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# **CANBERRA INTERFAITH FORUM Inc.**

**[Harmony messages/prayers from different faith groups](#)**



## **Baha'i Quote on Harmony**

The utterance of God is a lamp, whose light is these words: Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship. He Who is the Daystar of Truth beareth Me witness! So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth. The One true God, He Who knoweth all things, Himself testifieth to the truth of these words.

Exert yourselves that ye may attain this transcendent and most sublime station, the station that can insure the protection and security of all mankind. This goal excelleth every other goal, and this aspiration is the monarch of all aspirations.

From Baha'u'llah the Founder of the Baha'i Faith

## **The Brahma Kumaris- Australia**

Without harmony, there cannot be peace. Harmony with the self, nature, others and with society is the basis of universal peace and happiness.

Have the aim of moving along in harmony with others. Think, 'I have to change'. Those who have the intention of changing themselves become victorious in all situations. Those who wait for others to change become deceived, and this is why it is you yourself who always has to change. You have to do this.

## **Buddhist message on “Harmony”**

We need to think clearly and compassionately about religious diversity and learn to respect the teachings of other faith traditions and live with members of those traditions in peaceful and harmonious manner. For there to be harmony between different spiritual faith traditions, it is essential that we appreciate each other's religious beliefs and practices. Buddhism welcomes dialogue with other religions and considers that there is inherent truth in all spiritual teachings and pathways.

“Live in joy, in love, even among those who hate.  
Live in joy, in health, even among the afflicted.  
Live in joy, In peace, even among the troubled.  
Look within. Be still. Free from fear and attachment, Know the sweet joy of the way.”

## **"Harmony" message of Christianity**

Christians should always act with courtesy, respect and compassion for the whole of their community, not least towards people of other faiths.

We believe that God loves every human being, no matter who they are or how they behave. We believe that Jesus shows us this love of God, that no-one is beneath this love and care. Sadly, history tells us that Christians have not always acted in accord with these beliefs but living out our beliefs is a vital contribution to community partnership.

Commitment to peaceful relationships across all faiths is a vital factor in facilitating peace. We express this commitment by living out our core values of compassion, justice, peace-making and reconciliation.

## **Islamic Message**

Unity brings people together, creating love, harmony and generosity between them. May Allah allow us to unite in goodness, love and generosity. The word "Islam" means, among other things, peace.

In chapter 49:13 of the Holy Quran, Allah says: "O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you..."

Chapter 4:36, says: "Serve God,... and do good to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, those in need, neighbours who are near, neighbours who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer (ye meet)..."

## **Jewish prayer**

Remove from us all hatred and hostility, jealousy and cruelty. And plant in our hearts love and friendship, peace and companionship. Speedily fulfill the vision of Your prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

## **Sikh Scripture- Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji - Page 1299**

I have totally forgotten my jealousy of others,  
since I found the Saadh Sangat, the Company of the Holy.

No one is my enemy, and no one is a stranger. I get along with everyone.  
Whatever God does, I accept that as good. This is the sublime wisdom I have obtained from the Holy.

The One God is pervading in all. Gazing upon Him, beholding Him, Nanak blossoms forth in happiness.

## **Quotes from Quaker (Religious Society of Friends):**

### ACHIEVING HARMONY

"Respect the wide diversity among us in our lives and relationships. Refrain from making prejudiced judgments about the life journey of others. Do you foster the spirit of mutual understanding and forgiveness?..... Bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself, which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace.

In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?"

(From "Advices and Queries", Religious Society of Friends, 2008)

"Because Quakers believe that there is that of God in all people ...they not only hope for the best, but expect the best, believing that bad situations are likely to get better with honest goodwill.

Because thy consider that force nearly always creates more problems than it solves, Quakers feel impelled to do what is possible by reason and persuasion to resolve conflicts".

( Quaker "Faith and Practice, 2nd edit. 1995-98)

"The roots of racial prejudice lie deep within us, and in seeking a solution to the evil results of racial tensions, we need to search our hearts. Our belief in the significance of every individual in the sight of God and his(her) need for an abundant life can guide us, even when we shrink from the vastness of the problem."

("Christian faith and practice in the experience of the Society of Friends" 1959)

## **Sathya Sai Baba**

Through the awareness of the Divine alone can we bring true peace to the world

“There is no doubt that considerable effort is being made by great leaders of the world in the material plane to bring about peace and harmony. But Sai does not see any sign of their success. The only way left for us to turn our minds within ourselves and find out the true and everlasting basis, the Supreme source from which alone we can get true (harmony) happiness and peace in the world. That basis is God, who is in fact dwelling in the hearts of every one of us. He is the Universal Spirit. Every one of us is the very embodiment of Divinity. Your true basis is Sath-Chit-Ananda, representing Existence-Consciousness-Bliss. You have forgotten this Truth. Remember it now and take the holy name of the Reality until your mind disappears and you stand revealed as Truth Itself and enjoy that Eternal Bliss which never exhausts itself”.

