

United Nations Faith for Rights

Monday, 31st October – Tuesday, 1st November 2022

Participants Biographies



Mr Sabah Ahmedi

Sabah, known as 'The Young Imam' on social media, he is a 28-year-old British Imam, independent creator, social media influencer and father from London. He has studied for seven years at the seminary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community to become an Imam, having quickly gone on to become a new young voice on social media as a faith leader and influencer and is one of the first of his kind to spread hope, positivity and faith online.

By the Grace of God he has been featured in outlets including TimeOut Magazine, The One Show, BBC Radio 4, Good Morning Britain and a regular contributor on TalkTV.



Mrs Ruth Akujuaobi

Ruth is the leading Chaplain for the Pentecostal community on campus at the University of Surrey and ordained minister at her local church in Guildford who through her faith and commitment to service have influenced the Black and African community both on campus and the community through transformational leadership. She works collaboratively with all chaplains across various faiths and hosts an online HOPE show on the students union facebook page and youtube since the COVID lockdown. She has led different HOPE projects ranging from concerts to round tables talks, one of which was the first HOPE concert held at the University of Surrey, Guildford School of Acting representing majority of the faith societies on campus. Ruth is also digital PMO/Project manager.



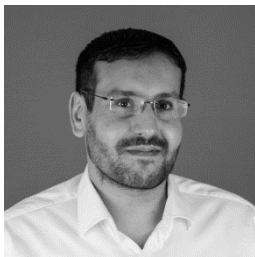
The Reverend Dr Jeremy Clines

Jeremy is the Coordinating Chaplain at the University of Sheffield's Belief, No Belief and Religious Life Centre. He is a member of the Sheffield Centre for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies and is active in the following areas;

- environmentalism, ecotheology;
- leadership, religion, society and H.E. Chaplaincy
- liberating theologies;
- storying, LGBT+ identities and religion;
- Christian relationships with Belief, No Belief, Religious Movements and World Religions
- spiritual accompaniment, story-telling, development and wellbeing

His presentations, papers and practice have an emphasis in HE Chaplaincy.

Jeremy is also a director of Sheffield Phoenix Press, Deep Talk and Eco Family Travel.



Mr Mustafa Field

Mustafa is the Director of the Faiths Forum for London a Pan-London faith based organisation, working to strengthening the voice of the faith sector and to ensure faith communities are heard and engaged on wider agendas. Mustafa is committed to promoting freedom of religion and belief; is actively involved in various initiative in the UK and in the Middle East. Extensive experience in working with faith institutions to improve governance, safeguarding and has been closing monitoring the IICSA. Mustafa was awarded an MBE for service to young people in 2012 and an OBE in 2019 for services to faith communities.



Jodie Franks

Jodie Franks is the Head of Programming at the Union of Jewish Students. She has been in leadership positions in the Jewish community though her youth and young adulthood. Her work at UJS involves finding out what students are passionate about, and creating events and programmes to match that passion. She is excited to explore the Faith for Rights framework and bring it back to her network of students.



Dr Husni Hammuda

A very experienced Telecommunications Engineering Professional, who successfully managed high value projects and led large teams of multicultural engineers and support staff. This experience spans more than 41 years in designing, developing system architecture and managing complex mobile communication projects in several countries operating at the highest level.

He worked with several vendors including: Ericsson, Nokia Siemens Networks, Huawei and LogicaCMG. He also worked with several operators including: Vodafone, Orange, O2, STC and du. Experience also includes extensive regulatory work within CEPT as well as business development in more recent years. Dr Hammuda worked as a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) at DeMontfort University in Leicester, UK. He also offers technical as well as soft skill training.

Dr Hammuda has written a number of books in several languages and published a number of research and regulatory papers. He has a wide range of experience in technologies including: GSM, GPRS, EDGE, 3-G UMTS/ WCDMA, LTE, CDMA, EV-DO, TETRA, TAPS, TEDS, iDEN, WiMax and currently looking at 5-G.

