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## PRESS RELEASE

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#### **Diplomacy Meets Faith: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Hosts Roundtable on Religion, Diplomacy and Human Migration in Collaboration with the Society of Foreign Consuls (SoFC)**

New York, 24 October 2024 – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in partnership with The Society of Foreign Consuls (SoFC) in New York, hosted an impactful roundtable discussion today on "Religion, Diplomacy, & Human Migration" at 1776 Broadway. The event brought together 33 attendees, with representation from both the diplomatic and religious communities.

The discussion explored pressing global issues at the intersection of migration, diplomacy, and faith. Participants shared insights into how governmental bodies and religious organizations can collaborate to address the challenges facing migrant communities worldwide. Case studies and success stories of partnerships between governments and faith-based organizations were highlighted, illustrating the powerful role of religion in providing aid, legal support, and spiritual care to migrants.

Several key topics emerged during the event:

**Faith-Based Support Initiatives:** Success stories such as the Miracle Monday Migrant Ministry at St. Paul and St. Andrew UMC (SPSA) and the Refugee Resettlement Agency of the Episcopal Church were shared, illustrating how faith communities provide critical services to migrants.

**Diplomatic and Legal Approaches:** The conversation also delved into the role of diplomacy in addressing the root causes of migration. SoFC emphasized the need for more diplomacy and legal frameworks to prevent forced migration. Discussions also revolved around the legal and humanitarian obligations of the diplomatic community to support both legal and undocumented diaspora in the U.S.

**Addressing Fear and Misinformation:** A participant highlighted the importance of addressing the myths and misconceptions surrounding migration. The need for real-time information from Customs and Border Protection to alleviate fear among migrants and help them navigate their status in the U.S. was discussed in detail.



Breaking Down Bureaucratic Barriers: Several participants noted the bureaucratic obstacles that hinder the provision of aid and called for more effective ways to navigate these barriers to ensure timely support for vulnerable populations. Discussions also touched on cooperation between diplomatic communities and faith-based organizations to combat issues like child trafficking.

In addition, members of the SoFC highlighted the role of their respective Consulates in providing services to their communities, regardless of religion, and in promoting shared values of mutual understanding, coexistence and tolerance. These efforts contribute significantly to the synergy and harmony of American society, reinforcing the values that bind diverse communities together.

Mr. Amir Farid Abu Hasan, Consul General of Malaysia in New York and President of the Society of Foreign Consuls, in his remarks emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between diplomacy and faith in addressing the humanitarian crises of today.

"Today's roundtable demonstrated that, when diplomacy and faith come together, we are able to make meaningful progress in supporting those who are most in need. By working together, we can overcome challenges and build stronger bridges between diplomacy, faith, and human compassion." said Mr. Abu Hasan.

The event concluded with remarks from Ryan J. Koch, Director of the New York Office of Public and International Affairs, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who expressed his hope that the dialogue would inspire further action and cooperation among all stakeholders.

The event featured a diverse group of participants, including notable guests from various faith-based organizations such as the World Baptist Federation, Sikh Community, Episcopal Church, UN Women's Club of Westchester, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Religion Communicators Council, Tannenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, Baha'i International Community, Islamic Relief USA, and UNICEF USA.

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For more information about the event or to inquire about future initiatives, please contact the Society of Foreign Consuls at:

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