

## Consciousness and Climate Change



### Sister Jayanti Kirpalani, UK

#### **Additional Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris**

#### **Main representative of the Brahma Kumaris to UN, Geneva**

Sister Jayanti is also the Director of Brahma Kumaris activities in Europe and the Middle East. As a spiritual teacher for over 50 years, she has dedicated her life to self-transformation and service to humanity. Since 2009, she has led the Brahma Kumaris delegation to the UN Climate Change Conferences and spoken on many international platforms about spiritual perspectives on the environmental crisis. She continues to champion the co-operative role of spiritual organisations in creating a just and peaceful world, bringing spiritual principles to the discussion tables of nearly every stakeholder of our times. Sister Jayanti sees the erosion of spiritual values as the underlying cause of the crises the world is facing today.



### Maureen Goodman, UK

#### **Programme Director for the Brahma Kumaris, UK**

#### **BK representative at the UN, Vienna**

Maureen works with diverse communities in building spiritual capacity in times of transition. As a presenter at several climate change conferences, she has a deep interest in the spiritual and ethical dimensions of climate change, the nature of harmony, and the connection between our inner state of being and the state of our Earth. She has long term involvement in inter-religious dialogue and represents the Brahma Kumaris on the Board of Religious Leaders of the Elijah Interfaith Institute and is a Spiritual Ambassador to The Living Peace Projects. In April 2022 she travelled to Ukraine with religious leaders as part of the Faith in Ukraine initiative. Maureen is part of the Strategic Circle of the Spirit of Humanity Forum, offering a safe space for dialogue among leaders and change-makers seeking transformation based on core human values.



### Golo J. Pilz, Germany/India

#### **Advisor on Renewable Energy**

Golo of German origin has practised Raja Yoga meditation since 1984. He lives most of the year at the main campus of the Brahma Kumaris in Mount Abu, India. In the early 90s, he established the Brahma Kumaris as one of the major users of renewable energies in India. More recently, Golo has directed the construction of India One, a 1MW solar thermal power plant, an innovative R&D project partly sponsored by the German (BMUB/GIZ) and Indian Governments (MNRE). He has been involved in more than 20 R&D projects on solar power for rural applications, cooking, and energy storage. Golo advocates sustainable solutions through an ethical and value-based approach. He is an experienced presenter and participates regularly in UN Climate Change Conferences.



### Sonja Ohlsson, Denmark

#### **Designated Contact Point to the UNFCCC**

#### **International Coordinator BK Environment Initiative**

Sonja is the national coordinator of Brahma Kumaris in Denmark, and is a meditation teacher with the Prison Service in Copenhagen. In 2009, Sonja was instrumental in developing the Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative in order to add the inner dimension to discussions at the UN climate change and biodiversity conferences. She has been actively participating in the annual COP climate conferences since 2009, and the biannual biodiversity COP since 2012. Sonja conducts green retreats for the BK community around the world, and has also travelled with the lecture series on Healthy Mind, Healthy Planet.

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### Valérie Bernard, Switzerland/France

#### NGO Representative of the Brahma Kumaris to UN, Geneva

As an NGO Representative of the Brahma Kumaris to the UN, Geneva, Valérie has had an interest in spirituality all her life and has been practising Raja Yoga meditation since 1986. She is actively involved, in raising public awareness about climate change within the interfaith movement at the COPs being part of the Interfaith Liaison Committee with the UNFCCC and at the United Nations in Geneva. She has been involved in the ecological movement since Rio 1992, promoting sustainable development and the ethical and human rights aspects of climate change. She is dedicated to raising awareness to advance the standing of women, promote sustaining practices with the environment and through interfaith gatherings, broaden cultural understanding.



### Carolin Fraude, Germany

#### Board member of Brahma Kumaris Germany

#### Coordinator of Brahma Kumaris Center in Berlin

Carolin works for the transdisciplinary research group AMA (A Mindset for the Anthropocene) at RIFS (Research Institute for Sustainability) Potsdam. She holds a Diploma in Education Science and studied philosophy, social science and psychology at the Free University, Berlin. Her research interests include design of processes and spaces engaging with people's beliefs, values, worldviews, emotions and motivations, understood as leverage points for transformation towards a sustainable society. Since 1998 Carolin is a student of Raja Yoga meditation. Since 2013 she has been part of delegations to the UNFCCC and the Commission on the Status of Women.



### Aneta Loj, Poland/India

#### Brahma Kumaris Focal Point to UNCCD

Aneta's professional career took her to various countries in Europe and she has lived in Hong Kong, Japan, China and India. She has been associated with Brahma Kumaris since 2006 and is today a member of its National Coordinating Team in Poland. Her genuine interest in spiritual truth and benevolence led to her involvement in projects that benefit communities through sustainable development and capacity building. Since 2011, she has been providing her service at "India One" Solar Thermal Power Plant. She coordinated the activities of Awareness Cum Training Center on Concentrated Solar Thermal Technologies of UNDP - GEF - MNRE, Government of India.



