

Good morning, everybody, and thanks for being here on such an important day. I am very happy and honored to have you at our Harmony Breakfast and of course our speakers.

The World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs aims at uniting all interfaith groups and faith communities - those consisting of hundreds of members as well as those of very few - but also at binding together all the world's citizens of good will, bringing together efforts between East and West, North and South. In a sense this initiative, according to its founders, aims at celebrating the love of God and Love of the Neighbor or Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbor, each according to the various religious traditions or convictions.

The Interfaith Harmony Breakfast in Skopje, Macedonia aims to promote the World Interfaith Harmony Week, facilitate dynamic activities and create a space for exchange of thought, reflections, insights, dialogue on the theme.

We hope that this event will encourage representatives of different sectors, starting from foreign diplomats, NGO and IO sector, representatives of religious institutions to spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill, to initiate voluntarily programs and activities promoting peace and harmony; and to strengthen partnership and mutual support in promoting Interfaith Harmony.

The Interfaith Harmony Breakfast in Skopje is based on the call of the United Nations about the World Interfaith Harmony Week during February 2013 in order to build peace, love and respect for all faiths. Referring to the different faiths and cultures in Macedonia unity in diversity has not only to be maintained but to be strengthened as respect for other faiths is of global importance.

Youth Organization "Shpresa" believe that Youth is the strongest power in the world. Young people should promote respect and the sense of friendship among faiths and present is the requisites for building peace and harmony in Macedonia.

We often, and rightly, use words like respect, tolerance and understanding during World Interfaith Harmony Week. But for this celebration and commemoration to really succeed, we have to use these words all year long, not only during this one week. We have to work every day to translate these words to practical action for peace, development and the right to life in dignity for all.

I count on all of you to be part of this effort. With dialogue, we can combat hate. With interfaith harmony, we can build bridges to a better future.

Thanks for being here today with us.

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