

THE 12TH ANNUAL WORLD SUMMIT OF NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES: PANELISTS

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SOVIET UNION & NOBEL LAUREATE

As the instigator of *glasnost* and *perestroika*, President Mikhail Gorbachev introduced democracy to Russia and Eastern Europe. Dedicating himself to building a relationship of mutual trust between the Soviet Union and the United States, he signed two broad disarmament pacts that dramatically reduced the danger of worldwide nuclear destruction. For his extraordinary efforts, he was awarded the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize. [Learn more about speaker Mikhail Gorbachev.](#)

LECH WALESZA

FORMER PRESIDENT OF POLAND & NOBEL LAUREATE

As the heart and mind behind Poland's Solidarity Labor Movement in 1980, Lech Walesa inspired the world through his peaceful demonstrations against the Soviet Union. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 for his heroic efforts, and he was elected President of Poland in 1990. Today, he heads the Lech Walesa Institute, which aims to champion democracy and free market reform in Eastern Europe and throughout the developing world. [Learn more about speaker Lech Walesa.](#)

JIMMY CARTER

FORMER UNITED STATES PRESIDENT & NOBEL LAUREATE

As President, Jimmy Carter's noteworthy accomplishments included the Camp David Accords, the Salt II Treaty, the Panama Canal Treaties, and improving diplomatic relations with the Republic of China. Post-presidency, Carter hardly took a break, establishing The Carter Center to engage in conflict mediation in many countries. "For his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development," he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. [Learn more about speaker Jimmy Carter.](#)



Speaking to the World

SHIRIN EBADI
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE-WINNING ACTIVIST & LAWYER

The first woman judge in Iran, Shirin Ebadi was stripped of her title and her basic rights following the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Ever since then, she has relentlessly worked for women's and children's rights in Iran's repressive climate. Defying government obstacles, she created one of the first independent, nongovernmental human rights organizations in Iran: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child, for which she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003. [Learn more about speaker Shirin Ebadi.](#)

MUHAMMAD YUNUS
FOUNDER OF GRAMEEN BANK & NOBEL LAUREATE

Driven by the idea that credit is a basic human right, Professor Muhammad Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in 1976 and developed his revolutionary micro-credit system, which has achieved phenomenal success in helping the 5.6 million poor people in Bangladesh gain a better quality of life. He was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 2006 for his efforts to eradicate poverty. [Learn more about speaker Muhammad Yunus.](#)