

Interfaith Devotional and Climate Conversation




Wilmette Institute

*Sponsored by
Baha'is of Alachua County, Florida,
the Baha'i-inspired Interfaith Climate Group,
and Wilmette Institute*



A Spiritual Approach to a Climate Emergency Conversation

*or the International Day of Peace
September 21, 2020*



*Prayers, Readings and Climate Statements
from the world's religions and wisdom traditions,
including The Promise of World Peace and the Earth Charter
Please have writing materials available for Reflections.*

The Baha'i-inspired Interfaith Climate Group supports a community-wide climate emergency conversation to action program, a pilot project of We, the World and the University of Florida Extension.

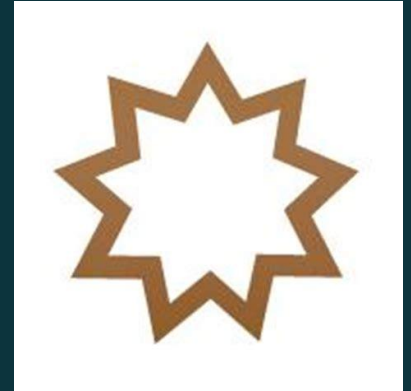
*For more information, contact Baha'is of Alachua County, Florida.
gglsaf1@gmail.com*

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a white semi-circle containing various religious symbols: a crescent moon and star, a yin-yang symbol, an Om symbol, a snowflake, a cross, a gear, a six-pointed star, and a dove. Below the semi-circle is a small globe of the Earth. The entire graphic is set against a light blue background with a grid of dotted lines.

wilmetteinstitute.org

*Religion is the outer expression of the divine reality.
Therefore, it must be living, vitalized, moving and
progressive.*

- Baha'i Writings

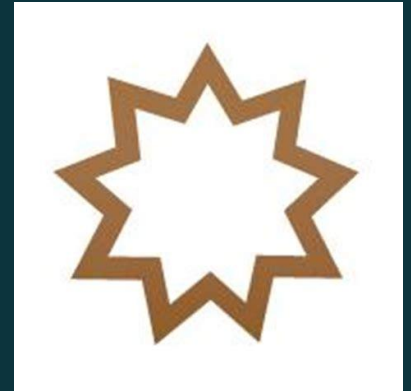


Program

Video: United Religions Initiative / A Dream of Coming Together

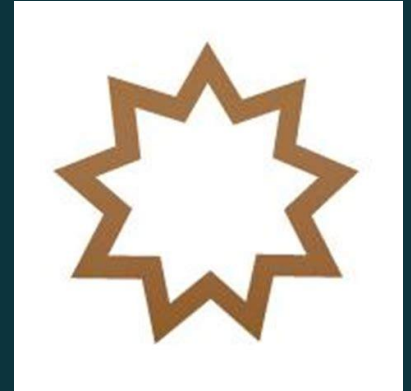
Prayers and Text from the Baha'i Writings
Scripture from the World's Religions
Quotations from Wisdom Traditions
The Promise of World Peace
The Earth Charter

Video: A Baha'i shares her views on Climate Change



O Lord! ... Gather all people beneath the shadow of Thy bounty and cause them to unite in harmony, so that they may become as the rays of one sun, as the waves of one ocean, and as the fruit of one tree. May they drink from the same fountain. May they be refreshed by the same breeze. May they receive illumination from the same source of light. Thou art the Giver, the Merciful, the Omnipotent.

'Abdu'l-Baha



One should always treat others as they themselves wish to be treated.

- Hinduism, 3200 BCE



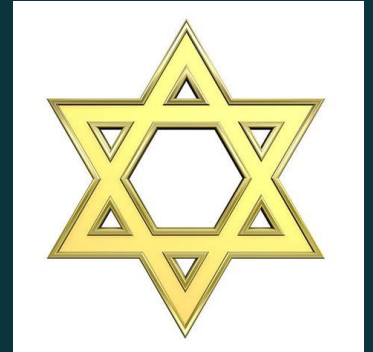
Whatever is disagreeable to yourself, do not do unto others.

- Zoroastrianism, 600 BCE



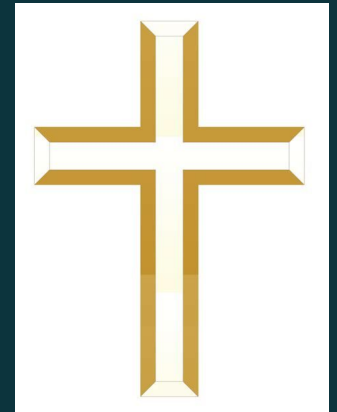
That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow.

