

# Interfaith Harmony Youth Festival 2022

## Love and Respect for All

### Global Law Thinkers Society

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**WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK**  
The Official UN Observance in the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of February

**LOVE AND RESPECT FOR ALL**

# Interfaith Harmony Youth Festival 2022

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UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE

**Organizer** **Host Country: Bangladesh**

**WORLD RECORD HOLDER**  
Global Law Thinkers Society  
United Religions Initiative  
Global Multi-Professional Network

**Global Law Thinkers**  
GlobalLawThinkersSociety  
globallawthinkers@gmail.com  
+8801755991488

**GLOBALLAWTHINKERS.ORG**

**BARGUNA**  
29th January, 2022 : Interfaith Winter Cloth Distribution and Live Program  
5th February, 2022 : Interfaith Movement and Tree Distribution Campaign  
12th February, 2022 : Cricket Match for Interfaith Harmony  
18th February, 2022 : Interfaith Debate Competition  
19th February, 2022 : Children Art Competition  
25th February, 2022 : Political Dialogue on Interfaith

**CHATTOGRAM**  
11th February, 2022 : Dialogue Exchange and Holy Book distribution

**VIRTUAL PROGRAM**  
Day 1 | 1st March, 2022 : Religious Gurus and Youth Dialogue Exchange  
Day 2 | 2nd March, 2022 : Laws for Interfaith Paper Presentation  
Day 3 | 3rd March, 2022 : Cultural program for Interfaith Harmony

#### Prepared By:

Raoman Smita, President, GLTS,  
Md. Mahir Daiyan, Deputy Director (DD), GLTS,  
Monir Hossen Sarek, Research Director, GLTS  
Mahin Meherab Aunik, COO, GLTS

## Interfaith Harmony Youth Festival 2022: Love and Respect for All

### Program Summary Details:

A series of programs (In person & Online) organized by Global Law Thinkers Society, Host Country Bangladesh and in partnership with United Religious Initiatives (URI) to take part in UN World Interfaith Harmony Week.

2022 theme has been chosen by UN is “The Diaspora-a Force for Positive Change” citing the ability of immigrant communities of diverse backgrounds, faiths and ethnicities to live side by side harmoniously bound together by shared values, love of God and love of neighbor.

*We live in the conscious presence of difference. In the street, at work, and on the television screen we constantly encounter cultures whose ideas and ideals are unlike ours. That can be experienced as a profound threat to identity. Religion is one of the great answers to questions of identity. But that, too is why we face danger. Identity divides. The very process of creating an ‘Us’ involves creating a ‘Them’ – the people not like us. In the very process of creating community within their borders, religions can create conflict across those borders. If religion is not part of the solution, then it will certainly be part of the problem. (© Sacks, J. 2002, 10 and 9, respectively)*

As Sacks clarifies, the mental, social and political elements of religion are as often as possible ensnared inside contemporary worries over division and struggle between various people, gatherings and nations in a globalized world. There are specific worries when examples of connections create over the long haul that decline the probability of collaboration and discourse occurring between assorted people and gatherings inside specific settings. One potential outcome of this process is what Cantele (2005, 69–70) described as people living ‘parallel lives’, in which people belonging to different groups may live *alongside* each other, but rarely interact in any meaningful way *with* each other. Such situations have long been recognized as creating significant potential for mutual misunderstanding and conflict between groups, especially given histories where group differences of religious faith and culture have been exploited, sometimes violently, for political ends (e.g., Bruce 2003). At the same time, high levels of transnational migration and supranational movements and identities, including those with religious dimensions, have been important factors in the resurgent public and political recognition of these groups; this recognition has been reflected in terms of the complex and often controversial entanglements of such groups with the public sphere and wider civil society (whether for service, protest or other reasons) (Cherry 2014).

The development of improved activates between people identifying with different religious faiths has often been promoted as a positive way of building more cohesive communities in response to the perceived threat and conflict which can arise from such divisions. So, the festival tries to built interfaith harmony activities by developing a community engagement framework for society betterment. In this process, this is possible to establish peace by understanding interfaith harmony. On this stage which need to be asked by policymakers and practitioners, and the potential answers which may be given, if these interfaith activities are to successfully build improved relationships and mutual understanding within wider society.

### **Program Overview:**

“Interfaith harmony” the term is not well known in Bangladesh. That is why Global Law thinkers Society organized rapid event throughout the month started from 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and ended 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 to promote interfaith harmony in society specially among children and youth.

This Interfaith Harmony Youth Festival approached to society for developing strategies to promote interfaith Harmony between individuals and/or organizations within civil society. It does this by drawing on a series of Physical and Online Program for connecting every religious person. In the process, the festival considers the conditions, spaces, processes, relationships and understandings of identity that can enable successful interfaith harmony, and how these might be developed in ways which address the issues raised.

We started this festival from Barguna District of Bangladesh by distributing winter cloth among different religious people and the program finished at 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2022 by an online cultural program where various background persons have performed religious recitations, songs, dance and poem recitation to spread interfaith harmony.

