



World Interfaith Harmony Week – Toronto Steering Committee

2018 Theme – *The Promise of Inclusion*

Since 2013, the Toronto Steering Committee for World Interfaith Harmony Week has been selecting annual themes that fulfill our Vision, Mission and Values.

Vision – We are committed to creating a world characterized by peace, social justice and a sustainable environment by cooperating with efforts around the world to bring about interfaith cooperation and intercultural dialogue.

Mission – To create and widen awareness of World Interfaith Harmony Week within the GTA, and to help plan, conceptualize, facilitate and coordinate its events.

Values – We respect all faiths and beliefs and peoples of goodwill, and believe there is great value in knowing each other and working together.

The Promise of Inclusion, was inspired by the theme of the 2018 [Parliament of the World's Religions](#) which will be held in Toronto November 1-7. As the world's most culturally diverse city, how can we *practice The Promise of Inclusion* in Toronto?

One of the ways we can start is by bringing people together to share in an event that they would never otherwise be able to be a part of. An event that teaches them something about our common humanity and shows we are far more alike than different. It is about building lasting relationships among people and seeing the fruits of their labour turn into something very powerful.

JOHN TORY
MAYOR

Proclamation

Interfaith Harmony Week

February 1 - 7, 2018

WHEREAS during Interfaith Harmony Week 2018 "The Promise of Inclusion" there is a renewed commitment "to creating a world characterized by peace, social justice and a sustainable environment by cooperating with efforts around the world to bring about interfaith cooperation and intercultural dialogue."

The City of Toronto acknowledges the valued contributions that the interfaith communities in Toronto make to strengthen our society and contribute to our city's motto "*Diversity Our Strength*". Toronto has become a model city where all religions, faiths and beliefs are respected and accepted.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor John Tory, on behalf of Toronto City Council, do hereby proclaim **February 1 - 7, 2018** as "**Interfaith Harmony Week**" in the City of Toronto.


John Tory
Mayor of Toronto



House of Commons Recognition



[Yasmin Ratansi, Member of Parliament](#)

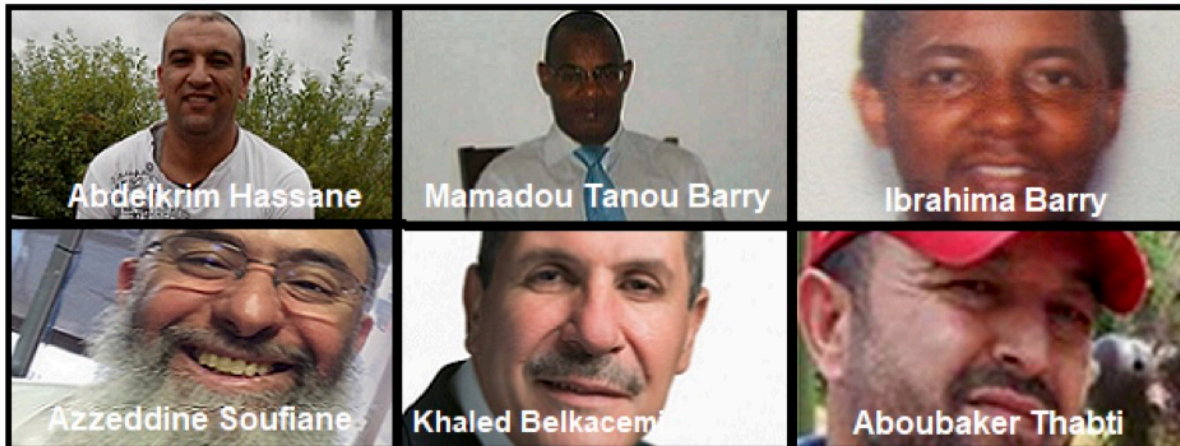
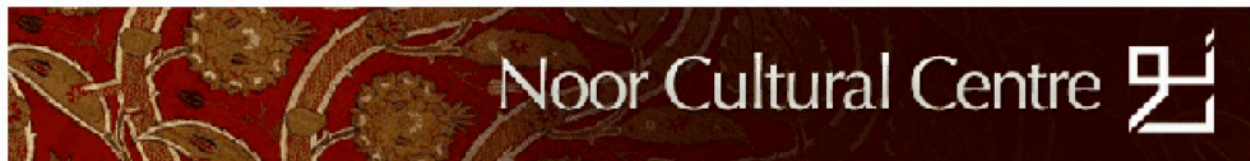
Mr. Speaker, the first week of February, designated by the UN General Assembly as the World Interfaith Harmony Week, is celebrating its eighth year.

In Toronto, the city gave a proclamation designating February 1 to 7 as WIHW week. The WIHW Toronto's theme for 2018 is "The Promise of Inclusion", where people of all faith groups of goodwill are coming together through dialogue, music, culture, and art to show the world that peace and harmony can exist irrespective of faith, culture, or creed.

This is truly a reflection of what a cosmopolitan society should be: accepting difference and seeking to actively understand it.

I encourage all Canadians to attend any of the WIHW events in their communities and to spread the message of "Love of the Good" and "Love of the Neighbour".

Sunday, February 4



One Year After the Quebec Mosque Shooting: Remembrance & Reflection Sunday, February 4

January 29, 2018 marks one year since a **gunman opened fire on the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec City**. With six individuals killed (and 19 injured), this shooting was the **most deadly act of politically/ideologically-motivated violence (also known as 'terrorism') in Canada since 1989**.

