



REPORT

Promotion of Interfaith Harmony through Fine Arts



Organized By: -

Bright Future Society & SPADO

In the Collaboration with Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

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Interfaith Harmony Need of the World



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Background:

Bright Future Society (BFS) and Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO) with the support of Switzerland Embassy in Pakistan carried out a national fine arts competition engaging young people of various faiths to promote interfaith and religious harmony in Pakistan. In the initial stage, various educational institutions were contacted throughout Pakistan and they were encouraged to participate in the competition. Later on, 20 participants were selected from all the provinces of Pakistan having diverse backgrounds, faiths and ethnicities. The participants were then briefed about the concept of interfaith and religious harmony along with providing them guidelines to develop their ideas and paintings. At the same time the participants were briefed through various orientation sessions about the concept of interfaith harmony and its importance for peace and harmony in the society.

Main Goal

To contribute towards the formation of harmonious society by promoting Interfaith Harmony through Fine Arts

Objectives

- To create awareness among the masses about the importance of interfaith harmony for peace and mutual coexistence;
- To provide opportunities to the youth of Pakistan to express their talent through fine arts and to utilize the work for the promotion of interfaith harmony in Pakistan;
- To promote tolerance, mutual coexistence and harmony among various faiths in Pakistan;

Once the paintings were developed, BFS and SPADO hosted an event at the Governor House in Lahore to display the paintings and select the winners of the competition through a Jury, which consisted of experts, academics and religious leaders. This event was attended by civil society representatives, clergy members, diplomats, parliamentarians, staff of schools, colleges and universities, students and representatives of electronic and print media. The Honorable Governor of Punjab, Chaudhary Muhammad Sarwar was the Chief Guest and His Excellency Bénédict de Cerjat, Ambassador of Switzerland in Pakistan was the Guest of Honor of the event. More than one hundred participants from all over Pakistan attended the event. Following are the proceedings of the event:



Meeting with Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H.E Mr. Bénédict de Cerjat, Ambassador of Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan

**Arrival of Chief Guest Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & Guest
of Honor H.E Mr. Bénédic de Cerjat, Ambassador of Embassy of
Switzerland in Pakistan**



**Presentation of Bouquet to Honorable Chief Guest Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad
Sarwar & Guest of Honor H.E Mr. Bénédic de Cerjat, Ambassador of Embassy of
Switzerland in Pakistan**



National Anthem



Recitation of Holy Quran and Holy Bible





Welcome Address

**By Mr. Samuel Payra,
President Bright Future Society, Chairman IMRF**

Mr. Samuel Payra thanked honorable Governor of Punjab, Chaudhary Muhammad Sarwar for providing the Governor House Punjab for the event and prizes distribution ceremony. He also thanked His Excellency, Mr. Bénédict de Cerjat, Ambassador of Switzerland in Pakistan, Mr. Alberto Groff, Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Switzerland, Mr. Osama Kaiser Khan, Political Advisor, Embassy of Switzerland, Mr. Raza Shah Khan, Chief Executive SPADO, Ms. Shanila Ruth, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs, Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and Khatib Badshahi Masjid, Bishop of Multan Church of Pakistan, Rev. Bishop Leo Paul, Sardar Bishan Singh, Dr. Hasant Shah, Ulama, Judges, Religious Clergy and students.

He specially thanked the embassy of Switzerland for providing financial assistance and support for the project. Mr. Samuel said that Interfaith harmony means bringing peace and tranquility and promoting positivity among people of various faiths.

Interfaith harmony encourages the people to live in peace and lets others live peacefully irrespective of faith. Even though Pakistan was created based on the basis of Islamic ideology, this does not signify that Pakistan is only for Muslims. Propaganda tries to defame Pakistan by presenting a wrong picture of the state and its behavior with minorities but in reality, liberty has

been given to the minorities of Pakistan. The constitution of Pakistan protects the fundamental rights of non-Muslims (Part II; Chapter 1: Fundamental Rights (Article 20, Constitution of Pakistan, 1973). On one occasion Quaid-e-Azam narrated categorically the rights of minorities in Pakistan by saying that "minorities to whichever faith they may belong, they will be safeguarded. Their religion or faith or belief will be secure. There will be no interference of any kind with their freedom of worship. They will have their rights and privileges and no doubt, along with it goes the obligation of citizenship". (Jinnah, 1947). He also referred to the Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says

"Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching."









