

PRESS RELEASE

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Major International Conference Addresses Difficult Inter-faith Topics to Promote Harmony

International Conference on 'Religion, Conflict, and Peace - is slated for **April 8-10** in **Dearborn, Mich. USA**

- An international conference aimed at increasing harmony between and within religions is being held April 8-10 at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan. Common Bond Institute (CBI), Pathways To Peace Foundation, Henry Ford Community College, and International Humanistic Psychology Association, are organizing the **3rd Annual International Conference on "Religion, Conflict, and Peace: Walking The Talk to Compassion and Harmony."** The 3-day event is an official partner and event of the **Charter For Compassion** and the **Parliament of World Religions**. Open to everyone, it is meant to raise public awareness and stimulate proactive efforts to improve relations between and within communities, attracting participants from across the United States and other countries. More than 40 presenters will be on hand to explore a broad range of difficult questions and dilemmas, as well as avenues to enhance understanding, compassion, and peace.

The conference emphasizes direct personal engagement and aims to create a critical mass to promote wider public dialogue on challenges of extremism, intolerance, polarization, scapegoating, and Islamophobia, as well as the promise of understanding, harmony, and a shared consciousness of peace. "Our goal is to promote the religious experience as a healing remedy rather than problem" said Steve Olweean, director of CBI and coordinator of the conference. "To do this it is important to look within ourselves as well as at other religions."

"The reality is religious communities share both common dilemmas and capacity to transform these dilemmas into a shared consciousness of peace; one based on understanding, familiarity, and appreciation, not fear of the unknown Other," Olweean said. "We each carry a piece of the problem and a piece of the solution, so engaging each other in compassionate dialogue is not only reasonable, increasingly it's absolutely essential."

The dynamics and struggles addressed are universal for all religious communities exposed to targeted intolerance, marginalization, and scapegoating historically. As just a current example, the recent experience of the Muslim community in the US is explored. Examples of other topics addressed in the program include intergenerational trauma and mutual victim identities, anti-Semitism, race, Yoga and its Hindu Origins, pluralism, school culture, and Tectonic Leadership. A student roundtable on "Personal Story Through Social Media As A Door To Compassion And Bridging Divides" will include students from Israel, Jordan, and communities in SE Michigan.

Featured at the conference will be an array of leading presenters and authors, including Huston Smith and Rabbi David Rosen, and live, 2-way global link-ups with participating groups in other countries. The RCP Conference has been established as an annual event in Michigan since 2009.

Registration is open to all. Information about the program, registration, and fees are available online at www.cbiworld.org, Email at SOlweean@aol.com, or telephone at **269-665-9393**.

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