

## INTERFAITH FRIENDSHIP JOURNEY – A CELEBRATION OF DIALOGUE AND UNITY

**Date:** February 6, 2025

**Organizer:** UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions, International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (IIAU)

**Venue:** Various religious sites in Tashkent

**Target Audience:** Students, faculty members, and interfaith community members

**Number of Attendees:** Over 30 participants

From February 4 to 8, 2025, the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (IIAU) organized a Week of Scientific, Cultural, Educational, and Sports Events dedicated to World Interfaith Harmony Week. Under the theme "**Human Fraternity and Interfaith Dialogue – A Factor of International Solidarity**," this initiative aimed to enhance interfaith cooperation, promote religious tolerance, and foster global solidarity.

As the sixth event of the week's celebrations, the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions organized the **Interfaith Friendship Journey** – a guided excursion designed to promote interfaith dialogue, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding among students and religious communities in Tashkent.

This initiative provided a **unique opportunity** for participants to engage with diverse faith traditions, visit significant religious institutions, and interact with leaders and members of various religious communities. The event embodied the spirit of **openness, respect, and inclusivity**, reflecting Uzbekistan's commitment to religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

Participants visited key religious institutions in Tashkent, including:

- **The Russian Orthodox Church** – Exploring the historical significance, rituals, and architectural beauty of Orthodox Christianity in Uzbekistan.
- **The Roman Catholic Church** – Understanding the traditions, values, and contributions of the Catholic community in promoting interfaith dialogue.
- **Other places of worship** – Offering students an immersive experience in the diverse religious landscape of Uzbekistan.

Guided by **religious representatives and experts**, students gained **firsthand insights** into the **spiritual heritage** of each tradition, learning about their beliefs, practices, and historical development within Uzbekistan's multicultural society.

### Interfaith Discussions and Engagement

A key component of the journey was the **interactive dialogue sessions**, where students and faculty engaged in discussions with religious leaders and community members. These sessions provided a platform for **exchanging perspectives** on topics such as:

- **The role of religion in promoting peace and unity.**
- **Common values** shared among different faiths.
- **The importance of interfaith dialogue** in preventing misunderstandings and fostering harmony.

Through these exchanges, participants **deepened their appreciation** of different religious traditions while reinforcing the principles of **mutual respect and peaceful coexistence**.

### **Reflective Sessions and Takeaways**

Following the visits, students took part in **reflective discussions**, sharing their personal experiences and insights gained from the journey. These discussions emphasized:

- The importance of **learning about other religions** to break down stereotypes and misconceptions.
- How **education and dialogue** contribute to interfaith harmony.
- The role of **youth and academia** in promoting tolerance and understanding across different religious communities.

The **Interfaith Friendship Journey** successfully **strengthened bonds** between different faith communities, reaffirming Uzbekistan's status as a model of religious harmony. The event underscored the need for continuous efforts in **building bridges between faiths**, highlighting that **dialogue and education are key to fostering peace and solidarity**.

Despite **limited resources**, the organizing team ensured a **meaningful and impactful experience**, demonstrating the **UNESCO Chair's dedication to interfaith engagement**. This initiative aligns directly with the objectives of **World Interfaith Harmony Week**, as outlined in the **United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/5**, by actively promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding.

The **Interfaith Friendship Journey** was more than just an excursion – it was a **transformative experience** that encouraged students to **embrace diversity, challenge biases, and actively contribute to a more harmonious society**. Through **shared experiences, open conversations, and cultural immersion**, this initiative helped lay the foundation for **a future built on mutual respect, interfaith cooperation, and peaceful co-existence**.

Photos and participant testimonials will be shared on the next page.











O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI  
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QO'MITA



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

**Week of Scientific, Cultural, Educational,  
and Sports Activities**

**HUMAN FRATERNITY AND  
INTERFAITH DIALOGUE –  
A FACTOR OF INTERNATIONAL  
SOLIDARITY**

**GUIDED EXCURSION**

**FRIENDSHIP  
JOURNEY  
AMONG  
RELIGIONS**

**February 6,  
2025**

Inter-  
national  
Day of  
Human  
Fraternity

4 FEBRUARY



**International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan**



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BO'YICHA  
QO'MITA



**WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK**  
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**INSONIY BIRODARLIK VA  
DINLARARO MULOQOT –  
XALQARO HAMJIHATLIK OMILI**

**ilmiy, madaniy-ma'rifiy va sport tadbirlari  
HAFTALIGI**

# DINLARARO DO'STLIK SAFARI

**nomi ostida  
diniy  
tashkilotlarga  
ekskursiya**



**6-fevral, 2025-yil**

**O'zbekiston xalqaro islom akademiyasi**