International Work:

Worked in the UK, Isle of Man, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Germany, France, Switzerland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Portugal, Spain, Romania, Netherlands, Jordan, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Academic Qualifications:

PhD *Cellular Mobile Radio Systems* University of Bristol, UK, 1990

MSc *Telecommunications Systems* University of Essex, UK, 1985

BSc (Honours) *Electrical & Electronic Engineering* University of Leeds, UK, 1979

Community Work:

- Studied Islam (Fiqh, Hadeeth, Osool, Tafseer, Tajweed & Qira'at, etc.) with internationally renowned scholars.
- Memorises Quran and interpreter of the Holy Quran in English and Arabic Languages.
- Tafseer YouTube Channel (in English)
- Public Speaker on various aspects of Islam and International Affairs.
- Leads Friday Sermons and Prayers.
- Active within the Muslim and the Wider Community.
- Muslim Chaplain at Surrey University.
- Muslim Chaplain at Epsom College.
- Speaks several languages.
- Mediator/ Counselor in Marital and Community Issues.



The Reverend Richard Hayes

Richard has been a parish priest, working in a mix of Suburban types (Tunbridge Wells, Bristol, Gravesend) and village parishes (Clymping, Yapton and Ford), for 30 years. His experience has been ministering within a context of all ages, doing all the things a local minister does amongst 'ordinary' communities and small and medium sized congregations and parishes. He feels this will enable him to relate our discussions to the ordinary person in his average parishes.



Rabbi Richard Jacobi

Richard is a congregational rabbi who has been serving a community now known as the East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue since 2007. Having previously worked in management, leadership and organisation development, he specialises in teaching these fields to future rabbis. He is a Trustee of Tzelem, a charity focused on Jewish clergy's role in advocating for economic and social justice in the UK, and passionately believes in the links between religious principles, human rights and responsibilities, and the common good.



The Reverend Pt. Meeta Joshi

Meeta is a Hindu Chaplain at University of Surrey and Epsom College. She is a trustee of Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum, Woking People of Faith, and core team member of faith forums. She provides faith and culture training to the staff of Clinical Commissioning Group, and Borough councils. She represents at Surrey Interfaith forum led by Lord lieutenant of Surrey. As an interfaith professional she initiated Interfaith walk at Surrey University & Interfaith cricket matches in wider community. She is a coach, Strengthscope consultant, electronics engineer, with a background in higher educational TV production and IT Telecoms Project consultancy.



Miss Nishi Joshi-Bhatt

Nishi is an undergraduate student studying BA International Development at King's College London, and Hindu Chaplaincy Intern at the Centre for Religious Life and Belief at the University of Surrey. She has been closely involved with Hindu and Interfaith events on campus at Surrey, and is particularly interested in intersectional approaches to faith. Nishi has also been very involved with community outreach. She founded the dance group - Dance Shakti, which has helped support interfaith initiatives with organisations such as Guildford and Godalming Interfaith Forum, Woking People of Faith, the British Armed Forces and Indian High Commission. She is also a Civic Scholar, and recipient of the High Sheriff of Surrey's Youth Recognition Award for her contribution to enriching the local community through the arts.



Dr Karishma Koka

Role: 1. Building Understanding, Peace and Progress for the Good of All.

2. Bringing People and Organisations together synergistically
3. Sharing Education and Sustainable Development Learning for progress and well-being

With her mother Jerou, Karishma co-founded *BaHumata*: a webinar series promoting understanding of the Zoroastrian Faith.

Karishma has also set up:

- *The Good Mind – Nurturing, Nature*– A series highlighting a Zoroastrian perspective on sustainable-development in Inter-Faith Networks including the Parliament of the World's Religions.
- *The Zoroastrian Legacy* – A ZTFE webinar series highlighting how Zoroastrianism inspires progress in various Disciplines.

Karishma is

1. the UK Coordinator for the WZCC Zoroastrian Faculty Network
2. Co-opted member of the Management Committee of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE.com).

International representation:

Karishma with her Mother Jerou have brought together Zoroastrian Priests, Scientists, Engineers, Entrepreneurs, Educators and people in Governance for two programmes at the Parliaments of the World's Religions in 2021.

Belief: that the principles of Education, Science and the Faiths work Synergistically for Peace and Progress together.

Karishma has been taught different Religions by her Mother Jerou and has appreciated and imbibed the essence of all Religions.

In the Zoroastrian Doctrine she sees NeuroCognitive Principles and those of Sustainable Development and Fellowship with others and with Nature for the good of all.

