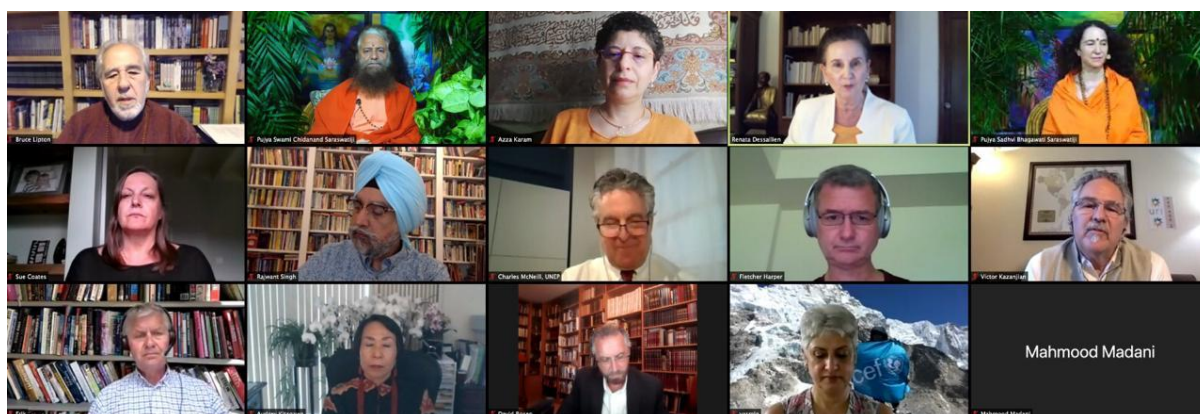


SPECIAL WEBINARS DURING LOCKDOWN & COVID-19

APRIL TO OCTOBER, 2020



SPECIAL WEBINAR LIST BELOW (More Details Below):

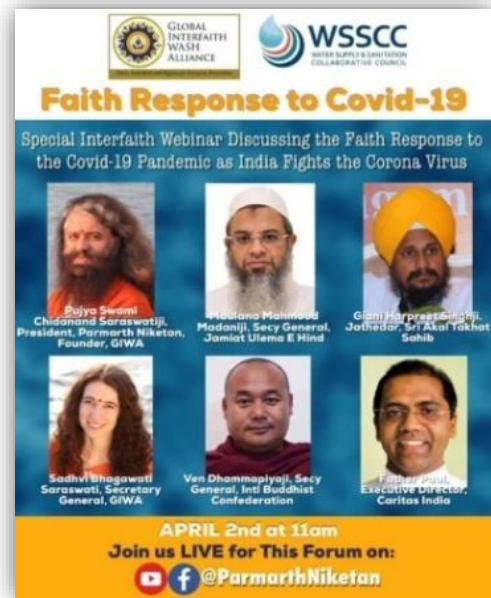
1. 2nd April, 2020: Interfaith-response-to-COVID-19 Webinar
2. 22nd April, 2020: High Level Earth Day 2020 Webinar
3. 7th May, 2020: Response to COVID-19 by African Leaders
4. 28th May 2020: Menstrual Hygiene Day Webinar
5. 5th June, 2020: Environment Day Webinar
6. 6th June, 2020: Interaction with the Positive Project's Charu Pragya
7. 22nd September, 2020: Leave No One Behind Webinar
8. 15th October, 2020: Handwashing Day Webinar
9. 2nd December, 2020: National Consultation on Menstrual Health and Hygiene

1. Interfaith-response-to-COVID-19 – on the 2nd April, 2020

In the midst of first phase of lockdown, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) invited eminent faith leaders of the Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh and Buddhist community who came together for a beautiful historic webinar on the "INTERFAITH RESPONSE TO COVID-19" hosted by the GIWA in collaboration with Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and with the technical support of UNICEF India on how Faith Leaders and Faith Based Organisations are responding, serving and working together in light of the Corona Virus pandemic.

