

Valériane Bernard

Brahma Kumaris representative to the United Nations, Geneva

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Since 1992, Valériane Bernard has been actively involved in the ecological movement, promoting sustainable development and raising public awareness about the forces that drive climate change.

Underpinning these community-based activities, is her interest in spirituality. Since a young age Valériane foresaw that only genuine personal engagement between people could create a quality of life in the human family. This insight led her to an active spiritual life from the age of 25, committing to peace through meditation and creating tools of awareness to advance the condition of women, promote fair relationships with our environment, resolve workplace disharmony and through interfaith gatherings within the community, broaden cultural understanding. She has made her home in six countries and continues to build bridges of understanding between cultures.

She has produced radio programs on the theme of culture of peace, personal development, and quality of life in Costa Rica and was the Assistant to the Director at the *NGO Ecole Instrument de Paix*, Geneva, Switzerland. She is fluent in four languages French (her mother tongue), English, Spanish, and Portuguese and is a sought-after translator for many international events. Her refined ability to work with people from different cultural contexts has been an asset for bringing ethics and values into the workplace, improving teamwork and customer relations and aiding conflict resolution.

Community Work & Employment

2008 Geneva, Switzerland

Coordinator of **Gift of Women** an empowerment project for women. Post symposium on *Honouring women*, organized by NGO Working Group called *Women for the World*.

"Since childhood, my passion for the human spirit expressed itself in a great love for stories, customs and their transmission; this set me on the path to spirituality. One thing leading to another, I found myself in India. There I had the privilege of meeting the exceptional women who direct the institution of the Brahma Kumaris. I was deeply touched by these "Dadis" (senior sisters); their simplicity, goodness, lightness, their very lives, were a teaching, a transmission, an example. Realising that I myself had been raised by women, I measured the influence they had had on my life. This in turn enabled me to understand myself much better."

2005 – present Geneva, Switzerland

Coordinator of Brahma Kumaris Meditation Centre, liaison with community groups working for the common good of Swiss Citizens. Organiser of interfaith dialogues.

2002 El Salvador, Chamber of Commerce

Trainer. For development of values and ethics, in the fight against corruption in the workplace.

2001–2005 Costa Rica, Moravia Municipality

Design and coordination/implementation of training for female victims of violence.

1981–1990 France, Ministry of Justice

Educator. Responsible for learning programmes for young offenders or young people under protective orders. Help them create a new relationship with life, trying to get them back to school, needs assessment, monitor family relationships, behavioural management and healing.

Radio Presenter

Costa Rica

Radio U (for the University of Costa Rica Youth Program)
Radio FIRE Costa RICA feminist Radio (English and Spanish)
Radio for Peace (University for Peace)
Cadena National des Radio

Creative Artist

Valérieane has created a series of workshops and meditations to encourage reflection on the human relationship with matter and the environment, strengthen individual capacity for harmony with nature, respect and non-violence towards matter, behavioural change, etc. The workshops* are open to the public and freely available through the Internet, CDs and BK Centres throughout the world.

For the Brahma Kumaris organisation, Valérieane is currently heading up a Europe-wide reflection on ways in which the Brahma Kumaris Centres and individual participants can enhance their own respect and friendliness towards the environment.

Resources & Publications

Environment Workshops*:

<http://environment.brahmakumaris.org/resources/2-resouces/76-workshop-environment-lifestyle-and-consciousness>

Publications:

Portuguese

http://vozdepaz.net/01_ManejarEmociones.php
http://vozdepaz.net/27_BuenosDeseos.php
http://vozdepaz.net/8_MasAlla_del_Miedo.php
http://vozdepaz.net/36_PoderVision.php

English

In relationship with nature
In harmony with nature

Working with Women:

Gift of Women Project:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdI_715VjkY&context=C3675422ADOEgsToPDskJdZ7qCntUfDhkBLRE_LN0k

International Speaking Engagements

- 2012** **Madrid, Spain** IX Jornada Interreligiosa, ECOLOGÍA Y RELIGIONES (www.adimadrid.com)
- 2011** **Durban, South Africa COP17** – Member of Brahma Kumaris delegation
- 2011** **Bonn, Germany** – led the BK delegation for the sustainable development input to the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)
- 2011** **Geneva, Switzerland** – Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights, Switzerland. Initiated in Geneva, this forum of the World Council of Churches (WCC) WCC, Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Spiritual Council (CEAPI), Franciscans International, Centre Catholique International de Genève (CCIG).
- 2010** **Cancun, Mexico COP16** – **Member of BK delegation** and presented on *Establishing resources and building capacity to confront disasters*.
- 2009** **Copenhagen COP15** – Member of Panel Discussion about *Crucial Principles for Radical Change*.
- 1992** **Rio Earth Summit** – Speaker on *Promoting harmonious development: an examination of man's influence on the universe*.