Zoroastrian Delegation to Deliver Panel Discussion at UN Headquarters

FEZANA will be participating at the 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Conference to be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York next month.

Homi Gandhi, Narges Kakalia, Nurelle Mehta, Adina Mistry, Nina Mistry and Khushroo Patel from FEZANA will be representing Zoroastrians at the UN. The group will be presenting a panel discussion titled, “Education: A Powerful Tool for Gender Equality.”

Social change to uplift society comes when men and women are treated equally with respect and dignity. This aspirational goal cannot be reached through the work of women alone. This workshop will explore the empowerment of women that arises at the intersections of education, access to health care, freedom from violence and the crucial roles that men and boys in society can play to advocate and work towards global gender equality.

The hour and a half long “Education: A Powerful Tool for Gender Equality” panel discussion will take place on March 16, 2015 at 6:15pm at Church Centre, 10th Floor, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY.

Local Zoroastrians are encouraged to attend this event and support the presentation. Contact Afreed Mistry (FEZANA UN-NGO Committee) afreed.mistry (@) gmail.com for more information.

Follow Your Dreams and Passions

Video now available for viewing: Don’t miss the inspiring XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress Keynote Address by Parisa Khosravi entitled Follow Your Dreams and Passions [approx 30 mins] Click here to view on the FEZANA website.

NAZC: Video of FEZANA Presentation

THE WAY FORWARD… NURTURING ZOROASTRIANISM IN NORTH AMERICA

Now available for viewing: the full FEZANA Presentation given at the recent XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress. [approx 1.25 hours] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss5hcArg-6g
The Office of the President of the United Nations General Assembly and the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations celebrated the World Interfaith Harmony Week on February 6, 2015 at United Nations Headquarters, New York. Cosponsors: CONGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns-NY; Global Movement for the Culture of Peace; NGO Committee on Sustainable Development; Spiritual Caucus; The Values Caucus at the UN.

World Interfaith Harmony Week was first proposed at the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2010 by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan. Just under a month later, it was unanimously adopted by the UN and henceforth the first week of February each year is observed as a World Interfaith Harmony Week. http://interfaithharmonyweek.info. Also read more about the proceedings on The Parliament Blog: http://www.parliamentofreligions.org/news/.

Two members of the Zoroastrian Association of Michigan’s (ZAOM) Youth Connections, Farah Kavarana and Kayan Mehta, proudly waved their hand-made flags as they marched in the Children of Peace Processional for this year’s World Sabbath of Religious Reconciliation at Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, Michigan on Sunday, January 25. The event is an interfaith experience of music, dance and prayer which seeks to build a world of tolerance, justice, faithfulness, and peace. Children from different faiths demonstrated their Call to Prayer, worship through music and dance, and prayers for peace. Looking like true Parsis, seniors Xerxes Chinoy and Sanaya Irani, confidently and eloquently translated and recited the Ashem Vohu and Yatha Ahu Vairyo for the second Prayer for Peace. These young adults understand the value in ensuring that Zoroastrianism is represented as a World Religion at events such as this. They take great pride in learning about their faith, teaching others, and participating in traditional rituals and ceremonies. As Sanaya and Xerxes recited our powerful prayers in front of hundreds of people, it gave us hope for the longevity of our faith and for a world with no more wars in the name of religion. It is no wonder that
many of us in the audience shed tears as the young children waved their flags once more and sang, “We are Children of Peace.”

If you would like to learn more about the World Sabbath, you can view their website at http://www.worldsabbath.org/. The Program tab provides summaries of the various faiths represented, including one written on Zoroastrianism by our very own, Ardeshir Irani, in which he highlights the influence of Zoroastrianism on many other faiths.

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**FEZANA Annual General Meeting Notice**

Hosted by the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey (ZAPANJ), FEZANA is pleased to announce that the 2015 FEZANA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Details have been circulated to local FEZANA representatives. Please contact the FEZANA Administrative office if you have not received the full announcement or, to view details on FEZANA website click here.