### Birajith Baskaran, UK

#### Youth Representative Brahma Kumaris Eco Initiative

Birajith is an aerospace engineering graduate, who is looking to bring a sustainable future in the field of engineering. He is someone who is passionate about nature and loves to spread awareness about the importance of looking after mind as well as the nature. Have attended a Live FM radio show in Lagos Nigera to answer questions about the mentality of young people in this generation, at the same time, gave talks on Mental Health and Hygiene. Attended COY16 in 2021 and supported the VCOY team as a volunteer.

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### **Chaitya Sanghavi, Dubai U.A.E.**

#### **Youth Representative**

Chaitya, a finance enthusiast, presently serves as a Research Analyst at Fenix Investments Limited in Dubai. He is actively pursuing the Chartered Financial Analyst Program and earned his bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance from Narsee Monjee College, Mumbai. During his university years, Chaitya cultivated a deep commitment to social service, engaging in initiatives such as waste management and women's empowerment. His drive to counteract societal challenges motivates him to catalyze positive transformations for the underserved. As a volunteer for Raja Yoga Center, Dubai and its environment initiatives, he dedicates his efforts to imparting value-based education to children, with a key focus on sustainable living. He practices meditation and spirituality has been a fundamental part of his life since childhood.



### **Medilyn Manibo Singh, Dubai UAE**

#### **Communications Specialist**

Medilyn is a writer and communications professional based in the UAE. She has written and published numerous articles concerning the environment and climate change. Medilyn trained for media reporting on climate change at the United Nations University – International Leadership Institute in Jordan in 2008. She has been practicing Raja Yoga in Dubai since 2011 and is actively involved in the various programmes of Raja Yoga Center for the environment, children, and young adults. Born and raised in the Philippines, Medilyn has personally experienced the extreme impact of climate change in her home country.



### **Ankita Manjunath, Dubai UAE**

#### **Interior Architect**

Ankita is a dedicated member of the Raja Yoga Center in Dubai, where she has practiced meditation for six years. Born and raised in the Middle East, she holds a degree in Architecture. With a strong commitment to environmental initiatives and youth engagement, she started with the Local Conference of Youth 2020 (LCOY UAE). She participated as a delegate for COY17 and is now an active part of the delegation leading up to COY18. In addition, she is part of the Arts, Culture, and Heritage YOUNGO Working Group. Ankita's passion for the environment and her active involvement in Raja Yoga Center's environmental programs exemplify her commitment to positive change in the community and for Mother Earth.

## Collaborating with Media Partner Radio Madhuban

Community Radio Madhuban 107.8 FM at Brahma Kumaris Headquarters in India will be at COP 28, marking the radio's first broadcasting of COP.



### Shantanu Mandal, India

#### **Youth Rep of the BK to UNEP, Deputy Chair- ReSpECC for CEESP IUCN, Contact Point for ACH WG in YOUNGO**

Shantanu is a radio presenter in Radio Madhuban with one of the prime time shows Yashasvi Bharat where he interviews Dignitaries who are Civilian award winners of Bharat (India). He is involved in developing environmental programs in the Radio. Shantanu has practiced Raja Yoga for over 20 years. He has a background in fashion design and holds a second bachelor's degree in Fine Arts. In 2019, Shantanu was one of seven youths to be funded by the UNFCCC to attend COP 25 in Madrid. Since then he has been representing the Brahma Kumaris Youth at a number of high profile environmental conferences. A UNFSS+2 Youth task force member, Shantanu lives a vegan lifestyle and believes that "Simplicity is Kindness".



### Priyanka Patil, India

#### **Founder Golden Era Eco Services, Regenerative Agronomist**

Priyanka, M.Sc. (Agronomy), founded Golden Era Eco Services—a regenerative organisation and practitioner of Raj Yoga meditation since 2009. She is a regenerative gardener, certified permaculture teacher and designer committed to helping others by using natural methods to restore landscapes through thoughtful design approaches. She aspires to transform projects into thriving educational and healing spaces for sustainable living. Priyanka has a Permaculture Design Course for Educators at the 'Children in Permaculture Institute', UK. She was awarded 'Water Conservator-2023' by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, for working in the drylands on water conservation strategies to heal the barren landscapes. She is the Agriculture resource expert for Radio Madhuban and has been regularly interviewed on various environmental segments of the radio.



### Shishir Pandey, Nepal

#### **Photographer/Videographer/Editor**

Shishir, a native of Kathmandu, Nepal, has practised meditation since childhood. Holding a Bachelor's degree in Information Management and equipped with cinematography training from the Kantipur Film Academy, he excels as a visual storyteller, photographer, videographer, and editor. Shishir's creative talents harmoniously merge with his spiritual journey, enabling him to convey profound messages through imagery. His work captures life's beauty and delves into inner dimensions, enriching discussions on spirituality and environmental awareness. He actively contributes to Radio Madhuban and the Brahma Kumaris Social Media Services, bridging the gap between spirituality and the visual arts.