

## Hindu Council supports UN World Harmony Week 2019 in Melbourne

By: Hindu Council Melbourne Chapter.

The Melbourne chapter of Hindu Council participated in and supported 2019 UN World Harmony Week. The event was attended by Mr Makarand Bhagwat.

**World Interfaith Harmony Week** is a UN resolution for a worldwide week of interfaith harmony proposed in 2010 by King Abdullah II and Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan. The World Interfaith Harmony Week falls in the first week of February of every year<sup>[1][2]</sup> and aims to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith.



The Interfaith Centre of Melbourne

## In celebration of UN WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY

The basis for the World Interfaith Harmony Week is the A Common Word Initiative which was authored by Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad and released in 2007. The *A Common Word* Initiative and the World Interfaith Harmony Week stem from the idea that humanity is bound together by the two shared commandments of 'Love of God and Love of the Neighbor' or 'Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbor'.

In his speech at the UN General Assembly, Prince Ghazi of Jordan stated that the aim of the Interfaith Harmony Week would be fulfilled by:

*permanently and regularly encouraging the silent majority of preachers to declare themselves for peace and harmony and providing a ready-made vehicle for them to do so ... if preachers and teachers commit themselves on the record once a year to peace*

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*and harmony, this means that when the next interreligious crisis or provocation occurs, they cannot then relapse into parochial fear and mistrust, and will be more likely to resist the winds of popular demagoguery*<sup>[6]</sup>

The UN resolution on the World Interfaith Harmony Week states:<sup>[7]</sup>

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/243 of 6 October 1999 on the declaration and programme of action relating to a culture of peace; 57/6 of November 2002 concerning the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence; 58/128 of 19 December 2003 on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation; 64/164 of 18 December 2009 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief;

64/81 of 7 December 2009 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and 64/14 of 10 November 2009 on the Alliance of Civilizations. Recognising the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions in enhancing mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people. Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and sub-regional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony including, inter alia, the Tripartite Forum for Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, and the “A Common Word”.

Recognising that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions, and beliefs call for peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding:

1. Reaffirms that mutual understanding and inter-religious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace.
2. Proclaims the first week of February of every year the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs.
3. Encourages all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week based on Love of God and Love of the Neighbour, or based on Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions.

4. Requests the secretary general to keep the General Assembly informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

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