



G20 Interfaith Forum
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The 2026 Annual G20 Interfaith Forum:

Resilient Hope, Shared Future

OCTOBER 15-17, 2026

Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Morning:

At the University of Utah

G20 Cultural Event (hosted by Stirling Foundation)

Registration

Afternoon/Evening:

At the Historic Tabernacle at Temple Square

3:00 - 4:30 PM	Disagree Better: Gov. Spencer Cox, Governor David Beasley, Guests
6:30 PM.	Group Photo
7:00 PM	Tabernacle Open to Guests
7:30 - 9:00 PM	Opening Ceremony
	Welcome Addresses from Religious Leaders
	Welcome Concert by Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square
9:15 PM	Bus to Lodgings

Friday, October 16, 2026

At the University of Utah

8:45 – 10:00 AM Plenary 1: Unleashing human potential for the Common Good

“The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity” (Deuteronomy 28:11–12)

“The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills.” Quran 2.261

The juxtaposition of abundant riches and stunning progress in human welfare, alongside stubborn poverty and suffering, is a core challenge for faith teachers and those who practice religion. The 2026 G20 agenda traces paths towards prosperity through unleashing creative and entrepreneurial energy. Faith communities savor action to enhance the quality of lives, confident that prosperity can and must serve the Common Good, sharing balance and equity as core objectives. The shared concern across religious traditions for “those left behind,” a continuing IF20 imperative, demands that economic policies focus sharply on causes of inequality that range from broad socio-political systems to life realities in communities and families. Faith wisdom and experience contribute to G20 action agendas both to unleash potential for human flourishing and to assure that safety nets work for the benefit of all. How can the G20 and faith communities act to ensure support for entrepreneurship, effective measures to address unsustainable debt burdens, and needed social protection?

10:00 - 10:15 AM Break & Refreshments

10:15 – 11:30 AM Plenary 2: Deadline 2030: Extending G20 Horizons

Progress towards human flourishing is expanding on many fronts. Better human health stands both as a stunning modern achievement and as witness to the deep integration of faith and contemporary science. Likewise, even a century ago universal literacy seemed a distant dream, yet today it is shared across societies as an imperative. Global governance now sets specific objectives grounded in what we appreciate is a fragile consensus about goals and how to achieve them. The IF20's experience over 12 years highlights the interwoven ethical and practical demands across the sectors that stand to fulfill promised human flourishing, notably peace, prosperity, and care for the planet. As we focus on the 2030 deadline for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, what lies on the more distant horizon?

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 – 2:15 PM Faith in Action Concurrent Sessions (A)

1. **Human Trafficking and Modern Forms of Slavery** have become a critical focus both for religious organizations and for governments. The G20 Interfaith Forum is a particularly productive venue for bringing together concerned actors on many fronts who can address this major social problem in a range of settings around the world.
2. **Faith Engagement on Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness.** The Pandemic Fund is a major effort to address the recurring tragedies that flow from pandemics experienced around the world. This constitutes an area where substantial global resources can be unleashed to help solve critical health issues. The session draws on an extensive consultation process that aims to engage religious communities more directly in the Fund's operations.
3. **Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief.** Long an axiomatic feature of human rights law, freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) is increasingly understood as a key feature of social landscapes that can unlock social capital, contribute to social cohesion, and in general, advance the common good. We have more empirical evidence that FoRB advances other social goods. It constitutes a key feature of good governance, justice, stabilization of society, and forging peace. It is thus critical to pay attention to the many ways that advancing FoRB can contribute to the achievement of other social agendas.
4. **Faith, Trust, and Health.** The G20 was called to act during the COVID19 pandemic, reflecting the global and urgent nature of the crisis and its impact on human welfare everywhere. The crisis enhanced appreciation for religious roles in health care but also raised broader questions of social protection and welfare. The well of trust that many religious leaders and communities hold highlights both opportunities and responsibilities. The 2026 Ebola crisis in Africa highlights the importance of learning from past lessons and looking to the future. This discussion will explore contemporary challenges with a focus on cases of positive and less positive response at community levels.
5. **Preventing and Addressing Gender Based Violence.** Gender based violence (GBV) violates human rights protected by international instruments and conventions. GBV can and should be a criminal act in national laws and policies. The term "gender based violence" is often used interchangeably with the terms "violence against women" and "sexual and gender-based violence," which emphasize the gender components of these acts and the relationship between the woman's subordinate position in society and, consequently, increased vulnerability to violence. GBV is often underreported. It includes sexual violence, domestic violence, harmful traditional practices, (e.g. female genital mutilation, honor crimes, widow inheritance), forced and early marriage, and trafficking, with variations across cultures, countries and regions. GBV has been identified in humanitarian settings, conflict situations, refugee/displacement camps, and other sensitive environs. The session will explore multidisciplinary, multisectoral best practices to prevent and respond to GBV.

