



MEDIA RELEASE

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Free-market fundamentalism to blame for climate change, says Dr Vandana Shiva

2010 Sydney Peace Prize lecture by Dr Vandana Shiva, Nov 3, Sydney Opera House

The distinguished physicist, philosopher, environmental activist, eco feminist and celebrated author, Dr Vandana Shiva, will be in Sydney to deliver the 2010 Sydney Peace Prize lecture on November 3, 2010 at the Concert Hall in the Sydney Opera House. The title of the lecture is “Making Peace with the Earth”.

For three decades Dr Shiva has been promoting an ecological path of sustainability and diversity as a means to survival. Speaking from her home in New Delhi, Dr Shiva said, “The system that has created climate change is being protected even if the poor and the planet have to be sacrificed to maintain that system, and even if the laws of nature and of our common humanity have to be violated.”

Dr Shiva contends that violence against nature is fuelled by free-market fundamentalism, which destroys the conditions of human life, “In India the rules of free trade are pushing millions of farmers into debt and hundreds of thousands to suicide.”

The Sydney Peace Foundation at the University of Sydney awarded Dr Shiva the \$50,000 Peace Prize for courageous leadership of movements for social justice including the empowerment of women in developing countries, advocacy of the human rights of small farming communities and for her scientific analysis of environmental sustainability.

Vandana Shiva’s work highlights the fundamental connection between human rights and the protection of the environment. Governments worldwide seek her counsel on sustainable development. She offers solutions to some of the most critical problems posed by the effects of globalisation and climate change on the poorest and most populous nations.

Dr Shiva is the author of numerous books and monographs including *Soil Not Oil*, *Water Wars* and the co-authored *Ecofeminism*. In 2010, her first and classic book *Staying Alive, Women, Ecology and Development* was re-released for its 20th anniversary.

Dr Shiva follows other distinguished recipients of this award – the Nobel Laureates Professor Muhammad Yunus and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former UN high Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, the Palestinian human rights campaigner Dr Hanan Ashrawi, former Secretary General of Amnesty International Irene Khan and the Australians, Sir William Deane, Patrick Dodson and John Pilger.

Event details

What Sydney Peace Prize lecture by Dr Vandana Shiva, **Making peace with the Earth**

When 8pm, November 3,

Where Concert Hall Sydney Opera House

Cost \$25/\$30

For interviews with Vandana Shiva contact Jacqueline Chowns at the University of Sydney Media Office on 0434 605 018 or Stuart Rees at the Sydney Peace Foundation on 9351 4763 or 0434 930 134.

Dr Shiva will be also be speaking in Victoria at the Wheeler Centre on November 5 to celebrate the re-release of her book Staying Alive. Contact Nikki Anderson, Spinifex Press 03 9329 6088.