

# Interfaith Harmony week Celebration

- Dated:** 6-2-2014
- Time:** 4:00 pm
- Venue:** Najaf colony wake Home Lahore
- Agenda:** celebration of interfaith Harmony week 3-9 Feb  
2014
- Host** Sabina Rifat (co-coordinator URI  
Women wing).

It was raining heavily since morning and was quite challenging to travel in this season as you know about the roads of interior and remote areas in Lahore .We are thankful to the guests who even then participated in interfaith harmony celebrations.

## **Guest speakers:**

- Rev.fr.Dr. James Chanan OP ( Regional co-coordinator URI)
- Yuel Bhatti (Executive secretary URI)
- Rohama Ayub advocate
- Zoya Maria college Student
- Pastor Arif Masih
- Mrs Zainy Arif working woman

**Participants:** From Bhar Colony, Macca Colony, Sheran Kot youhanabad wake centre, Najaff colony wake centre ,Nishtar Colony ,Chuburji. Women, girls, children and men participated round about 70 to 75.

## **Program started with interfaith prayers:**

Pastor Arif said a prayer according to Christian faith and a girl namely sadaf said a prayer according to Muslim faith in the beginning of the program.

### **Welcome note:**

Sister Sabina welcomed all the guests and participants thanking them for coming for this celebration which is a sign that people of Pakistan want to live in interfaith harmony. She also thanked Fr James Channan and Yuel Bhatti for their cooperation. The participants welcomed the guests by warm clapping, offering a seven colors ribbon band. Which was presented to each guest as a sign of unity and beauty in diversity, of all the religions ...youhanabad wake centre girls presented a welcome song. Sr Sabina specially thanked URI global office for their support and concern for Pakistani people and for promoting women empowerment through women Initiative program. She thanked her group of women, her friends who are a source of strength and inspiration and Pastor Arif.

Har Tarf har jagh..... Everywhere and in every person abides a light. There must be a river of light somewhere.....

### **Introduction of WIHW UN.**

Mrs. Rohama Ayub advocate gave a brief introduction of interfaith harmony program for the purpose of peace and harmony among different religions people on the bases of Love of God and Love for the neighbor. The World Interfaith Harmony Week was first proposed at the UN General Assembly on September 23, 2010 by H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan. Just under a month later, on October 20, 2010, it was unanimously adopted by the UN and henceforth the first week of February will be observed as a World Interfaith Harmony Week.

### **Presentation of Youhanabad wake centre girls:**

Youhanabad wake centre girls presented a tableau which showed that people from all religions and faiths pray to God in their own manners and all religions give the message to love for neighbor and it helps all people when they pray to God, Allaha, God, wahay Guru and Bhagwan, changes people for better. Through this Tableau they were showing how women of different religion through good example and prayers can change the life of a person who is drunk....in this skit.

### **Yuel Bhatti's speech:**

Mr. Yuel Bhatti , the executive Secretary of URI in Pakistan talked about the main motives of the URI which is to create peace and harmony among different religion's people while practicing their own religions, to work together for the welfare and development of the international society. So we all should promise to promote this work. He appreciated women presentations.

### **Girls experiences and Testimonies from different faiths:**

A Muslim girl namely Alyia explained her experience while learning the stitching work diligently in Najaf colony wake centre where all Christian and Muslim girls and women work together without the feeling of any discrimination and said that its also a great opportunity for them to learn stitching work and now they are able to stitch their own cloths and accept with joy the other women of different faiths ,Muslim ,Christians ,Hindus ,sikh,Baha'is who come to visit the center .

Mukkadas Asim from Youhanabad wake centre said that due to some reasons she could not continue her studies but now she is happy that she has learnt the skill of stitching at wake centre and can work with other women without problems.

### **Najaf colony WAKE Centre women presentation:**

Najaf colony wake centre women presented a beautiful skit which gave the massage of unity in all religions that people from all the religions can be more strengthened and successful in their society and countries through love, patience and harmony for each other. They showed that quarrels between different religions only bring tensions and problems. If someone succeeds to make people understand not to quarrel, they can save their country and bring peace in the society.

### **Mrs. Zani Arif:**

Mrs. Zainy Arif (from Assembly of God) expressed her views and appreciated the work of WAKE cc and Uri PPP for interfaith harmony saying that anyone can see the progress and development of this area after the work of wake cc group. She said it would be a great joy for them if other groups or URI members come and see it.

## **UNITY SONG:**

### **Is Parcham kay saey talay hum aik hein.**

Najaf colony wake centre girls sang a unity song that we people from all the religion and provinces are in unity and wish to promote love for each and every one. We are all one under one flag, even though in the ocean the waves are different.

## **Poetry:**

Sister Sabina Rifat read her poetry on the topic of love, peace and helping those who are unprivileged. A person deprives of basic needs thinks only about bread and not differences of religions. I am hungry, my faith is to get bread .All seasons are lent season for me. Fulfill the needs of deprived people and do not waste time in terrorism.

### **Rev. Dr. fr. James Chanan OP (regional coordinator URI)**

Told that we all people from different religions in one country should live together and be united and may not make any gesture which hurts others and should not speak things which injure the feelings of other religion living together. Moreover he congratulated Sister Sabina Rifat for this program, encouraged this work and explained the necessity of such programs and vocational trainings in this country to give dignity and opportunities to create harmony among different religions people. He said that women are proving that they can be the best peace ambassadors.

### **Miss Zoyia Maria**

Miss Zoya Maria read the message of the Secretary General UN on this interfaith harmony week.

“For billions of people around the world, faith is an essential foundation of life. It provides strength in times of difficulty and an important sense of community. The vast majority of people of faith live in harmony with their neighbors,

whatever their creed, but each religion also harbors a strident minority prepared to assert fundamentalist doctrines through bigotry and extreme violence.

Next month at its forum in Vienna, the Alliance of Civilizations will continue its efforts to unite faiths and cultures. Whether on the world stage or in their communities, religious and cultural leaders have a responsibility to speak the language of tolerance and respect. This is a central message of World Interfaith Harmony Week. ”

Our job is to ensure that hope wins, and our task will be made easier if the followers of all faiths collaborate in common cause. Let us never forget that what divides us is minuscule compared with what unites us. Working together, we can achieve all our goals for peace, prosperity and physical and spiritual well-being.

### **Meal together**

Pastor Arif appreciated very much the efforts of sr Sabina for the vocational training of women .He witnessed that he has observed one thing in her life which has shaken him and that is her love for the poor children .He also thanked URI for its noble cause and availability.He Blessed the meal and prayed for this noble work of interfaith harmony carried on by URI.

At the end all the participants from all religions had a nice meal together and the program ended at about 7pm.

Sabina Rifat

Chairperson wake cc

Coordinator URI women Wing

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