We connected 2 area of Bangladesh 1. Chattogram and 2. Barguna in our actual/in person activities. In online program we connected whole Bangladesh along with international diversity. In total we connected 480 Persons (Age Limit 5-60) in this program both physical and Virtual. We did different 10 events to promote Interfaith Harmony under the Interfaith Youth Festival – 2022.

### **Event Schedule & Name:**

#### **In Person Events: -**

##### **BARGUNA**

29th January, 2022: Interfaith Winter Cloth Distribution and Live Program

5th February, 2022: Interfaith Movement and Tree Distribution Campaign

12th February, 2022: Cricket Match for Interfaith Harmony

18th February, 2022: Interfaith Debate Competition

19th February, 2022: Children Art Competition

25th February, 2022: Political Dialogue on Interfaith

##### **CHATTOGRAM**

11th February, 2022: Dialogue Exchange and Holy Book distribution

#### **Virtual Events: -**

1st March, 2022: Religious Gurus and Youth Dialogue Exchange

2nd March, 2022: Laws for Interfaith Paper Presentation

3rd March, 2022: Cultural program for Interfaith Harmony

## Event Summary:

### **Interfaith Winter Cloth Distribution and Live Program**

Our program schedule or journey started by donating the poor and homeless people of every religion and caste. We wanted to establish a view in front of everyone that people of every religion, ethnicity, caste are the same. sometimes we divided them by their religion or caste, It's totally against humanity. No religion said that " only help your religious people ". Religion rather said that to help the poor and all though they are from a different religion. But we are human who don't want to understand this only for arrogancy and seek selfish benefit.

That's why we want to show everyone that you must help the needy, which religion or caste they belong to, it doesn't matter at all.

This view should be applied in the international crisis, which occurs for religious or caste purposes. In recent history there were many wars or absurd situations created for religious purposes, many countries from the first world also turned away or don't put their positive activity on that situation only the cause for they are different religious countries. It's not a positive sign for our future world. We have to be determined to one thing that we will help a needy, doesn't matter which religion, caste, ethnic he/she belongs.



**Clothes were distributed to the mass people who lived in street side irrespective of religion and cast**

**Date: January 29,2022**

**Place: Circuit House, Barguna**



**Organizer: GLTS, Barguna, District team**

**Interfaith Movement and Tree Distribution Campaign**

Our next program was the interfaith movement to aware local people, tree distribution and plantation. People from the rural or native areas don't get that much of chances of quality education and higher studies. These are the major cause of religious violence. They have strong faith in their religion but at the end of the day, it's just dogmatism, nothing more than that.

So, we have to take proper initiatives to aware these people. That's why we stand with some placards at the top five monuments in the city and talked to passersby and other people, explained them what is interfaith and importance of interfaith harmony for us. Interfaith illiteracy or quality less education can make these people an evil army. This army can be used to succeed some people's bad intentions. Because they are like that kind of people, who can't make any justification between what is right or wrong and in the case of religion they are like the blind vulture. We have to be cautious about this thing that bad people can't use these native or rural peoples for their benefits. And this scheduled program we ended up distributing trees to the people and plating some trees in some religious places.



**Places:**

**Barguna District Father of the nation monument.**

**District Shahid minar.**

**Ognijhora 71 monument.**

**Freedom Fighters Monument.**

**Tree plantation: DC Office premises, Barguna.**

**The program and hosted by Barguna district team**

### **Dialogue Exchange and Holy Book Distribution**

*(by promoting "Respect towards Diversity - Building Mutual Relations among Diverse Communities")*

As a part of the initiatives, Global Law Thinkers Society – Chittagong District organized a program to build and connect mutual relations among diverse religions including marginalized communities. The program “Dialogue Exchange and Holy Book distribution” is going to be held with its motto “Respect Towards Diversity - Building Mutual Relations Among Diverse Communities” at various Mosque, Temple, Pagoda and Church in Chittagong district under the banner of “Interfaith Harmony Festival : Love and Respect for All”. The program has been organized by GLTS Leaders and Volunteers. The members and representatives of diverse religions were invited. The program was one day long at 4 sacred places. The dialogue exchange and holy book distribution was held among religious representatives, members, GLTS leaders and volunteers.

"It's told in Islam to respect and not to harm other religions. GLTS has taken a great initiative to promote it by the Interfaith Harmony Youth Festival"

The religious representatives (Imam, Guru, Vanthe, and Father) and members were invited as guests. Interfaith Harmony Dialogues:

"It's told in Islam to respect and not to harm other religions. GLTS has taken a great initiative to promote it by the Interfaith Harmony Youth Festival"

- Imam, Kolpolok Model Mosque

"If we want to establish peace, we have to secure the diverse religions, we have to work together for mutual relations"

- Vanthe, Chittagong Buddhist Monastery

"Religious conflicts are growing day by day in Bangladesh. This is a good initiative taken by the GLTS Youths and URI to promote Interfaith Harmony"

- Pandith, Shree Shree Tulshidam Temple

"If we love God, we have to ensure that we love his creations as well. By organizing such a noble program, you are promising towards Diversity and Peace"

- Father, Cathedral Church

Monir Hossen, GLTS Leader said: The youths are the powerhouse of change. By organizing this program, GLTS young leaders and volunteers are committed to promoting Interfaith Harmony and establishing peace among diverse religions, beliefs, cultures.”

