

Commemoration of Mahatma Gandhi's 155th Birth Anniversary











#### **INVITATION**



#### Cultural Diversity Collective An Australia-India Cultural Synergies Initiative Launch of Super Naari - A Period Equity Initiative

Date: Tuesday 24th September 2024 Time: 5:45pm - 9:00pm AEST

Dress Code: Black-Tie or Multicultural Attire Venue: Parliament of NSW

A tribute to the global peace hero Mahatma Gandhi, the MAHATMA Peace Symposium is a global community forum. MAHATMA Peace Symposium 2024 is a celebration of Australia-India Cultural Synergies, and will focus on 'Women, Peace & Security' (WPS) Global Agenda, Satyagraha & the role of women in maintenance of peace and women's peace movements worldwide, and its articulation in the UN-SDGs. SRf believes that inclusive & peaceful societies lead to prosperous economies.

A Call-to-Action for the Global Peace Economics Crisis – "Period Poverty". Launch & Activation of Super Naari - A Period Equity Initiative.

#### **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

Keynote Addresses by Distinguished Guests of Honour Art for Peace - Cultural Performance Global Peacebuilders Forum - Panel Discussion Networking & Light Refreshments



SRf Creatists & Saroni Roy Foundation are proud to host
MAHATMA Peace Symposium 2024
An Australia-India Cultural Synergies initiative
at the Parliament of NSW
Launch of Super Naari - A Period Equity Initiative

Date: Tuesday 24th September 2024 Time: 5:45pm Arrival for a 6pm Start.

**Venue: Parliament of NSW** 

#### **Objectives of MAHATMA Peace Symposium 2024**

- Commemoration of **Mahatma Gandhi's 155th Birth Anniversary "Gandhi Jayanti"** (2nd October 2024). An Australia-India Cultural Synergies Initiative, the MAHATMA Peace Symposium is a tribute to the global peace hero Mahatma Gandhi. It commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary (Gandhi Jayanti) and aims to increase public awareness and understanding of Mahatma Gandhi's vision of sustainability, real-development & ahimsa (non-violence) as a non-violent approach to foster lasting peace within and across diverse & vulnerable communities, thereby accelerating inclusive, networked multilateralism with vision, ambition and impact, integral for a sustainable world.
- The Gandhian values of ahimsa social action, justice and peace through non-violence have universal relevance today, inform this Peace Symposium and perfectly align with Saroni Roy Foundation (SRf) & SRf Creatists's core principles of 'Diversity, Sustainability & Social Justice' to create a more inclusive, more peaceful, 'One World' to live and love.
- In 2024 we would focus on 'Women, Peace & Security" (WPS) Global Agenda, Gandhi's vision of the role of women in maintenance of peace and the links between Gandhian ideals and women's peace movements the world over, and its articulation in the UN-SDGs. We believe that women will be at the forefront of creating a non-violent society, and inclusive & peaceful societies lead to sustainable & prosperous economies.
- Raise public awareness about the 'Women, Peace & Security" (WPS) Global Agenda. A Call-to-Action for the Global Peace Economics Crisis "Period Poverty". Launch/Activation of the 'Super Naari' "Period Equity" Campaign.

## **Guests of Honour**

# Representing The Hon. Chris Minns MP, Premier of NSW at the MAHATMA Peace Symposium 2024



The Hon. Julia Finn, MP

State Member for Granville

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, and

Parliamentary Secretary for the Arts



The Hon. Jodie Harrison, MP
Minister for Women, Minister for
Seniors, and Minister for the
Prevention of Domestic Violence
and Sexual Assault



The Hon. Warren Kirby MP
State Parliamentary
Friends of India-Australia
State Member for
Riverstone



The Hon. Jacqui Munro, MLC

Member of the
Legislative Council



The Hon. Nathan Hagarty MP
State Member of Leppington



The Hon. Charishma Kaliyanda MP State Member for Liverpool



**The Hon. Tim James MP**State Member for Willoughby



**The Hon. Gurmesh Singh MP**State Member for Coffs Harbour



The Hon. Matt Cross MP State Member of Davidson



The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC

Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the

Legislative Council

## **Global Peacebuilders Forum**



#### **A Film Feature**

The Hon. Lisa Singh in-conversation with The Hon. Ela Gandhi, a peace activist, politician and granddaughter to Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa.

