

## UPF Germany: Berliners debate prospects for peace via politics and religion

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Berlin, Germany - "Which can Bring Peace: Politics or Religion?" was the theme of a UPF event in Berlin on October 28, 2023, to mark United Nations Day on October 24.

Four speakers presented their thoughts on this: UPF Peace Ambassador Mr. Ali Alinc, who is in charge of an NGO called Zivilisation - Weisheit - Wohltätigkeit - Aufschwung (ZWWA) in Berlin; Peace Ambassador Dr. Xhavit Sadrijaj, former defense attaché of the Kosovo Embassy; Ms. Lily Fichtner, who represents the Baha'i community; and Ms. Gudrun Hassinen of UPF.



Guests listened with rapt attention as each speaker presented a very unique perspective. Yet all concluded that peace ultimately depends on the inner attitude of individuals. Through their discussion, religion emerged as the clear "winner" of the initial question, although they emphasized that only sincere, living faith would lead to loving actions. Otherwise religions, represented by individuals, can also lead to conflict and war.



Three of the speakers were of the opinion that peace is in principle very possible, if only more people would pursue personal character and heart development, and thus show more respect for others and the will to cooperate. Dr Sadrijaj, however, looking back on 30 years of personal suffering through the Balkan crisis, felt that true peace was more like a dream than a plausible reality.

After the presentations, everyone sat together to talk and exchange views about the topic over coffee and cake.

*Photos: Begoña Monzebe Garcia*