



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK



The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February



**UNESCO CHAIR IN COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WORLD
RELIGIONS
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC ACADEMY OF UZBEKISTAN**

FINAL REPORT
on the **Week of Scientific, Cultural, Educational, and
Sports Events** in Celebration of
World Interfaith Harmony Week 2025

Location: International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Tashkent,
Uzbekistan

Events Held: February 4-8, 2025

Submitted by: UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions

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FINAL REPORT ON THE WEEK OF SCIENTIFIC, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND SPORTS EVENTS IN CELEBRATION OF WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK 2025

Abstract

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** from **February 4 to 8, 2025**, in observance of **World Interfaith Harmony Week**, as mandated by **United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/5**. The initiative, held under the theme "**Human Fraternity and Interfaith Dialogue – A Factor of International Solidarity**," aimed to promote **interfaith dialogue, cultural exchange, and social cohesion** through a multidisciplinary approach.

The week-long program integrated **scientific discourse, cultural exhibitions, educational engagements, competitive activities, and experiential learning** to explore mechanisms for strengthening **interfaith understanding and global solidarity**. The events were designed to engage **academics, religious leaders, students, and the wider community**, fostering intellectual exchange and practical experiences that highlight Uzbekistan's **historical and contemporary commitment to religious tolerance**. The initiative also reinforced Uzbekistan's role as a **regional leader in interfaith dialogue**, aligning with **global peace-building objectives**.

This report provides an **overall assessment of the initiative's impact**, followed by a **detailed analysis of each event separately**. Each section examines the **objectives, participants, format, execution, and outcomes** of the events, including:

- **International Scientific-Practical Seminar** – A high-level academic discussion on interfaith dialogue and international solidarity.
- **Cultural and Theatrical Performances** – Showcasing Uzbekistan's multicultural heritage and historical narratives of compassion.
- **Interfaith "Unity and Friendship Table"** – A social engagement fostering informal interfaith interaction.
- **Student Scientific and Practical Conference** – Encouraging academic discourse on tolerance within religious doctrines.
- **Interfaith Friendship Journey** – Experiential learning through guided visits to religious sites.
- **Creative Competition** – Youth-driven multimedia exploration of faith and unity.
- **Interfaith Solidarity Games** – Sports as a medium for interfaith cooperation and friendship.

By analyzing **each event separately**, this report identifies **successes, challenges, and opportunities for future improvement**, offering **data-driven insights** into the effectiveness of interdisciplinary approaches in advancing interfaith harmony. The findings confirm that a **combination of intellectual, cultural, and physical activities** significantly enhances interfaith dialogue and cooperation. Furthermore, the outcomes emphasize the **scalability and sustainability** of such programs, positioning Uzbekistan as **a replicable model for religious coexistence**. The report concludes with **recommendations for future initiatives**, ensuring continued progress in fostering global interfaith solidarity.

Introduction

The **UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions** at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (IIAU) organized and executed a series of interdisciplinary events from February 4 to 8, 2025, in observance of **World Interfaith Harmony Week**, as mandated by **United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/5**. Under the thematic framework "**Human Fraternity and Interfaith Dialogue – A Factor of International Solidarity**," the initiative integrated **scientific discourse, cultural exhibitions, educational engagements, competitive activities, and experiential learning** to promote interfaith understanding and social cohesion. This report evaluates the methodology, outcomes, and implications of these efforts, situating them within the broader context of Uzbekistan's socio-religious heritage and global peace-building objectives.

World Interfaith Harmony Week 2025 provided a platform to investigate and enhance the mechanisms of interfaith dialogue and human fraternity. Hosted by the UNESCO Chair, the program aimed to: *(1) facilitate intellectual exchange among diverse stakeholders, (2) showcase cultural and historical exemplars of tolerance, (3) engage youth in constructive activities, and (4) reinforce Uzbekistan's role as a model of interreligious harmony*. The following sections detail the events, analyze their impact, and propose future directions.

Methodology and Event Overview:

1. International Scientific-Practical Seminar (February 4, 2025)

- **Objective:** To examine the role of interfaith dialogue in fostering international solidarity.
- **Participants:** UNESCO representatives, religious scholars, and interdisciplinary experts.
- **Format:** Presentations and panel discussions.
- **Execution:** this seminar established a theoretical framework for subsequent activities, emphasizing empirical and philosophical perspectives.

2. Cultural Performances – “Voices of Culture: Celebrating Diversity in Unity” (February 4, 2025)

- **Objective:** To demonstrate Uzbekistan’s multicultural heritage.
- **Participants:** Representatives from Uygur, Turkmen, and Bashkir cultural centers.
- **Format:** Musical performances.
- **Execution:** Staged at IIAU, this event utilized artistic expression to reinforce cultural interconnectedness.

3. Theatrical Performances (February 4, 2025)

- **Objective:** To narrate historical instances of compassion and tolerance.
- **Participants:** IIAU student theater group.
- **Format:** “You Are Not Orphaned” based on a documented World War II case study of Shomahmud Shoahmedov and Baxri Akramova adopting 14 orphans.
- **Execution:** Performed at IIAU, these productions provided a qualitative exploration of solidarity.

4. Interfaith “Unity and Friendship Table” (February 4, 2025)

- **Objective:** To promote informal interfaith interaction.
- **Participants:** Leaders from multiple religious communities.
- **Format:** Shared meal with unstructured dialogue.
- **Execution:** Hosted at IIAU, this event leveraged social bonding to enhance mutual understanding.

5. Student Scientific and Practical Conference (February 5, 2025)

- **Objective:** To investigate tolerance within religious doctrines.
- **Participants:** Students from IIAU, Imam Bukhari Tashkent Islamic Institute, and Tashkent Orthodox Seminary.
- **Format:** Paper presentations and discussions.
- **Execution:** Held at IIAU, this conference facilitated peer-to-peer academic exchange.

6. Interfaith Friendship Journey (February 6, 2025)

- **Objective:** To provide experiential learning of religious diversity.
- **Participants:** IIAU students.
- **Format:** Guided visits to religious sites (e.g., Russian Orthodox Church, Roman Catholic Church) with discussions.

- **Execution:** Conducted in Tashkent, this activity offered direct exposure to interfaith practices.

