

**THE LEGACY OF PEACEBUILDING, INTERFAITH, INTER-RELIGIONS, AND INTERCULTURAL HARMONY AND CONTRIBUTION OF MR. PETER HAIDER AS PRESIDENT OF UPF (UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION AUSTRIA)**

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**ABSTRACT**

*The legacy of peacebuilding, interfaith, inter-religion, and intercultural harmony has a long and rich history dating back to ancient times. Across cultures and religions, individuals and groups have come together to build bridges of understanding and create spaces for dialogue and cooperation. This legacy continues to inspire individuals and organizations today as they work to promote peace, reconciliation, and mutual respect.*

*One example of this legacy can be found in the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. A champion of nonviolence and interfaith harmony, Gandhi believed that different religious and cultural traditions could coexist peacefully if people were willing to listen to each other and work towards common goals. His philosophy of Satyagraha, or nonviolent resistance, inspired movements for social and political change in contemporary world, from the Civilian Rights Movement in the USA to the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa.*

*Another example of the legacy of peacebuilding and interfaith harmony can be seen in the work of the UN. Since its founding in 1945, the UN has been committed to promoting peace and preventing conflict through diplomacy, mediation, and dialogue. The UN's Interfaith Harmony Week, which takes place every year in the first week of February, is an example of the organization's commitment to promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding as a means of building peace and preventing conflict.*

*In addition to these examples, there are countless organizations and individuals working to promote peace, interfaith, inter-religion, and intercultural harmony in communities around the world. These efforts take many forms, from grassroots initiatives to global campaigns, and often involve collaboration across religious, cultural, and national boundaries. One such initiative is the Interfaith Youth Core, which works to promote interfaith cooperation and understanding among young people in the United States and beyond. Through programs like the Better Together campaign, the Interfaith Youth Core encourages young people from different religious and cultural backgrounds to come together and work towards common goals, such as addressing poverty, promoting environmental sustainability, and building stronger communities. Another example is the Peace Corps, which sends volunteers to communities around the world to work on a range of development projects, from education and health to agriculture and business. Through their work, Peace Corps volunteers build relationships with people from different cultures and religions, promoting mutual understanding and respect.*

*In conclusion, the legacy of peacebuilding, interfaith, inter-religion, and intercultural harmony is a rich and varied one that spans centuries and cultures. Through the efforts of*

*individuals, organizations, and institutions, this legacy continues to inspire and guide people as they work towards a more peaceful, just, and equitable world. The current global problem is multidimensional. It is having a rapid economic, political, social, and religious impact on the world, resulting in confusion, hatred, and violence. As a result, religious dialogue is critical to avoiding the hazards of civil unrest and violence.*

**Keywords:** *Role of divine Religion, Logical Philosophy, Global collaboration, role of UPF President Austria, final findings*

## INTRODUCTION

### Role of divine Religion

Every religion has its own unique language and traditions that give birth to fundamental human values that lead to the advancement of civilization. These principles serve as a guide and help to reform a society's collective ethos. The proliferation of knowledge has made the world into a global village where events in one region affect the rest of the world. In addition to serving their educational and instructive purposes, the technologies employed for information distribution influence the views of adherents of various religions and civilizations.

The need to promote goodwill and dialogue amongst all religions has so multiplied, especially in light of the peculiar nature of the threats to international peace and order. All of the prior attempts were unsuccessful. The great Mughal emperor Akbar the Great created his own Divine Religion, in an effort to unite Muslims and Hindus. This was a strange method of integration, and it ultimately failed. The idea of combining Ram, the Hindu god and Raheem, the Muslim god) also failed. These initiatives failed because of their unrealistic strategy, which was perceived as an effort to obliterate both religions' identities by imposing a single, uniform theological structure. The global religions provide a practical philosophy of interreligious communication. It acknowledges the plurality of ideologies. Only when one appreciates and embraces the plurality of opinions, creeds, and ideologies held by others can the policy of tolerance, respect, and love be implemented. To build a good society, differences do not need to be eliminated. To create a society that is peaceful and harmonious among its members, it is crucial to comprehend contradictions and a lack of uniformity.

It is important to acknowledge that the followers of every religion have their unique beliefs and practices, and no one should be allowed to denounce or disrespect them under any pretext.

This sentiment is echoed in the United Nations' No one shall be subject to pressure which would affect his freedom to have a religion or believe of his choice, according to the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or believe"(Article 4) . This declaration also underscores the importance of promoting mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect among different religions and beliefs.

