



# List of Speakers

International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD)

## Annual Forum on Religion and Sustainable Development 2022

*Faith and Partnerships in Addressing the Climate Crisis*

Speaker	Short biography	Programme
 <p><b>Dr Husna Ahmad</b> CEO Global One</p>	<p>Dr Husna Ahmad OBE is the CEO of Global One 2015, the Secretary General of the World Muslim Leadership Forum and the Coordinator for the Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation (ANSSC). She has a PhD in International Environmental Law from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University, is an honorary Fellow of the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion, Birmingham University and has presented many papers internationally on faith and the environment. She is a member of several renowned platforms including the Multi- Faith Advisory Council to the UN Inter-agency Task Force on Religion and Development and serves on several leadership bodies including the Advisory Board of the Faith Leader Training Initiative under the UK Minister of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Faith for the Climate, and Palmers Green Mosque (the MCEC). She was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2010 for her work promoting social justice with disadvantaged communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Power, Gender and Locally-led Adaption: Unlocking the Power of Faith-Based Partnerships</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Prof. Dr. H. Kamaruddin Amin, M.A.</b> Director General Islamic Community Guidance Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs</p>	<p>Prof. Dr. Phil. H. Kamaruddin Amin, M.A is the Director General of Islamic Community Guidance of the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs since 16 March 2020. He has previously acted as Director General of Islamic Education from 2014 to 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urgent Rescue Effort for the SDGs – Unpacking Conclusions of the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 and Localising the ‘Decade of Action’ Using a Diverse Lens</li> </ul>



**Nobuyuki Asai**

Soka Gakkai International

Nobuyuki Asai is Director at Soka Gakkai International. The Soka Gakkai is a diverse global community of individuals in 192 countries and territories who practice Nichiren Buddhism.

- From Belief into Action: Stories of Religious-Based Climate Action



**Dr Veronique Barbelet**

Research Associate with the Humanitarian Policy Group at Overseas Development Institute

Dr. Veronique Barbelet is a political scientist by training with a particular interest in humanitarian policy, humanitarian negotiations with armed non-state actors, conflict and security, protection, gender-based violence and livelihoods. Previously she worked at Geneva Call and at the World Food Programme as a protection policy officer with a focus on humanitarian policy.

In the last two years, Veronique has led the Humanitarian Policy Group's (HPG) research on capacity and complementarity between local and international actors and has written extensively on the issue of localisation. Veronique is currently leading HPG's research on inclusion and exclusion in humanitarian action. In the past, Veronique's research at HPG has focused on humanitarian access, refugee livelihoods and long-term solutions to refugee situations, as well as protection.

- Localisation and Faith Actors in Crisis Response



**Mindahi Bastida**

Director of the Original Nations Program  
The Fountain  
Member of the Mother Earth Delegation

Mindahi Bastida is the Director of the Original Nations Program at The Fountain, member of the Mother Earth Delegation, executive member of the Alliance Guardians of Mother Earth and a spokesperson of the Grand Council of the Eagle and the Condor. He serves as General Coordinator of the Otomi Regional Council of the High Lerma River Basin, Mexico, which promotes the rights of nature and Mother Earth, and the rights to original nations' self-determination. Mindahi has served as a delegate to various commissions and summits on indigenous rights and sustainability, has been invited to partake in several advisory councils, and has written on the relation between the state and Indigenous Peoples, intercultural education, collective intellectual property rights and associated traditional knowledge, biocultural sacred sites, and other topics. He was Director of the Original Caretakers Program at the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York City between 2015 and 2020.

- Care for Mother Earth – Spiritual and Indigenous Understandings of Pollution and Environmental Protection and Learning for the Future



**Dr. Andrea Benzo**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Italy

Dr Andrea Benzo has been Italy's first-ever Special Envoy for FoRB Protection and Interreligious Dialogues since June 2022. As a career diplomat, he served in the Italian Embassies in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) and Cairo (Egypt). Prior to that, he was the Deputy European Correspondent at the Italian MFA. He holds a PhD in Canon and Ecclesiastical Law.

- Remarks from Dr. Andrea Benzo, Italian Commissioner for Freedom of Religion and Belief, with Q&A



**Rabbi Jeff Berger**

Rabbi Jeff Berger is an interfaith advisor, a broadcaster, a writer, a thought innovator, a public speaker, a chaplain, a pastoral carer, and a friend. Since 2018 he has been involved with Interfaith outreach and efforts to build bridges of understanding and compassion between and among Faith Leaders in the UK and further afield. In 2016, Rabbi Jeff was an International Fellow in the KAICIID Programme. He had previously participated in the Ariane de Rothschild and the Cambridge Co-exist Leadership Programmes. In 2009, Rabbi Jeff helped found the Rambam Sephardi Synagogue, supported by a growing community and a dedicated and committed Board of Honorary Officers. He served there for a decade as its spiritual and pastoral leader. Originally from New York, Jeff is among the first graduates of the Judith Lady Montefiore Semikha Programme, set up by the Spanish and Portuguese community, to train new centrist Orthodox rabbis for British Jewry.

- Urgent Rescue Effort for the SDGs – Unpacking Conclusions of the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 and Localising the 'Decade of Action' Using a Diverse Lens



**Ben Bowler**  
Executive Director  
Earth Initiative

Ben Bowler is the Executive Director of UNITY EARTH, a global network building a worldwide movement for unity and peace. He and his wife, Jildou, were volunteering along the Thai-Myanmar border, when they founded Blood Foundation, an education NGO in 2008. In the same year, Ben founded Monk for a Month in Chiang Mai offering men and women the opportunity to experience Thai temple life and temporary ordination. In 2010, Ben launched Muslim for a Month in Turkey offering guests a first-hand experience of Turkish Islam and Sufism underneath the spiritually inclusivity Rumi. A year later, he launched World Weavers, offering spiritual immersion programs in Tibetan India, Nepal, Cambodia, and Ethiopia. In October 2015, at the Parliament of World Religions, Ben launched 1GOD.com, an online platform countering religious fundamentalism, relativism and western materialism. Since then, he has worked to build UNITY EARTH into a global platform that can support and empower grassroots movements working towards unity and peace in the world.

