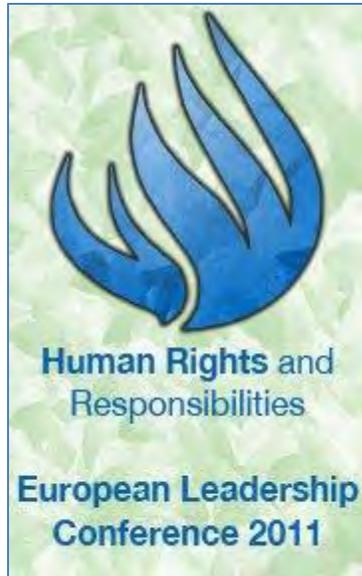


Human Rights Day 2011 Dec 9th - 10th, 2011

David Wills
November 21, 2011



"Commemorating Human Rights Day 2011: How Far Have We Progressed?"

December 9th - 10th, 2011

United Kingdom's Houses of Parliament and St Giles Hotel, London

We would like to extend a cordial invitation to you to attend a UPF European Conference on December 8th - 10th to Commemorate Human Rights Day 2011. The European Leadership Conference (ELC) sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), is to be held in the United Kingdom on December 8th - 10th, 2011.

Human rights issues have been a major driving force behind current events in 2011 with the Arab Spring radically altering the international landscape in the Middle East and tensions over immigration becoming increasingly raw in the economic recession. The effects of increased transparency through leaks and 'Freedom of Information' accountability and concerns for privacy have been major competing dynamics. While there are too many issues to cover in a short conference we have invited a human rights specialists to highlight areas of concern to the UPF and WFWP. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, commemorated each year on December 10th, finds a practical common ground with UPF and WFWP's conception of the sacred value of humankind as 'one family under God'.

After arrivals on December 8th the programme on December 9th will convene in the House of Lords with speakers including Lord Bhikhu Parekh, (*Minority Community Human Rights in Europe.*) Keith Best (*Why Do We Still Tolerate Torture?*), Rt. Hon. Tom Brake MP, Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid, Lord Ahmed of Rotherham, Willy Fautré (Human Rights Without Frontiers International), Baroness Falkner of Margravine, and hosted by UPF- UK Patron, Lord King of West Bromwich. The four sessions will consider 'Human Rights in Europe', 'Issues of Human Rights Around the World', Religious Freedom Issues', 'Women's Empowerment and Human Rights' and younger UPF - WFWP 'Ambassadors for Peace' will consider, 'Real Rights: How Will We Make Dignity a Reality?'. The second day of the programme, December 10th, will explore practical insights into upholding human rights and dignity in St

Giles Conference Centre.

The four sessions will consider 'Human Rights in Europe', 'Issues of Human Rights Around the World', 'Women's Empowerment and Human Rights' and younger UPF - WFWP 'Ambassadors for Peace' will consider, 'Real Rights: How Will We Make Dignity a Reality?'. The second day of the programme, December 10th, will explore practical insights into upholding human rights and dignity in St Giles Conference Centre.

St Giles Hotel London will be the venue for the December 10th Conference.

Event: 'Commemorating Human Rights Day 2011: How Far Have We Progressed?'

Date: Thursday, December 08, 2011 At 01:00 AM

Duration: 2 Days

Contact Info:

Robin Marsh, Secretary General, Margaret Ali, Director, Joyce Suda, Director,
Universal Peace Federation – UK Office

URL: www.uk.upf.org

Commemorating Human Rights Day 2011: How Far Have We Progressed?"

December 8th - 10th, 2011

United Kingdom's Houses of Parliament and St Giles Hotel, London

Speakers Include:

Rt. Hon. Tom Brake MP Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Home Affairs '*Riots and Human Rights*'

Dr. Kinga Gál MEP: Vice-Chair European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Prof. Lord Bhikhu Parekh: *Minority Community Rights in Europe*

Rt. Hon. Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC: UK Attorney General (2007-10)

We would like to extend a cordial invitation to you to attend a UPF European Conference on December 8th -10th to Commemorate Human Rights Day 2011. Distinguished delegates from many European countries will be in attendance. There is a draft programme below including the speakers for the conference. The European Leadership Conference (ELC) sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), is to be held in the United Kingdom on December 8th - 10th, 2011.