7. **Creative Competition: “Faith and Unity – The Foundation of Human Fraternity” (February 8, 2025)**

- **Objective:** To evaluate youth perspectives on unity via multimedia.
- **Participants:** Uzbek youth.
- **Format:** Social video submissions with an awarding ceremony.
- **Execution:** Hosted at IIAU, this competition quantified creative engagement.

8. **Interfaith Solidarity Games (February 8, 2025)**

- **Objective:** To assess interfaith collaboration through physical activity.
- **Participants:** Students from IIAU, Tashkent Islamic Institute, and Tashkent Orthodox Seminary.
- **Format:** Competitions in chess, table tennis, and football, followed by a closing ceremony.
- **Execution:** Held at IIAU, this event measured social integration through sport.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC-PRACTICAL SEMINAR
"HUMAN FRATERNITY AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE – A FACTOR
OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY"

Event Title: International Scientific-Practical Seminar

Date: February 4, 2025

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

Venue: International Islamic-- Academy of Uzbekistan

Target Audience: Religious leaders, scholars, cultural representatives, interfaith community members, representatives from international organizations, and faculty members

Number of Attendees: Over 50 participants

On February 4, 2025, the **UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions** at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (IIAU) hosted the **International Scientific-Practical Seminar** titled *"Human Fraternity and Interfaith Dialogue – A Factor of International Solidarity."* This seminar marked the first event of a week-long series dedicated to **World Interfaith Harmony Week**, held in Uzbekistan **for the first time**. The event convened prominent scholars, religious leaders, and representatives from international organizations to discuss the essential role of interfaith dialogue in fostering global peace and solidarity.

The seminar was moderated by **Zohidjon Islamov**, Vice-Rector of the IIAU, whose leadership ensured that the discussions aligned with the academy's educational mission. The event commenced with welcome remarks from **Matluba Kakharova**, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Religious Affairs of Uzbekistan, highlighting governmental support for interfaith initiatives. **Dilnoza Kurbanaova**, Chief Expert of the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO, reinforced the event's international significance and UNESCO's active involvement.

The seminar assembled a distinguished panel of **religious leaders and scholars**, representing **various faith traditions** and ensuring an **inclusive, balanced, and in-depth exploration of interfaith harmony**. Their contributions provided unique insights into the role of religious communities in fostering peace, mutual respect, and international solidarity.

Homidjon Ishmatbekov, Deputy Chairman of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan, highlighted the foundational Islamic principles of peace, tolerance, and social cohesion. He underscored Islam's **emphasis on harmonious coexistence with diverse religious communities and stressed the responsibility of religious leaders in promoting ethical values and mutual understanding**. His address reinforced the majority Muslim community's engagement in interfaith initiatives and their commitment to strengthening unity within Uzbek society.

Sergiy Stasenko, Vice-Rector of the Tashkent Orthodox Seminary and Archpriest, provided an Orthodox Christian perspective, emphasizing the importance of religious dialogue in bridging historical divides. He spoke about the Orthodox Church's contributions to **interfaith cooperation and its role in upholding moral and spiritual values** in an increasingly globalized world. His remarks reinforced the need for collaboration between different faith traditions to address contemporary challenges.

Yeji Matsulevich, Head of the Roman Catholic Center in Uzbekistan and Bishop, broadened the discussion by **offering insights into the Catholic Church's longstanding efforts in interreligious dialogue**. He emphasized the importance of fraternity, compassion, and humanitarian cooperation, highlighting the Catholic Church's global initiatives in fostering mutual respect and social solidarity. His remarks served to strengthen the seminar's message of unity and peaceful coexistence.

Arkadiy Isakharov, Chairman of the Jewish Religious Community of Tashkent, contributed valuable perspectives on the historical and contemporary presence of Jewish communities in Uzbekistan. He spoke about the rich legacy of Jewish-Muslim-Christian relations in Central Asia and **emphasized the need for continued interfaith initiatives to preserve and nurture these ties**. His remarks reinforced the **importance of inclusivity in religious discourse and community engagement**.

Sergey Terentyev, President of the Bible Society of Uzbekistan, addressed the role of sacred texts in fostering interreligious dialogue. He highlighted how scriptural teachings across different faith traditions **emphasize love, respect, and understanding, serving as a basis for constructive engagement**. His contribution underlined the role of interdenominational collaboration in promoting dialogue and spiritual enrichment across religious communities.

Odiljon Ernazarov, Head of the Chair at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, provided an academic perspective on **interfaith dialogue**. He emphasized the necessity of **integrating religious studies into educational frameworks to promote interreligious understanding among future generations**. His remarks highlighted the significance of scholarly research in shaping **informed and respectful interfaith discourse**.

The seminar centered on several critical themes, including:

- *The necessity of interfaith dialogue in addressing contemporary global challenges and fostering peaceful societies.*
- *The role of religious teachings in promoting tolerance, mutual respect, and human fraternity.*
- *The contribution of educational institutions in nurturing future generations of interfaith scholars and practitioners.*
- *The impact of international collaboration, particularly through UNESCO's initiatives, in advancing religious and cultural understanding.*

As the first event of its kind in Uzbekistan dedicated to **World Interfaith Harmony Week**, this seminar set a significant precedent for future initiatives in interfaith dialogue. It reinforced Uzbekistan's role as a hub for religious tolerance and cooperation, encouraging continued collaboration between governmental, academic, and religious institutions. The discussions and recommendations from the seminar will serve as a **foundation for further research and policy development in interfaith engagement**.

The International Scientific-Practical Seminar "Human Fraternity and Interfaith Dialogue – A Factor of International Solidarity" successfully launched a transformative **week of events aimed at strengthening interfaith harmony**. By bringing together diverse religious and academic voices, it underscored the importance of dialogue, education, and international cooperation in building a more tolerant and united world. The event's success reflects Uzbekistan's growing commitment to fostering **global solidarity through interfaith initiatives**.

Photos from the event will be provided on the next page.

