



**REPORT OF HISTORICAL
INTERNATIONAL INTERFAITH
HARMONY & RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
CONFERENCE 2019
AT GOVERNOR HOUSE LAHORE –
PAKISTAN**



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Message from Samuel Payara
President Bright Future Society and Chairman Implementation Minority Rights Forum
Chief organizer conference

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND INTERFAITH HARMONY Interfaith harmony embodies the notion of **live and let live**. In a world of increasing political and economic dissonance, peaceful coexistence among practitioners of various religious beliefs can prove to be the way forward for peace and prosperity. Strengthening interfaith harmony and religious diversity can be instrumental in the development and progress of Pakistan. Religion has played an important role in human history, and faith has influenced the minds and actions of individuals, societies and nations down the ages. The freedom of religion must then be construed liberally to include freedom of conscience, thought, expression, belief and faith. Freedom, individual autonomy and rationality characterize liberal democracies and the individual freedom thus; flowing from the freedom of religion must not be curtailed by attributing an interpretation of the right to religious belief and practice exclusively as freedom of the community. Religious Freedom in Pakistan; **Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah**, Founder of Pakistan's speech delivered on 11th August, 1947 gave full freedom to all minorities to have freedom to go to their worship places. I am very much thankful to Honorable. Arif Alvi President of Pakistan and Muhammad Imran Khan Niazi Prime Minister of Pakistan who are fulfilling the vision of Founder of Pakistan Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. **Constitution of Pakistan Article 20 of the Pakistani Constitution** guarantees freedom of religion. **Pakistan** is a signatory to the UN Charter of Human Rights. The government is under obligation to safeguard the fundamental rights of all minorities without discrimination based on religion, faith, or belief.

I am very happy we have arranged, **historical interfaith harmony and religious freedom conference** at Governor house Lahore and thankful to Mr. Chaudhary Muhammad Sarwar Governor of Punjab , Mr. Ijaz Alam Augustine Minister for human rights Minority affairs and interfaith harmony, Pir, Noor ul Haq Qadri Federal Minister Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony Govt of Pakistan, Mr. Ilyas Masih USA, Mr. Parvez Masih Canada, Father James Chanan, Bergd (R) Azam Effandi, International delegates member of IMRF specially thanks to Madam Naveed Anjum, Mr. Raza Shah President SPADO, Dr. Professor Qibla Ayaz Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology Pakistan, Mr. Sohail Ahmad Raza. Mr. Daniel James. Pakistani Media, Religious Scholars and Civil Society.

Importance of Interfaith harmony and Religious Freedom

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. Interfaith harmony encourages the dictum to live and let others live peacefully. Even though Pakistan was created based on the 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; Nevertheless, 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 1973). Interfaith harmony aims to the religious harmony in Pakistan (Shaukat, 2017). On one occasion Quaid-e-Azam narrated categorically the rights of minorities in Pakistan: “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)

Religious Freedom

Religion has played an important role in human history, and faith has influenced the minds and actions of individuals, societies and nations down the ages. By freedom of religion and belief is meant the right of a person to follow a doctrine or belief system which, in the view of those who profess it, provides spiritual satisfaction. However, it is impossible to define the term ‘religion’ in rigid terms. The freedom of religion must then be construed liberally to include freedom of conscience, thought, expression, belief and faith. Freedom, individual autonomy and rationality characterize liberal democracies and the individual freedoms thus flowing from the freedom of religion must not be curtailed by attributing an interpretation of the right to religious belief and practice exclusively as a community-based freedom. The freedom of religion and conscience has been protected in several treaties and declaration⁴. Article 18 of the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 provides as follows:-

“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 or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.”

