

Interfaith Dialogue hosted by Ecopeace Teen Cafe as part of United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week on February 1, 2023

Ecopeace Teen Cafe is an online dialogue platform working with the vision to create a safe and inclusive space for all and equip them to take action for a peaceful, just and sustainable world. Ecopeace Teen Cafe works under the leadership of Greshma Pious Raju, hosted an online interfaith dialogue with religious leaders from different parts of the world on the auspicious occasion of celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week on February 1, 2023, from 8 PM to 9:30 PM Indian Standard Time.

The one-hour and 30-minute dialogue began with a moment of silence. Then representatives from Hindu, Christian, and Islam read their Holy Scriptures. After that, the dialogue facilitator Ms Greshma Pious Raju shared the purpose and vision of hosting interfaith dialogue as part of World Interfaith Harmony Week. Ninety people registered for the program, and 33 Attended the online interfaith dialogue from diverse religious and geographical locations and 93 views on Youtube.

The religious leaders from Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism and spiritual tradition attended the dialogue.

The following special guests attended the dialogue:

1. Sister Kathryn, a representative from Brahmakumaris, co-president of the European Woman of Faith Network – RfP, and a Board member of RfP Europe.
2. Imam Essan Secundar, President of Religions for Peace Belgium, is also a member of the European National Interreligious Bodies (ENIB) of RFP Europe.
3. His Grace Salika Dasa Adhikari, the Temple President of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.
4. Vasu Bandhu, a Buddhist monk, serves as Faith Community Coordinator for Arizona Faith Network.
5. Pujya Swami Rameshwarananda Giri Maharaj, a Hindu monk from the Advaita Vedanta Dashnami Sannyasin Order. He is the Director of the PHI School of Yoga Vedanta and Meditation.
6. Sr Agatha O. Chikelue, Nigerian Catholic Nun from the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy, Chair - Religions for Peace International Women's Coordinating Committee.

Religious leaders were sharing the perspective of their religions on peace and justice. They also shared how to turn those religious values into action. The interfaith dialogue closed with prayer offered by religious leaders from different religious groups.