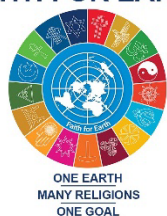


FAITH FOR EARTH



Faith for Earth Updates on 20 April 2020



“It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives”. So calls Mr. António Guterres, the UN Secretary General. The UN chief called on warring parties to [pull back from hostilities](#), put aside mistrust and animosity, and “silence the guns; stop the artillery; end the airstrikes”. Mr. Guterres, on Easter Sunday, appealed to religious leaders of all faiths [“to join forces to work for peace around the world and focus on our common battle to defeat COVID-19.”](#) On the socio-economic impacts of COVID19, Mr. Guterres said: [“Everything we do during and after this crisis must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of pandemics, climate change, and the many other global challenges we face.](#) Ms. Inger Andersen, UN Under Secretary General and Executive director of UNEP said: “Our immediate priority is to prevent the spread of COVID19. [In the long-term, important to tackle habitat and biodiversity loss](#)”. Coronavirus a ‘Clear Warning Shot’ From Nature to Humanity, [Top Scientists Say](#).

[Interfaith Response to COVID-19](#)

Faith for Earth is continuing to update its resources page [Interfaith Response to COVID19](#). Please keep your stories, responses and guidelines coming. “Most religious actors are not waiting to be told what to do in this crises, they are already the first responders”, says Azza Karam, Secretary General of [Religions for Peace](#).

[Easter, Passover, Ramadan, Vesak, Ridvan and Vaisakhi](#)

To all our brothers and sisters who have celebrated Easter, Passover, and Vaisakhi or those who will be celebrating the beginning of Ramadan, Ridvan and Vesak, we send our warmest and heartfelt prayers. These spiritual events are occasions to connect with God/divine but also occasions to reflect on how we live on Earth? What’s our role and how are we responding to our creator’s demand for stewarding the Earth?

[Invitation to Commemorate Laudato Si Week 16-24 May 2020](#)

Faith for Earth had agreed with the Vatican to support a number of initiatives during the celebrations of the 5th anniversary of Laudato Si “On the Care of our Common Home” that was planned to be held at the Vatican. However, due to the current travel restrictions and the pandemic, we have agreed to join the celebrations of the [Laudato Si week](#) on 16-24 May 2020. The Dicastery for Integral Human Development at the Vatican, in a [press conference](#), called for Catholic and international communities to take

bold new action to protect our common home by carrying out symbolic acts of prayer, tree planting, advocacy, etc. This is a call to [register your action](#).

[50th Earth Day Observance with Global Religious and Indigenous Leaders](#)

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, Faith for Earth is partnering with the [Parliament of World's Religions](#) and will be making the opening remarks at a webinar on **21st April, 2020 at 10:30 am CDT**. Many leaders on the front lines can be found in religious and indigenous communities. Kindly join us in the discussions with Gopal Patel - Director of the Bhumi Project; Hellen Mugo – representative of the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa; Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim - Environmental activist working on behalf of her people, the Mbororo in Chad; Lauren Van Ham - Interfaith minister and Climate Action Coordinator at United Religions Initiative; Lyla June - Native American environmental scientist, doctoral student, from the Diné (Navajo) community; and Mirele Goldsmith – Founder of the Jewish Earth Alliance. If you wish to take part in this activity, kindly register [here](#). Meanwhile you can [view a map](#) of Earth Day blessings from leaders around the world.

[Planting Seeds for a New Normal: Earth Day 2020 Online Celebrations](#)

Faith for Earth will be joining Parmarth Niketan and the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance 'Planting Seeds for a New Normal' Online Webinar to celebrate Earth Day on **Wednesday 22nd April**. Among the many prestigious speakers are: Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Rabbi David Rosen, Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singhji, Maulana Mahmood Madaniji, Rev. Michael Beckwith, Sue Coates, Dr. Vandana Shivaji, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, Dr. Azza Karam, Rev. Victor Kazanjian, Audrey Kitagawa, Iyad Abumoghli, Andrew Harvey, Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp and Father Paul Moonjely. The webinar will be live @ParmarthNiketan YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, **7-9pm IST, 2.30-4.30pm BST, 9.30-11.30am EST, 6.30-8.30am PDT**. Click [here](#) for the YouTube live stream.

[Joint Statement by United Nations Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development \(IATF\) with the endorsement of the IATF Multi-Faith Advisory Council](#)

In the face of the global crisis unleashed by COVID-19, unprecedented in recent history, the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development expresses its deep concern about the enormous challenges that this situation presents to the most vulnerable around the world, including the elderly, refugees and migrants, people living in conflict contexts, people with disabilities, young people, religious minorities, women and children at risk of domestic violence, groups that face discrimination and stigmatization, and all other vulnerable groups. [Read the statement](#).

[World Environment Day Celebrations in 2020 is on Biodiversity.](#)

Please keep watching this space. We are preparing, with our distinguished partners, specific pages for religions and biodiversity and designing some guidelines for celebrating and appreciating biodiversity at all times, but particularly on World Environment Day on 5th June. Last year, on the World Environment Day, [460 faith-based Organizations](#) took part in the celebrations by conducting a wide range of activities.

[Accreditation to UN Environment Assembly](#)

You can apply for accreditation using the new [New Online Accreditation System](#) and gain a consultative status within the [rules of procedure](#) of the [UN Environment Assembly](#), please refer to the criteria for accreditation as derived from Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure and submit your request accordingly. [Guidelines here.](#)