

What is the Parliament of World's Religions?

First held in Chicago in 1893, the Parliament of the World's Religions brings together the world's religious and spiritual communities, their leaders and their followers to a gathering where peace, diversity and sustainability are discussed and explored in the context of interreligious understanding and cooperation.

As the world's largest interreligious gathering, the Parliament

- * Convenes religious and civil leaders and people of faith, spirit and goodwill from more than 80 countries

- * Fosters interreligious, civil and cross-cultural dialogue on important local, national, and global issues

- * Invites over 10,000 participants to work together for a just, peaceful, and harmonious society

- * Has global appeal, covering social concerns including understanding and respecting diversity, peace and Indigenous reconciliation

- * Engages worldwide religious, spiritual, secular, environmental, business and educational leaders to seek commitment and practical

solutions through dialogue.

- * Promotes and encourages social cohesion within societies locally and across the world.



THE 2009 PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Since 1993, a Parliament of the World's Religions has convened every five years in a major international city (Chicago 1993, Cape Town 1999, Barcelona 2004).

Sponsored by the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, the 2009 Parliament will take place in Melbourne, Australia. A multi-religious, multi-lingual, and multicultural city, Melbourne offers

an ideal location for the 2009 Parliament. Culturally vibrant and global in vision, Melbourne and Victoria are home to indigenous and Aboriginal spiritualities as well as the major world religions – Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism among others. Over 10,000 participants will come to Melbourne for the Parliament.

The 2009 Parliament will turn worldwide attention to Melbourne as a destination city with international appeal. The Parliament will run for seven days with approximately 450 events including keynote addresses, seminars, conferences, debates, performances, concerts and exhibitions.

Parliament participants will work with others and within their own traditions to craft faithful responses to:

- * indigenous reconciliation
- * global poverty and global warming
- * environmental care and degradation
- * education of the young and the challenges of social disengagement
- * voluntary and forced migration
- * artistic expression and

spirituality and
* the value of sports

**In today's world,
understanding between people
of different traditions is not
optional. It is essential. The
2009 Parliament will give
people of faith, spirit and
goodwill new reason to say
that peace is still possible.**

For more info, visit
www.parliamentofreligions.org

8th Day Center for Justice
*A Catholic Faith-based NGO
for Social Change*



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Note: Other peace leaflets produced by
8th Day Center can be found at
[www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.h
tml](http://www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html) You may wish to use them for your
own vigils, in classrooms, etc.

***“There will be
no world peace
until there is
peace among
the religions.” -***

- Hans Küng



The Peaceable Kin-dom – Isaiah 6:8

**Be Part of the
World's Largest
Interfaith Event**

**The Parliament of
World's Religions**