



G20 Interfaith Forum
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The 2026 Annual G20 Interfaith Forum: **Resilient Hope, Shared Future**

OCTOBER 15-17, 2026

Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Morning:

Hosted tours of local cultural sites (optional)
Registration

Afternoon/Evening:

At the Historic Tabernacle at Temple Square

3:30 – 5:00 PM Peacemaking through Disagreeing Better

Gov. Spencer Cox, Governor David Beasley, and Martin Luther King III

“Unity does not mean thinking alike; unity means acting together.”

– Constitutional Scholar Yuval Levin

In an era marked by rising contempt and hyper-partisanship, the pursuit of peacemaking has become a vital necessity for both religious communities and civic institutions. This Disagree Better-sponsored dialogue brings together public and political leaders from across the political spectrum to explore healthy conflict not as mere civility, but as a crucial civic skill that strengthens democracy, rebuilds trust, and reduces polarization. Drawing on the profound experiential depth of the panel, from the legacy of nonviolent frameworks for culture change, to global humanitarian efforts, and national initiatives for political deescalation, this session highlights how faith-informed views and religious values cultivate civic cohesion and pluralism. By modeling constructive engagement across deep differences, the discussion demonstrates that leaders can advocate passionately for their convictions while treating others with fundamental respect and dignity. How can faith communities and public leaders collaborate to overcome division, rebuild institutional trust, and promote peacemaking as a shared civic good?

The Jewish–Muslim Declaration of Fraternity in Faith

If learning to disagree better enables us to live together despite our differences, what would it mean to go further, to allow our distinct identities to become sources of blessing in our relationships?

The Jewish–Muslim Declaration of Fraternity in Faith is the fruit of a years-long journey undertaken by Jewish and Muslim religious leaders seeking to build a new paradigm for interreligious relations. Its vision moves beyond tolerance as a response to hatred, and beyond coexistence as the peaceful management of difference. Instead, it offers a positive narrative of shared story, mutual responsibility, and “co-elevation”, a relationship in which faithfulness to our own traditions inspires us to honor, support, and elevate one another.

Deeply rooted in the sacred sources of Judaism and Islam, the Declaration affirms that religious identity need not be a source of division, but can become a source of connection, partnership, and blessing. While emerging from the Jewish–Muslim encounter, it offers a model for relationships among religions, and among distinct identities more broadly: not erasing difference, but transforming it into the foundation for deeper solidarity and joint action.

7:00 PM Tabernacle Open to Guests

7:30 - 9:00 PM Opening Ceremony

Welcome Addresses from Religious Leaders

Welcome Concert by Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square

9:05 PM Group Photo

9:15 PM Bus to Lodgings

Friday, October 16, 2026

At the University of Utah

8:30 – 10:00 AM Plenary 1: Unleashing Human Potential for the Common Good

“The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity” (Deuteronomy 28:11–12)

“The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills.” Quran 2.261

The juxtaposition of abundant riches and stunning progress in human welfare, alongside stubborn poverty and suffering, is a core challenge for faith teachers and those who practice religion. The 2026 G20 agenda traces paths towards prosperity through unleashing creative and entrepreneurial energy. Faith communities savor action to enhance the quality of lives, confident that prosperity can and must serve the Common Good, sharing balance and equity as core objectives. The shared concern across religious traditions for “those left behind,” a continuing IF20 imperative, demands that economic policies focus sharply on causes of inequality that range from broad socio-political systems to life realities in communities and families. Faith, wisdom and experience contribute to G20 action agendas both to unleash potential for human flourishing and to assure that safety nets work for the benefit of all. How can the G20 and faith communities act to ensure support for entrepreneurship, effective measures to address unsustainable debt burdens, and needed social protection?

10:00 - 10:30 AM Break & Refreshments

10:30 – 11:45 AM Plenary 2: Deadline 2030: Extending G20 Horizons

Progress towards human flourishing is expanding on many fronts. Better human health stands both as a stunning modern achievement and as witness to the deep integration of faith and contemporary science. Likewise, even a century ago universal literacy seemed a distant dream, yet today it is shared across societies as an imperative. Global governance now sets specific objectives grounded in what we appreciate is a fragile consensus about goals and how to achieve them. The IF20's experience over 12 years highlights the interwoven ethical and practical demands across the sectors that stand to fulfill promised human flourishing, notably peace, prosperity, and care for the planet. As we focus on the 2030 deadline for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, what lies on the more distant horizon?