**Speech by
Ms. Shunila Ruth MNA, Federal Parliamentary Secretary Religious Affair
and Interfaith Harmony**

**His Excellency, Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar,
Excellency, Ambassador, Mr. Benedict de Cerja, Mr. Samuel Payra, Mr. Raza
Shah, Chief Executive, SPADO distinguished diplomats, parliamentarians,
Religious leaders, ladies and gentlemen!**

It gives me great pleasure to be with you this morning at *the promotion of Interfaith
Harmony through Fine Art.*

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Interfaith Harmony means bringing peace and tranquility promoting among people by positivity. There is an interrelationship among people of different religious beliefs at the individual and institutional level which projects a positive picture in the polity of nations.

To promote religious harmony, we need to guard against religious extremism. All religion seeks peace, oppose violence, preach universal love and goodness.

Pakistan is a Muslim majority country and a home to over 220 million population, 96% are Muslim, whereas only 4% belong to Hindu, Christian Bahai, Parsi, Sikh and other small faith groups.

Pakistan became an independent country in 1947 with a strong commitment to the rights of minorities where all faith believers live in harmony under the protection of state.

Soon after the independence, Quaid-e- Azim Muhammad Ali Jinnah the founder of Pakistan was optimistic about the re-integration of faith identities in the new state of Pakistan.



He proclaimed in his first presidential address on 11th August 1947 that, “you can change your past and work together in a spirit that every one, no matter what community you belong to, is first, second and last a citizen of this State, with equal rights, privileges and obligations. There will be no end to progress you will make”.

Unfortunately, the situation evolved in a different way after his early demise in 1948.

However, the Our Government is working for reconstruction of Pakistani Society Where

Interfaith is taken as the positive reinforcement of relationships among all faiths as a social contract between them and their communities.

Besides a ministry for interfaith harmony at provincial and national level, I would like to mention four instances/ examples featuring this change.

1. Creating an alternative narrative: The political leadership took incredible initiatives involved religious leaders in establishing sustainable state-society relations to eliminate terrorism. The national narrative on extremism and terrorism titled “Paigham-e-Pakistan” launched by the government on January 2018 is a milestone in this regard. The narrative comprised a 22-point Fatwa (religious decree) rejects terrorism, extremism, sectarian hatred and Stockholm Forum, May, 2018 use of force to impose Shariah in the Country. It was inked by over 1800 religious scholars of all schools of thought hailing from across the Country. The present government is organizing various international and national interfaith conferences to introduce “Paigham-e-Pakistan” to global community.

2. Establishing sustained interfaith structures by the government:

Our ministry has drafted Interfaith Harmony Policy to be approved by the cabinet.

Government has established National Commission for Minorities (NMC). According to the terms of reference, the commission will formulate proposal for development of a national policy to promote peace and interfaith harmony in the country. The commission will further develop proposals for amending laws/policies which are reported to be discriminatory towards the religious minorities.

Besides interfaith ministry at national and provincial level, the government has constituted committees on interfaith harmony to promote tolerance at grassroots level to promote interfaith harmony and peace initiatives at district level by engaging religious leaders from all religions.

3. Safe guarding the rights of minorities: The religious actors-faith-based organizations in Pakistan have been utilizing legal remedies for safe guarding the rights of religious

minorities. For instance, the landmark judgment of Supreme Court of Pakistan by Justice Tussadaq Hussain Jilani suggested a framework to the state for the protection of rights of religious minority.

4. Practicing the new way of dialogue: Taking in consideration the rights-based development approach; the religious leaders in Pakistan are experiencing a new way of dialogue based on integral development of all communities rather than an interfaith dialogue focusing on theological discussions in formal settings under the auspice of government.

In the present time religions, cultures, politics and economics can no longer live in separate spheres. They must work together, through an open and constructive dialogue to eradicate terrorism, hatred, discrimination and develop a culture of peace and harmony for peaceful co-existence.

Arts can serve as one of the most effective mediums to enhance understanding, bring about respect, enable sharing and deepen friendship between those of different faiths.

Movies, music, poetry, theater and all other expression of arts should also be utilized to spread the message of interfaith peace and harmony.

So, I congratulate Bright Future Society, SPADO and Embassy of Switzerland for organizing this unique event to promote peace and interfaith harmony.

