

**RCCongress 2010**  
**Embracing Change:**  
**Communicating Faith in Today's world**



**Tools for Communicating  
in Multi-Religious America**

# What is pluralism?

As defined by Dr. Diana L. Eck

First, pluralism is not diversity alone, but the *energetic engagement with diversity*.

Second, pluralism is not just tolerance, but *the active seeking of understanding across lines of difference*.

Third, pluralism is not relativism, but *the encounter of commitments*.

Fourth, pluralism is *based on dialogue*.

# What is the Pluralism Project?

- Harvard based research organization
  - Boston as a laboratory
- Student researchers and alumnae
- National network of affiliates and affiliate organizations
- Expanding international network of research, civic, and interfaith organizations

# Mission

Our mission is to help Americans  
*engage* with the realities of  
religious diversity  
through *research*, *outreach*,  
and the active  
dissemination of *resources*.



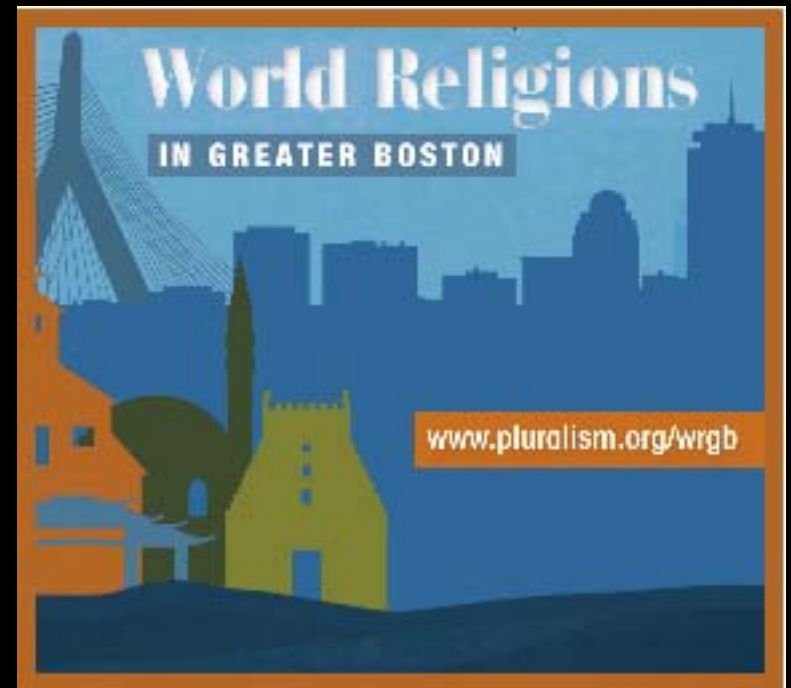
# Tools and Resources

- Website: [www.pluralism.org](http://www.pluralism.org)
  - Directory, profiles, research reports, initiative pages, slide shows, etc.
  - Resources by State
  - Resources by Religious Tradition
  - *Religious Diversity News*
  - Research Initiatives
- Documentary **films**
- *On Common Ground* **CD-ROM**

# *World Religions in Greater Boston*

[www.pluralism.org/wrgb](http://www.pluralism.org/wrgb)

- An online guide to the changing religious landscape of Greater Boston
  - Interactive maps
  - Directory
  - Multi-media resources
- A prototype for projects in other cities



# Religious Diversity News

[www.pluralism.org/news](http://www.pluralism.org/news)

- Coverage of interfaith relations & religion in the public square
- Special emphasis on Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Muslim, and Sikh communities in the US
- Compiled weekly from major newspapers, regional media, press releases, newsletters, commentaries, and editorials

religious  
diversity  
news

# Research Initiatives

The Interfaith Initiative

The Civic Initiative

The Women's Initiative

The International Initiative

The Case Study Initiative

# Case Study Initiative

[www.pluralism.org/casestudy](http://www.pluralism.org/casestudy)

- Explore the dilemmas we face as citizens of a multi-religious society
  - Utilizing method in religious and theological studies
- Develop critical thinking skills for leadership
- Identify cases through news stories or grassroots experiences

# *Fremont, USA*

*A City's Encounter with Religious Diversity*

[www.pluralism.org/fremontusa](http://www.pluralism.org/fremontusa)



- The challenges and hopes of one of the most religiously diverse cities in the USA
- Impact of pluralism in a post 9/11 world as emblematic of what's happening throughout the US