

SPIRITUALITY
Social Action
HUMAN RIGHTS

Monday, 28th September, 2009

13:00- 14:30 - Room XXVII

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Speakers

Swami Agnivesh: Former Chair of the UN Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; Founder of Bandhua Mukti Morcha and renowned worldwide for his remarkable achievements in promoting social justice as well as a tireless Indian campaigner against child labour, bonded labour, inter-generational slaves, violence and oppression against women, female foeticide/infanticide and the burning of women on funeral pyres. With other social economists he is actively searching alternative socio-economic for development models that are fair and just. A global leader of inter-faith dialogue for peace, he is founder/ Convenor of the Sarva Dharma Sansad (Parliament of Religions). Swami Agnivesh believes that all people can engage in a life of spiritual activism in accordance with the demands of their own lives combining compassionate action with an integrated lifestyle. He received the 2004 Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Prize) and in 1990 the Freedom and Human Rights Award and the International Anti-Slavery Award.

Mona Chasserio: After a successful career in the pharma industry, and acting on a vision, she went to living for three years on the streets with homeless and battered women. After this experience she created 'Coeurs des Femmes'. It is founded on her unique philosophy of healing and self-reconstruction and of the integration of creativity with spirituality. In 2009 she created the Association 'Univesverselles' and the 'Centre Entre Deux Rives' for Women in Dakar, Senegal, allowing immigrant women to rebuild their lives in their home country. Her work has elicited much interest among political leaders, NGOs, CSOs and spiritual communities due to its unique and unifying nature. She was made Officier de la Legion d'Honneur (2008), and awarded The Solidarity Prize of Reader's Digest (2004) and the Humanist Prize of the New Economist (2004).

Rama Mani: Member of the World Future Council, Convenor of Justice Unlimited, Director of the Project: Ending Mass Atrocities: Echoes in Southern cultures, Senior Research Associate of the Centre for International Studies, Oxford University. Formerly Director of the Global Peace and Security Course at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and Executive Director of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Moderator: Vita de Waal: Chair, NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, Director Foundation for GAIA, Vice-President Institute for Planetary Synthesis, Member Specialist Group IUCN-WCPA-CSVPA, Intl. Liaison Planetary Association for Clean Energy.

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