

## 'Respect for human life a must to achieve universal peace'

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BENGALURU: World peace can be attained only through sustained commitment to the dignity of human life. This idea was the overarching theme of the symposium organized by [Bharat Soka Gakkai](#), the Indian affiliate of the [Soka Gakkai International](#) (SGI). Held in collaboration with the [Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore](#) (IIMB) on Friday, the programme 'Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace' was based on the 2016 peace proposal presented by SGI president Daisaku Ikeda. It aimed at addressing global concerns centred on violence, conflict and disregard for human rights. Ikeda, who formulates a proposal each year, looks beyond diagnosing obstacles to peace, choosing instead to provide solutions that will effect a change in the attitude.

Smita Srinivas, head, school of economic development at the Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Corinne Kumar, founder, World Courts of Women, and [Ramnath Narayanswamy](#), professor, economics and social sciences, IIMB, were the three speakers at the symposium. Smita focussed on issues pertaining to economic development and health. While reiterating the significance of a dialogue process, she said: "The ways in which different professions frame the issues shape how they can respond to the essential needs of society."

### 'Peace' symposium addresses global issues

**Bengaluru:** A peace symposium organised in the city on Friday addressed some global concerns of violence, conflict and disregard for human rights, that are plaguing our society.

The symposium 'Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace' was based on the 2016 Peace Proposal by Soka Gakkai International (SGI) president Daisaku Ikeda who has been formulating a peace proposal every year and submitting it to United Nations.

In his 2016 peace proposal, Ikeda proposed three areas that require prompt and coordinated action from governments and the civil society.

His proposals were titled: Humanitarian aid and human rights protection, ecological integrity, and disaster risk reduction. SGI, is a Buddhist association of more than 12 million members spread in 192 countries.

Among the key speakers were Smita Srinivas, Head, School of Economic Development, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Corinne Kumar, Founder, World Courts of Women; and Ramnath Narayanswamy, Professor Economics and Social Sciences, IIMB who shared their insights on the peace proposal, at the programme organised by Soka Gakkai International's (SGI) Indian affiliate, Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) .

Smita Srinivas focused on issues in economic development and health as a way to respond to the wider concerns that were raised in the proposal on human dignity. She pointed out that a changing world of multilateralism, away from the nation-state, could offer increased opportunities in professional engagement with overt value propositions.

Ikeda, who was conferred with the Peace award from United Nations in 1983, has been striving to formulate peace proposals that go beyond diagnosing obstacles to peace and instead provide solutions that encompass attitudinal changes.

**DH News Service**

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# Business Standard

## Respect for human dignity holds key to peace

Press Trust of India | Bengaluru

October 22, 2016 Last Updated at 00:22 IST

World peace can be achieved only through a firm commitment to respecting human life and its dignity, it was stressed at a peace symposium here today.

It was organised by [Bharat](#) Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroots organisations which seeks to promote the values of peace and respect for all, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management, [Bangalore](#) (IIMB).

Titled 'Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace', the symposium was based on the 2016 Peace Proposal by SGI president Daisaku Ikeda. It aimed to address the global concerns of violence, conflict and disregard for human rights, the organisation said in a release. In his 2016 peace proposal, Ikeda looks at three areas which require prompt and coordinated action by governments and the civil society: Humanitarian aid and human rights protection, ecological integrity and disaster risk reduction.

In her keynote address, Smita Srinivas, Head, School of Economic Development, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, focused on issues of economic development and health as a way to respond to the wider concerns that were raised in the proposal on human dignity. According to her, while dialogue is essential, "The ways in which different professions frame the issues shape how they -- with specific training and social privileges -- can respond to the essential needs of the society." Srinivas pointed out that a changing world of multi-lateralism, away from the nation-state, offered increased opportunities in professional engagement with overt value propositions. She said, "Increased dialogue needs instruments of professional education explicitly combined with reflective value propositions. I place great value therefore on problem-framing and experiential learning."

