**BLOSSOM MEDIA’S ‘HUMANITY FIRST CONCLAVE’**

**UN World Interfaith Harmony Week – 2019**

<http://www.humanityfirstconclave.com>

**REPORT**

Event : Humanity First Conclave (Support to UN resolution)

Theme : Love God, Love Neighbour (*mazhab nahi sikhata apas mai bair rakhna*)

Message : Serving Humanity is serving to GOD (the teaching of all faiths)

Language : Hindi and English

Date & Time: 3rd February 2019 (5 PM to 10.00 PM)

Venue : NSCI, Worli, Mumbai.

**BACKGROUND**

India is a land of multi faith, multi-culture and multi-language society. It is home to over 1.3 billion people. In the last four years (2014 to 2018), India has witnessed 389 deaths and 8,890 injuries due to communal hostilities (documented by leading Indian media), thus Interfaith Harmony Dialogue remains the only way out to establish peace here in India and in the world.

**WHY THE NAME ‘HUMANITY FIRST CONCLAVE’**

‘My faith and belief is better than your’, most people have this attitude across the world. But they have forgotten the basic teachings of their belief; serving to humanity is serving to God. The religious scriptures say it loud and clear if you want to please God then love and serve your fellow human beings.

**THE AGENDA DURING THE CONCLAVE**

1. Panel Discussion in two sessions on the theme Love God, Love Neighbour.
2. Poetry recitation on celebrating Interfaith Harmony.
3. Skit on interfaith harmony by special children
4. Awarding City Heroes title to people serving humanity with no discrimination.
5. Awarding Schools and colleges for the submission of best communal harmony message.
6. Distribution of indoor saplings named ‘Harmony Plant’.
7. Signing the pledge to support the cause of interfaith harmony.
8. Making new friends from other faiths.
9. Dinner with ‘multi-faith cuisines’ for peace and harmony.

**STATISTICS OF THE EVENTS**

* People attended the conclave - **300**
* New interfaith friendships established - **750**
* Schools & colleges reached for ‘harmony message competition - **162**
* Flyers of harmony message distributed among the people- **5000**
* Pre and post event reach on social media - **2560**
* Print and online news published - **14**
* Personalities awarded with Mumbai Hero Title - **50**
* Testimonials about event and ‘World Interfaith Harmony Week’ received - **31**
* NGOs supported the event - **23**

**Pre Event Engagement**

In order to build up the platform for its Humanity first conclave on 3rd Feb 2019, Blossom Media started various campaigns from 2nd of January 2019, both on field and online.

We conducted various pre event activities like:

1. Make friends from other faiths, where by around 700 new interfaith friendships were established.
2. Distributed 5000 flyers of harmony message at various places like school and college (belonging to management of various faiths), public places, club houses, etc in Mumbai to reach people of all age group and faith.
3. Competition for best ‘harmony message’ from schools and colleges of the city.
4. Asking common people to nominate ‘Mumbai Heroes’. 50 were awarded in the conclave.

**Synopsis of the events held on 3rd February**

300 people representing various faiths which included religious heads, influential personalities from the fields of army, police, law, media and film, politics, business and NGOs etc. attended the event.

The event opened with reading out the objectives of UN observance ‘World Interfaith Harmony Week’ and the efforts of H.M. King Abdullah II.

**1) HARMONY PLAY**

A silent skit was performed by the special children (partially blind, mentally retarded) from Ummeed Foundation School. It connected well with the audience and set the tone of the event. Audience and religious heads rewarded the children for their wonderful act, which beautifully exhibiting the message of peace and unity.

**2) PANEL DISCUSSION**

Panel discussion took place, on the theme ‘Love God Love Neighbor’. The Panel was moderated by Mr. Sarfaraz Khan Arzoo a noted journalist and social activist.

Heads of five religion participated in the panel. The discussion was divided into two sessions. In the first session the speakers quoted their respective religious scriptures about love and respect with the fellow human being and in the second session, they talked about commonalities, way out for conflict resolution and peaceful co-existence.

**Religious head participated in the conclave** *(their brief profiles are on our website)*

1. Maulana Siddiqullah Chowdhary   – quoted reference from Quran and Hadith about the teaching of Love and respect of fellow human from other faith.  He left after first round and Maulana Abu Zafar Hasan Nadwi Al Azhari participated in the second session of the panel discussion.
2. Father Harry Vaz - Quoted Matthew Chapter 5 for love of God and Love of Neighbour.
3. Dr. Ven Bhadant Rahula Bodhi Maha Thero – Gave ample reference of quote of Buddha about respect and love of other person.
4. Ervad Yezdi Panthaki spoke about the basic teachings of Zoroastrian religion of the Principle of giving happiness to others.
5. Gaini Jaspreet Singh – Spoke from Sikh traditions about respecting human beings.
6. Dr. Acharya Mithlesh of Arya Samaj representing Hindu religion could not make it as he was down with severe fever on the event day.

**3) HARMONY PLANT DISTRIBUTION**

Indoor Saplings named 'harmony plants' were inaugurated by hands of the religious heads and later was distributed to each one in the conclave. The idea was to remind people about the importance of nature and their active role in serving all without discrimination. The indoor harmony saplings will be a reminder for them about its purpose i.e. harmony.

**4) INSPIRING STORIES**

Case studies on the subject of the peace movement and social service with no discrimination were included in the conclave. The idea was to inspire people to take up the work for peace and social welfare.

1. Sir Dr. Huzaifa Khorakiwala, receiver of Knighthood and the Title of ‘His Highness’ also Peace Ambassador of “International Association of Educators for World Peace”, an affiliate body of the United Nations  spoke about his initiative of peacekeeper movement.
2. Parvez Fareed of Ummeed Foundation, a school for special children, spoke about their journey.

