



International civil and religious personalities will sign and present the *Declaration of Montserrat* at Montserrat Monastery on April 10th

The Foundation for a Culture of Peace organises an international meeting on the role of religions in the building of peace at Montserrat

The meeting is being staged by the Foundation for a Culture of Peace with the support of the Government of Catalonia's Agency for Development Cooperation and in cooperation with Montserrat Abbey, the Foundation for Dialogue among Civilizations, ISESCO and the Mountain of Montserrat Trust.

This coming Thursday, April 10th, leading international personalities from different religious traditions and civil society will meet at the Monastery of Montserrat to issue a forceful message rejecting abuse and misuse of people's religious feelings and memberships in faith movements to provoke confrontation and violent conflict, and to reaffirm the role that the different religious traditions, along with civil society and institutions, can play in building peace and understanding.

The meeting, which seeks to contribute to intercultural and interfaith dialogue, will be attended by a heterogeneous group formed by outstanding international personalities from different religious traditions, as well as from civil society and international institutions. Present at the meeting will be: Federico Mayor Zaragoza, President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace and former Director General of UNESCO; Mohammad Khatami, President of the Foundation for Dialogue among Civilizations and former President of the Republic of Iran; Aram I, Catholicos of Cilicia of the Armenian Apostolic Church and leader of the Middle East Council of Churches; Abdulaziz O. Altwajiri, Director General of ISESCO; Joan Enric Vives, Bishop of La Seu d'Urgell and co-Prince of Andorra; Rabbi Arthur Schneier, President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation of New York (USA); Mar Gewargis Sliwa, the Assyrian Church of the East Metropolitan of Iraq and Russia; Kjell M. Bondevik, President of the Oslo Centre for Peace and Human Rights and former Prime Minister of Norway; Candido Mendes de Almeida, Secretary General of the Academy of Latinity; and William F. Vendley, Secretary General of the World Conference of Religions for Peace. The meeting will be hosted by Father Josep M. Soler, Abbot of Montserrat.

The meeting itself will take place behind closed doors, and will be followed by a public event in the presence of the personalities attending the meeting and open to the media (for whom advance accreditation is required), at which the ***Declaration of Montserrat on Religions and the Building of Peace*** will be presented and signed. This ceremony for the signing and public presentation of the Declaration will begin at 12.30 pm on Thursday, April 10th.

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