

WORLD INTERFAITH



HARMONY WEEK

2018 WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK CELEBRATION

Theme:

Eradication of Acts of Religious Discrimination

Official report written and submitted by Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL), an international NGO affiliated with the UN ECOSOC



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 Watch our Video Report:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sd2fC7aumHg>

Event Overview

Heavenly Culture, World Peace, and Restoration of Light (HWPL) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization registered with the United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). HWPL transcends cultures, ideologies, races and religions, and is committed to achieving peace by seeking sustainable and inclusive solutions with leaders and youths from all walks of life.



HWPL celebrated this year's World Interfaith Harmony Week with the theme of 'Activities for the Eradication of Acts of Religious Discrimination' at the World Alliance of Religions' Peace (WARP) Offices, which is a platform for interfaith dialogue based on scriptures. Over 1,700 religious leaders, social workers, and young people from 61 cities in 42 countries attended the celebration. They discussed the cases of religious discrimination and searched for the cause and solution to these acts.



Although most countries currently allow freedom of religion, in-depth discussions on "religious discrimination" have been conducted in countries where freedom of religion is guaranteed by law, because many cases of mental and physical harm caused by religious discrimination still exists in those countries as well.

In fact, cases of religious biasness increased by 133% from 2011 to 2016 in America, with 1,400 documented cases of attacks on religion (Source: First Liberty Institute, 2017). Countries in Europe, in comparison with other countries, had higher incidents of religious discrimination in 2015, where 76% of Jews, 71% of Muslims experienced religious harassment (Source: Pew Research Center, 2015).

They not only have disadvantages in educational opportunities and job hiring, but also suffer from mental and physical abuse, and in severe cases lose their lives. All of these atrocities are done in the name of religion.

But this is clearly against the spirit of religion. All religions are teaching peace. But discrimination breaks down each religion and ruins an individual's life. In addition, non-believers are given a negative perception of religion, which makes many people misunderstand religion.

In fact, many people who attended the celebrations directly experienced or witnessed religious discrimination.



Religious leaders, with a common voice, said religious discrimination is caused by ignorance of the teachings of their religion, ignorance of other religions, and from misunderstandings. And in order to solve this problem, religious leaders should gather and have discussions based on their scriptures. They also voiced the need to enforce laws regulating the infringement of freedom of religion and unfair discrimination by others, embodying the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW).



During the month of February, in addition to discussions, special events under the common theme of "Eradicate Acts of Religious Discrimination" took place. The "Can Do" campaign, writing letters to religious leaders who discriminated against other religions, sharing scriptural verses of love and peace with your religious neighbors, hand printing your vote to cease religious discrimination and much more. These activities of hope will continue till the day religious discrimination is ceased all over the world.

Event Participation List

Over 1,700 participants from 42 countries in 61 cities celebrated the World Interfaith Harmony Week with HWPL

No.	Date	Continent	Country	City	Number of Participants
1	Feb 5	Asia	China	Neimenggu	22
2	Feb 6	Asia	China	Beijing	41
3	Feb 6	Asia	China	Qinhuangdao	18
4	Feb 8	Asia	China	Shanghai	20
5	Feb 8	Asia	China	YanTai	20
6	Feb 9	Asia	China	Suzho	11
7	Feb 10	Asia	China	Tianjin	40
8	Feb 10	Asia	India	New Delhi	90
9	Feb 10	Asia	Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar	21
10	Feb 10	Middle East	Oman	Muscat	15
11	Feb 10	Middle East	United Arab Emirates	Dubai	10
12	Feb 11	Africa	Tunisia	Tunis	11
13	Feb 12	Asia	Bangladesh	Chittagong	6
14	Feb 12	Middle East	Bahrain	Manama	10
15	Feb 12	Middle East	Israel	I'billin	15
16	Feb 13	Europe	Armenia	Yerevan	13
17	Feb 14	Africa	Egypt	Cairo	14
18	Feb 15	Europe	France	Paris	13
19	Feb 15	Europe	Sweden	Gothenburg	20
20	Feb 17	Asia	India	Pune	8
21	Feb 17	Asia	Sri Lanka	Kandy	8
22	Feb 17	Europe	Germany	Berlin	20
23	Feb 17	Oceania	Australia	Melbourne	48
24	Feb 17	Oceania	Fiji	Suva	10
25	Feb 17	Oceania	New Zealand	Auckland	15
26	Feb 17	The Americas	United States of America	Chicago	39
27	Feb 18	Asia	India	Chennai	10

2018 World Interfaith Harmony Week – HWPL

28	Feb 19	Europe	Moldova	Chisinau	12
29	Feb 19	Middle East	Jordan	Amman	13
30	Feb 19	Middle East	Lebanon	Saida	15
31	Feb 20	Africa	South Africa	Cape Town	30
32	Feb 20	Asia	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	13
33	Feb 20	Europe	Albania	Elbasan	12
34	Feb 20	Europe	Poland	Warsaw	12
35	Feb 20	Middle East	Palestine	Bethlehem	13
36	Feb 20	The Americas	United States of America	New York	36
37	Feb 21	Europe	Malta	Gzira	12
38	Feb 21	Middle East	Yemen	Sana	13
39	Feb 22	Africa	Nigeria	Lagos	30
40	Feb 22	Asia	China	Hong Kong	11
41	Feb 22	Asia	Japan	Tokyo	13
42	Feb 22	Asia	Sri Lanka	Colombo	5
43	Feb 22	Europe	England	London	20
44	Feb 22	Europe	Greece	Athens	15
45	Feb 22	Middle East	Israel	Jerusalem	16
46	Feb 22	Middle East	Qatar	Doha	12
47	Feb 23	Africa	Rwanda	Kigali	130
48	Feb 23	Asia	China	Guangzhou	41
49	Feb 23	Asia	South Korea	Gwangju	18
50	Feb 23	Asia	South Korea	Suncheon	15
51	Feb 23	Middle East	Iraq	Baghdad	14
52	Feb 24	Asia	Myanmar	Sagaing	150
53	Feb 24	Asia	Philippines	Manila	17
54	Feb 24	Asia	South Korea	Suwon	331
55	Feb 24	Asia	Thailand	Bangkok	33
56	Feb 24	CIS	Kazakhstan	Almaty	35
57	Feb 24	Europe	Denmark	Copenhagen	9
58	Feb 24	Oceania	Australia	Brisbane	35
59	Feb 24	Oceania	Australia	Sydney	48
60	Feb 24	The Americas	United States of America	Indianapolis	12
61	Feb 26	Asia	South Korea	Mokpo	12

Special Interfaith Events

Event 1

“# Can Do” Campaign

In more than 14 countries, religious leaders made a decision of their future activity for the eradication of religious discrimination.