- Judaism, 500 BCE



So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

- Christianity - First Century

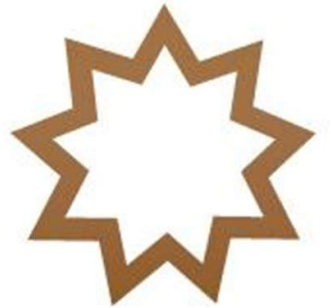


*“None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother
what he wishes for himself.” - Islam - Seventh Century*



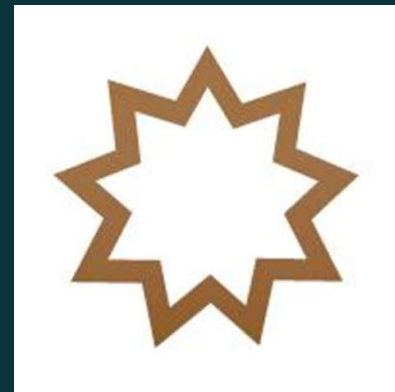
And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbor that which thou choosest for thyself.

- Baha'i Faith - Nineteenth Century



The All-Knowing Physician hath His finger on the pulse of mankind. He perceiveth the disease, and prescribeth, in His unerring wisdom, the remedy. Every age hath its own problem, and every soul its particular aspiration. The remedy the world needeth in its present-day afflictions can never be the same as that which a subsequent age may require. Be anxiously concerned with the needs of the age ye live in, and center your deliberations on its exigencies and requirements.

Baha'i Faith



We are at a crucial crossroads where our survival and that of other species is at stake as a result of our actions. ...

Our concern is founded on the Buddha's realization of dependent co-arising, which interconnects all things in the universe. ... Cultivating the insight of interbeing and compassion, we will be able to act out of love, not fear, to protect our planet.

Buddhist Climate Change Statement to World Leaders 2015



**Global Buddhist
Climate Change Collective**

I want to be a good ancestor. Indigenous People's commitments to climate action ensure that we are thinking of the seven generations to come.

- Chief Howard Thompson, Haudenosaunee

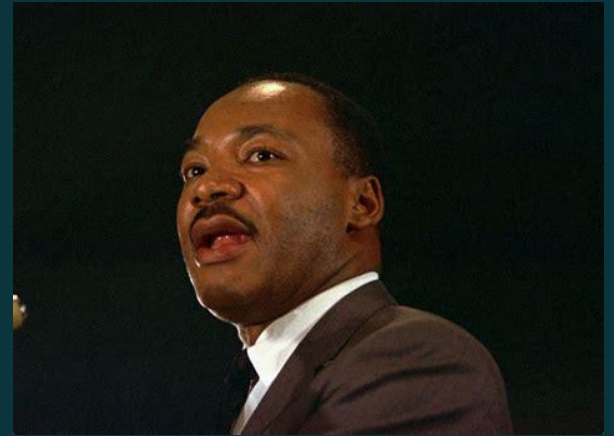


We call on all muslims, wherever they may be, to tackle the root causes of climate change, environmental degradation, and the loss of biodiversity, following the example of The Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), who was, in the words of the Qur'an, "a mercy to all beings."

- Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change, 2015



This is the great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a large house, a great "world house" in which we have to live together-- black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Muslim and Hindu-- a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - Nobel Peace Prize Lecture, 1964

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.

Pope Francis - Encyclical on Care for Our Common Home, 2015

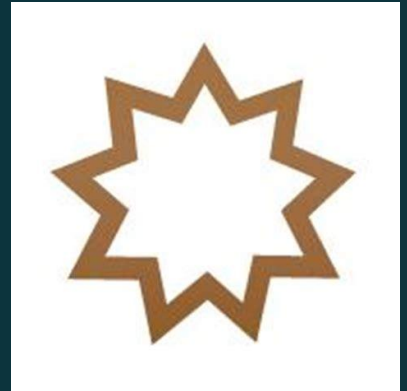


*Science is the first emanation from God toward man.
All created things embody the potentiality of material
perfection, but the power of intellectual investigation
and scientific acquisition is a higher virtue specialized
to man alone. Other beings and organisms are
deprived of this potentiality and attainment.*

