.org

Today's highlights

Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations: the Struggle for Recognition

Plenary Hall, 9.30am – 11.00am

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues examines and addresses critical issues facing Indigenous peoples including human rights, intellectual property and land rights, and the protection of cultural heritage. Speakers include:

- Nana Osei Boakyewa Yiadom II: A "Queen Mother" for Ghana and African women's rights campaigner
- Tonya Gonnella Frichner, Esq.: The North American representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum and an expert on all aspects of Indigenous peoples' rights
- Anna Pinto: A member of the Indian Women's Movement for over two decades
- Margaret Lokawua: Chairperson for the Civil Society for Indigenous Organisations and Director of the Indigenous Women Environmental Conservation Project

The Impact of Women in Conflict Resolution

Room 217, 11:30am – 1:00pm

Women make up one-half of the world's population but are often marginalised, even devalued. Yet, they frequently engage in world altering activities. This panel will highlight the role of women in resolving and reconciling conflicts in the world's regions, and showcase the role women continue to play in building peace with justice. Speakers include:

- Asatu Bah-Kenneth: A life-long peace and justice activist serving with the Liberia National Police and on the government's Humanitarian Task Force
- Naree Charoenpolpiriya: A peace advocate with a strong sense of how conflict resolution methods have changed and developed
- Jacqueline Ogega: The Director of the Women's Program at the World Conference of Religions for Peace, known for developing skills in gender, peace building and development programming
- Sande Hart: A founder and President of Spiritual and Religious Alliance for Hope, an interfaith group for women that formed after the events of 9/11

SACRED MUSIC CONCERT

Plenary Hall, 7.30pm – 10.00pm

World-class musicians, vocalists and dancers will perform some of the most sacred music and movement from many religious and spiritual traditions. Contemporary and traditional styles will be performed by:

- Traditional songman, Djakupurra Munyarryun and dancers from North Eastern Arnhem Land
- Flautist Dr Natesan Ramani and singer Manjiri Kelkar and Ensembles, Hindu traditions
- David Jones and Friends, featuring James Morrison
- Dr Michael Beckwith's Agape International Choir from Los Angeles
- Muslim singer-songwriter Zain Bhikha and Ensemble
- Dr Kim Cunio, Heather Lee and Ensemble: Contemporary Jewish music and song
- The Gyuto Monks of Tibet, Harmonic Tibetan Buddhist Chant
- Classical Indian Dancer, Divya Jain: Jain Tradition
- Cantor Rabbi Philip Heilbrunn and Choir: Traditional Jewish Chant
- Whirling Prayer Ceremony of the Naqsbandi Sufi Order
- Bhai Kultar Singh and Group, Sikh Tradition
- Shadi Tolui-Wallace, Baha'i Vocalist and Guitarist
- Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter, contemporary Australian indigenous music and song
- Elder Cochiti Pueblo man, Joe Sueno and Ainu dancers from Japan

To download official event images please go to www.flickr.com/photos/raymessner. For further interview requests, accreditation or further media information please contact Porter Novelli Melbourne on 0409 499 419.