



30 January 2011

His Majesty, King Abdullah II of Jordan

The "Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land" welcomes your efforts, which lead to the resolution of the UN General Assembly to recognize an annual week of World Interfaith Harmony.

One of the goals of the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land, – where the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, the Meeting of Heads of Local Churches in Jerusalem, the Palestinian Ministry of Religious Affairs (Waqf) and the Palestinian Sharia Courts come together – , is *to engage with our respective communities in the Holy Land in order to promote peace and justice*. Your initiative that was unanimously accepted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, is particularly welcomed in a time when religious diversity is often used to exacerbate social and political tensions and even to deepen religious divides. It is a valuable opportunity for people of all faiths world-wide to express their commitment for peace and harmony, which is based on the love of God and the love of the neighbor. This is in accordance with one of the goals of the Council, *to foster, on grassroots and national levels, an environment of mutual acceptance and respect*.

It is especially urgent in the current situation in the Holy Land, to constantly remind all religious leaders and communities of the importance of what is said in the first paragraph of the resolution, which "reaffirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace"

We pledge to make the annual World Interfaith Harmony Week an integral element in our efforts to promote peace and justice in the Holy Land.

Respectfully,

Rev. Dr & Canon Trond Bakkevig

Convener, Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land