Vishesh Gupta, chairperson, [Bharat](#) Soka Gakkai (BSG), said, "The preamble of the UNESCO charter opens with the famous declaration, 'Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed'. "How, then, are defences of peace that are truly lasting to be built?"

Corinne Kumar, founder, World Courts of Women, said, "We live in very violent times. Think of the Iraq wars. The words we use now are words that have never been used before. These are times that focus on the rights of the privileged and the powerful. Times that are destroying the diversity of the world. We are living in times where dreams are turning into nightmares.



## 'Respect for human life a must to achieve universal peace'

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## DECCAN Chronicle

### 'Make development more inclusive'

DC CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU OCT. 21


Dr Corinne Kumar, founder of World Courts of Women, has expressed concern over rising armed conflicts and called for a new model to create an inclusive notion of development.

Addressing a symposium 'Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace', based on the 2016 peace proposal by Soka Gakkai International (SGI) President Daisaku Ikeda, at IIM-B here on Friday, she said,

"We live in violent times. Think of the Iraq wars. These are times that focus on the rights of the privileged and the powerful and they are destroying the diversity of the world."

Regarding Dr Ikeda she said that he stresses on the need for dialogue with other concepts of power and religious institutions. Since 1983 Ikeda has been formulating a peace proposal that also provides solutions. The symposium was organised by the SGI's Indian affiliate Bharat Soka Gakkai.

## Respect for human dignity holds key to peace

 PTI  
October 22, 2016 | UPDATED 00:35 IST

Bengaluru, Oct 21 (PTI) World peace can be achieved only through a firm commitment to respecting human life and its dignity, it was stressed at a peace symposium here today. It was organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroots organisations which seeks to promote the values of peace and respect for all, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB). Titled Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace, the symposium was based on the 2016 Peace Proposal by SGI president Daisaku Ikeda. It aimed to address the global concerns of violence, conflict and disregard for human rights, the organisation said in a release. In his 2016 peace proposal, Ikeda looks at three areas which require prompt and coordinated action by governments and the civil society: Humanitarian aid and human rights protection, ecological integrity and disaster risk reduction.

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# मनुष्य की गरिमा का सम्मान शांति की कुंजी है

**बेंगलूरु।** विश्व शांति तभी स्थापित हो सकती है, जब मनुष्य के जीवन एवं उसकी गरिमा के प्रति गहरा सम्मान का भाव स्थापित किया जाए। सोका गवकई इंटरनेशनल (एसजीआई) के भारतीय एफिलिएट, भारत सोका गवकई (बीएसजी) द्वारा आयोजित शांति सिंपोजियम की थीम यही थी। यह सिंपोजियम शुक्रवार को भारतीय प्रबंधन संस्थान, बेंगलूरु (आईआईएमबी) के सहयोग से आयोजित की गई।

‘मानव गरिमा के प्रति सार्वभौम सम्मान ‘शांति का महान रास्ता’ शीर्षक वाली यह सिंपोजियम एसजीआई अध्यक्ष, डायसाकु इकेडा द्वारा 2016 शांति प्रस्ताव पर आधारित थी। इस संगोष्ठी का लक्ष्य हिंसा, टकराव एवं मानवाधिकारों की उपेक्षा की वैश्विक समस्या को संबोधित करना था। इकेडा हर साल एक शांति प्रस्ताव बनाते हैं, जो शांति स्थापित करने की बाधाओं का आंकलन करने की सीमा से आगे बढ़कर ऐसे समाधान प्रदान करता है, जिनमें लोगों की सोच में बदलाव भी शामिल है। उनके नए प्रस्ताव में इकेडा बताते हैं कि ज्ञान द्वारा लोगों को सकारात्मक बदलाव लाने के लिए समर्थ बनाया जाना चाहिए और हमें ‘प्रयोग का साहस’ विकसित करना चाहिए, क्योंकि इससे हमें मुश्किल स्थितियों को पार करने एवं अपनी अपेक्षाओं का भविष्य निर्मित करने की शक्ति मिलती है। अपने