- Care for Mother Earth – Spiritual and Indigenous Understandings of Pollution and Environmental Protection and Learning for the Future



**Prof Uwe Brandes**  
Georgetown University

Uwe S. Brandes is professor of the practice, faculty director of the Urban & Regional Planning Program, faculty director of the Georgetown Global Cities Initiative and affiliated faculty in the Science, Technology, and International Affairs program at the Walsh School of Foreign Service. Professor Brandes is a distinguished scholar-practitioner in the field of urban design and sustainable urban development, with more than 25 years of experience in the planning, design, and development of new buildings, the public realm, and development partnerships. Professor Brandes serves on the District of Columbia Climate Change and Resilience Commission, and the advisory boards of the Urban Land Institute Center of Sustainability and Economic Performance, and the World Economic Forum's Cities and Urbanization Initiative.

- Working towards Setting Science-Based Targets for Faith Actors: The Example of the Emission Survey Developed by the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, and the World Resources Institute



**Merylene Chitharai**  
Founder and Activist  
Religions for Peace Interfaith Youth Climate Forum

Merylene Chitharai serves Religions for Peace. Based in Durban, South Africa, she is obtaining her Bachelor of Architecture Studies Degree while working as a graphic artist, 3-D designer and architectural technologist. As a faith-inspired climate youth activist with 15 years of experience in social justice and sustainable architecture work she has created the Religions for Peace Interfaith Youth Climate Forum and is engaged in various youth climate programs. She is actively engaging in topics and projects on leadership, service, spirituality and religion in various networks and organizations such as Hindu Youth Network of South Africa, Religions for Peace Global Interfaith Youth Network, African Interfaith Youth Network, and others. Since 2013, she has contributed to various international Religions for Peace Conferences. Belonging to Hari Bhakta Sampradaya, and practicing Atma Kriya Yoga she has undertaken many spiritual retreats and pilgrimages with her Satguru, Paramahansa Vishwananda.

- Closing Session: Youth Actor Representatives on Concrete Recommendations for Next Steps



**Yudhistir Govinda Das**  
Director of Communications  
International Society for Krishna Consciousness

Yudhistir Govinda Das is an ordained monk, spiritual teacher and Country Director of Communications for the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in India. He holds a graduate degree in communications and journalism and a postgraduate diploma in intellectual property law. As the Director of Communications of one of the largest Hindu organizations in the world, he regularly interacts with heads of state, scholars, journalists and ambassadors, and is responsible for the public interface and outreach of 225 temples, educational and cultural centers of ISKCON in India. Within ISKCON, he teaches the members and leaders of the organization on various subjects including communications and interreligious dialogue. He is also a part of the international team that organizes the annual Vaishnava-Christian and Vaishnava-Muslim dialogues.

- Zooming into National/Local Climate Emergencies



**David Efendi**  
Ulama Council, Muhammadiyah, Indonesia

David Efendi is a young lecturer at the governmental department in Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta. His second Masters in political Science was from University of Hawaii at Manoa. Now, he is a researcher at the JKSG UMY and LSN. His research interests are Local Politic, decentralization, everyday politics, Nationalism, social movement, local election, political Islam, electoral politics, and so on.

- From Belief into Action: Stories of Religious-Based Climate Action



**Frederique Seidel**  
World Council of Churches

Frederique Seidel is the WCC Programme Executive for Child Rights and Manager of the WCC-UNICEF Partnership. Her initiative for climate justice for and with children and youth was awarded with the Keeling Curve Prize in 2019. She has worked in various countries for UNICEF, as a Deputy Representative, Child Rights Education Programme Manager, Communication Specialist and Head of Field Office. Earlier she served as a spokesperson for the UN and the OSCE in post-war Balkans and as a journalist for Deutsche Welle TV in Germany. Frederique Seidel collaborates in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children since 2017. She advocates for the integration of climate solutions into operations of all organisations which care about children, and the recognition of the eco-anxiety as an unintended form of violence against children. Her current research focuses on climate-responsible finance as an efficient and vital measure for child protection. She promotes peacebuilding through the Churches' Commitments to Children and inter-religious collaboration. Seidel holds a Master's degree of Sociology of the Sorbonne and Freie Universität Berlin and specialized in Educational Science and International Relations at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris.

- From Climate Doom to Climate Hope: Disrupting the Stories we Tell about Climate Change



**Dr Thorsten Göbel**

Director of Programmes  
ACT Alliance

Dr. Thorsten Göbel has been a member of the Core Management Team leading the ACT Secretariat's programmatic work since 2018. He manages the team responsible for humanitarian assistance, sustainable development and advocacy action, deputizes for the General Secretary, and represents ACT Alliance in numerous external bodies and meetings. Previously, Thorsten Göbel worked as Head of the Policy, Dialogue and Theology Division of Bread for the World and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, in Berlin and Stuttgart, leading the team that coordinated lobby and advocacy work in Berlin and Brussels, and that functioned as a think-tank on a variety of policy issues, inter alia humanitarian policy. Earlier experience includes working in a CSR department of a transnational corporation, and university teaching assignments. Thorsten studied International Relations at the universities of Tübingen (Germany) and Geneva (Switzerland), and at the Graduate Institute of International Relations in Geneva. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science, as well as a Master's degree in International Relations.

- Power, Gender and Locally-led Adaption: Unlocking the Power of Faith-Based Partnerships



**Rev Fletcher Harper**

Executive Director  
GreenFaith

Rev. Fletcher Harper is the Executive Director of GreenFaith. A pioneer in the global faith-based environmental movement, he is at the forefront of the faith-based fossil fuel divestment movement, organises faith participation in major climate mobilisations, and is co-founder of Shine, an international campaign supporting women and community-led renewable energy access initiatives in Africa and India.

- From Belief into Action: Stories of Religious-Based Climate Action



**Rahmawati Husein**

Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center  
Indonesia

Rahmawati Husein is the Deputy Chairperson of the Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Centre (MDMC) in Indonesia, which is a disaster management and humanitarian-focused organisation that stems from one of Indonesia's largest Muslim organisations – Muhammadiyah.

- Localisation and Faith Actors in Crisis Response





**Mayssam Imad**  
Head of Education Unit  
Adyan Foundation

Mayssam Imad is Head of Adyan's Education Unit. The goal of the Education Unit is to ensure inclusive formal and non-formal school programs, conduct research and contribute to curriculum development for active citizenship and cultural and religious diversity.

