

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

“RELIGIONS, HUMAN SOLIDARITY AND GLOBAL PEACE: BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE”.

23-25 May, 2022, Rehovot & Jerusalem

Venue 23-24 May

Peres Academic Center, 10 Shimon Peres St., Rehoboth

Venue 25 May

The Maierdorf Faculty Club, Conference Center Hebrew University of
Jerusalem, Mount Scopus Campus, Jerusalem

Organized by:



Association internationale
POUR LA DÉFENSE DE LA LIBERTÉ
RELIGIEUSE
International Association
FOR THE DEFENCE OF RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY



PERES ACADEMIC CENTER



THE INTERNATIONAL
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האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

International Conference “Religions, Human Solidarity and Global Peace: Building a Better Future”.

Rehoboth & Jerusalem May 23-25, 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

Our world faces a tragic reality. Visions of peace, human solidarity, and affirmation of expressions of human dignity are common to most religions yet religions have been instrumentalized as means to some of the worst atrocities in human history. Recovering and living according to the best of faiths can be promising to overcome the worst of religion.

Contrary to the exhortation to no coercion in religion matters, present in all monotheistic religions, the adoption of the dignity of difference has not been the norm. Religious intolerance instead has punctuated human history. In every region of the world hegemonic impulses have as per practice overridden the virtues of tolerance, and acceptance of the humanity of others who believe differently. They have divided the one human family into feudal hostile camps, in the name of deeply held convictions used to discriminate.

The future can be different based on principles of humanity, dignity, solidarity and responsibility to save lives, improve human conditions to descent living conditions.

The conference entitled “Religions, Human Solidarity and Global Peace:

Building a Better Future,” will explore how the human family can reach a better place in human relations. Religious leaders, experts, academics, and dignitaries in several disciplines and responsibilities will contribute to show how respect, valuing of other peoples’ worth can transform hostilities and proxy and open wars into collaboration, partnership, and mutual respect.

Religions have been historically used to promote violence. It does not have to continue this way uncontested. Religious leaders and people of influence have a historic opportunity to contribute to abolish the misuse of religious teachings to promote hatred, violence, and desecration of human sanctity.

It is easy to give in to fear before the unknown. It is therefore crucial that we get to know each other's religion. Religious leaders can play a key role to foster understanding and adoption of common policies for a brighter future. This is what makes gatherings like this conference vitally important.

The Peres Academic Center, The International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty (AIDLR), The International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA) and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem conference is dedicated to exploring the imperatives of Peace, solidarity, and Human Dignity from the perspectives of each monotheistic religion. The overarching goal is to share with the international community with guidelines from which plans of action will be developed and implemented by people of good will from each religious tradition. Thought leaders are invited to impact our world in facing the tragic reality of human suffering, division and violence and instead partner to foster peaceful coexistence and constructive relationships.

Provided that the health crisis of Covid 19 allows, the conference is scheduled to take place from May 23-25, 2022 in Rehovot and Jerusalem.

International Conference

"Religions, Human Solidarity and Global Peace: Building a Better Future"

Rehoboth & Jerusalem May 23-25, 2022

Speakers



Rabbi David Lau

The Honorable David Lau is the Chief Rabbi of Israel and President of the Great Rabbinical Court of Appeals.

Opening Session Keynote



Asher Maoz

Founding Dean Peres Academic Law School; Head, Committee on Int'l Academic Relations.

Prof. Maoz taught at leading universities around the world. He is Vice-Honorary President of the AIDLR and member of IRLA experts. He served as academic advisor to the Knesset on adopting a constitution for the State of Israel and was Chair of the State Commission on Journalists' Privilege. He authored several books and published over 100 academic articles and book chapters. He is co-organizer of this Conference.