“With this in mind, regardless of how different we may be in our beliefs, let us find expression of arts to reach out to others who are afraid, and try to comfort them, let us try to allay their fears. Let us send messages of love, peace, harmony, unity and hope”





Speech by

Mualana Abdul Khabir Azad Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee

Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and Khatib of Badshahi Masjid Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad said that people of all religions should work together for the promotion of religious harmony in Pakistan. He emphasized upon the need for national unity and harmony in order to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism. He greatly appreciated the efforts of the organizers to engage youth in a positive way of promoting interfaith harmony and inviting people of diverse backgrounds and faiths to the event. He offered his full support and cooperation for promoting interfaith harmony in Pakistan.





Speech By

Mr. Raza Shah Khan, Chief Executive of SPADO

Mr. Raza Shah Khan, Chief Executive of Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO) and co-organizer of the event thanked the Honorable Governor of Punjab, The Ambassador of Switzerland, Federal Parliamentary Secretary, Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and other distinguished guests for taking their time to attend the prize distribution ceremony. He especially appreciated and thanked the participating youth who came from across Pakistan not only to participate in the arts competition but to actively attend the event. Mr. Khan said that Pakistan is a very diverse country in terms of cultures, faiths and languages but unfortunately such a diversity has remained a reason for conflicts and violence. He said that the constitution of Pakistan provides equal rights to the non-Muslims and that the rich diversity of Pakistan should be celebrated to promote peace and nonviolence.

Mr. Khan reminded that the United Nations (UN) General Assembly has adopted the Pakistan-led resolution on “Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue in December, 2020. The resolution, co-sponsored by Pakistan and the Philippines, was adopted by the UN General Assembly with an overwhelming majority. This resolution is part of Pakistan’s global efforts to promote interfaith harmony, tolerance, respect for each other’s religions and values, and peaceful co-existence. It also supported the call of the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations for “mutual respect” and emphasized the importance of realization of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, especially the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies.

Mr. Khan said that in such a situation where we have the cooperation and support of the government, civil society organizations should take the advantage of the favorable environment and engage religious and political leaders to promote interfaith harmony. He at the end said that his organization will closely work with BFS to carry out more activities and programs throughout Pakistan after the success of this project.



Speech by

**Guest of Honor H.E. Mr. Bénédicte de Cerjat, Ambassador of Switzerland,
Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan**

Promotion of Interfaith Harmony through Arts

Honourable Governor

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, let me say how much I welcome this initiative, and how impressed I am with Mr. Samuel Payra, President of *Bright Future Society*, *Chairman IMRF* and Mr. Raza Shah, Chief Executive of *Sustainable Peace and Development Organization* for organizing a creative and unique approach towards building religious harmony and peace through fine arts. I am also thankful to the honourable Governor of Punjab for sharing this historical and magnificent building with us for this event, the esteemed judges, and members of the clergy, the civil society and the media for participating in this event.

This initiative uses fine arts as an instrumental tool in bridging the gap between people of different religions to express love for oneself and one another, thus enhancing social harmony and development. Taking part in these activities together reaffirm the human need for connection and collaboration.

Switzerland recognises the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people. But this requires commitment from all concerned.

In an increasingly complex political and economic world, beset with conflict and intolerance, peaceful coexistence among various religious beliefs is critical for achieving peace and prosperity. The need to find common ground has never been more pressing and it is imperative that we spread the message of compassion and embrace our diversity, based on our common humanity.

We know that the more people know about “the other,” the more open they are to them, which creates a more peaceful co-existence. Events like this are a necessary step toward reducing “otherness,” and doing something together to benefit the society, through arts, or sports, or community-restoration efforts, to create a better world — these endeavors unify us as people.

It gives me great pleasure to see that this event has brought together young Pakistani talent of different faiths from schools, colleges, and universities across the country for using their art to highlight the importance of interfaith harmony. Even though, we have prizes for the top 3 finalists, there are no losers in this competition. In fact, I assure you that ‘we’ all will ultimately benefit from this event. With that, I wish all the contestants, good luck! And look forward to appreciating their art.





Speech by

Chief Guest Honorable Ch. Muhammad Sarwar,

Governor of Punjab

Honorable Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar who was the Chief Guest of the event said that the government is ensuring complete religious freedom for minorities who are safe in Pakistan.