List of foreign Participants for the International Interfaith Harmony and Religious Freedom Conference in Governor House Lahore

No	Contact Names	Country
1	Michael Shannon Crowe	USA
2	Knight Joseph Paul	USA
3	Shelvanayaki Gilmore	USA
4	Jocewich Parricia Mae	USA
5	Coleman Ramoa Gale	USA
6	Ho Li-Pen John	USA
7	ILyas Masih	USA
8	Isabelle Jones	Canada
9	Pervez Masih	Canada
10	JinWook Jung	South Korea
11	Rahmatullah Merzayee	Afghanistan
12	Haji Naeem Wardak	Afghanistan
13	Haji Shamshad Yawar	Afghanistan
14	Malik Amir (Maqi)	Saudia Arab
15	Malik Asad (Maqi)	Saudia Arab
16	Alizhan Akhmetov	Kazakhstan
17	Taalaibek Bektashev	Khrgyzstan
18	Shobha Shrestha	Nepal
19	Vidya Abhayagunawardena	Sri Lanka
20	Hafiz Safihnov	Azerbaijan
21	Bakhtiyor Begmuradov	Tajikistan
22	Mr.Edwin Thavaratnam Victor Marsden	Malaysia
23	Mr.Dorai Raju Arumugam	Malaysia
24	Mr Bee Ken NG	Malaysia
25	Mr.Kwang Dong Charles Chia	Malaysia
26	Professor Ma Qiang	China
27	Pro. Dr.Herman Robourgh	Australia



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International Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom Conference 2019 at Governor House Lahore



Bright Future Society and IMRF organized a historical International Conference on Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom 2019, at Governor House Punjab Lahore on 11/12th December 2019 with the collaboration of Ministry of Human Rights & Minority Affairs Interfaith Harmony Punjab, Council of Islamic Ideology Pakistan, United Christian Federation (UCF) Canada, All Neighbors USA, Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, National Council of Churches in Pakistan (NCCP), Minhaj ul Quran International, URI & Peace Center Pakistan, SPADO, SA Foundation For Women and Implementation Minority's Rights Forum Pakistan.

This wonderful event of 2 days conference was organized by the above mentioned esteemed organizations and was headed by Mr. Samuel Payara, Chairman (IMRF) & President Bright Future Society. The delegates from various countries such as United States of America, Canada, South Korea, China, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, Kirghizstan, Qaziqistan, Azerbaijan, Nepal, Pakistan and many religious scholars from different faith and sects, political leaders and social activists participated in the conference. This international Conference was inaugurated by Provincial Minister Ijaz Alam Augustine, Minister for Human Rights & Interfaith harmony Punjab on 11th December 2019 at 11:00 am in the Governor House Punjab Lahore. All the distinguish foreigner delegates were welcomed on the Chariots presenting them the fresh flowers bouquets.





The proceedings of the conference were initiated with the "National Anthem of Pakistan", followed by the Prayer said by Rev. Javed Gill Moderator Presbyterian Church Pakistan and recitation of the Holy Quran by Dr. Badar Munir.

A warm welcome address was delivered by the Honorable Minister Ijaz Alam Augustine, Minister for Human Rights & Interfaith Harmony Punjab. Rev. Fr. James Chanan gave a comprehensive introduction of the conference and shared the aims and objectives of this grand and historic event. He further said that through this Conference we are desirous to make a change globally by bringing the civilizations, religions and cultures on one st eliminate the distances, discrimination, hatred and persecution.



Welcome Address Ijaz Alam Augustine Minister Human Rights Minority's Affairs



Speech Dr.Fr. James Channan Director Peace Center

Mr. Javed Gill Advocate High Court said in his speech about the fundamental rights and Religious Freedom to the religious minorities according to the Constitution of Pakistan 1973. **Dr. Ruhiya Mufidi** a renowned Gynecologist and the representative of the Bahai Community in Pakistan beautifully shared the peaceful thought of Bahai religion.

Mr. Pervez Masih, the President UCF Canada said that he feels so privileged to speak on behalf of the two countries Pakistan and Canada. He said that Canada is called the Champion of the Human Rights in the world and the reason is that there is religious freedom and the basic human rights are guaranteed by the Government of Canada.

He further said, if the speech of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah delivered on 11th August 1947, which reflects the declaration of The Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), if these two prominent statement would be included in the school syllabus, then the name of Pakistan would be listed in those countries who are known as champion of human rights.