The religious representatives, Imam, Pandith, Vanthe, Father, GLTS Leaders and Volunteers were present in the day-long program and agreed upon to spread love and respect each other.







### **The program was held at following venues:**

1. Kolpolok Model Mosque, Kolpolok Residential, Chittagong
2. Shree Shree Tulshidham Temple, Nazir Ahmed Chowdhury Road, Chittagong
3. Chattogram Buddhist Monastery, Buddhist Temple Raod, Chittagong
4. Chathedral Church, Bundle Road, Chittagong

### **Cricket Match for Interfaith Harmony**

Following the schedule, our next program was the cricket match for interfaith harmony. Sports is a kind of event where the distance between different religions is demolished. In a team every religious people can play as a team, they play for their country. It's the best demo that if we, all religious people can stay together then the world would be better. Sports teach us the unity, that humbleness that the world most in need. At this time people are getting so rude and violent to others relegation. Everyone should respect other's religion. Sports ties people in one line and this is actual views of sports and sportsmanship. Sports ties people in one line.

There is no border for Sports. The distance between Bangladesh and Argentina and Brazil are about thousands of miles but the people of Bangladesh love Argentina and Brazil for there's football team, they love Messi and Neymar though they are from a different religion. That unconditional love happened for sports and this also can tie the people of a different religion. So, sports can be a great tool for establishing interfaith harmony.





## **Cricket Tournament for Interfaith & Holy Book Distribution** **Place: Circuit House Filed, Barguna**

### **Interfaith Debate Competition**

People can place their opinions on many topics. Sometimes there are many types of opinions on one topic and when the topic is interfaith, there must be a debate. So, according to the schedule, our next program was Debate Competition. The debate has happened on the topic “Religious has recently been able to prevent militancy and religious degradation” (‘ধর্মীয় সম্প্রতিই পারে জঙ্গীবাদ ও ধর্মীয় অবক্ষয় রোধ করতে’). This topic brought the previous scenario of some wars and also the importance of good practice of religion. In the competition, speakers bring some important points on good practice of religion.

When someone does the good practice of religion, he might be thinking positively, wisely, but those people who use religion like their business with bad intentions that is not to be acceptable. On the other hand, the bad practice of religion can create divisions among people. Which can create war, chaos or violence. They will fight each other to finish each other and the world will be destroyed day by day. If they do the good practice of religion, then they will understand destroying other religious people is destroying humanity. They will stay together, think together, work together, want to make this World better together. One of the biggest solutions to militancy is to educate about interfaith harmony and people understand the value of unity.

### **Debate Summary:**

*party on support:*



Arpita: When there is interfaith peace in one's mind and Heart then there Start to build human mannerism. With human mannerism no one can interrupt to terrorism.

Kanchi: In present and past how many deadliest war has happened to the world, the main reason of those world war is interfaith violence.

Shuborna: Every religious main law is respect other religion. Who respect other religion, other religious people he can't do any harm to the society.

*Opposite party:*

Rifa: The main reason of terrorism is never only interfaith violence. One of the main reason is virulent politics. We should protect it first.

Rafi: If only interfaith harmony can prevent religious violence then why the people of madrasa are rapist.

Oishi: Only interfaith harmony can't make the society, people positive and calm. For this we need other important things.

Participants:

Arpita, Kanchi, Shuborna participants are the 9th and 10th standard students from Barguna Girls school

Rifa: Barguna Govt. College (Intermediate, 2nd year)

Rafi: Barguna Zilla school (Class 9)

Oishi: Barguna Govt College (Intermediate, 1st year)

Winner is the party in support because they properly established their logic with proper reasoning that the religious harmony itself can iradicate the extremism and religious depreciation





**Interfaith debate competition**  
**Place: Calyx Academy, Barguna**

**Children Art Competition**

Art is one of the best ways to visualize thoughts of human. From history, there were lots of significant marks were created by art. It works for the freedom of human speech. People can fight with the art, they can create the scenario of freedom. Art can fight. That's why following the schedule our next program was the art competition for the kids.

The topic was religious harmony. Every people should be treated the same. The message through art was that the people of every religion and ethnic people or from any caste should be treated equal. The knowledge of interfaith shouldn't be captured only by the adults. Kids also have to gather the knowledge, so that they can understand and develop positive thoughts from childhood. They will grow up with a positive mentality. So, everyone should know about different faiths and interfaith harmony. Only then we can expect a better world in the future.