The "Can Do" campaign was about religious leaders not only sharing what they 'can do' to eradicate religious discrimination, but to actually pull through and then share their activity through SNS.

Fr. Nehme Georges Saliba of the Greek Orthodox Church mentioned the importance of youth, “As a solution of religious discrimination, we need peace events that youths can participate.”

As promised, religious leaders used social media as a platform to share their determination and also to spread their sincere message.



Event 2

Hand Print Your Vote to Stop Religious Discrimination

Brisbane, Australia

This hand printing activity signified the importance to stop religious discrimination and persecution by our hands.

All audiences and panel members joined in this activity and promised to work together for a peaceful world.

Religious leaders, especially, wrote down their names and signed on their hand print, as a sign of determination and promise to keep working for a world free of religious discrimination.

Ms. Soma Nair, a representative of Hinduism, urged all participants to truly keep today's promise in their hearts. The collection of everyone's hands sent an encouraging message to all those who needed support!



Event 3

Peace Letter & Message

: Writing down the Hopeful Messages for the Cessation of the Religious Discrimination in the world

Kigali, Rwanda

People in Kigali embodied its spirit in the yellow butterfly-shaped card. All participants wrote down their hopeful messages for the cessation of the religious discrimination in the world.



"I believe that all religious discrimination should be finished. And while I wrote down this message all together, regardless of religion, I was convinced we can achieve religious harmony definitely"

- A participant in the event.



Bangkok, Thailand

Participants learned about the world-wide examples of religious discrimination and became aware of its seriousness. The DPCW was introduced as a practical method to solve religious discrimination. Six panelists and 25 audiences wrote messages to religious leaders, who are engaged in religious discrimination, to awaken the role of religious people.



Auckland, New Zealand



Since there is much religious discrimination in New Zealand, the leaders shared their experience of being persecuted. They said the reason for this problem is that we have misunderstood the scripture and used religion for personal purposes. Also, there was a peace activity where both the youth and religious leaders wrote messages of peace on the Peace Dove board. Ultimately, the conclusion of the discussion is that believers should hold their faith with the right purpose and be religious people who can realize the purpose of the scripture, so as to become one without discrimination.

Event 4

Joint Statement of Religious Leaders Advocating Prohibition of Religious Discrimination and Coercive Conversion Program

Berlin, Germany

Religious leaders announced a joint declaration on the theme, "Declaration on the Prohibition of Religious Discrimination and Coercive Conversion Program." It was a statement expressing the desire that religious freedom



would be protected by eradicating the oppression of coercive conversion of humanity, which is being carried out anti-religiously. The audience also deeply sympathized with the declaration and signed in agreement and of appreciation for this statement.

Event 5

Religious Cultural Performance Experience Program

Mandalay, Myanmar

Through the religious experience program, participants were able to gain a deeper understanding of other religions and cultures. Participants all responded together, felt and experienced as one.



H.G. Ramachandras

(Hinduism / Preacher, International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

“Overall, it was great. I liked the Muslim team for cultural experience and I hope they keep running these programs.”



Mr. Soe Nay Oo

(Islam / Imam, Myoma Mosque)

“Today’s event was special and good. I am pleased to have many people come. I hope we can have another time to sing. It seems that there is a lot of interest in sharing the unique cultures of different religions, both in the audience and in the panel.”



Events 6

Sharing Your Verse

Suva, Republic of Fiji

Participants in the event made bookmarks, and written on them were verses from various religious scriptures. On all the bookmarks, there were teachings of love, understanding and peace.

When it was time to share the bookmarks, the religion of which the verses were from was initially kept a secret by covering the name of the religion.

Later, when the religious leaders and the audiences identified which scripture the verses were from, they were able to realize, once again, that not only their religious scripture contained good teachings, but also in other scriptures too.



Other Events





Discussions About Religious Discrimination

Question 1

Have you ever seen or experienced any religious discrimination? What caused the incident?

Last week, in Seattle, United States, a Jewish woman was imposed by her husband to keep the rules in his religion. This is also killing by religious discrimination. Rabbis intervene in politics, and religious leaders transform religion into social organization by grouping religion. The cause of religious discrimination arises because the nature of religion has been forgotten and has been altered (corrupted).

In Judaism, the problem is as follows - some Jewish think importance of purpose and means are changed, and the law becomes more important than the foundation of religion, which is “love”. Some in Judaism consider Sabbath (Shabat) and Kosher (God's permission) are more important than respecting and loving others.

I'billin, Israel

Rabbi. Dubi Avigul / Israel / Judaism / Rabbi, Sakhnin

Yes, I saw and experienced religious discrimination. Within the religion itself there are a lot of discriminations. Some sects of religions thought that they are superior to the other sect. I think the main cause of discrimination is ignorance. Religious discrimination is now a major challenge to many individuals and groups in various countries. Discrimination means differently treating an individual or group based on their religion and religious beliefs and practices.

Most of the religious discrimination is a result of the partial teaching of religious reciprocity. Religious discrimination can also be caused by the attitude of exclusivity and cause of fear to the followers. It is also caused by lack of accurate knowledge among the members of different religious groups.