Moderator Opening Session & Keynote Session 4 - "Religions, Human Solidarity and Global Peace: A Judaic Approach"



Ron Shapira

Rector Peres Academic Center

Prof. Shapira served as the Dean of the Faculty of Law in Bar Ilan University (2001-2004) and the Frank Church Chair for Legal Research. Prof. Shapira's areas of specialty are legal procedure, law of evidence, criminal law, and mathematical formulae in legal doctrine. He has published dozens of articles in his areas of specialty in Israel, the United States, United Kingdom, Holland, and France.

Opening Session

Ganoune Diop

Secretary-General International Religion Liberty Association (IRLA).

Ganoune Diop, PhD. is the Director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters in Washington D.C. USA. He is the Secretary-General of the International Religious Liberty Association (IRLA). He is Secretary of the Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions. He is co-organizer of this Conference.

[Keynote - Session 2 " Justice and Righteousness, Common Core Values Among World Religions and Pathway for Human Solidarity and Peace."](#)



Adama Dieng

Former United Nations Under Secretary-General and Special Adviser of the SG on the Prevention of Genocide

H.E. Mr. Dieng is special adviser to the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, expert on human rights in Sudan and the President of the Honorary Committee of the AIDLR.

[AIDLR Conscience & Liberty Award Ceremony \(Video\)](#)



Paulo Macedo

Secretary General of the International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty.

Mr. Paulo Macedo's has develop his service, during the last 20 years, in Portugal, where he has advocated the promotion of freedom of conscience, worship and religion, as well as the relationship between the state and the churches. He is co-organizer of this Conference.

[Presentation Session 8 "Religion and Speech: free speech and speech limits in the public sphere."](#)



Hemda Gur-Arie

Head of Law Department, Peres Academic Center Law School.

Dr. Hemda Gur-Arie holds a BA (1996), MA (2002) (Law, Society, and Politics Program, magna cum laude), and a PhD (2007) from the Faculty of Law in Tel Aviv University, and a BA in Sociology and Philosophy (1991) from Tel Aviv University. She has worked as an advocate for several years, mainly as attorney in the field of criminal law.

[Moderator Session 2](#)





Adiel Zimran

[Peres Academic Center Law School and Hebrew University.](#)

Adiel Zimran (PhD.), Lecturer at the Law School of the Peres Academic Center and at the Hebrew University. His PhD was written in the Department of Philosophy at the Hebrew University and won Pines Prize and Orbach Prize; In 2016 he was a law clerk in the Supreme Court of Israel; And in 2017 he was a postdoctoral researcher at the NYU School of Law. His research focuses on the Theory of criminal law, law and religion, and Jewish philosophy.

[Presentation Session 2 –“The Contribution of Theology to the Value of ‘Human Dignity’ ”.](#)



Pasquale Annicchino

[Senior Assistant Prof. of law at the University of Foggia, Italy.](#)

In 2020/2021 Prof. Annicchino taught global law and religion at Central European University (Vienna) and FGV-Direito Rio (Rio de Janeiro). He has been an adjunct professor of law at BYU J. Reuben Clark Law School and at St. John’s University School of Law. He is a member of the Italian Council for the Relationships with Muslim Communities and is the author of Law and International Religious Freedom: The Rise and Decline of the American Model (2017). He has published widely in journals such as: Oxford Journal of Law and Religion, First Amendment Law Review, George Washington International Law Review, European Public Law, Review of Faith and International Affairs.).

[Presentation Session 2 –“Religions and human solidarity in the tragedy of “Throwaway Culture”](#)



Galya Hildsheimer

[Peres Academic Center Law School](#)

Dr. Galya Hildsheimer is a lecturer at the Peres Academic Center Law School and School of Health System Management. She earned her PhD from the Bar Ilan Law Faculty. Her teaching and research interests include Bioethics, Feminist studies and Labor Law.

[Moderator Session 3](#)



James Christie

[Ambassador-at-Large, Canadian Multi-faith Federation](#)

H.E. Rev. Dr. James Christie was Professor of Whole World Ecumenism and Dialogue Theology, former Dean of the Faculty of Theology, and Director of The Ridd Institute for Religion and Global Policy.

