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Dear Parliament of the World's Religions,

This letter is to express my support for World Interfaith Harmony Week.

When representatives from Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism engage in interfaith dialogue, peace in the world comes one step closer. According to Venerable Master Hsing Yun, all religions of the world share Five Harmonies: Individual, Interpersonal, Family, Social, and World. These harmonies are crucial to promoting peace in the world. Religious leaders and scholars of religion came together on February 1st and 7th 2021 to discuss how this harmony can be achieved despite the challenges of the pandemic. Tracy Liu, a Ph.D. candidate at Cambridge University and I served as co-Convenors for these events.

This topic reflects the vision statement of your organization: "Religious and spiritual communities live in harmony and contribute to a better world from their riches of wisdom and compassion."

There were two levels at which common ground among Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism was explored. First, on a doctrinal level, leaders from these three religions expressed the importance of engaging with the world to promote peace. Secondly, considering we are all living through a pandemic, all three religions have undergone similar challenges. Most importantly, in light of these challenges, coming together in dialogue was a valuable and also an emotionally moving experience for the participants.

When reflecting upon what has happened in just over one year's time, the importance of the world's religions coming together is difficult to overstate. In closing I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to HM King Abdullah II, to HM Prince Ghazi, and to the entire team at World Interfaith Harmony Week for helping make this event possible.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken W. Holloway', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth W. Holloway
Levenson Chair, Florida Atlantic University