

The dove of the International Day of Conscience (IDC) soars on the winds of positive change, carried by its two wings of Love and Conscience, and heralding a new dawn of peace in human hearts everywhere on Earth.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CONSCIENCE 2025

4 April 2025

Palais des Nations
Room XVII & Livestream
1202 Geneva



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CONSCIENCE 2025 - CONVENORS & SPEAKERS

Global Convenors



SOFIA STRIL-REVER, a spiritual activist and teacher, is an award-winning author, public speaker, and the biographer of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. She co-authored 4 books with him, translated into over twenty languages and she adapted his life story for the screen in the biopic, *Dalai Lama, One Life After the Other*. In 2016 at the Paris Bar, Sofia convened the international conference *Law, Universal Responsibility and Environment*, featuring the Dalai Lama alongside 350 lawyers and environmental experts. Since 2018, she

has co-organized the Better We Better World seminars in Dharamsala, facilitating dialogue between young global leaders, the Dalai Lama and Professor Samdhong Rinpoche. Sofia speaks regularly at the United Nations in Geneva and served as the global convenor of the International Day of Conscience on 5 April in 2023 and 2024, addressing the theme of Loveforce Leadership. Additionally, she is the co-founder and vision holder of the LoveForce Foundation, the founding President of BeTheLove and author of a meditation protocol for heart and mind awakening aimed at leaders and changemakers to transition from individualism to altruism, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and fostering the rise of a civilization centred on love.



IGNACIO PACKER is Executive Director of the Caux Initiatives of Change Foundation, a Swiss private charitable foundation with the mission to provide a safe and privileged space to inspire, equip and connect individuals, groups and organizations from around the globe to engage effectively and innovatively in the promotion of trust, ethical leadership, sustainable living and human security. Ignacio has over 30 years of experience in humanitarian work and development issues. He is an expert on human rights and social

issues and has been strongly engaged in global advocacy on protection frameworks for migrants and refugees with a particular focus on children and youth.



SARAH NOBLE is Head of Global Engagement at Caux Initiatives of Change. She has dedicated her career to building a better world and is passionate about showcasing people's stories on how we can build peace with each other and the planet. Sarah has held leadership positions at international organisations focused on peacebuilding, humanitarian issues, and independent media. She is also co-founder and Curator of the Peace Talks at Interpeace that have taken place in more than

8 countries with over 8.000 attendees and more than 200 speakers from over 50 countries.



PASCALLE FRESSOZ is the Founding President of International Alliance for the Sustainable Millenium Goals ([AI-ODD International](#)). She uses private sector management methods to serve the common good, human rights, environmental protection and the fight against poverty. AI-ODD, present in 20 countries through its network of committed citizens, has obtained ECOSOC status from the UN. Pascale is also the director of a consultancy firm and a former local councillor. In 2014, after eight years of

campaigning for the cause of hostages in Colombia, she was appointed Peace Ambassador by Professor Tévoédjré, former adviser to Kofi Annan. She is the author of "Agir pour un monde durable. Making the transition a success with the 17 SDGs".

Speakers



DR. DENIS MUKWEGE (Democratic Republic of Congo) is a gynaecologist and human rights activist, as well as an evangelical Pentecostal pastor. Nicknamed ‘The man who repairs women’, he has received numerous awards for his commitment to combating female genital mutilation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the Sakharov Prize in 2014 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018. (photo: Claude Truong-Ngoc / Wikimedia Commons)



A poet in the city and an active citizen, **CHRISTOPHE BARBEY** lives, leads, and shares a life of grace in peace—an art and a science. A creator of words, he coined “irenist”, inspired by the Greek goddess of peace, Irene. As a peace activator, he works toward non-militarization, advocating for army-less nations, peace enshrined in constitutions, and the universal right to peace. Committed to securing funding for peace initiatives, he believes in the power of steadfast action to make peace prevail. For him, the United Nations is the foundation from which the good of humanity may rise. Since 2010, he has actively engaged at the UN, trusting it as a space to promote Conscience, Love, and Peace—values that uphold the dignity of humanity and shape our shared future.



