

# Joint Initiative For Peace Between Religions

## The Basis:

Acceptance (not rejection) of Religion

Emphasize the liberating aspect of Religion – Religion as an important resource of justice and peace (religions have become sources of conflict because they have been hijacked by political powers)

## What to do:

1. Make a List of countries with inter-religious and similar conflicts:
  - Intra-religious conflict – as in Ireland (Catholic – Protestant), in Pakistan (Shia – Sunni – Qadryani) etc.
  - Inter-religious conflict as in India, Israel, Palestine, Indonesia ...
  - Inter-ethnic conflict as in Kashmir, Sri Lanka (Sinhala – Tamil etc.), Africa (Rwanda: Tutsi – Hutu), Sudan (Darfur and the South-North-conflict) etc.
  - Ethnic-religious conflict (aggressive proselytization, using the poverty of indigenous people)
2. Make a list of NGO's **and individuals** working for peace in that sense
3. Create a **network** between these NGO's and individuals by the means of the internet
4. Create an **international directory** for contact. The participants in the network provide information, contact addresses, and links
5. Develop **cooperation** between major initiatives (local, interregional and international levels)
6. Compile **information** on what these major initiatives are doing
7. Raise funds for activities
8. **Meetings**, once in a while (according to funds raised)
9. When there is a major outburst of violence – as in Gujarat in 2002 or around Israel/Palestine – we rise in protest and mobilize international attention and opinion
10. As soon as possible a joint **website and newsletter** should be set up, in printed form as soon as there are enough funds
11. A **manifesto** is developed
12. This manifesto will be sent out to religious leaders of the world and to the United Nations
13. Goal is to get an **observer status at the United Nations**
14. As a **name** for the association we suggest “International Initiative for Inter-religious Peace (I.I.P.)”

## The Initiators at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the “Right Livelihood Association”:

Dr. Asghar Ali Engineer, India (RLA 2004) and

Gottfried Hutter (guest speaker, Leopold Khor Academy)

Swami Agnivesh, India (RLA 2004)