

United Nations Interfaith Harmony Partners-Zamboanga (UNI-HP-Z)



World Interfaith Harmony Week
2017

Theme: Celebrating Life in in the Spirit of

Mercy  *Compassion*

Background of the Celebration

The United Nations (UN) Resolution of October 20, 2010 recognized “the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people.” This inspired the Silsilah Dialogue Movement to celebrate the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) every first week of February. The groundbreaking celebration of the WIHW in Zamboanga City commenced in February 2012 and was participated in by different partners and groups.

The response was enthusiastic. With the National Ulama Conference of the Philippines (NUCP) as the lead group and the Silsilah Dialogue Movement as the Secretariat, several organizations became involved in planning and executing the activities for the celebration set for February 01 to 07, 2012.

The success of the 2012 celebration of World



General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 November 2010

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/65/L.5 and Add.1)]

65/5. World Interfaith Harmony Week

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/243 A and B of 13 September 1999 on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, 57/6 of 4 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, 60/4 of 20 October 2005 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, 64/14 of 10 November 2009 on the Alliance for Civilizations, 64/81 of 7 December 2009 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, and 64/164 of 18 December 2009 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief,


Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people,

Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and subregional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony, including the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, and the initiative “A Common Word”,

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

- 1. Reaffirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace;*
- 2. Proclaims the first week of February 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 one’s neighbour or on love of the good and love of one’s 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.*

*34th plenary meeting
20 October 2010*



Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) in Zamboanga City was overwhelming and motivating for the groups involved to continue to work together in carrying out future celebrations. The groups in Zamboanga City decided to form a loose association among themselves which they named United Nations Interfaith-Harmony Partners-Zamboanga (UNI-HP-Z).

Moreover, Zamboanga City's 1st District Congressional Representative Maria Isabelle “Beng” Climaco-Salazar (now the Mayor of Zamboanga City) sponsored a bill in the House enjoining the celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week in the Philippines as encouraged by the UN Resolution. Senator Loren Legarda sponsored a similar version for the Senate.

Both bills passed the respective houses and became a law of the land upon signing by President Benigno S. Aquino III, the Republic Act No. 10525:

“An Act declaring the First Week of February of every year as World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) in the entire country and mandating its observance by the different Government Agencies.”

The experience of working together for the 2012 celebration brought the same groups in Zamboanga City to carry out the celebration every year up to now.

The Silsilah Forum in Davao City, the Interfaith Council (IFC) in Basilan and the Interreligious Center of Quiapo Church in Manila which are run by Silsilah, started also to implement activities to



celebrate WIHW 2013. The Silsilah Forum Davao reported the activities done and was given honorable mention by the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought. The news of this award was relayed to the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Philippines.

The WIHW 2014 celebration brought the Zamboanga Partners led by Silsilah to win the First Prize in the World Interfaith Harmony Week 2014. H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan sponsors the annual WIHW Prize.

In 2016, the UNI HARMONY Partners of Manila formed by many groups and Silsilah, in their initial stage, have received the Second Prize in the World Interfaith Harmony Week International of His Majesty, King Abdullah II of Jordan.

Silsilah continues to serve the UNI-HP-Z as secretariat of the WIHW Zamboanga Partners. At the same time the Silsilah Dialogue Movement (SDM) is recognized by many as the convener on the National Level for the WIHW starting from the Silsilah Forum groups in Mindanao and in the whole Philippines. Silsilah continues to invite all to celebrate the World Interfaith Harmony Week every year.



The United Nations Interfaith Harmony Partners- Zamboanga (UNI-HP-Z)


Partners are groups or institutions willing to be part of the WIHW promising to offer any possible form of support and involvement. Each partner can be represented by three persons as members to represent their own group.

Associate Members are those individuals willing to be part of the WIHW and fill up our application forms.

The goals of the group are:

**Maintain alive the spirit of the World Interfaith Harmony Week and;
Develop harmony and solidarity among partners and associate members.**

Each of the partner group is free to continue pursuing its own objectives as a group but will work with other partners in implementing activities for the World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration every year.



Funding of the activities undertaken during the World Interfaith Harmony Week is the responsibility of each sponsoring group, unless explicitly agreed by the partners to have a different setup.