- 6. Linking International Educational Initiatives to G20 Priorities.** Education holds the key to solving many of the world's most challenging problems, including tensions linked to intergroup relations. Its role in building critical skills vital to social development and growth is widely recognized. There is a need for focused attention on identifying areas where education can have particularly beneficial effects.

2:15 - 2:45 PM

Break

2:45 – 4:00 PM

Faith in Action Concurrent Sessions (B)

- 1. Priority to Addressing Disabilities: Treating Clubfoot.** A leading source of lameness worldwide has long been the tragedy of club-foot birth defects. New surgical treatment techniques have been developed in recent years that can assure that children born with this defect can have the problem surgically corrected so that by teenage and adult years, the problem is completely solved. Although now well known, this cure needs substantial medical and governmental action. The session will discuss medical experience and paths forward as an example of faith-inspired action to address at global levels a specific challenge.
- 2. Faith Approaches to Mental Health Challenges.** Mental health has broad impacts in every aspect of life, it remains an area that is underfunded and where greater research and greater therapeutic techniques are vital. Religious understandings and approaches to addressing the wide range of mental health challenges are a dimension of global approaches that deserve attention. This session will review faith-linked initiatives to address the global challenges, in a G20 context.
- 3. Youth, Interfaith Perspectives, and the Governance of AI.** Artificial intelligence is reshaping social, civic, and spiritual life, and young people from diverse faith traditions are increasingly called to engage beyond their roles as users. Interfaith dialogue can be a strategic force for governing diversity, preventing polarization, and transforming conflict. AI can either deepen those divides or become a powerful enabler of mutual understanding, and possibly result in both. This session brings together emerging leaders to explore how faith communities can actively shape AI for the common good. Together, we will examine shared principles, tensions, and concrete pathways for youth and faith actors to participate meaningfully in AI development and governance.
- 4. Educational Initiatives for Social Cohesion.** A major emerging area of educational expertise involves cross-cultural religious literacy (CCRL). The session will discuss successful programs that have trained both teachers and pupils in this field, with positive results. Other programs designed to strengthen critical reasoning skills are also exemplary. The session will focus on successful experience and programs in this area and prospects within the G20 context for adapting the CCRL approach in other places.

- 5. Nonprofit Measurement and Assessment.** A recurring challenge with respect to the role that religious communities can play in advancing other social goods is identifying effective measurement and assessment techniques and methodologies. This session will focus on new tools that can assist with this major challenge in framing and assessing social policies.
- 6. Faith Engagement on Poverty and Hunger.** A pillar of faith traditions from virtually every part of the world is a commitment to feeding the hungry. When world leaders approved the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, they saw addressing extreme poverty and hunger as clear priorities. Ending hunger is a tangible and achievable common goal, yet much ground has been lost in recent years. The shared commitment to ending hunger adds urgency to the myriad programs of religious communities that address food security and to the goal of ensuring that through advocacy, example, and support, progress, notably through the Global Alliance Against Hunger, picks up speed. This session will highlight both faith teachings and actions to make clear how far goals are aligned and point to areas where tighter integration could be beneficial.

4:00 - 4:30 PM Break

4:30 – 6:00 PM **Service Project**

6:00 - 7:15 PM Dinner

7:30 – 9:00 PM **Evening Plenary 3**

Olympics and Interfaith: Fraser Bullock and Olympic Athletes

Faith and Higher Education: University of Utah President Taylor Randall and BYU President Shane Reese

Performance: BYU Indonesia Gamelan Orchestra

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Morning/Afternoon:

At the University of Utah

8:45 – 10:00 AM Plenary 4: Technology for Good: Modern Miracles vs Existential Threats?

Discussions in religious and secular settings rarely fail to focus on the practical and ethical repercussions of rapid changes and the deep penetration of technology in our lives. Religious community concerns include both impact on religious and spiritual life and the broader ethical challenges involved. One of the G20 USA's priorities for 2026 is to pioneer innovation in AI and emerging technologies. This session will explore faith perspectives on AI systems from a variety of religious traditions. Though not comprehensive, this panel is representative of the concerns and specific recommendations faith leaders and people of faith have regarding AI systems.

