

# *1<sup>st</sup> Nordic Peace Conference*

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the Furuset Mosque

*Global conflicts & the need for justice*



Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Norway

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# Programme



17.30 — 18.00

**Registration**

18.00 — 18.10

**Introduction**

18.10 — 19.40

**Speeches** from guests speakers

19.40 — 20.30

**Dinner**

20.30 —

**Guided tours** of the mosque



# *The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community*



## *Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad*

The Promised Messiah and Mahdi (peace be upon him)

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community was founded in 1889 by **Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad** (1835-1908) of Qadian, India. He claimed to be the expected reformer of the latter days and the awaited one of the world's religions (the Messiah and Mahdi of the latter days). His mission was to revive the peaceful teachings of Islam and engender in people's hearts the love of God and the duty to serve mankind.

The community is now established in more than 210 countries and it spearheads an international effort to promote education and health across the developing world, as well as a global peace campaign to champion respect and human rights for all.

*"Show mercy to [God's] servants and do not wrong them by your tongue or your hand or by any other means, and strive for the welfare of God's creation."* (Noah's Ark: An invitation to Faith, 1902).

# *The Khalifa of Islam: a man of Peace*



## *Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad*

Head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

The community is led by a system of Khilafat (spiritual leadership). His Holiness **Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad** is the community's fifth Khalifa and is based in London. He leads his global community and inspires it to serve humanity with the spirit of kindness and humility that is integral to Islam. In accordance with the teachings of Islam, he upholds the honour of all prophets of God and highlights the role of religion in the promotion of peace.

His Holiness has travelled globally to promote dialogue and understanding. He has also written to world leaders urging them to inculcate a true sense of justice and peace in international relations to avoid regional conflicts from engulfing the entire world. Under his leadership, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has launched campaigns across the world that present Islam's true noble message of loyalty, freedom and peace.



*His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad has repeatedly spoken on the need for peace and justice and underlined the need for mutual respect.*

*"In terms of the major religions, the unifying figure is God Almighty Himself, but this does not mean that a religious person can have nothing in common with a non-religious person. Thus, the Qur'an has taught us how to build a peaceful, multicultural society, where people of all faiths and beliefs are able to live side by side. The key ingredients are mutual respect and tolerance." (National Peace Symposium UK, March 2017)*

*"It is my hope and prayer that all those who value humanity understand the grave situation the world is facing work towards bringing mankind together and developing true peace in the world. Certainly, politicians and people of influence should endeavour to persuade their governments to focus on peace-building efforts, rather than inflaming conflicts and taking us further towards the abyss. At this time, the world must focus on reconciliation and bringing people together." (18 April 2017: Raunheim, Germany.)*



*Rt Hon. Justin Trudeau MP,*  
Prime Minister of Canada

*Rt Hon. Theresa May MP,*  
Prime Minister for the UK

*"If only the major powers and the international institutions, such as the United Nations, had truly acted upon their founding principles, under all circumstances, then we would not have seen the toxic plague of terrorism infect so many parts of the world. We would not have seen the world's peace and security repeatedly undermined and destroyed."* (17 October 2016: Houses of Parliament, Ottawa, Canada.)

*"We do not believe in the violent Jihad that is being portrayed by terrorists and militants. We do not believe in the Jihad of terrorism or extremism. Such hateful activities are to be absolutely condemned. Rather, we believe only in the Jihad of self-reformation and improvement; we believe in the Jihad of peacefully preaching Islam's true teachings and we believe in the Jihad of preaching peace itself."* (25 September 2014: National Parliament of Ireland)

His Holiness has travelled globally to promote dialogue and understanding. He regularly meets presidents, prime ministers, other heads of state, parliamentarians and ambassadors of state.



