

## **Faith: Tool or Weapon? Hate and Discrimination**

*National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee*

*Thursday, February 23, 2023*

*7:00 pm to 9 pm via Zoom and Facebook Live*

### **Event Report**

On Thursday, February 23, 2023, we held the annual event for the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee (NMCLC). This is a World Interfaith Harmony Week event organized in collaboration with the Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI) and the various Muslim organizations and Christian denominations represented on the NMCLC. We have been organizing our annual NMCLC event in participation of World Interfaith Harmony Week since 2020.

The event was an interfaith panel discussion on the topic of “**Faith: Tool or Weapon? Hate and Discrimination.**” There were three panelists representing Christian, Islamic, and Jewish traditions.



**Faith: Tool or Weapon?  
Hate and Discrimination**

A World Interfaith Harmony Week Event  
"Faith in Action"

INTERCULTURAL  
DIALOGUE  
INSTITUTE

Muslim Christian Liaison  
Committee  
NMCLC

WORLD INTERFAITH  
HARMONY WEEK

 **LIVE** Join Event Live at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/NMCLC>

Contact us: [nmclccanada@gmail.com](mailto:nmclccanada@gmail.com) <https://muslimchristian.ca/>

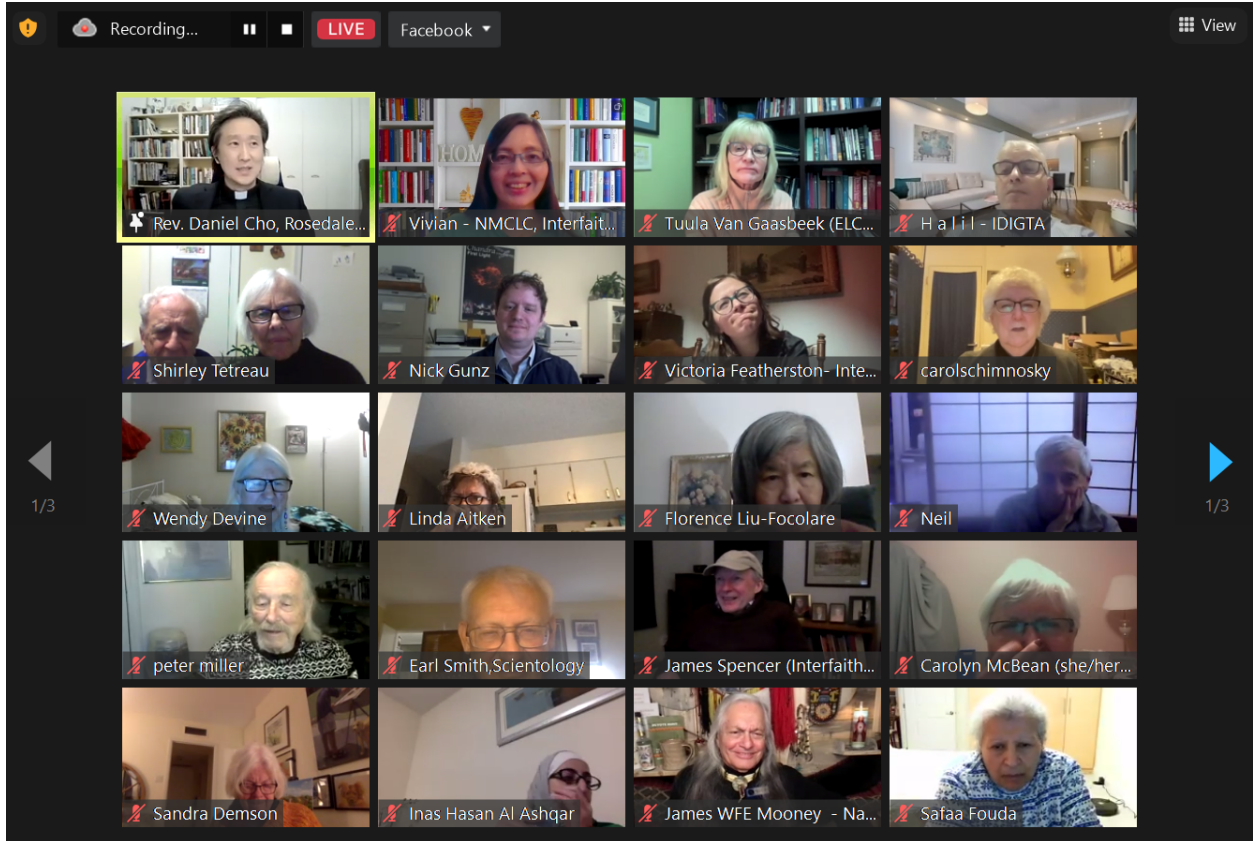
This topic truly spoke to how we have put our “Faith in Action” which is the theme of the 2023 World Interfaith Harmony Week. The speakers shared from their personal experiences of how they have experienced hate and discrimination, and how as people of faith, they have overcome this and continue to live out their faith despite these difficult

situations. They are able to live out the call to love God and love their neighbor amidst hate and discrimination.