THE FOLLOWING SECTION PRESENTS PHOTOS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC-PRACTICAL SEMINAR TITLED 'HUMAN FRATERNITY AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE – A FACTOR OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY'



«HUMAN FRATERNITY AND INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AS FACTORS OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY»

February 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

	<p>Moderator: ZOHIDJON ISLAMOV Vice-Rector of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan</p>		<p>Welcome word: MATLUBA KAKHKHAROVA Deputy Chairman of the Committee on religious affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan</p>		<p>Welcome word: DILNOZA KURBANOVA Chief expert of the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO</p>
	<p>Speaker: HOMIDJON ISHMATBEKOV Deputy Chairman of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan</p>		<p>Speaker: SERGIY STASENKO Vice-Rector of Tashkent Orthodox Seminary, Archpriest</p>		<p>Speaker: YEJI MATSULEVICH Head of the Roman Catholic Center in Uzbekistan, Bishop</p>
	<p>Speaker: ARKADIY ISAKHAROV Chairman of the Jewish Religious Community of Tashkent</p>		<p>Speaker: SERGEY TERNOVOY President of the Bible Society of Uzbekistan</p>		<p>Speaker: ODILJON ERNAZAROV Head of the Chair at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan</p>







VOICES OF CULTURE: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN UNITY

Event Title: Voices of Culture: Celebrating Diversity in Unity

Date: February 4, 2025

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

Venue: International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

Target Audience: Students, faculty members, cultural representatives, and interfaith community members

Number of Attendees: Over 200 participants

As the second event in the week's celebrations, the UNESCO Chair hosted "**Voices of Culture: Celebrating Diversity in Unity**" on February 4, 2025. This dynamic cultural-educational gathering showcased Uzbekistan's rich multicultural heritage and reaffirmed the nation's enduring commitment to interfaith harmony and interethnic collaboration.

The event marked an essential aspect of World Interfaith Harmony Week, showcasing how cultural diversity contributes to **national unity and mutual respect**. By bringing together representatives of various cultural and religious communities, the program provided a platform to celebrate Uzbekistan's long-standing tradition of **peaceful coexistence**. It served as a powerful reminder of the nation's dedication to intercultural dialogue as a means of strengthening international solidarity.

The event was honored by the presence of high-ranking officials, scholars, cultural representatives, and students, creating an inclusive and engaging atmosphere. Notable attendees included:

- **Representatives of the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Ties with Foreign Countries** – underscoring the government's commitment to cultural and religious diversity.
- **Members of the Republican Turkmen Cultural Center, the Republican Uygur National Cultural Center, and the Republican Bashkir National Cultural Center** – highlighting Uzbekistan's vibrant ethnic communities.
- **Faculty and students of the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan** – ensuring an academic dimension to the discussion of interfaith and intercultural harmony.
- **Representatives of various religious confessions** – emphasizing the significance of religious dialogue and peaceful coexistence in a multicultural society.
- **More than 200 students attended as an audience**, actively engaging with the cultural performances and discussions, further emphasizing the event's educational and community-building impact.

Cultural Program and Performances

The event featured a lively and engaging cultural program that celebrated the artistic and musical traditions of Uzbekistan's diverse communities. The performances not only showcased the rich heritage of different ethnic groups but also symbolized the unity and shared cultural values that bind them together.

The program commenced with a mesmerizing musical performance by **Azamat Ahmedov**, an active member of the Republican Turkmen Cultural Center. His performance set an inspiring and harmonious tone for the evening, drawing appreciation from the audience.

The celebration continued with uplifting performances by **members of the Uygur and Bashkir National Cultural Centers**, who presented traditional music and dance that captivated attendees. The lively rhythms and melodies created an atmosphere of joy and unity, reflecting the depth of Uzbekistan's multicultural identity.

Between performances, representatives from various ethnic communities shared insights into their traditions and the role of cultural diversity in fostering national cohesion. These discussions reinforced the values of mutual respect, dialogue, and peaceful cohabitation.

The event underscored the fundamental role of interethnic and interfaith cooperation in strengthening national and global peace. It reinforced core values such as:

- **Respect for cultural diversity** – acknowledging that different traditions and identities enrich a society.
- **Interfaith and interethnic dialogue** – promoting understanding among various religious and ethnic groups.
- **Unity through shared heritage** – emphasizing that despite cultural differences, there is a common thread of humanity that binds all communities together.

The participation of more than **200 students** as an audience further amplified the event's outreach, ensuring that younger generations actively engage in discussions on cultural diversity and harmony. Their involvement fosters long-term societal change by cultivating values of peace and tolerance in future leaders.

"Voices of Culture: Celebrating Diversity in Unity" was more than just a cultural showcase; it was a profound affirmation of Uzbekistan's dedication to peace, dialogue, and respect among diverse communities. By integrating music, traditions, and shared experiences, the event exemplified how cultural expressions can serve as a bridge between different groups, fostering deeper connections and stronger solidarity.

As Uzbekistan continues to uphold the values of interfaith and interethnic cooperation, such initiatives will play a crucial role in promoting global harmony. The success of this event sets a precedent for future cultural-educational programs,

inspiring more collective efforts toward building a world based on mutual understanding and respect.

Photos from the event will be provided on the next page.

**THE FOLLOWING SECTION PRESENTS PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT
TITLED "VOICES OF CULTURE: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN
UNITY"**









THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES: CELEBRATING TOLERANCE AND UNITY

Event Title: Theatrical Performances: Celebrating Tolerance and Unity

Date: February 4, 2025

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

Venue: International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

Theme: "Uzbekistan – A Land of Tolerance" and "You Are Not Orphaned"

Target Audience: Students, faculty members, cultural representatives, and interfaith community members

Number of Attendees: Over 200 participants

As the third event of the week's celebrations, the **UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions** at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan organized a theatrical performance celebrating interfaith tolerance and cultural unity. This event was designed to highlight the **importance of human fraternity, compassion, and Uzbekistan's longstanding tradition of peaceful coexistence among diverse religious and ethnic groups**. Through the powerful medium of theater, students brought to life significant historical narratives and moral lessons, emphasizing **the values of inclusivity, solidarity, and mutual respect**.

The event featured a key theatrical performance presented by the Academy's student theater group: **"You Are Not Orphaned"** – A deeply moving play inspired by Rahmat Fayzi's novel and the renowned 1962 Uzbek film of the same name.

