

Managing Social Diversity - Combating Racial Discriminations, and Vilifications

Chanel: Zoom Conference Forum

Date: Sunday 14th of June, 2020

Time: 9pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time)

Executive Summary

The recent shooting and subsequent killing of George Floyd in the United States of America led to a global outrage unearthing tensions around racial discrimination. This gave rise to the worldwide protests which trended the banner of “Black Lives Matter”. **Genuine Love and Family Forum Inc. (GLFFI)** realizing the link between mental health and racism quickly initiated a conference to address the matter and to disseminate crucial information on racism, discrimination, and vilification. In collaboration with **Global youth mental health awareness (GYMHA)**.

The conference sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. Respect for human rights as the ethical foundation of peace and order in the society
2. Fostering community engagement events / activities
3. Embracing dialogue as an indisputable pathway to peace and unity in the society
4. Strengthening our contemporary social values systems as fantastic ways of managing cultural diversity
5. Appreciating cultural diversity policies and the acceptance of equal opportunities policies
6. The role of the government in upholding social justice

7. Inappropriate Use of Force (Brutality) by security operatives, and its social impact on contemporary society.

8. Social Crises: Signatures of Complexity in a fast growing pluralistic society and the way forward!

9. The need for effective crisis / controversy management policy in today's society

Welcoming address was delivered by Prof. Jude Ediae.

Professor Jude detailed the backdrop to the build-up of the webinar. He highlighted the current situation global that led up to the tensions around racism and discrimination. Professor Jude showed the difference between subtle and overt racism. He also gave a detailed analysis of the agenda for the conference before handing over to the webinar moderator.

The first address was given by Dr. **Maxwell Chuks**; representing the host organisation as the founder of “Genuine Love and Family Forum Inc.” He is a Philosopher, Social Motivational Speaker, Teacher, and Transformational Coach, who spoke on: **Strengthening our contemporary social values systems as fantastic ways of managing cultural diversity**

Dr. Chuks spoke about the low level of tolerance people are displaying toward other races and the importance of managing social diversity. He believes we can reduce the social crisis by strengthening contemporary social values. The challenges faced by socially diverse cultures necessitates the respect, appreciation, recognition and understanding of all communities for peaceful cohabitation. Deeply held ideas and beliefs that guide thinking, language and behaviour are the foundations on which peace can be achieved. When societal values are eroded, we witness a society that cannot support each other and there will be no contribution to the building of a society. We must commit to achieve community goals in line with service delivery, economic growth and live peacefully.

Fr Camillus Ekedobe based in Canada is an author, mentor, and chaplain

Topic: Inappropriate Use of Force (Brutality) by security operatives, and its social impact on contemporary society.

His emotional provocative delivery touched on how "Brutality debases humanity". He drove home the reality of how "violence begets violence" and called rather for the proportionate use of force against the unjust aggressor. He bemoaned the fact that law enforcement sometimes exhibits rabid hatred in the course of duty. The job of the police is to protect and not to kill is a message he drove home passionately and said that, "police brutality nurtures injustice and anarchy". Father Camillus calls for us to stand up against police brutality.

Cr Dr. Joseph Masika is Councillor for Woodlands Ward, South Australia, Former AFRICA UNION Regional Delegate for Australia, and Asia. He addressed the conference on the topic of **Appreciating cultural diversity policies and the acceptance of equal opportunities policies backed up with positive actions from our communities as the way forward**

His passionate presentation used Australia as a case study of a successful multicultural society. His statistical analysis on the cultural make up of Australia drove home the reason why he confidently presents his case. Shared values of freedom, democracy, equality of opportunity was noted as contributing greatly to the position Dr. Masika has accorded this nation. He delved into the historical laws which were discriminatory policies and then took us through a timeline on how those laws changed over time to become inclusive through a mindset shift especially in 1973, 1995 and 2011 where diversity is now celebrated and supported. Dr. Masika believes this is why the Australian economy is prosperous. He asks for investment in activities that will bring people of different backgrounds together.

Dr. Nasrin Parsian is a GYMHA board member, Emotional Health Consultant, Educator, and Speaker, National Course Convenor at Institute of Health Management

Her topic, **Connecting to your Diversity Intelligence** married some of the concepts raised by earlier speakers. She spoke about how understanding diversity is one of the greatest challenges facing health care providers. Her discourse showed that there is a risk that the quality of health care provided to people can vary depending on the skills of the professionals to tune into the values and preferences of the individual patients. Dr. Nasrin went on to illustrate how diversity intelligence is connected to collective intelligence. She gave many examples of diversity in all walks of nature with different functionality yet contributing to successful

outcomes. She calls for people to understand their hearts and change from within to appreciate diversity without ego in order to connect with our collective intelligence. Dr. Nasrin believes society needs to appreciate different perspectives for growth and transformation with integrity.

Jasmina Siderovski, who is Chief Executive Officer, Editor-in-Chief, and Publisher eYs Magazine - Sydney, Australia, spoke on: **Respect for human rights as the ethical foundation of peace and order in the society**. Her lively presentation focused on the media's role as being pivotal in delivering information responsibly. She believes non-negotiable mutual respect will be a key to restoring dignity. The pandemic has allowed us all to reflect and assess and now highlight the issues that affect us worldwide. It is now our responsibility to be accountable for our mindset and actions to create the world we are going to leave behind a better world for our children. Alter perspectives for the way people act and treat other people through kindness and we must develop EQ – emotional intelligence to ensure a better future. There is no excuse for ignorance and intolerance anymore. Moving forward we must promote a positive voice through education and media is a great influencer. Media is a tool and a powerful voice for empowerment. Factual, current, and relevant information must be shared responsibly. Her parting message is that we are - One world, One Voice and One Community.

Dr. Haidi Badawi BSc (Hons), DipEd, PhD, MEd, MAICD, DLI is the founding member at Women Heart to Heart

Her presentation on **Embracing dialogue as an indisputable pathway to peace and unity in the society** was a powerful message on building capacity through education that is shaped around social inclusion is required to drive the changes we need to make for success. Self-awareness, interaction for inclusion also is very important for progress. Dr. Badawi call for action as a result of being a part of this conference. She reiterated the collective responsibility we have to find a hands-on solution we must action. By doing so we will be addressing health and education as a priority. The power of getting together and solidarity for meaningful and insightful discussions in communities is vital. She calls for advocating for social inclusion by all.

Thomas Keplar, Chairperson GYMHA drove home a sobering closing message on how dangerous the world can become very quickly. With his extensive background in intelligence, commerce and non-profit organisations, he quoted Katherine Graham who said, “We live in a dirty and dangerous world, there are some things the general public does not need to know and shouldn’t. I believe democracy flourishes when the government can take legitimate steps to keep its secrets and when the press can decide whether to print what it knows.” He drove home the message of how the media has a responsibility to keeping the peace. He wants the world to know that not everyone shares the same values, and this is what makes the world dangerous. There is no way to guarantee an equal world but working together can lessen the danger. He calls for us to stay grounded, stay responsible with a sense duty and be careful of who we get involved with, in spite of the limitations due to the world population and diversity. His message spoke of having self-respect knowing there are no guarantees that the respect will be reciprocated.

Following the agenda, the conference went into a fruitful question and answer session and concluded after a vote of thanks to the participants and the webinar partners.