2016 के शांति प्रस्ताव में इकेडा ने तीन क्षेत्रों की बात की है, जिन्हें सरकार एवं सिविल सोसायटी के तत्काल ध्यान एवं सामंजस्यपूर्ण कार्य की जरूरत है। इनमें मानवीय सहायता एवं मानव अधिकारों की सुरक्षा, ईकोलॉजिकल इंटीग्रिटी एवं आपदा जोखिम का प्रबंधन शामिल है।

इकेडा ने सर्वप्रथम इस सिद्धांत की पुष्टि की जरूरत पर बल दिया कि लगातार बिगड़ते हुए शरणार्थी संकट पर हमारी प्रतिक्रिया अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार कानूनों पर आधारित होनी चाहिए। ईकोलॉजिकल इंटीग्रिटी के विषय में उन्होंने ग्रीनहाउस गैसों को कम करने की जरूरत पर बल दिया, जो ग्लोबल वॉर्मिंग की प्रमुख वजह हैं। शांति प्रस्ताव में आपदा जोखिम

प्रबंधन के लिए ईकोसिस्टम पर आधारित दृष्टिकोण अपनाने की जरूरत का अनुभव साझा किया।

सिंपोजियम में तीन वक्ताओं, डॉ. स्मिता श्रीनिवास, अध्यक्ष, स्कूल ऑफ ईकॉनॉमिक डेवलपमेंट, इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर वुमेन सेटेलमेंट्स, डॉ. कोरीन कुमार, संस्थापक, वर्ल्ड कोर्ट्स ऑफ वुमेन एव प्रो. रामनाथ नारायणस्वामी, ईकॉनॉमिक्स एण्ड सोशल साइंसेस, आईआईएमबी ने शांति प्रस्ताव पर अपने अनुभवों के बारे में बताया।

अपने संबोधन में डॉ. श्रीनिवास ने प्रस्ताव में मानव गरिमा पर उठाई गई व्यापक चिंताओं के समाधान के रूप में आर्थिक विकास एवं स्वास्थ्य की समस्याओं

पर चर्चा की। उनके अनुसार, जहां वार्ता जरूरी है, वहीं जिन तरीकों से विभिन्न व्यवसाय समस्याओं का प्रारूप तैयार करते हैं, उनसे इस बात का निर्धारण होता है कि वे, विशेष प्रशिक्षण एवं सामाजिक सुविधाओं के साथ समाज की आवश्यक जरूरतों का समाधान कैसे कर सकते हैं।

भारत सोका गवकई की चेयरपर्सन विशेष गुप्ता ने एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा उठाया कि यूनेस्को के अध्याय की प्रस्तावना एक प्रसिद्ध घोषणा के साथ प्रारंभ होती है, ‘चूंकि युद्ध मनुष्यों के मस्तिष्क में जन्म लेते हैं, इसलिए शांति के रक्षकों का कैसे निर्माण करना है, यह भी मनुष्यों के मस्तिष्क में ही है। तो फिर शांति के ऐसे रक्षक कैसे निर्मित किए जाएं, जो वास्तव में स्थायी हों?’

गुप्ता ने बताया, इससे हम मानव जीवन एवं व्यवहार के प्रमुख तत्वों पर विचार करने के लिए बाध्य होते हैं। पहला तत्व है कि क्या हम दूसरे जीवन को सशक्त बना सकते हैं। दूसरा है कि सारी कार्यवाही वार्ता पर आधारित होनी चाहिए। तीसरा है कि दुनिया को आप दूसरे व्यक्ति की नजर से देखने की कोशिश करें और अंत में युवाओं के जोश की शक्ति पर भरोसा रखें। डायसाकु इकेडा सोका गवकई इंटरनेशनल (एसजीआई) के प्रेसिडेंट हैं, जो 192 से अधिक देशों एवं क्षेत्रों में 12 मिलियन से अधिक सदस्यों वाला बौद्ध संगठन है।

संगोष्ठी...

