

## A Peace Symposium in Mumbai to promote peace, culture and education



In order to steer the world away from conflict, and work towards building a humanistic society, dignitaries at a symposium held at the TISS Convention Centre, Chembur, discussed SGI President Daisaku Ikeda's 2018 peace proposal titled Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement organized by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG)

together with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

Each year President Ikeda formulates a peace proposal that goes beyond diagnosing obstacles to peace and provides solutions that encompass attitudinal change and other concrete suggestions. The emphasis is always on tapping humanism, people-to-people contact and deeply caring for everyone. This is not a spiritual document but one that diagnoses problems at a fundamental level and offers concrete, pragmatic solutions. In his proposal, President Ikeda cites how a UNICEF report titled "A child is a child" emphasizes that the rights and dignity of a child must be equally protected, regardless of whether they are refugees or minorities. While technology and infrastructure have helped connectivity between people across geographical boundaries, Ikeda says a growing sense of isolationism and divide in human society can be bridged only by nurturing a different culture wherein communities and people joyously celebrate each other's progress.

The main points of the proposal were highlighted and discussed by speakers: Rishabh Shah, Founder and President, Indian International Model United Nations, Aarti Wig, Co-Founder and Director, Yunus Social Business India and Roshan Dalvi, Retired Judge, Bombay High Court. The keynote address was given by Ishaat Hussain, Former Executive Director, Tata Sons. Speaking of the message of the Peace Proposal, Ishaat Hussain said, "There is no doubt that every human being has the right to live with dignity. While Daisaku Ikeda asserts this based on Buddhism, it is in fact, a universal principle, common to all faiths. It is this premise that has enabled mankind to prosper over the millenia. I am fascinated by the spectrum of issues to which President Ikeda applies this principle – issues that ranging from the sustainable development goals to climate change and the refugee crises. Further, I have no doubt that these vast problems will yield only to peoples' movements. After decades of industrial management, including in some of the least developed parts of India, I am personally committed to improved livelihood opportunities." Aarti Wig too believes that the peace proposal outlines a powerful vision and provides pragmatic steps to create a civilization based on the finest human values. "In true Indian tradition, it is my strong belief that all beautiful philosophies have at their core, the same message. The message of the SGI Peace Proposal resonates strongly with my own work at the Yunus Social Business, where our mission is to embed the world's economic engine – business – with the power of selflessness."

Adds Rishabh Shah, "It is not the fact that you reached the top of the mountain that matters, but how you reach the top that matters. In my opinion, the Peace Proposal 2018 shows not just a way to achieve world peace, but also maintain it." Focusing on the 2018 peace proposal, Vishesh Gupta, Chairperson Bharat Soka Gakkai said, "When anyone sees others suffering, we should empathize and take compassionate action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy. Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world".



## Bharat Soka Gakkai holds peace symposium in Mumbai

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13:8 HRS IST

**Mumbai, Aug 25 (PTI)** Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian chapter of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), held a peace symposium in the city.

The symposium was held yesterday at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on the topic 'Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement'.

Rishabh Shah (founder IIMUN), Aarti Wig (co-founder and director Yunus Social Business India), Justice Roshan Dalvi (retd Bombay High Court judge) and Ishaat Hussain (former executive director of Tata Sons) shared their insights on the topic mooted by Dr Daisaku Ikeda, president of SGI.

SGI is an international Buddhist organisation founded in 1975 by Ikeda, which promotes peace, culture and education through personal transformation and social contribution.

Dr Ikeda has been presenting peace proposals to the United Nations since 1983 outlining a broad framework for creating a more harmonious and peaceful world.

Focusing on the 2018 peace proposal, Vishesh Gupta, chairperson of the BSG said, "When we see others suffering, we should empathise and take compassionate action to encourage them out of the wish that they become happy."

Gupta said broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world.

Speaking on the message of the peace proposal, Ishaat Hussain said, "I am fascinated by the spectrum of issues to which president Ikeda applies this principle issues that range from the sustainable development goals to climate change and the refugee crises."

Underlining the importance of inculcating values, Aarti Wig said, "The message of the SGI peace proposal resonates strongly with my own work at the Yunus Social Business, where, inspired by Prof Muhammad Yunus, our mission is to embed the world's economic engine business with the power of selflessness."

