



Interfaith Power & Light (MD.DC.NoVA)
c/o IFC 100 Allison St NW
Washington DC 20011

February 15th, 2014

To the Judges for the 2014 World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize:

Our organization works with religious communities of all faiths across the Washington, DC area on environmental initiatives.

I'm writing to give my highest recommendation to The Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought to select the 2014 DC Young Adult Faith Leaders Summit — held on February 8th, 2014 in Washington DC — for the World Interfaith Harmony Week Grand Prize.

It was a truly extraordinary event. I hope you will view both videos and photographs from the gathering of over 100 young leaders from over a dozen religious traditions.

I was there, and in every discussion circle, and in fellowship over dinner, the room pulsed with excited energy as the emerging generation of religious leaders met their peers from other religious traditions, forming relationships that will lead to greater understanding and collaboration in the years to come. The conversations were real, open, honest, and helped those participating hear new perspectives and imagine new possibilities.

This grassroots gathering, now in its second year, will have a transformative impact on religious communities in our nation's capital city, as the relationships forged there among leaders makes for greater cooperation across faith groups over the years to come.

But the Young Faith Leaders' Summit wouldn't only create this transformative energy in DC; it is an elegant but powerful model for other multifaith communities around the world. Receiving recognition as an outstanding program of World Interfaith Harmony Week would help the DC Young Faith Leaders' Summit to inspire the next generation of religious leaders throughout the world to plan similar summits in their own communities.

Nothing advances interfaith harmony more powerfully than creating the context for people to connect one-on-one and come to understand and care about one another. It sounds simple but it is this kind of grassroots relationship-building that can change the world. I give my highest recommendation of the DC Young Faith Leaders' Summit.

With blessing,

Joelle Novey, Director
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)