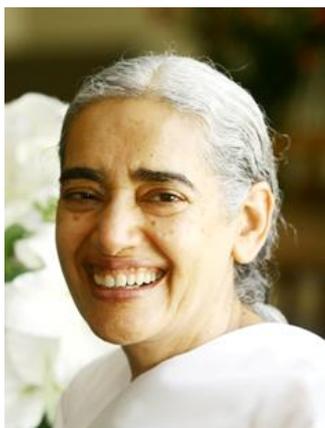

Consciousness and Climate Change

**Sister Jayanti Kirpalani, UK****Main representative of the Brahma Kumaris to UN, Geneva.****Director for Brahma Kumaris in Europe and the Middle East.**

For over 45 years, Sister Jayanti has been an emissary for peace with a vision and experience that is truly spiritual and global. She travels the world as a keenly sought after speaker and broadcaster who sees erosion of spiritual values being at the heart of the humanity's present dilemmas. Since 2009, she has led the *Brahma Kumaris* delegation to the UN Climate Change Conferences and spoken internationally about the spiritual perspectives relevant to climate change. She advocates that materialistic consumerism is a major cause of the current environmental crises; by recognising the need to return to a lifestyle of simplicity, we will no longer need external things to be content. Instead, spiritual love and respect—for the self, for all human beings, for all life forms and nature—will sit at the foundation of our lives. Attention to this facet remains the core principle of her work for environmental sustainability. <http://bkjayanti.org/>

**Valérieane Bernard, Switzerland****NGO Representative of the Brahma Kumaris to UN, Geneva**

Valérieane is the coordinator of the *Brahma Kumaris* (BK) centre in Geneva. She has been actively involved in the ecological movement since Rio 1992, promoting sustainable development and raising public awareness about the forces that drive climate change. She creates tools to lift awareness to advance the standing of women, promote fair relationships with our environment, resolve workplace disharmony and through interfaith gatherings, broaden cultural understanding. She has made her home in six countries, including Costa Rica, France, and Chile and continues to build bridges of understanding between cultures.

**Julia Grindon-Welch, USA****NGO Representative for the Brahma Kumaris to UN, New York**

Julia has been a *Brahma Kumaris*' representative to the United Nations in New York since 1993. In this capacity, she has explored and developed values-based and spiritual dimensions within UN policies that hold practical relevance for peoples' lives. Since 2009 she has been part of the BK delegation and organizing core-team to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Denmark, Mexico, South Africa, Qatar and Poland and Rio +20 in Brazil. Julia is Co-Chair of the Values Caucus at the UN and a member of the Working Group on Climate Change associated with the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD).

**Sonja Ohlsson, Denmark****Designated Contact Point to the UNFCCC****International Coordinator, Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative**

Sonja Ohlsson is the national coordinator of *Brahma Kumaris* in Denmark and has practised Raja Yoga meditation since 1986. She is a meditation teacher with the Prison and Probation service in Copenhagen. In 2009 she was instrumental in developing the BK Environment Initiative in order to meet the need for a higher environmental awareness within the BK community and to add the inner dimension to the discussions at the UN climate change and biodiversity conferences.

Consciousness and Climate Change



Golo J. Pilz, Germany/India

Advisor to Brahma Kumaris on Renewable Energy

Head of India-One Solar project

Golo was born in Germany and studies since 1984 Raja Yoga meditation with the *Brahma Kumaris*. Meanwhile he lives most of the year at the BK headquarters in Mount Abu, India. Since 1993, he has played a key role in establishing the *Brahma Kumaris* as one of the major users of renewable energies in India. Presently, Golo is directing the construction of India One, a 1MW solar thermal power plant. This is an innovative R&D project partly sponsored by the German (BMUB/GIZ) and Indian Government (MNRE). Golo advocates sustainable solutions through an ethical and value-based approach, and is an experienced presenter and participates regularly at UN Climate Conferences.



Armelle Guerrier, France

Brahma Kumaris Coordinator Paris; Women and the Environment

Armelle is the coordinator of the *Brahma Kumaris* main centre in Paris and a member of the team that oversees all community activities around France. She has been studying Raja Yoga meditation for 29 years and has a particular interest in relational ecology. This has brought her into the team working for *Brahma Kumaris Environmental Initiative* participating at COP21. In addition, Armelle enjoys facilitating programmes for women's empowerment across France.



Laura Agroum, Morocco

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative representative

French-born Laura has been living in the Kingdom of Morocco for 14 years. Prior to that she resided in Paris, Milan and Rome where she was working with the *Brahma Kumaris*. Laura spent her childhood in rural southern France. Her father's love for animals and the environment filled her with a natural regard for nature and all living creatures. Her affinity with and respect for the local Muslim community, the Middle East region and the Greater Maghreb aligns well with her work in public relations. She is also an active member of the Moroccan business community, which includes women entrepreneurs and health & well-being professionals.



Juan J. Vazquez Milling, Canada

NGO Youth Representative, Brahma Kumaris at the United Nations

Juan is a professional Homeopath and Naturopath. He has participated in the last four UN Conferences on Climate Change as well as the RIO+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. Juan has a genuine and deep interest in the link between spirituality and the environment, and likes to share it with others. This interest inspired him to create several green and youth programs, with a spiritual perspective such as *Eco Shanti* and *Om Café*, in Montreal Canada the place where he resides, and these programs have already taken root in different countries. He is a Climate Reality Leader with the Climate Reality project, and is also a part of the Advisory Committee for the next Conference of Youth COY11.