

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL
Jerusalem
SYMPOSIUM
on **Green** & Accessible **Pilgrimage**
APRIL 21-26, 2013

Jerusalem Framework:

Principles for Green and Accessible Pilgrimage

In recognition of the **Alliance of Religions and Conservation "ARC" Green Pilgrimage Network** vision statement:

- *Imagine what could be achieved if pilgrims and pilgrim cities were to become models of care and respect for the environment, reflecting the deep values of the world's faith traditions.*
- *Imagine the good that could be done for people and places on pilgrimage routes, and cities and sacred places at the end of the journeys.*
- *Imagine a network of Green Pilgrim Cities and Sacred Sites, inspiring environmental care along the great pilgrimage routes, and encouraging all pilgrims to leave a 'positive footprint'.*

We the delegates to the *Green and Accessible Pilgrimage Symposium 2013* ("**Symposium**") are gathered here at the Jerusalem International YMCA on April 21-24, 2013, in partnership between faith communities and spiritual destinations and through the process of "Ethics for the Public Domain" workshops held each day, hereby articulate a **framework of principles** for the vision of **Green and Accessible Pilgrimage**.



We offer the concept of Green and Accessible Pilgrimage as encompassing the following elements:

Green: Promotion of a clean sustainable environment, comprehensive waste collection, treatment and recycling, water conservancy, renewable and efficient energy; preservation of indigenous fauna and flora, thereby prioritizing protection of the created world.

Accessible: Open, convenient and affordable accessibility to heritage and pilgrimage sites for all faiths and people without discrimination; removal of barriers or impediments to the movement of people that is core to the concept of pilgrimage; transport and infrastructure to assure accessibility to all ages and physical conditions.

Pilgrimage: A spiritual journey that ensures freedom of movement and the crossing of boundaries for all travelers to sacred places and heritage sites; the sustainable preservation of a city's heritage, architecture, artistic and social diversity, and the spirit of a welcoming community and sense of belonging for all, as a pilgrimage site has universal heritage value.

"O.U.R. City" frames a code of ethics for the public domain in the spirit of Green and Accessible Pilgrimage as introduced at the Symposium embracing the following core principles of:

Openness: Share and welcome all faiths, cultures and people residing in and visiting your city with utmost respect; have confidence in your own identity so as to embrace others; share and receive in the spirit of equality and equity, attentively, inquisitively and inclusively; rejoice in the enhancement of knowledge for oneself and others, while respecting and assuring the freedom of movement for all people.

Understanding: Accept diversity and embrace the unfamiliar; deepen one's knowledge of the diverse cultures, faiths and journeys that give a city its unique identity and heritage; break down barriers through shared learning, because understanding helps to end conflict.



Respect and Responsibility: With humility and mutual understanding, embrace openness and tolerance; accept and preserve rights of heritage and historical landscapes; value nature, culture, all faiths and races; recognize perceived fears as legitimate concerns in the context of complex challenges; actively foster dialogue to address these issues.

We call for the following actions:

- Foster a sense of community and inter-faith dialogue through productive and safe forums where all issues can be effectively addressed.
- Educate to overcome fear, self-righteousness, lack of cultural understanding, injustice, intolerance, discrimination, violence, victimization and inequality;
- Fight prejudice against any culture, language, color, race or appearance, dangerous extremism, self-victimization and victimization of others.

It is our conviction that peace, respect, inclusion and accessibility for all will support the spiritual journeys of all pilgrims. This is our vision and aspiration.

Presented here today on 24 April 2013, as we the delegates of this Symposium gathered in the Jerusalem International YMCA.