*H.E. Mr. Edward Ssekendi*  
Vice-President of Uganda

The Most Reverend  
the Archbishop of Canterbury,  
*His Grace Justin Welby*

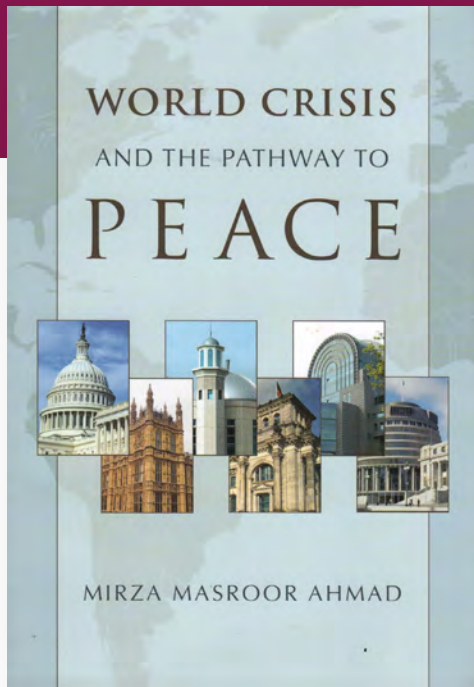
# *World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace*

The world is passing through very troubled times and the global economic crisis continues to manifest newer and graver dangers. The similarities to the period just before the Second World War continue to be cited and it seems clear that events are moving the world at an unprecedented pace towards a horrific Third World War. Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad warns the world of the fast approaching dangers and how it can avert disaster and chart a course to peace. It includes a selection of his keynote addresses at various parliaments and letters to world leaders urging them to focus global efforts for the attainment of peace and justice.

## *Letters to world leaders include:*

- *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*
- *Prime Minister of Israel*
- *President of the United States of America*
- *Prime Minister of Canada*
- *Prime Minister of UK*
- *Chancellor of Germany*
- *President of the French Republic*
- *President of the Russian Federation*
- *Premier of the Republic of China*
- *President of the Islamic Republic of Iran*





*"...instead of using force to suppress other nations, use diplomacy, dialogue and wisdom." (World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace, p. 244)*

*"It is my fear that in view of the direction in which things are moving today, the political and economic dynamics of the countries of the world may lead to a world war. It is not only the poorer countries of the world, but also the richer nations that are being affected by this. Therefore, it is the duty of the superpowers to sit down and find a solution to save humanity from the brink of disaster." (p. 11)*

# *Summary of the UK National Peace Symposium 2018*

## *Need to focus on alleviating poverty and inequality and link with extremism*

*"Striving to protect the environment and to look after our planet is an extremely precious and noble cause. Yet at the same time, the developed world, and especially the world's leaders, should also realise that there are other issues that must be tackled with the same urgency. People living in the world's poorest nations do not concern themselves with the environment or the latest figures on carbon emissions. Rather, they wake up each day wondering if they will be able to feed their children."*

*"We must realise that the result of such poverty has severe implications for the wider world and directly affects global peace and security. The fact that children have no option but to spend their days collecting water for their families means that they are unable to go to school or to attain any form of education. They are stuck in a vicious cycle of illiteracy and poverty that is seemingly endless and hugely damaging to society."*

*"By helping the developing nations stand on their own feet and by giving their people opportunities and hope, we will actually be helping ourselves and safeguarding the future of the world."*

## *Dangerous rise and re-emergence of far right in west*

*"As a result of recent terrorist attacks and widespread immigration to the West, there has also been a dangerous rise in nationalism in many Western countries evoking fears of the dark days of the past. It is particularly disturbing that far-right groups have become increasingly vocal and have seen their membership rise and have even made political gains. They too are extremists who seek to poison Western society by inciting the masses against those who have a different colour of skin or who hold different beliefs."*

## *Selfish attitudes of leaders*

*"The rhetoric of certain powerful world leaders has become increasingly nationalistic and belligerent, as they have pledged to put the rights of their own citizens above all others."*

*"Policies that are based upon selfishness, greed and a readiness to forfeit the rights of others are wrong and a means of sowing discord and division in the world."*

## *International arms trade*

*"In countries like Syria, Iraq and Yemen, government forces, rebels and terrorist organisations are fighting one another. Despite their divergent interests, they all have one thing in common – that the vast majority of their weapons have been produced externally in the developed world."*

