

Dharma Alliance

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, thank you for the opportunity to share a Dharmic perspective on building trust and social cohesion. Dharmic law reminds us that identity is multi-dimensional. A person may be a minority in one context, and a majority in another. This highlights a challenge with majority-minority labels. While sometimes necessary, they can also harden divisions and deepen mistrust. In the absence of a universal legal definition of “minority”, ancient philosophical traditions help us to approach these complexities with nuance. A recurring concern across Dharmic texts is preventing [inaudible], the law of the fish, where the strong overpower the weak. Protecting vulnerable communities is therefore both a modern obligation and a longstanding civilizational ethic. However, Dharma cautions against confining people to fixed identity brackets that limit dialogue and mutual understanding. Dharmic teachings call for empathy and self-restraint. Buddhist thought urges universal compassion. May all beings be happy. The [inaudible] The World is one family. Jain philosophy teaches [inaudible] the many-sided nature of truth. Sikh teachings offer a firm equality and the presence of the divine in every heart. Indigenous wisdom across the world echoes these values of interconnectedness and shared responsibility. Together these teachings offer a powerful principle: oneness without sameness, unity without uniformity, and affirming the inherent dignity of every person. As we consider pathways to peaceful coexistence, may these insights inspire us to build inclusion, not only through policies and institutions, but through the ways we choose to understand and engage with one another.