11:45 AM - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 – 2:15 PM Faith in Action Concurrent Sessions (A)

- 1. Preventing Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (HTMS) - Plenary Hall/Concurrent Room 1.** The exponential growth of HTMS in the 21st century is an affront to humankind. Despite enactment of dozens of global instruments and scores of national laws, nowhere is effective action being taken to significantly curtail or end HTMS. Globally, government funding remains minuscule; coordination among intelligence, enforcement, and policy agencies is haphazard; enforcement of existing law and policy is not taken seriously; and collaboration among countries is nonexistent. Accordingly, the sale of human beings is good business, and international crime reaps estimated revenues of \$356 Billion a year with little risk of prosecution. From the perspective of the global faith community, HTMS is a moral tragedy no less than a policy disaster. In 2026, the IF20 once again calls on G20 nations to provide funding and organize more effectively to fight HTMS; preventing HTMS depends on enforcement tools and policy authority that governments alone can wield. This year's IF20 will once again bring together concerned actors from many fronts in the war against HTMS. It will highlight initiatives being carried out in the faith community, in cooperation with local government and communities; collaborative work between faiths; the outlook for harnessing digital resources in the fight against HTMS; and progress being made in the development of corporate, global standards that will support human dignity.
- 2. Faith Engagement on Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness - Concurrent Room 2.** The Pandemic Fund is a major effort to address the recurring tragedies that flow from pandemics experienced around the world. This constitutes an area where substantial global resources can be unleashed to help solve critical health issues. The session draws on an extensive consultation process that aims to engage religious communities more directly in the Fund's operations.
- 3. Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief - Concurrent Room 3.** Long an axiomatic feature of human rights law, freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) is increasingly understood as a key feature of social landscapes that can unlock social capital, contribute to social cohesion, and in general, advance the common good. We have more empirical evidence that FoRB advances other social goods. It constitutes a key feature of good governance, justice, stabilization of society, and forging peace. It is thus critical to pay attention to the many ways that advancing FoRB can contribute to the achievement of other social agendas.
- 4. Faith Engagement on Poverty and Hunger - Concurrent Room 4.** A pillar of faith traditions from virtually every part of the world is a commitment to feeding the hungry. When world leaders approved the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, they saw addressing extreme poverty and hunger as clear priorities. Ending hunger is a tangible and achievable common goal, yet much ground has been lost in recent years. The shared commitment to ending hunger adds urgency to the myriad programs of religious communities that address food security and to the goal of ensuring that through advocacy, example, and support, progress, notably through the

Global Alliance Against Hunger, picks up speed. This session will highlight both faith teachings and actions to make clear how far goals are aligned and point to areas where tighter integration could be beneficial.

5. Preventing and Addressing Gender Based Violence - Concurrent Room 5.

Gender based violence (GBV) violates human rights protected by international instruments and conventions. GBV can and should be a criminal act in national laws and policies. The term “gender based violence” is often used interchangeably with the terms “violence against women” and “sexual and gender-based violence,” which emphasize the gender components of these acts and the relationship between the woman’s subordinate position in society and, consequently, increased vulnerability to violence. GBV is often underreported. It includes sexual violence, domestic violence, harmful traditional practices, (e.g. female genital mutilation, honor crimes, widow inheritance), forced and early marriage, and trafficking, with variations across cultures, countries and regions. GBV has been identified in humanitarian settings, conflict situations, refugee/displacement camps, and other sensitive environs. The session will explore multidisciplinary, multisectoral best practices to prevent and respond to GBV.

6. Linking International Educational Initiatives to G20 Priorities -

Concurrent Room 6. Education holds the key to solving many of the world’s most challenging problems, including tensions linked to intergroup relations. Its role in building critical skills vital to social development and growth is widely recognized. There is a need for focused attention on identifying areas where education can have particularly beneficial effects.