The Honorable governor said that Pakistan is safe for minorities and that the government is ensuring religious freedom to minorities. Societies that do not ensure protection of minorities and religious freedom are destroyed. All sections including the government are working together to promote interfaith harmony in Pakistan. International human rights bodies, including the United Nations, must take note of the atrocities committed against minorities in India.

The governor said that it is welcoming that all minorities in Pakistan including Sikhs, Christians and Hindus are on one page for the promotion of religious harmony in the country. The government is also taking steps to promote religious harmony. It is our collective responsibility to make Pakistan strong and prosperous. Religious freedom and protection enjoyed by minorities in Pakistan is definitely an example for the whole world. We are protecting the religious freedom of minorities in Pakistan according to the vision of the founder of Pakistan, Mr. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said and added that no negligence will be tolerated in the matter of protection of minorities.

Everyone is working together because of which whenever anyone in Pakistan tried to conspire against religious harmony they have failed,” he said, adding: “It is our collective responsibility to make Pakistan strong and prosperous.”

He said it really a unique idea to promote Interfaith Harmony through fine Arts and we need to arrange such kind of programs in Pakistan for the promotion of Interfaith Harmony

He thanked H.E Mr. Bénédict de Cerjat Ambassador of Switzerland in Pakistan for visiting the Governor House and honoring the occasion through his presence. He appreciated and thanked Mr. Samuel Payra President Bright Future Society & Chairman IMRF and Mr. Raza Shah Khan, Chief Executive of SPADO for arranging a such a useful arts competition among the youth of Pakistan and convening the event at the governor house.



Distribution of Prize

1st, 2nd and 3rd Cash Prizes & Trophies winners

Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H.E Mr. Bénédict de Cerjat Ambassador of Switzerland in Pakistan distributed cash prizes, trophies & certificates among the students who got positions in Arts Competition to promote of Interfaith Harmony



The Honorable Governor of Punjab and His Excellency, the Ambassador of Switzerland presented the cheques and trophies to the winners of the arts competition. The first winner was awarded a cash prize of **Rs. 150,000**, the second winner **Rs. 100,000** and the third winner **Rs. 50,000**. Moreover, certificates of participation and appreciation were awarded to all the youth who took part in the arts competition



Mr. Ravi Tohani received 1st Trophy prize and Certificate from Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H.E Mr. Bénédic de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan



Ms. Soha Ali received 2nd Trophy prize and Certificate from Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H. E Mr. Bénédic de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan

Ms. Ayesha Mehmood Ghaznavi received 3rd Trophy and Certificate from Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H.E Mr. Bénédic de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan



**Distribution of Certificates among the Students by Mr. Alberto Groff
Deputy Head Mission Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan & Mr. Osama
Kaiser Khan Political Advisor Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan**





Presentation of Souvenirs



H.E Mr. Bénédicte de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan Presented Souvenir to Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar



Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar Presented Souvenir to H.E Mr. Bénédicte de Cerjat, Ambassador of Switzerland in Pakistan



**Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar Presented Souvenir to Mr. Alberto Groff
Deputy Head Mission Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan**



**Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar Presented Souvenir to Mr. Osama Kaiser Khan
Political Advisor Embassy of Switzerland in Pakistan**



Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H.E Bénédicte de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan presented Souvenir to Mualana Abdul Khabir Azad



H.E Bénédicte de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan presented Souvenir to Sardar Bishan Singh



Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H.E Bénédicte de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan presented Souvenir to Mualana Tayyab Qureshi



Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H.E Bénédicte de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan presented Souvenir to Bhagat Lal Khokhar Swami



Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H.E Bénédicte de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan presented Souvenir to Pastor Rev. Nadeem Saleem



Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H.E Bénédicte de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan presented Souvenir to Rev. Fr. James Channan Director Peace Centre Lahore



Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar & H.E Bénédicte de Cerjat Switzerland Ambassador in Pakistan presented Souvenir to Ms. Shunila Ruth MNA, Federal Parliamentary Secretary Religious Affair and Interfaith Harmony

Distribution of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Cash Prizes among the winners





1st Cash Prize of Rs. 150000 awarded to Mr. Ravi Tohani from Hindu Community Tharparkar Sindh



2nd Cash Prize of Rs. 100000 awarded to Ms. Soha Ali from Ismaili Community Gilgit-Baltistan

3rd Cash Prize of Rs. 50000 awarded to Ms. Ayesha Mehmood Ghaznavi from Muslim Community Lahore



Media Coverage

Daily "TIMES" Lahore

22 FEB 2022

Pakistan safe for minorities, says governor



Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar Monday said that minorities are completely safe in Pakistan and the government had ensured total freedom to followers of different religions.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a photo exhibition, titled Interfaith Harmony, held under the auspices of the Embassy of Switzerland at the Governor's House here, he said the societies that did not ensure protection of minorities and religious freedom were destroyed, adding that all segments of society, including the government, were working together to promote interfaith harmony in the country.

