



## Climate Change Conference COP23 Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017, Bonn, Germany

### Multi Faith Rickshaw ride to deliver the Interfaith Declaration

Early this morning, representatives of the faith movements gathered in the St Cyprian Church for a multi-faith prayer. Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish and Christian priests shared their religious inspirations for the protection of the climate. Afterwards, all went for a bicycle and rickshaw ride towards the COP main building to hand over the interfaith climate declaration to the UNFCCC officials.

Rev. Fletcher suggested that Sister Jayanti and Valérie use a rickshaw pulled by Father James, a powerful and inspirational priest from Fiji who bravely and sweetly took the task to heart. Juan was there too, riding a bicycle.



It was a light morning, full of fun, laughter and singing where the delegates of Greenpeace came out to cheer us as we passed by their boat on the river Rhine.



## Meeting with UNFCCC Secretary General

Patricia Espinosa, UNFCCC Secretary General, met a delegation of twelve representatives; including Christians, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Fijian Hindu, youth, Brahma Kumaris and indigenous people. The meeting lasted more than half an hour and Mrs. Espinosa said that she understands the great importance that faith-based organisations have in tackling the negative effects of climate change at the local level. Governments have only a limited capacity to act so she was glad to meet and interact with us.



Henrik Grape (Church of Sweden ) and Valériane then described the intensive role religions already play in tackling climate change and laid out concepts for further engagement. 80% of the world population belong to a religion or a faith based organization that can reach out to the local communities. The discussion included changes of lifestyle, the poor, the importance of human rights, our responsibility for mother earth and the creatures who can't speak.

Sister Jayanti said that religions play a major role at the level of conscience and people of faith also give a lot of importance to actions. She described the India One project of the Brahma Kumaris and then presented Patricia with a set of blessing cards. The meeting ended with a minute of silence for the success of the COP.

## “Organising Paris at Home”

Carolyn participated in an event titled: “Long-term climate policy frameworks - elements for success”. It was organised by various German research institutes. This side event presented new and ongoing analyses on long-term developments as well as their related governance frameworks. At the end of the program, a report on “Organising Paris at Home” was launched by Matthias Duwe of the Ecologic Institute.



## Climate Meditation

Before attending the public program in Köln (Cologne), Sonja, Bri, Juan and Golo visited the cathedral in the heart of the city. The Dom, as it is called locally, is the fourth largest church in the world. Its towers rise 157 meters above the city. They had a powerful meditation for the conference. They then had a 30 minutes' brisk walk in cold, rainy weather to the local BK centre where they met the gathering. Golo shared some of the latest news from COP.



## Hope and strength for a world in transition

In the evening, the Köln BKs organised a public talk / interview in a nearby community centre. Around 30 people came to the talk. Dagmar Ringhandt interviewed Sister Jayanti and Golo on climate change, solar energies, the shifts in the World, how to stay positive and how to create hope. Sister Jayanti advocated a plant based diet and gave insights on how to build up inner resilience. She explained that regular reflection on



the activities of the day will help change habits and lifestyles. Golo talked about his personal journey and how regular meditation helped him to overcome demanding situations, build up inner strength and become successful with the solar projects. He gave examples of how changing one's lifestyle can reduce the carbon footprint it creates.



The participants had many questions and held Sister Jayanti and Golo in a lively discussion. Towards the end, Sudesh Didi of Germany joined the conversation. The program ended with a meditation and the distribution of blessings.

### Interview by "Solution Zone TV"

"Solution Zone TV", a project started by 3 Young media people from London, interviewed Sister Jayanti on climate Change. The interview explored the deeper inner causes for climate change.



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