KAREN BJÖRK is driven by a passion for sustainable development and social impact across civil society, public, and private sectors and currently focusing on scalable solutions for climate action. Her projects span from empowering teenagers in climate action and coaching children in self-love to co-founding Iceland’s first Young Climate Leaders programme, implementing global ISO sustainability standards at Reykjavík City, and leading Iceland’s national SDG reporting to the UN. From SDG-focused work during university to grassroots initiatives,

Karen then went on to co-develop Iceland's first policy on sustainable development at the Prime Minister's Office. Passionate about uniting people for a greater purpose, she now works with climate-tech innovation start-ups, shaping scalable solutions and bringing real-life climate technologies to market. Grounded in spirituality and meditation, she believes inner transformation drives outer change.

ELSA CUISSARD is an interdisciplinary researcher and project organiser based in Berlin, whose work explores the intersection of knowledge production, art, and socio-political change. With a background in philosophy and sociology, and extensive experience in both international and grassroots projects in political development, Elsa's work focuses on ecological and social justice issues. Her current research investigates the intersection of knowledge production and political ecology, approaching these issues from both academic and artistic perspectives, and she is also the author of several published articles on these topics.

Two years ago, she co-founded Collective Webs, an initiative dedicated to fostering collaborative learning and mutual support through artistic projects. Conceived as a collaborative network, Collective Webs' projects center on decolonial pedagogies, collective healing, and horizontal exchange, aiming to critically engage with collective narratives and knowledge systems that nurture sustainable planetary relationships.



JEAN-BAPTISTE DEMARS, 22, is a French applied arts student and freelance graphic designer based in Paris. Specializing in visual identities, he collaborates with artists, brands, and foundations to craft compelling designs. His work has earned him several communications awards, and he was a finalist in the French Com'handicap Prize for his innovative communications campaign for IKEA, aimed at promoting workplace accessibility for people with disabilities. Passionate about using creativity for

meaningful impact, he strives to support projects that resonate with his generation and drive positive change.



LoveForce award in 2024.

AHMED DIAKITE, a 21-year-old originally from Ivory Coast, has been living in Paris for several years. He is currently pursuing studies in engineering while fostering his entrepreneurial spirit. Specializing in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, he is passionate about their potential to address societal challenges through innovative solutions that benefit all. Along his journey, he has developed a deep appreciation for the concept of love, which he sees as a fundamental driver of lasting global peace. Ahmed was rewarded with the

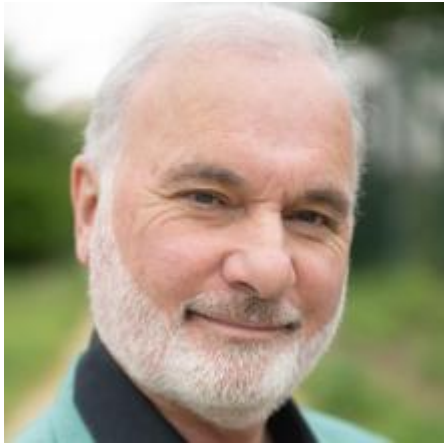


Former Deputy Director of the UNDP Office in Geneva and founder at the UN of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty, **JEAN FABRE** is a resource person within the UN interagency Task Force for social and solidarity economy. Co-initiator in 1980 of the "Manifesto of the Nobel Prize winners against hunger and for development", he directed the NGO "Food and Disarmament International" in Brussels. He led the campaign which obtained the adoption by the Belgian Parliament of the "Survival Law" and contributed in Italy to the creation of the "Fondo aiuti italiani" endowed with 1 billion dollars for international development aid. A conscientious objector, he has been international secretary of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, an inter-faith peace and justice global organization headquartered in the Netherlands, then in Denmark and Belgium, and made numerous trips to Latin America promoting non-violence and collaborating with union, peasant and indigenous movements.



LINDA LEOGAH FORKWA is a community peacebuilder who holds a double masters degree in International Relations at the University of Buea in Cameroon and MA in Governance and Regional Integration at the Pan African University Institute of Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Yaounde II under the sponsorship of the African Union. Through her association with Home for Humanity, she created a transformative model in 2023 known as Integral Lewaah Revolution Cameroon (ILR)

that addresses issues of drug trafficking and abuse among male youths of Mutengene her community. The ILR employs the Na We We (We Are One) methodology that underlines the values of Sharing, Togetherness, and Responsibility and introduces purposeful education that prioritizes local knowledge and cultural values. In 2024, the ILR won the LoveForce Awards and became a LoveForce Ambassador in Cameroon.



