



UN Climate Change Conference COP24 Katowice, Poland

Report Monday 10th Dec.

Here in Katowice, the temperature dropped below zero and snow gently fell. It seems winter has finally kicked in. Our green team is ready for another week of action.

Climate Resilience

Sister Jayanti was invited to represent the interfaith community at the high-level roundtable dialogue "Scaling up investments in climate resilience to meet the needs of vulnerable people". It was organized by the "Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action".



More than 30 eminent speakers were invited to speak but each got only two minutes to make his point. It was interesting that everyone stuck to the time given. The questions centred around community needs and the necessary scaling up of investment for climate resilience.

It was made very clear that, not only are more funds required to build resilient communities, but most important, they are required to build solidarity. Attention and understanding of the real needs is required. Speakers expressed their observations that the mood in this COP seems to have changed from passion, mission and determination towards feelings of anxiety, despair and frustration. As one of the last speakers, Sister Jayanti, emphasized the need for personal development of dignity and self-worth. Here education plays a key role and it is the foundation of the future.



Sister Jayanti at a high-level roundtable dialogue at the COP

Fishbowl Climate Debate

The evening dialogue in the Climate Hub was called "From false solutions to a just and sustainable society". The Gastivist Collective, Environment Jeunesse and Brahma Kumaris came together for dialogue in a fishbowl format. The 30 participants divided into three circles discussing: Degrowth, False Solutions and Shift of Consciousness. Carolin and Valérie kicked off the dialogue in the consciousness group, which proved to be the most popular one. Some of the points from the sharing:

- It is clear that the shift needed has to go further than just using new technology.
- We have to really understand our own consumption: Why, what and when do we consume?
- When we are mindful of nature and its boundaries, we can live in harmony and respect.



Symposium; Safeguarding our climate, advancing our society

Carolin attended a full-day program with speakers from both science and religions. The dialogue was attended by Hans Joachim Schnellhuber, Emeritus Director of PIK and Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC. Henrich Bedford-Strohm from Germany made the remarkable statement: Finally, science and religion have overcome their divisions and begun to work together.



Prof Mark Lawrence, Carolin and Prof Patricia Nanz from IASS, Potsdam.

KRAKOW Gallery Pauza

The well-known portraits series "SOULS" by Danish photographer Søren Solkær is exhibited in Gallery Pauza near the city centre of Krakow. Halina and Bogdan had arranged a program called: "Making lifestyle changes that last - for the future of the Planet". Bogdan extended a warm welcome to all, and Halina guided the first meditation. Golo talked about changing lifestyles; it is do-able, sensible and essential for the future of our planet. At the beginning of such change, stands the empowerment of the individual - we have to change and become an example of good actions and governance. Sonja facilitated a dialogue with the participants about the 10 ways to change the world.



Sonja presenting at the SOULS exhibition

On the way back, we walked by the beautifully decorated Christmas market in Krakow and the scene was like something out of a film. Quite magical.

