

PRESS RELEASE

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RELIGION, CULTURE, AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Religion has often been used to justify violence against women, but religion also has the power to challenge and overcome that same violence. On March 4 at 4:30pm at the Armenian Convention Center, 630 2nd Avenue in New York City, the Women's Task Force at the Parliament of the World's Religions will be participating in the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, hosting a multifaith conversation on "Religion, Culture and Violence Against Women."

This thought-provoking multifaith conversation will feature presentations from diverse religious traditions, including the Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune, Founder and Senior Analyst, FaithTrust Institute, Salma Elkadi Abugideiri, Co-Director of the Peaceful Families Project, and Rabbi Diana S. Gerson, New York Board of Rabbis, Program Director, as well as Women's Task Force co-chairs Phyllis Curott, Vice-Chair of the Council for Parliament of the World's Religions and Kathe Schaaf, Trustee of the Council for Parliament of the World's Religions.

"Religion, Culture and Violence Against Women" will explore vital questions at the intersection of women's issues and religion, particularly as they relate to this year's UN-CSW focus on violence against women: What has been the use of religious doctrine to justify violence against women and does religion have the precepts, influence and power to change these age-old beliefs and practices? Presentations from diverse religious traditions will be followed by small group discussions on how women of faith can help create real change and support one another.

This event is free and open to the public, and no credentials are required.

The Women's Task Force is also collaborating with other organizations to co-host several additional events for the UN-CSW, all free and open to the public:

Women as Spiritual Leaders: Transforming Violence

Tuesday - March 5, 2013, 8:30 – 10 AM

Grumman Room, 8th Floor, Church Center for the UN, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York

Co-Hosted with Women of Spirit and Faith

Sacred Women's Circle

Wednesday - March 6, 2013, 7-9 pm

Chapel - Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York

Co-Hosted with Millionth Circle, Gather the Women, Women of Spirit and Faith, Circle Connections, International Public Policy Institute, We Are Enough, Anglican Women's Empowerment and others

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