Education: BSc in Chemistry, Environmental Science and Biology. Masters by research at the Tata Institute (TIFR, NCBS, Bangalore) focussing on Computational Neuroscience and Molecular Biology. PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge (Cambridge Nehru and British Government Chevening Foreign Commonwealth Scholarships).

Post-Doc at the Medical Research Council in London for 10 years. Co-founded the Ultimate Achievements Academy together with her Mother (Mrs. Jer Panthaki RamMohan) and encouraged by her Father (Commander Koka RamMohan), applying the principles from Neuroscience to Learning and Development in the Academic and Executive World.



Miss Lauren Keiles

Lauren is the Communities Manager for The Board of Deputies of British Jews and is a member of the World Jewish Congress Diplomatic Corps. Lauren is a Trustee for René Cassin - the Jewish Human Rights charity and has worked with the United Nations to combat online hate. She has been recognised as 1 of 21 Faith Leaders for the 21st century.



Ms Shahda Khan

Shahda is Director of Borderlands, a Creative People and Places programme, primarily funded by Arts Council England. Shahda has a substantive portfolio of leading multi-disciplinary programmes, which has involved working with communities, especially those from underrepresented groups as well as strategic partners. She has an extensive track record of commitment and innovation around equity, inclusion and representation. A former Governor both of Middlesbrough College and Teesside University, Shahda has also undertaken a number of advisory roles including those for national government, the US Embassy in London, Scotland Yard and the MoD. Shahda is an alumna of several national and international leadership programmes including the US State Department's International Visitor Leadership Programme as well as the Senior Faith Leadership Development Programme.



Rabbi Eryn London

Eryn is a freelance rabbi, chaplain and Jewish educator living in London. She received ordination from Yeshivat Maharat. She holds a MA in applied drama from Goldsmiths, University of London, and a BA from Goucher College in theatre, psychology and Jewish studies. Following ordination, she trained and worked as a multi-faith and Jewish hospital chaplain in New York City. She is the programme manager for the Honeycomb Project, a community volunteer training programme through Reform Judaism and Liberal Judaism in the UK, and is involved with a number of other projects within the UK and the global Jewish community.



Rabbi Yechezkel Mandelbaum

Yechezkel grew up in a mountain farmer's family in the Swiss Alps. After discovering his Jewish roots during his Theology Studies at the University of Basel, he subsequently embarked to study Judaism in depth at various institutions in Israel, Switzerland, and finally at the Montefiore Endowment here in London where he received rabbinic ordination in 2018. He lives and works in Surbiton Surrey is married and has five children.



Sheikh Nuru Mohammed

- BA in Islamic Philosophy and MA in Islamic Studies
- Student of Advanced Diploma in Counseling and Psychology
- Resident Minister of Religion at KSIMC of Birmingham
- Qualified civil and commercial mediator
- Head of Islamic cultural and Religious affairs at Coej
- Voted the UK most impactful Imam 2021
- West Midlands Co-Chair and National trustee at CitizensUK
- Member of West Midlands combined authority faith strategic partnership group

- Deputy chair of mental health Caucus at West Midlands Combined Authority faith partnership group

- Member of Mental health commission at West Midlands combined authority

- Member of Birmingham city council standing advisory council on religious Education



Dr Abbas Panakkal

Abbas is the Director of the International Interfaith Harmony Initiative, which has been organising International Interfaith Conferences in collaboration with United Nations Initiatives, the Malaysian Prime Minister's Department for Unity and Integration, and the International Islamic University Malaysia. Dr Panakkal was awarded a research fellowship in 2016 by Griffith University, Australia. He was also the project coordinator of the G20 Interfaith Summit and was actively involved in the organization and coordination of several Interfaith Summits and related conferences in the Middle East and South Asia. He also organized intercultural engagements and adoption programmes for interreligious enrichment with the support of government and non-governmental agencies. Dr Abbas Panakkal's research is wide ranging, dealing with Islam, law, religion, indigenization, interreligious integration, and intercultural cooperation.



Mrs Jer Panthaki RamMohan

Role: 1. Building Understanding, Peace and Progress for the Good of All.

2. Education, well-being and holistic development for all

With her daughter Karishma, Jer has co-founded *BaHumata*: a webinar series promoting understanding of the Zoroastrian Faith, and have also set up:

- *The Good Mind – Nurturing, Nature*– A series highlighting a Zoroastrian perspective on sustainable-development in Inter-

Faith Networks including the Parliament of the World's Religions.