- Religious Tradition's Role in Confronting the Climate Crisis



**Rafiqul Islam**  
Caritas Bangladesh

Rafiqul Islam is a Development professional with more than 9 years of experience in different positions in Caritas Bangladesh and the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science. In his different management and technical positions he has been responsible for project designing, planning, implementation of activity, providing technical support, financial and administrative management, activity monitoring and facilitation of training.

- Localisation and Faith Actors in Crisis Response



**Muhamaad Israr,**  
President and CEO  
International Research  
Council for Religious  
Affairs

Muhamaad Israr (Madani) holds a degree of religious studies as well as MS in educational planning and management. He also studied "Religion & Culture Conflict" at Drew University, New Jersey, USA. He heads a think tank based in Islamabad by the name International Research Council for Religious Affairs since 2013. He promotes sectarian harmony in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He is also working on different democratic models, such as of Tunisia, Malaysia, and Indonesia to promote democratic values in Pakistan and Afghanistan. He frequently organizes activities in the field of sectarian harmony, democratic pluralism and inter-religious dialogue. He has hosted programs on national and regional TV channels on a wide range of topics such as religion and cultural conflict, inter-faith harmony, conflict transformation and culture of dialogue.

- Zooming into National/Local Climate Emergencies



**Rev Petter Jakobsson**  
Advisor  
SMC-faith in develop-  
ment

Rev Petter Jakobsson is an advisor at the Swedish organisation SMC-Faith in Development. He is an ordained minister in the Uniting Church of Sweden and holds a Masters in Education and Development from the University of Bristol. He focuses on training for religious literacy and religions and development as well as missiology. Over the last years he has been involved in production of resource materials around religious literacy for both faith based and secular organisations.

- Launch Event: Online Training in Religious Literacy



**Vijayendra Kadalabal**

Hindus for Human Rights

Vijayendra Kadalabal is a Youth Organizer and an activist with over 7 years' experience in working with marginalised youth across India. His journey from his native Village 'Kadalabal' in Karnataka to the interiors of Indian states of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand has given him a diverse in depth understanding of rural communities. Vijayendra is also a Caux Scholar & pursued his MSc in International Development: Poverty, Conflict and Reconstruction from The University of Manchester as a Chevening Scholar. He has a Master's in Social Work Specialising in Community Organisation & Development Practices from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai and Masters in Financial Economics from Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics (GIPE), Pune.

A keen learner and believing in continuous peer learning, Vijay currently leads a youth movement "Yuva Shakti" in India and serves as a Board of Director for Hindus for Human Rights.

- Religious Tradition's Role in Confronting the Climate Crisis



**Andrea Kaufmann**

Senior Advisor, Faith and External Engagement

World Vision International

PaRD Co-Lead

Andrea Kaufmann is senior advisor for faith and external engagement at World Vision International, where she previously served as director of faith partnerships for development. Prior to joining World Vision International, Andrea worked at World Relief and Counterpart International.

- PaRD in Conversation: Ramping up the Contributions of Religious Actors to Respond to the Climate Emergency



**Mejindarpal Kaur**

International Legal Director

UNITED SIKHS

PaRD Steering Group member

Mejindarpal Kaur has international advocacy experience spanning 20 years particularly for religious freedom rights for minorities. Currently, Mejindarpal works with UNITED SIKHS, a civil and human rights, humanitarian relief and empowerment and education NGO with chapters in 10 countries spanning Asia, Europe, North America, Africa and Australasia.

- FoRB and Peace – A Necessary Intersection in Exceptional Times!





**Dr Susan Kerr**

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Dr Susan Kerr is the Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw. Susan has over 15 years of European public affairs experience. Prior to working at ODIHR, Susan engaged in consultancy work, including for the FoRB Learning Platform. She led the Europe office of CSW, a human rights organization that specializes in freedom of religion or belief, served on the Board of Coordinators of the European Platform against Religious Intolerance and Discrimination (EPRID), and worked in different roles within the European Parliament. She is a Senior Research Fellow at the Religious Freedom and Business Foundation and a member of the Board of Mentors of Polylogos Association. Susan holds a PhD in Peace Studies from the University of Bradford, and post-graduate degrees in Business Administration from Durham University, International Politics from the Free University of Brussels, and in Modern European Languages and European Union Studies from the University of Edinburgh.

- Launch Event: Online Training in Religious Literacy



**Anne Kioi**

Programmes Development and Fundraising Officer  
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)

Ann Kioi is the Programmes Development and Fundraising Officer at the All-Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), in Nairobi, Kenya. She holds a Master's Degree in Gender and Development Studies from the University of Nairobi, Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the United States International University (USIU), and a post graduate diploma in Business Information Technology. Ann is a gender and development specialist with 15 years' work experience working at the AACC. She has worked in various capacities in programmes work at the AACC in areas of Gender and Women, Peace and Reconciliation, Theology, Family Life and Gender Justice as well as in handling different women empowerment projects at the AACC.

- Power, Gender and Locally-led Adaption: Unlocking the Power of Faith-Based Partnerships



**Dr. Martin Kopp**

Chair at Commission on Ecology and Climate Justice  
French Protestant Federation

Dr. Martin Kopp helps coordinate GreenFaith's work on personal behaviour change and engagement with French-speaking and European faith groups. His doctoral thesis was on de-growth and ecotheology (University of Strasbourg, France), and he consults on this topic with religious and secular groups in France and beyond. He served as the Climate Justice Advocacy Officer of the Lutheran World Federation and chairs the Commission on Ecology and Climate Justice of the French Protestant Federation.

- From Belief into Action: Stories of Religious-Based Climate Action



**Brigita Ra Sekar Laras**

Information & Communication Officer

Yakkum Emergency Unit and a member of the ACT Youth CoP

Brigita Sekar has been an Information and Communication Officer at YAKKUM (Christian Foundation for Public) Health Emergency Unit, Indonesia since 2020. YAKKUM serves disaster-affected, remote, and disadvantaged areas in various provinces in Indonesia through 13 Hospitals, 12 Clinics, 3 Institute of Health Science, 3 Humanitarian units (public health empowerment, disability rehabilitation center, and disaster emergency unit). Brigita Sekar was involved in YEU disaster responses in Central Sulawesi's Earthquake-Tsunami-Liquefaction, COVID-19 Response in Yogyakarta Province, and emergency response at East Java's Mount Semeru Eruption. She is closely working with the diverse cultural and faith community, including women grassroots in rural and urban settings in demonstrating women leadership and strengthening community resilience through locally-led and inclusive initiatives to manage disaster risk and adapt to climate change. She is also a youth representative who is a member of ACT Alliance Youth COP.