# आंतरिक बदलाव से स्थापित हो सकती है शांति: इकेडा

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बेंगलूरु. सोका गवर्कई इंटरनेशनल (एसजीआई) एवं भारत सोका गवर्कई (बीएसजी) के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 'मानव गरिमा के प्रति सार्वभौम सम्मान : शांति का महान रास्ता' विषय में शुक्रवार को संगोष्ठी हुई। जिसमें स्कूल ऑफ इकोनॉमिक डेवलपमेंट, इंडियन इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर सेटलमेंट्स की अध्यक्ष डॉ. स्मिता श्रीनिवास, वर्ल्ड कोर्ट्स ऑफ वूमन के संस्थापक डॉ. कोरीन कुमार एवं इकोनॉमिक्स एंड सोशल साइंसेस, आईआईएमबी के प्रो. रामनाथ नारायण स्वामी ने एसजीआई के अध्यक्ष डायसाकु इकेडा के 2016 शांति प्रस्ताव पर अपने अनुभव साझा किए।

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान, बेंगलूरु (आईआईएमबी) के सहयोग से आयोजित संगोष्ठी को संबोधित करते हुए डॉ. श्रीनिवास ने कहा कि मानव गरिमा पर व्यापक चिंताओं के समाधान के रूप में आर्थिक विकास एवं स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं पर जहां वार्ता जरूरी है। वहीं, जिस तरह विभिन्न व्यावसायिक समस्याओं का प्रारूप तैयार किया जाता है उनसे यह निर्धारण होता है कि वो शिक्षण, प्रशिक्षण एवं सामाजिक सुविधाओं



## शांति के समर्थक हैं इकेडा

डायसाकु इकेडा 192 से अधिक देशों एवं 12 मिलियन से अधिक सदस्यों वाला बौद्ध संगठन है। इकेडा शांति की स्थापना के लिए वार्ता के प्रबल समर्थक हैं। वे 50 से अधिक देशों की यात्रा कर चुके हैं। जिन लोगों से उन्होंने बात की उन्होंने यही भाव प्रकट किए कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय सामंजस्य एवं शांति केवल पारस्परिक चर्चा के माध्यम से ही संभव है।

के साथ समाज की आवश्यक जरूरतों का समाधान कैसे कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि अधिक वार्ता में व्यावसायिक शिक्षा के तत्व जरूरी हैं। जो प्रतिबिंबात्मक मूल्य अपादानों के साथ स्पष्ट रूप से जुड़ी हों।

बीएसजी के अध्यक्ष विशेष गुप्ता ने कहा कि युद्ध मनुष्य के मस्तिष्क में जन्म लेते हैं, इसलिए शांति के रक्षकों का कैसे निर्माण करना है, यह भी मनुष्य के मस्तिष्क में ही मौजूद

है। फिर शांति के ऐसे रक्षक कैसे निर्मित किए जाएं जो वास्तव में स्थाई हों। डायसाकु इकेडा ने कहा कि पारस्परिक वार्ता से लोगों के दिल में शांति का मजबूत और स्थाई रक्षक पैदा कर सकते हैं। सोका जापानी शब्द है, जिसका मतलब लाभ प्रदान करना है, और लाभ तभी मिलता है जब यह भीतरी बदलाव करता हो। आंतरिक बदलाव विश्व में बदलाव लाने वाले लोगों का निर्माण करते हैं, जो स्थाई शांति स्थापित करते हैं।



# PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India's Premier News Agency

**Bengaluru, Oct 21 (PTI)** World peace can be achieved only through a firm commitment to respecting human life and its dignity, it was stressed at a peace symposium here today.