The online panel was graced with the Divine presence of:

- Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji - President, Parmarth Niketan; Founder/Chair, GIWA
- Maulana Mahmood Madaniji - Secretary General, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind
- Dr Rajwant Singhji - President Founder, Eco-Sikh (Representing Jathedar Sri Akal Takhat Sahib)
- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji – Sec. General, GIWA, President, Divine Shakti Foundation
- Ven Dhammapiyaji – Sec. General, International Buddhist Confederation
- Father Paul - Executive Director, Caritas India
- Vinod Mishra, WSSCC India Coordinator
- Moderated by Ganga Nandini, Director of Project Implementation, Communication, GIWA



Faith Leaders urged followers and communities across to stay at home, follow complete lockdown norms. A clarion call to support frontline workers and to donate 3,000-5,000 PPE Protective Suites to healthcare workers by Maulana Mahmood Madaniji and Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji was made. There was also an appeal from all faith leaders to buy and send gifts through the appropriate medical hospitals and channels to nurses and doctors working day and night in the fight against Covid 19. Faith leaders appealed to services for the vulnerable, poor and migrant population is the greatest worship. Maulana Mahmood Madaniji appealed to adopt and care for such needy families around us is a beautiful way we can connect with God and serve humanity which at this time is the greatest form of worship.

(Link to the session -> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XD2uWBdk8Ds&feature=youtu.be>)
Click at the LINK for more information <https://washalliance.org/interfaith-response-to-covid-19/>



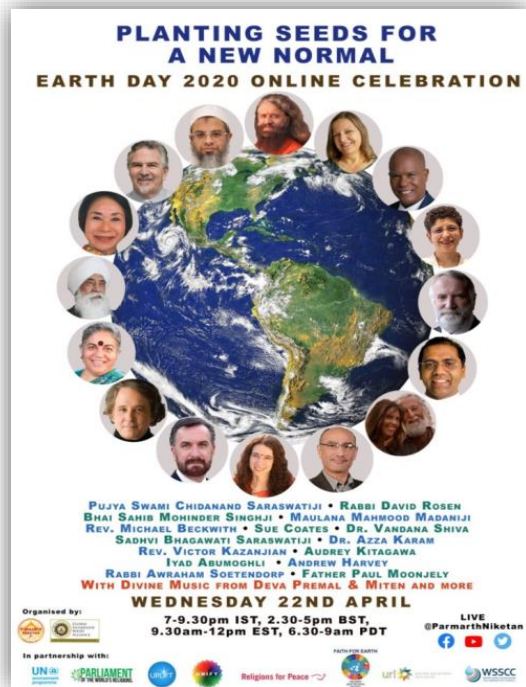
A very Special High-Level Interfaith Panel was organized online by the GIWA in collaboration with the WSSCC, a United Nations Member Agency entitled "Faith Response to Covid-19" discussing how Faith Leaders and Faith Based Organizations are responding, serving and working together in the fight against the Corona Virus. It was discussed that the

lessons we can take from the Pandemic situation and what we can do to develop a harmony and saving people including health-workers.

These messages were later cut and edited into shorter clips for our social media platforms:



2. High Level Earth Day 2020 – 22nd April, 2020



On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, Parmarth Niketan and the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance brought together Faith Leaders, the United Nations and Leading Faith Based Organizations from all over the world to unite with one vision of how humanity can move forward from this COVID-19 crisis into a period of healing and harmony with ourselves and Mother Nature.

The theme of the event was “Planting Seeds for a New Normal.” What seeds of love, unity and oneness do we need to be planting and nourishing during this time for the garden of the ‘new normal’ to grow? How can we create a world where both the Earth and humanity can be healthy? How are we going to co-create a new way of living?

This webinar was organized in partnership with UN Environment Program (UNEP), WSSCC, and Religions for Peace International, Parliament of the World’s Religions, United Religions Initiative and Faith for Earth, as well as Unify and Uplift Connect.

Click at the LINK below for more detailed coverage and report:
<https://washalliance.org/earth-day-2020-planting-seeds-for-a-new-normal/>

3. Response to COVID-19 by African Leaders – 7th May, 2020



Eminent Muslim leaders of Africa and India along with heads of international interfaith organizations came together on 7th of May 2020, in unity and oneness to discuss the important role of Faith Leaders at this time, especially during Ramadan, in urging communities to stay safe, well and uplifted. Faith can keep us both spiritually grounded and physically safe if we are living consciously but also conscientiously following guidelines and rules.