[Keynote Sesion 3 – “Waking to God’s Dream”](#)



Shira Wolosky

Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Shalem College.

Prof. Shira Wolosky teaches English and American Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and hermeneutics at Shalem College. Previously, she was an associate professor at Yale University. She received her doctorate, with distinction, from Princeton University. Prof. Wolosky has authored numerous books on nineteenth-century American poetry, feminist theory, literary criticism, and religion.

Presentation Session 3 – “The Awe of the Other: Emmanuel Levinas’s Discourse Ethics.”



Omer Aloni

Peres Academic Center Law School & Zefat Academic College Law School

Dr. Omer Aloni, got his PhD from Zvi Meitar Center for Advanced Legal Studies, Buchman Faculty of Law, Tel-Aviv University. His research was on the topic: “Back to the League of Nations” – Evaluation of the Environmental Regime: 1919–1939”. He is a researcher and a visitor professor in several Universities.

Presentation Session 3 – “Beyond Orient and Occident: Early Israeli Law and the Dilemma of Bigamy and Polygamy among Eastern Communities”



Shaul Sharf

Peres Academic Law School Center

Dr. Shaul Sharf is A staff member of the Law Faculty at Peres Academic Center. Lecturer and researcher in constitutional law.

Moderator Session 4



Adelaide Madera

Department of Law – University of Messina, Italy.

Full Professor at the Department of Law of the University of Messina, Italy, Canon Law, Law and Religion, Comparative Religious Laws, and Religious Factor and Antidiscrimination Law. Member of the Academic Board of the PhD School in Legal Studies at the University of Messina and serves for the Editorial Committee of the Journal “Quaderni di Diritto e Politica Ecclesiastica”. Author of four books and several academic writings. Her research activities focus on the interrelationship between law and religion, specifically church-state relationships, religious organizations and the law, religious and civil marriage.

Presentation Session 4: “The Catholic Church and the Promotion of International Humanitarian Law” (Via Zoom)



Shuki Friedman

Peres Academic Center Law School

Dr. Shuki Friedman is a member of the Faculty of Law at the Peres Academic Center. He is also the Vice President of the Jewish People Policy Institute. Areas of expertise The relationship of religion and state; processes of religionization; secular-religious-ultra-Orthodox relations; ultra-Orthodox employment; the defense budget; Islamic law; international law; the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement.

Presentation Session 4 – “Judaism and Islam as a Bridge Between People.”



Elisabeth Clark

Associate Director Center for Law and Religious Studies, BYU.

Professor Clark is an expert on religious freedom in Eastern Europe and comparative law and religion. She has written over 40 chapters and articles and edited several books on comparative and U.S. law and religion issues and religion in post-Communist Europe, including co-editing Religion during the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict.

Presentation – Session 4 “Human Dignity, Religious Difference, and Building a Culture of Peace.”



Eyal Katvan

Peres Academic Center Law School

Prof. Eyal Katvan is a Jurist, Ethicist, Bioethicist and Legal and Medical Historian. He is an Associate Professor at Peres Academic Center, and head of the Institute for the study of the professions.

Moderator – Session 5 “



Cole Durham

Susa Young Gates University Professor of Law, BYU;
President, G20 Interfaith Forum (IF20)

Prof. Cole Durham, Jr. is the Founding Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Brigham Young University. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, where he was a Note Editor of the Harvard Law Review and Managing Editor of the Harvard International Law Journal.

Keynote Session 5 – “Dignity, Freedom of Religion and the Role of Mutual Understanding in Stabilizing Peace.”



Father Canon Samuel Fanus

Anglican priest in the Diocese of Jerusalem (ret.)

The Rev. Canon Samuel Fanous served from 1986 up to his retirement in 2021. Before priesthood worked at Neve Shalom as a counselor between Jews and Arabs high scholars. From 1986 till today involved in interfaith groups in In Israel. Participated in many panels in Israel and abroad.

