

# A CONFERENCE ON TOLERANCE FOR DIVERSITY OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

OCTOBER 19-22, 1986  
SPRING HILL CONFERENCE CENTER  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

## SPONSORSHIP

The conference is sponsored by the University of Minnesota, the United Nations Association of Minnesota, and the United Nations Association of the United States of America in cooperation with the World Federation of United Nations Associations in Geneva, Switzerland. Major funding has been provided by the U. S. Agency for International Development.

## PURPOSE

The conference focuses on the formation of a response to the United Nations (U.N.) call for assistance in implementing the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. The two main objectives are:

1. To stimulate dialogue from diverse intellectual and cultural perspectives on the root causes and contemporary manifestations of intolerance based on religion or belief; and
2. To recommend concrete action strategies to implement the 1981 U.N. Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

## PRESENTERS

The conference will be attended by religious leaders, educators and scholars (in many disciplines of the humanities and social sciences), representatives of member nations serving on the U.N. Subcommittee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, U.N. staff and experts in international law, human rights, education, and development from both the public and private sectors. International participation includes representation from all the voting blocs at the United Nations. Confirmed speakers include:

Robert Anderson Bishop Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota	Adam Lopatka Minister of Church Affairs Peoples Republic of Poland Warsaw, Poland	William Schulz President Unitarian Universalist Association Boston, Massachusetts
Thomas Atchison President United Nations Association of Minnesota Minneapolis, Minnesota	Edward Luck President United Nations Association of the U.S.A. New York, New York	Francis Sejersted Member, Nobel Committee Norwegian Nobel Institute Oslo, Norway
Jose Miquez Bonino Theologian Buenos Aires, Argentina	Fred Lukermann Dean, College of Liberal Arts University of Minnesota Minneapolis, Minnesota	Kristian Sorensen Secretary-General Danish Red Cross Copenhagen, Denmark
Kevin Boyle Professor, Law University College Galway, Ireland	Howard Mills President United Theological Seminary St. Paul, Minnesota	Leonard Swidler Professor, Religion Temple University Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Erica-Irene Daes Professor, Law Member, U.N. Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination Athens, Greece	Iwao Munakata Dean, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Science Sophia University Tokyo, Japan	Mohamed Taib Professor, Literature and Human Sciences University of Tunisia Tunis, Tunisia
James Finn Editor, <u>Freedom at Issue</u> Freedom House New York, New York	Wafa Nasr Director of Development & Middle Eastern Affairs American-Arab Anti- Discrimination Committee Washington, D. C.	Margaret Thomas Executive Director Minnesota Council of Churches Minneapolis, Minnesota
Marek Hagmajer Secretary-General World Federation of United Nations Associations Geneva, Switzerland	Elizabeth Odio-Benito U. N. Special Rapporteur for the 1981 U. N. Declaration San Jose, Costa Rica	William Thompson Associate Secretary-General World Conference, Religion and Peace New York, New York
Margaret James Director, American Red Cross Omaha, Nebraska	Bertie Ramcharan Special Assistant to the Director U. N. Centre for Human Rights Geneva, Switzerland	Einar Vetvik Sociologist Oslo, Norway
Stephen Lewis U. N. Ambassador Ottawa, Canada		David Weissbrodt Julius E. Davis Professor of Law University of Minnesota Minneapolis, Minnesota

## PROCESS

The conference is structured to include both intellectual and action discussion. Scholars to be present at the conference represent the social and behavioral sciences, philosophy, and theology. Papers prepared especially for the conference will be distributed to participants to facilitate discussion. Topics include:

**The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Implementation of the 1981 U.N. Declaration**

**A Person-Centered Approach to International Conflict Resolution**

**Basic Interpretations of Human Nature and Their Implications for Political, Military, and Economic Systems.**

**Differing Views of Collective vs. Individual Human Rights**

**The Role of Language and Culture in Expression of Beliefs**

**Descriptions of Action Programs Now in Existence Which Support the Concept of the Declaration, Including Both Local and National Projects, Particularly Where International Cooperation is a Component of the Program**

## OUTCOMES

A major outcome of the conference is the contribution it will make to developing core groups of individuals and organizations willing to contribute time, thought, and resources to implementing the spirit of the Declaration. The conference will recognize a variety of skills and interests by functional area for purposes of developing concrete action recommendations. The four functional areas from which recommendations are expected to come are:

1. Analysis--ways in which special studies, research, and curricula can be developed in theological seminaries, universities, and colleges to combat and to eliminate intolerance based on religion or belief.
2. Law--ways in which efforts can be supported to examine international legal structures, national constitutions, national and local legislation, to make sure there is a legal framework for the Declaration in each nation-state of the U.N.
3. Education--development of recommendations for a broadly-based program of education at all levels in schools, government, universities, voluntary organizations, and the media.
4. Development--ways in which organizations of diverse ideologies may be able to work together on humanitarian service projects in the "name and spirit" of tolerance, with mutual understanding, and respect for each other.

## REGISTRATION

Conference registration will be available at a fee of approximately \$250-300 for all presentations, meals, and social events.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION MATERIALS CONTACT:

Lori Graven, Program Coordinator (612) 373-5361; after April call (612) 625-9023  
Professional Development and Conference Services  
217 Nolte Center  
315 Pillsbury Drive S.E.  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

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## INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

**A Conference on Tolerance for Diversity of Religion or Belief**

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