Hosted by GIWA, with technical support from UNICEF Tanzania, UNICEF Africa, and in partnership with United Religions Initiative and

Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) moderated by Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Secretary General of GIWA and President of Divine Shakti Foundation.

Click at the LINK below for more detailed coverage and report:
<https://washalliance.org/africas-faith-leadership-in-times-of-crisis-ramadan-response-to-covid-19/>

4. Menstrual Hygiene Day - 28th May, 2020



Secretary-General of Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati Ji, joined as special delegate in a special webinar on Menstrual Hygiene Day hosted by Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), Global Interfaith WASH Alliance & Parmarth Niketan to share about how #MenstruationMatters,

periods don't stop in pandemics, and that #ItsTimeForAction!

Delegates on the Panel:

5. Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati Ji, Secy General, GIWA
6. Shri Yugal Joshiji, Director, DDWS, Ministry of Jal Shakti
7. Dr. Pratibha Singh, UNICEF India
8. Ms. Gurkirrat Sachdeva, YouthkiAwaz
9. Ms. Satviki Verma, Aga Khan Foundation
10. Ms. Arundati Muralidharan, WaterAid India
11. Ms. Geetha Jegan, Gramalaya
12. Mr. Vinod Mishra, Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) India Head
13. Ms. Trupti Ashtankar, WSSCC ISU
14. Ms. Shobhana Boyle, UNFPA India

As well as Representative from UN Women, Representatives from Government & Voices from the community.

***Celebrating Menstrual Hygiene Day!** In celebrating #MenstrualHygieneDay 2020, let us join hands to honor, celebrate and empower our women & girls, and encourage them to embrace the divine life-giving force within them, which in turn frees our communities of the dangerous #taboos and #stigmas around #menstruation which negatively impact girls around the world. #MenstrualHealth is such an important topic that we have to make sure everyone understands. #MenstruationMatters and #ItsTimeForAction! We must #BreakTheSilence together. Let us unite in support, respect and celebration of the natural sacred life-giving force of our women!*

Global Interfaith WASH Alliance Parmarth Niketan UNICEF UNICEF India UNFPA UNFPA India Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)

A campaign video was premiered and launched by Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati Ji to endorse the theme of Menstrual Health and Hygiene.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=180284213344168&extid=Fa8Qro81cMNTVRZi>

Video Message was shared by GIWA by PADMASHRI Kailash Kherji Spiritual Speaker, Singer, Lyricist and Music Composer to raise awareness on Menstrual Health and Hygiene education, "You are your Teacher, You are your Learner". He said, "You have to improve your Body, your Mind, your Soul, by Yourself." Watch this video to hear what he has to say. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=780470769423523>.

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance wishes him on his Birthday and expresses great gratitude for supporting this important and vital cause.

Radio Orange MHM Radio Series by Pujya Swamiji & Sadhvi Bhagawatiji was done that then shared across our Social Media Platforms: The series spoke about how Faith must come forward to break the silence around menstruation and also shared about the work being done on this issue. The series of interviews also spoke about the MHM lab in Rishikesh as a safe space to provide education & raise awareness for women and girls regarding the stigma & taboo associated with menstruation. Watch Pujya Swamiji share the details about the MHM lab in an interview conducted by Radio Orange. (<https://www.facebook.com/washalliance/posts/340773130262514>)

Click at the LINK below for more detailed coverage and report:
<https://washalliance.org/menstrual-health-and-hygiene-during-covid-19/>

5. Environment Day – 5th June, 2020

On the occasion of World Environment Day, a historic summit was organized by GIWA and Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh. The event was held in an esteemed partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNICEF, WSSCC, United Religions Initiative, Parliament of World Religions, Shift Network, Uplift, Interfaith Rainforest Initiative. In celebration of the United Nations Environment Day theme of this year,

'Biodiversity', this inspiring webinar was entitled 'Moving from United Nations to a United Creation: Bridging Science & Faith is the Solution'.