Manama, Bahrain

Fr. George Yohannan / India / Orthodox / Vicar, Mar Thoma Church

I think religious discrimination is taking place universally. Discrimination means disagreement. There is a difference in view and a difference in interpretation. Depending on the degree of discrimination, it could be a slight difference or a severe (serious) difference. If serious, even war is caused.

Usually, when a religious person meets a person who has no faith, a situation of slight discrimination arises. In fact, there is discrimination against each other. Those without faith reject and discriminate those with faith because believers are far from the public and they cannot understand them. However, because believers have also been through a period of non-faith, they try to persuade a person who has no faith to have a certain faith. There are misunderstandings and discrimination also within one religion. It is because the degree of understanding is different amongst each other. There could be a dispute about how well you practiced your faith and how un-well the other person has.

There is also discrimination between religions. This is because each person has different ideas. If there were a common idea, there would not be many religions, instead, there would be one religion. And there would be no discrimination.

YanTai, China

Mr. Leng Yi / China / Buddhism / Monk, Beijing Tongzhou Songzhuang Painter Village
YiLeng Studio

The discrimination driven by religious matters appear when people have the attitude of exclusivism and lack of knowledge. Allah's messenger eradicated the problem of racial or colored discrimination so successfully that superiority is not by birth or color or blood, but by God-fearing and righteousness.

Kigali, Rwanda

Sheikh Ismael Maniriho / Rwanda / Islam / Imam, Rwanda Muslim Council

It is caused by three major reasons: selfish interests (monetary), ignorance of the religious teachings and personalization of God Almighty. Each of these three reasons are empowered through hate speeches. The religious leader will create some bad words against the other religion or tribe so that people will detest whatever he hates and as such create a big gap of hatred amongst co inhabitants.

Lagos, Nigeria

Fadilat Sheikh Abdurahman Sulaiman Adangba / Nigeria / Islam /Grand Imam, Wikayatd-Dua

I would generalize and say, the discrimination, as such, should be found every level in the society. It could be due to color, ethnicity, belief system or it could be just due to any other reason, your orientation, you might like one religious topic and then the other religious person might say “you’re wrong and I am right.”

So, I think it all starts with the assumption that I’m better than you or I’m superior than you. My belief system is better than your belief system, my country is better than yours. This ego is the main cause for the discrimination. And that should be fault.

We are talking today about the religions, and according to me, most of us have not understood what the religious principles are. They are just fighting for the name. It could be Hinduism or it could be Islam or anything. They are fighting in the name of religion without really understanding the essence of religion. The non-violence is the highest principle. So it really does not matter whether this principle comes from Hinduism or Islam or Christianity and any other religion. But we always associate himself, “No, this comes from Hinduism.” So we are forgetting the essence and fighting over the names. That is the reason why we have these problems in our society today.

Berlin, Germany

Mr. Vijayendra Munikoti / India / Hinduism / Preacher, Sri Ganesha Hindu Temple

Question 2

What is the reason that religious discrimination arises even amongst believers?

The reason why religious discrimination occurs is because of ignorance. There are principles in each religion, but they do not know these things. Even if this ignorant person seems to be a religious person on the outside, their inside cannot be regarded as a religious person. Religious discrimination also arises from not following the tradition already existing in the religion.

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Imam Hushkeldiyev Zhanbolat / Kazakhstan / Islam / Imam, "Enetbaba" Mosque in Province of Karaganda

Religious people, they are actually following their so-called religion according to them, and not following the right path, according to the founder of that religion.

They misinterpreted this concept of the right teachings of religion, which is founded by the founder, the prophets. But to hold their power on the local people, they don't want to listen to something which is against their opinion. That is why they cannot listen to a new thing, and they cannot let them go forward against their opinion.

Maybe their opinion is also 100% wrong, they are not on the right path. They are not giving the teaching of their religion according to logic, according to their founder.

But still, when there are people who will listen to the new teaching, the new group of people, or the new ideology, then they will start persecution against the group of these people. Because they don't want to lose their power.

Gothenburg, Sweden

Mr. Agha Yahya Khan / Sweden / Islam / Chief Imam, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
Gothenburg Mosque

Question 3

What is the solution to the religious discrimination in the world?

Ensure right to free choice of religion and stop the evil acts that the sick people (social wicked) do in the name of God. Some people use religion as a tool of judgment and condemning. This must be eradicated.

Religious leaders are God's prophet and mediator. Their role is not the judge. It should not be a religious threat. In Judaism, there are 36 codes of conduct that deal with the Gentiles. There also is no discrimination here.

Ibillin, Israel
Rabbi. Dubi Avigul / Israel / Judaism / Rabbi, Sakhnin

By reading the Scripture, you get a level of understanding.

As you grow and develop and are taught, you get another level of understanding.

We read the Scripture according to the understanding of that particular time.

Before growing and developing to a spiritual level, we are looking at water as water, rock as rock, and soil as soil. As we begin to grow and develop, we know it is not talking about a rock, but a person. This is when the division comes, because we think a baby knows what a teenager knows.

If we understand how Allah does things, we should just hold our mouth, and don't get upset. You came to where you are – you were a baby one time.

We can have peace, understanding this.

Chicago, America

Imam Charles Abdullah / America / Islam / Imam, Gary Masjid Mosque

We should tell the people that God is one and that one God is love. John 3:16, Malachi 1:2.

The HWPL platform is a wonderful avenue to preach to mankind that God is one universal love bound to take care of everyone.

We, as religious leaders, must see ourselves of change agents in the business of changing the mentality of people to embrace peace, love and harmony.

Lagos, Nigeria
Brother Pius Karata Nwidag / Nigeria / Catholic / Brother, The Nativity Catholic Church

Regarding the incident in South Korea, it seems that the Korean government does not want to deal with this issue ahead of the Olympics. But if the people continue to urge them, the government will have no choice but to answer.

If the Korean government thinks about the honor of the real country, it is true that South Korea should try not to hesitate about such matters, but to give an answer.

