Consciousness and thoughts impact the physical state of our world. They create the attitudes behind decisions and lifestyles potentially resulting in environmental issues. I believe the solution lies in a profound shift in our awareness as well as in our lifestyles. Sustainability involves three fundamental levels: sustaining the self, sustaining relationships and sustaining communities. I first need to ask myself if I have respect for my home, for my planet and for all forms of life.”  
— Sister Jayanti, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University

Sister Jayanti Kirpalani

Director, Brahma Kumaris Europe & Middle East  
Global Co-operation House, 65-69 Pound Lane, London NW10 2HH  
Tel: (+44)-20-8727-3350; email: environment@brahmakumaris.org

For over 40 years, Sister Jayanti has been an emissary for peace. She has a vision and experience that are truly global and deeply spiritual. Her travels as a keenly sought-after speaker and broadcaster have taken her into more than 90 countries. She is based in London as the Director of the International Co-ordinating Office of the Brahma Kumaris (BK) and of BK Centres in over 20 European countries and the Middle East.

As the University’s main representative to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, she has undertaken extensive research into the role of spiritual values in world change, through her participation in many UN conferences and projects. Sister Jayanti participated in the Geneva preparatory meetings at the UN leading up to the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 where she assisted in the creation of the Earth Charter. Even now, there is ongoing interest in the application of the principles outlined in this Charter. Her participation in these international meetings is outlined below.

- Head of delegation and speaker at the UN Climate Change Conferences (www.unfccc.int) – COP 19 in Warsaw, Poland (November 2013); COP 18 in Doha, Qatar (November-December 2012); COP 17 in Durban, South Africa (December 2011); COP 16 in Cancun, Mexico (December 2010); COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark (December 2009).
- Head of delegation and speaker at the UN Conference on Sustainability Rio +20 (June 2012).

Spirituality and Sustainability

Recognising the urgent need for a more sustainable world, Sister Jayanti has an interest in exploring the deep connection between the quality of thought of the world’s people and the quality of matter in all domains.

“No political, economic, social or environmental system can fulfil its purpose unless people’s lifestyles and value-systems correspond to the sustained continuity of that system or state of affairs. The quality of any society or community is no better or worse than the personal qualities of its members, and to achieve economic growth and social development it is crucial to achieve personal growth. Without this, the very building blocks of the future will themselves be the downfall of that future.”

Looking Ahead The Brahma Kumaris community continues to be active in many environmental fora and initiatives including the UN Climate Change Conference COP 21 in Paris and the Solar Thermal Power Project, India (www.india-one.net), in addition to awareness-raising at each of the BK centres across the globe.

http://environment.brahmakumaris.org www.brahmakumaris.org
Sister Jayanti Kirpalani ‘Climate Change & Sustainability’ Speaking Engagements

2014

- **New York, USA** – Interfaith & Climate Change Summit, September. *Faith Communities, Divestment and Renewable Energy*. Panel member with Rev. Fletcher Harper (Greenfaith) and Archbishop Emeritus Anders Wejryd (Church of Sweden Uppsala).


- **Aloft Hotel lunch event and Sheraton Hotel evening event, Brussels, Belgium** – EU Sustainable Energy Week, 23–27 June, *New Thinking Creates New Realities*. Panel speaker with Golo Pilz, (Renewable Energy Advisor) and Kaushik Ghosh (Senior Director, Networks and Telecoms).

- **Bonn, Germany** – Climate Change Conference, June. *Integrating the heart makes a difference*. Panel speaker with Prince Goodluck Obi (Nigeria), Curtis Doebbler (Geneva School of Diplomacy & International Relations) and Golo Pilz (India-One Solar Thermal Power Plant).

- **Global Co-operation House, London** – *Values, conscience and climate change*, June. Panel speaker with Rev. David Rose (Chair, World Congress of Faiths).

- **Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India** – Hindu Environment Week, February. Keynote speaker.

2013

- **Bocconi University, Milan, Italy** – Fifth International Forum on Food and Nutrition (hosted by Barilla), November. Keynote speaker: *The value of food for the future of our planet*.

- **Warsaw, Poland** – COP 19, November
  - *Global Justice, Equity and Sustainability: the crucial role of systemic & holistic thinking and the principles of international law, human rights and inter-generational equity in the transition to a sustainable world*. Panel speaker.
  - Sustainable Innovation Forum – led meditation session arranged by Climate Action and UNEP.
  - *Call to Fast for Climate Justice*. Press Conference organised by CIDSE (Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité) and LWF (Lutheran World Federation).
  - *Sustainability enacted by the Guiding Values of UNFCCC*. Press conference organised by Brahma Kumaris.

