



**Mission:** Our mission is to build cohesive societies.

**Vision:** To see every human feel secure about his/her faith, ethnicity, race, political and sexual orientation, or any other uniqueness.

The Center for Pluralism is committed to building a cohesive society where no member of a community feels excluded. If we can learn to respect the otherness of other and accept the God-given uniqueness of each one of us, then conflicts fade and solutions emerge. Our vision is to see each one of us live securely in the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.

We bring people together in social, religious, cultural, political, civic, and other settings. The more we know each other, the fewer the misperceptions would be. At CFP, we have programs in place to achieve this mission. Some of the programs are listed below.

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## RESEARCH | FUTURE LEADERSHIP | ACTION

### What is Pluralism?

We define Pluralism as "Respecting the otherness of the other and accepting each of us's uniqueness." Pluralism works in Religion, politics, culture, society, workplace, and other aspects of life, including Dining.

Pluralism in Religion -- is about respecting different ways of worshipping the creator and accepting their devotion to the creator as legitimate as our own. The unstated purpose of Religion is to guide one to live in balance with the self and with what surrounds—life and matter.

Pluralism in Politics -- is accepting others' political views as dear to them as my beliefs are to me. It requires a lot of discussions, as either majority can bulldoze the rights of the other and vice-versa.

Pluralism in society -- is about how people interact with each other, what they eat, drink, and wear. Freedom is the basis, let everyone be free to eat, drink, and wear and believe whatever they want in pursuit of their happiness, as long as it does not hurt other's pursuit of happiness.

Pluralism at the workplace- we have to respect the other person's composite otherness to work cohesively and be free from tensions and produce optimum value to the organization we work. If we want the best employees, we hire people who are not poisoned against others as they will not work cohesively.

At the Center for Pluralism, we will conduct workshops that will hopefully make one give 100% of himself or herself to the employers and the family. When you are free from biases, you work and love your family wholeheartedly.

As we learn to respect the otherness of the other, conflicts fade, and solutions emerge. Check out the different ways of expressing Pluralism in 1500 plus articles posted on this website and multiple videos. More at [www.CenterforPluralism.com](http://www.CenterforPluralism.com)

## Shaping the future societies.

Ten years from now, wherever you go, be it a place of work, worship, playground, school, restaurant, theater, or other areas of public gatherings, you will find display of diversity in every which way. You will also see people of different faiths, races, and ethnicities interacting, working, studying, intermingling, playing, and even marrying each other.

These interactions lend to misunderstandings and bound to create conflicts. We have to prevent such conflicts, so each member of the society can live securely with his or her faith, culture, gender, race, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.

We have already witnessed how the indigenous people feel about new immigrants or new members in any society. It is not a phobia, but a natural feeling of fear losing one's way of life, control, and their world.

A vast majority of us have heard things about others from our friends, news, social media, teachers, clergy, and politicians, and we instantly form opinions about others. As responsible individuals, we must strive to strip stereotyping and build pathways to ensure our society's functions smoothly, whether it is the workplace or our neighborhoods.

We need to reassure each other, particularly the disconnected ones, that together as Americans, in case of America, we are committed to safeguarding the American way of life. No American needs to worry about losing his or her way of life. Together as Americans, we uphold, protect, defend, and celebrate the values enshrined in our Constitution, a guarantor of the way each one of us wants to live.

Let me state this clearly, "My peace and tranquility hinges on the peace of people around me," and "My safety is tied to the security of people around me." It behooves me to build societies where all are secure; it guarantees my security and my tension free life.

The Center for Pluralism will continue to bring non-stop actions in bringing Americans together from different faiths, political affiliations, societies, and cultures and be a catalyst for a safe and secure America for each one of us, as we move through this transition.

## **Center for Pluralism's programs**

We are an applied research organization. Our work produces results through workshops in implementing the research, conduct seminars, and organize symposiums on burning topics of the day that affect Americans. We are all about action and leadership. Please visit various tabs at [www.CenterforPluralism.com](http://www.CenterforPluralism.com).

Once again, Pluralism respects the otherness of others, and we have our work cut out in the following area; Pluralism in Religion, Politics/Governance, Culture, Society, Business, and workplace.

### **I. Religious Pluralism**

Religious Pluralism works with the principle that “Your way of life works for you as my way of life works for me.” You are who you are, and I am who I am, neither of us has to give up or compromise in our faith to accommodate the other. What we need to do is acknowledge the uniqueness of each other, and learn to live with each other with our uniqueness. Indeed, the unstated purpose of all religions is to build societies where each one of God’s creations is respected and honored, whether he or she is invincible or vulnerable. We have four specific programs in this area and run several ad-hoc programs as the situation demands.