Human rights issues have been a major driving force behind current events in 2011 with the Arab Spring radically altering the international landscape in the Middle East and tensions over immigration becoming increasingly raw in the economic recession. The effects of increased transparency through leaks and 'Freedom of Information' accountability and concerns for privacy have been major competing dynamics. While there are too many issues to cover in a short conference we have invited a human rights specialists to highlight areas of concern to the UPF and WFWP. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

commemorated each year on December 10th, finds a practical common ground with UPF and WFWP's conception of the sacred value of humankind as 'one family under God'.

RSVP for further information to the contact details below. There is a Day Delegate rate for those from London of £5 Friday or £20 Saturday.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and hope that you will be able to take time out of your busy schedule to join us for this very meaningful occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Marsh, Secretary General
Margaret Ali, Director
Joyce Suda, Director
Universal Peace Federation – UK

"Commemorating Human Rights Day 2011: How Far Have We Progressed?"

Draft Programme
St Giles Hotel and Houses of Parliament

Thursday, 8th December

Evening: Arrivals and Registration for international guests and those staying in the hotel

Friday, 9th December

07:00 Breakfast at the hotel St Giles Hotel

08:30 Depart for Parliament

09:00 Pass Through Parliamentary Security and registration for day guests

09:30 Session I Human Rights Around Europe Houses of Parliament

Rt. Hon. Tom Brake MP Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Home Affairs 'Riots and Human Rights'

Lord King of West Bromwich(UPF- UK Patron) Greetings

Prof. Lord Bhikhu Parekh: Minority Community Rights in Europe

Dr. Kinga Gál MEP: Vice-Chairwoman European Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee

Rt. Hon. Baroness Scotland of Asthal QC: UK Attorney General (2007-10)

Dr. Yong Cheon Song (Chairman, UPF Europe) Europe's Role in a Changing World

11:00 Break – Change Panels

11:10 Session II Human Rights Issues Around the World Houses of Parliament

Baroness Kishwer Falkner of Margravine

Willy Fautré Director Human Rights Without Frontiers ‘Human Rights in North Korea’

Prof. Akiko Yamanaka, Vice Foreign Minister of Japan (2005-2006), Professional By-Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge University ‘Responsibility to Protect from a Human Security Perspective’

Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem, Former Austria Ministry of Foreign Affairs

11:10 Session II Human Rights Issues Around the World Houses of Parliament

Lord Nazir Ahmed of Rotherham ‘Universal Human Rights for Humanity’

Keith Best, Chief Executive, Freedom from Torture: ‘Why Do We Still Tolerate Torture?’

Imam Dr. Abduljalil Sajid JP, Chairman Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony UK

Prof. Unni Wikan: University of Oslo ‘Honour Based Violence’

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Session III Women’s Empowerment and Human Rights Houses of Parliament

Baroness Sandip Verma: Government Spokesperson for Equalities and Women's Issues (TBC)

Ms. Carolyn Handschin, President, WFWPI- Europe

Ms. Shasta Gohir MBE, Global Campaign Strategist, Oxfam

Marcia Lewinson, Chief Executive, Women Acting In Today’s Society

Patricia Lalonde, Managing Director MEWA, Rebuilding Afghanistan Schools

Session III Religious Freedom Issues Houses of Parliament

Peter Zoehrer SG, FOREF-Europe ‘Japanese Religious Freedom Issues’

Hon. Jin Hinokida, Former Diet Member, Japan

Other Religious Freedom Issues To Be Announced

15:30 Session IV Real Rights: How Will We Make Dignity a Reality?

Houses of Parliament (UPF - WFWP Youth Committee Programme)

Chair: Elisa Brann: WFWP – UK Director

Bogdan Pammer: UPF-Europe Youth Director

Monika Mareková, UN Youth Delegate to the 66th UN General Assembly

16:45 Leave for Evening Venue

18:30 Dinner and Cultural Programme for International Participants

21:30 Close

Saturday, 10th December *Human Rights Day 2011*

07:30 Breakfast

08:30 SESSION V: St Giles Conference Centre, Bedford Avenue, Bloomsbury, WC1B 3GH

Human Rights and Universal Principles – presentation, response and panel

Chair: Heiner Handschin , Secretary General UPF Europe

Carolyn Handschin, President, WFWPI- Europe

Dr. Johannes Willem Bertens, former MEP and Ambassador for the Netherlands

Saleha Jaffer, urban regeneration consultant (TBC)

09:45 Coffee break

10:15 **SESSION VI:** St Giles Conference Centre

From a Culture of Conflict to a Culture of Peace – The Rights of my Enemy presentation, response and panel