Mrs. Shelvanayaki Gilmore from USA shared a very impressive message. She said that we, the Christians are the followers of the Prince of Peace Lord Jesus Christ therefore; we should spread the message of peace in the world by respecting each other.

Mr. Kazim Raza Naqvi a representative from the Shia Community said that anybody who break the peace and slaughter the human beings is no more a human and neither, he belongs to any religion as the message of every religion is love and peace. Miss Isabelle Jones from Canada , said that whole world has become now a global village and to establish Interfaith Harmony and Religious Freedom each individual has to play his role.

Mufti Ashiq Hussain also shared from the life of the Holy Prophet as Muhammad (PBUH) he had been so good and diligent to the other religions for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was much known for his best doings and saying and Usswa- e- Hassna . Mr. Edwin Victor Marsden from Malaysia representing his country said that as the world has become a global village and all the human beings need to respect each other for establishing peace and interfaith harmony. It is important to respect others if someone likes to be respected from the others.

Mr. Jan woo Jang from South Korea shared a beautiful message on Peace and interfaith Harmony. He said without acknowledging others respect and status, we cannot bring peace and religious freedom. The nations who respect others faiths and religions have a better life.

Ms Shobha Shrestha from Nepal, said that all religions teach peace love and harmony but some people are breaking this law of nature for their own agendas. These people are enemies of the Interfaith harmony and religious freedom.

Mr. Knight Joseph Paul from United States of America while speaking in his speech shared a beautiful message given by Lord Jesus Christ. He said Jesus came upon this earth to eliminate discrimination and persecution. He preached for all and performed miracles without any distinct. He gave eyes to the blinds, ears to the deaf, healed the lepers raised the dead, he gave his precious life to save every man kind.



Pervez Masih - Canada



Javed Gill Adv. High Court Lahore Pakistan



Shelvanayaki Gilmore- USA



Knight Joseph Paul USA



Isabelle Jones Canada



Jin Wook Jung South Korea



Shobha Shrestha - Nepal



Pro. Dr. Herman Robourgh - Australia



Brg. ® Azam Effindi - Pakistan



Mr. Bee Ken NG - Malaysia



Mr. Kazim Raza Naqvi - Pakistan



Mufti Ashiq Hussain - Pakistan



**Rev. Samuel Titus Moderator
Church Rawalpindi Pakistan**



**Aftab Jahangir Federal Parliament
Secretary Religious Affairs & Interfaith
Harmony - Pakistan**



**Sunil Gulzar Information
Secretary IMRF**



Speech of Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar International Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom Conference 2019

Honorable Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar welcomed all the distinguish guests with open heart. He said that doors of the Governor House Punjab and hearts of the PTI Government are always opened for everyone. Our mission and vision is to establish a moderate and enlightened governance. The present government of PTI has given equal opportunities to every Citizen beyond religion, faith, color or creed.

The vision of Honorable Prime Minister Imran Khan is to establish Islamic State (Madina ki Riyasat) so that all religions may live in peace without any discrimination, persecution and miseries.

He further said that it will be much better if such conferences may be held across the world so that the distances amongst the nations may be lessen and the world may become a better place to live in.

On behalf of the host organizations Mr. Samuel Payara President Bright Future Society and Chairman IMRF thanked to all the distinguish guests and participants to attend this historical conference. After the Conference the foreign delegates were taken to flags ceremony at the Wagah border Lahore, to attend the flag hosting parade ceremony, Kings Mosque Lahore, Kartaarpur Corridor and Supreme Court of Pakistan.





International Delegation visited Wahga Border - Pakistan



International Delegation visited Badshahi Mosque Lahore - Pakistan



International Delegation visited Kartar Pur Rahdari - Pakistan



International Delegation visited Supreme Court of Pakistan

On 12th December 2019

2nd day of Conference organized in Darbar hall of Governor House

The second day of the International Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom Conference 2019 was started at 3:00 pm under the presidium of Respected Dr. Qibla Ayaz Chairman Islamic Ideology Council Pakistan. The Meeting was initiated with National Anthem followed by the Prayer said by Rev. Javed Gill. Moderator Presbyterian Church of Pakistan and recitation of Holy Quran by Dr. Badar Munir.