## **Sanatana Dharma**

The Christian is not to become a Hindu or a Buddhist, nor a Hindu or a Buddhist to become a Christian. But each must assimilate the spirit of the others and yet preserve his individuality and grow according to his own law of growth — Swami Vivekananda uttered these words in 1893, at the final session of the Parliament of the World’s Religions.

He quoted from a hymn thus “ As the different streams having their sources in different places all mingle their water in the sea so, O’ Lord, the different paths which men take through different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to Thee.”

## **Sukyo Mahikari**

“All things in heaven and on earth were created by God to interact in harmony. When opposites firmly unite, love and harmony are produced. Everything in nature functions in accordance with the principle of harmony. As children of God, we need to cultivate a spirit of harmony, because harmony, or the lack thereof, influences every aspect of our lives.”

Words of the Founder, Kotama Okada

From October 2002, Sukyo Mahikari International Journal, p.6

“Let us work on developing a society where people transcend the barriers of religion and religious denomination and coexist in harmony.”

Words of the Third Spiritual Leader, Koō Okada

From February 2020, Sukyo Mahikari International Journal, p.10

## **Art of Living**

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is a philosophy of Hinduism and it means the whole earth is one family. Vasudha means earth, Eva means in-deed and Kutumbakam means family. This philosophy inculcates the entire world is one family that is the divine which all religions are part of. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam statement from Upanishads is beyond peace and harmony among the societies in the world. This is also about the truth that somehow the whole world has to live by some rules like a family. Just by contemplating this idea and by at least trying to live by it and practice it in our lives, we could make this world a better place.

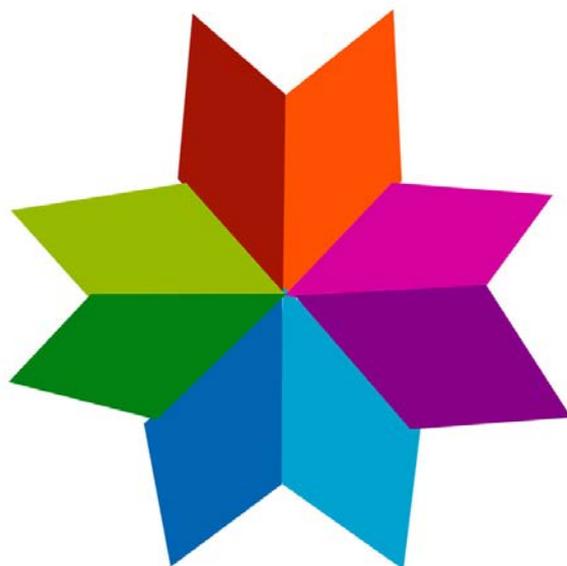
## **The Harmony messages received through following faith representatives.**

Art of Living:	Dr Krishna Nadimpalli OAM
Baha'i:	Shahnaz Kouhbor
Brahma Kumaris:	Robyn Horton
Buddhist:	Willie Senanayake
Christian:	Robert James
Hindu:	Jayanti Gupta
Islam:	Dean Sahukhan
Judaism:	Dr Brian Wimborne
Quakers:	Doreen Cope
Sikh:	Amardeep Singh
Sri Sathya Sai:	Dr Pal Dhal
Sukyo Mahikari:	Bonnie Choi

## **Canberra Interfaith Forum OBJECTIVES:**

1. To promote open conversation between individuals of various spiritual traditions based on equality and mutual respect.
2. To deepen knowledge, understanding and appreciation of various spiritual traditions.
3. To demonstrate loving and effective relationships between peoples of various spiritual traditions.
4. To share deeper spiritual insights and values in the community.
5. To uphold and respect the right of all human beings to maintain and practise in harmony the spiritual traditions of their choice.
6. To promote cooperative action involving participating spiritual traditions in the ACT.
7. To participate appropriately in community events such as the Multicultural Festival and multifaith worship.
8. To disseminate information on multifaith and relevant activities.





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**CANBERRA INTERFAITH  
FORUM Inc.**

*If you're interested in participating in CIF activities, please contact the  
CIF correspondence secretary on [canberrainterfaithforum@gmail.com](mailto:canberrainterfaithforum@gmail.com)*