

## Celebration of #wihw2025

### Sustaining the Culture of Peace: Reflections on the Town Hall for Peace in Holeta

On February 28, 2025, Holeta hosted a pivotal gathering during the #WIHW2025 celebrations, where EIFDDA's Town Hall for Peace brought together over 40 diverse faith leaders, community members, and peace advocates. This transformative event laid the groundwork for building lasting interfaith collaboration and bridging religious divides to foster local conflict resolution.



Group Photo at Holleta, Feb 2025

Throughout the day, participants engaged in in-depth discussions and workshops on unity, tolerance, and Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), exploring ways to integrate faith-based and secular approaches to create sustainable peace. Strategies discussed included establishing more local interfaith peace committees and strengthening the existing JISRA's platforms; organizing community dialogues, and developing conflict mediation training, highlighting the importance of grassroots peacebuilding initiatives rooted in the community's traditions.

A key emphasis at the Town Hall was empowering women and youth in peacebuilding efforts. Local Advocacy Network Groups pledged to institutionalize community-led peace structures and enhance media involvement in peace campaigns. These commitments aim to build ongoing capacity and ensure sustained interfaith engagement through mechanisms like regular follow-up meetings and community feedback sessions.



The role of media was crucial in amplifying the message of peace and coexistence during the event. Broadcasting these important conversations through the city Communication official Facebook page helped raise awareness of interfaith harmony and demonstrated that community-driven peace processes can catalyze lasting change. Ultimately, the Town Hall for Peace in Holeta showcased the power of dialogue and collaboration in driving transformative societal change. EIFDDA and JISRA's commitment to interfaith collaboration, capacity-building, and media engagement is shaping a future built on inclusivity, tolerance, and justice. As

communities work together, the legacy of this event will serve as a cornerstone for sustaining peace and unity in Ethiopia, aligning with EIFDDA's mission to foster interfaith dialogue and cooperation as essential tools for building a more harmonious society.

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