- Baha'i Writings

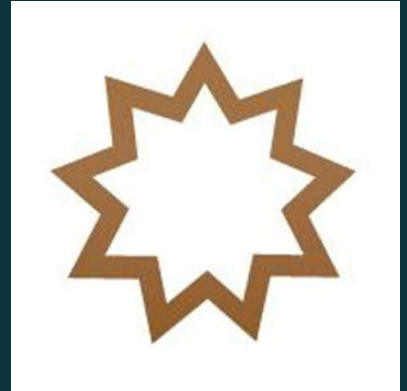
The Promise of World Peace

*A statement for the International Year of Peace
from the Universal House of Justice,
Baha'i World Center, 1985*

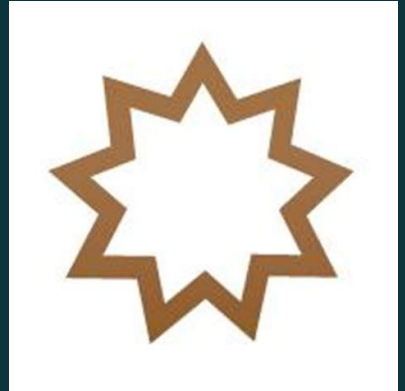


To the Peoples of the World:

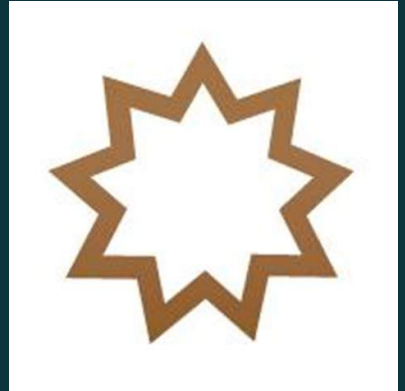
The Great Peace towards which people of good will throughout the centuries have inclined their hearts, of which seers and poets for countless generations have expressed their vision, and for which from age to age the sacred scriptures of mankind have constantly held the promise, is now at long last within the reach of the nations. ...



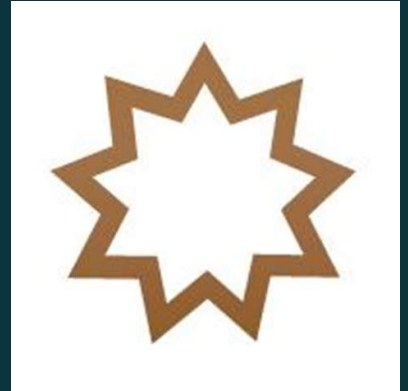
For the first time in history it is possible for everyone to view the entire planet, with all its myriad diversified peoples, in one perspective. World peace is not only possible but inevitable. It is the next stage in the evolution of this planet ...



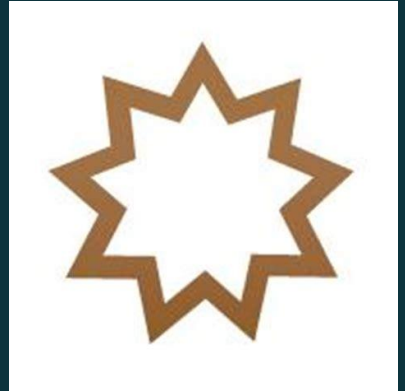
Whether peace is to be reached only after unimaginable horrors precipitated by humanity's stubborn clinging to old patterns of behaviour, or is to be embraced now by an act of consultative will, is the choice before all who inhabit the earth.



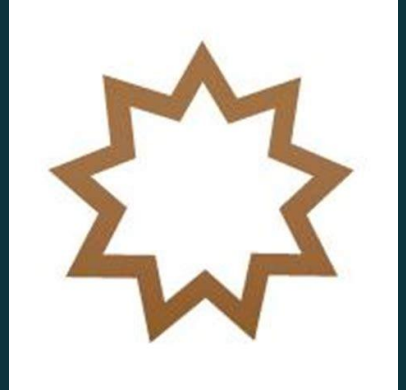
“The winds of despair”, Bahá’u’lláh wrote [over a century ago] “are, alas, blowing from every direction, and the strife that divides and afflicts the human race is daily increasing. The signs of impending convulsions and chaos can now be discerned, inasmuch as the prevailing order appears to be lamentably defective.”