*"Quite openly and proudly, the major powers are trading arms that are being used to kill, maim and brutalise innocent people. Whilst the economies of the selling countries may attain short-term benefit, their hands are covered in the blood of hundreds of thousands of people."*

*"One of the main arguments made by those in favour of the arms industry is that procuring weapons is a means of deterrence and keeping the peace... Certainly, the thousands of innocent children who have lost their parents or have lost their own limbs will never be convinced by such logic. Nor will the thousands of women who have been left widowed, or the millions of people who have been displaced from their homes."*

## *Foreign policy mistakes*

*"In many instances, it seems that the world has not learned from its past mistakes. It is widely accepted that the Iraq War of 2003 was unjust and based on false pretences, whilst Libya has descended into chaos and become a hotbed of extremism since Western powers took action there several years ago."*

*"I mentioned that a major focus of the international community is climate change and a desire to keep the air that we breathe clean. Is there anyone who thinks that heavy bombardment has no effect on the atmosphere? Furthermore, if peace ever does prevail in the war-torn countries, their towns and cities will have to be rebuilt from scratch and this in itself will be a huge industry that will cause an increase in harmful emissions and pollution."*

## *Need to alter priorities*

*"Instead of embarking on an arms race leading to death and destruction, we must join the race to save and protect humanity. Instead of shutting down borders and ports in warring countries, causing for innocent children to be left starving and the sick being deprived of medical treatment, we must open our hearts to one another, knock down the walls that divide us, feed the hungry and help those who are suffering."*

*"Islam teaches that peace can only be achieved when all traces of ill-will and malice are removed from a person's heart and replaced by a spirit of mercy, love and compassion for others."*



## *Islam and extremism*

*"Even though so-called Muslim terrorists claim to act in Islam's name, I do not believe that we are witnessing a religious war. Rather, the wars being fought today are being fought for geopolitical reasons."*

*"The so-called 'Jihadi' terrorists and extremist clerics serve only to tarnish the name of Islam and undermine the efforts of the vast majority of Muslims who are peaceful and law-abiding citizens."*

## *Justice with enemies*

*"Chapter 49, verse 10 of the Holy Quran states that the objective of any intervention should always be establishing long-lasting peace and instructs Muslims to be just even with their adversaries."*

*"Where force is required to stop an aggressor from inflicting cruelty, the action must remain proportionate and never enter the realm of seeking revenge or plundering the wealth of the vanquished."*

## *Islam not to blame for all world problems*

*"Now is the time that humanity distanced itself from the notion that only Islam is to blame for the problems in the world. Furthermore, it is also high time, that instead of prioritising the advance of their political parties or governments, our leaders prioritise the future peace and prosperity of humanity."*





## *Confirmed speakers*



### *Kjell Magne Bondevik*

Mr. Bondevik is the Former Prime Minister of Norway and now Executive Chair of the Oslo Center for Peace, Democracy and Human Rights.

He was Norway's prime minister in the periods 1997-2000 and 2001-2005. He has also been Foreign Minister and Minister of Church and Education. He was a parliamentary representative from 1973-2005. Bondevik was the UN Secretary-General Special offer to the Horn of Africa from 2006-2007.

Mr. Bondevik is also a recipient of the Tabu Prize from the Council of mental health (1999) and Ibsen's honorary award (2007). In 2016 he was awarded King Harald Vs jubilee medal 1991-2016. Mr. Bondevik holds the degree of Cand.Theol. and was ordained as a priest in the Lutheran Church of Norway in 1979.

## *Azhar Haneef*

Mr. Azhar Haneef is Vice President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in USA.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA has recently launched its TruIslam initiative, a global campaign to counter the extreme jihadism of Al Qaeda and ISIS, which the non-Muslim world tends to equate with all of Islam.

Mr. Azhar Haneef has been invited to the White House by Former President in USA; Mr. Barack Obama. He is renowned scholar and holds lectures on various topics related to Islam when traveling internationally.