[Session 5 - Panel: Interreligious Solidarity](#)



Ghassan Manasra

The International Director of Abrahamic Reunion.

Sheikh Ghassan Manasra is the International Director of the Abrahamic Reunion directing all programs in the Holy Land and internationally. Sheikh Ghassan Manasra was one of the Abrahamic Reunion's Co-Coordiators in the Holy Land until moving to the US in 2015, and has been an active contributing Peacemaker with the AR for more than a decade. He is an ordained Sheikh in the Qadiri Sufi Order in the Holy Land, and son of Sheikh Abdel Salaam Manasra – head of the Qadiri Sufi Order in the Holy Land. He is the founder of Anwar-Il-Salaam, the Lights of Peace Center in Nazareth, and is Director, Islamic Cultural Center in Nazareth. Ghassan is an expert and lectures in Islam, Islamic history, Sufism, and contemporary Muslim issues in the Middle East, Europe, and the USA.

[Session 5 - Panel: Interreligious Solidarity](#)



Rabbi Yaakov Nagan

Director of the Blickle Institute for Interfaith Dialogue and the Beit Midrash for Judaism and Humanity

Israeli Rabbi and author. He teaches at Yeshivat Otniel and has written extensively about Jewish philosophy and Talmud. He is a leader in interfaith peace initiatives between Judaism and Islam and in encounters between Judaism and Eastern religions.

[Session 5 - Panel: Interreligious Solidarity](#)



Eliezer RIVLIN

Deputy-President of the Supreme Court of Israel (ret.) and President of the IOJT (The international Organization for Judicial Training)

Prof. Eliezer Rivlin Israeli jurist who served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Israel. Since 2006 until his retirement he was the deputy-president of the Supreme Court of Israel and was chairman of the Central Elections Committee for the 2009 Legislative elections.

[Keynote Session 6](#)



Yaara SHAPIRA

Tel Aviv University, Political Correspondent of Israeli Television,

Yaara Shapira is an Israeli journalist, from the Tel Aviv University. She is Parliamentary correspondent at KAN news

Session 6 – Presentation "The Prospect of Inter-Religious Political Alliance in Israel"



Benjamin Ish-Shalom

President, Beit Morasha

Prof. Benjamin Ish-Shalom is a researcher, a scholar, and a writer, founder and president of Beit Morasha. He is the founding Chairman of "NATIV – the National Center for Identity and Conversion." He is among the world's prominent leaders of modern Judaism.

Session 6 – Presentation "The Idea of the Holy: An "Overturns Sword" or The Foundation of Human Morality "

Tchiya FROMAN

Ph.D. candidate, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Dr. Tchiya Froman Ph.D in Jewish Philosophy, Ben Gurion University of the Negev. the Israel Democracy Institute, Jerusalem, Israel. Fellow, Human Rights and Judaism program for Israel's brightest Ph.D. candidates in the humanities and social sciences.

Session 6 – Presentation "Monotheism as a Political Act: A Study of the Theological Infrastructure of Rabbi Menachem Froman's Political Activism."



Gideon Elazar

Researcher, Ariel University, Bar Ilan University

Dr. Gideon Elazar is an anthropologist specializing in China. He teaches at the Sociology and Anthropology Department, Ariel University. Researcher, The Authority of Research and Development, Ariel University.

He holds a Ph.D. in Chinese Studies at, Asian Studies Department, Haifa University. Thesis title: "Reborn in the Chinese Borderland: Missionaries, Ethnicity and State Control in Globalized Yunnan".

Presentation Session 6 – "The Fingers of the Extended Hand: Rabbi Menachem Fruman and his Struggle for Peace"

Shimon Shetreet

Greenblatt Chair of Public and International Law
Faculty of Law Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Prof. Shimon Shetreet, Professor of Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Emeritus), past president of the Sacher Institute of Legislative Research and Comparative Law . Member , Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences, Belgium. President, International Association of Judicial Independence and World Peace .Published 27 books and over 130 articles by leading Publishers including Oxford Brill Nijhoff, Degruyter and Sacher Nevo.Held high public offices: Member of the Knesset , Cabinet Minister , Senior Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem .

"Session 7 - Keynote: "The Development of the Protection of Religious Liberty and Human Rights in the European Union"

Audrey E. Kitagawa, JD

President/Founder of the International Academy for
Multicultural Cooperation



Ms. Kitawa is President of the Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family, and the former Advisor to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict at the United Nations. She is the Chair of the Anti-Racism Initiative, and Co-Chair of the Gender Equality Working Group of the G20 Interfaith Forum. She is a United Nations Representative for the United Religions Initiative, an Ambassador of Religions for Peace International, and Chair Emerita of the NGO Committee of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, NY.

Session 7 - Presentation: "Creating the Tipping Point for Global Peace: Collaboration and Cooperation Among Religions."

Jagmeet Bawa

Head, Department of Political Science, Central University of
Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala (HP). And Mr. Ashish



Prof. Jagmeet Bawa specialises in the Indian political system and political ethics. He is the author of more than 30 research articles and more than 10 chapters in books or conference proceedings.

Presentation Session 8 - "Taliban Upsurge in Afghanistan: Consequences for Tajikistan."



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PROGRAM

MONDAY 23 MAY, 2022

Venue: Peres Academic Center, 10 Shimon Peres St., Rehoboth

Opening Session

18:00 pm

Moderator: Prof. Asher MAOZ, Founding Dean Peres Academic Center Law School; Head, Committee on Int'l Academic Relations.

Greetings:

Prof. Ron SHAPIRA, Rector Peres Academic Center,

Dr. Ganoune DIOP, Secretary-General International Religion Liberty Association (IRLA).

Keynote:

The Honorable Rabbi David LAU, The Chief Rabbi of Israel

AIDLR Conscience & Liberty Award ¹

19:00 pm

H.E. Adama DIENG, United Nations Internal Justice Council and Special Adviser to the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, President of the Honorary Committee of the AIDLR.

Mr. Paulo MACEDO, Secretary-General of the International Association for the Defense of Religious Liberty (AIDLR)

Dinner/Reception

TUESDAY 24 MAY, 2022

Venue: Peres Academic Center, 10 Shimon Peres St., Rehoboth

Session 2

9 – 10:30 pm

Moderator: Dr. Hemda GUR-ARIE, Head of Law Department, Peres Academic Center Law School.

Keynote:

Dr. Ganoune DIOP

“Justice and Righteousness, Common Core Values Among World Religions and Pathway for Human Solidarity and Peace.”

¹ The award recognizes efforts made by individuals or organizations that have played or are playing a particular role in promoting dignity and respect, peaceful coexistence, human rights and religious freedom for all people, preventing violence and atrocity crimes and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies



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Presentations:

Dr. Adiel ZIMRAN, Peres Academic Center Law School and Hebrew University.

"The Contribution of Theology to the Value of 'Human Dignity' "

Prof. Pasquale ANNICCHINO, University of Foggia.

"Religions and human solidarity in the tragedy of "Throwaway Culture"

DISCUSSION

Refreshments Break: 10:30 am 10:45

Session 3
10:45-12

Moderator: Dr. Galya HILDSHEIMER, Peres Academic Center Law School

Keynote:

H.E. Prof. James CHRISTIE, Ambassador Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF)

"Waking to God's Dream"

Presentations:

Prof. Shira WOLOSKY, Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Shalem College.

"The Awe of the Other: Emmanuel Levinas's Discourse Ethics."

Dr. Omer ALONI, Peres Academic Center Law School & Zefat Academic College Law School.

"Beyond Orient and Occident: Early Israeli Law and the Dilemma of Bigamy and Polygamy among Eastern Communities"

Lunch 12 pm to 1:30 pm

Session 4
1:30 - 3pm

Moderator: Dr. Shaul SHARFF, Peres Academic Center Law School.