For this crime, the civilian class and conscientious religious leaders will continue to influence, and the government will think about it in the center.

For those who commit these crimes, genuine religious people will not be closing their mouths, and we will have to resolve them to prevent potential crime.

In order to create harmony between real religions and to eliminate discrimination, we need to discuss this issue further in this WARP Office. This tragic event is very unfortunate, but we must take it as a precious lesson and try to gather opinions so that it does not happen again.

Awakened religious believers should continue to have an influence over this issue.

Discrimination against religion should be eradicated in some way, and I will support it in some way to solve the problem.

Quran 49:13

The Creator did not create us to judge one another. What creatures do is to know and love each other. This is why God created many people.

"Do what you want to be treated to your brothers." God created us so.

But we forget God's will and become blind by ourselves. And we distinguish ourselves as special, create a group and create an act of discrimination. And I forget the human value of "people are the same." No one is chosen, nor is anyone special from God. Everyone is precious. A prince, a princess, or any person is a precious human being and a brother of equal value. You can solve all problems if you think about each other from the standpoint.

I'billin, Israel

Honorable Qudi. Muhammad Abu Obied / Israel / Islam / Judge, The Sharia Courts - Ministry Of Justice

The main solution to solve the discrimination is to conscientise the believers of each religion. Help the believers to interact with other religious groups and persons. Try to know about the truth and goodness of other religions. Teach the followers of each religion that we are brothers and sisters. Give correct teaching and interpretation of scriptures that also help the resolve the religious discrimination. To take strong decision to punish those who promote discrimination. To make a law and include it in the article of constitution.

Manama, Bahrain

Fr. George Yohannan / India / Orthodox Church / Vicar, Mar Thoma Church

Question 4

Does your scripture provide the root cause and solution for religious discrimination?

Yes. In the Bible, it says "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." (Matthew 7:1-5) Many Jewish leaders, at the time of Jesus' first coming, criticized Jesus. Their criticism of Jesus was not based on the scripture given by God, but based on the commentary and discipline that Judaism created themselves. Jesus' actions were not against the teachings of the Bible, but they were threats to the discipline and the teachings of Judaism itself.

Jesus informed those who judged others that they should first look on themselves and they themselves should be perfect before they criticize others. And that they should know themselves in light of the scripture first and speak and act accordingly to the scripture. Jesus also taught that you should teach what is right as being right, and what is wrong as being wrong, not saying what is right is wrong, and what is wrong is right. This is the greatest mistake a religious leader should not make, and this is where evil forms. (Matthew 5:37, Isaiah 5:20)

Tokyo, Japan

Pastor Byoung Sup Sim / Korea / Protestantism / Pastor, Tokyo Zion Church

Return to the basic scriptures. Only God in His book can best advise man through His commandments. God has given many examples of His will to the people in the Scriptures.

Teachers' calling is like a road arrow that guides to the Holy Bible.

In Holy Scripture Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ teach us:

Matthew 22:37-40

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 7:12

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Yerevan, Armenia

Pastor Armen Grigoryan / Armenia / Protestantism / Pastor, Evangelical Church

Question 5

Prohibition of violation of Human Rights in the name of religion

I believe that it is important to look into the root cause of violence in general and religion related conflicts in particular. In my opinion, the root of trouble is lack of knowledge of the true meaning and essence or purpose of religion.

The word 'religion' according to one interpretation, derived from Latin root 're-ligare' to bind again. So, religion means to bind again together what has been separated.

Religion, when restricted with rituals and superstition, ceases to be the liberating and civilizing force that it essentially is.

The same word for religion in Sanskrit is "dharma" which means to bind together. So the purpose of religion is not only to liberate the mind of humankind and set on the path that leads to spiritual realization, but also to foster amity and fraternity among all human beings.

New Delhi, India

Ven. Doboorn Tulku / India / Buddhism / Founder Managing Trustee, WBCT

On December 29, last year, an unpardonable act against a human being occurred, where a 20-year-old woman died from suffocation after being detained for coercive conversion program in Jeonnam, Korea.

This case involved a young woman who attended a church, which was labeled as a cult by the existing Church since it taught different interpretations (doctrine) of the Bible.

This was a bizarre case of a murder of a young woman by her own parents. She had been crying out for religious freedom as she was being forced to undertake the coercive conversion program from her parents, who had been instigated by pastors with great secular authority behind them. Freedom of religion is guaranteed by law in South Korea, so I cannot believe this has happened in Korea! How can it be that a religious leader, who has to be self-serving, praying constantly, loving God, caring, loving and protecting God's people, tempt parents to force their children to undertake the coercive conversion program, just because they have been taught a different teaching?!

In addition, the coercive conversion program has over 1,000 victims who are deprived of human rights, and more than 150 people are directly affected each year.

It is the result of the indiscriminate slander of today's religion that these death cases continue to arise.

Suwon, Korea

Dr. Yeonggi Bae / Korea / Confucianism / Vice-chairman, Sungkyunkwan Group of Confucianism

Question 6

Do you think a law that restricts religious discrimination should be implemented as an international law?

There is discrimination against Muslims in our country. Religious peace is important, but there is religious discrimination in the region. The government prevented the winter vacation classes of Islamic mosques. Who will fight against the government and who will stand up against the government? This international law is very good. We need to be in harmony amongst religions and there is no need to fight each other. We have to be in peace with each other. Everyone will do what he does, and the final judgment will be up to God when He comes. I am thankful to HWPL's philosophy of peace.