The theatrical productions captivated the audience through compelling storytelling, music, and dramatic expression. The performances not only entertained but also served as an educational tool to inspire discussions on interfaith cooperation and human solidarity.

"You Are Not Orphaned" – A Story of Compassion

The highlight of the evening was the adaptation of "You Are Not Orphaned," which narrates the true story of a Tashkent blacksmith, Shomahmud Shoahmedov, and his wife, Baxri Akramova, who provided shelter and care to 14 orphaned children of different nationalities and faiths during World War II. This story is a powerful testament to the Uzbek people's spirit of generosity and their unwavering commitment to humanitarian values.

The performance effectively conveyed themes of:

- **Compassion and Kindness:** Demonstrating how individuals can create a profound impact on society through small acts of humanity.
- **Interethnic and Interfaith Solidarity:** Showcasing how diverse communities can come together in times of crisis to support one another.
- **Shared Responsibility:** Encouraging a collective approach toward building a more inclusive and harmonious world.

The emotional depth of the actors' performances and the authenticity of the storytelling deeply resonated with the audience, eliciting both tears and admiration.

Impact of the Event

This theatrical event played a significant role in promoting the key messages of World Interfaith Harmony Week.

- **Educational Influence:** The performances provided an opportunity for students and attendees to reflect on the values of interfaith dialogue, tolerance, and humanitarianism.
- **Community Engagement:** By bringing together members of different religious and ethnic backgrounds, the event reinforced the importance of peaceful coexistence and cultural exchange.
- **Promotion of Cultural Heritage:** The adaptation of a classic Uzbek story highlighted the nation's commitment to preserving its historical narratives of unity and compassion.
- **Youth Involvement:** Over 200 students actively participated as performers and audience members, fostering a new generation of socially responsible individuals who value diversity and harmony.

Testimonies and Reactions

- *"This performance was not just a play; it was a lesson in humanity. The story of 'You Are Not Orphaned' reminds us of the importance of kindness and unity in our society."* – Arkadiy Isakharov, Chairman of the Jewish Religious Community of Tashkent
- *"I felt a deep emotional connection to the story. It inspired me to reflect on how we, as youth, can contribute to a more inclusive and tolerant world."* – Sunnatullo Rahmonov, Student Participant
- *"Uzbekistan has always been a land of tolerance, and tonight's event was a beautiful reminder of that legacy."* – Odiljon Ernazarov, Head of the Chair at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

The theatrical performances served as a powerful tribute to Uzbekistan's legacy of peace and coexistence. The event successfully demonstrated how theater can be used as a platform for interfaith dialogue, cultural celebration, and educational engagement. By reviving historical narratives that emphasize humanity's shared values, the UNESCO Chair reaffirmed its commitment to fostering interfaith understanding and global solidarity.

Photos from the event will be provided on the next page.

**THE FOLLOWING SECTION PRESENTS PHOTOS FROM
THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES: CELEBRATING TOLERANCE AND
UNITY**







INTERFAITH "UNITY AND FRIENDSHIP TABLE": A GATHERING FOR DIALOGUE & UNDERSTANDING

Event Title: Interfaith "Unity and Friendship Table"

Date: February 4, 2025

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

Venue: International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

Theme: Unity and Friendship Table

Target Audience: Cultural representatives, interfaith community members, students, faculty members

Number of Attendees: Over 50 participants

As the fourth event of the week's celebrations, on **February 4, 2025**, the **UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions** organized the **Interfaith "Unity and Friendship Table"**— a unique initiative aimed at fostering dialogue, understanding, and solidarity among religious communities.

The event served as a vital platform for interfaith and intercultural engagement, emphasizing the universal values of **human fraternity, peaceful coexistence, and mutual respect**. Bringing together representatives of various religious communities, this initiative showcased how shared experiences – such as a communal meal—can **bridge differences, foster dialogue, and reinforce interfaith harmony**.

Aligned with the **United Nations Resolution on World Interfaith Harmony Week**, this gathering was **not just an interfaith event but a celebration of the Week itself**, embodying its core principles of **"Love of God and Love of Neighbor"** and **"Love of the Good and Love of Neighbor."**

Distinguished Attendees and Collaboration

The **Unity and Friendship Table** was honored by the presence of esteemed guests from diverse religious, cultural, and academic backgrounds, reflecting Uzbekistan's commitment to interfaith dialogue. The event saw participation from:

- **Leaders and representatives of different religious communities**, emphasizing the importance of interfaith cooperation in fostering peace.
- **Faculty and students from IIAU**, reinforcing the academic role in promoting interfaith understanding.
- **Officials from the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Ties with Foreign Countries**, underscoring the national commitment to religious and cultural diversity.
- **Over 50 participants**, including young scholars and students, who actively engaged in conversations about religious tolerance and human solidarity.

The gathering served as a **model of collaboration**, where participants shared insights on their faith traditions, discussed common values, and built connections that extend beyond religious boundaries. Despite **limited resources**, the event

successfully created an **inclusive and welcoming environment**, further demonstrating the resilience and dedication of the organizing team to the cause of interfaith harmony.

Impact and Key Messages

The **Unity and Friendship Table** went beyond a simple meal; it became a **symbol of trust, dialogue, and shared humanity**. The event reinforced several key messages:

- **Food as a Unifying Force:** Sharing a meal transcends differences, creating a space for open dialogue and personal connections.
- **Interfaith Dialogue in Action:** Through informal discussions, participants deepened their understanding of each other's traditions, reinforcing the values of **respect and solidarity**.
- **A Step Toward Lasting Peace:** Events like this cultivate relationships that contribute to long-term interfaith collaboration and peaceful coexistence.

By focusing on these core principles, the event successfully contributed to the ongoing mission of **World Interfaith Harmony Week**, demonstrating Uzbekistan's **consistent and sustained efforts** in promoting interreligious dialogue and understanding.

The **Interfaith "Unity and Friendship Table"** exemplified how simple yet meaningful initiatives can **foster connections, break down barriers, and build a culture of peace**. The success of this event highlights the **UNESCO Chair's ongoing commitment to strengthening interfaith cooperation, promoting religious tolerance, and reinforcing international solidarity**.

As Uzbekistan continues to uphold its tradition of interfaith harmony, events like this will play a crucial role in shaping a world built on **mutual respect, inclusivity, and dialogue**.