It was organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian affiliate of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a global association of grassroots organisations which seeks to promote the values of peace and respect for all, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB). Titled 'Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace', the symposium was based on the 2016 Peace Proposal by SGI president Daisaku Ikeda. It aimed to address the global concerns of violence, conflict and disregard for human rights, the organisation said in a release. In his 2016 peace proposal, Ikeda looks at three areas which require prompt and coordinated action by governments and the civil society: Humanitarian aid and human rights protection, ecological integrity and disaster risk reduction.

In her keynote address, Smita Srinivas, Head, School of Economic Development, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, focused on issues of economic development and health as a way to respond to the wider concerns that were raised in the proposal on human dignity. According to her, while dialogue is essential, "The ways in which different professions frame the issues shape how they -- with specific training and social privileges -- can respond to the essential needs of the society." Srinivas pointed out that a changing world of multi-lateralism, away from the nation-state, offered increased opportunities in professional engagement with overt value propositions. She said, "Increased dialogue needs instruments of professional education explicitly combined with reflective value propositions. I place great value therefore on problem-framing and experiential learning."

Vishesh Gupta, chairperson, Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), said, "The preamble of the UNESCO charter opens with the famous declaration, 'Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed'. "How, then, are defences of peace that are truly lasting to be built?"

Corinne Kumar, founder, World Courts of Women, said, "We live in very violent times. Think of the Iraq wars. The words we use now are words that have never been used before. These are times that focus on the rights of the privileged and the powerful. Times that are destroying the diversity of the world. We are living in times where dreams are turning into nightmares.

# BSG organises peace symposium in association with IIM, Bangalore

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World peace can be created only through a firm commitment to respecting human life and its dignity'- this was the theme of a peace symposium organised by the Soka Gakkai International's (SGI) Indian affiliate, Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) on Friday. The symposium, titled 'Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace,' was based on the 2016 Peace Proposal by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda. The symposium aimed to address the global concerns of violence, conflict and disregard for human rights. Each year Ikeda formulates a peace proposal that goes beyond diagnosing obstacles to peace, and instead provides solutions that encompass attitudinal change. In his 2016 peace proposal, Mr Ikeda looks at three areas that require prompt and coordinated action by governments and civil society: Humanitarian aid and human rights protection, ecological integrity, and disaster risk reduction. The three speakers at the Symposium, Dr Smita Srinivas, Head, School of Economic Development, Indian Institute for Human Settlements; Dr Corinne Kumar, Founder, World Courts of Women; and Prof. Ramnath Narayanswamy, Economics and Social Sciences, IIMB, shared their insights on the peace proposal.

In her keynote address, Dr Srinivas focused on issues in economic development and health as a way to respond to the wider concerns that were raised in the proposal on human dignity. According to her, while dialogue is essential, "the ways in which different professions frame the issues shapes how they – with specific training and social privileges – can respond to the essential needs of society." Dr Srinivas pointed out that a changing world of multilateralism away from the nation-state, offers increased opportunities in professional engagement with overt value propositions. She went on to say, "increased dialogue needs instruments of professional education explicitly combined with reflective value propositions. I place great value therefore on problem-framing and experiential learning. I am very fortunate to be associated with an organization like the Bharat Soka Gakkai that has been consistently making efforts towards addressing global issues."

Vishesh Gupta, Chairperson, Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) said, "The preamble of the UNESCO chapter opens with the famous declaration, 'Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.' How, then, are defences of peace that are Bharat truly lasting to be built?"

Prof. Ramnath echoed this view when he said, "The truth of life is not to be found outside but on the inside."

Dr. Corinne Kumar said, "We live in very violent times. Think of the Iraq wars. The words we use now are words that have never been used before. These are times that focus on the rights of the privileged and the powerful. Times that are destroying diversity of the world. We are living in times where dreams are turning into nightmares. Dr Ikeda stresses on the need for dialogue. On dialogue with other concepts of power and religious institutions."

