



ISLAM AND INTERFAITH HARMONY

- project report

GROUP#2.

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Abstract

The following report is on the topic of Islam and Interfaith Harmony. The report discusses about Inter faith harmony and its relationship with Islamic faith. The main idea revolves around the understanding of how Islamic ruling and social systems are ingrained the workings of inter faith harmony on both intrapersonal and international levels. The report also encompasses many examples to support the coming arguments. Quotes from the Quran and cited Hadith have been included as evidence for the report.

Now, we shall start off with the introduction to interfaith Harmony.

Introduction to interfaith Harmony

Definition:

Interfaith harmony is defined as *creating peaceful relations between the people of various religious back grounds*. This can be between different religions altogether or even between people from different sects of the same religion.

The concept of inter-religious or inter-faith harmony states that it is imperative that people at various religions respect each other and collectively condemn any form of religious extremism.

Generally, when religious harmony is discussed, it is separated into two parts. It is believed that to find peace between religious groups we must adopt a live and let live policy. This means religious groups are allowed freedom to practice for as long as they stay away from the motions of the state.

Another concept often mentioned is that of “*Harmony without uniformity*”. This states that to achieve the inter-faith harmony religious

groups must respect diversity rather than expecting each other to conform to their religious

1. Islam and inter faith harmony:

When we mention Islam along side the words religious coexistence, usually people think of extremism and intolerance whereas quite the opposite is true.

In the Quran, Allah lays out the specific principles which aid in the achievement of religious harmony in the following ways.

1.1 – No compulsion in religion

The use of force and compulsion often results in hatred and animosity in a person's heart. Hence, The Quran denounces the use of force in matters of religion multiple times.

“Let there be no compulsion in religion; truth stands clearer than error”
(2:256)

1.2- Islam allows for logical debate and discussion

In the topic of logical debate and discussion amidst interfaith harmony, we can see a quote from the Qur'an.

“Invite all in the way of your lord with wisdom and beautiful and preaching and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious”
(16:125)

1.3- Divine Religions: grades of one school

Islam considers Judaism and Christianity as different levels of the same concept with each religion updating and building upon

the teachings of the last. Islam includes all those who believe Allah and *monotheism under the same umbrella.

2.1. Quranic evidence on Interfaith harmony

//Muhammed Ali's part

2.2 Interfaith Harmony in the light of Hadith

//Muhammed Ali's part

3. Technical implementation and terminology of interfaith harmony and its maturation with time

//Abdullah's part

4.How should we contribute to interfaith Harmony, as Muslims

As Muslims, we have a duty to play our part in striving for Interfaith harmony for our religion Islam. In other words, we should keep peace with all people regardless of their faith. Let us see what we can do to play our part in preserving Interfaith Harmony.

4.1-keeping peace with people of all other religions

The best way of elaborating the effort towards keeping peace with

people of all other religion, is that one should be a good neighbor. As Muslims, we should treat our non-Muslim with the same compassion and hospitality we would give our Muslim neighbors.

In fact, even if a Muslim's parents are non-Muslims and try to deviate you from the path of Allah; a Muslim will still treat them kindly and with great respect. We should also treat all equally when it comes to justice.

(Skaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid, 2012)

4.2-Muslims should not force the people of other religion to accept Islam

Being sincere in one's character is a part of Islam. A Muslim should (ideally) have good control on how he/she deal equally with all people, regardless of their faith.

“There is no compulsion in religion.” [al-Baqarah 2:256]

For the best application of this we should follow the example of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W), especially since Islamic shariah has a democratic approach towards almost everything including interfaith harmony.

(Skaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid, 2012)

5 Today's view on Non-Muslims regarding Interfaith Harmony in Islamic states

There have been many reforms, classifications and laws made for the betterment of interfaith harmony. We shall discuss a few below

5.1 - Rights of non-Muslims in Islamic state

There are a great number of rights given to Muslims in Islamic states, a few of which are listed below.

- Freedom of worship

- Protection of Residence

(Imam Mufti, 2006)

5.2- Types of Non-Muslims

Although classifying Non-Muslims may seem a bit rude, must take into consideration that just like multiple sects of the same religion exist , similarly different sectors of the Non-Muslim community exist. Hence for the betterment of our harmony we must study all our people. The types of Non-Muslims are mentioned and defined below.

- **Dhimmi or Mu'ahid:**

Originally it was applied only to People of The Book I.e., Christians, Jews and Sabians. Later it was also applied to Sikhs, Hindus, and other religions.

- **Muhsrikin**

Those people who accept other gods than Allah Almighty. Murtad. They are apostate ex-Muslims, who are considered renegades and traitors

(Wikipedia, 2022)

6. Interfaith harmony and Modern Muslims States.

There are many international and national events and organizations that we see working beneficially for interfaith harmony. Be it a simple local charity or a relief fund organization. We shall discuss two major views of Interfaith Harmony on an international level for all Muslim states.

6.1- NEWS and events

lots of events make it on the Global NEWS regarding peace between the multiple faiths and religions. The most prominent example

can be seen as that the first week of February is celebrated as “*Interfaith Harmony week*”.

We can see the participation of Muslims representing Islam and representatives of other faiths participating in a event on an international level to promote the peace between their faith. This event is managed by the UN and advertised on their site as well.

(World Interfaith Harmony Week, n.d.)

6.2- International Organizations

There are many International Organizations that we can see in the scope of Islam and interfaith harmony. However, standing out from the group of organizations we can see the **OIC** (*Organization of Islamic Cooperation*) as a major Organization in this regard. Formed in 1969, the OIC has its slogan as

“The collective voice of the Muslim World”

This organization can be seen as an example for the safeguarding of interfaith Harmony by Islamic states.

(OIC - home page, n.d.)

CONCLUSION

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>>monotheism ; the belief that there is only on God.