Silsilah Dialogue Movement is in charge of the UNI-HP- Z

Represented by :

- ◆ Convenor- Fr. Sebastiano D'Ambra, PIME
- ◆ Christian Coordinator - Atty. Arsenio L. Gonzalez, Jr.
- ◆ Muslim Coordinator - Atty. Moh. Taha S. Arakama
- ◆ Secretary - Elizabeth L. Solis, EDC



The List of Zamboanga City Partners of the WIHW 2017

The United Nations Interfaith Harmony Partners- Zamboanga
(UNI-HP-Z) 2017 are the following: (in alphabetical order)

- ◆ Ateneo De Zamboanga University - Ateneo Peace Institute
- ◆ Commission on Higher Education (CHED) - Region IX
- ◆ Commission on Interreligious Dialogue of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga
- ◆ Department of Education (DepEd) - Zamboanga City Division
- ◆ Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) - Region IX
- ◆ Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) - Region IX
- ◆ Federacion del maga Barangay Kagawad de Zamboanga (FeBarKaZa)
- ◆ Filipino-Turkish Tolerance School
- ◆ Golden Crescent Consortium of Peace Builders and Affiliates Inc.
- ◆ Inter-Faith Council of Leaders (IFCL)
- ◆ National Commission on Indigenous People - Zamboanga City Office
- ◆ National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - Region IX (NCMF-R-IX)
- ◆ Philippine Commission on Human Rights -Region IX (PCHR-9)
- ◆ Philippine National Police - Police Regional Office - Region IX
- ◆ Philippine Red Cross - Zamboanga City Chapter
- ◆ Responsible Union of Empowered Drivers Association (RUEDA)
- ◆ Rotary Club - Zamboanga

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- ◆ Silsilah Dialogue Movement (SDM)
 - ◆ Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (TODA)
 - ◆ Universidad de Zamboanga (UZ)
 - ◆ West Metro Medical Center
 - ◆ Western Mindanao State University - Peace and Human Security Institute
 - ◆ Zamboanga Chamber of Commerce Industry Foundation, Inc.
 - ◆ Zamboanga City Medical Center (ZCMC)
 - ◆ Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College (ZCSPC)
 - ◆ Zamboanga City's Interfaith Council
 - ◆ Zamboanga Market Stall Operators
 - ◆ Zamboanga Press Club
 - ◆ Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST)



The Primer

Q1. What is the “World Interfaith Harmony Week”?


A: The United Nations (UN) on October 20, 2010, recognizing the need for dialogue among different faiths and religions and their contribution for peace in the world, declared the first week of February of every year as “World Interfaith Harmony Week” between all religions, faiths and beliefs. The UN encourages “all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during the week. The celebration is based on the love of God and love of one's neighbor or on the love of good and love of one's neighbor, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions” (for more info. visit the website – worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com).

Q2. Why do we promote this special week?

A: Because we believe in the spirit of this initiative. It unites us with many in the world who are joining together to rediscover and celebrate “Interfaith Harmony” guided by the basic principles or commandments of the love of God, the love of neighbor and the love of the common good. This special week is gaining great attention in the world and it is a sign of hope.

Q3. There are already many other initiatives of dialogue and peace, why this new one?

A: The United Nations as an international body realized that there is a need for a specific attention on the




“interfaith harmony” guided by the love of God, the love of neighbor, and the love for the common good. This is a move towards a more “spiritual approach to dialogue and peace”. The United Nations is convinced now more than ever that development and peace without “love” cannot be achieved in the world. Thus, it is a new paradigm of dialogue and peace that finds many willing to rediscover and celebrate together “harmony among God’s People”.

Q4. Is this celebration for all or only for Muslims/Christians?

A: The United Nations invites all countries and religions to celebrate this interfaith harmony week, including indigenous people and even non-believers. However, in this primer we focus our attention on Muslims / Christians who represent the two largest religions in the world and are the largest presence in the Philippines, especially in Mindanao. We are convinced that in the heart of each person, there is a felt need to celebrate the love of God in order to rediscover the love of neighbor in all religions and cultures as part of the human family “linked” to God, as our common Creator.

Q5. What about the issues that we need to face in the Philippines, especially in Mindanao related to the recognition of historical rights, poverty and peace?

A: The World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration does not directly face these issues. This is not to ignore them, but we believe that this new approach can bring people closer to one another and motivate them to face together all the issues of society with a “new spirit”. Thus, this celebration is an opportunity to rebuild love, friendship, sincerity, sensitivity and solidarity. In one word, the initiative can create “harmony” starting from our personal faith and belief in life.




