

Declaration

A one-day interfaith and intra-faith dialogue program, organized by the Interfaith Council for Peace and Harmony Pakistan in collaboration with the European Union Delegation to Pakistan at Serena Hotel, Islamabad
9/12/2020

Delegates' Joint Declaration:

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has been founded and is based on the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the 1973 Constitution. Pakistan is a Muslim majority country with a sizable number of followers of other faiths as its citizens. The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees equal rights to all its citizens, regardless of their religion or creed.

2. Sectarianism and religious extremism weaken national and social harmony.
3. Therefore, to promote interfaith and intra-faith dialogue, understanding and inclusiveness, ending the trends of sectarianism and religious extremism is in the wider interest of Pakistan.
4. It is necessary to implement the Constitution and laws of the Country. And it is the obligation of the government, the legal system and other institutions under the Constitution. We recognize the role of all institutions that are playing a positive role in efforts to promote peace in Pakistan.
5. Significant efforts have been made in the past to achieve this goal and these efforts are still going on. It is required to reinforce these efforts. One such initiative is "Paigham-e-Pakistan" (Message of Pakistan) and the narrative based on it.
6. All citizens should play their role in promoting interfaith and Intra-faith dialogue, mutual understanding and harmony. We all religious leaders, civil society leaders, politicians, academicians and religious organizations feel bound to utilize our influence for this purpose.
7. The purpose of all these efforts is to promote an inclusive and peaceful society that ensures human dignity and equality for all citizens and men and women, and work to protect places of worship of all religions.

We agree that:

1. We declare our full commitment to the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Constitution of Pakistan.
2. We recognize that the primary responsibility of all relevant bodies including the State and the Judiciary is to respect and protect all rights and fundamental freedoms of citizens and to prevent any form of violence and ensure to thwart violations of the law.

3. We recognize the existence of diversity of religions and beliefs in Pakistan and desire an integrated environment based on the principle of respect for human rights and equality for followers of all religions.
4. We recognize that the role of women is very significant for the development and integration of Pakistan. That is why we pledge to struggle for women's rights and their active role in society.
5. We condemn hate speeches against religion, race and color which can result in any form of harm.
6. We, the representatives of all religions pledge to protect the environment. We declare that we will continue our efforts to save it from pollution, because it is our common heritage and very essential for the interest of our future generation.
7. We propose that the Government should declare a National Day in recognition of the importance of interfaith dialogue, understanding and harmony for the promotion of annual activities on this subject across the country and to evaluate our progress in the meantime and practicable steps for future.
8. We pledge to take steps by verbal expression, communication and practice for promoting inclusiveness. In this regard, the pulpit and other places of worship of diverse religions and forums of civil society can be utilized.