**Report no. 5: Art Exhibition at Kolding Library**

**UN World Interfaith Harmony Week 2023**

**Arranged by Cross-Cultural Ministry of Kolding Deanery in cooperation with the**

**Office of Migrant Cooperation and Folk Church Encounter**

**with other Religions of Haderslev Diocese**

**Duration of Exhibition: February 20 to March 1**

**Formal Opening of the Art Exhibition to the Public: January 22 at 1-5 pm.**

**Place: The main library, Kolding Library at Slotssøvejen 4, 6000 Kolding**

**Description:**

The 22 artists from 6 countries, Denmark, Poland, Syria, Iraq, Romania, Philippines, hanged up their art works on February 20. 26 boards for display were provided by the main library. Each artist got one display board, size 140 x122 cm. Three display boards were used for the information on UN World Interfaith Harmony Week in Danish and English, some paintings on symbols of religions by students from school, and paintings and poems on Tolerance from the first event, Musical Brunch Fellowship, placards as public information on the events we have carried out from January 28 to February 25 and document of our Declaration of Support. The main library has regular visit of 1,000 guests each day.

**Launching or Opening of the Art Exhibition on February 22 at 1 to 5 pm**

Coffee and tea table with some delicacies were prepared at 1 pm by our volunteers. People started coming at 2 pm to see the exhibition, The exhibition was formally opened with the following program:

1. **Coffee and tea with some biscuits and cakes**
2. **Welcome by Michael Markussen,** chairman of the Migrant Cooperation and Church Encounter with other Religions of Haderslev Stift
3. **Historical information on the event, UN World Interfaith Harmony ‘Week,** and also thanking for the 5 years cooperation with Kolding Library on this 5th year art exhibition to mark UN WIFH by Elizabeth Padillo Olesen, coordinator for Cross-cultural Ministry of Kolding Deanery
4. **Speech of the Vice Mayor of Kolding Kommune/**Municipality: Birgitte

Munk Grunet (confirming the necessity of marking UN World Interfaith

Harmony week, also noting the research she has made on the event)

1. **Ukrainian Choir, singing** songs of praise and songs of their longing for

peace and freedom. Note after their song was there given time for silence to

remember the victims of war in Ukraine and a prayer for peace. It was a

touching moment for all.

1. **Philippine Singing Group on Joy** with tambourines, and they led the community present to sing together the common song how to live as brothers and sisters in a wonderful world, accompanied by guitar.
2. **Recognition of the 22 artists and presentation of the diversity of artworks also** informing the genres of art being exhibited: in oil, acrylic, water colors, graphic illustration and glass art in 80 pieces of exhibited art works of 22 artists, but also displaying some drawings and poems on tolerance. Every artist was called by name to come forward receive a token of gratitude for their participation. Alle 22 artists received bunch of tulip flowers and vice- mayor and the singers got also flowers or chocolates. There was time to pose to have a picture taken.
3. **Then time was allotted for people to ask questions.** Artists stood beside the display boards where their own paintings were displayed and shared their contact information to those who asked. There was another table at the entrance where artists displayed their cards and contact information. People used time to move around to ask questions and to congratulate.

*Note: (after the opening, two artists from Ukraine and Iran expressed their desire to join in the Art Exhibition next year 2024)*

**Attendance of the Public during the Opening of the Art Exhibition: 165 people**

**Impact of Art Exhibition:**

1. *It brought to mind the purpose of WIFHW and the resolution that started from a Muslim leader, King Abdullah the 11 from Jordan and the ground principles of Love of God and Love of Neighbor and Love of the Good around the celebration. The event was vehicle for information on the importance and need for peace and harmony among people of different cultures, faiths and religions.*
2. *That 2 Muslim artists from Iran and Syria displayed their beautiful art works side by side with Christian artists. The choice of artists was only dependent on who would come and express desire to have their art displayed. We hope to get more from other religions. We only know that after the exhibition, two artists from Iran and one from Ukraine came forward and expressed their desire to be in the next exhibition. The joy of artists to be given the chance to show their art was great.*
3. *The event provided the meeting place for people to be entertained by art In songs and dance, prepared speeches that encourage and challenge, to understand how art is also a language for affirming what is good and beautiful in our fellowship and common existence and the dream for peace and harmony.*
4. *We are very happy with the support of Kolding Library that it has provided us the dates available for our UN WIFHW exhibition in spite of the many other activities it has hosted. Kolding Library records more than one thousand guests every day and some of them get the chance to pass by and see the what is UN World InterFaith Harmony Week. The Library itself has provided information of this event in its home page.*

**Enclosures:**

**List of the artists**

**Joint photo of the artists with the Guest Speaker**, the Vice- mayor Birgitte Munk Grunnet of Kolding Kommune.

Photos from the Opening Day of the exhibition

Photos of some of the art works

**Video on the event,** February 22, made by Camilla Møberg Henriksen, consultant for Migrant Cooperation and Folk Church Encounter with other Religions of Haderslev Diocese. https://we.tl/t-uvOHguN3j7

**Links of information dissemination on the event :**

**Facebook Kolding:** *https://www.facebook.com/groups/35409347949/user/1310456136*

**Kolding News:**

[*https://www.facebook.com/groups/nyhederfrakolding/?multi\_permalinks=1344323783080076&notif\_id=1677276992377151&notif\_t=feedback\_reaction\_generic&ref=notif*](https://www.facebook.com/groups/nyhederfrakolding/?multi_permalinks=1344323783080076&notif_id=1677276992377151&notif_t=feedback_reaction_generic&ref=notif)

**Kolding Bibliotekerne** *(Kolding Libraries, Kolding has branches of libraries in local areas)*

*https://happeningnext.com/event/fn-world-interfaith-harmony-week-eid3a09iqckc3*

**Migrant Samarbejde og Religionsmøde af Haderslev Stift (**Haderslev Diocese)

[*https://www.facebook.com/migrantsamarbejdeogreligionsmoede*](https://www.facebook.com/migrantsamarbejdeogreligionsmoede)

**Sprog-café Kolding**

[*https://www*](https://www)*.facebook.com/groups/140575326627992*

**Women Encounter:**

***https://www.facebook.com/groups/2371908593028121***