- Power, Gender and Locally-led Adaption: Unlocking the Power of Faith-Based Partnerships



**Floyd Lalwet**

Provincial Secretary  
Episcopal Church

Floyd Lalwet is currently the Provincial Secretary of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines as well as the National Development Officer and head of the Episcopal CARE Foundation. Being a lawyer, he also serves as Chancellor and General Counsel for the ECP. He lectures on Canon Law at St. Andrew's Theological Seminary and is also a private law practitioner.

- Working towards Setting Science-Based Targets for Faith Actors



**Baraka Lenga**

Tanzania Country Representative  
GreenFaith International

Baraka Lenga is a young climate change scientist and livelihoods expert, currently working as a representative of GreenFaith's Tanzanian chapter. Baraka is also a striker for Fridays For Future - Tanzania, calling on business leaders and politicians to take urgent action against climate disruption. He is currently campaigning against the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and fossil fuel investments around the globe.

- From Belief into Action: Stories of Religious-Based Climate Action



**Erin Lothes**

Theological Expert  
Laudato Si Movement-  
Rome

Erin Lothes, PhD is Senior Program Manager, Laudato Si Animators Program with the Laudato Si Movement, a Theologian at Saint Elizabeth University, Morristown, NJ., a researcher in Energy Ethics, and scholar of the faith-based environmental movement. Dr. Lothes served as Earth Institute Fellow at Columbia University and is the author of *Inspired Sustainability: Planting Seeds for Action* (Orbis 2016) and *The Paradox of Christian Sacrifice: The Loss of Self, the Gift of Self* (Herder and Herder, 2007). She has advocated for research on the moral dimension of fossil fuel divestment and participated in the activism and scholarship of the interfaith environmental movement since 2003 with groups such as GreenFaith, the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, the Catholic Climate Covenant, and the Global Catholic Climate Movement. Dr. Lothes holds a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Fordham University, a Master's in Theology from Boston College, and an A.B. in English from Princeton University.

- Religious Tradition's Role in Confronting the Climate Crisis



**Jyoti Ma**

Spiritual Teacher

Jyoti Ma is an internationally renowned spiritual teacher. She has cultivated projects that demonstrate ways of life that honour the Earth and all Peoples. She is the founder of The Fountain (<https://thefountain.earth>). Its mission is to restore an economic model that is based on reciprocity and collaboration guided by Nature and the Sacred. Currently, as a Delegate of the Mother Earth Delegation of United Original Nations, a collaboration with the Fountain has grown, creating a global movement for and with the Earth that is ready to activate the New Day.

- Care for Mother Earth – Spiritual and Indigenous Understandings of Pollution and Environmental Protection and Learning for the Future



**Imam Shefiu Abdulkareem Majemu**

Founder and Co-Executive Director  
Strength in Diversity  
Development Centre

Imam Shefiu Abdulkareem Majemu, an indigene of Lagos State from Epe, is the Chief Imam of the Islamic Platform Society of Nigeria and the Lagos State Public Service Staff Development Centre (PSSDC), Magodo GRA, Lagos; Founder and Co-Executive Director of the Strength in Diversity Development Centre and the Farmers Advocacy and Support Initiative in Nigeria; the National Co-Coordinator of the Interreligious Coalition Against Corruption; the Interfaith Partnership for Sustainable Development in Nigeria and the Chief Executive Officer of the Open Farm and Agro-allied Company Limited. He studied Arabic and Islamic studies at the Usmanu Dan Fodio University, Sokoto and holds a B.Sc. in Advertising and Public Relations and M.Sc. in Communication Studies at the Lagos State University, Ojo. He is currently a Ph.D. Research student at the same University. He is alumnus of the U.S International Visitors Leadership Programme 2010, USIP, Geneva Centre for Security Studies, Harvard Divinity School and the Berlin Centre for Diplomacy and Cultural Studies.

- Religious Tradition's Role in Confronting the Climate Crisis



**Dr Fachruddin Mangunjaya**

Chairman  
Centre for Islamic  
Studies, Universitas  
Nasional Indonesia

Dr. Fachruddin M. Mangunjaya is an environmentalist, author, senior lecturer at the School of Graduate Program Universitas Nasional, and the Chairman of the Centre for Islamic Studies Universitas Nasional. He holds a Master's in Conservation Biology from the University of Indonesia and a PhD in Environmental Management and Natural Resources from Bogor Agricultural University. Dr. Mangunjaya is a drafting member for the Islamic Declaration for Global Climate Change in Istanbul (2015), a Scholar Member of Al-Mizan Convenance for The Earth, a member of the Advisory Group for Forum on Religion and Ecology, University of Yale, Advisory for Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation (Yayasan Kehati), member of IUCN-WCPA Specialist Group in Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas, an Advisory member of SiagaBumi (Environment and Interfaith in Indonesia), and a member of the Council Interfaith Rainforest Initiative (IRI) Indonesia. He is the author of 30 books and chapters, one of the leading eco-activists in the Muslim world, and an independent consultant for several institutions such as UNDP, UNEP and Islamic Science Education Cultural Organization ISESCO, Rabat, Morocco.

- Religious Tradition's Role in Confronting the Climate Crisis



**Rev Jacky Manuputty**

General Secretary  
Indonesian Church Association (PGI)

Rev. Fritz Manuputty is General Secretary of the Indonesian Church Association (PGI). PGI is the largest organisation of Christian Churches in Indonesia and is instrumental in addressing national issues as they relate to the Christian communities.

- Interfaith Movements Responding to the Climate Crisis: Why does Religion Matter?