Mahatma Gandhi's advocacy for the participation of women in Satyagraha movements marked a significant contribution to both women's empowerment and the promotion of peace and non-violence. His vision and writings suggest a broader participation of women in peace movements, emphasizing their unique contributions to socio-economic prosperity.



The Hon. Lisa Singh Former Australian Senator & CEO of
Australia India Institute



The Hon. Lisa Singh with The Hon. Ela Gandhi, a peace activist, politician and granddaughter to Mahatma Gandhi

## **Master of Ceremonies**



Preeti Thadani Senior Advocate, SBSA Executive Board, Women's Shed Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Secretary, IABBV Hindi School

#### Preeti Thadani

Senior Advocate, SBSA Executive Board, Women's Shed Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Secretary, IABBV Hindi School Preeti has been on stage since the age of 3yrs. She is trained in Indian classical dance and Tap Dancing. She has performed in numerous recitals & dance dramas and has also performed in the Olympics 2000 Opening Ceremony. Preeti currently choreographs and teaches dance in a range of fusion styles. Over the last 30yrs Preeti has also emceed shows including corporate events for Asian Paints, Macquarie Bank, Macquarie University as well as community focused events for the Australian Indian Medical Graduates Association, IABBV Hindi School, AHIA, Sydney Sakhi Sangam, Anup Jalota's concerts in 1999, 2000 & 2007, Anuradha Paudwal's concert in 2004, Hariharan's concert in 2000 and the Shankar Ehsaan Loy concert in 2019. She regularly organises fundraisers and charity balls to help the under privileged. When Preeti is not performing on stage you will find her putting heart and soul in her role as a Senior Advocate in a federally funded NGO representing the rights of People with Disability. She's passionate about social justice and equality.

#### **Guests of Honour**

#### **Global Peacebuilders Forum**

#### Launch & Activation of Super Naari - A Period Equity Initiative

A panel & global multicultural community forum, a call-to-action to peacebuilders, artists, government leaders, advocacy, media and academia worldwide, for a global partnership, to create a shared blueprint to achieve a better, peaceful and more sustainable future for all. In 2024, SRf's focus will be on the 'Women, Peace & Security' (WPS) Global Agenda, inform, educate, and communicate the Global Peace Economics Crisis – "Period Poverty". Perpetuating equitable access to menstrual & reproductive health awareness & education, and accessibility to menstrual health products/circular product options, through the Super Naari - A Period Equity Initiative. Protecting and respecting women's rights to reproductive health care is essential for gender equity and for building peaceful and resilient communities.

Empower & democratise the Super Naari platform to create opportunities and equitable access to basic human rights for girls & women, transgender-menstruating persons, people that need it most, leading to reduced school drop-out rates, accelerated participation at work, sports, aviation, business and more, destigmatizing menstrual health, offering a life of dignity in vulnerable and less-privileged communities.

#### **Esteemed Panel**



**Dr Astrid Perry OAM**Head of Women, Equity and
Domestic & Family Violence, SSI



Patricia Garcia AO Humanitarian & UN-SDGs Advocate



Dr Anna Cody
Sex Discrimination Commissioner,
Australian Human Rights
Commission



Saroni Roy

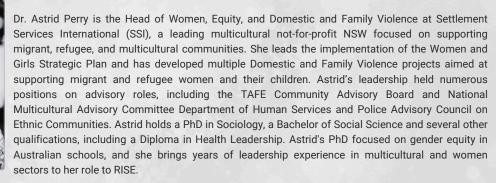
Actor | Co-chair, Equity Diversity & Federal Councillor - MEAA, Founder & CEO, Saroni Roy Foundation Director, SRf Creatists Creator & Producer, MAHATMA Peace Symposium

## **Global Peacebuilders Forum**

#### **Esteemed Panel**



Head of Women, Equity and Domestic & Family Violence, SSI





#### Patricia Garcia AO

Patricia Garcia AO is a human rights advocate and has worked for over 20 years in some of the world's most dangerous conflict-ridden regions including Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan and Thai-Burma border. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2016 and was a 2016 NSW Australian of the Year Awards Finalist for her contribution and services to the international humanitarian-aid & development sector. Patricia was a Human Rights Research Fellow at University of Sydney's Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPACS) from 2000–2002 and designed the Human Rights course for Master of Peace and Conflict Studies at CPACS, a 2017 Rotary Peace Fellow and Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Partnership Development Manager. Patricia is an Honorary Associate at University of Sydney, a Sessional Lecturer on peace and human rights with a passion to advance the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda.