**5) POETRY RECITATION**

For Indians, Poetry is a mean of entertainment and leaves a great impact of the message conveyed; hence a session of poetry on interfaith harmony was included. The participating poets were Quaisar Khalid (IPS) - Inspector General Police, Ms. Atika Farooqui - Creative director of Colors TV and Atul Agarwal - Chairman of a reputed real estate developers association.

**6) SPEECH OF GUEST OF HONOUR**

H.E. Edgard D Kagan, the US Consul General in Mumbai, in his conversation emphasized that all religious scriptures teaches love and compassion and is a means of connecting and respecting people with different beliefs.

**7) HONOURING CITY HEROES & HARMONY MESSAGE COMPETITION WINNERS**

A 'Mumbai Heroes' award was conferred on individuals working for the society without discrimination. The winners were selected from various religions and were honoured from the hands H.E. Edgard D. Kagan the CG of US in Mumbai and other dignitaries. The coffee table book featuring work on interfaith harmony and the winners' profile was also released in the event.

Schools and colleges participated with skit; paintings, speech and slogans on interfaith harmony.  Out of 56 entries best 4 were selected and honored.

**8) PLEDGE FOR HARMONY**

One of the important events during the conclave was a signature campaign. Various dignitaries and religious heads signed the pledge board to support the cause of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week. This activity helped us in garnering their support in spreading the words of harmony and peace to other affluent members of the society.

**9) HARMONY DINNER**

India is a food-loving nation. Every community boost of its special cuisines. Inviting people for sumptuous dinner and serving popular cuisines from various communities at multi-faith harmony dinner in the conclave clicked well. People enjoyed the delicacies served and it paved the way for positive conversation over dinner. Dishes from Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Zoroastrian, Buddhist and Sikh communities were served.

**RESOURCES**

**SUPPORT FROM NGOS**

Blossom Media received tremendous support from 23 NGOs from different part of the city, for the conclave. *(Few of them are mentioned on our website with their web links)*

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

Various regional media and online news portals covered the conclave proceedings thus helping in spreading the word of religious leaders on interfaith understanding and harmony. Social media platform like Facebook and YouTube were used to make the word spread to people who couldn’t attend the event.

**IMPACT OF THE EVENT**

Various activities undertaken by Blossom Media pre and during the eventsignificantly improved the understanding of the "other", talking to people about what they believe, what they do and how they feel about other faiths transformed the understanding and more importantly removed the misunderstandings. It helped our society by producing better mutual understanding among the believers of different faiths and by developing new friendship**.**Database created which will be effectively utilized in our future events on interfaith harmony and tolerance.

**LINKS**

Our website <http://www.humanityfirstconclave.com> has details about the events, testimonials (Letters and Videos) photographs and videos. The videos have been edited session wise and uploaded on our website for ease and identification of each session. Photographs from the event and handbill distributed before the event is attached in the report.

**1. Media Links**

<http://www.maeeshat.in/2019/02/all-religious-scripture-carries-message-of-love-and-respect/>

<http://indianmuslimobserver.com/2019/02/13/blossom-media-hosts-multi-faith-dinner-cause-harmony-peace/>

<http://www.epunyanagari.com/imageview_37875_12398_4_111_04-02-2019_1_i_1_sf.html>

<https://www.issuewire.com/all-religion-teaches-compassion-and-love-with-neighbors-us-consul-general-edgard-d-kagan-1624636856898451>

<https://nationnext.in/sanjeev-pendharkar-gets-mumbai-heroes-award/>

<http://www.roznamasahara.com/epaperpdf/622019/622019-md-mm-3.pdf>

<https://thepolicytimes.com/blossom-media-organizes-interfaith-dialogue-community-leaders-call-for-harmony-and-peace/>

<http://www.merinews.com/mobile/article/India/2019/02/08/interfaith-harmony-only-solution-to-world-peace--religious-leaders/15933870>

<https://alkhalidtours.com/news/awards-mumbai-heroes.html>

<http://businessnewsthisweek.com/business/sir-dr-huz-honored-with-mumbai-heroes-award-at-humanity-first-conclave/>

<http://indiacsr.in/sir-dr-huz-honored-with-mumbai-heroes-award-at-humanity-first-conclave/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1qQZPUDGtA>

**2. Pre Event News coverage**

<http://www.maeeshat.in/2018/12/blossom-media-to-host-humanity-first-conclave-promoting-interfaith-harmony/>

**3. Recap Video**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLlFIcOr8iA&t=11s>

The recap video gives the summary of the whole conclave. It starts with the host reading out to people about the objective and reason behind the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week celebration. It contains speeches of religious heads, in brief, talking with reference from their respective religious scriptures and traditions about loving God and Neighbour, Serving Humanity. It also has a glimpse of other important activities happened during the conclave and few testimonials of people attended.

**4. Various Sessions Video Links**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tte5RwYh3ws>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANQFMQoAKUo&t=1368s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7T21ZVaw59I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mm1RUfgaM1g&t=4s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpZ7udKZNk4&t=241s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niKpox18In0>

**5. Video Testimonials Links**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lasPGh4Ba3Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0a4Oo9YtCo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzT75e1aIR0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pgTOX6Ajw4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLuBi3fF7K0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8rabssEbxo>

**Coffee Table Book**

In the report attached is the PDF of a few pages of the coffee table book released in the conclave featuring the initiative of H.M King Abdullah II and objective of UN harmony week work, work of people on inter-religious harmony, profile of award winners for the reference of the esteem judges to gauge the impact it can have on the people.