"The international human rights bodies, including the United Nations, must take note of the atrocities being committed against minorities in India," the governor stressed.

Swiss Ambassador Benedict de Cerjat, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minorities Affairs, MNA Shanila Ruth, Chairman Implementation of Minority Rights Forum (IMRF) Samuel Plaza, President Speedo Raza Shah, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Khateeb Badshahi Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad and others attended the ceremony.

Governor Mhammad Sarwar said it's welcoming that all minorities in Pakistan including Sikhs, Christians and Hindus are on one page for promotion of religious harmony in the country. He said everyone is working together because of which whenever anyone tries to conspire against religious harmony in the country, his nefarious designs are thwarted.

He said the government is taking practical steps to promote religious harmony, adding that it is our collective responsibility to make Pakistan strong and prosperous. Sarwar said that religious freedom and protection enjoyed by minorities in Pakistan is definitely an example for the whole world, adding that vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah has been implemented in letter and spirit regarding the freedom to minorities. He said that no negligence would be tolerated regarding protection of minorities.

Swiss Ambassador Benedict de Cerjat praised the government's efforts for religious harmony in Pakistan, adding that the whole world needs to work together to promote religious harmony, and peace is only possible through eradication of extremism from the world.

Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad said that people of all religions should work together for promotion of religious harmony in Pakistan. If people make decisions keeping in view the interests of the country and the nation, then those who try to create chaos in the country would fail in their designs.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs MNA Shanila Ruth said the PTI government is ensuring all rights to minorities.

Governor Muhammad Sarwar distributed certificates among the winners of the photo exhibition. **APP**

1m Road, Gulberg III, Lahore

Pakistan OBSERVER

22 FEB 2022

Govt for complete religious freedom for minorities: Sarwar



STAFF REPORTER

Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar said that minorities are safe in Pakistan and the government is also ensuring complete religious freedom for them. There is no doubt that societies that do not ensure the protection of minorities and religious freedom are destroyed. All sectors, including the government, are working together to promote interfaith harmony in Pakistan. International human rights bodies, including the United Nations, must take note of the atrocities committed against mi-

norities in India.

Governor Punjab was speaking to the media at the opening ceremony of a photo exhibition on "Interfaith Harmony" organized by the Switzerland Embassy at Governor House Lahore on Monday.

Benedict de Cerjat, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs, MNA Shanila Ruth, Chairman IMRF, Samuel Plaza, President Speedo Raza Shah, Chairman Rawayat e Hilal Committee, Khateeb Badshahi Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad and others attended the ceremony.

Addressing the media on the occasion, Chaudhry Sarwar said that it's welcoming that all minorities in Pakistan including Sikhs, Christians and Hindus are on one page for the promotion of religious harmony in the country. Everyone is working together because of which whenever anyone in Pakistan tried to conspire against religious harmony they have failed.

The government is also taking practical steps to promote religious harmony. It is our collective responsibility to make Pakistan strong and prosperous.

The Business

22 FEB 2022

Minorities are safe in Pakistan, says Governor

Sarwar says govt also ensuring complete religious freedom for minorities

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar said that minorities are safe in Pakistan. The government is also ensuring complete religious freedom for minorities. There is no doubt that societies that do not ensure the protection of minorities and religious freedom are destroyed.

All sectors, including the government, are working together to promote interfaith harmony in Pakistan. International human rights bodies, including the United Nations, must take note of the atrocities committed against minorities in India.

Governor Punjab was speaking to the media at the opening ceremony of a photo exhibition on "Interfaith Harmony" organized by the Switzerland Embassy at Governor House Lahore on Monday. Benedict de Cerjat, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs, MNA Shanila Ruth, Chairman IMRF, Samuel Plaza, President Speedo Raza Shah, Chairman Rawayat e Hilal Committee, Khateeb Badshahi Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad and others attended the ceremony. Addressing the media on the occasion, Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar said that it's welcoming that all minorities in Pakistan including Sikhs, Christians and Hindus are on one page for the promotion of religious harmony in the country. Everyone is working together because of which whenever anyone in Pakistan tried to conspire against religious harmony they have failed.

