



WHY?

The terrorist attacks in the USA on the 11th of September 2001 showed how religions could misuse violence in the name of God. At the same time the ensuing developments have shown how great the mutual challenges are for people of different religions to form a peaceful coexistence in culturally and religiously pluralistic societies.

In Berlin an interreligious group will celebrate at Brandenburg Gate such an event with a twofold goal: first, to memorialize the victims of the attacks in the USA and the victims of the ensuing military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and second, to recall the promises of peace that are found in the world's religions and to create concrete opportunities for peaceful encounters with people of various religious confessions.

This planning group consisting of people from various religious communities in Berlin seeks to encourage the organization of interreligious events in other communities.



HOW TO PREPARE?

1. Invite representatives from various religious communities, peace initiatives, and inter-religious councils (for example, the local body of Religions for Peace (RfP) or World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP), or local ecumenical and peace councils.)

2. Create mutual exercises that focus on the organization of such an event, for example, a questionnaire that may ask what associations participants have when they think on September 11, 2001 and its consequences:

- What religious aspects would be important to me?
- What political aspects would be important to me?
- What would I like to share with others at such an event on September 11, 2011?
- What message would I like to send on September 11, 2011?
- What would I create from the ruins of the WTC Twin Towers?
- What would be my symbol(s) for remembrance?

3. Agree on venue, time, format, concept, sponsors, and finances.

4. Register with the authorities.

5. Structure of Memorial
(Example of Elements at the right side)

6. Organization of cultural contributions, peace fairs, inter-religious peace exhibits, tables, displays (inclusion of schools, children and youth groups from religious communities).

7. Organization of a concluding activity or initiative (building a peace dove of human beings)

HOW TO CELEBRATE?

Remembering the Victims and Peace Declarations of the World's Religions

1. Greeting, Introduction of Organizers and Address to the Participants

2. Memorializing/Remembering the victims through traditions for mourning from various religions and a moment of silence

3. Remembering promises and declarations for peace from various religion (You find some short examples in this flyer)

4. Exchange of Greetings of Peace: "Peace be with you/Salam/Schalom/Pace"

5. Renunciation of violence in the name of religions
We are mindful that in the name of our religions people, states and organizations have employed and continue to do violence against people of other races, nationalities and faiths.

6. Mutual action for just peace, trust and reconciliation
We commit ourselves to the overcoming of violence in the world, all structures of violence and the spiral of violent acts, and desire to become active in a multitude of ways for peace with justice.

7. Sharing the desire for the "fruits of peace"

For more information see:
www.religionen auf dem weg des friedens.de

We would appreciate learning about and sharing in events and programs in other places.

Initiative:

Religionen auf dem Weg des Friedens (Religions on the Way of Peace)
V.i.d.S.P: Dr. Gerdi Nützel (Coordinator), 10097 Berlin, Sorauer Straße 13
info@religionen auf dem weg des friedens.de



PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Christian Peace Prayer

(in the spirit of Francis of Assisi)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

Muslim Peace Prayer

(from the Peace Abbey)

In the name of Allah, the beneficent, the merciful, Praise be to the Lord of the Universe who has created us and made us into tribes and nations; That we may know each other, not that we may despise each other. If the enemy incline towards peace, do you also incline toward peace. And trust God, for the Lord is the one that hears and knows all things.

[And the servants of God, most gracious are those who walk on the Earth in humility,
And when we address them, we say "PEACE."]

Jewish Peace Prayer

(Jonathan Magonet)

God of all creation, we stand in awe before You, impelled by visions of the harmony of humanity. We are children of many traditions - inheritors of shared wisdom and tragic misunderstandings, of proud hope and humble successes. Now is time for us to meet - in harmony and truth, in courage and trust, in love and promise.

May our courage match our convictions, and our integrity match our hope. May our faith in You bring us closer to each other. May our meeting with past and present bring blessing for the future.

Buddhist Peace Prayer

(from the Peace Abbey)

"May all beings everywhere plagued with sufferings of body and mind quickly be freed from their illnesses. May those frightened cease to be afraid, and may those bound be free. May the powerless find power, and may people think of befriending one another.

Baha'i Peace Prayer

(Abdu'l-Baha)

O Lord! Grant Thine infinite bestowals, and let the light of Thy guidance shine. Illumine the eyes, gladden the hearts with abiding joy. Confer a new spirit upon all people and bestow upon them eternal life. Unlock the gates of true understanding and let the light of faith shine resplendent. Gather all people beneath the shadow of Thy bounty and cause them to unite in harmony, so that they may become as the rays of one sun, as the waves of one ocean, and as the fruit of one tree. May they drink from the same fountain. May they be refreshed by the same breeze. May they receive illumination from the same source of light. Thou art the Giver, the Merciful, the Omnipotent.

Hindu Peace Prayer

(according Rigveda, Rabindranath Tagore)

This is my prayer to thee, my lord—strike, strike at the root of penury in my heart.

Give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows.

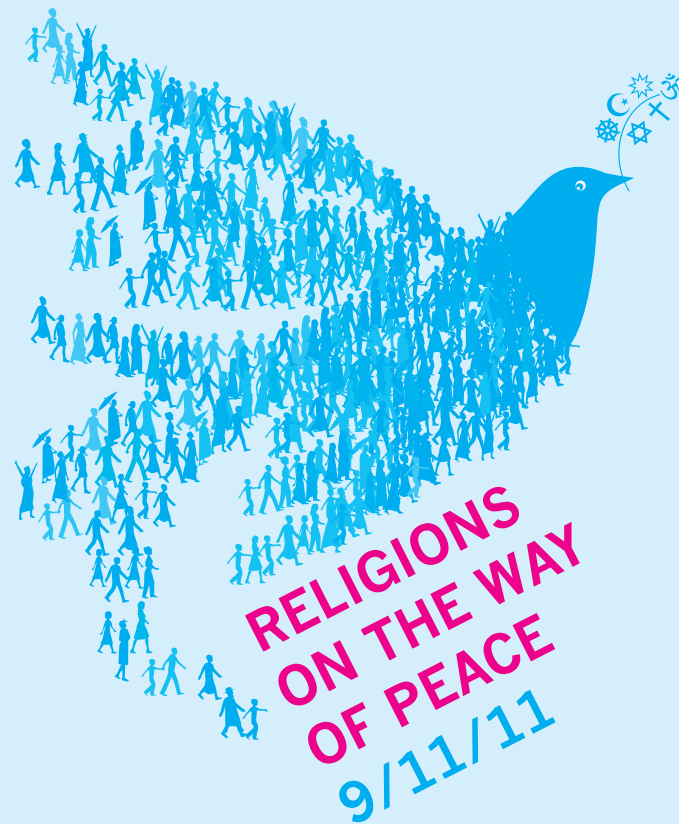
Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service.

Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might.

Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles.

Give me the strength to feel your presence in people from different cultures and religious traditions and give me the strength to surrender my strength to thy will with love.

SUNDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2011



**Create an interreligious event
for your place, city, region**