

FEZANA's (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America's) constitution, adopted on November 15, 1986, states:

*"The activities of this Federation shall be conducted in a spirit of mutual respect, cooperation and unity amongst all Members, and with due regard for the principles of goodness, truth, reason, benevolence, implicit trust and charity towards all Mankind."*

This is based on "A Airyema Ishya," the closing stanza of the last Gatha, in which Zarathushta culminates his message with a prayer for a Universal Fellowship of men and women who are guided by their good minds.

In the past 30 years, several FEZANA activities have embodied the theme of 2018's Parliament of World Religions—The Promise of Inclusion, The Power of Love.

### THE FEZANA UNITED NATIONS/NGO COMMITTEE

This committee provides opportunities to Zarathushtis, through volunteer action programs, to strive towards a peaceful and unified world. Its activities are anchored by the two annual conferences at the United Nations: the Commission on the Status of Women and the Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization.

One of the committee's signature proposals to the UN is to designate "a season of peace" for ten days from 9/11, the day of the launch of M.K. Gandhi's Satyagrah (insistence on truth using non-violent non-cooperation) movement to 9/21, the day of prayer as designated by the United Nations.

FEZANA is part of the coalition for the "Initiative for a UN Decade of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace (2011-2020)." The UN Decade is aimed at promoting partnership between UN member states, UN agencies, as well as religious communities, spiritual movements, and organizations representing indigenous traditions.

FEZANA uses the Zarathushti principle of gender equality to promote gender rights at the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations and lends its voice to marginalized women by organizing panels such as "Empowering Women to Break Away From the Circle of Poverty" illustrating how lack of education and employment, no access to clean water, and malnourishment contribute to the vicious cycle women's poverty.



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[www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org)



## HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

FEZANA has several humanitarian initiatives consistent with the *"Ahuna Vairya"* prayer, which urges Zarathushtis to care for the underprivileged.

The Zarathushti Youth without Borders (ZYWB) program promotes Humanitarian Internships by giving financial support to young Zarathushtis interested in carrying out activities in global medicine, health, and hygiene issues; rural education and school support; poverty reduction; hunger relief; and disaster relief. Internships have included working in an Indian orphanage and a Chadian surgical mission.

FEZANA participates in global disaster relief efforts by organizing fund raising campaigns for tragedies such as the 2010 Haitian earthquake and 2004 South India tsunami. FEZANA often collaborates with World Zoroastrian Organization's (WZO's) UK/India/Pakistan offices to partner with accredited relief agencies.

The Critical Assistance Committee provides aid to individuals, families, and organizations facing temporary difficulties due to medical emergencies, violence, or legal issues.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



FEZANA supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

## INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES

The objectives of FEZANA's interfaith participations are to participate in interreligious dialogues to deepen mutual understandings and to participate in programs that promote social justice, religious freedom, and world peace.

At a global level, FEZANA participates in interfaith conferences and events such as the Parliament of World Religions and "The World's Religions After September 11th," and supports the work of the European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL).

At a local level, FEZANA participates in events promoting inter-religious co-existence, combating violent religious extremism, human rights, and disarmament, such as participation in the "9/11 Unity Walk" arranged in collaboration with Religions for Peace, USA and "the Faiths and Politics Luncheon" in Washington D.C., hosted by the Sustained Dialogue Institute and Interfaith Works.

At a community level, FEZANA's member organizations give presentations and set up displays about the Zarathushti faith and heritage to build bridges with other faith communities, such as at an event hosted by the Etobicoke & Mississauga Faith Community Leaders Forum, Toronto. Representatives of FEZANA's member organizations also attend festivals and functions such as an Iftar dinner during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. Volunteers also give presentations in schools, often taking their sudreh kusti (sudreh=an undergarment worn by Zarathushtis, kusti = a sacred girdle worn by Zarathushtis) into the classroom for show-and-tell or setting up the Haft Seen (seven items displayed on a table, whose names start with the Persian letter seen) at NoRooz (Persian New Year).

More information about FEZANA's activities is available on its website: [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org)



Ervad Brigadier (Retd) Behram Panthaki representing the Zoroastrian Faith at the welcome of Pope Francis in Washington D.C. in 2015