**Interfaith Children Art Competition**  
**Place: Calyx Academy, Barguna**



**Political Dialogue on Interfaith**

We have arranged a dialogue exchange program named ' Political Dialogue on interfaith ' end of all above schedule in person programs. Through this program we tried our best to create awareness and cautious, besides, we were finding solutions in this matter. We took opinions of the administrative officials and political parties. Officials of administration, in the country like Bangladesh, are very powerful source, because they can do lots of things positively and negative also. We discussed about political contribution in religious conflict and talked about probable solutions. All agreed to organize more dialogue exchange programs and also agreed with some points which we were gathering from the beginning of the series of our programs. They also want a world free of religious violence and gave many ideas to aware people. All committed to establish a violence free, happy country or world through taking step/initiatives to stop religious violence.

**Present Guests and speeches:**

1. Golam Rabbi Mithu, Vice President Student League, Barguna District said that all political leaders should respect all the religious and act according to it.”
2. Abdullah Al Arif, Organizing Secretary, Chatrodol, Barguna, said that only interfaith harmony can improve social mannerism and social brotherhood.
3. Tapu Farazi, Joint Organizing Secretary, National Party, said that we believe interfaith harmony and work Through it.
4. Adv. Sanjib Kumar Das, President, Press Club Barguna, said that interfaith harmony can remove regional destabilisation from our society.
5. khademun Bashir Joy, Ex-central leader, Bangladesh student League said that the believer of Bangabandhu should always maintain interfaith harmony.
6. Sudev Bishwas, District Coordinator, BD Clean Barguna said that we should move forward put in front interfaith harmony inspiring with young energy.
7. Raimu Zaman, President, NCTF Barguna, said that from childhood we should practice interfaith harmony,

And Md. Jahangir Mallik (SP,Barguna), Samia Sharmin (UNO,Barguna), Md.Fazlul Haque ( Civil surgeon, Barguna) also support Interfaith harmony and said to move forward with interfaith peace.







### **Interfaith promotional program and political youth dialogue**

**Host GLTS BARGUNA DISTRICT TEAM**

**Chaired by SP, UNO, President Press Club, Councilor, Civil society and Political activist along with COO, GLTS and volunteers, Venue: Barguna Municipality Hall Room**

### **Religious Gurus and Youth Dialogue Exchange (Virtual)**

Topic: Interfaith Harmony

Bangladesh is a pluralistic society, with the people following many religions, faiths, norms, values and traditions. The majority of the Bangladeshi population identifies as Muslim, while the other religious groups are Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and few other small religious groups also co-exist. Bangladesh is the brightest example of peace and interfaith harmony. Yet, religious issues are always very sensitive and used as a weapon to create chaos. The most common problem sorted out is religious misconceptions among the present-day youth where they easily get involved in identity and ego crises and grow a tendency to break religious harmony. But today's youth are future leaders to establish peace. Educating children and youth about religious harmony will help them to mitigate chaos created for religious purpose, bring resilience, increase tolerance, decrease divisions and make them thoughtful about unity.

The program "Religious Gurus and Youth Dialogue Exchange" has been organized to clear the clouds of misconceptions among different religious youth groups specially from Bangladesh and give them a new perspective to bring deep thought for the importance of interfaith harmony and how to achieve them.

We invited multi-religious gurus, free thinkers from Bangladesh and other countries to bring the diversified thoughts and knowledge for youth. So that they know the purposes of religion and clear clouds in their thoughts.

Invited Speakers were:

1. Md. Sazzad Hossain, who is a Bangladeshi Muslim Speaker for Removing Islamic Misconceptions, Business Analyst, nTier Solutions
2. Mohammad Akhtarujjaman, who is a Muslim from Bangladesh, have completed Islamic Studies, CEO, BDWEBS.com
3. Biswadeb Chakraborty (RDS), who is a Hindu from India and National India Team Coordinator and Regional Coordinator for URI-Asia, India, East Zone.

4. Rev. Kalyan Kumar Kisku, who is a Priest from India, eminent social leader and Global Trustee of URI (United Religions Initiatives)
5. Dr. Junius Silva, who is a Cristian from Sri Lanka, distinguished public speaker, toastmasters, strategist, political advisor, social worker and a businessman.
6. AMB. Faith Hung Lin Lin, who is a free thinker from Singapore and Goodwill Ambassador for Singapore, Chairperson for SUNFO Global Federation, Women's Wing International
7. Chandra Kishore Tripura, Buddhist Speaker, General Secretary, Biyarong Orphanage, Dighinala, Khagrachhari, Bangladesh
8. Sourav Tripura, who is a Buddhist and Tripura tribal from Bangladesh, an advocate and Khagrachhori District Leader of Global Law Thinkers Society.