- **Thimphu, Bhutan** – *Integrating Material and Spiritual Development for an Economy of Greater Wellbeing*, June. Global Peace Initiative of Women (GPIW) organised for 25 international spiritual and community leaders to travel to Bhutan, along with Dr. Vandana Shiva, a dynamic environmental advocate. Attendees included GPIW Co-Chair, Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister (USA); Chan teacher, Zarko Andricevic (Croatia); Rev. Richard Cizik (USA), joined by Venerable Bhikkhuni Dhammananda of Thailand, Swami Atmarupananda and Sraddhalu Ranade of India, and Father Michael Holleran (USA). Civil society participants included Charles Eisenstein, activist and author of *Sacred Economics*. National dignitaries included Lyonpa Om Pradhan who opened the event.
Brussels, Belgium - EU Sustainable Energy Week, 24–28 June

- **Sustainable Transitions Demands a New Mindset**, Panel member with Joachim Golo Pilz and Katharina von Schnurbein, Bureau of European Policy Advisors.

- **Living well within the limits of our planet**, Panel member with Joachim Golo Pilz.


Living well within the limits of our planet, Panel member with Joachim Golo Pilz.


2012

Doha, Qatar – COP 18, November-December

- **Protecting our atmosphere: State and individual responsibilities and the rights of Mother Earth.** Panel member with Curtis FJ Doebbler (Professor of Law at Webster University Geneva, International-Lawyers.Org, and Nord-Sud XXI) and Joachim Golo Pilz (India-One Solar Therma Power Plant, World Renewal Spiritual Trust, India). The expert panel discussed methods to adopt state and individual responsibility, inner resilience and a shift in consciousness, as the foundation of climate change.

- **Environmental Protection: Religious Perspective.** Speaker on *Nature protects, if she is protected* for this side event arranged by Doha International for Interfaith Dialogue.

- **Sustainable Innovation Forum** arranged by Climate Action and UNEP at Hotel Intercontinental. Shared meditation/reflection during the one-day conference.

- **Ethical and Religious Insights on the Climate Crisis.** Speaker at this side event organised by the World Council of Churches (WCC).

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – Rio +20, June

- **Sustainable Societies. New Paradigms and New Forms of Governance.** Panel guest with Oscar Rivas (Ministry of Environment-Paraguay), Moema Viezzer (Planetary Network of the Environmental Education Treaty).

- **Interfaith response to Sustainable Development. Ecological Civilization.** Organised by Temple of Understanding. Panel member with Dr. Vananda Shiva, Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp and others.

- **The Future We Want – Aligned Awareness and Action.** Public lecture highlighting how creating a new awareness can facilitate actions for enduring change.

- **Tapping into Our Inner Resources for the Transformation of the Global Economy.** Gathering of international spiritual, religious and civil society leaders organised by Global Peace Initiative of Women. Sister Jayanti led a visioning process (Co-Creating a New Economic Paradigm).

2011

Durban, South Africa – COP 17, December


- **Honoring Wisdom, Strengthening Commitment.** An Intergenerational Dialogue on how we can draw wisdom from the past to inspire hope to the future. Howard College, UKZN. Speaker with Teresa Mungazi (Young Voices Network, Zimbabwe), Simmi Dullay (Lecturer in gender studies, South Africa) and Dr. Sandika Baboolal (South Africa).

- **Consciousness & Climate Change – Confluence of Two Living Systems.** Speaker on the role consciousness has in impacting the environment & the personal responsibility to change. Howard College, UKZN.
Sustainable Capacity Building – Empowering Individuals and Communities to Act. Hex River. Speaker with Ms Ann Braudis (Maryknoll Sisters of St Dominic Inc., Chair of NGO Committee on Sustainable Development) and Mr. Joachim Golo Pilz (BKWSU India).

Living in Harmony – Creating Inner Resilience for Sustainable Living. Old Mutual Sports Centre, UKZN. Speaker.

Wisdom from the Past, Solutions for the Present – The ancient ecological wisdom of our great thinkers, philosophers, spiritual leaders and religions. Speaker in Panel Discussion hosted by Ms. Ela Gandhi (Gandhi Development Trust) with Mr Joachim Golo Pilz (Solar Energy Advisor, BKWSU, India) and Nirmala Nair (Director Zeri SA, Cape Town).