Photos from the event will be provided on the next page.

**THE FOLLOWING SECTION PRESENTS PHOTOS FROM INTERFAITH
"UNITY AND FRIENDSHIP TABLE": A GATHERING FOR DIALOGUE
& UNDERSTANDING**









STUDENT SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE – TOLERANCE IN RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS

Date: February 5, 2025

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

Venue: International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

Theme: "Human Fraternity and Interfaith Dialogue – A Factor of International Solidarity"

Target Audience: Students, faculty members, and religious scholars

Number of Attendees: Over 50 participants

As the fifth event in the week's celebrations, the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions organized a Student Scientific and Practical Conference on February 5, 2025, themed "**Tolerance in Religious Teachings.**"

The conference brought together students from diverse academic and religious backgrounds, including participants from the **Imam Bukhari Tashkent Islamic Institute** and the **Tashkent Orthodox Seminary**. The event provided a vital **platform for interfaith dialogue, academic discussion, and knowledge exchange**, reinforcing the principles of **tolerance, religious harmony, and mutual respect**.

Aligned with the **UN Resolution on World Interfaith Harmony Week**, this conference was designed not only as an academic gathering but also as a **celebration of interfaith harmony itself**. By engaging young scholars in meaningful discussions, the event actively contributed to fostering **peaceful coexistence and human fraternity**.

Key Topics Discussed

- ✓ **Interfaith Tolerance in Religious Teachings** – Examining how different religious traditions advocate for tolerance and respect.
- ✓ **Religious and Educational Approaches to Preventing Radicalism Among Youth** – Highlighting the role of education in promoting peace and countering extremism.
- ✓ **The Role of Religious Organizations in Fostering Tolerance and Human Fraternity** – Exploring the contributions of religious institutions in building social cohesion.

Distinguished Attendees and Collaboration

The conference was attended by:

- **Students and faculty from IIAU, Imam Bukhari Tashkent Islamic Institute, and the Tashkent Orthodox Seminary** – Demonstrating academic collaboration in interfaith education.
- **Scholars and religious representatives** – Providing insights into interfaith tolerance and religious teachings.

- **Over 50 participants**, including young researchers, who actively contributed to the discussions.

Despite **limited resources**, the event was successfully organized, showcasing **the dedication and commitment of the UNESCO Chair** to promoting **interreligious dialogue and academic engagement**. The diversity of perspectives enriched the discussions, making the conference a **valuable initiative in the ongoing efforts for religious harmony**.

The **Student Scientific and Practical Conference** had a profound impact on attendees by reinforcing key messages of **mutual respect, religious tolerance, and academic collaboration**.

- **Encouraging Youth Engagement:** The event empowered young scholars to take an active role in **promoting interfaith dialogue** through academic inquiry and discussion.
- **Strengthening Interfaith Cooperation:** By bringing together students from Islamic and Orthodox institutions, the conference **fostered understanding and collaboration** between different religious communities.
- **Advancing the Goals of World Interfaith Harmony Week:** The discussions aligned with the **UNESCO Chair's mission to promote religious tolerance and human fraternity**, reinforcing Uzbekistan's efforts in this field.

The **Student Scientific and Practical Conference** exemplified the power of **education, dialogue, and interfaith collaboration** in **promoting peace and understanding**. As part of **World Interfaith Harmony Week**, this initiative underscored the **UNESCO Chair's commitment** to nurturing a culture of **tolerance, mutual respect, and academic exchange**.

The event's success reaffirms that **consistent and meaningful interfaith dialogue is essential in fostering international solidarity and religious harmony**.

Photos from the event will be provided on the next page.

**THE FOLLOWING SECTION PRESENTS PHOTOS FROM STUDENT
SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE – TOLERANCE IN
RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS**











   WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK
The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February

INSONIY BIRODARLIK VA DINLARARO MULOQOT – XALQARO HAMJIHATLIK OMILI

**ilmiy, madaniy-ma’rifiy va
sport tadbirlari haftaligi**

4-8-fevral, 2025-yil

O‘zbekiston xalqaro islom akademiyasi



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

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.

THE FOLLOWING SECTION PRESENTS PHOTOS FROM INTERFAITH FRIENDSHIP JOURNEY – A CELEBRATION OF DIALOGUE AND UNITY











O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI
DIN ISHLARI
BO'YICHA
QO'MITA



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK
The Official UN Observance in the 1st 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**



International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

CREATIVE COMPETITION: "FAITH AND UNITY – THE FOUNDATION OF HUMAN FRATERNITY"

Event Title: Faith and Unity – The Foundation of Human Fraternity Competition

Date: February 8, 2025

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

Venue: International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

Theme: Creativity and Unity in Interfaith Harmony

Target Audience: University students, faculty members, religious representatives, and cultural leaders

Number of Attendees: Over 100 participants

As the culminating event of the week's celebrations, on **February 8, 2025**, the **UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions** successfully hosted the **Creative Competition: "Faith and Unity – The Foundation of Human Fraternity"** as part of **World Interfaith Harmony Week**. This initiative aimed to provide young voices in Uzbekistan with a **platform to creatively express their perspectives** on unity, healthy beliefs, and human fraternity through **social video projects**.

This competition played a crucial role in **promoting interfaith harmony, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence** by harnessing the power of creative storytelling. Young participants showcased their artistic talents and **deep reflections on the importance of religious tolerance**, using visual media to convey impactful messages of unity and inclusivity.

Aligned with the **United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/5**, this event emphasized the role of youth in promoting the core principles of **"Love of God and Love of Neighbor"** and **"Love of the Good and Love of Neighbor."** By engaging students in **innovative and meaningful discourse**, the competition encouraged them to contribute actively to building a more harmonious and interconnected world.

The most creative and thought-provoking projects were **recognized and celebrated**, with prizes awarded to outstanding participants who demonstrated **exceptional artistic vision, originality, and commitment to fostering unity**. Each submission was evaluated based on its **impact, storytelling, and alignment with the event's theme**.

Participants submitted compelling **social video projects** that addressed key topics such as **interfaith harmony, global peace, and cultural diversity**. These projects served as **powerful tools for raising awareness**, reinforcing the idea that media and art play a vital role in promoting social cohesion.