Biswadeb Chakraborty said how important it is to include different religious people in the list of friends. He suggested to the youth to make a list of 10 friends and find out if there are any other religious friends present or not. If not present, he advised to include friends from other religions which will help to bring understanding, love for each other and they can be resilient towards each other's beliefs. He also said how he interacts with other religious people by talking to them whenever he gets a chance and suggested doing the same to the youth. Love and respect can bring interfaith harmony he mentioned.

Rev. Kalyan Kumar Kisku said that joining organizations like United Religions Initiatives and interfaith programs help to bring mindset change regarding religious fanatic views. He also mentioned that no religion talks about violence, so we should bring different religious children under a platform, educate them about basics of different religions and guide them for interfaith harmony. If we can arrange this our children will get a free mind and will learn to love people as humans, not based on what their religious belief is.

Amb. Faith Hung Lin Lin said about the importance of interfaith harmony. She said interfaith harmony enhances self-growth, strengthening our sense of identity by form of even deeper understanding of what defines our faith. She mentioned that we have to accept that we are all unique individuals with differences but we have to uphold collective interest for the human race. She said that interfaith harmony can be achieved through community projects that serve common social causes such as economic crisis, climate change and healthcare issues. This brings people together for joint participation in taking common action.

Md. Sazzad Hossain emphasized on to clear misconception regarding religious beliefs. He suggested religious harmony is not about following the beliefs or traditions of each other religions rather to respect each other and create harmony. He has given an example of Bangladesh present misconception “ধর্ম যার যার উৎসব সবার” (Religion is everyone's festival) that created a big chaos in different religions. He said that neither Muslim nor Hindu can follow each other rituals. In Hinduism the cow considered as divine where Muslims are slaughtering cow in their religious festival, so a Muslim cannot invite a Hindu to join the festival or a Hindu cannot come for their belief and respect. Same way, in puja (worship) festivals Muslims cannot take part because this is prohibited in Islam. He mentioned Islam suggested to respect others religions, not to hurt others, not to speak bad about other religions. He said that we need to know own religion well because Islam taught about how to keep peace and in other words religious harmony.

Chandra Kishore Tripura has represented their Tripura tribe and talked about the importance of religious resiliency. He suggested that youth should meet different religious people, learn about different religions and thus religious resiliency can be built.

Dr. Junius Silva suggested interfaith harmony dialogue should be discussed all time. He said that animals, nature and every creation are united where humans are fighting for no reason.

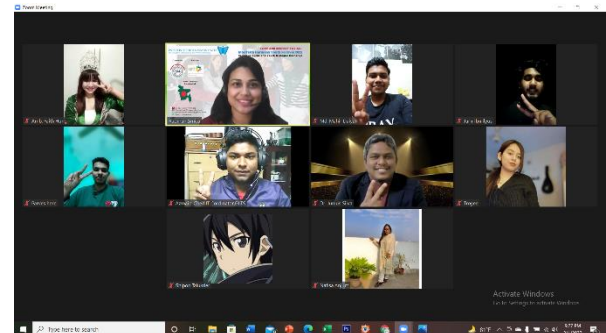
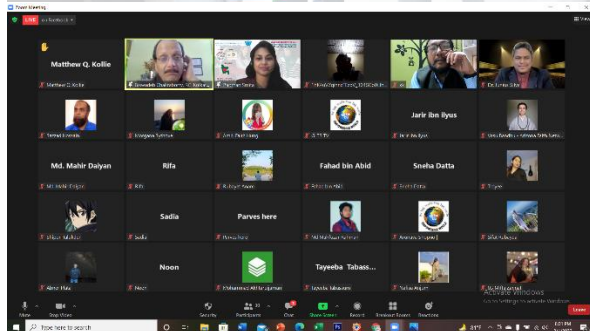
Sourav Tripura conveyed a message of peace.

Mohammad Akhtarujjaman said based on Quran, Hadith and the life stories of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that how Islam restricted to harm other religious people, stop chaos in society and promoted religious resiliency. He said to bring changes in mindset of Muslim youth, they should practice Islam by knowing properly and follow the life style of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

After listening to all speakers and questions-answers sessions for youth, all agreed upon one point is that religions are created to establish peace not war. The more we know each other the more we understand each other. The more we feel and love each other the more we become tolerant towards each other. To establish interfaith harmony, we need to organize more exchange programs, dialogue exchange, awareness programs, workshops and most importantly our own religious studies. Because no religion talked about division but to bring love and respect to each other for building a peaceful world.

Live Program Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/GlobalLawThinkersSociety/videos/511449377219653>



### **Laws for Interfaith Paper Presentation (Virtual)**

At the center of all the confidence frameworks and customs lies the acknowledgment that we are better off sticking together and that we really want to cherish and uphold each other to live in congruity; and to coincide calmly in a naturally manageable world. The ethical goals of all religions, convictions and convictions call for harmony, resistance and shared understanding.