JEAN-MARC GOVERNATORI is a public servant, entrepreneur, and environmental advocate with a distinguished career spanning politics, business, and social impact. Currently serving as a Nice Côte d'Azur city and metropolitan councillor, he has been at the forefront of sustainable policies and environmental action in the region. Recognized for his leadership, he has twice been named Best Manager in France and is the recipient of the Trophée de l'Emploi, awarded by the Minister for SMEs. His commitment to social causes is evident in his roles as a delegate for A.R.S.E.P. (Aide à la Recherche sur la Sclérose en Plaques) and a former delegate for SOS SAHEL, working to advance medical research and humanitarian aid. An accomplished author, Governatori has written 16 books, including three prefaced by renowned scientist Albert Jacquard. His expertise in ecology, public health, and consumer behavior has made him a sought-after lecturer in these fields. He also co-founded the Ligue nationale contre la drogue alongside scientist Gabriel Nahas, reinforcing his commitment to public well-being. Governatori's dedication to animal rights and environmental sustainability has earned him a 20/20 rating from Politique Animaux (L214) and recognition for having the best climate programme in the 2021 regional elections, as ranked by Réseau Action Climat (WWF, Agir pour l'environnement, Greenpeace, etc.). Following his electoral success, he was appointed President of the Office régional environnemental Sud. His impact and unique approach to ecological politics are documented in the book *Jean Marc Governatori, écologiste inclassable* by journalist Mathias Leboeuf, published in September 2022. With a career dedicated to social progress, environmental protection, and ethical governance, Jean-Marc Governatori continues to shape policies that drive positive change for both people and the planet.



A graduate of the prestigious Neoma Business School, **ISABELLE GRIPON** has over 30 years of experience in the film and audio-visual media industry. She has a strong international background, having worked for eight years in Los Angeles and two years in Argentina and Chile. A producer since 2002, she has produced around ten documentaries for ARTE and France Télévision, as well as six feature films. In late 2019, she founded *Mandela Films* to produce impact-driven films—stories rooted in the realities of our society, designed to shift awareness and inspire growth in our shared humanity.



BILLY IDOL, Singer and Musician



KAIVALYA KASHYAP was a very successful businessman before leaving the classic business path in 2013 and going on a quest, guided by his mentor Maitreya Dadashreeji. From this originated the socio-spiritual organisation MaitriBodh Parivaar International GmbH where he serves as CEO. He co-founded the International Academy of Transformative Leadership with the aim of supporting people in their development into true leaders. Furthermore, Kaivalya Kashyap is the president of the non-profit associations MaitriBodh Peace Services and their youth wing YGPT, active in Germany, Austria, Italy and Switzerland, transforming society through social services for the underprivileged, nature and youth empowerment. In the International Spiritual Council for Transforming Humanity (Geneva), Kaivalya Kashyap acts as president to bring together individuals,

organisations and governments, working hand in hand towards a peaceful world through human transformation.



Recipient of a doctorate under Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel's direction and an MBA of ESSEC Business School,

DR. GUILA CLARA KESSOUS is a UNESCO Artist for Peace, Peace Ambassador and executive coach. She combines performing art and activism working as an "artist" helping population victims of post traumatic syndroms. She has worked with displaced population in Bangladesh (Rohingyas), in Rwanda (survivors of genocides) as well as in Congo with Nobel Peace Prize

Laureate Dr. Mukwege. As a teacher at the Harvard Carr Center for Human Rights Policies at Harvard Kennedy School, she created the course "Theatre and Human Rights" and received the Derek Bok Center Award for excellence in teaching. As an executive coach, she developed specific training using role games and Harvard negotiation techniques to enhance executive inner empowerment. She became "Rising Talent" for the Women's Forum for the Economy and the Society helping thousands of executives for a more assertive and positive leadership. She is running the International Day of Women's Rights and World Art Day at UNESCO. Dr Kessous has been knighted by the French government.