Dr Anna Cody

Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission

Dr Cody started as Australia's Sex Discrimination Commissioner in September 2023.

Before this, Dr Cody had a distinguished career as an academic, as a lawyer specialising in discrimination and as a passionate advocate for human rights. Her work over the years has included substantial advocacy to various United Nations human rights committees when they have reviewed Australia's and other nations' fulfilment of their human rights obligations.

Most recently she was the Dean of the School of Law and Professor at Western Sydney University for 4.5 years, leading education and research impact within the School to better reflect the diversity of the community and the intersection of law and justice.



Saroni Roy

Founder & CEO, Saroni Roy Foundation Creator & Producer, MAHATMA Peace Symposium

A multi-hyphenate, Saroni Roy is an Australian actor, Co-chair Equity Diversity & Federal Councillor -Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA), a sought-after Celebrity Guest Speaker & Global Influencer championing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. A Cancer-survivor, facing multiple invisible disabilities, Saroni is a Body-Activist and won the Ms India Australia Goodwill Ambassador title at 2018 Miss/Mrs/Mr. India Australia beauty pageant, for her extensive contribution to global community-welfare and the UN-SDGs, 2022 Strathfield Citizen of the Year Award, TAFE NSW Contribution to the Community Award 2021, 2023 Young Global Leaders Forum – World Economic Forum Nominee, to name a few. An Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) Ambassador, an agent for positive change, Saroni has worked across different countries, diverse industries, helping organizations and Global Leaders radically change long-held ideas of what constitutes effective leadership by sharing her life learnings as an entrepreneur, mentor, artist and a thought leader.



### **Event Program**

6:00PM Welcome Address

Acknowledgement to Country

Introduction to the MAHATMA Peace Symposium 2024

Welcome Address by The Hon. Julia Finn MP, representing The

Hon. Chris Minns MP, Premier of NSW

Australia-India Cultural Synergies Keynote Address by The Hon. Warren Kirby MP, State Parliamentary Friends of India-Australia

MC Preeti Thadani - Saroni Roy

6:20PM SRf Creatists for Peace

A Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi Australia-India Cultural Synergies

**Recital & Live Music Concert** 

Performance of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite songs & semi-

classical dance performance

Saroni Roy

Tanima Banerjee

Bandana Cultural School

6:40PM Guests of Honour Address

The Hon. Jacqui Munro MLC, Member of the Legislative Council

The Hon. Jodie Harrison MP, Minister for Women

The Hon. Charishma Kaliyanda MP, State Member for Liverpool

Felicitation of Sponsors & Global Alliance Partners

7:10PM SRf Creatists for Peace

**Live Music Concert** 

**Sarhad Project** 

Abhinav Bose

Rai Ali Imam



### **Event Program**

7:30PM Guests of Honour Address

The Hon. Nathan Hagarty MP, State Member for Leppington The Hon. Tim James MP, State Member for Willoughby Felicitation of Community Partners & Merch Partners

7:55PM Launch of Super Naari - A Period Equity Initiative

**Global Peacebuilders Forum 2024 - Panel Discussion** 

Dr Astrid Perry OAM

Dr Anna Cody

Patricia Garcia AO

Saroni Roy

8:20PM Super Naari Awards 2024

**Outstanding Contribution Towards** 

'Women, Peace & Security' Global Agenda

8:30PM Guests of Honour Address

The Hon. Matt Cross MP, State Member for Davidson

The Hon. Natalie Ward MLC

The Hon. Gurmesh Singh MP, State Member for Coffs Harbour

Felicitation of Volunteers & Media Partners

8:45PM SRf Creatists for Peace

'MAHATMA Gandhi My Hero'

**Gandhian Values of Peace - Theatre Performance** 

Prahar

Bandana Cultural School

Felicitation of Creatists for Peace Partners & Collab Partners

9:00PM Vote of Thanks

MC Preeti Thadani - Saroni Roy

## Live Concert powered by

# SR(Creatists

## **Creatives + Artists for Peace**

The Gandhian values of Ahimsa — social action, justice and peace through non-violence — have universal relevance today, inform this Peace Symposium and perfectly align with Saroni Roy Foundation (SRf) & SRf Creatists's core principles of 'Diversity, Sustainability & Social Justice' to create a more peaceful, more inclusive 'One World' to live and love.