Our reality keeps on being astounded by struggle and bigotry with rising number of evacuees and the inside dislodged in a threatening and unpleasant world around them. We are additionally seeing messages of disdain spreading friction among individuals, making cracks and building dividers, when all we really want are spans. The requirement for otherworldly direction has never been more prominent. On the planet the way things are today, we genuinely should try harder to spread the message of good amiability in light of our normal humankind no matter what our beliefs and strict customs.

In order to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people, there is an imperative for dialogue among different faiths and religions. Realising that need, the General Assembly, through its resolution encouraged all States to spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, on a voluntary basis and according to their own religious traditions or convictions.

### **History of religious conflict:**

1. Former Yugoslavia conflict: Happened among orthodox Christian, Catholic and Muslims, started after Ottoman conquest. UN intervene on 1991 to 1995 and stopped genocide.
2. Israel and Palestine war: Happened between Muslim and Jews, started after the world war 2 against the Arab state.
3. Nigeria war: Happened between Muslims and Boko Haram. Al Qaeda gave arms for this, started on the time of British colonialization
4. Syria war: Happened among Shia (govt), Sunni(general) and Kurdi, started after the world war 1. After France and Britain border issue Arab spring movement and the Iraq attack was the main issue on it.
5. Northern Ireland war: Happened between Protestant and Catholic. US intervene on this issue.

There are two major issues: Interfaith and Intrafaith. Intrafaith is also important because Syria and Ireland war were two examples of Intrafaith that happened between same faith. One of the biggest religious conflict in the history of world crushed on 1096 AD to 1271 AD happened between Cristian and Muslim. World War 2 through versailles agreement was known as the main reason but the elimination of jews people was the inherent issue.

### **Legal Instruments:**

1. Interfaith harmonious coexistence law (draft) 2016
2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ICCPR, Article 18, 19
3. Universal declaration of human rights, UDHR, Article 18...freedom of religious belief.
4. General assembly adopted the resolution A/RES/73/296 titled "international day commemorating the victims of act of violence based on religion or belief
5. 1981 declaration of the general assembly : Supported the freedom of religion and harmony
6. Human rights committee general comment 22: Para 3, 9 and para 5 supported the same
7. CRC article 14 and ICESCR article 13: The right of parents to ensure the religious and moral education of their children
8. ICCPR, article 2, 5, 26, 27: Discrimination on the basis of religion or belief
9. Convention relating to the status of refugee, article 7 and 33: Safe guard the religious freedom

10. CRC, article 14 and 30: Freedom of thought and religion
11. ICCPR, article 27: Religious right of minorities
12. General Assembly Declaration 47/135: Article 1 and 2, right to enjoy their own culture and religion
13. Human rights Act, Article 9: freedom of thought, conscience and religion
14. ICCPR, Article 19 and 20: para 2, Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law
15. international covenant on Economic, social and cultural rights, art 1 and 2: Right of self determination
16. International covenant on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, Art 5:
17. convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, Article 21: same safe guards
18. general comments 10,11,34: Article 19,20 and 19 respectedly supported the same

### **Declarations:**

1. Interfaith harmony week, 20 oct 2010, building bridge across the boundaries
  2. 2008 astana declaration
  3. Madrid declaration
  4. Phnom Penh dialogue 2008
  5. Declaration for promoting dialogue and mutual understanding among religion and civilizations
  6. Bali declarations
  7. Tehran declaration
- All those mentioned declarations supported the religious harmony and freedom of religion

### **International Mechanism:**

#### 1. Charter Based Mechanism:

- #International Court of justice, ICJ
- #Human Rights Council

#### 2. Treaty based mechanism :

- #human rights committee
- #committee on economic, social and cultural rights
- #committee on the elimination of racial discrimination

#### 3. Special procedures :

- #special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
- #special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

All these mentioned mechanisms are the authorities who can establish the safe guard and ensure the religious harmony if any violence occurred and if any state or person submit their application.

All these mentioned laws, declarations, treaties and legal mechanism are mandatory to all the signing states of UN and those who signed these declarations or treaty.

### **Bangladesh Laws and Mechanism:**

1. Constitution of Bangladesh, Secularism as the Fundamental Principles of State Policies, Article 41, freedom of religion
2. Religious Welfare Trust (Amendment) Act, 2011
3. Vested Property Return Act, 2011
4. Hindu Marriage Registration Act, 2012
5. Penal Code, if anything insults the sentiment of religion then the punishment is 2 years jail and fine.
6. Digital Security Act, if anything breakdown the harmony of religion by any digital publications then the punishment is 10 years and jail and fine
7. Constitution of Bangladesh prohibits the freedom of association if it is formed for destroying religious harmony
8. Alternative Dispute Resolution
9. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 1993
10. Special Marriage Act, 1954
11. Criminal Procedure of Bangladesh stated the govt may confiscate all copies of a newspaper if it publish anything that created enmity and hatred among the citizen regarding religious belief
12. In 2001 the Supreme Court of Bangladesh ruled all legal ruling based on Sharia, known as fatwa
13. In 2012 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh restored 1972 constitution and declared the Secularism as a fundamental principle of state policy

