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REPORT

India and South Africa come together to host Gandhi-Mandela Peace

Initiative....

Believe Foundation in association with the **Sunday Guardian Foundation** and Dr Raman Bhai Patel Foundation (RBF) hosted the first edition of **Gandhi-Mandela Peace Initiative** at the Imperial, New Delhi on 11 July 2019.

This initiative celebrated the victory of 'Love over Hatred' and celebrated 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi's and 100 years of Mandela's inspirational lives. The daylong event which culminated in awards ceremony witnessed pointed discussions on topics ranging from Youth, Women, Environment, Education, Health, Gender Sensitivity, Arts and Cinema with powerful keynotes delivered by thought leaders.

The event was a tribute to the thought leadership of **Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela** who worked dedicatedly to promote peace and co-existence throughout their lives,



Arif Mohammad Khan, former Cabinet minister; Ratan Kaul, Member, Advisory Board, Honorary President's Office and several political dignitaries at the event.

The event discussed the way Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela approached social problems which were impressive and revolutionary. This event marks the coming together of two ideologies that have changed the course of civilizations across the world.

Among various panel discussions held through the day, there was one on environment and sustainability which was attended by **Walter Lindner**, German Ambassador of India.



“Education and the teaching process are changing fast along with technology and new ways to educate children are needed.” “Gandhi and Mandela fought hard for the education of all.”

The panelists spoke about the teachings of both the iconic leaders who gave messages for peace, mutual co-existence, animals protection and environment and taught about non-violence, sustainability and life Eco-system. "Human beings should live life that is close to nature to avoid pollution and other problems," said Ricky Kej, the Grammy award-winning artist.

The annual Gandhi-Mandela Peace Medal 2019 has been awarded to **Thich Nhat Hanh** - a global spiritual leader, poet and peace activist, revered around the world for his powerful teachings and bestselling writings on mindfulness and peace.

In the panel on inclusion, gender equality and women’s rights, **Shazia Ilmi**, BJP spokesperson, emphasised on how Gandhi and Mandela were open to change because of which they redefined the meaning of freedom for humans.



Building an alliance of peace to take on the increasing violence in society.

Dr Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, spoke about the need for representation of youth

in politics, economy and other leadership positions. He also emphasised on statistics that there are still around 4 million child labourers and the rate of children dropping out of government schools is 40%.



“Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela have given the world timeless wisdom that finds resonance across geographies, race and gender”

Conclusion: The event which was attended by a number of political dignitaries and social activists among others aimed to look back at the philosophy of Gandhi and Mandela accepting change for a better future. It also aimed to build a more inclusive and peaceful world ,to talk about the legacies of Gandhi and Mandela in reducing violence, tackle the issues of cultures and indigenous knowledge systems of India and South Africa and detail the roles of state, corporates sector and civil society in partnering for peace.

Submitted by: Ms Samra Rehman