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Putting forth Ikeda's mission for women empowerment, Gupta said, "Towards building such an inclusive society, he (Ikeda) has urged to give prime importance to women empowerment as that will not only be the key to achieving all the sustainable development goals, but also imperative for peaceful resolution of conflicts or improving resilience in disaster preparations."

## Peace meet highlights need to protect human rights

*Symposium at TISS outlines a broad framework for creating a more harmonious and inclusive world*

**STAFF REPORTER**  
MUMBAI

Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG), the Indian chapter of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), held a peace symposium at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on Friday.

The symposium was based on the topic 'Towards an era of human rights: building a people's movement', which is the title of a peace proposal mooted by Daisaku Ikeda, the president of the SGI.

Vishesh Gupta, chairperson of BSG, said the symposium was the fourth in a series based on the same topic. He said, "The theme of this year's peace proposal is to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights. When we see others suffering, we should empathise and take compassionate action to



The panellists at the peace symposium held at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences on Friday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

encourage them out of the wish that they become happy."

Mr. Gupta said broadening the understanding and support for such a way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the

world. The speakers at the event included Roshan Dalvi, retired Bombay High Court Justice; Aarti Wig, co-founder and director of Yunus Social Business India; Ishaat Hussain, former executive director of Tata Sons; and Rishabh Shah, founder of II-MUN.

Mr. Hussain said that the

peace proposal had substance and its timing was critical given the fragile political, social, economic and environmental situation. He said, "The proposal argues firstly for a new era of humanity based on human rights for all. I underline 'all'. And secondly, to achieve it through a peaceful inclusivist movement."

Justice Dalvi narrated a series of cases she had presided over to highlight the importance of humanity in interpreting the law, especially in cases which involved children and women. "It is the little things that go a long way," she said.

Ms. Wig stated that business today was catering to a small minority and how economic inequality was rampant in society. She said, "As a society, not only do we

promote greed, we also feel that if everyone is greedy, it can bring economic peace and stability. The truth is far from it." Ms. Wig added that we cannot be schizophrenic as a society and limit ourselves to attending symposiums advocating peace and sustainability and not practise these values in our daily lives.

Mr. Ikeda has been presenting a peace proposal to the United Nations since 1983, outlining a broad framework for creating a more harmonious and peaceful world. Mr. Gupta said the organisation has a presence in 192 countries and two lakh members in India. An international Buddhist organisation, SGI was founded in 1975 and promotes peace, culture and education through personal transformation and social contribution.

# Bharat Soka Gakkai holds peace symposium in Mumbai

Press Trust of India | Mumbai

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# Business Standard

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Rishabh Shah (founder IIMUN), Aarti Wig (co-founder and director Yunus Social Business India), Justice Roshan Dalvi (retired Bombay High Court judge) and Ishaat Hussain (former executive director of Tata Sons) shared their insights on the topic mooted by Dr Daisaku Ikeda, president of SGI.

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Focusing on the 2018 peace proposal, Vishesh Gupta, chairperson of the BSG said, "When we see others suffering, we should empathise and take compassionate action to encourage them out of the wish that they become happy." Gupta said broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world.

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Underlining the importance of inculcating values, Aarti Wig said, "The message of the SGI peace proposal resonates strongly with my own work at the Yunus Social Business, where, inspired by Prof Muhammad Yunus, our mission is to embed the world's economic engine business with the power of selflessness."

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# A people's movement towards Human Rights & Peace

**DNA Correspondent**

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In order to steer the world away from conflict and work towards building a humanistic society, a peace symposium was held on Friday on TISS campus.

The gathered dignitaries—which included dignitaries like Rishabh Shah, Founder and President, Indian International Model United Nations, Aarti Wig, co-founder and director, Yunus Social Business India and Roshan Dalvi, Retired Judge, Bombay High Court. The keynote address was given by Ishaat Hussain, former executive director, Tata Sons — discussed SGI President Daisaku Ikeda's 2018 peace proposal titled 'Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement

## SPREAD THE WORD

- The peace symposium was organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) and was held at TISS campus

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proposal titled 'Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement' organised by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG).



Speaking of the message of the proposal, Ishaat Hussain said: "There is no doubt that every human being has the right to live with dignity. While Daisaku Ikeda asserts this based on Buddhism, it is in fact, a universal principle,

common to all faiths. It is this premise that has enabled mankind to prosper over the millennia."