International representation:

Jerou along with her daughter Karishma has brought together Zoroastrian Priests, Scientists, Engineers, Entrepreneurs, Educators and people in Governance for two programmes at the Parliaments of the World's Religions in 2021.

Belief: that the principles of Education, Science and the Faiths work Synergistically for Peace and Progress together.

In the Zoroastrian Doctrine she sees Principles that can be applied for the good of all. In addition Jerou has studied different Faiths and appreciates them all for the qualities each one helps her to appreciate Zoroastrianism all the more.

Education: BSc Honours.



The Reverend Dr Stephen Plant

Stephen is Dean, Runcie Fellow and Associate Professor at Trinity Hall Cambridge. He lectures in Christian Theology and Ethics at the University of Cambridge Faculty of Divinity, including presently a course on theology and international development. He has written and edited several books on 20th century theology and theologians and is currently writing a biography of Karl Barth for Baker Academic Press. He is an Anglican Priest with 30 years' experience of ordained ministry.



Dr Sumeetra Ramakrishnan

Sumeetra is the Academic Liaison Lead for the Religious Life and Belief Centre at the University of Surrey, with the responsibility of supporting the Religious Life and Belief team/College of Chaplains to engage and work with the academic community, faculties and students. She sits on the University of Surrey's Race Equality Steering Committee and is the EDI lead for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. She is a consultant advising on Hinduism for the Religious Literacy Partnership, and Skill Boosters supporting organisations to better accommodate religion and belief in the workplace, she also contributes to BBC Radio Surrey/Sussex on Hinduism.



Mrs Monna Rizvi

Monna is a Service Development Liaison Librarian at Middlesex University and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Faith and social justice are important elements in her personal and working life and as part of the university's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy, Monna took up her role as Co-Chair of the Middlesex University Inter Faith Network in 2020. This role has enabled collaborative working with local faith communities, implementing such initiatives as the Faith and Peace Walk, Film and Faith Discussions and Eco Fair, culminating in recently being awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the London Faith and Belief Forum.



Mr Bahadur Singh

Bahadur was born in Panjab in India in 1952 and came to this country in 1964 to Huddersfield where his schooling took place. After school, he started working as an R@TV engineer in Bradford. He then moved down south and got a job with University of Surrey. Being a Sikh, he has a strong interest in Sikh faith. He has been a member of the Sikh Missionary Society since moving down south, he is an active member of this society and have been for last 40 years or so. He has been involved with University of Surrey Sikh community since his employment with the university since 1979.

He would like to make a contribution in terms of the Sikh prospective.

Facilitator Biographies



Ms Sughra Ahmed

With over 25 years' experience at the nexus of academia, policy and communities, Sughra has worked in a range of capacities, spending time in the UK and USA exploring contextual theology, religious expressions and human rights across communities of faith and belief. As Associate Dean for Religious Life, at Stanford University, she worked with young people helping them to find meaning and purpose as they moved through their academic lives. She has also worked in the field of human rights and education, in the UK.

She has published works on culture, religion, identity, diversity, and inclusion studying changing models of integration, engagement, and religious expression in Europe. She is Founder Director of Brilliant Burnley, a platform that seeks to create hyper-local socio-political change tackling long-standing issues to build strong, confident communities who are proud of their place and all their people.



Dr Thiago Alves Pinto

Thiago is the Director of Studies in Theology and Religious Studies and a Departmental Lecturer in Legal Studies and International Human Rights Law at the Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford. He is also an Academic Affiliate at the Bonavero Institute of Human Rights and a Fellow at Kellogg College at the University of Oxford. Thiago has been actively involved with NGOs, think tanks, academia, as well as national and international organisations, such as the IPPFoRB, SMC, CEDIRE (Brazil), IOM, UNESCO, OHCHR, the UK Parliament, and Chatham House.



Mrs Hillari Bollard

Hillari resides in Utah, USA. She is currently working as a contractual instructional designer for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, specifically dedicated to Faith for Rights projects. She led a team of seven law students in the development of the Faith for Rights online resource sponsored by the Brigham Young University Center for Law and Religion Studies. After a long teaching career, she has turned her attention to instructional design, which is a field dedicated to "making things so people can learn things." She enjoys spending time with her husband and two adult children, as well as hiking, and traveling.



