**Document 6: Interaction/ Responses, questions, comments, and suggestions**

**Questions and Remarks after presentations, readings of religious texts and prayers plus concluding remarks**

**Part 1 :**

1. Birgit: How many countries have observed this global event?

Answer: The United Nations has 193 member countries; we presume also about 193 countries have possibly answered the invitation to observe this global event. Visit the website of WIFHW.

1. Alexandra: Is this kind of event happening also in other cities in Denmark? Or is it only here?

Answer by Mette: I know that they are doing in Copenhagen. And here in Kolding. We are also planning to do more.

1. Follow up question: Do you know if there is cooperation between countries in celebrating WIFHW?

Answer by Elizabeth: It is possible when the celebration is initiated by government leaders. But you will get the link to the reports at the website of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week and get inspiration from the rich activities carried out by many people and organizations throughout the world, and how they carry out their events.

1. Response by Alexandra: (after seeing the Power point presentation) I did not know that you have indeed done many activities to gather people. I have joined in Sprogcafe, the language study program you have. But I know I will join more in more activities.
2. Jolanta: I just miss you and just want to see you and that our life will be back to normal again.
3. Neema: Regarding these lecture evenings offered to the public. How many foreigners or immigrants who join? Are they only Danes?

Answer: We also have foreigners. Last time as I can remember, there were a group from Iran who joined, and we had to have an interpreter to Farsi language. But the invitation to lecture evenings is also sent to multi-ethnic groups in town through the Multi-Cultural Forum of the Municipality and there are leaders in these ethnic groups and other organizations who also join.

**Part 2: After reading of texts and response to the question: What have we in common out of the texts being read to us?**

1. Alexandra: Good to hear those texts. All of us have something in common, that is love of God. We need to be good to others Love is the main message.
2. That is demanded of us to do good to others, to love and to help.
3. Jolanta: That it is important to respect and love human beings, to be good and reach them out with love regardless of their color or religion, that others must have also a special place in this world.
4. Alexandra: I can see all religions are based on love. Love is the main message. We are asked to do good to help each other and to respect despite differences in religion.
5. Birgit: It is very interesting to hear the texts. Really inspiring to hear. Thanks.

**Part 3: After assigned prayers and spontaneous prayers as response to special prayer requests and concluding remarks.**