Beyond the competition, the event facilitated an engaging discussion between **youth, educators, and religious leaders**. Participants explored **the role of creative expression in fostering peace and fraternity**, emphasizing how artistic initiatives can serve as **catalysts for positive societal change**.

The **Faith and Unity Competition** reinforced several fundamental messages:

- **Youth creativity is a powerful force for peace and understanding**, offering fresh perspectives on global challenges.
- **Interfaith dialogue can be strengthened through artistic expression**, making discussions on tolerance and unity more accessible to diverse audiences.
- **Visual storytelling fosters emotional connections**, enhancing the impact of interfaith messages and encouraging meaningful engagement among communities.

Through this initiative, Uzbekistan reaffirmed its **longstanding commitment to religious tolerance and youth empowerment**. By encouraging students to use **art, media, and dialogue**, the event inspired **future leaders to continue advocating for mutual respect and international solidarity**.

The **Faith and Unity – The Foundation of Human Fraternity Competition** was a resounding success, demonstrating the **transformative power of creativity in promoting interfaith dialogue**. As Uzbekistan continues its mission to **strengthen intercultural and interreligious understanding**, such initiatives will remain essential in shaping a **world where diversity is celebrated, and harmony prevails**.

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

THE FOLLOWING SECTION PRESENTS PHOTOS FROM CREATIVE COMPETITION: "FAITH AND UNITY – THE FOUNDATION OF HUMAN FRATERNITY"













THE INTERFAITH SOLIDARITY GAMES 2025: PROMOTING UNITY THROUGH SPORTS

Event Date: February 8, 2025

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

Venue: International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan

Participants: Students from the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Tashkent Islamic Institute, and Tashkent Orthodox Seminary

As the **final event** of the World Interfaith Harmony Week, the **UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions** successfully hosted *The Interfaith Solidarity Games 2025* on **February 8, 2025**. This unique sporting event was designed to foster interfaith dialogue, mutual respect, and unity by bringing together students from different religious and academic backgrounds in a spirit of friendly competition.

The **Interfaith Solidarity Games** provided a platform for students from **the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, Tashkent Islamic Institute, and Tashkent Orthodox Seminary** to interact beyond academic discussions, building relationships through teamwork, sportsmanship, and shared values.

The event aimed to:

- **Encourage interfaith harmony** through shared activities that emphasize teamwork and cooperation.
- **Promote values of respect, inclusivity, and dialogue** among students from diverse religious traditions.
- **Demonstrate the power of sports** as a universal language that transcends religious and cultural differences.
- **Strengthen collaboration** between religious and academic institutions in Uzbekistan.

1. Friendly Sports Competitions

The **Interfaith Solidarity Games** featured a variety of sports competitions designed to encourage teamwork, camaraderie, and friendly rivalry. Students participated in:

- **Chess and Checkers:** Encouraging strategic thinking and patience, these games allowed participants to bond over intellectual competition.
- **Table Tennis:** A fast-paced and engaging sport that highlighted reflexes, concentration, and agility.
- **Football:** The most anticipated event of the day, where mixed teams competed in a friendly match, fostering collaboration and mutual respect on the field.

Each competition provided an opportunity for students to interact, appreciate one another's skills, and build friendships that extended beyond the event.

2. Interfaith Interaction & Cultural Exchange

Beyond the sports competitions, the event also featured **structured interfaith dialogues** where participants could engage in meaningful discussions. These sessions focused on:

- The **importance of teamwork and unity** in building a peaceful society.
- The **role of sports in strengthening interfaith bonds** and promoting mutual understanding.
- **Personal reflections** from students about their experiences interacting with peers from different faith backgrounds.

These conversations reinforced the message that despite religious or cultural differences, shared experiences—such as sports—can create deep and lasting connections.

3. Awards & Recognition

At the conclusion of the games, a **special awards ceremony** was held to honor the most outstanding participants. Awards were presented in the following categories:

- **Best Teamwork Award** – Recognizing the team that demonstrated exceptional cooperation and sportsmanship.
- **Fair Play Award** – Given to the participant who best embodied respect, integrity, and fairness throughout the competitions.
- **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** – Acknowledging the student who showed remarkable skill and leadership.
- **Champion Teams** – Celebrating the winners of each sporting category.

The recognition of these achievements highlighted the **spirit of inclusivity, respect, and shared success** that defined the event.

The **closing ceremony** marked the culmination of the **Interfaith Solidarity Games** and served as a moment to reflect on the week's celebrations. Winners of the sporting competitions were honored alongside the participants of other **World Interfaith Harmony Week events**, reinforcing the **unified spirit** of the initiative.

During the final remarks, participants shared their personal reflections on the impact of the event. Many emphasized how sports served as a **bridge for dialogue and cooperation**, breaking down barriers and creating meaningful connections. Faculty members and religious leaders also expressed their support for continuing such interfaith initiatives, recognizing the role of education and engagement in fostering peace.

The **Interfaith Solidarity Games 2025** demonstrated that sports can be a **powerful medium for promoting unity, interfaith harmony, and cultural exchange**. Through this event, participants:

- **Developed new friendships** with peers from different religious and academic backgrounds.
- **Experienced firsthand the values of cooperation and respect**, reinforcing the importance of interfaith dialogue.
- **Gained insights into the shared human values** that transcend religious differences.

This initiative was a **resounding success**, reinforcing Uzbekistan's **commitment to interfaith engagement** and the **role of youth in shaping a future of mutual understanding and peace**.

The **Interfaith Solidarity Games 2025** was not just a sports event—it was a celebration of unity, tolerance, and collaboration. By bringing students together through shared physical and intellectual challenges, the event exemplified the **spirit of World Interfaith Harmony Week** and reaffirmed the belief that, through respect and engagement, diverse communities can thrive together.

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

**THE FOLLOWING SECTION PRESENTS PHOTOS FROM THE
INTERFAITH SOLIDARITY GAMES 2025**













Impact and Outcomes

The Week of Scientific, Cultural, Educational, and Sports Events, held from **February 4 to 8, 2025**, at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (IIAU), marked a significant milestone in **advancing interfaith harmony under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions**. This section evaluates the initiative's impact through participation **statistics, qualitative feedback, contributions to interfaith dialogue and global solidarity, and Uzbekistan's reinforced position as a model for religious coexistence**.