Mr. Samuel Payara President Bright Future Society and Chairman IMRF delivered the welcome address and **Mr. Nadeem Ahmed Qadri** Director Nawa-e-Waqt Group gave a very comprehensive speech on Interfaith Harmony. He said that the major number of population upon planet Earth is of the followers of divine religions i.e. Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The faith of Islam is not completed if every follower of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) believes Lord Jesus Christ. He further said God is called Rabb Ul Almeen and Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is called Rehmat Ul Almeen which means that God is the God of every creature and Holy Prophet has been sent in this world to be the Blessing for all human beings. Mr. Qadri said that in the time of Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) there was no discrimination on the basis of faith rather the inhabitants of other faiths than of Islam were more benefitted and their rights were more guaranteed by the Prophet. He added that once a delegation of Christians from Najran came to meet the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Prophet gave them a very warm welcome and accommodated them in Masjid-e-Nabvi,



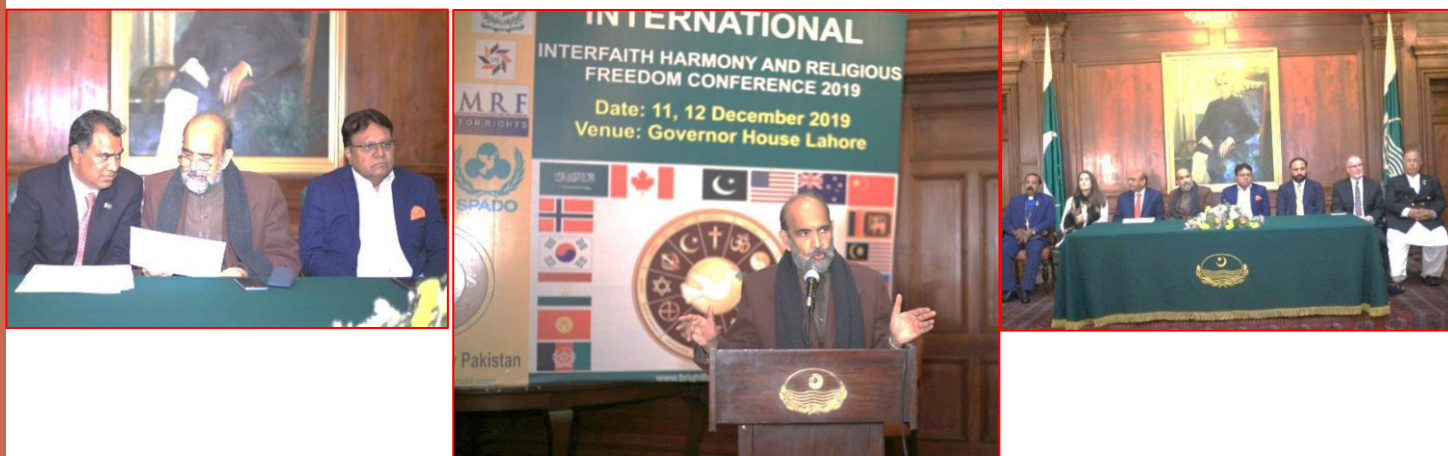
The conduct of

Islam is very pitiable, sophisticated and kind to the people living in their estates. Mr. Qadri appreciated the organizers of the International Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom Conference 2019 and said that we all must take such initiatives to organize such forums, seminars and conferences to bring closer the people of different religions, cultures, sects, faiths and countries as well.

Mr. Ilyas Masih Vice President All Neighbors, from USA said that this International Conference on Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom is the need of the Era. This should be the prime duty of every participant and delegate from other countries to contribute for establishing Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom in one's own capacity so, that peace may prevail in the world. He further said the peace process is not difficult if we accept each other and respect each other but the same process is much difficult when we create troubles, nuisance, nourish, hatred, revenge, envy and jealousy and the spirit of negative approaches.