Actor & Artist Saroni Roy's recital and performance of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite songs in various languages showcase Australia-India CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) artists collaboration. Adapting to the pandemic restrictions, Saroni worked remotely along with musicians/artists based in India to curate an authentic and exquisite piece of art, ensconced in the Gandhian values of Ahimsa, courage, determination, solidarity, harmony and peace.



Saroni Roy Director, SRf Creatists

"As an actor, singer, dancer & connoisseur of the arts, I truly believe that art is a platform that showcases and also weaves together diverse cultures. It transcends all barriers, doesn't conform to the limitations of language, faith, geography, race or nationality. If we look at some of the diverse ethnicities participating in my initiatives, many of us have experienced war & conflict in our homeland. Art & artists are therefore an integral catalyst in uniting people, celebrating our rich cultural heritage, perpetuating a culture of peace and harmony." – Saroni Roy



Subham Kanjilal Mandolin & Dotara



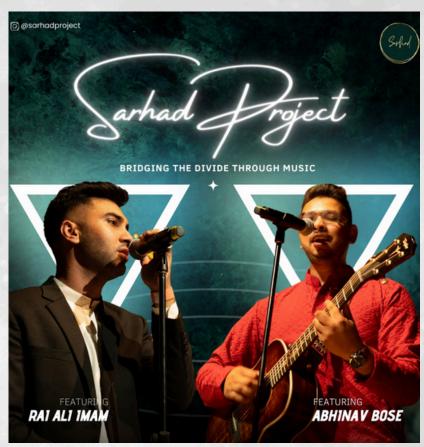
Pankaj Paul Music Arrangement, Synth Guitar & Bass Guitar



Mrityunjoy Das Mixing Engineer



Mandola Joy Santoor, Sritar & Flute



The Sounds of Unity Sarhad Project was born from the unique collaboration between two musicians, Abhi from Amritsar, India, and Ali from Lahore, Pakistan. Despite living just 20 minutes apart, but on different sides of a border, their friendship was forged by an instant musical connection rooted in their love for Sufi Rock and Indian-Pakistani music. As international students, they shared a vision of transcending geographical and cultural divides through their music and forming Australia's biggest multicultural musical collaboration.

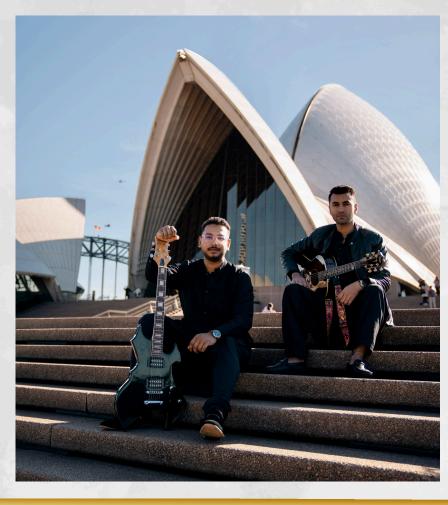
Beyond mere performance, Sarhad Project carries a profound purpose. With each chord and lyric, they strive to dismantle cultural barriers, fostering unity, acceptance and understanding amongst diverse communities, just the principle that Australia's community embodies us.



## Live Concert Creatives + Artists for Peace

Recently their band has expanded enlisting 6 exceptional musical talents from Nepal who have deep rooted appreciation South Asian Music and culture. Sarhad has now performed at every university or clubs in Sydney, They have been gaining alot of popularity performing at Sydney's biggest Bollywood concerts like Sachin Jigar, Abdul Hannan, Indian Australian Idol and many more upcoming concerts and several FM, Radio Shows, Podcasts & Interviews. They have become Sydney's most popular youth Indian-Pakistani band who create their own music and perform the best charting songs at events to win over the hearts of their audiences

Their music isn't just heard; it's felt, forging connections that defy borders and celebrate the shared human experience. Join Abhinav Bose And Rai Ali Imam Sarhad Project on their journey as they harmonise cultures, one note at a time.