Gupta added, "In the 2016 peace proposal which is the subject of today's discussion, President Ikeda highlights that by conducting one-on-one dialogue, we can build strong and unassailable defences of peace in the heart of one individual after another." He added, that "The Japanese word Soka means value creation and value creation happens when this inner transformation, the human revolution in a single individual leads to effective change and empowerment on a global scale. Inner change leads to global change-empowering individuals for lasting peace." Taken together, Mr Gupta felt that "it compels us to think of some key aspects of human life and behaviour. The first aspect is whether we can empower another life. Second, all action should be based on dialogue. Third, is to see the world from the other person's perspective, and finally, to believe in the power and passion of youth." Gupta quoted Mr. Ikeda, who said "More than anything, it is the depth and intensity of the commitment and pledge that lives in the hearts of the younger generation that will transform the world from one where global issues threaten the lives and dignity of people to one in which all people can live in peace and fully manifest their inherent dignity."



A symposium based on 2016 Peace Proposal by Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, held last week in the city, stressed that peace can only be created by respecting human life and its dignity. Everyday we read news of violence, conflict and devastation. Though it stirs our conscience, we feel a sense of powerlessness. But peace is not an unattainable goal. It begins with the firm determination to respect human life and its dignity. Scholar, poet, and President of a Buddhist organisation, Soka Gakkai International (SGI) Dr. Daisaku Ikeda in his peace proposals, which he has been submitting to the United Nations every year, since 1983, goes beyond diagnosing problems, but instead provides solutions that are based on tapping humanism through dialogue and deeply caring for each individual. In his 2016 Peace Proposal, titled, 'Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace', Dr. Ikeda posits that world peace can be created by respecting human life. He looks at three areas that require prompt and co-ordinated action by both governments and civil society: "Humanitarian aid and human rights protection; ecological integrity and disaster risk reduction; disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear weapons."

A peace symposium was held in the auditorium at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB) based on Dr. Ikeda's 2016 Peace Proposal. Three eminent speakers, Professor Ramnath Narayanswamy, Professor IIMB, Economics and Social Sciences, Dr. Corinne Kumar, World Courts of Women and founder of Vimochana and Dr. Smita Srinivas, Head, School of Economic Development, Indian Institute for Human Settlements, shared their insights based on the peace proposal.

Quoting the preamble of the UNESCO charter, Vishesh Gupta, Chairperson Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian affiliate of SGI, said: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defences of peace must be constructed. Dr. Ikeda has explained how we can create unassailable peace in the hearts and minds of each individual which in turn will realise lasting peace." Mr. Gupta added that the proposal is centred on four core points. "The first aspect is whether we can empower another life. Let's start with that one individual right in front of us, then we will create a chain reaction of positivity. Second, all action should be based on heart-to-heart dialogue. Third, Dr. Ikeda stresses how can we appreciate another person's point of view? How can we accept the person the way they are? And finally is to believe in the power and passion of youth."

Quoting the Sufi mystic poet, Rumi, Professor Ramnath observed that inner education is crucial. "You need to conquer the inner world to conquer the outer world," he added. He also said that what is true of nations is also true of individuals. "Unless nations are able to subdue their desire for conquest and to expand at all cost, there can be no lasting peace, and that is where Dr. Ikeda's proposal for world peace assumes critical importance."

Highlighting a key point in the proposal that all life is interconnected, Professor Ramnath said: "When we realise the interconnectedness of the universe we live in, we experience the supreme truth that realize the other is none other than me. Dialogue helps us to recognise and appropriate that truth."