- Understanding the Essence of Religions, all the beautiful religions – workshops
- The wisdom of Spiritual Masters— A talk series
- Festival of Faiths—celebrating all faiths, an annual event
- The essence of celebrating Festivals or commemorations – publications and talks.

We have used the Radio (780 Hours on just understanding Religion, all religions), TV, Social Media, and print to communicate the ideas.

### **II. Political Pluralism (Governance)**

We are committed to developing solutions for the pluralistic governance of diverse people. We provide leaders with insights and policy solutions to efficiently manage multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-cultural societies.

In democratic politics, pluralism is a guiding principle that permits the peaceful coexistence of different interests, convictions, and lifestyles.

We attend both the Republican and Democratic enclaves and hope to organize conversations to pin down the ‘real’ difference and separate the chaff from the wheat.

- Ad-hoc Seminars with Republicans and Democrats
- Issue-based Seminars

### **III. Media Pluralism**

We have had success with Fox News having them see another point of view, but that is only a fraction of a percent. We offer pluralistic solutions to the media on issues of the day. We have two decades of research and work with 3500 articles, 300 national TV appearances, 200 times on the national radio talk shows. We have a weekly newsletter, “Pluralism News.” With your help, we hope to make it a full-time online Newspaper to cover pluralism in politics, religion, society, culture, business, and workplaces.

### **IV. Cultural Pluralism**

It is all about respecting the celebration of life in a variety of ways. Each community has figured out its unique approach to live their lives through food, drinks, clothes, dance, and music.

The arrogance that my culture is superior produces conflicts right off the bat, but when we focus on the “joy” people receive through their traditions, we see it as an equally valid culture. With that realization, conflicts fade, and solutions emerge.

- Thanksgiving Celebrations & Awards Night—Since 1994
- July 4th—Annual Event

### **V. Gender Pluralism**

The Center will explore the source of misogyny, and continue to separate religion from the attitudes. Do men hide their insecurities by making women insecure? Is it them or their faith? The unintended consequence of such acts amounts to making a villain out of God.

- Gender Pluralism—Seminars
- LGBTQ – programs

## **VI. Social Pluralism**

We, the people of the United States of America of every faith, race, ethnicity, culture, and background come together to express our desire to co-exist in peace and pray for the unity, safety, and wellbeing of our nation.

As Americans, we uphold, protect, defend, and celebrate the values enshrined in our constitution. All our faiths reinforce the creed of “One Nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.” We have four Annual programs to achieve our goals efficiently.

- Unity Day USA—Since 2001
- Holocaust and Genocides – Since 2006
- Memorial Day commemoration—Since 2015
- Veteran’s day—Since 2015

## **VII. Pluralism in the Workplace**

Every organization is made up of loyal and committed people to the prosperity and profitability of an organization. While most of the board members, associates, and employees stick to the guidelines for a smooth sail, a few don’t and pull down the productivity of the entire group. It is not because they want to bring it down, but because of the inherent phobias instilled in them by parents, teachers, friends, clergy, and the media.

Our workshops are designed to build cohesive workplaces, where people acknowledge their differences but focus on the common goal of the effective functioning of the organization. Areas covered: Racism, Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, Homophobia, Misogyny, and other diseases.

## **VIII. Standing up for others | Religious Freedom**

Societies are built to protect the rights of individuals, whether they are invincible or vulnerable. If you don’t stand up for others, why should anyone stand up for you? It is all about Human rights and religious freedom.

- The Book, standing up for others is in the works – and chronicles work done in standing up for the rights of Atheists to Zoroastrians, including LGBTQ communities.

- Creating Safe Zones for refugees – hope to introduce a bill in Congress.

## Understanding the Essence of Religions

When we live as neighbors, fellow workers, students, players, activists, and inhabitants of the same city, it behooves us to learn about each other's beliefs, motivations, moments of celebrations, devotions, or commemorations. The more we know about the other, the less mythical they would become, creating a friendly environment for us to function efficiently in whatever we do. Knowledge leads to understanding and understanding to accept the otherness of others taking us into tension free and sustainable prosperity.

## WORKSHOPS ON THE ESSENCE OF RELIGIONS

[www.CenterforPluralism.com/workshops](http://www.CenterforPluralism.com/workshops)



**Baha'i**



**Buddhism**



**Christianity**



**Hinduism**



**Humanism\***



**Islam**



**Jainism**



**Judaism**



**Native Faiths**



**Scientology**



**Sikhism**



**Wicca\***



**Zoroastrianism**

- Humanism/Atheism
- Wicca/Pagan



**Graduation**

NOV 2017

- **Board Members:** Dr. Karen Hollie, Sam Madden and Dr. Mike Ghouse
- **Advisory Board:** Representative of ten different faiths, representatives of different political parties.
- **Administration:** Dr. Mike Ghouse, Jack Pagano
- **Website:** [www.CenterforPluralism.com](http://www.CenterforPluralism.com)