

Brahma Kumaris at the launch of ourvoices.net, New York

The Brahma Kumaris were invited to join the launch of ourvoices.net on Wednesday, September 17 at the United Nations Church Center, New York City by Rev Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith and Gopal Patel, Project Manager of The Bhumi Project. It was an honor for the Brahma Kumaris to join the event where representatives and leaders from various spiritual traditions, as well as musicians and activists, including Dr James Hansen, one of the world's experts on the science for the Earth were present to share their voices.

This event was the global kick-off of ourvoices.net, a global, multi-faith campaign for a strong climate treaty, includes an on-line prayer petition and a series of global days of prayer and action. ourvoices.net provides faith communities worldwide with the opportunity to come together in response to climate change. It will organize global days of prayer, devotion or meditation and action for a strong climate treaty.

The event began with multi-faith worship followed by various speakers sharing about 'why faith matters?' in their own traditions and their commitments and engagement to respond to Climate Change.

Sister Gayatri Naraine, Brahma Kumaris representative to the United Nations in New York shared on 'Bridging Gap between Principles and Practices'. She beautifully introduced the 6 Habits of the Heart in a domain of Bhavna.

Bhavna:

Heart points to the core of the self, that center place where all of our ways of knowing converge -- intellectual, emotional, sensory, intuitive, imaginative, experiential, relational, and bodily. The heart is where we integrate what we know in our minds with what we know in our bones, the place where our knowledge can become more fully human.

The heart points to a larger way of knowing -- of receiving and reflecting on our experience -- that goes deeper than the mind alone can take us. The heart is where we can "think the world together," not apart and find the courage to act in what we know.

The heart is the integrative core of all human faculties. The genius of the human heart lies in its capacity to generate insight, energy, and new life. (Parker Palmer)

6 Habits of the heart to support a living system

1. Small is Beautiful -- Cultivating a systemic vision of love. Seeing with love expands our vision -- see the other as legitimate and the whole delicate system. To elevate the

conversation to be awakened to the beauty of the earth's delicate living system. To connect the earth's living system to the soul's living system.

2) Essence to Expansion -- To make everyday decisions within the context of a deep understanding of living systems principles based on natural and spiritual laws.

3) Less is More -- less expenditure more splendor -- needs vs greed

4) Natural is Nutritious -- well-being and well-balanced

5) Lotus Lifestyle -- Simple Living, High Thinking

6) Trustees of Resources: To be inspired to the elevated task of being trustees.

A recommended spiritual framework: aligning awareness to action based on inner guiding principles of self, divine and cause and effect. And understanding the quality of our thought and energy from an individual perspective and as well as from the collective perspective and its impact on the environmental crisis.

Quality of awareness variable: 1. Sato means Pure (holistic and solution-based), 2. Rajo means mixed energies, the tension between the crisis that exists and the challenges we create to address the crisis, and 3. Tamo means impure energies, the full-blown realities of climate change? As purity has degenerated over time we have witnessed crisis and systemic collapse. At this time 2 energies at work in the world ascending and descending. We may call a flood a descending energy but Mother Nature may say "my real cleaning up". We have a choice to which energy we want to affiliate ourselves. Prayer, meditation, reflection and silent methods to support the ascending energy are already at work.

What is needed comes from an inner coordination – subtle alignment with universal principles and humanity's alignment at the level of thought and awareness.

Now that we have noticed what has happened, now is also the time to see what is possible and for restoration to begin. We need to practice principles and we need to be aligned with the energy for restoration. The world is a stage and we are all actors, playing our roles. We cannot afford to be the audience any longer, to be the spectators of damage and destruction. Now is the time to connect our souls to our roles. Actors act, they don't sit on the mat.

Madhavi Patale, New York