**Summary of the Report**

**Interfaith Festival of Creation**

**Sunday, February 16, 2020**

On Sunday Feb. 16, 2020 The Mary Ward Centre in Toronto opened its doors to host the first ever interfaith Festival of Creation in Toronto.  This interfaith, intergenerational event was our response to the global challenge of the 10th annual World Interfaith Harmony week's call to promote "Interreligious Dialogue towards Harmony".

We invited various religious communities, organizations, activists, musicians, poets and youth to share initiatives they are engaged in to protect and enhance the well-being of the community of life and our home - the earth.  Twenty- four exhibitors responded and set up colorful and informative booths.  Two hundred and fifty people of all ages, cultures and religions attended.  Food was generously provided by the Sikh community, and the Plant (R)evolution group treated us to delicious vegan treats.  The Interfaith Youth Alliance Movement set up a lively and engaging Interfaith Kids' Corner that featured such activities as face painting, henna, coloring of animal pictures and mandalas, and environmental activities such as learning to transform old t-shirts into tote bags.

A variety of diverse workshops were offered from 1pm to 3pm such as Buddhist Compassionate Training and Meditation, Islam and Creation, Managing our Waste and Transforming Household Garbage into Musical Instruments.

From 3pm to 5pm everyone gathered together for the formal program: a weaving together of music, prayer, ritual, and teaching from the various religious traditions.  We began with the lighting of the Diyya (Lamp), symbolizing that all religions can overcome darkness and bring light and hope to the world. Michelle Singh, the Co-Chair of WIHW Toronto, brought the event to a close with her inspiring words that sent us out into the world to make a difference.