Aarti Wig, who too read the proposal, said: "Outlines a powerful vision and provides pragmatic steps to cre-

ate a civilization based on the finest human values. In true Indian tradition, it is my strong belief that all beautiful philosophies have at their core, the same message. The message of the SGI Peace Proposal resonates strongly with my own work at the Yunus Social Business, where, inspired by Prof Muhammad Yunus, our mission is to embed the world's economic engine business with the power of selflessness."

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# Towards an era of human rights

Santosh Gupta | ADC

Dignitaries, students come together for peace proposal

By Tanishka Sodhi

It is not usual to witness over 500 people from all stratas of society, come together in honour of a peace proposal. Bharat Soka Gakkai, the Indian branch of the renowned Soka Gakkai International, organised an event at the Tata Institute of Social Science yesterday, to make this possible. Dignitaries, students and eminent speakers present at the event highlighted and discussed Daisaku Ikeda's 2018 peace proposal titled – 'Towards an Era Of Human Rights: Building a People's Movements'.

The keynote speaker for the event was Ishaat Hussain, Former Executive Director, Tata Sons. In a little chat with the ADC before the event, he said, "How can you not support a cause like this? That would be inhuman. This path offers an alternative way of dealing with things. For most Indians, the proposal will be easy to understand, as we



Dignitaries at the Bharat Soka Gakkai event, organised at TISS yesterday

have both the head and the heart. We need a new way of looking at things – the economy, the environment, education. Our ultimate goal cannot be materialism. We have to change it from I, to you."

Rishabh Shah, a young dynamic founder and president of the Indian International Model United Nations (IIMUN) had the audience transfixed as he spoke. "If you give a man fish, he will have food for a day. If you teach him how to fish, he will have food everyday; this proposal

teaches you how to 'fish'."

The other eminent speakers were Aarti Wig, co-founder and Director of Yunus Social Business India and Justice Roshan Dalvi, retired Judge, Bombay High Court. Vishesh Gupta, the Chairperson of the Bharat Soka Gakkai, inaugurated the event.

Also present at the event was actress Hema Malini, who gleefully raised her hand when a speaker asked a show of hands from the young ones, and actor Ayushmann Khurrana, who was dressed

aply for the occasion in a white kurta.

There were students present in the audience from over 150 colleges in the city, all equally energised. One of them, an engineering student from Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT)-Bombay, tells us how much peace of mind the path has given him. "People think this is an alternative of religion but it is not. My friends and I chant and read the writings together; we are all from different religious backgrounds, but that does not hinder anything."

## An evening with peacemakers

Ex-High Court judge Roshan Dalvi narrated powerful stories taken from her career, at Bharat Soka Gakkai's peace symposium in the city



WE attended the BSG-organised Peace Symposium 'Towards an Era of Human Rights' with High Court ex-Justice Roshan Dalvi and corporate biggie, now retired, Ishaat Hussain as well as the young and dynamic Aarti Wig and Rishabh Shah as speakers, last Friday. While we were impressed with the entire bunch of panellists, Roshan Dalvi, in particular stood out for the way she offered three stories from her career in place of a formal speech. Roshan narrated real-life instances stories about issues like child abuse, women's succession in property cases and child-custody being returned to a widower who was poor but eager to look after his offspring. With her informal manner of speaking Roshan simplified the weighty matter of justice to an eager audience who wanted to know more about what happens behind the closed doors of a courthouse. Also, the ex-judge in the course of her narrative illustrated how the law of the land cannot account for the unique circumstances of each individual case and how it is up to enlightened judges to interpret the law and dispense justice within its constraints. Among the audience that evening were actresses Hema Malini and Shweta Kawatra who're obviously sympathisers to the cause of peace. Held at the new campus of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) near Chembur, we consider it an evening well-spent. Kudos to such initiatives which help further the cause of peace and harmony among people, even if they are held in a formal setting.

## Bharat Soka Gakkai holds peace symposium in Mumbai

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Rishabh Shah (founder IIMUN), Aarti Wig (co-founder and director Yunus Social Business India), Justice Roshan Dalvi (retired Bombay High Court judge) and Ishaat Hussain (former executive director of Tata Sons) shared their insights on the topic mooted by Dr Daisaku Ikeda, president of SGI. SGI is an international Buddhist organisation founded in 1975 by Ikeda, which promotes peace, culture and education through personal transformation and social contribution.

Dr Ikeda has been presenting peace proposals to the United Nations since 1983 outlining a broad framework for creating a more harmonious and peaceful world.

