Breaking Bread: fostering unity and compassion to end poverty



CSVGC·NY

NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns (CONGO) at the United Nations, New York

A High-Level Political Forum side event: July 10, 2024

The Committee on Spirituality, Values, and Global Concerns-NY (CSVGC-NY) organized a side event during the ECOSOC High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Event was held on July 10 at the office of Baha'is International Community at the UN.

The title, Breaking Bread: fostering unity and compassion to end poverty was chosen with the aim to cultivate spiritual and material nourishment as we seek to uphold our dignity and shared interdependence. With the understanding that sharing is caring and caring is love and life, "breaking bread" from diverse cultures, faiths, and regions of the world, through storytelling, music, and meditation, left many with opened hearts and lifted spirits.







The celebration began with warm words of welcome and introduction to the event by **Danilo Parmegiani**, Chair, CSVGC-NY, followed by moments of silence led by **Michael Braudy** on the violin. Michael also performs and teaches Western classical, Indian and Celtic music. He also led all into a chanting meditation at the event closing.

Laura Simms, an award-winning performer, writer, educator and storyteller, opened the dialogue with stories about the deeper meaning behind "breaking bread" and how it relates to ending poverty. She then invited the participants to share their stories. These created a colorful bouquet that added joy, warmth, and respect to all present.





Cultures that were represented included:



Asia/Pakistan, presented by **Muhammad Naeem**, Sukhyo Mahikari



Southern Africa/Africa, presented by **Former Amb. Isaiah Chabala**, Visionary Empowerment



Caribbean - Dominican Republic, presented by **Rosleny Ubiñas**, Baha'is International Community Office at the UN



South America - Guyana, presented by **Sabita Geer**, Brahma Kumaris representative at the UN



South America/Brazil, presented by **Danilo Parmegiani**, Legion of Good Will representative at the UN



Asia/Japan, presented by **Keiko White**, Universal Peace Federation representative at the UN



Watch event: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k6SO4QGQj0&t