

For immediate release

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**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Institute for Global Leadership Event, October 21, 1-3 p.m. on Zoom**

Honoree and Speaker Dr. Sarah Sayeed, Chair and Executive Director,  
New York City Civic Engagement Commission and  
Member, first municipal Racial Inclusion and Equity Task Force

“Building Trusting Community Relationships”  
Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty to present Key to City to Dr. Sayeed  
Congratulations from Congressman McGovern and Sen. Markey

Worcester, Mass., October 15 -- The Institute for Global Leadership announces the 2021 Life Leadership Service Award Recipient is Dr. Sarah Sayeed. Dr. Sayeed has been dedicated to an inclusive public square for two decades. She will speak and respond on “Building Trusting Community Relationships” after Mayor Joseph Petty awards her the Key to the City of Worcester on October 21 at 1 p.m. Congratulatory notes from Congressman James McGovern and Sen. Edward J. Markey will be announced.

The award honors [Dr. Sarah Sayeed](#) for her significant contribution to the interdisciplinary practice of [Reconciliation Leadership](#), her practice of “[leadership from the inside out](#),” her application of Reconciliation Leadership to build communities and to write papers on Reconciliation Leadership she co-authored for conferences convened by the [Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies](#) at Columbia University,

“As an American Muslim woman,” Dr. Sayeed has said of her life after the events of 9/11, “I experienced myself as a container of the conflict in the world around me. America and Islam were being defined as being at odds, and yet, both make me who I am. I knew that I needed to bring these dimensions of me into harmony, and that I wanted to be a peace-builder.”

She was appointed by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio to be Chair and Executive Director of the [Civic Engagement Commission](#), and be a member of the first American municipal Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity in New York City. Sarah was previously a [Senior Advisor on Muslim Engagement](#) in the Mayor’s Office. Her public service extends from years of grassroots experience with the Interfaith Center of New York and Women in Islam, Inc.

Dr. Sayeed is a graduate of Princeton University and the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Sayeed holds a [certificate in Reconciliation Leadership](#) from [The Institute for Global Leadership](#).

The event will also mark the launch of a new coalition to build trusting communities in Worcester, America and around the world, incorporating [Restoring Faith in American Leadership](#) next online first Monday monthly meeting planned for November 1, 2021: Learn more at [VirginiaSwain.com/upcoming-events](#).

Tickets and more information may be found [here](#). The prices range from free to \$35.00, depending on participants’ means. The Zoom link will be emailed to all participants the day before the event.

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**The Institute for Global Leadership** (IGL) ([www.global-leader.org](http://www.global-leader.org)) began in the months following September 11, 2001, when Virginia Swain was in New York City and the United Nations. The IGL trains Reconciliation

Leaders, practical idealists for community, spiritual and faith traditions from all career paths, cultures, disciplines, and age groups. They are ready to gain leadership, trust building and conflict transformation skills based on mission-focused service combined with an academic curriculum. The program was developed and implemented at the United Nations over 30 years and is now offered to restore faith in leadership and in America. Virginia has professional experience on five continents.

**The mission of IGL is to** provide confidential, compassionate, and skilled guidance, consultation, and training to help leaders and teams through change, challenges, and crises. We recognize all human beings, institutions, nations, and multi-lateral entities for their uniqueness, need and capacity for transformation. Our actions are:

- Training Reconciliation Leaders through a basic and advanced certificate program for competency at four levels: personal, interpersonal, systemic and global. Reconciliation Leaders facilitate positive change in local, national and global challenges through the Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation. They are taught to develop the will of the people through Rousseau’s definition of political action (Master’s Thesis, Lesley University 1993).
- Utilizing the Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service and the Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to Develop Political Will, Reconciliation Leaders offer a resource for UN Charter Chapter VI, pacific resolution of disputes (nonviolent approaches), for conflict at all levels of society.
- Joining A Spiritual Renaissance to Restore Faith in Leadership based on historian Arnold Toynbee’s study of why civilizations fail.
- Holding first Monday monthly America’s Soul Community to restore faith in American leadership online events from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- Reading Virginia Swain’s blog.
- Reading Virginia Swain’s books, *A Mantle of Roses: A Woman’s Journey Home to Peace* (Xlibris 2004) and *My Soul’s Journey to Redefine Leadership: A New Phoenix Rises from the Ashes of 9/11* (Xlibris 2016).. The books are a chronicle of the spiritual journey which underlies and informs her life and work. They also offer readers the opportunity to write their own spiritual memoir through end-chapter questions and exercises.

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Dr. Sarah Sayeed, Chair and Executive Director, New York City Civic Engagement Commission