In today's interconnected world, where diversity is more prevalent than ever before, it is crucial to embrace the principle of respecting others' beliefs. By doing so, we can create a more harmonious and peaceful world, where people of different religions and backgrounds can coexist without fear of persecution or discrimination. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change, as Mahatma Gandhi once stated. Does the way the world views someone change as he changes his own nature? In conclusion, the principle of respecting individuals' beliefs and creeds is a fundamental aspect of human rights and is essential for building a more just and equitable world. By implementing this principle in our daily lives and promoting mutual understanding and respect among different religions and cultures, we can create a more harmonious and peaceful world for all.

### Logical philosophy

Islam offers a practical framework for interreligious dialogue. It accepts that there are many different ideas. The practice of tolerance, respect, and love can only be put into practice when one recognizes and welcomes the diversity of beliefs, ideologies, and points of view held by others. It is not necessary to remove distinctions in order to create a good society. Understanding contradictions and a lack of consistency is essential if society is to be peaceful and harmonious among

its members. Only once a person has a deep understanding of the differences and diversity can one develop respect for different religions and creeds. This provides the framework for bringing together various sects and religions. Devine religion has developed an important philosophy in this area that suggests the necessity to create harmony among individuals rather than among religions because religious differences are inherent and cannot be wished away. The principle that every individual has the right to their own beliefs and creeds, regardless of their religion or background, is crucial for overcoming the predicaments we face today. Everyone has the right to freedom of mind, conscience, and religion, which includes the ability to change one's faith or believe, as stated in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which upholds the freedom of religion, opinion, and conscience without hindrance or pressure of any form, serves as more support for this notion.

### **Global Collaboration**

Understanding their differences allows one to stress the similarities between religions. Education, anatomy, social and welfare services, climate change, social security, research and technology, multiculturalism, and peacekeeping are just a few of the fields where cooperation necessitates international partnerships and collaborations. Religious peace has been prevalent throughout Islamic history. Islam has played a significant role in fostering interaction and dialogue between people of different faiths and cultures. The first Islamic State, founded by the creator of Islam, was a prime example of harmony and peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect. There, adherents of three different religions coexisted. To live in peace and put an end to terrorism and extremism, followers of many religions and faiths must band together and open the channels of communication and engagement in future.

We are given the only route forward on the road to lasting peace, harmony, and progress by this ecumenical process.

### **Role of President UPF Austria**

Peter Haider, the President of the Austrian chapter of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), is a well-known peace campaigner who has dedicated his life to promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding. Born in Austria in 1954, Phaidler has a deep passion for South Korean culture and language, which he has studied extensively over the years. In 1984, he founded the "Forum Religion und Weltgestaltung," a platform for interfaith discussion and understanding. Through this forum, Phaidler has worked tirelessly to bring people of different faiths and backgrounds together to promote mutual respect and understanding, and to foster greater social cohesion and harmony. Today, he continues to be a leading voice in the global peace movement, advocating for greater dialogue and cooperation among people of all faiths and cultures. It sounds like he has been involved in promoting cross-cultural exchange and understanding through his work with the Family Federation for World Peace. The organization's mission is to promote peace, unity, and family values across cultures and nations. It's great to see individuals like Mr. Haider actively working towards these goals.

That is impressive! Mr. Peter and his colleagues are doing important work towards promoting peace and understanding between nations and religions. The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) is a global network that has been actively involved in organizing various events and initiatives to promote peace and harmony around the world. By organizing events such as peace education programs, world music concerts, and cultural events, Mr. Peter and his team are fostering greater understanding and respect between different communities and promoting peaceful coexistence. The fact that they have organized over 300 events in Vienna, Austria alone is a testament to their commitment and dedication to their cause.

In addition to their local efforts, organizing conferences in the UN Office in Vienna is also a significant achievement. The UN is a crucial platform for global cooperation and peace-building, and by engaging with the organization, Mr. Peter and his colleagues are able to raise awareness and advocate for their cause on an international level. Overall, Mr. Peter's work with UPF in Austria is commendable, and it is

heartening to see individuals and organizations working tirelessly towards promoting peace and understanding in our world today.

Thank you for providing more context. The person you are referring to is most likely Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the wife of the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon and the co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). Dr. Moon is known for her work in promoting interfaith and intercultural dialogue, as well as her efforts to engage political and civic leaders in the pursuit of peace. The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) and the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) are both initiatives of the UPF aimed at fostering collaboration between parliamentarians and religious leaders to promote peacebuilding and sustainable development. These organizations have held conferences and events around the world, bringing together leaders from different faiths and political backgrounds to discuss shared goals and challenges.

### Final findings

We must recognize that non-state actors constitute a threat to world peace by seeking to impose their virulently discriminatory and radicalized brand of religion on others. They utilize the honourable name of faiths to defend their otherwise wrongdoing behaviour. If we organize interfaith discourse as a global movement and create bridges between people, we can combat these enemies

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