**Andrés Martínez**

Program Manager  
Religion and Inclusive  
Societies at the U.S. Institute of Peace

Andrés Martínez is Program Manager for Religion and Inclusive Societies at the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he leads the Religious and Psychosocial Support for Displaced Trauma Survivors project in Colombia and Venezuela, which seeks to facilitate effective collaboration between religious actors and mental health professionals who offer support to conflict-affected communities — particularly displaced persons who have experienced trauma. Prior to joining USIP, he was the Colombia Country Director at Creative Learning, where he managed local and international peacebuilding programs. Prior to that, Andrés was the program director at the International Peace & Security Institute in Washington, D.C., responsible for the planning and implementation of peace education programs in areas such as mediation, negotiation, resilience, and conflict transformation. Andrés received his Master's in Gender and Peacebuilding from the United Nations University for Peace. He holds a graduate degree in Conflict Resolution and is a certified psychologist from Javeriana University.

- Faith-Sensitive Psychosocial Support for Persons Affected by Climate-Related Displacement and Conflict: An interactive discussion



**Rev Dr Rachel Mash**  
Environmental Coordinator  
Anglican Church of  
Southern Africa

Rev Dr Rachel Mash is the environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (South Africa, Swaziland- Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique). She works with the Green Anglicans youth Movement which is taking off in Africa. She is also the secretary to the Anglican Communion Environmental Network and sits on the steering group of the Season of Creation group.

- Working towards Setting Science-Based Targets for Faith Actors: The Example of the Emission Survey Developed by the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, and the World Resources Institute



**Ann Maymann**  
Representative  
UNHCR Indonesia

Ann Maymann has been working for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since 1996. She is currently serving as UNHCR Representative to Indonesia. Ms. Maymann is from Denmark and she has a Master's Degree in International Development and French from Roskilde University, Denmark and a Master's Degree in Law of Armed Conflict from University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

- Localisation and Faith Actors in Crisis Response



**Dr. Iyad Abu Moghli**  
Founder and Director  
Faith for Earth Initiative

Dr. Iyad Abumoghli, Founder and Director of the Faith for Earth Initiative, has more than 38 years of experience with international organizations, the private sector, and scientific institutions. Dr. Abumoghli is the Lead Principal Advisor on Engaging with Faith-Based Organizations at UNEP. Previously Dr. Abumoghli held several leading positions including the Regional Director and Representative of UNEP in West Asia, Director of Knowledge and Innovation at UNDP's Regional Office for the Arab states, Global Practice Manager for the Energy and Environment Group in New York, Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP in Jordan. Dr. Abumoghli holds a doctorate degree in Bio-Chemical Engineering from the University of Bath/UK, and an outstanding graduate of the Virtual Development Academy - Johns University.

- Power, Gender and Locally-led Adaption: Unlocking the Power of Faith-Based Partnerships



**Najat Abdi Mohamed**  
Country Director  
Global One Kenya

Najat Abdi Mohamed is Country Director at Global One Kenya. Global One is a Muslim-women led NGO which believes in the power of women's contribution to sustainable global development.

- From Climate Doom to Climate Hope: Disrupting the Stories we Tell about Climate Change



**Howard Mollett**

Head of Humanitarian  
Policy  
CAFOD

Howard Mollett is Head of Humanitarian Policy at CAFOD. He is also a member of the Charter4Change Coordination and Advocacy Groups, and CAFOD currently hosts the Charter4Change secretariat. Charter4Change is a coalition of 35 INGO signatory and 234 national NGO endorser agencies promoting increased and better quality support to locally-led humanitarian response.

- Localisation and Faith Actors in Crisis Response



**Eleonora Mura**

HQ Team  
Arigatou International

Eleonora has worked for over 15 years in the field of International Development. She started as an intern for the Italian Embassy in Syria and later joined the MINURSO peace-keeping mission in Western Sahara. In 2011, Eleonora joined the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. Since 2016 Eleonora has supported Arigatou International's Ethics Education Program focusing on interfaith and intercultural education using a transformative pedagogy for peace and being in charge of onsite and online teacher training design, delivery and evaluation. As of 2020 Eleonora joined the Arigatou International HQ Team and is responsible for the coordination of Partnerships and Resource Mobilization. Eleonora has authored a number of handbooks, policy papers, advocacy booklets, training guides and other publications including the recent publication on Faith Sensitive MHPSS to foster resilience of Children on the Move. Eleonora currently coordinates the PaRD project on Faith Sensitive MHPSS and the organization of policy dialogues in four locations.

- Faith-Sensitive Psychosocial Support for Persons Affected by Climate-Related Displacement and Conflict: An interactive discussion





**Kirsten Laursen Muth**

CEO

Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI)

Kirsten Laursen Muth is CEO of the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI), an international collaboration on evidence for faith actors' activities, contributions, and challenges to achieving humanitarian and development goals. Under her leadership JLI has created an organization-wide Fair and Equitable approach seeking to confront asymmetries of power in research, knowledge production and dissemination. Previous positions include Special Advisor for Leadership Development and Senior Director for International Programs at Episcopal Relief & Development; Deputy Director of Programs at Church World Service; and Deputy Director of Training and Community Education at Helen Keller International. Specialized in social and behavior change, she has worked on global programs for onchocerciasis and trachoma control, micronutrient malnutrition, leadership development and multifaith engagement to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. She holds a Bachelor of Science, Foreign Service from Georgetown University, and a Master's Degree in Social Anthropology and Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. She is also a textile designer.

- Working towards Setting Science-Based Targets for Faith Actors: The Example of the Emission Survey Developed by the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, and the World Resources Institute



**Mercy Wambui Munene**

Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa

Mercy Wambui Munene is a recent graduate holding a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations, with a key focus on Development Studies. She is currently volunteering as a Core Team Member with the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA) and works as the Business Development Officer at ygap Kenya. She is passionate about amplifying the voices of women and youth in driving environmental and entrepreneurial sustainability through advocacy and capacity building. She is a member of the PaRD Steering Group.

- General Assembly of Members: Opening Session
- Closing Session: Youth Actor Representatives on Concrete Recommendations for Next Steps



**Ganga Nandini**

Director of Implementation  
Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA)

Ganga Nandini is a youth leader who serves with the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), as the Vice President of the Harijan Sevak Sangh of Uttarakhand, in various capacities of leadership in Ganga Action Parivar and Divine Shakti Foundation she dedicates her life to coordinate and implement various large-scale and multi-faceted initiatives, programmes and projects, especially in mobilising interfaith leaders and faith-based communities in India to work together towards the Sustainable Development Goals and towards environmental preservation. GIWA brings together the world's faiths as allies in ensuring every child around the world has access to safe, life-giving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). She was born and raised in Los Angeles, California and graduated from University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor's Degree in Molecular Cell Biology and Psychology.