Chair: Brigitte Texier- Wada, President , WFWP- France

Jack Corley, Chair Universal Peace Federation, United Kingdom

Dr. Azra Hadžiahmetović, Member of Parliament Bosnia Herzegovina (TBC)

Robert Vandemeulebroucke, Honorary Ambassador, Belgium

11:15 World Café Round-Table Discussions (4 x 15 minute sessions)

A wonderful opportunity for participants to interact and discuss all the conference topics

12:30 Lunch: St Giles Hotel Restaurant

14:30 SESSION VII: St Giles Conference Centre

As a Peace Loving Global Citizen - an insight into UPF's Origins and Founders presentation, response and panel

Chair: Marcia de Abreu, Chair WFWP Spain

Timothy Miller, Vice-Chair UPF Europe

Dr. Pieter Beelaerts van Blokland, Former Dutch Minister of Housing and Environment

Marian Werner, Ambassador for Peace

15:30 Break

16:00 SESSION VIII: St Giles Conference Centre

The Universal Peace Federation – Vision, Projects and Recent Activities

Chair: Dr. Dieter Schmidt, Chairman UPF Germany

Mark Brann, Secretary General UPF Europe

Ambassador for Peace Awards and Participant Reflections

17:30 Departures

Some Speakers Biographies:

Keith Best, the CEO of Torture Care, said “Torture is no respecter of class, status or achievement. I met people who have been deeply traumatised by the experience of torture – they bear the scars both physically and mentally.” He has spent 20 years in the voluntary sector, advocating for the rights of people on the margins of society. He initially worked for NCH Action for Children, as director of Prisoners Abroad, and most recently as chief executive of the Immigration Advisory Service for the past 16 years. Best was named in Society Guardian as one of the 100 most influential people in public services in the UK.

Rt. Hon. Tom Brake MP: From the age of eight years old, he lived with his family in France and attended the Lycee International in the western suburbs of Paris. As a student in Imperial College he became actively involved in human rights issues. He joined Amnesty International and was chairman of the Imperial College students' group from 1981 to 1982. He was elected to Parliament in 1997. In October 2003 he was promoted and appointed to the Liberal Democrats' Shadow Cabinet, serving as the party's International Development Spokesman. He was a Shadow Minister in the Communities and Local Government Team. He is currently the Liberal Democrat spokesman for Home Affairs issues. He was recently appointed to the Privy Council. He is the Chairman of the National Council for Civil Protection, and a member of the Franco-British Parliamentary Relations Group.

Baroness Kishwer Falkner of Margravine: Appointed to the House of Lords in 2004, she became the first Muslim to be promoted to the 'front bench' in UK parliamentary history in 2005, becoming a spokesman on Communities and Local Government. Falkner's other parliamentary activities have included serving on committees scrutinizing Human Rights, European Union Foreign Affairs, International Development and Defense and Legal Services. Falkner also speaks on international terrorism and was a member of the Prime Minister's Taskforce on Muslim Extremism' in 2005. Falkner's previous roles have included, Chief Executive of Students Partnership Worldwide, working for the Commonwealth Secretariat, where she was responsible for good governance, democracy and political development in Commonwealth countries; and the Liberal Democrats, as Director of Policy and International Affairs.

Willy Fautré is the Director of Human Rights Without Frontiers International. He is a member of the steering committee of the “International Coalition To Stop Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea” created in September 2011 in Tokyo by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and 40 other NGOs based in Europe, Asia, America and Africa. He has extensively investigated human rights in North Korea, collecting testimonies of refugees in South Korea and ex-filtrating a number of them through the South Korean embassy in Laos a few years ago. He has organized many conferences on North Korea at the European Parliament. He is regularly invited to lecture in universities in Europe and America about religious freedom issues. He has been frequently interviewed by international media on human rights in China and North Korea, and written extensively about human rights around the world, including North Korea.

Shaista Gohir is a 'Global Campaign Strategist' at Oxfam, where her role is to raise awareness of social injustices and poverty globally to faith communities, girls and women. She was the Executive Director of Muslim Women's Network UK (www.mwnuk.co.uk), where she led it from a small informal group to a national organization with almost 400 members and a reach of more than 35 000 women. She is also the founder of the Big Sister website (www.bigsister.org.uk) which highlights inspirational Muslim women globally from past to present. Shaista was featured in the *The Times* (March 2011), as 'Britain's Most Feminist Muslim.' Her blogs can be found at: www.shaistagohir.com. Shaista has met both the former and current Prime Ministers at '10 Downing Street.' In recognition of her work, she was awarded the MBE by the Queen in 2008. In 2009, Shaista has been included in the Muslim Women Power list which named the most influential Muslim women in Britain and won the Asian Woman of Achievement Award in the Social and Humanitarian Category.