**Pre-AGM Session:** May 1, 2015 (2:00-6:00 pm)

**AGM Meetings:** May 2-3, 2015 (SAT: 8:00am-6:00pm / SUN 8:00am-1:00pm)

**AGM Venue and Hotel Accommodation:**
Crowne Plaza Philadelphia
260 Mall Boulevard, King of Prussia, PA 19406; 610-265-7500

**Reservation link:** [CrownePlazaHotel_FEZANA_AGM@Philadelphia_May1_2015](mailto:CrownePlazaHotel_FEZANA_AGM@Philadelphia_May1_2015)

**Important:** Please book your hotel soon. The group rate (mention “ZAPANJ”) is only available for reservations that are made by April 1, 2015.

Please RSVP with the number of people attending in your party to: Saghar Javanshir (sjbehroozi@verizon.net) and Zenobia Damania (admin@fezana.org)

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**Update: Parliament of the World’s Religions**

Zarathushtis will be participating at the upcoming Parliament of the World’s Religions to be held on October 15-19, 2015 in Salt Lake City. FEZANA encourages all interested Zarathushtis to take part. This is a great opportunity for the Zarathushtis to participate in this world class event. FEZANA representatives will be involved in several programs. Proposals have been submitted to the Parliament organizers. For more information about the Zarathushti group hotel accommodations, registration for the Parliament, or other questions or comments, please contact: Shernaz Minwalla at sjminwalla (@) gmail.com or Maneck Bhujuwalla at mbhujuwala( @ ) socal.rr.com; [Click here to view the Parliament website](http://www.parliamentworld.org/).

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**IHF Visiting Fellowships at SOAS**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2015.**

The Centre for Iranian Studies at the LMEI is pleased to announce a new round of Iran Heritage Foundation Visiting Fellowships at SOAS, University of London. The six-monthly Fellowship in this round is for the period Oct 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016. Applicants must hold a PhD at the time of applying and have sufficient command of English to be able to take part in the academic life of SOAS. Their research may be in any discipline relating to Iran. [Application details on SAOS website.](http://www.samos-wetenschappen.nl/).

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**BOOK AWARENESS**

This month we are giving you a glimpse of new additions that have been generously donated to our FIRES collection.

**Nadir Godrej, The Poet by Nadir Godrej.**
Is there a better way to share your feelings or get your message across than through a poem? Nadir Godrej’s new oversized and glossy book is a compendium of his poems over the years on subjects like the Zoroastrians, leadership, American education, entrepreneurship, government policy, and even an infight movie. The poems are thought-provoking and delightful.

**Fathers and Sons, Mothers and Daughters by Meher Bhesania**
This publication is a celebration of the bond between fathers and sons and mothers and daughters. It recounts over forty inspirational stories of achievers from around the world in diverse fields as business, science, engineering, law, art, films, and community service.

Making Connections at National Interfaith Meeting for Youth Leaders

Havovi Desai from Zoroastrian Association of Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana (ZAKOI) participated in the Religions for Peace North America Interfaith Youth Network (RfP NAIYN) annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, January 18 - 20, 2015. Havovi is second year student at The Ohio State University studying psychology, and minoring in French and music. Havovi represented Zoroastrians at the meeting celebrating the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King on that weekend. The meeting was organized for Youth to interact with other religious youth leaders from all over North America representing various faiths and organizations and discuss their concerns and insights as a religious youth living in North America.

[Look for Havovi’s full article on her experience in the Spring 2015 issue of the FEZANA Journal.]

Video Coverage of XVII North American Zoroastrian Congress

The XVII NAZC, held in Los Angeles in December 2014, presented its approximately 800 delegates with a wide variety of sessions aimed at starting a conversation among Zoroastrians in North America about the issues that matter to them.

With the consent of its speakers, the NAZC organizing committee is pleased to share with you videos of many sessions presented during this tremendous three day celebration of Zoroastrian religion, culture and history. Visit the NAZC website to view them: http://www.nazc2014.org/congress-video/.

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