Heart of Sustainable Development – Exploring the role of spirituality in ensuring development & the eradication of poverty. Speaker with Mr. Blessing Karumbidza (Senior Researcher at Social Economic Rights Institute, SA) and Nirmala Nair (Director Zeri SA, Cape Town).

Sustainable Capacity Building – Empowering Individuals and Communities to Act. Howard College, UKZN. Speaker.

Climate Justice & Food Security Moral, Ethical and Spiritual Imperatives. Levubu River. Member of Panel Discussion arranged by World Council of Churches, Caritas International and World Conference of Religions for Peace.

Liverpool, United Kingdom – Speaker at Global Leaders’ Congress (www.rightsandhumanity.org) by Rights and Humanity, September. ‘Global Solutions to Global Challenges’ during the plenary Session Articulating the Paradigm of Justice and Sustainability with His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Professor Julia Häusermann, Professor Li Jixing, and Mr Vijay Mehta.

Geneva, Switzerland – Speaker at NGO Conference Cultural Rights and Climate Change, Spiritual & Ethical Perspectives.

Warsaw, Poland – Mind & Matter: Confluence of Two Living Systems with Mr Janusz Zadura, actor/journalist.

2010

Merida, Mexico – Consciousness and Climate Change, December. Panel speaker at the Daniel Ayala Theatre with Eduardo Batliori (Minister of Environment for the State of Yucatan) and Tomas Gonzales (Minister for the Council of Technology for the State of Yucatan); Lecture at the University of Merida; live interview Radio Formula.

Cancun, Mexico – COP 16, December. Speaker at the United Nations Climate Change Conference on Inner Dimensions of Climate Change. Panel discussion at event with Global Peace Initiative of Women (GPIW); Consciousness and Climate Change sharing a platform with Eduardo Batliori (Minister of Environment for the State of Yucatan) and Tomas Gonzales (Minister for the Council of Technology for the State of Yucatan).

Geneva, Switzerland – Participation in the first meeting of an informal group of faith-based NGOs that constitute the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights, October.

Geneva, Switzerland – Cultural Rights and Climate Change: Spiritual and Ethical Perspectives (supported by with the World Council of Churches), May. Panellist with others including H.E. Ambassador Boubacar Carlos Mbaye, Permanent Mission of Senegal.

Oxford, United Kingdom – Global Retreat Centre, May. Key note presenter (Creating the mindset for sustainability) at a conference for architects Cities of the Future – Living with a Spiritual vision and Sustainable Design with Rod Hackney, former President of the International Union of Architects in partnership with Brahma Kumaris and Kansara Hackney Ltd (professional design organisation which contributes towards a Green Mission to serve the Planet).
2009
- **Copenhagen, Denmark** – COP 15, December
  - Major participant and Head of BK delegation at the main plenary of the UN Climate Change Conference
  - contributed to the Press event *Spirit and Science in agreement on the Climate Crisis* organised by The Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change and 350.org.
  - Talks at *Peoples’ Climate Summit Mind & Matter: Confluence of Two Living Systems; Consciousness and Climate: Time to Change.*
  - Moderator for *Voices of Hope: Responding to the Call of the Earth* organised by the Global Peace Initiative of Women at the National Museum with the late Nobel Laureate Professor Wangari Maathai.

2008
- **Johannesburg, South Africa** – *UN World Summit on Sustainable Development*, August. Member of the Brahma Kumaris delegation.

2007
- **London, United Kingdom** – Event *To Protect the Earth. Owning our responsibility* with Ranchor Prim, author and founder of the environmental charity Friends of Vrindavan.

2005
- **Madrid, Spain** – Keynote speaker during *Businesses with Soul and Responsibility in a Changing Environment*, special conference for business people organised by La Fundación Sagardoy and the Club de Excelencia en Sostenibilidad.

1992
- **Geneva, Switzerland** – Participation in the Geneva preparatory meetings at the UN leading up to the *Rio Earth Summit* where she contributed to the creation of the Earth Charter (www.earthcharterinaction.org).

---

**Videos**


www.climate-change.tv/sister-jayanti-kirpalani-december-2010


www.womenofcolorunited.org/faith-based-leaders-discuss-ethical-dimensions-of-climate-change/