Dr. Corinne Kumar said that we live in times when violence is not only escalating, but the number of crimes are intensifying. "Think of the Iraq wars. These are times that focus on the rights of the privileged and the powerful." She focussed on how women in particular have been debased, devalued and dispossessed. "Can the trauma of women lead us to re-imagining another way to justice?" she asked. "Only the imagination stands between us and fear. Fear makes us behave like sheep, when we should instead be dreaming like poets." She concluded with the powerful observation: "There is a new political imaginary: truth commissions, public hearings, people's tribunals, the courts of women, are all expressions of a new imaginary, refusing that human rights be defined and confined by the dominant hegemonic paradigms." She added: "Dr. Ikeda stresses the need for dialogue. On dialogue with other concepts of power and religious institutions."

In her keynote address, Dr. Smita Srinivas focussed on learning and dialogue, and economic development. "Dialogue is the mechanism where people have the right to live in happiness. It is a learning-centred approach, to enable people to accurately assess the impact of their actions and to empower them to affect positive change, to bring forth the courage to persevere in the face of adversity. It is the combination of these that I think is especially powerful."

She added that Dr. Ikeda puts out his arguments clearly. "He tells us where we might act." She said she focuses on economic development because it includes all three points in the proposal. "Humanitarian response is often in economic, if not other kinds, of action. The competitive pressures of economic development have also created the militaristic and antagonistic trade relations through which we end up having problems with each other. When I say economic development, I do not mean growth."

"This is a new world," Dr. Smita added, "slightly further away from the nation state. There is a new multilateralism afoot even for the sustainable development goals." This shift, observed Dr. Smita, offers "increased opportunities in professional engagement with overt value propositions." Dialogue spurs self discovery, she said, adding that our professional domains in particular are ugly, and that it is here that we should affect change. "In order to take Dr. Ikeda's exhortation that dialogue is important, we need to convert it to our professional lives."

"I would like to point out two areas of economic study: Old Institutionalism where issues of political philosophy and economics are fully apparent. The other is evolutionary economics. Both of these have mounted challenges to the orthodoxy of economics. Why are these methods more important? They are so powerful because they embrace variety. It involves experimentation and learning."

The mood at the symposium was contemplative. It had the audience reflecting on the importance of looking within to understand how best to further the cause of peace.

# Seminar on Dr Daisaku Ikeda's 2016 Peace Proposal to be held in Bangalore

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Bharat Soka Gakkai is holding a peace symposium on 21 October 2016, between 6:30 pm and 8:00 pm at the Indian Institute of Management – Bangalore auditorium, Bannerghatta. The symposium centres around the 2016 Peace Proposal, titled Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace, presented to the United Nations by Dr Daisaku Ikeda, president of the Soka Gakkai International.

Dr Daisaku Ikeda, President of the lay Buddhist organization, Soka Gakkai International, believes we can change this. Not necessarily by creating more laws and institutions, but by using what exists more effectively, and

most importantly, by bringing about an attitudinal change within our own hearts. Our belief is that this individual transformation will percolate to our immediate community and to society as a whole. Towards this end, each year Dr Ikeda sends a peace proposal to the United Nations that goes beyond diagnosing obstacles to peace, to providing solutions.

In this year's proposal, Universal Respect for Human Dignity: The Great Path to Peace, Dr Ikeda posits that world peace can be created only by establishing the principle of respect for human life and its dignity. Dr Ikeda says that human beings have the right to happiness, and we need to create an expanding solidarity of ordinary citizens committed to protecting that right. When individuals become aware of the impact of their actions on the wider world, and persevere to conduct dialogue in the face of adversity, we can then begin to create a world in which no one is left behind, an ideal articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in September 2015.

Dr Ikeda makes concrete proposals in three areas that require prompt and coordinated action by government and civil society. Humanitarian aid and human rights protection, ecological integrity and disaster risk reduction, and disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Speakers:

Dr Corinne Kumar, Founder, World Courts of Women

Prof. RamnathNarayanswamy, Economics and Social Science, IIMB

Key Note Speaker:

Dr Smita Srinivas, Head, School of Economic Development, Indian Institute for Human Settlements