7. The Abrahamic Family: Shared Values, Deep Roots, Joint Action -

Concurrent Room 7. In an increasingly fragile world, how can religious identity become a source of connection instead of polarization? Join us for a follow-up discussion on the Jewish–Muslim Declaration of Fraternity that takes a broader approach and looks at the Abrahamic Family as a whole. Through a panel discussion, joint study of sacred texts, and a call to action, this session brings Judaism, Christianity, and Islam into conversation to explore our intertwined stories and deepen ties between our communities. By learning from one another and encountering shared values expressed in different forms and languages, we can deepen our understanding of our own traditions while honoring each tradition’s distinctiveness. Beginning with the Abrahamic family, we will explore a model of belonging and partnership that can extend to a wider circle of religious communities, embracing the diversity of humanity’s faith traditions and translating this vision into joint action.

2:15 - 2:45 PM Break & Refreshments

2:45 – 4:00 PM Faith in Action Concurrent Sessions (B)

1. Priority to Addressing Disabilities: Treating Clubfoot - Plenary

Hall/Concurrent Room 1. Congenital clubfoot is one of the WHO recognized leading causes of musculoskeletal disability in children worldwide. Most cases can be successfully corrected during infancy using the Ponseti

Method, the globally recognized gold-standard treatment. This minimally invasive approach uses a series of gentle manipulations and plaster casts over approximately six to eight weeks, followed by bracing to help prevent relapse. Despite the effectiveness of this treatment, an estimated 200,000 children are born with clubfoot each year, many without access to appropriate care. This session will explore ongoing efforts to make the Ponseti Method available to every child in need, featuring experts from Shriners Hospitals for Children, Clubfoot Solutions, CURE Clubfoot India, Rotary International, and the Ponseti International Association.

2. Faith Approaches to Mental Health Challenges - Concurrent Room 2.

Mental health is neither solely a medical challenge nor solely a spiritual one. Improving mental health globally requires continued scientific discovery, effective prevention, and excellent clinical care. It also requires trusted communities that foster meaning, belonging, dignity, hope, resilience, and pathways to care. Faith communities reach billions of people worldwide and are often among the first places individuals and families turn during periods of suffering. They should not substitute for professional mental health care, but they can be powerful partners in promoting well-being, reducing stigma, recognizing distress, strengthening social connection, and helping people access appropriate care. This session will explore how science, healthcare, faith communities, and governments can work together to improve mental health and human flourishing, with particular attention to approaches that could be adapted and scaled across G20 nations.

3. Beyond Dialogue: Religion, Peace, and the Next Generation of Peacemakers - Concurrent Room 3.

Peace is not formally on the G20's agenda, yet nothing on that agenda is untouched by conflict—and religious communities are present wherever conflict is incited, prevented, mediated, or repaired. Young people of faith bear much of the cost of conflict and much of the work of rebuilding, yet they are seldom trained as peacebuilders, seldom given standing in formal processes, and seldom equipped with the cross-cultural religious literacy this work demands. This conversation, led by ACWAY youth fellows and peace practitioners, showcases successful examples of youth-led peacebuilding and explores how to move beyond dialogue alone toward collaboration, community action, and meaningful civic impact. As societies navigate polarization, technological change, and declining social trust, what does it take to equip the next generation of faith and interfaith leaders and what partnerships will be needed to build a stronger, more action-oriented ecosystem for emerging peacebuilders?

4. Educational Initiatives for Social Cohesion - Concurrent Room 4.

A major emerging area of educational expertise involves cross-cultural religious literacy (CCRL). The session will discuss successful programs that have trained both teachers and pupils in this field, with positive results. Other programs designed to strengthen critical reasoning skills are also exemplary. The session will focus on successful experience and programs in this area and prospects within the G20 context for adapting the CCRL approach in other places.

5. Policy and Program Improvement through Systematic Evaluation: Tools for IF20 Partners - Concurrent Room 5.

Influencing international policy requires clear evidence of impact. Today's G20 climate demands data

confirmation. Faith organizations can best demonstrate positive effects through accurate, well-planned evaluations. To support IF20 partners, this presentation provides tools and examples for conducting world-class impact evaluation, including a new app, a comprehensive model, and a case example. These resources will help faith initiatives to achieve improved program outcomes and expand their influence on global policy.