- Zooming into National/Local Climate Emergencies



**Renáta Nelson**

Analyst, Project Manager, Researcher & Public Speaker

Renáta Nelson is an independent analyst, project manager, researcher and public speaker. As an expert in International Relations and Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, she has worked extensively to engage religious actors on countering hate speech, fostering inclusive societies and tackling global challenges. In her past role as Coordinator Officer at KAICIID, she represented the Centre on a wide range of international platforms. Ms. Nelson's research has included research projects on interreligious dialogue, education, monitoring and evaluation of interreligious peace-building, and the role of religious actors in contributing to the achievement of SDG16. She has a Master's of Advanced International Studies from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Rutgers University.

- Master of Ceremonies
- Opening Session



**Amanah Nurish**

Faculty Member  
University of Indonesia

Amanah Nurish is a faculty member at the University of Indonesia. She received her Ph.D from the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS), Gadjah Mada University – Yogyakarta, Indonesia. She is actively involved with several research projects as well as assessment for the program on religion, environment, development, and empowerment. Her special focus in the field of religious studies is on minority religions in Southeast Asia, especially the Baha'i community. She has been involved for many years with religious minority and interfaith issues. She intensively advocates for the civil rights of the Baha'i community, as a non-official religious community in Indonesia. She was a member of a Ford Foundation-sponsored research team on population, religion, and family planning that investigated target areas in Central Java. She has been a visiting research scholar at several outstanding universities such as: Utrecht University – The Netherlands, National University of Singapore, Chulalongkorn University - Thailand, and Temple University – United States, etc.

- Harnessing the Power of Religious Diversity in Indonesian Development Work



**Fred Nyabera**

Director

The Interfaith Initiative  
to End Child Poverty,  
Arigatou International

Fred Nyabera is the Director of the Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty at Arigatou International, as well as a course facilitator with the FORB Learning Platform. He serves on the PaRD Steering Group and The Moral Imperative Steering Committee - a World Bank convened initiative. He is a Social Scientist and a trained Theologian whose interest is in development work. He has extensive experience in faith-based peacebuilding and development, advancement of the Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), at the local, regional, and global levels. He has undertaken graduate and post graduate studies in Sociology, Anthropology, Divinity, Conflict Transformation and Organizational Leadership at the University of Nairobi, Union Biblical Seminary, India, Eastern Mennonites University, Virginia U.S.A and the Africa International University.

- Launch Event: Freedom of Religion and Belief for All
- Closing Session: Youth Actor Representatives on Concrete Recommendations for Next Steps



**Alberto Pallecchi**

Acting Director

World Resources Institute's Faith and Sustainability initiative

Alberto Pallecchi is acting Director of the World Resources Institute's Faith and Sustainability initiative. He works to supporting existing and new faith-based projects in the area of sustainability and enabling faith-based communities to identify ideas and programs that build capacity for community-level solutions to sustainability challenges. Prior to joining WRI, Alberto worked with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA, ACP-EU), an international development organization; the European University Institute (EUI), a research institute and also worked for a justice institute in The Hague, the Italian General Consulate in Miami, and a human rights NGO in Italy. Alberto holds a cum laude Master's degree in Political Science from La Sapienza University of Rome, a second Master's degree in International Communication from Hanze University of Groningen, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Roma Tre University.

- Working towards Setting Science-Based Targets for Faith Actors: The Example of the Emission Survey Developed by the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, and the World Resources Institute



**Hening Parlan**

Coordinator for environment and disaster management at Aisyiyah (Muhammadiyah)

Hening Parlan is the National Environmental Coordinator at the National Environment and Disaster Management Institution of 'Aisyiyah, the women's wing of Indonesia's Islamic organisation Muhammadiyah.

- From Belief into Action: Stories of Religious-Based Climate Action



**Kristina Patring**

SMC Faith in Development

Kristina Patring works both as an Advisor on Freedom of Religion or belief for the SMC - Faith in Development since 2013 and as resource developer for the FORB learning platform. Kristina has facilitated and developed FORB trainings for a wide variety of audiences both digitally and IRL. Before joining the SMC she worked on other human rights concerns, non-violence education and conflict transformation. Kristina has a Master's in human rights and has just started her PhD studies focusing on FORB and missiology.

- Launch Event: Freedom of Religion and Belief for All



**Filip Buff Pederson**

Political Advisor at CKU, and Coordinator of the Danish Network on Religion and Development, PaRD Co-Lead

Filip Buff Pederson is political advisor at CKU (Centre for Church based Development) and Coordinator of the Danish Network on Religion and Development. Within PaRD he holds the role of Co-Lead for the FoRB Initiative.

- Interfaith Movements Responding to the Climate Crisis: Why does Religion Matter?



**Professor Anne Poelina**

Co-Chair Indigenous Studies Nulungu Institute Research, University of Notre Dame

Professor Anne Poelina is Co-Chair of Indigenous Studies Nulungu Institute Research, University of Notre Dame is a Nyikina Warrwa Indigenous woman from the Kimberley region of Western Australia. Chair, Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council, Anne is an active community leader, human and earth rights advocate, and film maker. Anne holds, a Doctor of Philosophy (Indigenous Wellbeing), Doctor of Philosophy (First Law), Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Master of Education, Master of Arts (Indigenous Social Policy). Signatory to the Redstone Statement 2010 she helped draft at the 1st International Summit on Indigenous Environmental Philosophy. A Peter Cullen Fellow for Water Leadership, she was awarded a Laureate from the Women's World Summit Foundation (Geneva, 2017). Anne believes we can dream together, as human beings, and start to live in harmony with each other and with our non-human families. Otherwise, Mother Earth will be lonely without the vibrations of human beings!

