

Bratislava, Slovakia Interfaith Event creates Deep Bonds on World Interfaith Harmony Week

Milos Klas
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UPF Slovakia organized an event to highlight the World Interfaith Harmony Week.

The program started with the famous song “Where Peace Begins, ” creating a solemn atmosphere in our Peace Embassy. Then, Milos Klas greeted the participants, outlining one significant aspect, “People of other faiths should not initially see themselves as representatives of a religion or worldview, but foremost as fellow citizens.” Then followed the panel discussion. Representatives of five faith communities explained what religions can teach us about making peace. Each speaker (Scientology Church, Husite Church, Alatra, Hare Krishna, Unification Church) told an exciting story of how conflicts can be resolved or avoided altogether. Following the panelists, WFWP President Lubica Magnusson spoke about the efforts of women in Israel and Palestine to make peace just before the HAMAS invasion. The testimony of a Holocaust survivor complemented her speech. After ending the panel session, the speakers received a candle with the logos of UPF and World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Finally, we asked the audience questions to do a litmus test concerning their interfaith attitudes: Should religions in Slovakia intensify exchange and cooperation? Why is interreligious dialogue so meaningful? Have you asked people from another faith the question: What are the principles of your religion? Would you like to visit a place of worship, a temple of another religion? Do you have a friend from a completely different religion or faith? The participants (37) were asked to show “Yes” by raising their hands. Thus, it was visible that more than half of the participants practiced “Interfaith Harmony” in their own lives. The friendly talks that followed were so inspiring that some guests didn't want to go home until 22.00 after four hours of stay!