Live Program Link: <https://fb.watch/bxmLgbR3Im/>





### **Cultural program for Interfaith Harmony (Virtual)**

An online program conducted to promote peace through diverse culture. Performers presented following cultural activities:

Poem recitation: -

1. Mahfuzur Rahman
2. Meher Afroz Meem
3. Rima Akter
4. Afi a Hossain Rifa
5. Taneem Habib

Song: -

1. Farhan Abesh
2. S. M. Nazneen Monalisa & Prof. S. M. Mosharof Hossain
3. Azmain Ahmed Sabab Reza
4. Hironmoy Chiwdhury
5. Ganer Bari team

Dance:-

1. Mahee
2. Bonhi
3. Treeporna Deb Turna
4. Wang Ni
5. Lagnajita Chowdhury & Oishorjo Oishee

International Guest performer: - 1. Dr. Junias Silva (Sri Lanka) 2. Amb. Faith Hung Lin Lin (Singapore) 3. Cali Fae (USA)

Religious Cultural Activities :-

Hamd-O-Naat: - A GLTS Cultural Club member from Chattogram

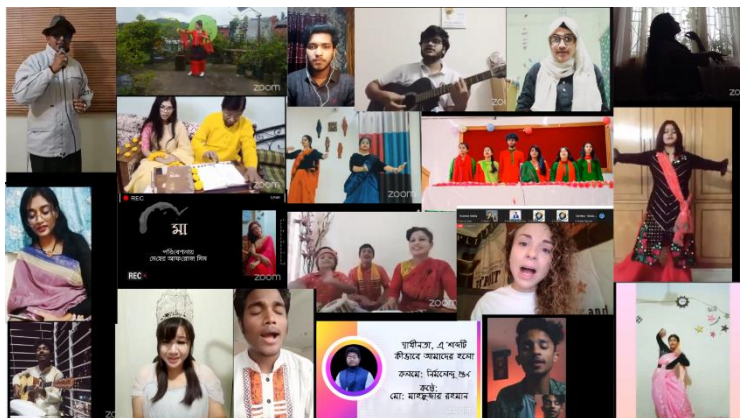
Kirton: - ISKCON

Bible Prayer: - Source from internet

Tripitok prayer: - Source from internet

**Live Program Link:**

1. <https://fb.watch/bxmiHt1NjN/>
2. <https://fb.watch/bxmJTjqFcS/>



## Evaluation Methodology

GLTS conduct some research for getting the community impact result. The evaluation was conducted by surveying members of the general public. Surveys were delivered through intercept interviews organized by GLTS under the Interfaith Youth Festival – 2022. This survey was designed and developed to evaluate the strategic goals and outcomes of Interfaith Youth Festival.

250 responses were collected from public attendees via intercept interviews and online surveys.

Each survey contained a range of ‘dimension’ questions, asking stakeholders about their experience of the event. These dimensions have been developed and tested in collaboration with industry, practitioners, and academics to measure the impact and value of Interfaith Harmony events and activities.

Appropriate dimensions were chosen based on their alignment with the festival's strategic objectives.

| Public Assessment |              |  |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| Domain            | Dimension    | Dimension statement                                      |
| Cultural          | Insight      | It helped me gain new insight or knowledge               |
| Social            | Access       | It gave me the opportunity to access cultural activities |
|                   | Safe         | It made me feel safe and welcome                         |
| Civic             | Belonging    | It helped me feel part of the community                  |
| Economic          | Diversity    | It engaged people from different backgrounds             |
| Environmental     | Place        | It made me feel proud of my local area                   |
| Quality           | Rigor        | It was well thought through and put together             |
|                   | Local Impact | It's important that it's happening here                  |
| Harmony           | Engagement   | It's necessity for peace                                 |

### Objective Strategic:

#### Accessibility

Design a festival that is accessible to all peoples of the community. Providing peace theory to established peace and making a environment so that every type of people feel safe and easy to join the festival and opening opportunity to share thoughts.

#### Sustainability

The festival contributes to the sustainability of the sector. Providing community engagement on this field and let the people know how we can live together.

### Experimentation

Presenting new module to promote harmony. Embracing new and experimental works and providing emerging platform to explore thinking.

