

Press Release

One God – One Religion – One Human Family: Distinguished religious representatives, human rights activists, scholars and farmers join hands to launch the initiative “Strengthening Unity, Peace and Justice”

Chandigarh, Panjab, India: 12th August 2018

On 18th August at 6pm, Muslim, Hindu, Christian and Sikh representatives will join forces in Ludhiana with human rights and grass-root activists, scholars and farmers in a public seminar to launch the initiative “Strengthening Unity, Peace and Justice”. The event is organised by the Sach Khoj Academy (Academy for Discovering the Truth) and the United Religious Front for Peace and Justice. Following the motto “United we stand – Divided we fall”, the initiative aims at raising awareness to overcome communalism and bring together all people of goodwill to strengthen unity, peace and justice in all spheres of life. Pursuant to other global efforts, the initiative shall contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda signed by 193 nations at the United Nations. The 2030 Agenda wants to make sure that no one is left behind and welcomes all efforts that sustainably serve the five Ps – planet, people, prosperity, peace and partnership.

The initiative “Strengthening Unity, Peace and Justice” was developed after a series of dialogues held by Dharam Singh Nihang Singh, the founder of the Sach Khoj Academy, with renown personalities such as Swami Agnivesh (social activist from Delhi and winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize), Mehmood Pracha (Supreme Court Advocate from Delhi and President South Asian Minorities Lawyer's Commission), Maulana Mohammad Ajazur Rahman Shaheen Qasmi (General Secretary of the World Peace Organisation, Delhi), Jenab Kamal Ali Khan (United Religious Front for Peace and Justice and Muslim Scholar, Patiala), Prof. Dr. Ronki Ram (Department of Political Science, Panjab University Chandigarh) and Rajvinder Singh Bains (Human Rights Advocate Panjab & Haryana High Court, from Chandigarh).

Dharam Singh Nihang Singh, Founder of Sach Khoj Academy (Academy for Discovering the Truth): “Our journey began with the insight which is at the heart of timeless spiritual wisdom (Gurmat): One God – One Religion – One Human Family. In all the dialogues that we were able to have in the last decades in India and internationally, it became clear that all those who care for the human family and Mother Earth, share the same understanding. All acknowledge that the religion of truth – Sach Dharam – is the religion of Oneness. It is beyond a certain community and unites all the people regardless of their background. The religion of truth spreads love, and strengthens peace, human rights, justice and the protection of the environment. Those who live the religion truth, do not seek worldly power nor misuse religion for political and business purposes. Truly spiritual people guide those who are in power with wisdom and thus ensure good and farsighted governance. We realised that all those who embrace these insights and an ethical way of life, need to unite, spread the message and work closer together. Therefore, we invite all people of goodwill to join the force of Oneness, leave behind all that which creates boundaries and disharmony, and help reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”

Swami Agnivesh, Social activist and winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize: “We strive for a world, where workers, farmers, men, women, children and senior citizen all over the world can live together in peaceful coexistence and with dignity. Against the backdrop of widespread violation of human rights, terror and violence, injustice, corruption, exploitation, and the misuse of religion for communalism, the message of love, justice and unity is more important than ever.”

Mehmood Pracha, Supreme Court Advocate and President South Asian Minorities Lawyer's Commission: “Every human being is a citizen of planet Earth. Therefore, everyone in India and elsewhere is an equal stakeholder of everything that Mother Earth provides unconditionally. Since we are the only species that can shape and control its environment and social fabric, we have a special responsibility to think and act in such a way that all who depend on nature can live in a peaceful and just way while protecting the environment. Let us all be reminded daily of this duty and use all the available wisdom which inspires us to respect the gifts of our wonderful planet.”

Jenab Kamal Ali Khan, United Religious Front for Peace and Justice and Muslim Scholar: “Islam emphasizes that we are all brothers and sisters. We are all children of God. We must overcome hatred. When we all unite and love each other like one family, there will be peace and justice.”

Maulana Mohammad Ajazur Rahman Shaheen Qasmi, General Secretary of the World Peace Organisation: “Religion is about unity. Hence there is a need for close cooperation among those who are working for unity and peace. Too often we are divided. And too often religion is misunderstood due to lack of knowledge. In the worst case, it is abused to justify hate and violence. It is high-time that we all raise our voice against all forms of misuse of religion as

well as injustice and discrimination in society. If we all follow the Will of the One God, there will be unity and peace.”

Prof. Dr. Ronki Ram, Panjab University Chandigarh: “The question of justice and peace is related to the urgent concern of empowering people at the grassroot level so that they are able to realise their potential to the maximum. The gap between the potential and the actual that one can accomplish reveals the structural violence in society. Here the positive role of religion’s wisdom come into play. However, religion often degenerates because those with vested interests take over and create communalism and division. Therefore, a careful integrated approach towards peace and justice in society is needed where not only infrastructure is built but where all people can realise their potential - not at the cost of others but in a mutually beneficial way.”

Rajvinder Singh Bains, Human Rights Advocate Panjab & Haryana High Court: “To create a just and peaceful society, where all children reach the limit of their potential, it is necessary to have a social setup where no one is discriminated, and where everyone is provided with the blessings of a secure and clean home, a free or affordable health insurance and education. To achieve this, we need to listen more carefully to the wisdom of religion.”

The public seminar “Strengthening unity, peace and justice” will be held **on 18th August 2018, 6pm to 10pm at Anaj Mandi, behind Arora palace, in Ludhiana, Panjab, India.**

Background

The Sach Khoj Academy (Academy for Discovering the Truth) is an NGO which uses timeless spiritual wisdom (Gurmat) which is at the heart of Sikhi to raise awareness about religion’s responsibility to strengthen unity, peace, human rights, justice and environmental protection. Dharam Singh Nihang Singh is the founder of the Sach Khoj Academy. He has broadcast thousands of hours of lectures on YouTube, and is the author of numerous publications. In February 2015, Dharam Singh Nihang Singh was the first speaker of the dialogue series “Religion matters – Rethinking the challenges of tomorrow”, organised by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In 2016, Dharam Singh Nihang Singh served as one of the authors of the book “Voices from Religions on Sustainable Development“, which is the outcome of UN consultations in Summer 2016 on the issue of religion and sustainable development.

The United Religious Front for Peace and Justice is based on the Muslim-Sikh Front. Its mission is to unite people irrespective of their socio-religious background, eliminate hatred and communalism from all spheres for life including politics and religion, and to make the planet a peaceful, just and hospitable place for future generations.

Contact

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