## **Live Cultural Performance Creatives + Artists for Peace**

Bandana Cultural School in Sydney is an both in person & online mentoring institution focused on talent development. Dr Tanima Banerjee founded it to honour her mother/ her teacher in Kolkata. This initiative, led by a woman, offers comprehensive mentoring in various fields, including academics, visual arts, and performing arts as a Gurukul of multi-talents. The school has gained recognition for its achievements, which benefit the institution and its students.

Inclusivity: Open to all, regardless of distance, time, age, gender, community, nationality, or faith.

Bandana Cultural School offers a rich tapestry of programs—a unique blend of talents in science, mathematics, languages, calligraphy, dramatics, and visual and performing arts. There's something for everyone to explore and excel in.

With her multi-talents, Dr Tanima Banerjee is an expert in guiding and thus leads this program, which provides students with specialist mentorship to empower youth for a better future. Elders enjoy their learning and get into fitness programs and hobby learning.



# SR<sub>C</sub>Creatists

## **Creatives + Artists for Peace**



#### The O.G. Super Naari' Saree By Saroni Roy X Saree Selections

Saroni collaborated with Saree Selections to create this exquisite piece of heritage Maheshwari silk saree in Bold Red that signifies beauty, passion, auspiciousness and also depicts the Goddess Durga's anger against evil.

It features a hand-painted reproduction of Raja Ravi Verma's famous artwork Damyanti, that embodies the spirit of Super Naari. A royal-turned-painter, Raja Ravi Verma, painter of colonial India, best known for uniting Hindu mythological subject matter with European realist historicist painting style, that reflected the modernisation of India.







#### **MAHATMA Peace Symposium Artwork**

By Award-Winner First Nations Artist, Presten Warren, Painted Studios







## **Creatives + Artists for Peace**

"I wanted the vision & themes of MAHATMA Peace Symposium - "My Land, My Story - Meri Kahaani, Meri Zabaani", an Australia-India Cultural Synergies initiative, to be articulated through Art." - Saroni Roy

Saroni worked remotely along with Award-winner First Nations artist, Presten Warren, to curate an authentic and exquisite piece of art, ensconced in the Gandhian values of Ahimsa, Sarvodaya, Swaraj, - peace, love, and reconciliation. The intricate patterns portray the Australian Indigenous peoples' journeys and camps, which span across the vast expanse of the country, representing the diverse tribes that comprise a unified nation. Moreover, the artwork incorporates the Indigenous, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag colours & Indian flag colours, embodying the ancient Australian connection to India - the links between Australian Aboriginal and Indian tribes, aligning with the theme of India's G20 Presidency - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth One Family One Future" - drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of the 'Maha Upanishad', celebrating and strengthening Australia-India bi-lateral relations. The artwork will also be rendered on a Gajji silk saree handcrafted by the artisans of India, an Australia-India cultural synergies heritage piece, draped by Saroni.

"As an actor, singer, dancer & connoisseur of the arts, I truly believe that art is a platform that showcases and also weaves together diverse cultures. It transcends all barriers, doesn't conform to the limitations of language, faith, geography, race or nationality. If we look at some of the diverse ethnicities participating in my initiatives, many of us have experienced war & conflict in our homeland. Art & artists are therefore an integral catalyst in uniting people, celebrating our rich cultural heritage, perpetuating a culture of peace and harmony." – Saroni Roy



**Presten Warren** 

"I am an Indigenous artist living in Port Lincoln, South Australia and a proud Wirangu/Dieri/Kokatha/Mirning man. I am a descendant of the desert & ocean tribes of Australia. I am a country boy, have country blood and country in my soul. Art has always been a big part of my life. It is my outlet, my safety, my pride and my church. Art is something my family and my culture have been practising for millennia. Art provokes and stimulates something deep within us that we all share. It is a very special form of storytelling and one which is sacred to my culture. I often lose myself in my own thoughts as I tell my stories through painting. I love that we can all let our imaginations spill out onto canvas with such bewildering colours and uniquely textured details telling stories in ways that words just can't. My mother and grandmother taught me everything I know about art and I am so grateful for the passion they ignited in me. It feels good to be able to keep this important tradition alive in our family and hopefully pass it on to generations ahead."