Professor Nazila Ghanea

Nazila assumed her mandate as Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief on 1 August 2022.

Nazila is Professor of International Human Rights Law and Director of the MSc in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford. Prior to that, she was Senior Lecturer at the University of London (2000-2006), and she has also previously taught in the People's Republic of China (1993-1994). She has researched and published widely in international human rights law and served as consultant to numerous agencies.

Though her nearly 30-year career has been rooted in academia, Nazila's academic work has often connected with multilateral practice in international human rights law. She has contributed actively to networks interested in freedom of religion or belief and its interrelationship with other human rights, and advised states and other stakeholders. In her professional activities, she has taken every opportunity to support the promotion and application of principled understandings of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief. She has supervised well over 100 master's dissertations and doctorates and served on doctoral panels internationally. She has also co-authored a 700-page publication by Oxford University Press that addresses freedom of religion or belief and is focused on the UN record.



Rabbi Alex Goldberg

Alex is a barrister, human rights activist and Dean of Religious Life and Belief at Surrey University. He is working in conjunction with the UN on its Faith4Rights programme. He served as founding co-chair of Faith Forum for London and founded René Cassin human rights group. Alex is the Football Association's Faith Group chair and an Olympic Games Chaplain. He is advised the UK Government and US State Department on education and community relations issues. In 2022, he was named an Interfaith Associate of Guildford Cathedral and an honorary member of their College.

He is married with two children.



Mr Sam Howson

Sam runs Mascot Films, a production company that uses story to represent people through documentary, photography and film.

After studying theology and working as a youth worker in the Anglican Church both in the UK and US he saw the light and went into telly! He then built a business with his wife, Abi which was quickly acquired by a global agency. He left in 2016 to enable himself to enjoy the freedom to tell unique stories.



Ms Lily Jeffrey

Lily is an intern for the UN Human Rights Law Consultant who is working on the OHCHR Faith for Rights initiative. She has recently completed her undergraduate degree at Oxford University, reading Jurisprudence. She specialises in public international law and comparative private law, which includes learning about similar topics to those that will be discussed here. She will be facilitating sessions over the two days.



Ms Rosa Sanz Delgado de Molina

Rosa is Human Rights Officer at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at its Geneva headquarters. She works in the Treaty Body Capacity Building Programme, where part of her role is to coordinate the implementation of the Faith for Rights project with different partners around the world. Previously, she worked with the Secretariats of different Treaty Bodies, including the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the Human Rights Committee, and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Rosa also has experience in UN peacekeeping missions and country offices, mainly in Haiti and Mexico.

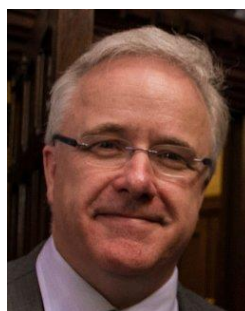
Guest Speakers



Dal Babu

Dalwardin is Chair of the Seacole Group and NED Camden and Islington Mental Health Trust.

Dal served for over 30 years in the Metropolitan Police and is the former Borough Commander of Harrow. He was the first chair of the National Association of Muslim Police. He has extensive board level experience in policing, international development, sport bodies, community safety, child and adult safeguarding. In 2010 Dal was awarded an OBE for services to the police and communities. He is a trustee for a School Academy, Quentin Blake Centre, Artichoke, Comedy School and Safeguarding advisor to Middlesex County Cricket Club.



Francis Davis

Francis is Professorial Fellow at the University of Oxford and Head of Digby Stuart College, University of Roehampton. He also holds chairs at Birmingham and St Mary's Universities. An award winning social entrepreneur current projects focus on Rwanda, Nigeria and UK cities



Juliet Wattebot O'Brien

Juliet is head of the Freedom of Religion or Belief Team in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Prior to this, she specialised in conflict and peacebuilding, working across the Middle East and North Africa, on private sector development in fragile states, and in Nepal for the British Government. She has also worked with various NGOs in the Balkans. Juliet has an MA in International Development (Poverty, Conflict and Reconstruction) from the University of Manchester.