It is a spiritual approach to dialogue and peace as an expression of “love”. This is needed today as the foundation of all the issues for a sustainable peace in our society.

Q6. Christianity and Islam are two different religious movements; in “celebrating harmony” is it better to emphasize the common points or the differences?

A: The basic principles of interfaith dialogue and harmony among people of different faiths are to approach others with Sincerity, Sensitivity and Solidarity (three S). Thus, the celebration has to be an expression of “sincerity”, guided by “sensitivity” in order to promote “solidarity”. This spirit of dialogue is in order to develop different dimensions and attitudes to take in the spirit of the acronym C.A.R.E: “Courage” in those who are convinced on the importance of interfaith harmony; “Appreciation” of what we have in common; “Respect” of our differences and; “Example” in order to move together guided by the common good of our society.

Q7. What can we answer to those who are afraid of this form of dialogue and confuse it with “syncretism” and, as a result, they say that Christians and Muslims are almost the same and one can easily change religion, especially if one finds the change advantageous for one reason or another?

A: No, the mixture of different religious beliefs or syncretism, and the attitude of some who use dialogue in order to convert others is not a genuine dialogue. Dialogue, first of all, is a spirituality and not a strategy. Real dialogue brings us to love and respect the differences, convinced that dialogue is the attitude of God in creation and in all the manifestations of life where we find commonalities and differences. Love cares for all and respects all.



Real dialogue is expressed in an attitude of love which celebrates the love of God in freedom. Thus, dialogue is an expression of the love which is the “goal” of dialogue and in the process love becomes also the “means” that can bring people to the final goal that is peace on earth and in heaven.

Q8. There is always the tendency of the majority religious groups in a country to put down the minority groups; this is also true in the Philippines where in some places Christians are the majority and in some other places Muslims are the majority. What can we do?

A: This is one of the great challenges of today. People of dialogue have to help overcome prejudices and biases among religions and share more about the common good of not only one group or religion, but of society as a whole. If we believe in solidarity, freedom of religion, respect, harmony and peace we can “dream” that time will come when majority and minority will respect and help each other, in Europe, in Arabic countries, in China, and even in the Philippines: in Manila, in Marawi, in Davao, in Jolo, in Zamboanga, in Basilan, etc. This should be borne out of respect based on the fundamental rights of each person and on love, not out of respect based on fear or vested interest.

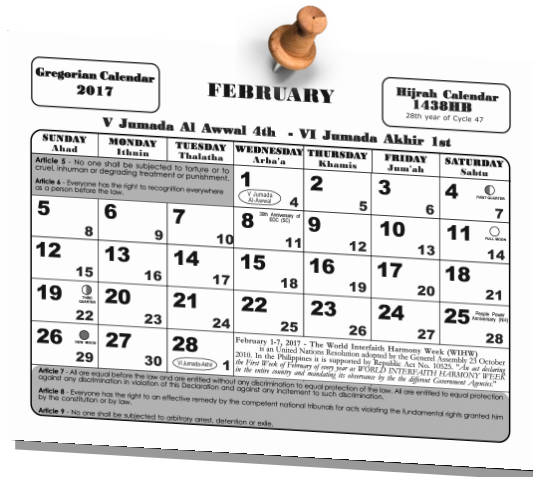
CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

For the Weeklong Celebration of WIHW 2017

Many Schools and Institutions have promised to participate on this Special Week-long Activities of the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) through the listed activities of the program.

Special Acknowledgments go to:

- Ateneo de Zamboanga University
- Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST)
- Secondary Schools Under DepED
- Commission on Higher Education (CHED)



February 1, 2017 (Wednesday)

ACTIVITIES	OBJECTIVES	Venue / Time / Sponsoring Institutions
Blood and Milk Letting	Doing this kind of activity will be a big help to those people (babies and adults) who are most in need. We are also helping to overcome cultural and religious barriers. physical and Cultural sensitivities are considered and respected.	Sinunuc Barangay Covered Court and Health Center, Sinunuc, Zamboanga City 9am -12NN Sponsored by: Zamboanga City Medical Center
Building and Harmonizing Communities: Partaking of Noah's Pudding (Ashura Ceremony)	Sharing of joy with the neighbors, friends and the people who are in need via Ashura, to unite in diversity, solidarity, and living in harmony.	Filipino-Turkish Tolerance School Campus, Pitogo, Sinunuc, Zamboanga City 9am -11am Sponsored by: Filipino-Turkish Tolerance School
Forum with the Tricycle Operators and Drivers	This activity aims to inform the drivers the essence of Interfaith Harmony in order to share also this spirit to the passengers.	Small Conference, Pastoral Center, Nuñez Extension, Zamboanga City 10:30am – 12NN Sponsored by: Silsilah Dialogue Movement and Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association

