

## WIHW TOOLKIT

### BACKGROUND

The *World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)* seeks to spread the message of harmony and peace among the followers of all the world's religions, faiths, and beliefs. It seeks to do this by promoting their common basis of "**Love of God and Love of the Neighbour, or Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbour**". Its message invites everyone, excludes no one, and is purely voluntary.

H.M. King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan proposed the *World Interfaith Harmony Week Initiative* during the 65<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly in 2010. The proposition was unanimously adopted by the UN, and has since been observed by countries and organizations worldwide through a variety of organized interfaith events, programs, relations, and publications during the first week of February.

## WIHW OBJECTIVES

The objectives behind the World Interfaith Harmony Week, in the words of the author of the resolution, His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan, are:

1. To **co-ordinate** and **unite** the **efforts of all the interfaith groups** doing positive work **with one focused theme** at **one specific time annually**, thereby increasing their collective momentum and eliminating redundancy.
2. To harness and utilize the collective might of the world's second-largest infrastructure (that of places of worship — the largest being that of education) specifically for peace and harmony in the world: inserting, as it were, the right "software" into the world's religious "hardware".
3. To permanently and regularly encourage the silent majority of preachers to declare themselves for peace and harmony and providing a ready-made vehicle for them to do so. Moreover, if preachers and teachers commit themselves on the record once a year to peace and harmony, this means that when the next inter-religious crisis or provocation occurs, they cannot then relapse into parochial fear and mistrust, and will be more likely to resist the winds of popular demagoguery.

## DETAILS

The respected WIHW panel of judges will evaluate all interfaith related events and efforts SUBMITTED by various interfaith groups, organizations, institutions, individuals, associations, and initiatives from all over the world. (If we can't see you or hear you, we can't feel you, so make sure you submit your event.) These events and efforts should **take place during the first week of February**. Event organizers/hosts are required to document their events and submit a

report that includes photos, videos (optional), and, of course, an overall summary of the event.

## PANEL OF JUDGES

Here's the list of our respected members of the panel of judges who will be evaluating your events. The panel is headed by H.R.H. Princess Areej Ghazi.

1. H.R.H. Princess Areej Ghazi.
2. H.B. Patriarch Theophilus III – Patriarch of the Holy City, Palestine and Jordan.
3. H.E. Sheikh Dr. Ali Gomaa – former Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt.
4. H.E. Bishop Munib Yunan – Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and President of the World Federation of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.
5. Father Nabil Haddad – Founder and Executive Director of the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Centre.
6. Dr. Minwer Al-Mheid – Director of the Royal Aal Al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought.
7. Mr. Aftab Ahmed – Director of the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre.

As of 2014, H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan became the official sponsor of the World Interfaith Harmony Week prizes. There are four WIHW Prizes in total. A prize will be given to each of the four best events or texts organized during the UN WIHW based on the evaluations of the panel of judges. These prizes are awarded at His Majesty's personal residence at the Royal Court.

## PRIZES

1. First prize: \$25,000 USD
2. Second prize: \$15,000 USD
3. Two third prizes: \$5,000 USD/each
4. Honourable Mentions
5. Winners travel to Jordan (travel – room & board – expenses covered)

## OPTIONS FOR GETTING INVOLVED

1. Become a World Interfaith Harmony Week Ambassador and help liaise with interfaith groups and organizations worldwide to help promote the WIHW initiative. Promoting the initiative entails, but is not limited to, coordinating and united the efforts of all the interfaith groups doing positive work with one focused theme at one specific time annually, thereby increasing their collective momentum and eliminating redundancy.
2. Organize to Harmonize and submit your own interfaith event either individually or as part of an interfaith group or organization.

## WHY JOIN US?

### As a Harmony Week Ambassador you will:

1. Work with influencers & change-makers worldwide
2. Liaise with interfaith groups in your city, neighbourhood, or anywhere in the world
3. Help spread world peace, harmony and tolerance
4. Be part of a U.N. General Assembly Resolution
5. Receive a letter of appreciation and recognition

If you organize and submit an event you can:

1. Win up to \$25,000
2. Get a fully paid round-trip ticket (room and board) to Jordan where you will receive your award money in the Royal Court directly by the official sponsor of the prizes, His Majesty King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
3. Receive an honourable mention
4. Help keep your neighbourhood safe through harmony and tolerance

If you're interested in learning more about submitting your Interfaith harmony event, you can **DOWNLOAD** our **ORGANIZE TO HARMONIZE** PDF HERE: <http://goo.gl/ISc3NA>

## USEFUL QUOTES ON HARMONY & TOLERANCE

"Christian, Jew, Muslim, shaman, Zoroastrian, stone, ground, mountain, river, each has a secret way of being with the mystery, unique and not to be judged." Rumi

"Think for yourself and let others enjoy the privilege of doing so too." Voltaire

"If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity." John F. Kennedy

"Don't be in a hurry to condemn because he doesn't do what you do or think as you think or as fast. There was a time when you didn't know what you know today." Malcolm X

"In order to have faith in his own path, he does not need to prove that someone else's path is wrong." Paulo Coelho

“Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.” Mahatma Gandhi

“Peace is more than the absence of war. Peace is accord. Harmony.”  
Laini Taylor

“Millions of people are suffering: they want to be loved but they don’t know how to love. And love cannot exist as a monologue; it is a dialogue, a very harmonious dialogue.”

## KEY MESSAGES

LOVE OF GOD AND LOVE OF THE NEIGHBOUR  
LOVE OF THE GOOD AND LOVE OF THE NEIGHBOUR  
IT TAKES TWO TO HARMONY  
ORGANIZE TO HARMONIZE

## SOCIAL MEDIA

You can find us on Facebook and Twitter:

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/world.interfaith.harmony.week>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wihw>

Hashtags: #harmonyweek, #7days, #interfaithweek,  
#ItTakes2toHarmony, #Organize2Harmonize

## ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS MATERIALS

- If you’re involved in organizing a WIHW event and are ready to submit your event, you can do so here:

<http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/organize-to-harmonize-submit-event>

- If you're a Harmony Week Ambassador and have some photos or information to share, you can do so by emailing [outreach@wihw.info](mailto:outreach@wihw.info). You can also post photos on our Facebook page:  
<http://facebook.com/world.interfaith.harmony.week>
- If you're interested in becoming a WIHW Ambassador, you'll need to sign up here first. Don't worry; it's fast and easy:  
<http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/ambassador-program>
- If you have large files to send that include photos and videos, you can use <http://www.wetransfer.com> and send them to [outreach@wihw.info](mailto:outreach@wihw.info)