10:00 - 10:15 AM. Break

10:15 – 11:30 AM Plenary 5: Energy Security with Care for Creation

The G20 focus on energy security highlights the elaborate webs that link energy, security, and human flourishing. Under the US G20 presidency, we have seen a shift away from concerns with climate change and a greater focus on affordable and abundant energy as a driver of prosperity. For many religious communities which have made sustainability and "care for our common home" (Pope Francis) a shared concern, this is an unwelcome shift. At the same time, there may be impoverished countries where affordable energy is a priority in pursuit of developing prosperity. There may also be creative ways for faith traditions to engage with the energy security agenda. Bringing hundreds of millions out of poverty, a priority of the Sustainable Development Goals, requires economic growth and greater per capita energy consumption. But with the spread of energy-intensive AI data centers, renewable energy will not be able to meet increasing global demands in the decade ahead. While many faith communities will continue to advocate for a green energy transition, they should also push for affordable and secure energy supplies for those who need them most. Efforts to promote energy abundance must lift up the world's poorest in order to help nurture more cohesive societies and a more peaceful international order. What principles should inform national and international policy in a world where both energy security and concern for the vulnerable are worthy ideals? Is a long-term green agenda compatible with a greater short- and medium-term focus on energy abundance? How can and should religious communities address these questions -- at the level of both ideas and practice?

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM Break

12:00 – 1:00 PM Faith in Action Concurrent Sessions (C)

1. **Learning from G20 Interfaith Forums in South Africa and Brazil.** This session will highlight experience and issues from past G20 Interfaith Forums, drawing on insights and topics that they deem particularly relevant as the G20 Interfaith Process moves forward.
2. **AI Innovation and Human Dignity.** AI design and deployment should be guided by foundational ethical principles that prioritize human rights, wellbeing, and data privacy. In this session, the current best practices for prioritizing human dignity in AI development will be discussed. They include: (1) establishing measurable benchmarks for safety and fairness; (2) creating curricula for children, parents, and faith leaders to build digital literacy; (3) advocating legislation that protects privacy, labor rights, and democratic processes; (4) addressing chatbot harms to youth through regulation and education; (5) using judicial remedies to redress AI-related harms; and (6) embedding ethical principles into system design from the outset.
3. **Hope from the Ground Up: Faith Communities and a Planet in Crisis.** Amid rising geopolitical tensions, cost-of-living pressures, and the influence of right-wing populist movements, a number of G20 governments have, in the past two years, meaningfully scaled back their climate commitments, defunded environmental programs, or prioritized fossil fuel development over renewable energy. Recognizing that the G20 agenda impacts people in every country, these developments warrant heightened alarm in light of the ever-accelerating polycrisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion and scarcity. Yet there is reason for hope. Despite the shift in G20 priorities, local governments and communities continue to act, and faith communities are engaged. The role of faith-based actors and religious groups can range from initiating ideas and leading projects to providing support in the form of people, funds, or influence. This session will consider existing local community projects with faith-based input, as well as mechanisms for local governments to engage religious leaders and faith-based organizations to address local climate and environmental concerns. The session will also ask whether these projects can be scaled to the national or international level and how local projects influence the G20 agenda, particularly as it affects the most vulnerable.
4. **Faith Engagement in Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, and Response.** Communities, nation states, and transnational institutions face rising demands to respond to a wide array of crises and disasters, whether floods, droughts, earthquakes, or disruptions arising from conflicts. The demands include prevention, preparation, response, and recovery, and in virtually every instance religious communities are involved, often as first responders. Yet their roles are rarely recognized as primary actors at the table of policy, planning, and resource allocation. With rising demands for action to address and mitigate both climate change and conflicts, as well as disrupted development, religious communities play key roles at each level. This session will highlight the state of play for religious responses, drawing on specific cases and purposeful institutions, looking to ways to integrate experience in response systems creatively and meaningfully.
5. **Faith and Media.** A particular concern for religious leaders and interfaith groups is the long-term impact of media on future generations. In this session, panelists will discuss the effect of media on faith, especially focusing on youth. Mental health issues, feelings of isolation, an inability to socialize, and cyber-bullying are all issues youth deal with today. The focus of the discussion will be on encouraging humans to flourish in a world filled with media and technology.

6. **Always Look to the Children.** A universal goal for religious communities is to protect and nurture children. This focus reflects love and caring and it comes amidst global changes in family dynamics, size, and expectations that have profound effects on religious groups and broader society. Progress in reducing child mortality and acceptance of universal education are part of the shift, as are the challenges presented by new technologies and economic pressures. Amidst these revolutionary changes, children's voices are not always heard and taken into account. This session will explore what a goal of "Thrive beyond Five" might involve at different levels, beginning with the family and community and extending to national and global policies and approaches.

1:00-2:30 PM	Lunch
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Bus to Cathedral of the Madeleine

Closing Ceremony:

At Cathedral of the Madeleine,

3:00 – 4:30 PM	Greetings:	Local Catholic Officials International Catholic Representatives
	Handover Ceremony:	U.S. Official on behalf of U.S. G20 Presidency Lord Russell Rook, UK IF20 Organizing Committee Chair
	Concluding Comments:	IF20 President, W. Cole Durham IF20 Vice President, Katherine Marshall
	Farewell Concert	

Evening:

At the University of Utah

BYU vs. Notre Dame Football Game Broadcast (with Snacks)