There were approximately 70 people participating on Zoom and some joined the event Live on the NMCLC Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/NMCLC/>). Among the participants and attendees there were a number of students and university chaplains.

It was a lively, thoughtful and very engaging dialogue between speakers and participants. There were back and forth discussions both on facebook and zoom. Questions were answered as they arose in the discussion and at the end there was invitation for participants to ask further questions and or provide feedback.





During the event, NMCLC presented two annual awards for interfaith relations excellence. The 2022 recipients were two prominent interfaith leaders and activists in Toronto - Mr. Muneeb Nasir and Ms. Shirley Tetreau. It was a blessing to share our joy with them and thank them for the great work and connections that they've contributed to interfaith relations over the years.

A profile of Muneeb written by Brian Carwana can be found at:

<https://religionsgeek.com/index.php/2021/11/24/mnasir/>

Here are the images of the NMCLC Award Recipients and the Award presented:

**Our NMCLC Award Recipient**



**Mr. Muneeb Nasir**  
Muslim Leader, Writer, Interfaith  
Activist (*Olive Tree Foundation*)  
  
Former Muslim Co-Chair  
(*National Muslim Christian  
Liaison Committee*)



BMG (Berthrong, Muinnudin, Gregerson) Award for Interfaith Collaboration  
presented by the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee to

**Muneeb Nasir**

with gratitude  
for your many years of leadership, commitment and service to  
the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee  
and your many contributions to interfaith dialogue and cooperation.

Toronto, Ontario  
February 23, 2023

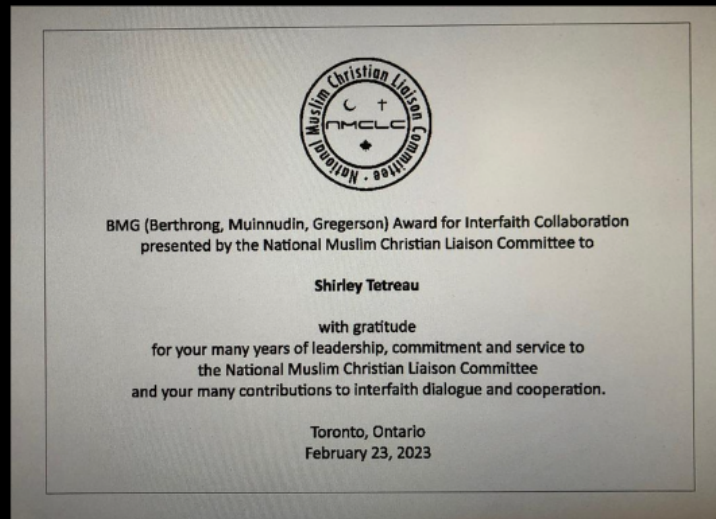


## Our NMCLC Award Recipient



**Ms. Shirley Tetreau**

Roman Catholic Interfaith Activist  
and Networker (*Focolare*)



### Planning of the Event

The committee planned most of the details for this event in the last month (i.e. Jan - Feb 2023). It was truly a team effort with the NMCLC Event Planning Committee in collaboration with the Intercultural Dialogue Institute.

Finding a suitable location for the event proved to be a challenge. We successfully found a beautiful venue in downtown Toronto, ON, Canada to host this event: The Mary Ward Centre, an organization that supports our values and interfaith work at the University of Toronto. It is centrally located and easily accessible by public transportation. The committee paid a site visit and tech check the week prior to the event. However, due to the low number of in-person registrations and interest for the event from outside the province, the decision was made to hold the event virtually via Zoom.



Finding speakers for the event with a relatively short notice proved to be another challenge. The committee worked hard to secure and confirm all 3 speakers in the last 2 weeks leading up to the event. Our planning team’s tireless and persistent efforts had paid off with great speakers.

**Testimonials and congratulations**

To Shirley Tetreau on receiving the NMCLC Award and feedback on this event:



*It was really touching to hear all the speakers, that with so much love reinforced so beautifully the importance of: love everyone with no distinction, we are all children of the same Father!*

*Congratulations Shirley! You surely deserve that and much more!!!*

*Love and unity,*

*Lidia Raimondo - Focolare*

*Congratulations on your reward! Thank you for letting me know about last evening's program. I found each of the speakers broadened my knowledge and were easy to listen to.*

*Blessings,*

*Marg Henderson*