### Leadership

Become a leader, providing a structure for success for the rest of the sector. Paving the way for the future of the sector.

| Strategic Alignment |                 |              |               |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Reference           | Strategy Area   | Dimension    | Domain        |
| 1.1                 | Accessibility   | Access       | Social        |
| 1.1                 |                 | Rigour       | Quality       |
| 1.1                 |                 | Belonging    | Social        |
| 1.1                 |                 | Safe         | Social        |
| 2.1                 | Sustainability  | Diversity    | Economic      |
| 4.1                 |                 | Local Impact | Quality       |
| 2.1                 |                 | Place        | Environmental |
| 2.1                 |                 | Insight      | Cultural      |
| 3.1                 | Experimentation | Safe         | Social        |
| 3.1                 |                 | Insight      | Cultural      |
| 3.1                 |                 | Rigour       | Quality       |
| 3.1                 |                 | Diversity    | Economic      |
| 3.1                 |                 | Access       | Social        |
| 4.1                 | Leadership      | Diversity    | Economic      |
| 4.1                 |                 | Access       | Social        |
| 4.1                 |                 | Insight      | Cultural      |
| 4.1                 |                 | Rigour       | Quality       |
| 4.1                 |                 | Local Impact | Quality       |

## Recommendations

1. To do Sports Program by building team with different religious people.
2. To do field campaign mainly in rural area.
3. To do workshops in school, college and universities.
4. To conduct international and national religious exchange programs.
5. To do start student engagement program in Primary Level.
6. To publish monthly magazine by youth.
7. To start political dialogue exchange program.
8. To include Interfaith Harmony Topic School level.
9. To start a Harmony club in every school privately.
10. To start a program name “Public Leadership for Interfaith Harmony”

## Objectives for Next Initiative about Interfaith Harmony by GLTS

1. To start community engagement program all over the Bangladesh by workshop, art and seminar.
2. To make a community with religious leader.
3. To start a Program Name ‘Interfaith Harmony for Children’ to build sustainable religious resilient mindset for children on this sector.

## Program Links:

**Event Link:** <https://fb.me/e/4bZNJqxiP>

**Weblink:** <https://www.globallawthinkers.org/interfaith-harmony-youth-festival-2022/>

**FB Page Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalLawThinkersSociety>

## **BARGUNA Program Links**

- **29th January, 2022 : Interfaith Winter Cloth Distribution and Live Program**
  1. <https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/3000288846855590/>
  2. <https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/2977223145828827/>
  3. <https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/2977219005829241/>
  4. <https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/3000288846855590/>
- **5th February, 2022 : Interfaith Movement and Tree Distribution Campaign**  
<https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/3000291483521993/>
- **12th February, 2022 : Cricket Match for Interfaith Harmony**  
<https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/3000296180188190/>



- **18th February, 2022 : Interfaith Debate Competition**

<https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/3000299250187883/>

- **19th February, 2022 : Children Art Competition**

1. <https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/3000300613521080/>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/3000301456854329/>

- **25th February, 2022 : Political Dialogue on Interfaith**

1. <https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/3000304156854059/>
2. <https://fb.watch/bxGX0mVmUO/>

## CHATTOGRAM Program Links:

### 11th February, 2022 : Dialogue Exchange and Holy Book distribution

1. <https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/2977670015784140/>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/2977891602428648/>
3. <https://www.facebook.com/1431852503699240/posts/2985994328285042/>

## Virtual Program Links:

1st March: Religious Gurus and Youth Dialogue Exchange

<https://fb.watch/bxGlpw8AcL/>

2nd March: Paper presentation : Laws on Interfaith Harmony

<https://fb.watch/bxGoUdLxar/>

3rd March: Cultural Program on Interfaith Harmony

<https://fb.watch/bxGoUdLxar/>  
<https://fb.watch/bxGrUNGyUi/>

## NEWS Links:

1. [https://www.dailybargunnews.com/2022/02/blog-post\\_174.html?m=1&fbclid=IwAR2DxtkPeAlKaXfXihTO4U3pCdRolfU7VWgaRj0QhyRpey3bzTf6YNLITdY](https://www.dailybargunnews.com/2022/02/blog-post_174.html?m=1&fbclid=IwAR2DxtkPeAlKaXfXihTO4U3pCdRolfU7VWgaRj0QhyRpey3bzTf6YNLITdY)



2. [https://dipanchalnews.com/2022/02/26/%e0%a6%ac%e0%a6%b0%e0%a6%97%e0%a7%81%e0%a6%a8%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%a4%e0%a7%87-%e0%a6%a7%e0%a6%b0%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%ae%e0%a7%80%e0%a6%af%e0%a6%bc%e0%a6%b8%e0%a6%ae%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%aa%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%b0%e0%a7%80/?fbclid=IwAR0bbOBm1ibp5rcpoPOIAMgWeD3YSMWSqfCr9zr0zMIHhh\\_mKk3ONUmqmE](https://dipanchalnews.com/2022/02/26/%e0%a6%ac%e0%a6%b0%e0%a6%97%e0%a7%81%e0%a6%a8%e0%a6%be%e0%a6%a4%e0%a7%87-%e0%a6%a7%e0%a6%b0%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%ae%e0%a7%80%e0%a6%af%e0%a6%bc%e0%a6%b8%e0%a6%ae%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%aa%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%b0%e0%a7%80/?fbclid=IwAR0bbOBm1ibp5rcpoPOIAMgWeD3YSMWSqfCr9zr0zMIHhh_mKk3ONUmqmE)
3. <https://www.facebook.com/Daily.Chattogram.Zila.News/posts/606737787423732>



THE END