Focusing on the 2018 peace proposal, Vishesh Gupta, chairperson of the BSG said, "When we see others suffering, we should empathise and take compassionate action to encourage them out of the wish that they become happy." Gupta said broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world.

Speaking on the message of the peace proposal, Ishaat Hussain said, "I am fascinated by the spectrum of issues to which president Ikeda applies this principle issues that range from the sustainable development goals to climate change and the refugee crises."

Underlining the importance of inculcating values, Aarti Wig said, "The message of the SGI peace proposal resonates strongly with my own work at the Yunus Social Business, where, inspired by Prof Muhammad Yunus, our mission is to embed the world's economic engine business with the power of selflessness."

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Putting forth Ikeda's mission for women empowerment, Gupta said, "Towards building such an inclusive society, he (Ikeda) has urged to give prime importance to women empowerment as that will not only be the key to achieving all the sustainable development goals, but also imperative for peaceful resolution of conflicts or improving resilience in disaster preparations."

## Symposium on Daisaku Ikeda's 2018 Peace Proposal witnesses massive participation

*The peace proposal goes beyond diagnosing obstacles to peace and provides solutions that encompass attitudinal change and other concrete suggestions.*



In order to steer the world away from conflict, and work towards building a humanistic society, dignitaries at a symposium on Friday, 24th August, discussed SGI President Daisaku Ikeda's 2018 peace proposal titled Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement organized by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) together with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). Held at the TISS Convention Centre, in its new campus, the main points of the proposal were highlighted and discussed by eminent speakers: Rishabh Shah, Founder and President, Indian International Model United Nations, Aarti Wig, Co-Founder and Director, Yunus Social Business India and Roshan Dalvi, Retired Judge, Bombay High Court. The keynote address was given by Ishaat Hussain, Former Executive Director, Tata Sons. Speaking of the message of the Peace Proposal, Ishaat Hussain said, "There is no doubt that every human being has the right to live with dignity. While Daisaku Ikeda asserts this based on Buddhism, it is in fact, a universal principle, common to all faiths. It is this premise that has enabled mankind to prosper over the millenia. "I am fascinated by the spectrum of issues to which President Ikeda applies this principle –issues that ranging from the sustainable development goals to climate change and the refugee crises. Further, I have no doubt that these vast problems will yield only to peoples' movements. After decades of industrial management, including in some of the least developed parts of India, I am personally committed to improved livelihood opportunities."

Aarti Wig too believes that the peace proposal "outlines a powerful vision and provides pragmatic steps to create a civilization based on the finest human values. In true Indian tradition, it is my strong belief that all beautiful philosophies have at their core, the same message. The message of the SGI Peace Proposal resonates strongly with my own work at the Yunus Social Business, where, inspired by Prof Muhammad Yunus, our mission is to embed the world's economic engine — business — with the power of selflessness."

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"If you want Peace, work for Justice" — this simple axiom that Justice Roshan Dalvi read in a church in Halifax, Canada, when she worked in the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, has remained in her mind ever since. She perceives the same message as the crux of the Peace Proposal.

Focusing on the 2018 peace proposal, Vishesh Gupta, Chairperson Bharat Soka Gakkai said, "When anyone sees others suffering, we should empathize and take compassionate action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy. Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world".

In his proposal, President Ikeda cites how a UNICEF report titled "A child is a child" emphasizes that the rights and dignity of a child must be equally protected, regardless of whether they are refugees or minorities. While technology and infrastructure have helped connectivity between people across geographical boundaries, Ikeda says a growing sense of isolationism and divide in human society can be bridged only by nurturing a different culture wherein communities and people joyously celebrate each other's progress.

Toward building such an inclusive society, he has urged giving prime importance to women's empowerment as that will not only be key to achieving all the sustainable development goals, but also imperative for peaceful resolution of conflicts or improving resilience in disaster preparations. "Women's empowerment cannot be an optional agenda: It is an urgent priority for many people in dire situations," says Ikeda. He has also urged fostering an environment to go beyond protecting the rights of the elderly and to be looked upon as an "irreplaceable source of spiritual support." "The significance of such bonds remains unchanged even by grave illness or dependence on others for nursing care. Being surrounded by people who derive joy and happiness from your presence is itself a source of dignity," adds Ikeda. President Ikeda says it is through our efforts to awaken to and savor our own dignity as we cherish and care for those around us that our lives come to shine brilliantly. He further says "The challenge of creating the new reality of a global society where all may live in peace and dignity is not beyond our reach. And it is my firm belief that the solidarity of ordinary people will be the driving force for its realization." Only with such a humanistic approach will the world be able to shun horrors like nuclear weapons and focus on sustainable development goals aimed at everyone's welfare, he adds.