**UNITED NATIONS TO A UNITED CREATION:
BRIDGING SCIENCE & FAITH IS THE SOLUTION**
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: CELEBRATING BIODIVERSITY



PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATJI * RABBI DAVID ROSEN * MAULANA MAHMOOD MADANIJI
RENATA LOK-DESSALLEN * DR. YASMIN ALI HAQUE * SUE COATES * SADHVI BHAGAWATI SARASWATJI
REV. VICTOR KAZANJIAN * DR. AZZA KARAM * AUDREY KITAGAWA * ERIK SOLHEIM
DR. BRUCE LIPTON * DR. SUNITA NARAIN * DR. CHARLES MCNEILL * REV. FLETCHER HARPER
DR. RAJWANT SINGH * DR. SATISH KUMAR * WITH SACRED MUSIC BY DEVA PREMAL & MITEN

FRIDAY 5TH JUNE 2020
6.30 - 8.30PM IST | 3 - 5PM CET | 2 - 4 PM BST | 9 - 11AM EST | 6 - 8AM PT

uri shift parliament of world religions UN WSSCC unicef Religions for Peace

In this spirit, the webinar illustrated multilateral commitment and consensus of the worlds Interfaith Religious Leaders, intergovernmental organizations and scientists to call for humanity to protect Mother Earth's biodiversity and natural ecological systems. The eminent panelists and luminaries joined their voices, their hands and their hearts in solidarity giving direction and shedding light on as the world recovers from the Corona virus, we can keep Mother Earth healthy, while reinvigorating depressed economies and staying healthy ourselves.

Click at the LINK below for more detailed coverage and report:
<https://washalliance.org/world-environment-day-2020-webinar-united-nations-to-a-united-creation/>

6. Interaction with the Positive Project's Charu Pragya – 6th June, 2020:

Pujya Sadhvi Bhagawatiji was interviewed By Charu Pragya Of The Positive Project On The Topic Of "Strength Of A Woman" - emphasis on women's health and MHM. Sadhvi shares beautiful words of wisdom as she discusses her journey from Stanford to Sanyas, from Hollywood to Holy Woods. Sadhvi and Charu also discuss the true empowerment of women, women's health & education in India, menstrual hygiene, sustainability, the efforts to protect Maa Ganga, vegetarianism, veganism, protecting Gau Mata and more. The powerful and engaging session closed with an inspiring message for the youth of India! This session was then edited after the livestream and these messages on MHM were later shared across our platforms to raise awareness and education around MHM.



(Watch the interview: https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=259130078482903&ref=watch_permalink)

7. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND WEBINAR – 22 September, 2020:



A historic webinar was held at the time of the United Nations General Assembly highlighting the success of the Leave No One Behind program in India, particularly around Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. The webinar was organized specifically to share lessons learned during High Level Consultations, organised in December at Parmarth Niketan, Rishikesh, by Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and Water Supply Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) in association with the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, United Nations in India, Niti Aayog, and others regarding

the achievement of SDG6 (water, sanitation and hygiene) for 14 vulnerable and marginalized population groups during India's Voluntary National Review.

This inspiring webinar, highlighting the lessons learned in the High-Level Consultations, was graced by the Hon'ble Minister of Jai Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawatji, and featured a panel of esteemed leaders including:

- **HH Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji**, Co-Founder and Chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA), President, Parmarth Niketan,
- **Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallian**, UN Resident Coordinator for India;
- **Ms. Sue Coates**, Deputy Executive Director, the Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC);
- **Pujya Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji**, Secretary-General of GIWA,
- **Shri U P Singhji**, Secretary of the Department of Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jai Shakti, Government of India and others.

Click at the LINK below for more detailed coverage and report:
<https://www.facebook.com/notes/global-interfaith-wash-alliance/leaving-no-one-behind-webinar/10157847418653693>

8. Global Handwashing Day Webinar – 15 October, 2020:



GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY WEBINAR
"Joining Hands to reach the last mile on handwashing"
Date 15th october'2020 ,Time: 11:30 am-13:30pm

The banner features 14 circular portraits of participants arranged in two rows. The top row includes HH Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallian, Ms. Sue Coates, Pujya Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, and Shri U P Singhji. The bottom row includes other participants. Below the portraits, the text 'Organized by' is followed by logos for WSSCC, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, and Global Handwashing Day. To the right, 'Joined By' is followed by logos for UNICEF, World Health Organization, UNFPA, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Forty percent of the world's population does not have access to a basic hand-washing facilities. It has been seen, now more than ever during this Covi-19 pandemic, that basic Hand Hygiene is one of the most cost-effective and efficient interventions for the prevention of infectious diseases. Today's Global Handwashing Day webinar was a humble contribution in not only spreading that message on the importance of handwashing with soap but also the need for concerted action to address the critical gaps in ensuring this simple yet powerful sanitation behaviour is practiced by all!