Neimengguzizhiqu, China

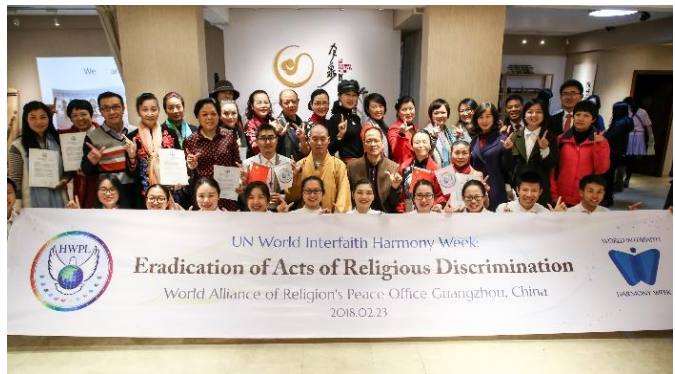
Imam Qin Zhong Jie / China / Islam / Imam, ChaSuQi Grand Mosque

If an international law is officially enforced, then religion will be an answer based on law, with political power. There will be no conflict, urging for the unity of religions. Because there are regulations on religious law. Each person is very excited about the birth of an international religious law. My heart is pounding.

Qinhuangdao, China

Prof. Man Hou-Kolb / China / Buddhism / Professor, Hebei Normal University of Science & Technology

Photo Gallery





2018 World Interfaith Harmony Week – HWPL



Participant Testimonies

I'billin, Israel

Honorable Qudi. Muhammad Abu Obied

(Islam / Judge, The Sharia Courts
- Ministry Of Justice, Israel)

“I support the eradication of acts of religious discrimination. I am constantly in attendance at the WARP Office Dialogue, committed to building a good understanding of religion and participating in religious harmony activities.”

“It was very touching subject. All religions have many commonalities, but they discriminate one another due to a little difference. All religious leaders must involve together and eliminate any kind of inter-religious barriers.”

Amman, Jordan

Rev. David Ayyob Elia Rihani

(Protestantism / Pastor, Evangelical Church)

Melbourne, Australia

Mrs. Dilnaz Billimoria

(Zoroastrianism/
Manager of Department of Public Information,
Zoroastrian Association of Victoria)

“It is very important to allow people to practice their faith in peace and freedom. However, with rights come responsibilities, and we have to be respectful to others. With our faith we link traditions, cultures, values, food, dress, relationships, economic status, etc. People have to realize that it culminates in forming the society we live in.”

“Religious freedom starts and ends at birth and death. Everyone should have the right to believe whatever they want to believe. More awareness needs to be delivered to the public. We must get people to consider the logic behind what they believe in and allow others to make their own choices.”

London, UK

Dr. Harshad N. Sanghrajka

(Jainism / Deputy President,
UK Institute of Jainology)

Media Reports

Indian Religious Leaders Raise the Voice for Securing Human Rights During the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week

India	Religion World	2018. 2. 16
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<https://www.religionworld.in/indian-religious-leaders-raise-voice-securing-human-rights-un-world-interfaith-harmony-week/>

Abasilamu n'Abakirisitu bavuga ko Imana itita ku madini ahubwo yita ku bikorwa

Rwanda	Umuseke	2018. 2. 23
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<https://umuseke.rw/abasilamu-nabakirisitu-bavuga-ko-imana-itarabera-amadini-ahubwo-yita-ku-bikorwa.html>

"U Rwanda rukwiye kuba urugero ku guca intambara z'imyemerere mu madini"

Rwanda	Igihe	2018. 2. 23
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<http://www.igihe.com/amakuru/u-rwanda/article/u-rwanda-rukwiye-kuba-urugero-ku-guca-intambara-z-imyemerere-mu-madini>

Religious leaders to discuss how religion can help make a peaceful society

Thailand	The Nation	2018. 2. 23
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<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/national/30339551>

Workshop to bring peace through unity of religious

Myanmar	The Global New Light of Myanmar	2018. 2. 25
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https://issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper/docs/26_feb_18_gnlm

[Video]

Myanmar	Eleven Media Group	2018. 2. 25
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https://m.facebook.com/pg/elevenbroadcasting/posts/?ref=page_internal&mt_nav=1#!/story.php?story_fbid=2069822723274201&id=1627797554143389&_tn_=%2As%2As-R

HWPL "Religious discrimination should not be overlooked anymore"

HWPL "종교차별 더 이상 방관해서는 안 돼"

South Korea	Guk Je News	2018. 2. 25
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<http://www.gukjenews.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=879946>

HWPL "Religious discrimination should not be overlooked anymore"

HWPL “종교차별 더 이상 방관해서는 안 돼”

South Korea | Asia Ilbo | 2018. 2. 25

<http://www.asiailbo.co.kr/etnews/?fn=v&no=273089&cid=21030100>

Myanmar | Kyemon(The Mirror Daily) | 2018. 2. 25

https://issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper/docs/km_25.2.18

ဘာသာပေါင်းစုံ သဟဇာတဖြစ်ရေး၊ ဘာသာရေးဆိုင်ရာ ခွဲခြားဆက်ဆံမှုပျောက်ရေး ဆွေးနွေးပွဲကျင်းပ

မန္တလေး စေတီဝါရီ ၂၇

မန္တလေး စေတီဝါရီ ၂၇ ကျယ်သဏ္ဍာန်တော်ကြီးရှိ ဘာသာပေါင်းစုံ သဟဇာတ ဖြစ်ရေး ရက်သတ္တပတ်လှည့်ရွာမှုအဖြစ် HWPL အဖွဲ့က ဦးစီးကျင်းပသည့် ဘာသာပေါင်းစုံမှ ပုဂ္ဂိုလ် များ တွေ့ဆုံဆွေးနွေးပွဲကို ယနေ့ မွန်းလွဲ ၂ နာရီက မန္တလေးတိုင်းဒေသကြီး ပုသိမ်ကြီးမြို့နယ် ရန်ကင်း တောင်ခြေရှိ ကမ္ဘာ့ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးတက္ကသိုလ် (University of Global Peace) သဒ္ဓမ္မမာမက စေတီဝါရီမာန်တော်ကြီးရှိ ကျင်းပရာ အဆိုပါ တက္ကသိုလ်မှ နာယကဆရာတော် ဦးဇော်တီကနှင့် ဘာသာပေါင်းစုံမှ အခြားအင်အားစုများ တက်ရောက်ခဲ့ကြ ကြောင်း သိရသည်။