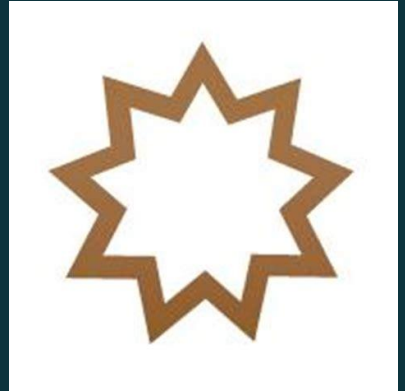
World order can be founded only on an unshakeable consciousness of the oneness of mankind, a spiritual truth which all the human sciences confirm. Anthropology, physiology, psychology, recognize only one human species, albeit infinitely varied in the secondary aspects of life.



Recognition of this truth requires abandonment of prejudice—prejudice of every kind—race, class, colour, creed, nation, sex, degree of material civilization, everything which enables people to consider themselves superior to others.

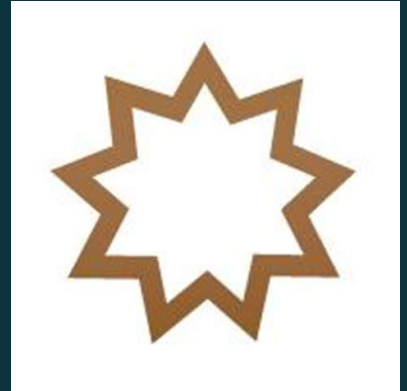


Acceptance of the oneness of mankind is the first fundamental prerequisite for reorganization and administration of the world as one country, the home of humankind.



Universal acceptance of this spiritual principle is essential to any successful attempt to establish world peace. It should therefore be universally proclaimed, taught in schools, and constantly asserted in every nation as preparation for the organic change in the structure of society which it implies.

- Universal House of Justice, 1985



The Earth Charter

Crafted by visionaries twenty years ago, the Earth Charter is a document with sixteen principles that turn conscience into action. It is a vision of hope and a call to action.



To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny.

- The Earth Charter



Every individual, family, organization, and community has a vital role to play. The arts, sciences, religions, educational institutions, media, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and governments are all called to offer creative leadership. The partnership of government, civil society, and business is essential for effective governance.



Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.



*Provide all, especially children and youth,
with educational opportunities that
empower them to contribute actively to
sustainable development.*



Promote the contribution of the arts and humanities as well as the sciences in sustainability education.



Enhance the role of the mass media in raising awareness of ecological and social challenges.



Recognize the importance of moral and spiritual education for sustainable living.



*Recognize that peace is the wholeness
created by right relationships with oneself,
other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth,
and the larger whole of which all are a part.*

- The Earth Charter

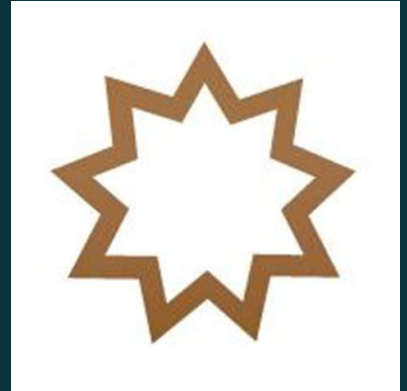


O compassionate God! Thanks be to Thee for Thou hast awakened and made me conscious. Thou hast given me a seeing eye and favored me with a hearing ear, hast led me to Thy kingdom and guided me to Thy path. Thou hast shown me the right way and caused me to enter the ark of deliverance. ...

O Thou the Compassionate God. Bestow upon me a heart which, like unto a glass, may be illumined with the light of Thy love, and confer upon me thoughts which may change this world into a rose garden through the outpourings of heavenly grace.

...

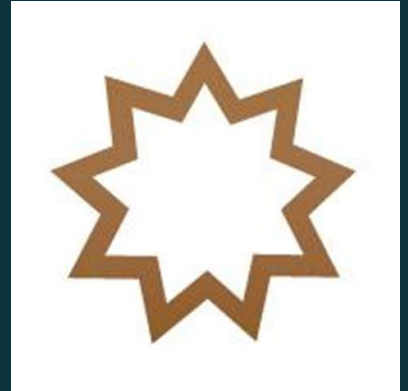
'Abdu'l-Bahá



Reflections

What came up for you as you listened to these words from the world's wisdom traditions?

Consider your own role in creating a sustainable, just and peaceful future. What steps can you take toward a world that works for future generations?





- *Five minutes Writing*
- *Fifteen minutes Sharing*
(Accompanied by harp music)