

## Speakers on RELIGIOUS FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY (IARF/WCF) Horsham 20-23 August 2013



**Dr Yehuda Stolov** is director of the Interfaith Encounter Association, an organization working to build peaceful relations in the Holy Land by fostering respect and trust between people and communities through active interfaith dialogue. He has lectured on the role of religious dialogue in peace-building worldwide, including Jordan, India, Indonesia, Turkey, South Korea, North America and Europe. In 2006, he was awarded the Immortal Chaplains Foundation Prize for Humanity, which honours those who “risked all to protect others of a different faith or ethnic origin.” Dr Stolov is a member of the steering committee for the United Nations Decade of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace. He lives in Jerusalem.



**Rev Marcus Braybrooke** is a retired Anglican priest, living near Oxford. He has been involved in interfaith work for forty years as President of the World Congress of Faiths, director of the Council of Christians and Jews, co-founder of the Three Faiths Forum, Patron of the International Interfaith Centre at Oxford and a Peace Councillor. He was awarded a Lambeth Doctorate of Divinity by the Archbishop of Canterbury ‘in recognition of his contribution to the development of inter-religious co-operation and understanding throughout the world.’ He is author of forty books and has edited several anthologies of prayers. His wife Mary is a social worker and magistrate.



**Dan McKanan** is the Ralph Waldo Emerson Unitarian Universalist Association Senior Lecturer at Harvard Divinity School, where he has taught since 2008. Previously he served as associate professor and chair of the Theology Department at the College of Saint John's University in Minnesota. Dan McKanan is the author of three books on religious social activism in the United States. His writing has also appeared in many publications, including *Sojourners*, *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, *America*, the *Journal of Religion*, *Harvard Theological Review*, and *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, as well as in multiple anthologies.



**Dr. Hal French** from Kansas has taught on the Religious Studies faculty of the University of South Carolina since 1972. He retired as Department Chair in 1995. He taught a Maymester course for Honours students in Greece and Turkey in 2006, in Greece in 2008 and 2011, in England in 2009, and in India in 2012. His Ph.D. was from McMaster University in Canada. He has written several books, mostly on Asian religion, including ‘*Zen and the Art of Anything*’ recently re-issued which was selected as one of the “Best Spiritual Books” of 2001. French has lectured widely internationally. He has been involved in volunteer service projects in Nicaragua, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, in a tsunami relief project in India, a Katrina relief in Biloxi, Mississippi, and other projects.



**Advocate Varadarajalu Rengapashyam**, is a barrister from Chennai (formerly known as Madras) on the Coromandel coast of the Bay of Bengal. He is prominent in the world of Interfaith and is former President of the India Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom.



**Rev Chris Hudson MBE** was ordained as a Unitarian Minister in All Souls Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Belfast, in 2005.

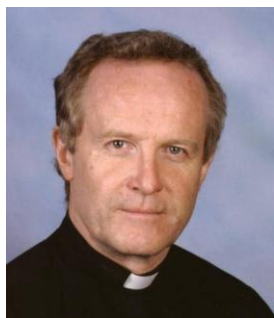
Non-conformist in many ways, he has been a hairdresser, actor, postman, writer, and, for 18 years, a trade union organiser.

He was awarded an MBE for his work for peace in Northern Ireland. He has a keen interest in issues related to the developing world and has travelled to India, Pakistan and Central America. He was for many years a Trustee for Oxfam GB and Honorary Chair of Oxfam Ireland.



**Dr Shlomo Alon** is a retired teacher and active academic and now head of Arabic and Islamic Education at the Israeli Ministry of Education in Jerusalem. He is Vice President of the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF).

He takes the view that studying Arabic will promote tolerance and convey a message of acceptance: "If you know the language of the other, you have the power to break barriers".



**Rt Rev Kieran Conry** is the Roman Catholic bishop of Arundel and Brighton. He was ordained bishop in June 2001 at Arundel Cathedral.

He was educated at Cotton College in North Staffordshire, before moving to the Venerable English College in Rome to study for the priesthood. In 1976, he returned to Cotton College to teach English and Religious Education. In 1980 he became private secretary to the Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Bruno Heim and then his successor, Archbishop Luigi Barbarito. He was appointed Monsignor in 1984.



**Sheikh Muhammad Amin Evans** comes from Birmingham and is a member of the Britslam Partnership, editor of the journal Shia Affairs, lecturer at Queens Theological foundation, member of the Association of British Muslims and a writer and lecturer and consultant on British Islamic topics. He is also a committee member of the British Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom, Secretary to the Peacemaking Commission and editor of their quarterly newsletters.

IARF/WCF Horsham speakers also include Rev. Dr. Doris Hunter, Annelies Trenning, Dorothea Gehrman, Derek McAuley, Rev Istvan Kovacs, Kishan Manocha, Charanjit & Ajit Singh MBE.