



### International Peace Conference at UNESCO, 17-19 September 2018

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Toowoomba delegates with Venerable Master Chin Kung (left) and 'The Toowoomba Experience of Becoming a Model City' presentation at UNESCO



Ten delegates from Toowoomba attended the peace conference held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, from the 17-19 September. It was a platform where various regions of the world were represented, and each region had their own unique challenges. The challenges for some were cultural, religious, political, education, financial and sometimes just a fear of change.

Many representatives presented their solutions for their region or a proposed solution. Academics and leaders felt that education and investing in the youth was a key answer. This was a common theme amongst presenters. Faith groups highlighted the place of prayer, meditation and encouragement of multifarious activities, which breaks down differences and helps communities to work together for a common goal.

The Toowoomba delegates represented different aspects of the community and faith groups in the Toowoomba Region. They all presented in a dialogue style about the activities and work each organisation contributes to. Even though Toowoomba does not have the issues of war, political unrest or extreme friction between faith groups, it has its own unique issues. The highlight was the growing unity that is evolving in our region and significant background support. Not only did the representatives present on current achievements, but on what is planned for the future. Peace and harmony in Toowoomba requires relentless and ongoing efforts from all that realise its importance.

**Dr. Uma Kumar**  
Toowoomba delegate to the UNESCO conference



A visit to Central Sikh Gurdwara

A visit to Sri Lankaramaya Buddhist Temple and attending a Muslim wedding

Dialogue at Masjid Ba'alwi