

# *Interfaith Christmas Celebration Ceremony by PCSW&HR at Holy Trinity Church Sialkot Cantt*



*Pakistan Council for Socila Welfare & Human Rights*

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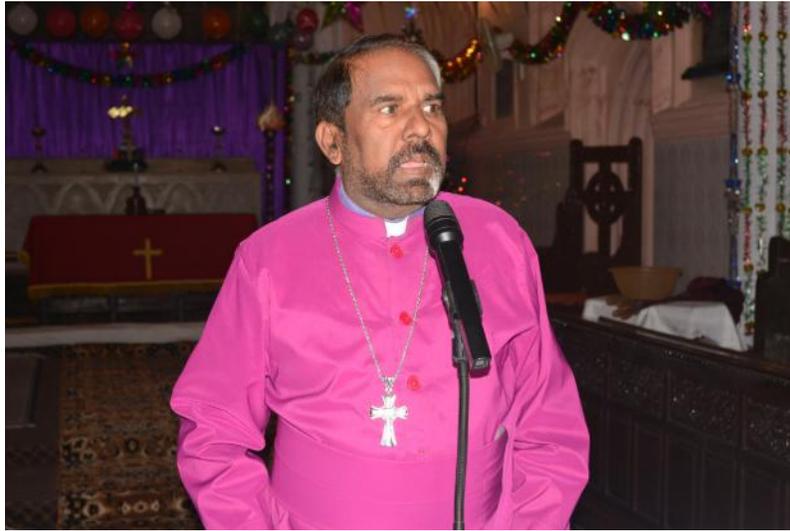
On the Eve of Christmas Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights organized the Interfaith Christmas celebration ceremony at historical Central Holy Trinity Church Sialkot Cantt with the collaboration of Dioceses of Sialkot. It was unique celebration where the Muslim leadership from different quarters of life like politics, civil society, cooperate circle, religious leadership collectively went to the Church to extend their greetings, solidarity and unity with the Christian community under the leadership of The Mayor of Sialkot Mr. Toheed Akhter, Member Provincial Assembly Punjab Ch. Muhammad Akram, Chairman Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori, Vice Chairman Sialkot Cantonment Board Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Qadri, Ex-member Punjab Assembly Mr. Tahir Mehmood Hundli Advocate, Famous religious Scholar Allama Syed Sibtul Hassan Naqvi, Executive Members of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry Ch. Muhammad Ijaz, Executive Director PCSW&HR Mr. Mansoor Ahmed, Mr. Waseem Akram. Sikh Religious Leader Sardar Jaskaran Singh represented the Sikh community in the interfaith Christmas celebration ceremony. The Muslim leadership was warmly received by the Bishop of Sialkot Rt. Rev. Alwin Samuel, Pastor Rev. Shefan, Elder Emanuel, Elder Charles Garden, Chairman Christian Union Mr. Emmanuel Gill, Mr. Riaz Bhatti and other prominent religious and social leaders of local Christian community.



Muslim, Christian and Sikh leadership during the interfaith Christmas Cerebration Ceremony

While taking during the inter religious harmony ceremony the Bishop of Sialkot Rt. Rev. Alwin Samuel once again warmly welcomed to all participants of ceremony especially their Muslims guests. He said that perhaps it is once again unique time in the history of Sialkot that Muslims leaders come to Church to extend their Christmas greetings this showed a great gesture of religious and social tolerance as well as interfaith harmony and national spirit. He specially thanked to PCSW&HR Chairman Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori for organizing this ceremony with the collaboration of Diocese of Sialkot. He also thanked to Mayor of Sialkot City, Member Punjab Provincial Assembly Ch. Muhammad Akram, Ex-Member Punjab Assembly Ch. Tahir Mehmood Hundli, Allama Sitbul Hassan Naqvi and Sikh Leader Sardar Jaskaran Singh and also other people to participate in the inter religious ceremony. Bishop of Sialkot Rt. Rev. Alwin Samuel also said that by participating in each other religious festivals cheers we may make

Pakistan stronger and peaceful as per the vision of founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.



Bishop of Sialkot Rt. Rev Alwin Samuel addressing during the Christmas Celebration Ceremony

The Bishop of Sialkot also said I believe that we both Christians and Muslims must recognize with joy the religious values of each others that we have in common, and give thanks to God for them. Both of us believe in one God, the only God, who is all justice and all mercy; we believe in the importance of prayer, of fasting, almsgiving, of repentance and of pardon; we believe that God will be a merciful judge to us all at the end of time, and we hope that after the resurrection He will be satisfied with us and we know that we will be satisfied with him. We should recognize and respect our differences. “Those are the important differences which we can accept with humility and respect, in mutual tolerance; this is a mystery about which, I am certain, God will one day enlighten us. He further added I believe that today, God invites us to change our old practices. We must respect each other, and we must stimulate each other in good works on the path of God.

Addressing during the ceremony the Famous Religious Leader Allama Sibtul Hassan Naqvi said that Islam has no space for extremism, fundamentalism or obscurantism and those who happen to be extremists are in fact unaware of the real spirit of Islam. Allah Almighty has not created any contraction in religion. Islam is religion of peace & love and orders to respect the all religions and human kind.

