

GENEVA SPIRITUAL APPEAL

Because our personal convictions or the religions to which we owe allegiance have in common a respect for the integrity of humankind -

Because our personal convictions or the religions to which we owe allegiance have in common a rejection of hatred and violence -

Because our personal convictions or the religions to which we owe allegiance have in common the hope for a better and more just world -

Representing religious communities and civil society we appeal to the leaders of this world, whatever their field of influence, to strictly adhere to the following three principles:

A refusal to invoke a religious or spiritual power to justify violence of any kind;

A refusal to invoke a religious or spiritual source to justify discrimination and exclusion;

A refusal to exploit or dominate others by means of strength, intellectual capacity or spiritual persuasion, wealth or social status.

Grounded in the Genevan tradition of welcome, refuge and compassion, our appeal is open to all whose convictions are in accordance with these three demands.

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Yahia Basalamah, Imam of the Mosque in Geneva

Damaskinos, Metropolitan of Switzerland and Exarch of Europe (Orthodox, Ecumenical Patriarchate)

The Venerable Dhammika, Head of the Buddhist Vihara at Geneva and of the International Buddhist Foundation

Rabbi François Garai, Liberal Synagogue, Geneva

William McComish, Dean of Saint-Pierre Cathedral, Geneva (Protestant)

Jean-Claude Mokry, Priest of Saint-German (Old Catholic)

Jean-Paul de Sury, Episcopal delegate (Roman Catholic Church)

Cornelio Sommaruga, President, International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva

Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva

Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva

Geneva, 1999