The Presidential address was given by the valued Dr. Qibla Ayaz Chairman Islamic Ideology Council Pakistan

Mr. Chairman unfolded many hidden parts in which the Islam is known as an enlightened and a modern religion paying respect and value to every citizen living under their Governorship, he said that the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) gave a complete code of life to his followers and taught them to guarantee the rights of the minorities so, that no minority living in the Islamic estates feel insecure, discriminated, persecuted and unsafe. He said that the present Government has a vision of moderate state (Madina ki Riyasat). He quoted a very landmark judgment passed by the Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan on 19th June 2014 in which the Honorable Court has pronounced that the rights awarded by the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 be assured and given to the religious minorities on the first disposal. He further said that all human beings are sons of Adam, religion, color and creed do not matter, we need to bring peace and harmony on this planet with our practice and actions.



Mr. Chairman appreciated and congratulated the organizers of this auspicious event “International Conference on Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom” for this successful conference. He thanked the delegates from all over the world and further expected that this meaningful message shall go with each worthy and distinguish guest and one day we will feel

joy and happiness when the delegates from different countries shall also call us to participate in such conference in their own countries. I once again congratulate Mr. Samuel Payara and all the rest organizers for this excellent step taken for the esteem, prestige and respect for all human beings.

Before the conference comes to an end, The Certificates award ceremony was sermonized in which the certificates for part taking in the conference were delivered to the participant by the Honorable Mr. Ejaz Alam Augustine Minister for Human Rights & Minorities Affairs.

After the conference the delegates and distinguish guests went to the Press Club Lahore where they delivered a Press Conference on International Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom Conference 2019



Dr. Badar Munir - PaK



Rev. Javed Gill Moderator PCP -



Dr. Ruhiya Mufidi - PaK



Mr. Ilyas Maish - USA



Mr. Pervez Masih - Canada



Col. Ret. Nadeem Ahmad Qadri - PaK



DECLARATION OF

INTERNATIONAL INTERFAITH HARMONY & RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM CONFERENCE 2019

AT GOVERNOR HOUSE LAHORE - PAKISTAN

DECLARATION OF CONFERENCE 2019

(1) We, the participants of the International Conference on Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom 2019 declare that the different declarations of

The Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ)

Between The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) and the Christians be made part of the syllabus and promoted globally, unanimously ask the

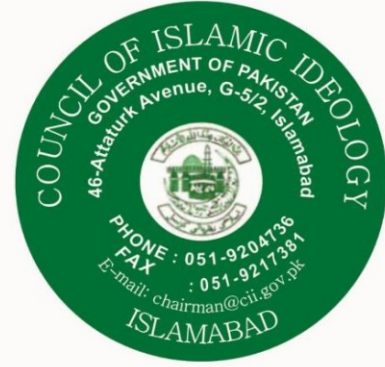
Government of Pakistan and all provinces to please make sure all the fundamental rights pronounced by the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) to all the religious minorities to ensure the Interfaith Harmony & Religious Freedom.



(2) We also condemn the Bill (**Citizenship Amendment Act**) passed by the Indian Parliament (Moodi Sarkar) against the Muslims and other religious minorities




From The Chairman's Desk



TREATIES OF PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) WITH THE CHRISTIANS OF THE ERA OF PROPHET (PBUH)

- 1) Najran and its outskirts have the protection of Lord (Allah) and the pledge of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to protect their faith, lives, land of those who are absent or present, and their clans, churches and property.
- 2) No political and religious leader and kahin shall be removed from his position.
- 3) They will not be held accountable for act of killing committed before Islam.
- 4) They are not required to take part in wars neither shall usher be levied on them.
- 5) No army shall trespass their land.
- 6) If any of them requests for a right due to him, justice shall be administered among the community.
- 7) He who commits transaction of usury among the family is not under my protection.
- 8) No person is answerable for an injustice committed by another.
- 9) Peace for the Christians is their right bestowed upon them by Lord (Allah), His Prophet (PBUH) and all the Muslims and it is also obligatory on each Muslim to fulfill the promise.
- 10) We shall protect them and shelter them in any odd situation.
- 11) There shall be no interference in the affairs of their churches and they will not be converted into mosques (masajid).
- 12) I am responsible for the protection of those who are part of the treaty, religious groups, their creeds and religious beliefs.
- 13) No Christian will be converted to Islam by force and they will be dealt with compassion during religious discourse.
- 14) This permanent written covenant binds all believers; Head of state and others to act upon it in totality. It is indispensable for the fulfillment of the promises made with the Christians.
- 15) I emphasize upon Muslims, Governors, and Non-Muslims not to harm the Christians and honor this agreement.