The government is also taking practical steps to promote religious harmony. It is our collective responsibility to make Pakistan strong and prosperous. Chaudhry Sarwar said that the will of Quaid-e-Azam and protection enjoyed by minorities in Pakistan is definitely an ex-



ample for the whole world. We are proceeding to the religious freedom of minorities in Pakistan including the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He further said that no anyone will be allowed to conspire against the minorities in Pakistan. Some other Ambassador to Pakistan Benedict de Cerjat praised the government's efforts for religious harmony in Pakistan and said that the whole world needs to work together to promote religious harmony and peace is only possible by the conviction of extremism from the world through religious harmony. Chairman Rawayat e Hilal Committee and

Chair of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad said that people of all religions should work together for the promotion of religious harmony in Pakistan. If people make decisions keeping in view the interests of the country and the nation, then those who try to create chaos in Pakistan will not be able to succeed. Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs MNA Shanila Ruth said that the PTI government is ensuring the rights of minorities. At the end of the ceremony, Governor Punjab also distributed certificates among the winners who got positions in the photo exhibition.

Daily THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE

22 FEB 2022

Governor assures minorities of religious freedom

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has said minorities are safe in Pakistan and the government is ensuring complete religious freedom for them.

"There is no doubt that societies that do not ensure protection of minorities and religious freedom are destroyed," he maintained while speaking to the media at the opening ceremony of a photo exhibition on interfaith harmony organised by the Swiss embassy at Governor's House on Monday.

The governor said all sectors, including the government, were working together to promote interfaith harmony in Pakistan.

International human rights bodies, including the United Nations, must take note of the atrocities committed against minorities in India, he stressed.

The governor said all minorities in Pakistan, including Sikhs, Christians and Hindus, were on one page for the promotion of religious harmony in the country. "Everyone is working together, because of which whenever anyone in Pakistan tried to conspire against religious harmony, they failed. The government is also taking practical steps to promote religious harmony," he added.

22 FEB 2022

Punjab governor says minorities are quite safe in Pakistan

RECORDER REPORT
LAHORE: Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar said on Monday that the government is ensuring complete religious freedom for minorities who are safe in Pakistan.

He was talking to the media at the opening ceremony of a photo exhibition on "Interfaith Harmony" organized by the Switzerland Embassy at Governor House, Switzerland Ambassador to Pakistan Benedict de Cerjat, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs, MNA Shanila Ruth, Chairman IMRF, Samuel Piara, President Speedo Raza Shah, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and Khatib Badshahi Masjid Maulana Abdul Khair Azad and others attended the ceremony.

The governor said that international human rights bodies, including the United Nations, must take note of

the atrocities committed against minorities in India. "It is welcoming that all minorities in Pakistan including Sikhs, Christians and Hindus are on one page for the promotion of religious harmony in the country. Everyone is working together because of which whenever anyone in Pakistan tried to conspire against religious harmony they have failed," he said, adding: "It is our collective responsibility to make Pakistan strong and prosperous."

Sarwar said that the religious freedom and protection enjoyed by minorities in Pakistan is definitely an example for the whole world. We are protecting the religious freedom of minorities in Pakistan according to the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said.

Switzerland Ambassador to Pakistan Benedict de Cerjat praised the government's efforts for religious

harmony in Pakistan and said that the whole world needs to work together to promote religious harmony and peace is only possible by the eradication of extremism from the world through religious harmony.

Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee and Khatib of Badshahi Masjid Maulana Abdul Khair Azad said that people of all religions should work together for the promotion of religious harmony in Pakistan. If people make decisions keeping in view the interests of the country and the nation then those who try to create chaos in Pakistan will not be disappointed, he added.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs MNA Shanila Ruth said that the PTI government is ensuring the rights of minorities. At the end of the ceremony, governor Punjab also distributed certificates among the students who got positions in the photo exhibition.

22 FEB 2022

Minorities safe in Pakistan: Sarwar

Our correspondent

LAHORE

PUNJAB Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has said minorities are safe in Pakistan. The governor said this while talking to the media at an opening ceremony of a photo exhibition on interfaith harmony organised by Switzerland Embassy at Governor's House here on Monday.

