

Being Faithful Stewards

November 2, 2020

Dear friends,

This last month, ICRD hosted its first ever Virtual Faith-in-Action Awards. This year's awards ceremony shifted to an entirely virtual format, where participants and guest speakers gathered from around the globe to celebrate the work of the Center, our heroic local partners, and this year's awardee, Karenni Gore, the Founder and Director of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary. Recognizing the unique intersection between climate, faith, and conflict, the event explored the vital role that religious actors, institutions, and values have to play in resolving climate-related conflicts and securing a sustainable future for the planet.

Every year, the Faith-in-Action Awards honor a prominent individual who has demonstrated remarkable, spiritually-motivated leadership in the course of her or his life's work. The faith-inspired work and life-stories of the keynote speaker and awardee serve as powerful illustrations of the positive role of religious values in healing wounds of history, increasing collaboration among faith groups on common goals, and advancing positive peace.

"The impacts of climate change are here. We've seen the stronger storms, the droughts, the wildfires, and the floods, and they will be coming with greater force. It is unthinkable that we would allow this trajectory to continue. So, we must work together to mitigate the damage and to change our systems, and we also must recognize that there is this upheaval coming and be prepared to meet it. I truly believe that the only way that we can do this is by drawing deeply from the best of the world's faith and wisdom traditions," said Ms. Gore, as she accepted ICRD's 2020 Faith-in-Action Award.

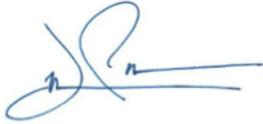


Ms. Gore's keynote address and my closing remarks are available through our website by following this [link](#). I would encourage you to watch the recording and share it with anyone who you think might be interested in this conversation. Climate change is not only about the stewardship of our delicate ecosystems, but it also has a direct impact on conflict. Food and water insecurity due to drought, the introduction of new diseases and pests associated with regional temperature shifts, property damage caused by powerful storms, and climate migration all result in communities struggling for limited resources, which can increase identity-based clashes. Looking ahead, ICRD is working hard to incorporate environmentally conscious programming and sustainability mechanisms into our peacebuilding efforts.

Lastly, the Faith-in-Action Award ceremony is a significant source of critical general operating funding for the Center, without which we would be unable to do the work that we do. COVID-19

has brought about numerous challenges to our work, but we are doing our best to continue to build peace during an incredibly difficult and unstable year. If these conversations about the work of ICRD resonate with you and your moral and spiritual convictions, consider supporting our global peacebuilding efforts by making a [contribution](#). Together, despite great challenges, we can make faith part of the solution.

Warm regards,



James Patton

Join ICRD next month, on December 1, for #GivingTuesday. Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving, where contributions made online are eligible for a dollar-to-dollar match! Double your donation on #GivingTuesday by supporting ICRD through Facebook and sharing this unique opportunity with your friends and network!

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