QIBLA AYAZ
Chairman
Council of Islamic Ideology
Government of Pakistan
Islamabad
12/12/19



عہد رسالت کے مسیحیوں کے لئے رسول اکرم حضرت محمد ﷺ کے مختلف معاہدات

- ۱- نجران اور اس کے اطراف کے حلیف مسیحی لوگوں کے مال، جان، ملت، ان کے سب حاضر و غائب لوگ، قبیلے، گرجا گھر اور تھوڑا اور زیادہ مال جو کچھ ان کے قبضے میں ہے۔ وہ سب اللہ تعالیٰ کے عہد و امان اور محمد ﷺ جو کہ نبی اور اللہ کے رسول ہیں، اس کے ذمہ میں ہیں۔
- ۲- ان کے سیاسی و مذہبی پیشواؤں اور کاہنوں میں سے کسی کو تبدیل نہیں کیا جائے گا۔
- ۳- وہ قبل از اسلام کے قتل کے مواخذے سے بری ہوں گے۔
- ۴- ان کو فوجی خدمات کا پابند نہیں کیا جائے گا، اور نہ ہی ان سے عشر وصول کیا جائے گا۔
- ۵- ان کی زمینوں پر لشکر کشی نہیں کی جائے گی۔
- ۶- ان میں سے جو حق مانگے گا تو ظلم و تقصیر کے بغیر ان کے درمیان انصاف والا معاملہ کیا جائے گا۔
- ۷- ان میں سے جو شخص اپنے خاندان سے سود لے وہ ہماری ذمہ داری سے محروم ہے۔
- ۸- کسی فرد کو دوسرے شخص کے ظلم (جرم) کے بدلے گرفتار نہیں کیا جائے گا۔
- ۹- مسیحیوں کے لئے خدا، رسول اور مومنین کی طرف سے امن وہی ان کا حق ہے اور ہر مسلمان پر اس کا پورا کرنا اور اس عہد کو نبھانا ضروری ہے۔
- ۱۰- ہم ہر مصیبت میں ان کے ساتھ ہوں گے اور ان پر کوئی مصیبت پڑنے نہیں دیں گے۔
- ۱۱- ان کی عبادت گاہوں میں مداخلت نہیں کروں گا اور نہ انہیں مساجد میں تبدیل کروں گا۔
- ۱۲- ان معاہدین اور ان کے ہم مشرب گروہ کے عقائد اور مذہبی رسوم کے تحفظ کی ذمہ داری میری ہے۔
- ۱۳- کسی مسیحی کو مسلمان ہونے پر مجبور نہیں کیا جائے گا، نیز ان سے مذہبی گفتگو میں احسن طریقے سے پیش آیا جائے گا۔
- ۱۴- میری طرف سے یہ ایسا معاہدہ ہے کہ ہر مسلم و مومن پر واجب ہے۔ میں نے ان کے لئے دائمی وثیقہ لکھ دیا ہے۔ مسلمان سربراہ مملکت اور غیر سربراہ مملکت کے لئے اس وثیقہ کا نفاذ ضروری ہے تاکہ مسیحیوں سے کئے ہوئے وعدوں اور میری طرف سے ان کے لئے منظور شدہ امان مسلم ہو سکے
- ۱۵- میں مسلمانوں، شاہی گورنروں اور کافروں کو تاکید کرتا ہوں کہ وہ مسیحیوں کو تکلیف نہ پہنچائیں اور اس وثیقہ کے نفاذ کے خیال رکھیں۔

(مجموعۃ الوثائق السیاسة للعهد النبوی و الخلافة الراشدة، مصنف: ڈاکٹر محمد حمید اللہ)

محمد بن عبد اللہ
رئيس مجلس
العلماء
۱۴۴۱ھ



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