



National Consultation in preparation of 10<sup>th</sup> World Assembly Religions for Peace  
Utrecht, May 11, 2019

## CARING FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE

Recommendations 2 sessions: **‘Sustainability’**

Moderator Britt Bakker

- A. Be a critical consumer. As consumers we can exert pressure to banks and companies to adhere to ethical principles and sustainability norms in international commerce.  
For example:
- Banking with banks, that do not invest in arms trade;
  - Buying clothing from natural resources, produced without child labour;
  - Promoting animal welfare by eating less or no meat at all, and by actions as ‘Cows not Indoors but in the Meadow’.
- B. Encourage members of your denomination or of other belief traditions to engage in local initiatives for the sustainable use of energy. The ‘Green Church’ project from the Council of Churches (RvK) in the Netherlands and ‘Green Mosque’ from the Islamic Foundation Netherlands (ISN) encourages religious communities to heat or cool their own church building or mosque sustainably. Participants to these projects are often so committed that they move on starting new projects like ‘Budget Cooking’ for poverty reduction. The RvK and ISN like to encourage as many denominations and mosques as possible.
- C. Raise awareness on what you as a community are striving for. What kind of future or society do we wish for our children?
- Address the talents and responsibility of members of your denomination/mosque (of men and women, of older people and the young) to contribute to a caring community/society.
  - Invite experts and speakers to share their knowledge about the deep causes of the climate crisis, illustrated with facts and by dialogue. It is not only our life styles, but also the deep rift between the rich and the poor in our nations and world-wide, that need to be questioned.
- D. Offer retreats and dialogue meetings to people who are in positions of leadership. How can they deepen and give inner direction to their societal duties and tasks? How can they not only emancipate their technical skills, know-hows and power, but also their ‘being human in relationships’?

Regarding climate crisis as a world problem and being human in a globalizing world the religious traditions can provide deep spiritual guidance. Characteristically human is that a man is related to himself and to reality; in this he has to find his way through

life. Self-reflecting, reading the Scriptures/Koran, meditation and dialogue - with or without the guidance of a spiritual leader - provide spiritual ways.

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PS An example of spiritual guidance in the Christian tradition may be found in the texts of Dag Hammarskjöld, former Secretary-General of the United Nations and writer of the spiritual diary 'Markings'.