The government is ensuring religious freedom to minorities. Societies that do not ensure protection of minorities and religious freedom are destroyed. All sectors, including the government are working together to promote interfaith harmony in Pakistan. International human rights bodies including the United Nations must take note of the atrocities committed against minorities in India, the governor said.

The governor said that it is welcoming that all minorities in Pakistan including Sikhs, Christians and Hindus are on one page for the promotion of religious harmony in the country. The government is also taking practical steps to promote religious harmony. It is our collective responsibility to make Pakistan strong and prosperous. Religious freedom and protection enjoyed by minorities in Pakistan is definitely an example for the whole world. We are protecting the religious freedom of minorities in Pakistan according to the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said and added that no negligence will be tolerated in the matter of protection of minorities. Speaking at the ceremony, Switzerland Ambassador to Pakistan Benedict de Cerjat praised the government's efforts for religious harmony in Pakistan and said the whole world needs to work together to promote religious

Urges world to take notice of atrocities against minorities in India; says practical steps taken to promote religious harmony

harmony and peace is only possible by the eradication of extremism from the world through religious harmony.

On the occasion, Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khair Azad said people of all religions should work together for the promotion of religious harmony in Pakistan. If people make decisions keeping in view the interests of the country and the nation then those who try to create chaos in Pakistan will not be disappointed, he said.

Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs MNA Shanila Ruth said that the PTI government is ensuring the rights of minorities. At the end of the ceremony, the governor distributed certificates among the students who got positions in the photo exhibition.

EOC COORDINATOR: Syeda Ramallah Ali has joined Punjab Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) as new coordinator on Monday.

Ms Ramallah has 10 years of experience in administration and is a graduate of Provincial Administrative Services. Her last assignment was in the vertical programmes as deputy secretary. Ms Ramallah, who has done her masters in Economics, has vast experience in tehsil level administration and diplomatic postings. She has replaced Ms Sundas Irshad, who has been posted as Additional Commissioner Lahore division after serving in the Polio Programme for two years.

22 FEB 2022

Governor says Pakistan completely safe for minorities

OUR STAFF REPORTER
LAHORE

Punjab Governor Ch Sarwar Monday said that minorities were completely safe in Pakistan and the government had ensured total freedom for the followers of different religions.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a photo exhibition, titled Interfaith Harmony, held under the auspices of the Embassy of Switzerland at the Governor House here, he said the societies that did not ensure protection of minorities and religious freedom were destroyed, adding that all segments of society, including the government, were working together to promote interfaith harmony in the country. "The international human rights bodies, including the United Nations, must take note of the atrocities being committed against minorities in India," the governor stressed.

Swiss Ambassador Benedict de Cerjat, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minorities Affairs, MNA Shanila Ruth, Chairman Implementation of Minority Rights Forum (IMRF) Samuel Piara, President Speedo Raza Shah, Chairman Ruet-

e-Hilal Committee Khatib Badshahi Masjid Maulana Abdul Khair Azad and others attended the ceremony.

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Ch Sarwar urges int'l human rights bodies to take notice of atrocities against minorities in India

which whenever anyone tried to conspire against religious harmony in the country, his nefarious designs were thwarted.

He said the government was taking practical steps to promote religious harmony, adding that it was everyone's responsibility to make Pakistan strong and prosperous. Ch Sarwar said that religious freedom and protection enjoyed

by minorities in Pakistan was definitely an example for the whole world, adding that vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had been implemented in letter and spirit regarding the freedom to minorities. He said that no negligence would be tolerated regarding protection of minorities.

Swiss Ambassador Benedict de Cerjat praised the government's efforts for religious harmony in Pakistan, adding that the whole world needed to work together to promote religious harmony, and peace was only possible through eradication of extremism from the world.

Maulana Abdul Khair Azad said that "people of all religions should work together for promotion of religious harmony in Pakistan. If people make decisions, keeping in view the interests of the country and the nation, then those who try to create chaos in the country would fall in their designs," he added. Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Minority Affairs MNA Shanila Ruth said the PTI government was ensuring all rights to minorities. Governor Ch Sarwar distributed certificates among the winners of the photo exhibition.



Promotion of Interfaith Harmony through Fine Arts



**Organized By: -
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