February 1, 2017 (Wednesday)

ACTIVITIES	OBJECTIVES	Venue / Time / Sponsoring Institutions
Acupuncture	To balance the energy in the body.	Center for Holistic Center, Harmony Village, Pitogo, Sinunuc, Zamboanga City 1:00pm - 4:00pm Sponsored by: Center for Holistic Health Care

Individuals, families and groups can decide to have any other activity in the spirit of the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), one of this is:

Harmonizing Communities through: **Neighbors in Harmony**

Neighbors can take this occasion to share how to develop better harmony among them and, if needed, to ask for forgiveness for any attitude, feeling or situation among themselves that need to be addressed in the spirit of forgiveness. To share also a spontaneous and universal prayer, like the “Harmony Prayer” and any other creative activity that would build better harmony among neighbors. The initiative can start first among neighbors of the same faith as a first step and after, if a family is ready, invite/visit also neighbors of different religions.

Note:

We appreciate if those who do some creative activities in the spirit of the World Interfaith Harmony Week from February 1-7, 2017 could communicate with us for recording purposes.

February 2, 2017 (Thursday)

ACTIVITIES	OBJECTIVES	Venue / Time / Sponsoring Institutions
<p>Symposium on “Religions for Peace”</p>	<p>For the formation of the student leaders, faculty members, parents, and the Barangay Tulungatung Community Leaders.</p>	<p>Tulungatung National High School Campus, Tulungatung, Zamboanga City 1:00pm - 4:00pm Sponsored by: Tulungatung National High School and Silsilah Formation Team</p>
<p>Healthy Body, Heart, and Mind. Medical Check -up with Random Blood sugar, Cholesterol and Uric Acid</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate maintenance of sound and healthy body and mind. 2. Enhance harmony with the self by staying fit and healthy 	<p>Emmaus Padayon Center, Martha Drive, Sta. Catalina, Zamboanga City. 8:30am - 12:00NN Sponsored by: West Metro Medical Center and Emmaus Dialogue Community</p>
<p>Convergence of Leaders at the Barangay level</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate and inform barangay leaders regarding Children and Women Protection Policies and laws. 2. Reflect and share on the possible ways and means of rehabilitation of drug users / cases 	<p>Sapphire Hall, Grand Astoria Hotel, Mayor Jaldon St. , Zamboanga City 8:00am -5:00pm Sponsored by: DILG - Zamboanga and the Interfaith Council of Zamboanga City</p>

February 3, 2017 (Friday)

ACTIVITIES	OBJECTIVES	Venue / Time / Sponsoring Institutions
Silsilah School of Holistic Care	Closing celebration of the Five-Week Silsilah School of Holistic Care. During this closing activity, the invited guests share experiences and messages to highlight the importance of this school in relation to the WIHW celebration.	Crystal Hall, Grand Astoria Hotel, Mayor Jaldon St. , Zamboanga City 2:00pm – 5:00pm Sponsored by: Center for Holistic Health Care of Silsilah Dialogue Movement
Presentation of the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) in Muslim communities.	To build friendship and harmonious relationships among people of different religions and cultures and encourage all Muslim communities to spread the message of Interfaith Harmony.	Muslim Communities, Mosque, Madaris and Alive Teachers are invited during the Friday Prayer or other time of the week to present the spirit of the WIHW.
Symposium on the Importance of Strong Inter-Religious Faith in the Campus	Commemorate the WIHW 2017 stressing and addressing the importance of Faith in the daily life of individual/students in coping college life.	Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST) 10:00am Sponsored by: ZSCMST

February 4, 2017 (Saturday)