ရှေးဦးစွာ ဘာသာပေါင်းစုံချစ်ကြည်ရင်းနှီး ရေး ပြည့်စုံ ဦးစမ်းမြှင့်နှင့် ကိုရီးယားနိုင်ငံသား

HWPL အဖွဲ့မှ Dr.James Kim တို့က အမှာ စကားများ ပြောကြားကြသည်။ ယခုကျင်းပသည့် ဆွေးနွေးပွဲကို ဘာသာရေးဆိုင်ရာ ခွဲခြားဆက်ဆံမှု ပပျောက်အောင် ဆောင်ရွက်ရေး (Eradication of Acts of Religious Discrimination) ခေါင်းစဉ်ဖြင့် ကျင်းပခြင်းဖြစ်သည်။

ယင်းနောက် ကမ္ဘာ့ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးတက္ကသိုလ်မှ နာယကဆရာတော် ဦးဇော်တီက၊ ခရစ်ယာန် ဘာသာမှ Rev-John၊ ဟိန္ဒူဘာသာမှ ဓမ္မာ ချန္ဒာဝတ်နှင့် အစ္စလာမ်ဘာသာမှ မော်လီဟီ ဦးစောနေဦးတို့က သက်ဆိုင်ရာဘာသာများအလိုက် ခွဲခြားဆက်ဆံမှုများနှင့် ပတ်သက်၍ ရှင်းလင်း ပြောကြားကြသည်။

ဆရာတော် ဦးဇော်တီက က ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာတွင် ခွဲခြားဆက်ဆံမှု မရှိပါကြောင်း၊ ရဟန်း၊ ရှင်သာမဏေ၊ သီလရှင်နှင့် လူပုဂ္ဂိုလ်တို့တွင်

စောင့်ထိန်းရသော သိက္ခာပုဒ်များ မတူညီကြပါ ကြောင်း၊ သွားလာနေထိုင်ရာတွင် တန်းတူ ဆောင်ရွက်ပါက အပြစ်ဖြစ်ပွယ်ရုံကြောင်း၊ မာန်မာန တောင်လွှားလာနိုင်ကြောင်း၊ အရာရာကို စွန့်လွှတ်၍ သာသနာ့ဘောင်သို့ ဝင်ရောက်လာသူများအနေဖြင့် မည်သည့်ခွဲခြားဆက်ဆံမှုမျိုးကိုမှ ပြုလုပ်လိမိတ် မရှိကြောင်း၊ ဘာသာရေးကိုးကွယ်ယုံကြည်မှုမှာ ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးနှင့် ယဉ်ကျေးမှုကို မြှင့်တင်ရန်အတွက် သာ ဖြစ်သင့်ကြောင်း၊ ကိုးကွယ်ယုံကြည်မှု အခြေခံ အနေဖြင့် ခွဲခြားဆက်ဆံမှုမရှိသင့်ကြောင်း မိန့်ကြား သည်။ ဆက်လက်ပြီး ဘာသာပေါင်းစုံမှ တက်ရောက် လာသည့် ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်များက ဘာသာရေးနှင့်စပ်လျဉ်း၍ ခွဲခြားဆက်ဆံမှုများအကြောင်း ရင်းနှီးပွင့်လင်းစွာ ဆွေးနွေးတိုင်ပင်ကြပြီး အမှတ်တရဓာတ်ပုံ ရိုက်ကူး ကာ အခမ်းအနားကို ရုပ်သိမ်းလိုက်သည်။

အကျဉ်း (မန္တလေး)

(page 3)

HWPL Gwangju Branch opens meeting for Eradication of Religious Discrimination
HWPL 광주전남지부, 종교차별 근절을 위한 간담회 열어

South Korea | Korea Human Rights News | 2018. 2. 27

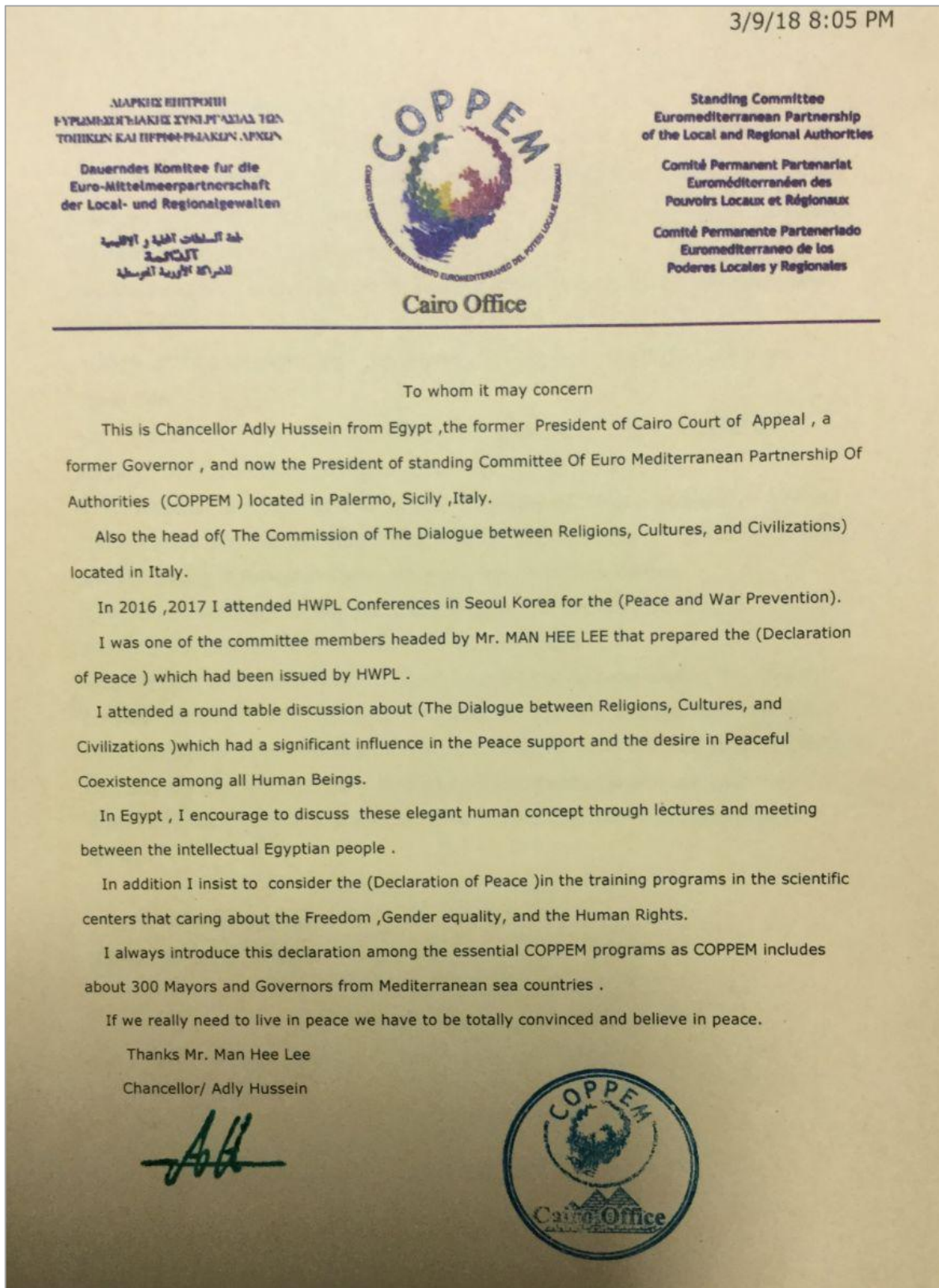
http://www.committee.co.kr/sub_read.html?uid=33207