- Care for Mother Earth – Spiritual and Indigenous Understandings of Pollution and Environmental Protection and Learning for the Future



**Floriana Polito**

Humanitarian Policy  
Officer at Caritas Inter-  
nationalis

Floriana Polito is Humanitarian Policy Officer at Caritas Internationalis. On the ground around the world

Caritas Internationalis is a confederation of over 160 members who are working at the grassroots in almost every country of the world.

- Localisation and Faith Actors in Crisis Response



**Raine Piyäko**

Leader of Asháninka  
people of Brazil

Raine Piyäko is a young indigenous leader from the Asháninka people of Brazil. Since childhood, he has accompanied his community in major reforestation efforts in the Amazon, supporting the planting of over 2 million trees, and fighting for the protection of indigenous peoples rights. He is vice-president of the Yorenka Tasorensi Institute, a first-of-its-kind institute designed to integrate traditional knowledge with scientific knowledge to address economic, social and cultural issues in the Amazon region, and to develop replicable and scalable models for alternative development.

- Closing Session: Youth Actor Representatives on Concrete Recommendations for Next Steps



**Peter Prove**

Director, Commission  
of the Churches on In-  
ternational Affairs at  
World Council of  
Churches,  
PaRD Co-Chair

A Lutheran lawyer from Australia, Peter Prove has almost two decades of experience in the international policy arena. He has served in numerous leadership roles in UN and civil society contexts, including as president of the NGO Special Committee on Human Rights (Geneva); as a member of the UN International Task Team on HIV-related Travel Restrictions, the UNCTAD Expert Advisory Group on Promoting Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing, the UNAIDS International Advisory Group on Universal Access.

- General Assembly of Members: Opportunities and Challenges to Progress to-ward PaRD's Strategic Objectives (Part II)
- Opening Session
- Urgent Rescue Effort for the SDGs – Unpacking Conclusions of the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 and Localising the 'Decade of Action' Using a Diverse Lens



**H.E. Yaqut Cholil Qoumas**

Indonesian Minister of  
Religious Affairs

Yaqut Cholil Qoumas is an Indonesian cleric and politician who currently serves as the Minister of Religious Affairs under President Joko Widodo, appointed since 23 December 2020. He previously chaired the Ansor Youth Movement and was a member of the People's Representative Council, both between 2015 and 2020.

- Opening Session



**Elder Dominique Rankin**

Indigenous Hereditary  
Chief

Elder Dominique Rankin is an Indigenous Hereditary Chief. This means that in order to one day take over from his father as Chief of his community, he also had to become a medicine man. Therefore, from his early childhood, he had to learn a body of knowledge and go through various initiations in order to become, many years later, a leader with exceptional life experience and greatness of spirit. The elders who guided him on this demanding path have always considered religions to be mashkiki, i.e. "medicine of the spirit", thus considering them all to be of equal value. And Dominique has always worked in this direction, despite a very brutal personal history in this regard. Elder Dominique held various positions, including that of Grand Chief of the Algonquin Nation (First Nations of Canada) in the 1980s and 1990s.

- Religious Tradition's Role in Confronting the Climate Crisis

**Denise Rowley**

Net Zero Carbon Planning Officer at the Church of England

Denise Rowley is Net Zero Carbon Planning Officer at the Church of England. The Church of England is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. It has more than 16,000 churches and 45 cathedrals, serving every part of England and across Europe.

- Working towards Setting Science-Based Targets for Faith Actors: The Example of the Emission Survey Developed by the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, and the World Resources Institute



**Gaetan Roy**

Permanent Representative for WEA to the UN in Geneva, Chairman of network-m, and Board Member of the AEM, PaRD Co-Lead

Gaetan Roy is a Canadian scientist and former entrepreneur, political appointee, evangelical preacher, Christian musician and composer of praise and worship songs. He is the permanent representative for the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) to the United Nations in Geneva, Chairman of network-m and Board Member of the Association of Evangelical Missions (AEM). He is also Co-Lead of PaRD's FoRB-Initiative.

- FoRB and Peace – A Necessary Intersection in Exceptional Times!





**Nika Saeedi**

Team Leader, Prevention of Violent Extremism, UNDP's Global Focal Point on MHPSS; Religion; and Hate Speech

Nika Saeedi is Team Leader – Prevention of Violent Extremism as part of the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Responsive Institutions (CPPRI) team. Nika leads UNDP workstream on hate Speech and serves as Religion and Development focal point, at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York. She is currently serving UNDP as Deputy Resident Representative a.i in Indonesia.

- Urgent Rescue Effort for the SDGs – Unpacking Conclusions of the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 and Localising the 'Decade of Action' Using a Diverse Lens



**Jodie Salter**

Postgraduate Researcher School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science University of Leeds

Jodie Salter is a PhD researcher in the Centre for Religion and Public Life at the University of Leeds. Her research focuses on the role of faith-based organisations in climate action in and around the United Nations. She has previously worked with the JLI as a research advisor on projects related to faith actors, climate change and environmental sustainability.

- Working towards Setting Science-Based Targets for Faith Actors: The Example of the Emission Survey Developed by the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, and the World Resources Institute



**Frank Schwabe**

Commissioner for Freedom of Religion or Belief, German Federal Government

Frank Schwabe has been a directly elected member of the German Bundestag since 2005. He was the spokesman for climate protection of the SPD parliamentary group for many years and has now been involved in the areas of human rights and humanitarian aid for many years. He is also a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and a member of the German delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and its Vice-Chairman.

- Remarks from Frank Schwabe, German Federal Government Commissioner for worldwide freedom of religion and belief



**Stefan Sengstmann**  
Director Technical  
Advisory Group  
World Vision Germany

Stefan Sengstmann, a development expert with more than 15 years of professional experience at World Vision, currently leads World Vision's technical advisory group as Director. Previously, he worked as a Technical Advisor on HIV and AIDS and Reproductive Health. Sengstmann has a degree in geography and most recently served as Co-Lead of the PaRD's Health Work-Stream.