Carolyn Handschin is a Vice President of WFWP International and President of WFWPI in Europe, Deputy Director of the WFWPI Office for United Nations Relations and its Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva since 1997. Coordinator of the UN Office of UPF in Geneva and contributing to the work of the Human Rights Council (was Commission) since 1994, in the areas of peace-building, leadership and governance, women's human rights and their empowerment, education for peace and fulfilling the MDG's. Until recently in 2011, Secretary of the UN NGO Committee on the Status of Women and remains a member of the Committee, as well as the Working Groups on “Peace”, and “Human Rights Education and Learning” at the United Nations in Geneva. She contributed to the NGO task forces on “Disarmament” and “Culture of Peace”, the latter of which she chaired. She is a Founding member of the Fribourg Peace Forum in Switzerland and Co-founder/Vice-President of the Geneva Interfaith and Intercultural Alliance (GIIA) currently coordinating its “Youth Interreligious Council” Model-UN program.

Lord King of West Bromwich (UPF-UK Patron) served as Councillor of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council from 1979 to 2007. He was a Deputy Mayor from 1982 to 1983. He was created a life peer in 1999 as Baron King of West Bromwich, in the County of West Midlands. From 1999 to 2003 he belonged to the committee *Member Hybrid Instruments*. Since 2006 he is Treasurer of the India Group.

Prof. Lord Bhikhu Parekh is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and of the Academy of the Learned Societies for Social Sciences and a Professor of Political Philosophy at the University of Westminster. Lord Parekh was chair of the Runnymede Commission on the Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain (1998-2000), whose report, *The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain*, was published in 2000. His main academic interests include political philosophy, the history of political thought, social theory, ancient and modern Indian political thought, and the philosophy of ethnic relations. Professor Parekh is the author of *Rethinking Multiculturalism: Cultural Diversity and Political Theory* (2000); *Gandhi* (2001); *Colonialism, Tradition and Reform* (1999); *Gandhi's Political Philosophy* (1989); *Contemporary Political Thinkers* (1982); *Karl Marx's Theory of Ideology* (1981); and *Hannah Arendt and the Search for a New*

Political Philosophy (1981).

Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid JP is a Muslim scholar, thinker, speaker, educator and mentor. A British Muslim of Pakistani origin, he is at present Chairman of a number of organisations including the Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony UK, the National Association of British Pakistanis and the UK Chapter of the World Conference of Religion and Peace. He is also a consultant to a number of statutory and voluntary agencies on race, multi-cultural and religious issues. Imam Sajid is the founding member of Alif-Aleph UK British Muslims-British Jews and the Standing Conference of Jews, Christian and Muslims in Europe (JCM). He is Imam of the Brighton Islamic Mission.

Dr Yong Cheon Song is Regional Director for The Universal Peace Federation in Europe and European President of the Family Federation with overall responsibility for the activities of the Unification Movement in 36 nations of Europe since 2003. Previously he worked extensively in senior roles for UPF and allied organisations in Kenya, Australia, New Zealand, The Solomon Islands and Oceania. He was awarded a doctorate in theology by Sun Moon University, South Korea in 2005.

Baroness Sandip Verma was born in Amritsar in Punjab, India on 1959. She moved as child with her parents to England in 1960. She is a British businesswoman and currently a Government Whip and Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office, International Development and Equalities and Women's Issues in the House of Lords. In 2006 Baroness Verma was made a Patron of the Tory Reform Group. She was created a Conservative life peer as Baroness Verma, of Leicester in the County of Leicestershire in May 2006, having been an unsuccessful parliamentary candidate in two general elections (2001 and 2005). Since 1977, Lady Verma has been married to Ashok Verma. They have a daughter and a son.

Peter Zoehrer is Chief Editor & Secretary General of FOREF Europe (Forum for Religious Freedom – Europe, President: Prof. Dr. Christian Bruenner, renown human rights- & constitutional expert). During the past 12 years FOREF scored over 30 victories in helping victims of religious intolerance to regain their rights, and gain vindication from injustice, discrimination or persecution. Also Director of UPF –UN office in Vienna, a Member of the Austrian Journalist Association (National Press Club) and President of Family Federation for World Peace – Austria.