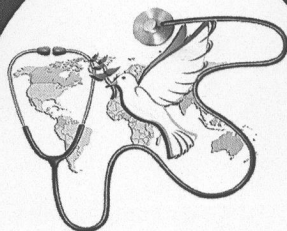


# International Congress on Health for Peace



November 13-16, 2018  
Shiraz, Iran



## **The Holiness of the life of Man as the Common Base of Peace and Health**

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All rational and cultured people intrinsically consider the life of man significant and necessary to be protected. When the issue is self-protection this understanding is associated with the intrinsic of self-preservation. Consequently, there is normally no problem when self-protection is concerned. Protecting the lives of others however, has cultural and educational aspects in addition to its intrinsic and natural causes. Therefore, it is possible to deepen and strengthen the sense of protecting the lives of others through education. Islamic teachings consider life sacred and a divine gift given by the Almighty God. Due to the holiness of the life of man, it is not easy to permit euthanasia, abortion and similar phenomena. This holiness, in its turn, plays a great role in respecting the life of man. In the Islamic view, man is not permitted to breach the life of him or herself let alone the lives of others. According to the Holy Qur'an, killing one single innocent person equals destroying the life of all mankind. Similarly, saving the soul of one single person is like saving the life of all human being. In the Islamic view, the holiness of life and necessity of its protection is not limited to the Muslim, believer or someone with a particular gender, color race, etc. Accordingly, in the Islamic view the reference principle for both the practitioners of peace and health is the holiness of the life of man regardless of every characteristic. The objective and practical result of this principle is the principle of altruism. Loyalty to this principle would promote the quality of all measures of the fields of peace and



health. This principle at the same time links activities of these two fields, because the basis of activities of both fields is protection of man's life and promotion of its quality. However, every religion including Islam has capacity to raise and/or develop the dichotomy of self/other. Despite the fact that Islam like other religions insists some identity elements when it comes to protection of the soul of man there is no difference between Muslim and non-Muslim. The reason is the fact that according to Islam it is the soul of man per se that is holy and deserves protection. The main task of this research is to elaborate on sacredness of the life of man as such and to criticize some traditional views in Islamic jurisprudence that differentiate between the significance of the life of man based on the element of faith and religion.

**Keywords:** life, quality of life, health, peace, human dignity.