- General Assembly of Members: Opportunities and Challenges to Progress toward PaRD's Strategic Objectives (Part II)



**Harpreet Singh**  
Co-founder Sikh  
Teachings, Council of  
the Sikh Religion

Harpreet Singh Khalsa was born in India. He has an educational background in commerce, music, technology and business and lives in Australia. Currently, he is working as Chief Data Officer at Edith Cowan University in Australia and was selected amongst the top 25 analytics leaders in 2022. Harpreet Singh voluntarily serves Sikhi in various ways. He is part of the [www.twitter.com/SikhiCouncil](https://www.twitter.com/SikhiCouncil) team and co-founder of [www.sikh teachings.com](http://www.sikh teachings.com); both initiatives are imparting unifying human values and ethics especially to the younger generation on the basis of Gurmat, timeless spiritual wisdom which is at the heart of the Sikh Religion. He is also part of the team that developed the documentary movie '[Reality Decoded](#)' on virtual reality and spirituality.

- Care for Mother Earth – Spiritual and Indigenous Understandings of Pollution and Environmental Protection and Learning for the Future



**Khushwant Singh**  
Head of Secretariat,  
PaRD

Khushwant Singh is the Head of Secretariat of the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD). He studied ethnology, education and social anthropology, and completed his MA at Heidelberg University and his MRes at Goldsmiths College, University of London both with distinction. Among others, he worked as a social worker and took care of migrants and unaccompanied refugee minors. Since 2006, he has been working in the field of international development cooperation i.a. on migration, diaspora collaboration, trade barriers and religion. Singh is a founding member of the Interfaith Council Frankfurt (Rat der Religionen) and served as its president from 2014 to 2017. He is the founder of the [Sikhi Council](#), and publishes articles with a focus on spiritual wisdom (Gurmat, which is at the heart of Sikhi), ethics, sustainability and the global challenges facing humanity. Publications include: [Gurmat – The Art of Spiritual Wisdom](#) (Ginkgo Press).

- Care for Mother Earth – Spiritual and Indigenous Understandings of Pollution and Environmental Protection and Learning for the Future
- Opening Sessions



**Jimmy Sormin**

Executive Secretary  
Communion of  
Churches in Indonesia  
(PGI), and Interfaith  
Rainforest Initiative

Jimmy Sormin is Executive Secretary Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI), where he is responsible for issues such as interfaith relations, freedom of religion or belief, ecological crisis and public health. He is also invested in the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative.

- Interfaith Movements Responding to the Climate Crisis: Why does Religion Matter?



**Juliane Stork**

John S. Mbiti Research  
Fellow  
Research Programme  
for Religious Commu-  
nities and Sustainable  
Development | Hum-  
boldt University,  
PaRD Co-Lead

Juliane Stork is John S. Mbiti Research Fellow at the Research Programme for Religious Communities and Sustainable Development. She holds a degree (1.Theol. Ex.) in Theology from Humboldt University Berlin and pursues a PhD in Intercultural Theology at the same institution on "Theological reactions to Climate Change in African Initiated Churches in South Africa". Since 2021 Juliane functions as Co-Lead of the WECARE workstream of PaRD.

- From Climate Doom to Climate Hope: Disrupting the Stories we Tell about Cli-mate Change



**Dinesh Suna**

Programme Execu-  
tive/Coordinator,  
The Ecumenical Water  
Network (EWN) at  
World Council of  
Churches (WCC),  
PaRD Co-Lead

Dinesh Suna is Programme Executive/Coordinator of the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) at World Council of Churches (WCC). He is also Co-Lead of PaRD's WECARE Work-Stream.

- PaRD in Conversation: Ramping up the Contributions of Religious Actors to Respond to the Climate Emergency



**Elder Marie Josée Tardiff**  
Kokom

Elder Marie Josée Tardiff became a Kokom, a Grandmother and Medicine woman at a later age, after learning the traditional spirituality and wisdom and being asked to become an elder by the elders. Previously she was a media professional and an author.

- Religious Tradition's Role in Confronting the Climate Crisis



**Knox Thames**  
Senior Fellow at  
Institute for Global  
Engagement, and  
Senior Visiting Expert  
at the U.S. Institute of  
Peace

Knox Thames is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Global Engagement and Senior Visiting Expert at the U.S. Institute of Peace. He served the Obama and Trump administrations as the Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South / Central Asia at the State Department – the first civil service appointment of this kind.

- FoRB and Peace – A Necessary Intersection in Exceptional Times!



**Kristine Tveit**  
Stefanus Alliance Inter-  
national

Kristine Tveit is an Advisor on Human Rights at Stefanus Alliance International. She works with projects and training on freedom of religion or belief in Africa and the Middle East, as well as resource development for the Freedom of Religion or Belief Learning Platform. Before joining Stefanus Alliance, Kristine worked with strategic partnerships and capacity building at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), humanitarian non-profit Fields Data, and Norwegian NGO Pursuit of Water. Kristine holds a Master's in Social Anthropology from the University of Oslo.

- Launch Event: Freedom of Religion and Belief for All



**Mike Waltner**  
Senior Programme  
Manager Asia Region  
KAICIID

Rev'd Mike Waltner is a specialist in interfaith relations, with over 15 years of experience in designing and implementing multi-faith dialogue and peacebuilding projects and initiatives. He has experience in religious outreach, dialogue training and facilitation and developing and coordinating global interfaith partnerships and networks centred around key developmental issues of common concern. He has served for over nine years at International Dialogue Centre in Vienna (KAICIID), Waltner holds a BA in religious studies from Pennsylvania State University and an MDiv. from Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York at Columbia University. He is an ordained Priest in the Church of England (Diocese of Europe)

- Urgent Rescue Effort for the SDGs – Unpacking Conclusions of the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 and Localising the 'Decade of Action' Using a Diverse Lens



**Meryne Warah**

Co-organiser and coordinator  
GreenFaith

Meryne Warah is co-organiser and coordinator of the GreenFaith International Network. She lives in Nairobi, Kenya, and has worked for the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, where she coordinated policy work for climate justice in eight African countries, and for the Interfaith Council of Kenya, where she was a programme officer for gender, environment and climate change.

- From Belief into Action: Stories of Religious-Based Climate Action



**Ali Yusuf**

Board Member at LPBI  
NU, and  
General Chairman at  
Humanitarian Forum  
Indonesia

Ali Yusuf is Board Member at LPBI NU (Nahdlatul Ulama Institution for Disaster Management and Climate Change), and General Chairman at Humanitarian Forum Indonesia.

- Working towards Setting Science-Based Targets for Faith Actors: The Example of the Emission Survey Developed by the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, and the World Resources Institute