Each year President Ikeda formulates a peace proposal that goes beyond diagnosing obstacles to peace and provides solutions that encompass attitudinal change and other concrete suggestions. The emphasis is always on tapping humanism, people-to-people contact and deeply caring for everyone. This is not a spiritual document but one that diagnoses problems at a fundamental level and offers concrete, pragmatic solutions.

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# How To Give Peace A Chance



The TISS Convention Centre in Mumbai was packed to the rafters with people who had come to attend a symposium inspired by SGI President Daisaku Ikeda's 2018 Peace Proposal. An event with a difference, it aimed at steering the world away from conflict, and working towards building a humanistic society. The symposium had dignitaries speaking on Towards an Era of Human Rights: Building a People's Movement, which was organized by Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG) along with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). Held at the TISS Convention Centre, in its new campus, the main points of the proposal were highlighted and discussed by eminent speakers: Rishabh Shah, Founder and President, Indian International Model United Nations, Aarti Wig, Co-Founder and Director, Yunus Social Business India and Roshan Dalvi, Retired Judge, Bombay High Court. The keynote address was given by Ishaat Hussain, Former Executive Director, Tata Sons.

## Dignitaries Speak

Ishaat Hussain, Former Executive Director, Tata Sons: "There is no doubt that every human being has the right to live with dignity. While Daisaku Ikeda asserts this based on Buddhism, it is in fact, a universal principle, common to all faiths. It is this premise that has enabled mankind to prosper over the millennia. I am fascinated by the spectrum of issues to which President Ikeda applies this principle – issues that ranging from the sustainable development goals to climate change and the refugee crisis. Further, I have no doubt that these vast problems will yield only to people's' movements. After decades of industrial management, including in some of the least developed parts of India, I am personally committed to improved livelihood opportunities."

Aarti Wig, Co-Founder and Director, Yunus Social Business India: "The peace proposal outlines a powerful vision and provides pragmatic steps to create a civilization based on the finest human values. In true Indian tradition, it is my strong belief that all beautiful philosophies have at their core, the same message. The message of the SGI Peace Proposal resonates strongly with my own work at the Yunus Social Business, where, inspired by Prof Muhammad Yunus, our mission is to embed the world's economic engine — business — with the power of selflessness."

Rishabh Shah, Founder and President, Indian International Model United Nations: "It is not the fact that you reached the top of the mountain that matters, but how you reach the top that matters. In my opinion, the Peace Proposal 2018 shows not just a way to achieve world peace, but also maintain it."

Justice Roshan Dalvi, Retired Judge, Bombay High Court: 'If you want Peace, work for Justice' — this simple axiom that she read in a church in Halifax, Canada, when she worked in the Commonwealth Judicial Education Institute, has remained in her mind ever since. She perceives the same message as the crux of the Peace Proposal.

Vishesh Gupta, Chairperson Bharat Soka Gakkai: "When anyone sees others suffering, we should empathize and take compassionate action to encourage them out of a wish that they become happy. Broadening the understanding and support for this way of thinking and living is the key to building a solid grassroots movement for peace that can unite people around the world".

Interestingly, and rather compassionately, in his proposal, President Ikeda cites how a UNICEF report titled "A child is a child" emphasizes that the rights and dignity of a child must be equally protected, regardless of whether they are refugees or minorities.

While technology and infrastructure have helped connectivity between people across geographical boundaries, Ikeda says a growing sense of isolationism and divide in human society can be bridged only by nurturing a different culture wherein communities and people joyously celebrate each other's progress.

Toward building such an inclusive society, he has urged giving prime importance to women's empowerment as that will not only be key to achieving all the sustainable development goals, but also imperative for peaceful resolution of conflicts or improving resilience in disaster preparations. "Women's empowerment cannot be an optional agenda: It is an urgent priority for many people in dire situations," says Ikeda. He has also urged fostering an environment to go beyond protecting the rights of the elderly and to be looked upon as an 'irreplaceable source of spiritual support.'

According to him, only with such a humanistic approach will the world be able to shun horrors like nuclear weapons and focus on sustainable development goals aimed at everyone's welfare.

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