

The Governor of Victoria, Australia, launched the inaugural UN World Interfaith Harmony Week at Parliament House

“Love of God and Love of the Neighbour or Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour”

Professor David de Kretser, AC, Governor of Victoria, accompanied by Mrs de Kretser, launched the World Interfaith Harmony Week in Melbourne at a luncheon for over 80 religious and spiritual leaders and representatives, in Queen’s Hall, Parliament House on the 1st February.

The Hon. Ted Baillieu, Premier of Victoria, sent a congratulatory message to be read out to the guests.

The Governor reminded us that we in Australia are fortunate to live in a diverse, multicultural society, and are at liberty to practise our respective faiths openly and without fear. He said: “Around the world there are too many places where religious intolerance is rife ... where people are oppressed or unable to practise their religion openly and where people are incapable of expressing their values. In too many countries this tension is the cause of constant unrest and conflict.” The Governor hoped that the observance of World Interfaith Harmony Week would have a lasting and significant impact around the world.

The launch of the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week was organized by The Interfaith Centre of Melbourne with support from the Victorian Multicultural Commission, the Islamic Council of Victoria and Religions for Peace (Australia).