## **Our Purpose**

The Saroni Roy Foundation (SRf) is an Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC) registered organisation, headquartered in Sydney. Our purpose is to inform, inspire, and engage multicultural communities & Global Citizens worldwide to create a safer, fairer, more sustainable world. With structured peace education & engagement programs ensconced in Gandhian values, we aim to create a paradigm shift in the way the world thinks about peace. SRf is a peace NGO committed to empowering multicultural communities and global citizens to collaborate in creating a more inclusive, peaceful and more sustainable world. Through our various initiatives and partnerships, we aim to inspire change, promote diversity, and foster inclusive dialogue on pressing global issues. This social impact report highlights the achievements, challenges, and future prospects of our organization, showcasing the positive change our collective efforts have made in making the world a better place perpetuating Mahatma Gandhi's vision of sustainability, real development & ahimsa as a non-violent approach to foster lasting peace within and across diverse & vulnerable communities.

## **Our Mission**

To deliver on our purpose, our mission is to empower multicultural communities, to think globally, and act locally through events, D.E.I advocacy, and peace education. The Gandhian values of Ahimsa — social action, justice and peace through non-violence — have universal relevance today, inform the community- empowerment initiatives, and perfectly align with SRf's core principles of 'Diversity, Sustainability and Social Justice to create a more peaceful, inclusive 'One World' to live and love. Our strategic focus is on three core pillars - Cultural Economy, Creative Economy and Circular Economy, contributing extensively to the United Nations-Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs). With structured peace education & engagement programs ensconced in Gandhian values, we aim to create a paradigm shift in the way the world thinks about peace.



# Peace Symposium

The annual flagship initiative MAHATMA Peace Symposium (MPS) is a tribute to the global peace hero Mahatma Gandhi. It commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary (Gandhi Jayanti) and aims to increase public awareness and understanding of Mahatma Gandhi's vision of sustainability, real-development & ahimsa (non-violence) as a non-violent approach to foster lasting peace within and across diverse & vulnerable communities, thereby accelerating inclusive, networked multilateralism with vision, ambition and impact, integral for a sustainable world. With my experience of working with global peace NGOs and diaspora communities, I realised that Mahatma Gandhi is adored and worshipped as a global peace hero of history, and what we see as the UN-SDGs, are social development aspects he talked about over a century ago, and yet there was no platform that was educating today's global citizens on how to decode, simplify, implement his principles and teachings for conflict-resolution and to address pressing issues the world is facing. Therefore I created a call-to-action forum where each year MPS focuses on a social issue the world is faced with, its articulation in the UN-SDGs and how we can address them applying the Gandhian values and principles. In 2021 we addressed Global Agenda for Women, Peace & Security, in 2022 we deep dived into how Ahimsa addresses multi-dimensional poverty. In 2023 we focused on the Gandhian philosophy/concept of Satyagraha, Sarvodaya & Swaraj, and its articulation in the UN-SDGs. Raise public awareness about Gandhi's "Constructive Program", the reformulation of individual identities, social relationships, economic arrangements, and political engagement within local communities, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (UN-SDG 11); and the ancient links between Australian Aboriginal and Indian tribes. Inclusive & peaceful societies lead to sustainable & prosperous economies. MPS highlights our ethos that structured peace education is key to making a paradigm shift in the way the world thinks about peace.



Our 3 C's Approach

Cultural Creative Circular

**Economy** 

#### Call-to-Action

Create a shared blueprint to achieve a better, peaceful and more sustainable future for all.

Target Audience: Multicultural communities, peacebuilders, creatives, government leaders, advocacy, media and academia worldwide

## **Awards & Associations**

























## **Our Partners**



## **Printing Partner**

## **Silver Sponsors**











#### **Global Alliance Partners**













#### **Collab Partners**









#### **Creatists For Peace Partners**





#### **Merchandise Partners**





## **Our Partners**



#### **Media Partners**

































## **Community Outreach Partners**





























## SUPPORT THE CAUSE

## SIGN THE PETITION





CULTURAL DIVERSITY COLLECTIVE









Diversity . Sustainability . Social Justice



PERIOD EQUITY INITIATIVE



24TH SEPTEMBER 2024 PARLIAMENT OF NSW

INFO@SARONIROY.COM