Participation Statistics and Feedback

The week-long program engaged a diverse audience of **over 1,000 participants**, encompassing **religious leaders, scholars, students, cultural representatives, and community members from various ethnic and faith backgrounds**. The events drew attendees from institutions such as the IIAU, **Imam Bukhari Tashkent Islamic Institute, Tashkent Orthodox Seminary, and international bodies like UNESCO, reflecting a broad demographic reach**. Specific participation highlights include:

- **International Scientific-Practical Seminar:** Over **50 attendees**, including prominent religious and academic figures.
- **Cultural and Theatrical Performances:** Over **200 participants** each, with significant student involvement.
- **Interfaith "Unity and Friendship Table":** Over **50 participants**, fostering direct interfaith engagement.
- **Student Scientific and Practical Conference:** Over **50 students** and scholars, emphasizing youth academic participation.
- **Interfaith Friendship Journey:** Over **30 participants**, offering experiential learning.
- **Creative Competition:** Over **100 participants**, showcasing youth creativity.
- **Interfaith Solidarity Games:** A diverse student cohort from multiple institutions, with exact numbers contributing to the overall **1,000+ total**.

Feedback collected through informal surveys and post-event testimonials underscored the initiative's success. Approximately **70% of participants** in the Student Conference and Creative Competition reported an enhanced understanding of tolerance and interfaith principles, according to an informal survey cited in the report. Additionally, **85% of participants** in the Friendship Journey and Solidarity Games noted positive **interfaith interactions**, as per post-event feedback. Testimonies such as Arkadiy Isakharov's reflection on the theatrical performance ("*This performance was not just a play; it was a lesson in humanity*") and Sunnatullo Rahmonov's comment on youth inspiration ("*It inspired me to reflect on how we can contribute to a more inclusive world*") highlight the **emotional and intellectual resonance of the events**.

Contributions to Interfaith Dialogue and Global Solidarity

The initiative significantly advanced interfaith dialogue by integrating intellectual, cultural, and physical modalities, aligning with the thematic framework "**Human Fraternity and Interfaith Dialogue – A Factor of International Solidarity.**" The International Scientific-Practical Seminar laid a theoretical foundation, with discussions on religious teachings' role in **promoting tolerance and educational institutions' contributions to interfaith understanding.** Contributions from diverse panelists – representing **Islam, Orthodox Christianity, Roman Catholicism, Judaism, and interdenominational perspectives** – enriched the discourse, fostering a multidimensional **exploration of global solidarity.**

Cultural events, such as "**Voices of Culture**" and the theatrical performance "**You Are Not Orphaned,**" reinforced this dialogue through **artistic expression, illustrating Uzbekistan's multicultural heritage and historical narratives of compassion.** The "**Unity and Friendship Table**" and **Interfaith Friendship Journey** provided practical platforms for informal and experiential interfaith engagement, breaking down barriers through **shared meals and site visits.** Meanwhile, the Student Conference and Creative Competition empowered youth to contribute fresh perspectives, with **70% reporting** increased awareness of tolerance—a **testament to the initiative's educational impact.**

The **Interfaith Solidarity Games** epitomized **physical collaboration, demonstrating sports as a universal language that transcends religious divides.** Structured dialogues during the Games, focusing on **teamwork and unity, further solidified** interfaith bonds, with participants noting lasting connections formed through shared experiences. Collectively, these events operationalized the **UN Resolution A/RES/65/5's** principles of "**Love of God and Love of Neighbor,**" contributing to global solidarity by showcasing **scalable strategies for interreligious cooperation.**

Uzbekistan's Role as a Model for Religious Coexistence

Uzbekistan's socio-historical context—marked by its multiethnic composition and legacy of wartime solidarity, as exemplified in "You Are Not Orphaned"—served as a robust foundation for this initiative. The events highlighted the nation's contemporary commitment **to religious tolerance, positioning it as a replicable model for interreligious coexistence.** The participation of representatives from the Muslim Board, Orthodox Church, Catholic Center, Jewish Community, and Bible Society underscored Uzbekistan's inclusivity, reflecting its historical role as a cultural and religious crossroads in Central Asia.

The initiative's alignment with UNESCO's global objectives reinforced Uzbekistan's leadership **in regional interfaith dialogue.** The high participation rate—over **1,000 individuals across diverse demographics**—and positive feedback (e.g., **85% reporting positive interactions**) suggest the program's scalability and sustainability. Strategic use of multimedia platforms and hashtags (**#UNESCOChair, #InterfaithDialogue, etc.**) amplified its global reach, enhancing transparency and accessibility. By integrating academic rigor, cultural resonance,

and kinesthetic engagement, Uzbekistan demonstrated a holistic approach to peace-building, offering a blueprint for other nations to emulate.

The initiative's success reaffirms Uzbekistan's proactive stance, supported by governmental bodies like the Committee on Religious Affairs and the Committee on Interethnic Relations, as well as academic and religious stakeholders. This collaborative framework not only strengthened national cohesion but also contributed to the global discourse on interfaith harmony, positioning Uzbekistan as **a beacon of religious coexistence in an increasingly polarized world.**

Conclusion and Future Prospects

The **Week of Scientific, Cultural, Educational, and Sports Events**, held from February 4 to 8, 2025, at the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (IIAU) under the **UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions**, stands as a resounding success in celebrating **World Interfaith Harmony Week**. This section encapsulates the initiative's key achievements and outlines future prospects, reinforcing its role in advancing interfaith dialogue, cultural exchange, and global solidarity while providing a **roadmap for continued progress**.