ACTIVITIES	OBJECTIVES	Venue / Time / Sponsoring Institutions
<p>Inauguration of House of Nations for the Harmony Chain Initiative</p>	<p>The Harmony Chain Initiative is already spread in many countries promoting the Harmony Prayer as a universal prayer. A visible sign of this initiative is a new House of Nations for the Harmony Chain Initiative in Harmony Village that will be inaugurated this year on the occasion of the WIHW.</p>	<p>Harmony Village, Pitogo, Sinunuc, Zamboanga City 3:00pm – 5:00pm Sponsored by: the “Harmony Chain Initiative” initiated by Silsilah in the year 2000</p>
<p>Symposium on Bullying IN and OUT Campus among students</p>	<p>For comprehensive awareness of the law and for equal protection and justice.</p>	<p>Sinunuc National High School Sponsored by: Sinunuc National High School and Golden Crescent 8:00 am to 12:00 noon</p>
<p>Issue-based Education with focus on the Youth and Social Media Utilization</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold an information education campaign concerning the issues faced by youth on social media utilization. 2. Educate the youth on how to utilize social media in promoting social and communal harmony. 	<p>Carlos Dominguez Conference Hall, Ateneo de Zamboanga University 1:00pm – 5:00pm Sponsored by: the Ateneo Peace Institute, Ateneo de Zamboanga University</p>
<p>Youth in Action: Service for others.</p>	<p>This is a time of sharing goodness and giving simple food to the patients at a specific ward. In this way we can promote care and solidarity to the patients in the hospital.</p>	<p>Zamboanga City Medical Center 9:00am – 11:00am Sponsored by: the Silpeace Youth (Community-Based)</p>

February 5, 2017 (Sunday)

ACTIVITIES	OBJECTIVES	Venue / Time / Sponsoring Institutions
<p>Harmonizing Communities through: World Interfaith Harmony Prayers and Messages at the Eucharistic Celebration and Services in different Christian Communities</p>	<p>To spread the spirit of the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) especially on Sunday inviting those present to Christian Celebrations to internalize the spirit of the WIHW. The Commission on Interreligious Dialogue of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga (CIRD -AZ) prepared guidelines and reflections for the Catholics. Other Christian denominations will also spread the spirit of the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) in their communities.</p>	<p>Parishes of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and other Christian Denominations.</p> <p>Sponsored by: the Commission on Interreligious Dialogue of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga (CIRD-AZ) and other Christian Churches</p>

February 6, 2017 (Monday)

ACTIVITIES	OBJECTIVES	Venue / Time / Sponsoring Institutions
<p>Flag Ceremony of various agencies and offices commemorating WIHW</p>	<p>To give attention to the celebration of the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) 2017 and to inform the public on the message of “Love of God and Love of Neighbor and the Love of the Common Good” we propose to all sectors of our society to give special attention to this event on February 06, 2017 (Monday).</p>	<p>This activity is traditionally sponsored by the Interfaith groups of Zamboanga, schools, and other government institutions. The ZSCMST on this occasion will have an inter-College Extemporaneous speech competition</p>
<p>Sharing and Bonding with the Elderly</p>	<p>Giving one's time to care for the old people especially those who were abandoned by their families. To let them feel they are being loved and cared for by others.</p>	<p>Home for the Elderly, Talon -Talon, Zamboanga City 9:00am - 11am Sponsored by: Commission on Higher Education (CHED)</p>
<p>Education-Formation for Zamboanga City Jail Male Inmates: “Poster and Slogan Making Contest”</p>	<p><i>Poster and Slogan Making Contest.</i> These initiative is added to the weekly Formation given in the City Jail by Silsilah. These can give hope, love and courage to the detainees of Zamboanga City Jail</p>	<p>Zamboanga City Jail, Zone I, Valera St., Zamboanga City 9:00am - 11:00am Sponsored by : Silsilah Peace and Development Services (SPDS)</p>

February 7, 2017 (Tuesday)

ACTIVITIES	OBJECTIVES	Venue / Time / Sponsoring Institutions
<p>Symposium on Harmonizing Tri-people in the community</p>	<p>a. To foster closer relationship among tri - people in the community.</p> <p>b. To instill awareness on the culture of the tri -people.</p> <p>c. To create a peaceful tri-people community living harmoniously.</p>	<p>Barangay Hall, Sta. Catalina 8:00 am – 12:00 noon Sponsored by: National Commission on Muslim Filipinos and Zamboanga City Police Office-PNP</p>
<p>Harmony Youth Day</p>	<p>This activity aims to create an avenue for the young people of diverse cultures and religions to come together to experience and establish good relationships and to strengthen the common good between Muslims, Christians and people of other living faiths. “The Love of God and Love of One's Neighbor” is a ground of understanding for all, engaging the youth in creating a more peaceful world. At the same time this is also a gathering of student leaders coming from different schools, colleges and universities.</p>	<p>Royce Convention Center, Grand Astoria Hotel, Mayor Jaldon St., Zamboanga City 2:00pm-5:00pm Sponsored by: Silpeace Youth (School-Based), DepEd, and CHED.</p>



Harmony among Religions: The Golden Rule

It is an amazing discovery that in spite of differences, all major religions share the same “Golden Rule” of the love of neighbor.

