

**Consciousness and Climate Change**

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**Sister Jayanti Kirpalani, UK****Main representative of the Brahma Kumaris to UN, Geneva.****Director for Brahma Kumaris in Europe and the Middle East.**

For over 45 years, Sister Jayanti has been an emissary for peace with a vision and experience that is truly spiritual and global. She travels the world as a keenly sought after speaker and broadcaster who sees erosion of spiritual values being at the heart of the humanity's present dilemmas. Since 2009, she has led the *Brahma Kumaris* delegation to the UN Climate Change Conferences and spoken internationally about the spiritual perspectives relevant to climate change. She advocates that materialistic consumerism is a major cause of the current environmental crises; by recognising the need to return to a lifestyle of simplicity, we will no longer need external things to be content. Instead, spiritual love and respect—for the self, for all human beings, for all life forms and nature—will sit at the foundation of our lives. Attention to this facet remains the core principle of her work for environmental sustainability. <http://bkjayanti.org/>

**Valérie Bernard, Switzerland****NGO Representative of the Brahma Kumaris to UN, Geneva**

Valérie is the coordinator of the *Brahma Kumaris* (BK) centre in Geneva. She has been actively involved in the ecological movement since Rio 1992, promoting sustainable development and raising public awareness about the forces that drive climate change. She creates tools to lift awareness to advance the standing of women, promote fair relationships with our environment, resolve workplace disharmony and through interfaith gatherings, broaden cultural understanding. She has made her home in six countries, including Costa Rica, France, and Chile and continues to build bridges of understanding between cultures.

**Juan J. Vazquez Milling, Canada****NGO Youth Representative, Brahma Kumaris at the United Nations**

Juan is a professional Homeopath and Naturopath. He has participated in the last four UN Conferences on Climate Change as well as the RIO+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. Juan has a genuine and deep interest in the link between spirituality and the environment, and likes to share it with others. This interest inspired him to create several green and youth programs, with a spiritual perspective such as *Eco Shanti* and *Om Café*, in Montreal Canada the place where he resides, and these programs have already taken root in different countries. He is a Climate Reality Leader with the Climate Reality project, and is also a part of the Advisory Committee for the next Conference of Youth COY11.

**Sonja Ohlsson, Denmark****Designated Contact Point to the UNFCCC****International Coordinator, Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative**

Sonja Ohlsson is the national coordinator of *Brahma Kumaris* in Denmark and has practised Raja Yoga meditation since 1986. She is a meditation teacher with the Prison and Probation service in Copenhagen. In 2009 she was instrumental in developing the BK Environment Initiative in order to meet the need for a higher environmental awareness within the BK community and to add the inner dimension to the discussions at the UN climate change and biodiversity conferences.

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**Golo J. Pilz, Germany/India****Advisor to Brahma Kumaris on Renewable Energy****Head of India-One Solar project**

Golo was born in Germany and studies since 1984 Raja Yoga meditation with the *Brahma Kumaris*. Meanwhile he lives most of the year at the BK headquarters in Mount Abu, India. Since 1993, he has played a key role in establishing the *Brahma Kumaris* as one of the major users of renewable energies in India. Presently, Golo is directing the construction of India One, a 1MW solar thermal power plant. This is an innovative R&D project partly sponsored by the German (BMUB/GIZ) and Indian Government (MNRE). Golo advocates sustainable solutions through an ethical and value-based approach, and is an experienced presenter and participates regularly at UN Climate Conferences.

**Our partner in Morocco****Laura Agroum, Morocco****Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative representative**

French-born Laura has been living in the Kingdom of Morocco for 15 years. Prior to that she resided in Paris, Milan and Rome where she was working with the *Brahma Kumaris*. Laura spent her childhood in rural southern France. Her father's love for animals and the environment filled her with a natural regard for nature and all living creatures. Her affinity with and respect for the local Muslim community, the Middle East region and the Greater Maghreb aligns well with her work in public relations. She is also an active member of the Moroccan business community, which includes women entrepreneurs and health & well-being professionals. Laura is a founding member and the General Secretary of the Association de Réflexion pour le Ressourcement Intérieur, ARRI, that explores ways to improve harmony within and around ourselves.