RENÉ LONGET, who holds a degree in literature from the University of Geneva, has held political office at the cantonal and federal level and within an urban executive. He was a member of the Swiss delegation to the World Summits on Sustainable Development in 1992, 2002 and 2012. He is involved in expert committees, public institutions and NGOs, and is committed to issues of energy, agri-food, international cooperation, biodiversity and the social and solidarity economy, for living together and the transition to

sustainability. He contributes to the public debate through his articles, conferences and books (about twenty in total). The most recent: Planète Etat d'urgence, les réponses de la durabilité, Presses polytechniques et universitaires romandes, 2024



ALI MAHLODJI was born in Iran in 1981 and came to Europe as a refugee as a child. He started his career as a high school dropout and tried more than 40 jobs. He launched his first company from a childhood idea: *whatchado* - the digital handbook of life stories which is the market leader for video employer branding in German-speaking countries today. As the CEO of *whatchado* he guided the company to market leadership and has recently dedicated his time to accompany the company in times of change. In his role

as an expert for work and education, he inspires and accompanies executives and HR teams in the further development of their competencies. He shares his insights as a keynote speaker, trainer and 4-time author. To date, he has reached over half a million people in more than 30 countries with his 1000+ keynotes. In 2021, he was appointed to the international Forbes Business Council and the EU appointed him as an EU Youth Ambassador for Life as a translator between generations and UNICEF appointed him as an Honorary Representative. Ali Mahlodji is a studied expert for distributed computer systems and held management positions at Siemens and at the international tech company Sun Microsystems and was elected twice among the Top50 High Potentials of Austria. He counts brain researcher Dr. Gerald Hüther and human high performance expert Dr. Markus Jahn among his mentors and really just wants to save the world.



With nearly 25 years' rich and varied professional experience, successively in the media, finance and microfinance sectors, **VANESSA MENDEZ** provided independent advisory services to start-ups engaged in transformation projects from 2016 to 2020. In 2021, Vanessa joined the UNESCO Chair towards a Culture of Economic Peace. As deputy director, she developed and implemented a strategic plan aimed at promoting the Chair's influence in France and internationally. She contributed to ensuring the sustainability of the Chair's

activities in the field of research, training and business, particularly through fundraising. In January 2025, following the closure of the Chair, Vanessa joined the Grenoble Ecole de Management Doctoral School, taking responsibility for building and maintaining strong relationships with the DBA Alumni community. Vanessa is a graduate of KEDGE BS and holds a Master's degree in International Management. She is a certified coach (Entrepreneurs Institut and MBTI). She is a board member of the Fondation Maison Colin Seguin.



MARUEE PAHUJA is an impassioned Expressive Arts Consultant, Process Facilitator, Visual Artist, and Eye-Care Practitioner dedicated to enriching lives through the intersection of arts and science. As an Expressive Arts Consultant with the Caux Initiatives of Change Foundation, she brings strategic insights to foster meaningful dialogues in peacebuilding using arts-based approaches. In her role as a core team member of Creative Leadership, she drives content creation and strategy, always with a focus on transformative impact through creative processes. Her path is marked by pioneering efforts in developing therapeutic arts-based interventions and leading workshops that inspire profound transformation. With over 4,000 hours dedicated to volunteering, she harnesses the transformative power of the arts to heal, unite, and elevate, all while on a mission to bridge the gap between science and the arts, aiming to cultivate a world where health and humanities walk hand in hand. Her rich tapestry of experiences spans continents, cultures, and fields, where she has spearheaded initiatives that merge the realms of arts, peacebuilding, wellbeing, leadership and planet democracy. With over 300 workshops held globally, she has collaborated with more than 25 not-for-profit organizations, advocating for and integrating arts-based approaches in building resilient leaders and peaceful communities through creating and designing arts based workshops and being a speaker at events like Geneva Peace Week and the Caux Democracy Forum. Maruee recharges and finds inspiration in her creative cave, where she unleashes her imagination through various visual art forms and styles. She has created over 5000 multimedia art pieces in her journey as an artist and has exhibited in a few national art galleries. Her journey continues to be one of creativity, compassion, and a deep commitment to the transformative power of the arts.