While discussing solutions to counter extremist ideology, Mr. Azhar Haneef says that the youth are susceptible to extremist radicalization because the extremist groups entire concept of Islam is illiterate. To encounter this problem, he emphasizes the importance of education and outreach efforts such as that Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has been focusing on for decades, dating back to the very founding of community. "We are a community of peace, and love for humanity," says Mr. Azhar Haneef.





## *Henrik Syse*

Mr. Henrik Syse is Research Professor at Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).

He is Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) since 1997, Former Head of Corporate Governance (2005-07) at Norges Bank Investment Management. He is Chief Editor of the Journal of Military Ethics and part-time Associate Professor at the Norwegian Defence University College.

At PRIO he works on the ethics of war, historically and systematically, as well as on the relationship between religion and the use of armed force. He is also a lecturer at Bjørknes College. Moreover; he is also Vice Chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee and has been member of the Committee since 2015, appointed for the period 2015-2020.



## *Ulf Boström*

Mr. Ulf Boström is Police Chief of Integration department in Gothenburg city in Sweden.

He is responsible for monitoring all religious organizations in his city. Mr. Ulf Boström is also politically active and is the co-founder of a new local political party "Democrates" in Gothenburg.

He is one of the Sweden's most experienced police officers, and the only integration police in Gothenburg, a city with 184 different nationalities.

Mr. Ulf Boström has known Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for a very long time and has also had the pleasure to visit Jalsa Salana UK twice; which is the largest gathering of Muslims in UK.

## *Ed Brown*

Mr. Ed Brown is Secretary- General at Stefanus Alliance International (SAINT) and is also voluntarily serving as Coordinator for International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB).

He has also previously worked in the Norwegian Helsinki Committee. Mr. Ed Brown is educated in the fields of study, psychology, pedagogy, religious science and human rights.

He has studied at Pacific Luther University and Concordia University in the United States, MF Norwegian School of Theology, Norway and the University of Oxford, England. He has for many years been working with religious freedom and human rights.



## *Sven Mollekleiv*

Mr. Sven Mollekleiv is Honorary President of the Norwegian Red Cross.

He served as President on a voluntary basis from October 2008 to October 2017. Mollekleiv has also had the role of Secretary General of the Norwegian Red Cross from 1991 to 2001.

In 2015 Mollekleiv was awarded The Royal Norwegian Order of Saint Olav for his remarkable accomplishments on behalf of the country and humanity. Mollekleiv was titled Knight, First Class of the Norwegian King Harald V.

His professional experience outside the Red Cross is that he is currently Senior Vice President, Sustainability at DNV GL.



## Looking back



*Ingeborg Breines, former president of the International Peace Bureau:*

*"It is our duty to help each child to develop in accordance with his/her inherent opportunities ... We all have a lot of work in front of us, and I look forward to cooperate."*



*Ed Brown, from the Norwegian Helsinki Committee and Coordinator of IPPFORB:*

*"I believe everyone has the right to have faith, change faith, and practice his faith in peace ... Mankind is like a body; a healthy body knows pain and responds to fix the problem, while an unhealthy body does not. I am very grateful being here with you, and urge you all to keep striving to heal the body."*





*Cindy Horst, Research Director at Peace Research Institute of Oslo:*

*"It seems that in the coming years, there may be greater needs in Norway and in Europe to act ethically, thus we can see a greater community commitment."*



*Marianne Borgen, Mayor of Oslo, Norway:*

*"I wish Oslo to develop even more clearly as a city of peace, where defence and respect for human rights and international solidarity are key values."*





LOVE  
FOR ALL  
HATRED  
FOR NONE

*Loyalty — Freedom — Equality — Respect — Peace*

The Baitun Nasr Mosque in northeast Oslo is the prestigious venue of the Nordic Peace Conference. Opened in 2011, the landmark building is the largest mosque in Scandinavia and it plays a key role in promoting community cohesion.

[www.fredskonferansen.no](http://www.fredskonferansen.no)



[www.ahmadiyya.no](http://www.ahmadiyya.no)  
[www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org)

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