Keynote:

Prof. Asher MAOZ.

"Religions, Human Solidarity and Global Peace: A Judaic Approach."

Presentations:

Prof Adelaide MADERA, Department of Law University of Messina, Italy.

"The Catholic Church and the Promotion of International Humanitarian Law" (Via Zoom)



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Dr. Shuki FRIEDMAN, Peres Academic Center Law School.

“Judaism and Islam as a Bridge Between People.”

Prof. Elizabeth CLARK, Associate Director Center for Law and Religious Studies, BYU.

“Human Dignity, Religious Difference, and Building a Culture of Peace.”

DISCUSSION

3 - 3:15 pm Refreshments Break

Session 5

3:15 - 5 pm

Moderator: Prof. Eyal KATVAN, Peres Academic Center Law School

Keynote: Prof. Cole DURHAM, Susa Young Gates University Professor of Law, BYU; President, G20 Interfaith Forum (IF20)

“Dignity, Freedom of Religion and the Role of Mutual Understanding in Stabilizing Peace.”

PANEL: Interreligious Solidarity

Moderator: Prof. Benjamin ISH-SHALOM, President, Beit Morasha

Panelists:

Father Canon Samuel FANUS, Anglican priest in the Diocese of Jerusalem (ret.)

Ghassan MANASRA, The International Director of the Abrahamic Reunion.

Rabbi Yaakov NAGAN, Director of the Blickle Institute for Interfaith Dialogue and the Beit Midrash for Judaism and Humanity

DISCUSSION

WEDNESDAY 25 MAY, 2022

Venue: The Maersdorf Faculty Club, Conference Center Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus Campus, Jerusalem

Session 6

9am-10:45am

Greetings & Moderator: Prof. Shimon SHETREET, Greenblatt Chair of Public and International Law Faculty of Law Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Keynote: Prof. Justice Eliezer RIVLIN, Deputy-President of the Supreme Court of Israel (ret.) and President of the IOJT (The international Organization for Judicial Training)



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Presentations:

Ms. Yaara SHAPIRA, Tel Aviv University, Political Correspondent of Israeli Television,

"The Prospect of Inter-Religious Political Alliance in Israel"

Prof. Benjamin ISH-SHALOM

"The Idea of the Holy: An "Overturns Sword" or The Foundation of Human Morality "

Tchiya FROMAN, Ph.D. candidate, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

"Monotheism as a Political Act: A Study of the Theological Infrastructure of Rabbi Menachem Froman's Political Activism."

Dr. Gideon ELAZAR, Ariel University.

"The Fingers of the Extended Hand: Rabbi Menachem Froman and his Struggle for Peace"

DISCUSSION

Refreshments Break 10:45 to 11 am

Session 7

11 -12:00 pm

Moderator: H.E. Prof. James CHRISTIE, Ambassador Canadian Multifaith Federation

Keynote: Prof. Shimon SHETREET.

"The Development of the Protection of Religious liberty and Human Rights in the European Union"

Presentation:

Ms. Audrey KITAGAWA, President, International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation,

"Creating the Tipping Point for Global Peace: Collaboration and Cooperation Among Religions."

DISCUSSION

Lunch 12 pm to 1:30 pm

Session 8

1:30 to 2:30 pm

Moderator: Prof. Elizabeth CLARK, Associate Director of the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University



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Presentations:

Mr. Paulo MACEDO.

“Religion and Speech: free speech and speech limits in the public sphere. The influence of speech in peace building vs the effect of limitation of speech on religious rights”

Prof. JAGMEET BAWA. Head, Department of Political Science, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala (HP). And Mr. Ashish

“Taliban Upsurge in Afghanistan: Consequences for Tajikistan.”

DISCUSSION

CONCLUDING REMARKS

2:30 pm

**Prof. Asher MAOZ
Mr. Paulo MACEDO
Dr. Ganoune DIOP**

Contact Information

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Wishing you a fruitful and enriching conference



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