- **Hinduism:** “This is the sum of duty: Do not do to others what would cause you pain if done to you.” (Mahabharata 5: 15-17)
- **Buddhism:** “Hurt not others in ways that you would find hurtful” (Udanavarga 5:18)
- **Confucianism:** “It is the maxim of loving kindness:” Do not do unto others what you would not have them do unto you.” (Analects – Rongou – 15:23)
- **Judaism:** “What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow man. This is the entire law; all the rest is commentary” (Talmud, Shabban 31a)
- **Christianity:** “I give you a new commandment: love one another, you must love one another just as I have loved you” (Jn. 13,34)
- **Islam:** “No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother that which he loves for himself.” (The 42 Traditions of An-Nawawi)

Thus, the GOLDEN RULE is the most fundamental, common, ethical denominator of all religious and non-religious belief systems on earth. This convergence of love encourages us to reaffirm that dialogue is the expression of love and it is not only a means, but also a goal in life. This relation or dialogue that starts from God becomes a spirituality when we experience it in our life. It moves us to work together for the common good.



HARMONY PRAYER

O Lord, I cry for peace,
Purify my eyes to see peace,
Purify my mind to understand peace,
Purify my heart to love peace,
Purify my memory to work for peace,
The peace that comes from your love and compassion.

O lord sustain my vision of peace following your
inspiration,
You have many ways of revealing your presence and
love for
humanity,
But your style is constant: you are in dialogue with all,
you
care for all.

Make me, O Lord, a sign of your peace,
Living in dialogue with you,
To understand your silence and seek your presence;
In dialogue with myself to rediscover the meaning of
life;
In dialogue with others to move together in harmony
with all;
And in dialogue with creation to care for the earth.

Give me, O Lord, the courage to live in dialogue,
In the midst of divisions and conflicts,
And to build peace with all people of sincere hearts,
Who believe in your love and compassion. Amen.

The Harmony Prayer is a Universal Prayer for people of different religions. The prayer was composed by the Silsilah Dialogue Movement. The use of the word "LORD", in the prayer is related to the "Lord of the Universe" a universal attribute for God Yahweh/ Allah/ Divine/ Supreme Being etc. as the religions in the world use in their prayer.



Statement of Commitment for the WIHW 2017

The World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) 2017 celebration reminds us of its theme: “Celebrating life in the Spirit of Mercy and Compassion.”

In the midst of so much violence justified often by different ideologies, we, Muslims, Christians, and people of all living faiths and cultures express our solidarity to defend and protect life in this “**wounded world**” and commit ourselves to become “**wounded healers**” in this difficult time of climate change and violent ideologies that threaten all forms of life and deteriorate the ethical and moral values in contrast to the sanctity of life and the respect of Human Rights that we uphold to protect.

The WIHW is an initiative of the United Nations which guides humanity to reaffirm and promote love of God, love of Neighbor, and love of Common Good. It is a “Spiritual Reminder” for humanity that we reaffirm and promote.

Convinced of the importance of these values respected and treasured by cultures and religions as it is expressed in the “Golden Rule,” focused on “love,” we celebrate life in this special occasion and we encourage all to join in this mission that reaffirms the “common good.”

May God help us in this common mission of harmony, solidarity, and peace.



Acknowledgement

The Silsilah Secretariat of the United Nations Interfaith Partners-Zamboanga (UNI-HP-Z) is grateful to those groups and individuals that have offered their support and those who will participate and support our partnership program in any ways.

Silsilah Dialogue Movement as national coordinator for any groups and cities in Mindanao and in other parts of the country will spread this program booklet to encourage many to do more in their own place.

The website www.harmonylink.info will post this program booklet and the activities of the WIHW 2017 of Zamboanga and other parts of the Philippines and encourage many to participate and continue along the year to promote the HARMONY CHAIN INITIATIVE and the HARMONY PRAYER(*see it on page 22*).



**United Nations Interfaith Harmony
Partners - Zamboanga (UNI-HP-Z)**

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