In this spirit, the Water Supply Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) & Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) organised this webinar bringing together the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF India, UNFPA India, United Nations Volunteers and heads of interfaith leaders of the five major faith traditions – Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain & Sikh.

This special webinar on Global Handwashing Day included speakers:

- Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhanji
- Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati Ji, Founder/Chair, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, President, Parmarth Niketan (Rishikesh)
- Dr Saumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist of the World Health Organisation in Geneva
- Dr Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF Country Representative for India
- Ms. Argentina Matavel Piccin, Representative, United Nations Population Fund, India, Director, UNFPA, Bhutan
- Pujya Sadvi Bhagawati Saraswatiiji, Secretary-General of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance
- Arun Sahdeo, Country Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers in India
- Vinod Mishra, WSSCC India Head
- Father Paul Moonjely, Executive Director, Caritas India
- Haji Syed Salman Chisthy, the Gaddi Nashin of Dargah Ajmer Sharif
- Sadhvi Shilapiji, Veeryatan Institute, Kutch
- Sardar Paramjit Singh Chandhok, Chairman, Delhi Gurudwara Bangla Saheb
- Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena, MIMC, Ladakh

Click at the LINK below for more detailed coverage and report:
<https://washalliance.org/global-handwashing-day-webinar/>

9. National Consultation for Menstrual Health & Hygiene – 2nd December, 2020:

NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON MENSTRUAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE (MHH)
 2nd December, 2020
 WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL, "NISHANK JI" HON'BLE UNION EDUCATION
 PUJYA SWAMI CHIDANAND SARASWATIJI PRESIDENT, PARMARTH NIKETAN

BRINGING TOGETHER POLICYMAKERS, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND FRONTLINE WORKERS

SADVI BHAGAWATI SARASWATIJI SECY GEN, GIWA	VINOD MISHRA INDIAA COORDINATOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, WSSCC	DR. ZOYA RIZVI DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MOHFW	YUGAL JOSHI DIRECTOR, MoS-DWSD	HARISH KUMAR MEENA, ASST. PROFESSOR, NCERT EDUCATION MINISTRY	DR. JATASHANKAR DIRECTOR, JHARKHAND EDUCATION DEPT.	GANGA NANDINI DIRECTOR, GIWA	TRUPTI ASHTANKAR WASH SUPPORT OFFICER, WSSCC
DR. LAXMI MURTHY JATAN SANSTHAN	DR. PRATIBHA SINGH UNICEF	DR. ARUNDATI MURALIDHARAN WATER AID	ABHIJIT BANERJI FINISH SOCIETY	SATVIKI VERMA AGA KHAN FOUNDATION			

Logos: WSSCC, UNICEF, GIWA

In the midst of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, which has strained the resources and the resolve of hundreds of millions around the world, the important work of sanitation and hygiene takes on an even greater importance - something that the dedicated members of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance and the Water Supply Sanitation Collaborative Council are all too aware of. Coming together for women and girl's empowerment, they have partnered together to break the silence around and work together towards Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH).

Despite the strides made and the traction gained in MHH in the recent past, ensuring availability of safe and hygienic menstrual absorbents, improving access to Menstrual hygiene friendly facilities at homes and institutions and creating a taboo free environment where Menstruation is discussed openly and families and communities are supportive is still a long-way from being the norm. In India, Menstruation still continues to be a disabler for most girls and women, with 23 million girls dropping out of school once they start menstruating and a large proportion of women still opting for unsafe and unhygienic options for managing menstruation.