This special program is dedicated to remembering the victims, and understanding the broader context of Islamophobia in which this act of violence occurred.

Program

Remembrance:

Tariq Syed (**DawaNet**)

Video excerpt from '**Your Last Walk in the Mosque**'

Discussion | Islamophobia in Canada:

Dr. Ingrid Mattson (London and Windsor Community Chair in Islamic Studies, Huron University College at Western University)

Dr. Barbara Perry (Professor, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities at University of Ontario Institute of Technology; hate crimes expert)

Azeezah Kanji (Legal analyst & writer)

We will be collecting donations to support *Aymen Derbali, left paralyzed in the shooting, to afford a safe and accessible home.*

We applaud Noor's work in educating us all as to the causes of Islamophobia and stand united with them in seeking solutions to racism and bigotry in all their forms.

Monday, February 5



Come join us for ICP's Annual
WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

Interfaith Harmony Breakfast

Monday February 5, 2018, 7:30-9:00 am

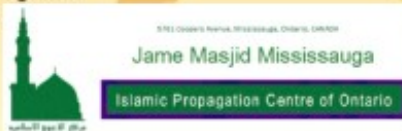
"World Interfaith Harmony Week celebrates the principles of tolerance and respect for the other that are deeply rooted in the world's major religions. The observance is also a summons to solidarity in the face of those who spread misunderstanding and mistrust."

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Jame Masjid Mississauga- 5761 Coopers Ave., Mississauga

Co-organized

by:



Kindly RSVP by Feb 1st via email at
interfaithcouncilpeel@gmail.com

Monday, February 5



Spiritual Dialogue Circle For the fifth consecutive year, this multi-faith Circle was proud to participate in World Interfaith Harmony Week. Since 2009, the Circle has been encouraging a culture of encounter and is an excellent opportunity to engage with Toronto's diverse communities. Participants included Agnostics, Baha'is, Buddhists, Catholics, Christians, Hindus, Humanists, Interfaith, Muslims, Scientologists, Spiritually Independent and Unitarians. Hosted by: Don Heights Unitarian Congregation



Wednesday, February 7



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK



The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto
invites women of all faiths & cultures to an evening of

BREAKING BREAD TO BREAK THE SILENCE!

**Wednesday, February 7 @ 6pm
4700 Bathurst Street, Toronto**

World Interfaith Harmony Week workshop for women of all faiths & cultures to bring our teachings into dialogue with one another around the topic of violence against women.

- ✧ Bring a story from your tradition that relates to violence against women.
- ✧ Bring a symbol of the remedy or transformation occurring in your tradition.
- ✧ Bring some vegetarian food to share.

Please join us as community-leading women to showcase the substance and the heart of our faiths & cultures and to mobilize to extinguish violence against women.

This event is FREE

RSVP

Eva Karpati 416-633-5100 • Dafna Strauss 647-456-3705



OUR HOME, OUR STORIES: Indigenous, Muslim and Jewish Communities in Dialogue

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Refreshments: 6:30pm
Program: 7:00pm
Adults: \$10
Free for children, students & as needed

At Congregation Darchei Noam
864 Sheppard Avenue West • (416) 638-4783

Pre-registration is Encouraged:
www.darcheinoam.ca/event/ourhomeourstories

Whabagoon
Elder, Lac Seul Nation

Rabbi Tina Grimberg
Spiritual Leader & Storyteller,
Congregation Darchei Noam

Wali Shah
Spoken Word Poet / Musician

Michael Etherington
Manager, Culture Department, Native
Canadian Centre of Toronto

Indigenize Our Minds EOP:
"Pow Wow Experience"

Presented by:  **NCCT**  **Darchei Noam**
Toronto's Reconstructionist Synagogue
קהילת דרכי נועם

Part of:  **WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK**

Thank you to our Sponsors:  **Ve'ahavta**  **Canadian Race Relations Foundation** **Fondation canadienne des relations raciales**

Darchei Noam and Intercultural Dialogue Institute co-hosted their third World Interfaith Harmony Week event this and demonstrated how such a relationship can lever the strengths of two groups committed to the week's ideals.

Indigenous programming opened our eyes to their spirituality, relationship with the land and their aspirations towards Reconciliation. We thank Elder Whabagoon, of the Lac Seul Nation, Cynthia White, a spiritual leader of The Six Nations, and the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto.

Wednesday, February 7



Diversity in Sanatan Dharma (Hinduism)

Held at the Multi-Faith Centre, University of Toronto, the event included the sacred Havan (Fire Ritual) which is generic in nature and widely done in many of the Sects of Sanatan Dharma. Some of these Sects include the Arya Samaj, Brahma Kumari, Ramakrishna Mission, Satya Sai Baba, and Hare Krishna (ISKCON). The role of Puja and Havan in these various Sampradayas (Lineage) was discussed.

Shanti (Peace)!
Pandit Suraj Persad
Hindu Dharma Mission (Canada)
Hindu Campus Ministry
University of Toronto

The Promise of Inclusion also begins by engaging with deep listening. When we listen to others from diverse backgrounds tell their stories, we realize how we connect to them and they to us. Recognizing each person as an essential part of the community allows for healing ... between religions, cultures, genders ... and helps us find common ground on which to work together.

Submitted by:

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Yasmin Ratansi | Pastor Tuula van Gaasbeek | Tim Hackborn | Sid Ikeda | Khadijah Kanji | Jackie Kovacks | Pandit Suraj Persad | Zahid Rafique | Daniel Schild |