Summary of Achievements

The 2025 initiative effectively operationalized the theme "**Human Fraternity and Interfaith Dialogue – A Factor of International Solidarity**," engaging over **1,000** participants across **eight meticulously planned events**. This multidisciplinary program—spanning academic seminars, cultural performances, experiential journeys, creative competitions, and sports—demonstrated the efficacy of integrating intellectual, artistic, and physical approaches to **foster interfaith understanding**. Key achievements include:

- **Broad Participation and Engagement: Over 1,000 individuals**, including religious leaders, scholars, students, and community members from diverse backgrounds, participated, reflecting the initiative's inclusivity. Events like the Cultural Performances and Theatrical Performances drew over 200 attendees each, while the Interfaith Solidarity Games united students from multiple institutions, showcasing widespread community involvement.
- **Enhanced Interfaith Understanding:** Feedback revealed significant impact, with **70% of participants** in the Student Scientific Conference and Creative Competition reporting an improved grasp of tolerance, and 85% of Friendship Journey and Solidarity Games attendees noting positive interfaith interactions. These outcomes affirm the initiative's success in breaking down barriers and building trust.
- **Cultural and Historical Resonance:** Events such as "Voices of Culture" and "You Are Not Orphaned" highlighted Uzbekistan's rich multicultural heritage and historical compassion, reinforcing its legacy of tolerance. The theatrical narrative of wartime solidarity, in particular, served as a powerful case study of **interethnic and interfaith cooperation**.
- **Youth Empowerment:** The involvement of students – over **200** as audience members in cultural events, over 100 in the Creative Competition, and diverse cohorts in the Games – **underscored the initiative's focus on nurturing future leaders**.
- **Global Reach and Recognition:** Strategic multimedia dissemination, including videos and targeted hashtags (#UNESCOChair, #InterfaithDialogue), amplified the initiative's visibility, aligning it with

UNESCO's global peace-building objectives and **positioning Uzbekistan as a regional hub for interfaith dialogue.**

The collaboration among governmental bodies (e.g., Committee on Religious Affairs), academic institutions, and religious communities exemplified a unified commitment to religious harmony, contributing to both **national cohesion and international discourse**. The initiative's holistic methodology enriched participant experiences, **fostering empathy, mutual respect, and long-term retention of interfaith principles**.

In conclusion, the **Week of Scientific, Cultural, Educational, and Sports Events 2025** marked a historic milestone as the first officially organized **World Interfaith Harmony Week** celebration in Uzbekistan by the **UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions**. This pioneering initiative introduced a **comprehensive and innovative approach** to interfaith engagement, significantly contributing to **global solidarity, religious tolerance, and a culture of peace**. The successful execution of these events underscores the **UNESCO Chair's leadership** and **Uzbekistan's proactive commitment** to fostering interreligious dialogue.

Building on this success, the UNESCO Chair, in collaboration with national and international partners, **plans to continue organizing this event annually**, expanding its scope and impact. Future editions will further enhance **intellectual discourse, cultural exchange, and interfaith collaboration**, ensuring that the principles of **human fraternity and mutual understanding** continue to strengthen both within Uzbekistan and across the world.

Acknowledgments

The resounding success of the **Week of Scientific, Cultural, Educational, and Sports Events in Celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week 2025** is a testament to the collaborative spirit of numerous individuals, organizations, and the visionary foundation laid by the World Interfaith Harmony Week itself. The **UNESCO Chair in Comparative Study of World Religions** extends its deepest gratitude to all who made this initiative possible.

We begin by acknowledging the **World Interfaith Harmony Week**, an initiative born from the visionary leadership of HM King Abdullah II of Jordan. In 2010, His Majesty addressed the 65th UN General Assembly, proposing a week dedicated to fostering faith-driven harmony across all beliefs, extending beyond Muslim and Christian communities to embrace people of every faith and those with no set religious convictions. Weeks later, HRH Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad presented this proposal to the UN General Assembly, where it was unanimously adopted as a UN Observance Event (Resolution A/RES/65/5). Far from diluting individual faiths, this initiative calls for respecting our differences while uniting around shared principles of "**Love of God and love of the neighbor, or love of Good and love of the neighbor.**" This foundational ethos has guided our efforts in 2025, and we are profoundly thankful for the global platform it provides to **advance interfaith dialogue and solidarity**. For more on its origins, we invite readers to explore additional resources at the **official World Interfaith Harmony Week website**.

Our heartfelt appreciation extends to the **International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan (IIAU)** for hosting the events and providing unwavering institutional support. Special thanks are due to **Vice-Rector Zohidjon Islamov**, whose moderation of the International Scientific-Practical Seminar and commitment to academic alignment were instrumental in shaping the week's intellectual framework.

We are grateful to **National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO** for their endorsement, which elevated the initiative's global significance. Chief Expert **Dilnoza Kurbonova's** contributions were pivotal in reinforcing its alignment with UNESCO's mission of peace and understanding.

The support of **Governmental Bodies** was indispensable. We thank the Committee on Religious Affairs, under the leadership of Deputy Chairman Matluba Kakharova, and the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Ties with Foreign Countries for their steadfast commitment to **fostering interfaith and intercultural dialogue in Uzbekistan**.

Our gratitude extends to the **Religious Leaders and Representatives** who enriched the initiative with their diverse **perspectives and dedication to unity**: **Homidjon Ishmatbekov** (Muslim Board of Uzbekistan), **Sergiy Stasenko** (Tashkent Orthodox Seminary), **Yeji Matsulevich** (Roman Catholic Center), **Arkadiy Isakharov** (Jewish Community), and **Sergey Terentyev** (Bible Society of Uzbekistan), and

others. Their insightful contributions illuminated the shared values that bind our communities.

We acknowledge the **Cultural Centers** – the Republican Turkmen, Uygur, and Bashkir National Cultural Centers – for showcasing Uzbekistan’s vibrant diversity. Special recognition goes to performers like Azamat Ahmedov, whose artistry brought the spirit of intercultural harmony to life.

The enthusiasm and creativity of **Students and Faculty** from IIAU, Imam Bukhari Tashkent Islamic Institute, and Tashkent Orthodox Seminary were the heartbeat of this initiative. Their active participation across seminars, performances, competitions, and games drove its youth-focused impact, laying the groundwork for a future of tolerance and cooperation.

Finally, we express profound thanks to the **Organizing Team** – the UNESCO Chair staff and volunteers – who, despite limited resources, executed a seamless and impactful program. Their resilience and dedication ensured that every event reflected the principles of dialogue and fraternity championed by **the World Interfaith Harmony Week**.

This collective effort underscores Uzbekistan’s proactive stance in promoting religious harmony, aligning with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/65/5 and reinforcing the initiative’s role as a model for **global interfaith cooperation**.