1. Susanne: Thanks for this online meeting and thanks for the prayers. God will give light to all people in the world. We are called to support and give help as much as we can.
2. Jolanta: I know that there are those in need. We need to have a place where we can share our needs and how we can help each other. I suggest that we open a Facebook group for this purpose.
3. Elizabeth. We have already Facebook profiles for Women Encounter and for Danish Lessons. These can be used also for that purpose for the meantime.
4. Elsebeth: Even if there is Corona, we the women have arranged outdoor events for the months of April and May. Three announcements for women for meeting together during lockdown: April 24, 2021 at the Play Park in Kolding, 29. May there will be a guided tour around in Kolding, 19. June there will be an excursion, not only for women, but for everybody and families.
5. Lilly: It is important that we do not cancel our events because of Corona. We can still meet. I suggest that at the end of March we do Zoom or Teams meeting if the restrictions in Denmark will continue much longer after this month.
6. It is something we can arrange.
7. Jolanta: we can still do creative activities online- like for example, showing to make a particular food from our country or showing some ways of doing like flower arrangement, and others.
8. Swati: I am a student and far away from my own country, but it is good to have women friends. I do not feel alone. I always get help from the friends in the church and my husband and I are very thankful.
9. Vahadi: It is good to have met you as women from different countries and cultures and religions. Nice to hear the reading of texts from different religions. We have something in common.
10. Response: We can pray together. It is simple and easy.
11. Jennifer: I am really touched by the prayers. We have all the wish that the Corona virus should just go away now. It has affected our meetings and our life. But God is good. He has given us social media by which we can communicate through which we can be together. God is superior. He has a plan for our life. It should be good.
12. Alexandra: I never thought that many activities have been done in observance of WIFHW. It is very interesting and inspiring. I love to be in the Sprogcafe and to meet my teachers and the other volunteers. Thanks for welcoming us.
13. Elsebeth: You who come from other countries ánd who live in Denmark, say to those you know that we have Online Sprogcafe (online teaching of Danish language) Please inform. There is still something happening despite of lockdown. (*Online teaching of Danish to foreigners is every Tuesday from 5 pm.)*
14. Elizabeth: Just give your email address and you will get the invitation via Teams app. We meet as teachers and students at Teams and we will be grouped by twos who meet at chat video on Messenger or via Skype.
15. Bente: It is also a good idea to use Zoom for online meetings.
16. Lilly: I also have knowledge of India as I am married to a man from that country. How nice to see a participant from Kerala right now even if it is now nighttime there. Thanks, Ajitha!
17. Ajitha (participating straight from India) I am incredibly happy to see you guys. I am ok now in my home country. Thank you so much for inviting.
18. Jolanta: Nice seeing you, Ajitha!
19. Swati: Thanks for the church and the women for the help given to the international students here in Kolding. Your way of helping us in incredible. We feel at home.
20. Alexandra: Thanks to the help extended to us as immigrants in this new country. We do not have our families here but when you extend your friendship and kindness, we feel very much welcomed, and a part of the small community.
21. Jolanta.: Sometimes is it difficult for us how we can help you. Write and inform or call or maybe we need a special site on the internet for as closed group where people can write what they need, or people can write how they need to be helped.
22. Lilly: If the lockdown will continue, we can still arrange to meet through online like what we do today. It is so important to meet to hold our life together. It is lonesome to be isolated for long.
23. Neema: I want to chat, and it is good. How nice to see you, Alexandra. I have not seen you before. I hope to see you more. Take care.
24. Mette: I would like to thank you all. We were doubting how it would work out, but I can see that this meeting has turned out really good. I wish you to continue working. This is the second time for me and my office to join with you I was not physically present last time because I delivered a baby but my husband if you remember him, he was the one who did the video and he had visited your activities and you must have seen him.

**Note: the meeting continued until the last participant left.**

**Contributors and other Participants:**

**1.Mette Staal.** Consultant of Migrant Work and Lutheran Church Encounter with other Religions in Haderslev Diocese with churches in 8 towns in Denmark (in Jutland)

2. **Elizabeth Padillo Olesen:** originally from the Philippines, coordinating the work for the Cross.Cultural Ministry of Kolding Provsti which consists of 31 churches that support work for strangers, refugees, new Danes, foreign students, and guest workers.

**3.Elsebeth Fischer. Nielsen:** educated as teacher for immigrants, voluntarily coordinates the work for finding and matching families that serve as contact families to refugees who guide and support them in their integration in the new country. Elsebeth is also in the Women Committee for the Women Encounter program.

4. **Bente Beckham;** is member of the church council in Simon Peters Church, also in local council the Kolding migrant church, member of the Women committee, married to British man, lived in England for many years.

**5. Swati Sharma:** hails from India, student at International Business Academy in Kolding, has taken Danish lessons in the Sprogcafe program.

**6. Vahida: from Bosnia,** came to Dk at 7 years old, worked as teacher to immigrant children, recently elected as vice-chairman of the Multi-**Cultural Forum of Kolding Municipality that consists of multi-ethnic organizations in town.**

**7. Saloumeh from Iran:** came to DK by family reunification, has two children, she is now completing her studies, learning Danish, now on internship**.**

**8. Margrethe N,** originally from Thailand but grew up in Denmark, has been a good help for the activities we have for foreigners, employed in a medicinal firm, and now opens her own business.

**9. Vera J,** originally from Thailand, married to a husband from Iceland; has been working and teaching Thai language and working for the Kolding Municipality.

