

# **Report on the Brunch Fellowship UN World InterFaith Harmony Week 2022**

Musical Brunch Fellowship was the first event we carried out on January 29, 2022 to first mark the celebration of UN World InterFaith Harmony Week. The program involved the following: eating together, singing together and sharing religious praxis in religions in relation to the principle of Love of God and Love of the Neighbor. Elizabeth Padillo Olesen welcomed everyone and oriented the group to the historical beginning of the UN World Inter-Faith Harmony Week.

Because of Corona restrictions, we had to have food ordered from the Food Shop and some of our volunteers made soup and bread and made different kinds of fruits available on the common table.

There was time around table to know each other. There was also place where children had their time to be with other children with toys, while adults engaged in dialogue with one another on the significance of the World Inter-Faith Harmony Week.

After the meal, Vahida Hadzija Ajdarlar from the Bosnian Organization in Denmark, spoke and shared about her life as a refugee Muslim from Bosnia and how she and her family fled to Denmark, and how finding herself in a new country made her parents and herself more attentive and more conscious of the Muslim faith to live by. She herself is a politician in DK, who has managed to be cooperative in working together with church leaders for the good of the community. She is also in the Multi-cultural Forum of Kolding Municipality, participated in by leaders of different ethnic groups and religions.

There were questions raised and there was a good discussion. For new participants in the group, it was enriching for them, to hear a Muslim woman, sharing her own personal Muslim faith and the joy for having such a clear identity in co-existence with others of different cultures and religions.

The other invited speakers to present the side of Buddhism, Hinduism and the Christian faith were not able to arrive because of the disruption brought by the raging Malik storm that hit the country, making some bridges closed for travel.

We therefore made a revision of the program, that after the presentation of Vahida, we made it open to anyone in the group to present his or her own religious practice in executing the virtues of the Love of God and Love of Neighbor: Jennifer Langkjer from Trinidad shared her life of prayer. Michalle Fernandez from Singapore shared the lows in her life and how trusting in God has given her strength, and how helping others has given her great joy in life. Jens Christian from Denmark shared how the principle of Love of God and Love of Neighbor has been partly responsible for the many charitable organizations in the country to reach out the needy and the marginalized. He pointed out that that this principle that propelled also in the creation of FN World InterFaith Harmony Week, has been a guiding light for the high number of volunteers in Denmark, working

freely for charitable organizations to help the needy in Denmark and in different countries outside Denmark.

We spent time in singing together, singing songs in Danish and songs in other languages, songs of joy, hope and faith. We were a group of 20 people plus children, coming from 13 countries and 3 religions, limited in number because of the Corona infections and Malik Storm.

*Photos will also be enclosed.*



Vahida from Bosnian Organization, sharing practice in the Islam Faith



Friendship bridged during women encounter.

A pose of some participants towards the very end of the program.