



## Newsletter May 2014

### Your Chance to Have your Say: European Elections

This month are the European Elections. Many of you who are of voting age will have the opportunity to vote for candidate standing to become Members of the European Parliament (MEP). Do you even know who your candidates are? What does their party stand for? More to the point what does the candidate stand for? You should know of and about your candidates and their politics. Whether they are Dharmic people i.e. of sound character, do they have integrity and honesty.

Have they been approachable to inquiries from Hindus? Have they been sympathetic, and more to the point have they backed all that up with actions for the Hindu Community? If their actions have not reflected their words, then should you consider voting for another candidate? A vote is only wasted if you do not use it or use it wisely. Please do not waste your vote, use it. **Vote in the European Elections on 22-25 May.** There are 751 seats up for grabs. You will find more information about the European Parliament and its processes here: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/us/en/elections\\_2014.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/us/en/elections_2014.html)

You will be able to see all potential candidates by country on this link <http://europedecides.eu/european-parliament/#tab-candidate-lists>

### News from Religions for Peace

European Council of Religious Leaders votes in a 2<sup>nd</sup> Hindu Member,



RfP Europe Issues a statement of Abduction of Women and Girls

The statement was drafted by the European Women of Faith Network.



You can read both stories here: <http://www.hinduforum.eu/category/conferences-and-events-attended/news/>

More about the ECRL event in Geneva is available here; <http://www.rfp-europe.eu/index.cfm?id=413071>

### **Peace initiatives: Chance to nominate Businesses**

The UN Global Compact's [Business for Peace](#) platform and the [Religious Freedom & Business Foundation](#) call for [nominations](#) of for-profit businesses that have advanced interfaith understanding and peace through their core business and/or outreach activities to be highlighted in new resource/publication.

**Deadline for nominations is May 23, 2014. Click the link for more information.**

<http://religiousfreedomandbusiness.org/nominations.html>

### **HFE makes a stand against The Protecting of Minors against Excesses of Sects report**

We signed a letter against the Council adopting this report as it would have effected some rites of passage for Hindu children. As you can see from the bulleting blow issues by Human Rights Without Frontiers, we have been vindicated along with all other Faiths.

### **COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

#### **France's policy against "sects" disavowed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe**

HRWF (12.04.2014) - The controversial report of the French Deputy Rudy Salles about "The Protection of Minors against Excesses of Sects" has been rejected as such by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

On Thursday 10 April, the PACE deeply amended the resolution to which the draft report of Rudy Salles was attached and rejected his draft recommendation.

***The project of a "European Observatory on sects" and forging a "European consensus" on the issue of "sects" has failed***

- The Recommendation did not obtain 2/3 of the votes (28 for, 18 against and 13 abstentions) and was not adopted. It aimed to:

- 1.1. conduct a study about the scale of the phenomenon of sects affecting minors at European level, on the basis of information provided by the member States;
- 1.2. set up a working group to exchange information between member States on excesses of sects affecting minors and to develop good practices for preventing the problem; and
- 1.3. seek to improve co-operation at European level with a view to implementing joint activities to prevent excesses of sects and protect minors against them.

On 8 May 2014, President Bharti Tailor was invited to speak at the International Imam Hussain Council organised Annual Conference Honouring the Lady Sayeda Fatima. The conference was covered in the media, <http://vimeo.com/94794737>

## Notice of the General Assembly of the Hindu Forum of Europe 3-4 July 2014

This year our general assembly will be generously hosted by the Italian Hindu Union. It is an election year and observers are welcome. Accommodation at the Ashram is limited and first priority will be given to voting members and Office bearers. However observers are most welcome for the day and/or stay in nearby towns. Please email [info@hinduforum.eu](mailto:info@hinduforum.eu), for more information.

### Visits



Ms Tailor has stayed on in Geneva after the ECRL meeting to meet with local Hindu groups. As part of that she visited the local Vinayagar Temple. Ms Tailor also met with Swami Amarananda of the Ramakrishna Mission, and a representative of the Bangladeshi Minority Council.

You can read about it here.

<https://www.facebook.com/HinduForumOfEurope>

That's all folks until the next time.

If you want to get information as soon as it is posted please like our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HinduForumOfEurope> and check our website [www.hinduforum.eu](http://www.hinduforum.eu) regularly.