

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Can religion be a force for good ? The role of religion in the public space will be discussed during the Global Congress : World's Religions after September 11

Montréal, June 8 2006 – From the Toronto bomb plot to the *Da Vinci Code*, from the kirpan affair in Montréal schools to the Danish cartoon scandal, must the religious and secular necessarily clash in daily life or can they together face up to the issues of the 21st century? This is one of the themes to be discussed at the Global Congress : *World's Religions after September 11*, which will take place from September 11 to 15 at Montreal's Palais des Congrès.

Five years after the attacks on September 11, while the relations between the various religions of the world are of a supreme importance, their representatives are concentrating on their shared quest for peace and harmony. The congress hopes to release the text of the UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS. This text is sponsored by four Nobel Laureates of Peace : His Holiness the Dalai Lama, South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Bishop Belo of East Timor and Iranian lawyer, Shirin Ebadi.

Among the dozen speakers invited, Karen Armstrong, Deepak Chopra, Swami Ramdev, Rabbi David Rosen, Rosemary R. Ruether, Shirin Ebadi and Huston Smith have confirmed their attendance. Participants from more than 55 countries have already registered for the event.

More information is available online at www.worldsreligionsafter911.com.

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