

# **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Conference on Religion, Conflict, and Peace: Walking The Talk To Compassion And Harmony**

**June 11-13, 2010 ~ Dearborn, Michigan USA**

**A Multi-disciplinary, Multi-cultural Conference**

**Official Partner of the Parliament of World Religions and the Charter For Compassion**

**Sponsored by:** Common Bond Institute ([www.cbiworld.org](http://www.cbiworld.org))  
**Co-Sponsored by:** International Humanistic Psychology Association (IHPA), Henry Ford Community College, Parashakthi Temple, Council of Islamic Organizations of Michigan, Pathways To Peace Foundation, 20,000 Dialogues, Muslim Presence Ottawa,  
**Endorsed by:** A growing number of universities and organizations internationally

## **Registration is Open to All**

***An international forum promoting Inter-religious and Intra-religious dialogue to explore the challenges of Extremism, Intolerance, Scapegoating, and Islamophobia, and the promise of Reason, Understanding, Compassion, and Cultural Harmony.***

The spiritual experience is both uniquely individual and universal, tapping into our deepest, most inner self, while connecting us to the oneness with all. How each of us chooses our own sometimes quite different path on this common journey can highlight an appreciation for the rich diversity of human sacred practice, while at the same time setting the stage for the potential hazards of elitism, competition, polarity, and even animosity that paradoxically negate the core message of unity, and hamper us on that journey.

Religious intolerance, marginalization, scapegoating, and related conflict are not new experiences, whether in the US or globally. Many examples are woven throughout our human history that highlight both the unique circumstances of individual religious groups, and the broader commonality shared by all who have been on either side of such supposedly fundamental divides. In addition, dichotomies and conflicts within spiritual traditions themselves, including extremist interpretations and interpolations of religious tenets and practice, are also historical and present day dilemmas for many religions. Although the dynamics and struggles are universal for all religious communities exposed to these ills, a more recent example in American society is the experience of Islam and the Muslim community.

Understanding how these elements and conditions arise, how they compromise, contradict, and even threaten original spiritual intent, and how they wound relationships between and within religious communities, is essential to learning practical methods for appreciating diversity and achieving harmony and peace in today's rapidly shrinking and increasingly inter-dependant world community.

The RCP Conference seeks to create an engaged, inclusive dialogue to consciously explore both broader historical dynamics, implications, and possible remedies, and more recent manifestations playing out around us in society today.

*"It does not require that we be the same to be appreciative of, at peace with, and secure in our relationships with each other; only that we be familiar enough with each others story to share the humanity and trustworthiness that resides in each of us."*

### **JOIN US as we explore:**

- ◆ The mutual dilemmas of religious ignorance, extremism, intolerance, negative stereotypes, prejudice, demonization and dehumanization, scapegoating, and fear of "the other," that can lead to toxic divisiveness, polarization, and social paranoia, including the current example of Islamophobia and it's impact on the Muslim community, and
- ◆ The promise of personal engagement through dialogue in nurturing a shared consciousness of peace - and in doing so promoting the religious experience as a healing remedy rather than problem.

**Itinerary:** An outstanding, international, and diverse gathering of presenters for a 3-Day Itinerary of keynotes, topical panels, workshops, dialogue groups, on-site podcasting, multicultural community, rich networking, and exhibits,

**Location:** Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, Michigan

**Guidelines For Compassionate Dialogue:** The RCP Conference strives to promote an inclusive, compassionate dialogue honoring different experiences, perspectives, and stories, while allowing for better expressing and listening to each other as we work together toward understanding and harmony. Our intention is to create an open, supportive venue to genuinely engage meaningfully, and invite in public dialogue that brings joint wisdom to bear in exploring sometimes difficult issues, misunderstandings, and even conflicts that effect us all. We ask all participants to assist us by carrying and expressing this intent throughout the conference.

**See details at RCP Conference website:** [http://www.cbiworld.org/Pages/Conferences\\_RCP.htm](http://www.cbiworld.org/Pages/Conferences_RCP.htm)

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