



Invitation:

The Boston Forum for Coexistence in a Democratic Society

**Venue: Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry
10 Putnam Street, Roxbury, Boston, Massachusetts**

Date: December 8, 2017 / Time: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

The Initiative for Governance, Reconciliation and Coexistence (Grace Initiative) is convening a Forum to address intensifying differences in the US regarding the rule of law, fundamental freedoms, and inclusion. The Forum draws from a recent Pew Research Study that recently found that Americans are more divided than ever over about social issues such as safety net, race, and immigration. To develop policy and to protect fundamental freedoms and rights, we need to find common ground for addressing collective challenges in our democratic society.

Our goal is to develop **a strategy for a road map for coexistence in one of the world's oldest democracies – the US**. We hope to take up concerns, hopes and fears. The Forum will provide a platform for strategies for promoting dialogue, countering extremism, and fostering healing to halt the rise of divisiveness. It will aim to promote respect and coexistence, taking note of the principles of a democratic society, the rule of law and human rights. Also, we will examine how the globally endorsed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, especially for peaceful and inclusive societies, applies in the US.

This Forum will comprise of international and national experts in democracy, coexistence, immigration, psychology, and social justice from the United Nations, Brandeis University, **Harvard University, and the Mayor's office**. Speakers include:

Dr. Massimo Tommasoli, Permanent Observer at the United Nations for International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance; Dr. Theodore Johnson, Brandeis University, The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Associate Professor in Conflict Resolution and Coexistence; Dr. Richard Mollica, Professor of Psychiatry, Mass General and Harvard Medical School; Dr. Cornel R. West, Professor of Public Philosophy, Harvard Divinity School (invited) Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, UUUM.

Please RSVP at: contact@grace-initiative.org.