

A Prayer to Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva For Safety From the Wuhan Coronavirus Outbreak

Report

The London Fo Guang Shan Buddhism Research Support Group (LBRSG) participated in the 2020 World Religious Harmony Week for the first time on 8th February 2020 to promote the interfaith harmony by sharing the monastery principles of “Three acts of goodness” and “Four Givings” as well as to pray for safety from the Wuhan Coronavirus outbreak.

It is our great honour to participate in this meaningful event organised by United Nations with worldwide religious organisation to promote harmony.

The event was successfully organized by Maggie Wong who is our vice president of the London Buddhism Research Support Group (LBRSG) to provide an online platform for everyone to gather and focus on the mindset of peace and purify the society. We have invited representatives of Hinduism and Judaism, scholars and professors as well as our members from 11 different countries around the world (including Hong Kong, Taiwan, United States, India, France, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany) to participate in this event via video conferencing. With a total of 62 participants, the prayer session was also attended together with family members and friends of participants. Everyone followed the procedure of the praying session starting from meditation, praying and sharing the experiences at the end. Rajnish Kashyap, general secretary at Hindu Council UK, has returned to India for a meeting on that day and participated in the prayer session at 3am. He prayed for an effective improvement in the recent pneumonia epidemic with his Hindu prayers. Sudharma Weerakkody who is the president of Sri Lanka Ruri Foundation also dialled in at 3am with her family members to pray together with us. Willy Chen, a member of our Buddhist Youth group currently based in Taiwan and Alex Cheung, a member of Buddhist Youth group in Hong Kong, joined the prayer session as well. They expressed their blessings in Mandarin and Cantonese respectively. Sarit Gafan, a Jewish representative has a lot of good thoughts come to her mind when everyone is praying together and shared a Jewish song with us to pray for the world in harmony and peace.

Prof. Dr. Bee Scherer who is the director of INCISE at Canterbury Christ Church University, Dr. Patrick de Vries and Dr. Ivan Hon were also invited to attend the prayer session by our president of the LBRSG, Ricky Wong. Bee Scherer is a Tibetan Buddhist scholar who recited the prayer in Tibetan with the hope that the illness can be cured as quickly as possible and that everyone will be able to live in peace. PhD researcher Liu Xinying and Zhao Chengpeng's family members who are in mainland joined the prayer session as well. They have shared how they felt depressed since the epidemic commenced and hoped for peace for family members who are living far away. They also wished that they are out of danger and that peace will come to everyone at an early date.