Because of this, today's important Consultation - brought together some of the key stakeholders in the field. It's an effort to provide an impetus to and sustain the momentum generated so far, while also being an attempt to rekindle the conversations around MHH that have not only become even more relevant in the current pandemic times, but which have also been negatively impacted due to the natural diversion of resources and attention to the global emergency. Most importantly, it brought together policymakers, NGOs, thought leaders, activists and field-level change agents who have been relentlessly contributing to the agenda of breaking the taboo around menstruation and have been pushing the agenda of improved access to MHH supplies, sanitation facilities and services in India. And, significantly, the workshop united the different Ministries working on MHH - including representatives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Women and Child, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment - on one platform to discuss the intersectoral collaboration and the way forward.

Pujya Swamiji, Co-Founder and Chair of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance, shared "Devi Swasth toh Desh Swasth. When the Divine Feminine is healthy, the nation is healthy. Menstrual health and hygiene are not a concern only for women and girls but for all of our society. Menstrual hygiene management is life management. We need to break the social taboo surrounding menstruation, and there's a two-pronged way to do so: Education. Awareness. Let us create MHH Lab and MHH Friendly toilets in all schools and public locations. If we work together, I know the message will reach everyone. Let us pledge today to break the silence and eradicate the stigma and taboo around menstruation. Let us create the 4A Program - Acceptability, Availability, Affordability and Accessibility to improve MHH in our country."

India Coordinator of WSSCC Shri Vinod Mishraji added, "Menstrual Health and Hygiene does not only relate to women and girls. It relates to the reproductive system of the human being, so if you think of the health and hygiene of menstruation, you're actually thinking about the health and hygiene of human beings. Human health can only be assured if you ensure menstrual health and hygiene. Once we achieve that, we can achieve the goal of sanitation for the entire country. To do that, we must break the silence around Menstrual Health. We must ensure proper facilities for proper Menstrual Health

and Hygiene, and we must guarantee safe disposal of the Menstrual products. Then, we can ensure proper health for all.”

Pujya Sadhvi Bhagawatiji meanwhile shared, “We should not make it sound like Menstruation is an illness. It's not a problem. We need to stop calling it my ‘monthly problem,’ or ‘monthly illness.’ It is a monthly, beautiful opportunity to remember that the Divine has put the power of Creation into the bodies of women. That's why we menstruate. There can only be creation where there is menstruation! So, the time of menstruation is actually a time to feel inspired and uplifted, a time we should remember to be up, not down. When we speak about Menstrual Health we have to be clear that it's about ensuring that this core, beautiful aspect of women's lives that intersects every other aspect of their lives is filled with both physical and emotional health, with empowerment and upliftment.”

More consultations and dialogue are planned in the future to continue the momentum provided by today's gathering and to galvanize these different stakeholders for improving MHH.

WATCH the LIVESTREAM:

<https://www.facebook.com/ParmarthNiketan/videos/433653740972063>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqh4oBxmaNc>

This special webinar speakers include:

- HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati ji, *Co-Founder/Chair, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA)*
- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati ji, *Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) (Moderator)*
- Shri Vinod Mishra, *WSSCC India Coordinator (Moderator)*
- Dr. Zoya Rizvi, *DC (Adolescent Health), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare*
- Mr Yugal Joshi, *Director, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation*
- Mr. Harish Kumar Meena, *NCERT, Ministry of Education*
- Dr. Jatashankar Choudhary, *Director, Secondary Education, Jharkhand*
- Ms. Trupti Ashtankar, *WSSCC (Moderator)*
- Dr. Pratibha Singh, *UNICEF*
- Dr. Laxmi Murthy, *Jatan Sansthan*
- Dr. Arundhati Muralidharan, *Water Aid*
- Mr. Abhijt, *FINISH Society*
- Ms. Satviki Verma, *Aga Khan Foundation*
- Ms. Ganga Nandini, *GIWA (Moderator)*
- Smt Pratibha D Mello, *WSSCC MHH trainer*
- Shri Dinesh Pandey, *WSSCC MHH trainer*
- Shri Zia Ul Haque, *WSSCC MHH trainer*
- Smt. Poonam Kumari, *Teacher, Jharkhand*
- Shri Chandan Kumar, *Teacher Jharkhand*
- Smt. Akhileshji, *ASHA, Uttar Pradesh*