With an international career spanning Lebanon, the UN in Geneva for the Republic of Korea, and Bahrain, **HELENE PICHON** has also directed the Alliance Française in Cork, Ireland, managing its French Film Festival. Since 2011, she has served as Director of Institutional Relations at the Centre for Strategic and Prospective Studies (CEPS), an INGO with participatory status at major international organizations. Currently, H el ene Pichon is Director of the Alliance Fran aise in The Hague and coordinates the Alliance Fran aise network in the Netherlands for the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. A Colonel in the Air Force Citizen Reserve since 2012, she is also the author of *L' ternel au F eminin*, advocating for gender parity in religious hierarchies. Previously a board member of the International Women's Forum (2019–2021), H el ene now serves as an ambassador for the Antoine de Saint-Exup ry Youth Foundation and

vice-president of the Robert Schuman Institute for Europe. She co-founded Toutes Apôtres in 2020 and holds positions on the boards of the Comité de la Jupe and the Société des Amis de la Fondation pour l'Islam de France. Since 2021, she has been Secretary General of the SDGs Champions Association. Franco-Swiss, Hélène holds a DEA in Political Science from Sorbonne Paris IV in partnership with LSE and studied at Lycée Louis-le-Grand. She is certified by the Diplomatic Academy's College of Advanced Studies (2024) and UNITAR in Geneva (2024).



RENAUD RUHLMANN, a trilingual self-taught, has dedicated himself for nearly 10 years to the therapeutic revaluation of sound. His research in electrophysiology and botanical sound therapy is revolutionising the understanding of plant communication. As founder of NaturaSounds, he created the first sound herbalism in 2019, does research in molecular sound chemistry and develops artistic projects like ЯRacine and "l'âme agit". He also works for the protection of plant rights. Pioneer also in vibrational gastronomic research,

Renaud shares his love for plants from seeds to plate and explores the functioning of living organisms through sound frequencies of molecules. The book "The Secret Melody of Plants" (November 2021) reveals his research on plant consciousness and practices around sound and music with plants.



After 20 years in business and management consulting, **VALERIE SEGUIN** redirected her career and became a writer and documentary filmmaker. After a first book on investigating about life after death, she directed a series of films on the awakening of consciousness, including "The Soul", "Intuitive and spiritual intelligence" and "New forms of human intelligence at work." which is specifically aimed at the workplace. At the same time, she published two books: "What if I freed my intuitive and spiritual intelligence"

(eyrolles 2023) and "Meeting your soul" (larousse 2024). Valérie is currently launching her new film "The Soul & The Invisible".



VANESSA N. SYRIO is a Brazilian author, geologist, spiritual quotient educator, and shrines founder in Brazil. Through her books and lectures, she inspires citizens to adopt a sustainable lifestyle named by her as “peace market”. The main goal of this trade is to see clearly how the earth dynamic works and use the First People’s tradition to live in balance in modern society based on the indigenous saying that indigenous people belong to nature but nature does not belong to them. Vanessa is passionate about rethinking the economy and the market to adapt them to the needs of modern society.



ELISABETH WILSON is a former journalist at the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation where she covered Aboriginal affairs and Indian Reservations. She then became a member of the accredited press to the United Nations in Geneva. Elisabeth is specialized in public, media relations, advocacy, innovative partnerships and branding. She co-founded a Geneva-based NGO fighting against Female Genital Mutilation and for a decade acted in the capacity of Head of Communications, Spokesperson, Representative to the

UN, Delegate during the Human Rights Council in Geneva and to the Consultative Status of Women (CSW) in New-York. Born in DRC during the first WHO mission in Africa, her whole family was rescued during the Congo crisis by Norwegian, Swedish and Pakistani Blue Helmets. Since then she dedicated her life to giving a voice to the voiceless. Visionary, she was the first to introduce the participation of Aboriginal Women of Canada in the global fight against FGM. Elisabeth worked in Africa as a UN Volunteer and International Expert and just ended a mission at the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Development in the Sahel. Elisabeth speaks five languages: French, English, Italian, Spanish and Haitian Creole. a healthy society.