Religious leaders preach peaceful co-existence among adherents

Nigeria | Guardian | 2018. 3. 2

<https://guardian.ng/features/religious-leaders-preach-peaceful-co-existence-among-adherents/>

Reference Letters





Sikh Center of Orange County



2530 W. WARNER AV. SANTA ANA, CA 92704
A Non Profit Religious Organization (Federal Tax ID # 33-062-3859)

February 28, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sukhjit Kaur Dhillon and I was the Lady President of the Sikh Center of Orange County. I have been working with Heavenly Culture World Peace and Restoration of Light (HWPL) since 2014. Since then, I have regularly been attending the monthly Alliance of Religions Peace Offices, held in Los Angeles and Orange County. In 2017, I have also attended the World Alliance of Religion' Peace Summit in South Korea.

Under the guidance of the chairman of HWPL, Man Hee Lee, HWPL's efforts and progress in the work of peace is extraordinary. I believe in order to bring sustainable peace into this world, we must have understanding between different religious faiths and work together with government leaders to implement the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War Peace Law. Through these peace dialogues, organized by HWPL, we are able to improve mutual understanding among various religions and take bigger steps in achieving peace together.

I have not seen any other peace organization where thousands of volunteers are working so diligently to proclaim the sound of peace as much as HWPL have been doing. I believe we should all support this great cause together to reach our goal.

Note: This letter is only dedicated to use as a reference for the United Nations.

SUKHJIT K. DHILLON
PRESIDENT, SCOC

EX

Mrs. Sukhjit Kaur Dhillon

Former Lady President of Sikh Center of Orange County

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مؤسسات مار الياس التربوية

ص.ب 102 عيلين 30012
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Mar Elias Educational Institutions
P.O.BOX 102 Ibillin 30012 Galilee-Israel Tel 04-8432104 Fax 04-8432105

ע.ר 580168524

Ibillin, 01.03.2018

To whom it may concern

Few years ago I was invited to "a peace conference" in Seoul. This was exciting although the flight was too long and my shaky health required more attention as usual but I decided to travel to Seoul. What I have seen was unexpected. I was taken with admiration for the way with which the KOREANS IN Seoul conducted their conference, IT WAS NOT A USUAL CONFERENCE WITH FEW THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, BUT IMAGINE A CONFERENCE ATTENDED WITH MORE THAN SIXTY THOUSANDS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. THERE WERE PEOPLE FROM MANY DIFFERENT RELIGIONS: THE THREE MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS WERE REPRESENTED WITH HIGH DIGNITARIES FROM EACH ONE OF THEM. MANY OTHER RELIGIONS FROM THE Far East were there too.

I wondered at first what would be the common denominator between such a diversity of religions? Is there what we teach at Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Ibillin Galilee spreading unity within the diversity? Or there are some other topic moving these thousands of people to come together from many different corners of our small PLANET.

At the beginning it was confusing. My mind was not settled well. Was it my place among these people. Me, the Melkite catholic archbishop of Galilee. Or should I BE ELSE WHERE THAN HERE.

No need to mention the unequalled welcome, the kindness and warm hospitality I received.

I thought it would be an event which starts and three days later it ends and I go back home, in fact , I went back home with my heart filled with admiration and with gratitude that such movement exists. I ended with inviting the chairman of this organization to come and visit us at the school in Ibillin. The Reverend **Man Hee Lee** accepted our invitation and honored us with his visit to Galilee. He was introduced a strong messenger for peace. He agreed that our school be the first peace academy. And this gave us in addition to our warm relation, a kind of responsibility to carry on with more conviction the message of my Compatriot who is known at being THE PRINCE OF PEACE. You do not need to be one of his followers to be accepted. But if one does the work of the Father do not stop him.

HWPL is a peace group that actively engages in various fields in order to achieve peace.

I already attended three international conferences of this organization and I am a member of the on going dialogue mainly between Jews Muslims and Christians in the Holy LAND IN ISRAEL. I urge the United Nations to endorse the HWPL CONCERN FOR THE PROMOTION OF PEACE And the cessation of war. Nothing more important to protect humanity. HWPL is recommended to be an extraordinary AMBASSADOR FOR PROMOTING PEACE BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF OUR HUMANITY. In deed if we want peace we need to prepare peace.

