

The Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative was invited to Rome by Greenfaith to support global talks on people's spiritual duties towards the environment.

Earlier this year the Pope issued his new encyclical called Laudato Si (Praise be to you) which was on environmental issues, climate change and people's spiritual duty to look after the planet. OurVoices (a multi faith climate change campaign of Greenfaith and the Conservation Foundation) decided to unify people of different faith backgrounds willing to do something for Nature and to address climate change.

Inhabitants from every corner of the world, including indigenous people from Latin America and small islands gathered in Rome in June. These were 100 young leaders from various faith backgrounds who have in common the passion to protect the planet and the determination and belief that change needs to and can happen now. Among them was a Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative representative from London.

On Sunday 28th June, the gathering organised a march "One Earth, One Human Family" through Rome where thousands of people joined in holding banners and praising Planet Earth and the Pope's initiative. The march ended in St. Peter's Square where the Pope addressed the group giving his best wishes.



The participants spent the next three days in a "Convergence" comparing the current situation and the ideal situation regarding climate change, exploring their own personal journeys that had brought them there. Time was spent on reflecting how their own religious/spiritual teachings address nature and the environment.

It was a truly divine gathering where everyone worked seamlessly together respecting each other's beliefs having as foundation the knowledge that they all belonged to the Human family and have to share the one home which is Planet Earth. Participants shared their personal stories on the economical, ecological and social impacts of climate change in their countries. It was also an opportunity to learn about the different faiths. Brahma Kumaris gave drishti and blessing cards to the participants, all standing in a circle and enjoying the silence.



At the end of the 3 days, participants left feeling hopeful, determined to make a change no matter how small or big and to increase awareness having made friends with like-minded individuals from all over the world.



<http://www.greenfaith.org/>

<http://www.ourvoices.net/>

<http://www.environment.brahmakumaris.org/>