- 6. Faith, Trust, and Health - Concurrent Room 6.** The G20 was called to act during the COVID19 pandemic, reflecting the global and urgent nature of the crisis and its impact on human welfare everywhere. The crisis enhanced appreciation for religious roles in health care but also raised broader questions of social protection and welfare. The well of trust that many religious leaders and communities hold highlights both opportunities and responsibilities. The 2026 Ebola crisis in Africa highlights the importance of learning from past lessons and looking to the future. This discussion will explore contemporary challenges with a focus on cases of positive and less positive response at community levels.

4:00 - 4:30 PM Break

4:30 – 6:00 PM Service Project

6:00 - 7:15 PM Dinner

7:30 – 9:00 PM Evening Plenary

Olympics and Interfaith:

The Olympic and Paralympic Games bring together the nations of the world in a peaceful celebration of sport and exceptional athlete performances. In a fragmented world, the Games can bring unity. Under the umbrella of the Games, we have the opportunity to communicate values and important themes to the world. Utah 2034, the host for the 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Games, has the ambition to bring the world together and to share a few important themes in our effort to do our part in making the world a better place.

Faith and Higher Education

The challenges confronting higher education today have also brought renewed attention to the distinctive contributions of faith-based universities, including their focus on character development and service. At a time when students face a crisis of meaning, faith-based institutions seek to combine rigorous academics with spiritual and religious practices. They pursue different kinds of research questions that are often overlooked in the rest of higher education. This conversation, featuring Dr. Linda Livingstone (President of Baylor University), Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi (Chairman of the Board

of Directors, Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) and Undersecretary, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, State of Qatar), and Dr. Shane Reese (President of Brigham Young University) seeks to explore the unique missions of faith-based colleges and universities and their contributions to the world.

Performance: BYU Indonesia Gamelan Orchestra

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Morning/Afternoon:

At the University of Utah

8:45 – 10:00 AM Plenary 4: Technology for Good: Is AI a Modern Miracle or an Existential Threat?

Discussions in religious and secular settings rarely fail to focus on the practical and ethical repercussions of rapid changes and the deep penetration of technology in our lives. Religious community concerns include both impact on religious and spiritual life and the broader ethical challenges involved. One of the G20 USA's priorities for 2026 is to pioneer innovation in AI and emerging technologies. This session will explore faith perspectives on AI systems from a variety of religious traditions. Though not comprehensive, this panel is representative of the concerns and specific recommendations faith leaders and people of faith have regarding AI systems.

10:00 - 10:30 AM. Break & Refreshments

10:30 – 11:45 AM Plenary 5: Energy Policy, Religion, Peace, and Human Flourishing

This plenary session will explore how and where religious actions can contribute ideas and practical experience in building peace to critical energy issues. The G20 2026 focus on energy security highlights affordable and abundant energy as a driver of prosperity, and the elaborate webs that connect so many of today's most urgent problems: economic growth, climate change and broader environmental issues, food security, world trade, and perhaps most significant, world peace. Many religious communities view human flourishing and "care for our common home" (Pope Francis) as a shared concern, and for many impoverished countries affordable energy is a priority for development. An immediate challenge for energy security, illustrated by the impact of disrupted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, is to find peaceful solutions to trade in petroleum products. With this complex of issues and their intricate interconnections, faith traditions have considerable capacity to engage constructively. This extends beyond abstract religious ideals about peace, security, and prosperity to the challenge of translating aspirations into practical policy, thus building bridges between policy makers and religious leaders. The Strait of Hormuz crisis offers a starting point that could help in addressing longer term tensions. Questions to address include: What principles should inform national and international policy in a world where both energy security and concern for the vulnerable are worthy ideals? Is a long-

term green agenda compatible with a greater short- and medium-term focus on energy abundance? How do these issues link to broader global and religious concerns for peace?