Note: This letter is only dedicated to use as a reference for United Nations.

Abuna Elias Chacour

Archbishop Em of the Melkite catholic church in the Galilee Israel



HowWomenWork
Empowering Women to Grow & Succeed

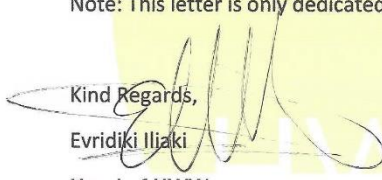
To whom it may concern,

The organisation of HWW, promotes women empowerment through education in Middle East since 2008. We have started discussions with HWPL from 2016, in the last visit in Doha we discussed for a leadership academy that we are planning to start very soon in collaboration with an English university, the method we are going to use is a coaching method specialised for Islamic culture. We had a very interesting dialogue with the members of HWPL and we believe we can work towards promoting a better understanding among different religions and cultures in the Middle East, we have been supporting all religions and cultures here in Doha since 2008 and we believe we can cooperate with HWPL to promote peace in the region as well.

Finally, we would like to say that HWPL is an organisation that has proven its valuable efforts and hard work in promoting understanding between religions but also promoting the sacred dialogue for bringing peace on earth. We are very proud to be related and we would like to start discussions for collaboration.

Note: This letter is only dedicated to use as a reference for United Nations.

Kind Regards,


Evridiki Iliaki

Head of HWW
Founder, CEO of Elite Consulting LLC
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ICNA
ISLAMIC CIRCLE
of NORTH AMERICA

2180 W. CRESCENT AVENUE
ANAHEIM, CA 92801
PHONE: (855) 855-ICNA
WWW.ICNA.ORG

March 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Waqas Syed, Deputy Secretary General Director of the Islamic Circle of North America. I have been working with HWPL since 2014, attending the World Alliance of Religious' Peace Summit. Since then, I have regularly attending the Monthly Alliance of Religions Peace Offices, held in Los Angeles and Orange County. In addition, I serve as a HWPL Publicity Ambassador and I'm a member of the HWPL Peace Advocacy Committee.

Through the leadership of Chairman Man Hee Lee, HWPL's efforts and progress in the work of peace is unprecedented. I believe in order to bring sustainable peace into this world, we must have understanding between various religious faiths, and furthermore, work together with government leaders to implement the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War Peace Law. I believe HWPL's achievement is credited to its understanding of the need for world leaders to work together in uniting under the guidance of Chairman Man Hee Lee.

From holding peace walks, to interfaith dialogues throughout the world, HWPL is a great and necessary organization for world peace to be achieved.

Note: This letter is only dedicated to use as a reference for the United Nations.

Waqas Syed
Deputy Secretary General Director
Islamic Circle of North America
Tel: 949-521-0597
Email: waqas@icna.org



BHAI SAHIB SATPAL SINGH KHALSA
Ambassador of Sikh Dharma

March 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Satpal Singh Khalsa, Chairman of the Guru Ram Das Sikh Mission of America, and I have been working with HWPL since the World Alliance of Religions Peace (WARP) Summit in 2014. Over the past 4 years, I have actively worked with HWPL to promote peace and interreligious understanding and have supported and participated in over 20 WARP Offices. Since its first annual summit, I have diligently participated and even publicized the work that HWPL is doing to religious leaders of other faiths, in addition to gathering support for legislation that would promote world peace. I work alongside HWPL as the HWPL Publicity Ambassador and a member of the HWPL Peace Advocacy Committee.

The WARP Office and annual summit is groundbreaking work since it offers a platform for religious leaders of different faiths to seriously look within their Scriptures and understand. Since many of the wars today are because of religion, and even many conflicts within one religion, these kinds of functions are extremely important to bring change and to educate. Every office, there are always many young adults and audiences of all ages who attend and volunteer, illustrating that the work HWPL is doing is relevant to the public.

I would like to conclude by stating that HWPL is an organization that can achieve peace and has been able to grow to this extent and achieve this work through the guidance of Korean War veteran Chairman Man Hee Lee.

With kind regards,

Bhai Sahib Satpal Singh Khalsa

Note: This letter is only dedicated to use as a reference for United Nations.

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Đại Đạo Tam Kỳ Phổ Độ
CaoDai Overseas - CaoDai Center
808 W. Vermont Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92805

Anaheim, March 1, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

We are Dr. Hum Dac Bui, MD. and Hong Dang Bui, MD. Vice President and High Dignitary of the Dignitary Council of the Cao Dai Overseas in Anaheim, CaoDai Center.

We have been working with HWPL since its beginnings in 2014, attending the World Alliance of Religious' Peace Summit. Since then, we have regularly been attending the monthly interfaith dialogues, also known as the Alliance of Religions Peace Offices (AOR), held in Los Angeles and Orange County. In addition, we serve as HWPL Publicity Ambassadors and we are members of the HWPL Peace Advocacy Committee.

Through the leadership of Chairman Man Hee Lee, and HWPL's efforts, progress in the work of peace is unprecedented. We believe in order to bring sustainable peace into this world, we must have understanding between various religious faiths. With now more than 200 AOR offices throughout the world, we are getting closer to that dream and gaining even more momentum on this issue more than ever.

From holding peace walks, to interfaith dialogues throughout the world, HWPL is a great and necessary organization for world peace to be achieved.

We hope that HWPL can be recognized for their work in promoting the World Interfaith Harmony Week to further reach even more with their great work.

Note: This letter is only dedicated to use as a reference for the United Nations.

With Love and Peace,

Hum Dac Bui, MD.
Vice President
Dignitary Council of the Cao Dai Overseas

Hong Dang Bui, MD.
High Dignitary
Dignitary Council of the Cao Dai Overseas

Tel: 909-534-0145
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END OF REPORT

