



M. Bruce Lustig,
Senior Rabbi

February 11, 2013

To The Judges for the 2013 World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize,

Following the outstanding success of Faith in Action DC's recent "DC Young Adult Faith Leaders Summit" (DCYAFLS), I would like to recommend the organization for the Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought's World Interfaith Harmony Week grand prize.

I am the senior rabbi at a large, 3,000 family Reform Jewish congregation, and as a rabbi for this vast community, I appreciate the value of interfaith dialogue and outreach. Having served in the DC Jewish community for over two decades, I cannot overstate the importance of the interfaith relationships I have formed throughout the years. These relationships have facilitated personal friendships between leaders of other faiths and me, and more importantly, connected sacred communities across the city's diverse religious landscape. To see the next generation of religious leaders come together so successfully at Faith in Action's DCYAFLS on February 9, 2013 gives me confidence that this vital work will continue.

The DCYAFLS was successful, both in terms of numbers and diversity. Nearly one hundred young adult faith leaders joined together from over a dozen local communities throughout Washington DC. Young leaders, Bahá'í, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Latter Day Saint, Muslim, Protestant, Sikh, and Zoroastrian shared their visions, their successes, and their challenges. They discussed topics ranging from social action to building interfaith networks. While the conversations were immediately substantive and practical for all young faith leaders, I believe the most lasting impact for participants is in the friendships they developed throughout the summit. As relationships with interfaith leaders have enriched my own rabbinate, I am certain that the connections made in the DCYAFLS will shape the lives of this next generation of religious leadership.

My voice is but one of many supporting the important work of Faith in Action and the DCYAFLS. Washington DC's Mayor Vincent Gray personally addressed the summit. Representatives of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships joined the conversation as well. There is tremendous interest in and support of the work done by Faith in Action and the DCYAFLS, and I am glad to know that the highest levels of local and national leadership have lent support to these inspiring young leaders.



This summit demonstrates the important role that young people play in shaping our pluralistic community, and I pray that Faith in Action receives the support of the Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute to strengthen its important work.

Our ancient rabbis teach, *henei ma tov u'manaim, shevet achim gam yachad*- How good it is when brothers and sisters come together. DCYAFLS fosters a sense of brotherhood and partnership at a critical time in our nation's capital. It provides is a clear vision and vibrant model for interfaith community, and I know that Washington, DC will benefit immensely from their hard work and dedication.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Bruce Lustig'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rabbi M. Bruce Lustig