10.. **Alexandra, from Poland,** came to Denmark as a student in business administration. Finished her studies, now seeking for jobs, waiting that the Corona should end to give place for jobs; joined in Sprogcafe program, that is learning Danish language.

11. **Jolanta S:**  from Lithuania: ran her own kindergarten in Denmark, did help program for Ghana with support from Danish charitable organization, has finished her education for teaching small children, offers help to strangers and refugees.

12. **Birgit Urd Andersen:** retired priest in the Danish Church, arranging meditation and spirituality retreats in autumn, member of the church committee.

13.  **Neema Lubago:** originally from Tanzania, married to a Dane, now having three children, working in the Danish health sector, member in the Women Committee of the Women Encounter program

**14. Lilly Biswas**: chairperson of the Cross-cultural Committee that oversees the life and ministry of Kolding Provsti to strangers, refugees, and immigrants. She is also leading the committee of the migrant church and that of the Danish church in Kolding.

15. **Jennifer Langkjær:** originally from Trinidad, married with 3 beautiful sons, took up business and administration, member in the committee of **Brunch Fellowship.**

16. **Asma Atallah**: from Syriacame to Denmark as refugee with her children, quick to learn the Danish language, has been employed in 2 Danish firms in Kolding, working fulltime.

17**. Ajitha R:** a lawyer from India, came to Denmark as a family for study in two years; returned to India in November last year. Participating in the online meeting via Teams from her country. Still contacting her women friends in DK via social media.

18. **Charlotte L:** is our expert in psychology and therapy, has been invited by our women group to give some lectures on family and parenting; has now moved to another town in Århus, and is glad to join with us today in the online Women International Forum.

19. **Reyhane from Afghanistan:** tried to come in, but by technical difficulty could not join. She got the orientation of what transpired during the meeting.

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**UPDATES on Twitter and on Facebook profiles**

**Twitter @bethpadillo5**

Women, from 14 countries of origin, met online: Women International Forum in observance of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, learning about history of the global event, reading of holy texts from 5 religions on Love of God& Love of neighbor, & praying together... #UN #women #prayer

**Kolding International Congregation, Facebook profile**

The women successfully held Online Women International Forum, the only event we managed to go through as an event we can report to UN World Interfaith Harmony Week this year. We were able to greet each other, hear our voices, learn from the event and recall the activities we have undertaken during the past two years. And we had time to pray together for personal, national, and global concerns. Thanks to the Women's Committee, to the readers, to those who prayed, to those who asked questions and raised comments and remarks, those who came with suggestions and new ideas. Thanks to everyone. God bless you all**!**

**Women Encounter/ Kvinder møder kvinder (Facebook profile)**

**Elizabeth Padillo Olesen**

Tak til alle, som var med til Women International Forum in lørdags. Det var hyggelig eftermiddag og glad for at se jer. Hver især fik mulighed for at hilse på hinanden, lærte om FN og dens kald til at lære at leve med hinanden i fred og harmoni baseret på værdierne om Kærlighed til Gud og kærlighed til vores næste. Vi kunne høre læsninger af tekster fra forskellige hellige bøger og citater. Vi kunne bede sammen. Vi fik mulighed også at hilse på Ajitha Roy og hørte hendes hilsener lige fra Indien. Og Charlotte Lysemose Christensen, som vi har savnet meget, kunne også være med selv om, hun er nu flyttet til Århus!

**(translation of the text to English)**

***Thank you to everyone who was at the Women International Forum on Saturday. It was nice afternoon and glad to see you. Each was given the opportunity to greet each other, learned about the United Nations and its call to all to learn to live with each other in peace and harmony based on the values of Love for God and love for our neighbor. We could hear readings of texts from various sacred books and quotes. We could pray together. We also got the opportunity to greet Ajitha Roy and heard her greetings straight from India. And Charlotte Lysemose Christensen, whom we have missed a lot, could also join in even though she has now moved to Aarhus!***