

Bism Illah Al-Rahman Al-Raheem

Wal-Salatu wal salaamu 'ala Khatim al-anbiya wal mursalin

Your Royal Highness,

Your Beatitude,

Your Grace,

Your Excellencies,

Dear Guests,

Al-Salaamu Aleikum,

I would like to first thank God Almighty—*Al HamduLillahi wahdahu*—and then thank H.M. King Abdullah II and my husband His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi for having made this World Interfaith Harmony Week both a reality and a success. On behalf of all the judges and myself, I would like to thank The Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought for having set up the Prize and entrusted it to us. I would like to thank my fellow judges for their work and say how honoured I am to be working alongside His Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Theophilos III, and His Grace Bishop Munib Yunan, the Presiding Bishop of the World Lutheran Federation. I would like to thank all the hundreds of groups all over the world that held events marking the week, and the dozens of groups who competed for the Prizes. I would like to thank everyone here for coming today. And I would like to offer my most sincere congratulations to the winners and the runners up, and thanks for coming from so far across the world to collect their prizes. The judges would have liked to give everyone prizes, I am sure, but in the end favoured two categories of groups, those working courageously in conflicted zones despite scant resources (and this I believe explains our first, second place winners and our two runners-up), and those who held the most excellent and useful events with their resources, and this I believe explains our third place winner. Congratulations to all! May God reward all efforts for peace and harmony between people!

What I find particularly gratifying about the World Interfaith Harmony Week is the ingenious formula of its title and content—which if I may say so, my husband devised—never before used in the world, let alone the U.N.: *Love of God and Love of the Neighbour OR Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour*. This allows believers to remember God, and leaves a space for non-monotheists who believe in the Good. And since the Good (Al-Barr) is one of God's Names in the Qur'an and in the Bible Jesus Christ says only God is the Good, so Muslims and Christians can be satisfied that have not compromised their religions in any way, by celebrating the World Interfaith Harmony Week under this formula. After all, the Prophet Muhammad _ pbuh _said: *Ala inna al-dunya, mal'una, mal'unata ma fiha illa dhikr Allah wa 'Alim wa mut'allim* ('Verily the world is cursed, all that is in it, except the Remembrance of God, and those who know and teach and those who learn'). So let us be of those who remember God, and teach and learn His ways in Peace and Harmony.

Thank-you,

Wal-Salaamu 'Aleikum.