

**The global congress : « World's Religions after September 11 »  
A space for dialogue between the religions**

**Montréal, September 15 2006** – The global congress, « World's Religions after September 11 » successfully achieved its aims after five days of intense discussions and dialogue by people different faiths around the world meeting in Montreal.

The goals of the congress included the unveiling of the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by World's Religions, the opportunity for people to get together and discuss issues, and show that people – both secular and religious - can work together and for a common good.

“Religion is not a bad dream that will go away, says Dr. Arvind Sharma, President of the congress and Birks Professor of Comparative Religion at McGill University, that is the illusion of the secularist – that religion is some sort of aberration that will disappear one day. Religion is here to stay and that is a good thing.”

According to Dr. Patrice Brodeur, Canada Research Chair on Islam, Pluralism and Globalization at Université de Montréal and co-president of the event, this congress “has allowed the creation of spaces for dialogue among many people of distinct religious identities, but also among people who have different visions of the world, whether it be religious, spiritual or secular. »

Dr. Brodeur also outlined the significant media coverage for the event including, « journalists from around the world, from Australia to England, from the United States to local and Canadian press.

Over 1800 people from over 80 countries attended the five day congress in Montreal with 225 speakers delivering over 330 sessions. Keynote speakers included Shirin Ebadi, Iranian lawyer and Nobel Peace Laureate; leading Islamicist Seyyed Hossein Nasr, and best-selling authors Karen Armstrong and Deepak Chopra.

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