11:45 AM - 12:15 PM Break

12:15 – 1:15 PM Faith in Action Concurrent Sessions (C)

- 1. Learning from G20 Interfaith Forums in South Africa and Brazil - Plenary Hall/Concurrent Room 1.** This session will highlight experience and issues from past G20 Interfaith Forums, drawing on insights and topics that they deem particularly relevant as the G20 Interfaith Process moves forward.
- 2. AI Innovation and Human Dignity - Concurrent Room 2.** AI design and deployment should be guided by foundational ethical principles that prioritize human rights, wellbeing, and data privacy. In this session, the current best practices for prioritizing human dignity in AI development will be discussed. They include: (1) establishing measurable benchmarks for safety and fairness; (2) creating curricula for children, parents, and faith leaders to build digital literacy; (3) advocating legislation that protects privacy, labor rights, and democratic processes; (4) addressing chatbot harms to youth through regulation and education; (5) using judicial remedies to redress AI-related harms; and (6) embedding ethical principles into system design from the outset.
- 3. Hope from the Ground Up: Faith Communities and a Planet in Crisis - Concurrent Room 3.** Amid rising geopolitical tensions, cost-of-living pressures, and the influence of right-wing populist movements, a number of G20 governments have, in the past two years, meaningfully scaled back their climate commitments, defunded environmental programs, or prioritized fossil fuel development over renewable energy. Recognizing that the G20 agenda impacts people in every country, these developments warrant heightened alarm in light of the ever-accelerating polycrisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion and scarcity. Yet there is reason for hope. Despite the shift in G20 priorities, local governments and communities continue to act, and faith communities are engaged. The role of faith-based actors and religious groups can range from initiating ideas and leading projects to providing support in the form of people, funds, or influence. This session will consider existing local community projects with faith-based input, as well as mechanisms for local governments to engage religious leaders and faith-based organizations to address local climate and environmental concerns. The session will also ask whether these projects can be scaled to the national or international level and how local projects influence the G20 agenda, particularly as it affects the most vulnerable.
- 4. How Faith Actors Respond to Disasters: Integrating First Responders in Preparedness and Response - Concurrent Room 4.** Communities, nation states, and transnational institutions face rising demands to respond to a wide array of crises and disasters, whether floods, droughts, earthquakes, or disruptions linked to violent conflicts. The demands include prevention, preparation, response, and recovery, and in virtually every instance religious

communities and institutions are involved, often as those who respond first and remain long after international attention moves to the next crisis. Yet their roles are rarely recognized as primary actors at the tables where decisions are made on policy, planning, and resource allocation. With rising demands for action to address and mitigate both climate change and conflicts, as well as disrupted development, religious communities play key roles at each level. This session will highlight the state of play for religious responses, drawing on specific cases and purposeful institutions, looking to ways to integrate experience in response systems in more creative and meaningful ways.

5. Faith and Media - Concurrent Room 5. A particular concern for religious leaders and interfaith groups is the long-term impact of media on future generations. In this session, panelists will discuss the effect of media on faith, especially focusing on youth. Mental health issues, feelings of isolation, an inability to socialize, and cyber-bullying are all issues youth deal with today. The focus of the discussion will be on encouraging humans to flourish in a world filled with media and technology.

6. Always Look to the Children - Concurrent Room 6. A universal goal for religious communities is to protect and nurture children. This focus reflects love and caring and it comes amidst global changes in family dynamics, size, and expectations that have profound effects on religious groups and broader society. Progress in reducing child mortality and acceptance of universal education are part of the shift, as are the challenges presented by new technologies and economic pressures. Amidst these revolutionary changes, children's voices are not always heard and taken into account. This session will explore what a goal of "Thrive beyond Five" might involve at different levels, beginning with the family and community and extending to national and global policies and approaches.

1:15 - 2:30 PM Lunch

2:30 - 3:00 PM Bus to Cathedral of the Madeleine

3:30 – 5:00 PM Closing Ceremony

At Cathedral of the Madeleine

Greetings: Local Catholic Officials International Catholic Representatives

Reflections from the Alliance of Civilizations

Handover Ceremony:

U.S. Official on behalf of U.S. G20 Presidency

Lord Russell Rook, UK IF20 Organizing Committee Chair

Concluding Comments:

IF20 President, W. Cole Durham

IF20 Vice President, Katherine Marshall

Farewell Concert

Evening:

At the University of Utah

BYU vs. Notre Dame Football Game Broadcast (with Snacks)