

# Appeal of Conscience Foundation Launches 'Respect the Other' Initiative

Dr. Noubar Afeyan, Co-Founder, Moderna & Founder & CEO of Flagship Pioneering Receives Appeal of Conscience Award

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an interfaith organization dedicated to religious freedom and human rights, launched its Respect the Other initiative and presented the 2020 Appeal of Conscience Award to Dr. Noubar Afeyan, Co-Founder of Moderna and Founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering at the Appeal of Conscience Foundation 55th Anniversary Celebration (virtual) on September 24 who was recognized for "his innovative vision in building life science and technology solutions and for his leadership helping to heal a world wounded by the COVID-19 pandemic." - said Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Founder and President of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

"I am profoundly honored to accept this award from an organization that has been such a fierce champion for human rights," said Dr. Noubar Afeyan. "I cannot imagine a more important time for the Appeal of Conscience Foundation to launch a campaign centered on the idea of Respecting the Other, nor a more urgent message for the historical moment we are in. Scientists are not new to this idea; in fact, science depends on it. We must continue to work together across industry and with partners like the Foundation to rebuild a shared social contract based on tolerance, empathy, and most importantly, respect."

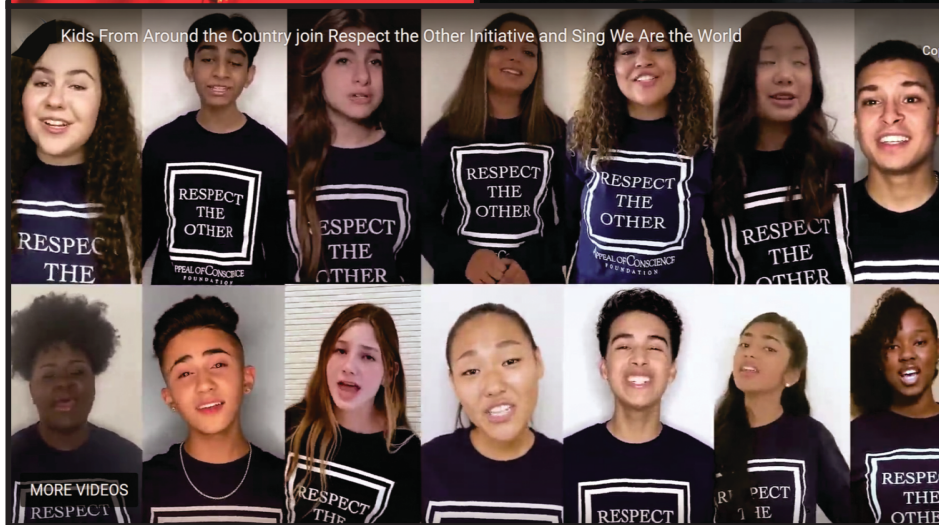
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## RESPECT THE OTHER INITIATIVE

"During these extraordinary times of divided humanity with an increase in anti-Semitism and Xenophobia, our interfaith coalition of business and religious leaders unite to advance peaceful co-existence, mutual acceptance and Respect the Other" - stated Rabbi Arthur Schneier. For the Jewish community on the eve of Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement, it is a message of Onement with God and humanity.

The Respect the Other program is launched with the support of Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres; Rabbi Arthur Schneier, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York; Archbishop Elpidophoros, Primate, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Pontifical Legate, Armenian Apostolic Church in Western Europe and Representative, Armenian Church to the Holy See; Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America; and Sheikh Musa Drammeh, Founding Chairman, Islamic Cultural Center of North America. With support of leaders of the business community: John Catsimatidis, Chairman, President and CEO, Red Apple Group, Michael L. Corbat, CEO, Citi; Paul J. Fribourg, Chairman and CEO, Continental Grain Company, Alex Gorsky, Chairman and CEO, Johnson & Johnson; Brian Moynihan, Chairman and CEO, Bank of America; Michael Peterson, Chairman and CEO, Peter G. Peterson Foundation; Anthony J. Pratt, CEO, Pratt Industries; Stephen A. Schwarzman, Chairman, CEO and Co-Founder of Blackstone; Chandrika Tandon, Chairman, Tandon Capital Associates, Tandon Family Office and Foundation; and Susan Wojcicki, CEO, YouTube.

"Respect the Other is a public



**Top: Rabbi Arthur Schneier** being interviewed by **Alina Cho**, CBS Sunday Morning contributor. **2nd row: From left: Dr. Noubar Afeyan**, Co-Founder of Moderna and Honoree; Broadway stars **Hugh Panaro** and **Nikki Renee Daniels**. **3rd row: From left: Cardinal Timothy Dolan**, Archbishop of NY gave invocation; **Bishop Daniel Findikyan**, Primate Diocese of Armenian Church of America gave benediction. **4th row: Special "We are the World" performance by children from around the country.** Photos: Youtube & Internet

awareness initiative and educational program of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, designed to counter those in our midst who breed bias, hatred and division, and to teach the next generation to love and not hate." - said Karen Dresbach, Executive Vice President.

Hosted by Alina Cho, CBS Sunday Morning Contributor, the program featured inspiring remarks by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, an awards presentation and musical program featuring Broadway stars: Nikki Renee Daniels and Hugh Panaro. A special performance of "We are the World" by children from around the country was directed by Enrico Carducci, Producer of Circo Massimo.

Ms. Cho conducted a very illuminating interview with Rabbi Schneier going back to his founding the Appeal of Conscience in 1955. Among Schneier's recollections were these: "I tasted oppression, hunger, war, destitution, losing a family at Auschwitz. I've lived through it. Our organizations greatest success is the privilege of working with leaders of all religions to coordinate our efforts. The United Nations accepted us as an NGO and supports our current "Respect the Other" campaign. It is all about live and let live and the philosophy of Ruth, if you don't love yourself you have no ability to love others. Today we've moved away from civility, respect for each other, our teachers, our neighbors - it has not been taught. I was one of three Americans to receive a Papal Knighthood. It was because I affirm the dignity of human life. (In tears, he continued), I value the life of every human being. If this pandemic can teach us anything, it is that we are interdependent. We sink or swim together. I don't like it when people say that I, or my organization preaches tolerance. Saying that I tolerate you indicates that one of us is superior and one inferior. However, when one lives and lets live it means everyone must have the opportunity to advance. If your life is precious, all lives are precious."

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## PREVIOUS HONOREES:

Past recipients of the Appeal of Conscience Award include: Bernard Arnault, Mary Barra, Barbara Bush, Michael Bloomberg, Robert Iger, Muhtar Kent, Coretta Scott King, Christine Lagarde, Brian Moynihan, Virginia Rometty, Stephen A. Schwarzman, Stephen Ross and Paul Volcker.

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## ABOUT THE APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION:

The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, under the leadership of Rabbi Arthur Schneier, has worked worldwide on behalf of religious freedom, human rights, peace co-existence and mutual understanding since 1965. To uphold the principle "live and let live" is the Appeal of Conscience Foundation's continuing goal. An interfaith coalition of business, religious and foreign policy leaders, this international organization promotes mutual understanding, peace and interreligious cooperation and provides a voice of conscience to protect minorities. [www.appealofconscience.org](http://www.appealofconscience.org)