Allama quoted the saying of the Holy Prophet ﷺ that Islam creates ease and does not pave way for difficulties. The Prophet ﷺ said in Sahih Bukhari, when you preach religion, create easiness and do not create difficulties and contraction. Convey the message and invitation to people in such a manner that they get glad tidings, feel openness within themselves lest they should adopt hatred and run away from Islam. Islam not only condemns conservative approach but also ordains us to root it out. The approach of the Holy Prophet ﷺ was open, frank and accommodating



Allama Sibtuul Hassan Naqvi addressing during the Christmas Celebration Ceremony

He also added that to believe in all Prophets of God is essential part of our faith. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was always very respectful towards the Christians. According to Islamic historians, Ibn e Saad and Ibn e Hisham, once there was a delegation of Byzantine Christians, who were traveling from Yemen to Madinah. The delegation was lead by a bishop by the name of Zqyd al-Usquf, who came to discuss a number of issues with Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. When the time of their prayer came, they asked the Prophet if they could do their worship in the mosque of the Prophet. He answered, “Conduct your service here in the mosque. It is a place dedicated to God.” Allama Sibtuul Hassan Naqvi extends his Christmas greetings to all Christians residing here in Sialkot and Pakistan.

Addressing during the ceremony Chairman PCSW&HR Muhammad Ijaz Noori said that need for interfaith dialogue and harmony cannot be greater and more acute than it is today. The international community will have to take the initiative to restructure their mutual relations on the sure foundations of respect and supreme humanitarian values with utmost honest and sincerity and respect for religions and holy personages associated with them should be a central plan in bilateral and multilateral relations.



Chairman PCSW&HR Mr. Muhammad Ijaz Noori addressing during the Christmas Celebration Ceremony

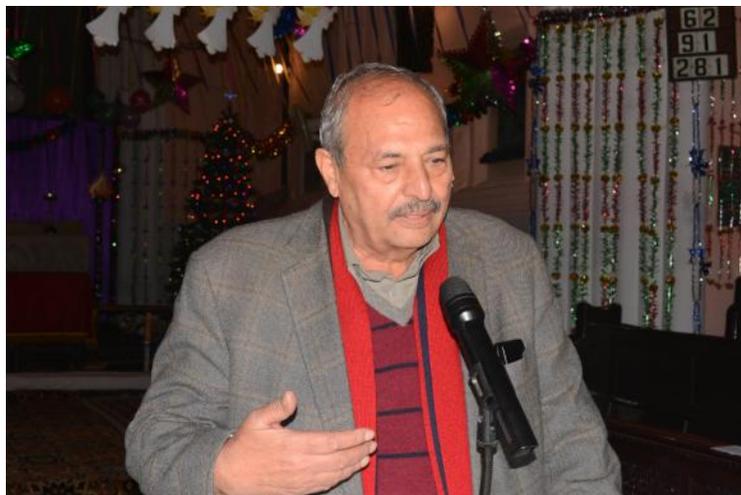
He said that PCSW&HR has not only accepted the importance of interfaith dialogue but also adopted it as an important tool for promotion of brotherhood and establishment of durable peace. The Islamic faith, being a religion of peace, is characterized by the teachings of respect of humanity and its promotion without any discrimination. Islamic history is replete with countless examples where fundamental rights of people of every segment and faith were protected over and above any discrimination of caste, color, creed, race, language and culture. It is about time that dialogue is initiated to ward off any possibility of clash of civilizations aimed at making this world hub of peace, love and justice and open-ended right to freedom of expression is regulated under the accepted international values and laws.

Mr. Noori further said that role of Christians in establishment of Pakistan and its development must be acknowledged as the sacrifices offered by them were not less than that of Muslims. He said that today is a historic day for Pakistan and all its communities. He also said that Christians are Pakistanis as Muslims, and deserve equal rights as guaranteed in the Constitution of Pakistan as well as Islamic teachings. He also demanded immediate removal of sense of insecurity among the minorities, elimination of discrimination, provision of fundamental rights and an improvement in the status of human rights, provided to all communities of Pakistan.

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Mr. Noori also condemned the terrorist attack on the Quetta Church and said that we will defeat the extremists and terrorists with our national unity and religious harmony and we will collectively support our law enforcement agencies to eliminate this evil.

While addressing during the ceremony Member Punjab Provincial Assembly Ch. Muhammad Akram thanked to Pakistan Council for Social Welfare & Human Rights and Dioceses of Sialkot to provide him such a great opportunity to attend this splendid ceremony which is unique example for interfaith harmony and really this is proud for me to participate in this celebration.



Ch. Muhammad Akram MPA addressing during the Christmas Celebration Ceremony

He said that interfaith harmony and intercultural alliance is essential for the eradication of terrorism & Extremism, real democracy, justice, peace and sustainable human development in Pakistan. He added that for the eradication of poverty, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) and to make Pakistan strengthen the promotion of interfaith harmony is essential.

While addressing during the ceremony The Mayor of Sialkot Ch. Touheed Akhter said that as Mayor of Sialkot it is great stratification for me that the people of different religions are living together here in Sialkot in very friendly and cooperative atmosphere. He added that religious harmony will only work for the betterment of humankind. Islam emphasizes on the dialogues and stands against any kind of discriminations, so in every respect, we should welcome all possible dialogical openings and we should advocate peaceful negotiations in times of unfortunate clashes. It would be a good gesture if religions could collectively involve in serving the humanity. The Mayor suggested that it would be good if we have a national network of religious leaders committed to the ideal of religious and communal harmony. This body could be vigilant about the communal tensions in various part of the country. The body should take initiatives in organizing meetings of religious leaders in those localities where unfortunate conflict arise. It should aim in stopping any possible outbreaks of conflicts and fights. We could make the body a religious philanthropic panel, which has regional operations too. Volunteers could be promoted in spreading the good news of cooperation and harmony.



Mayor of Sialkot Ch. Touheed Akhter addressing during the Christmas Celebration Ceremony

During the ceremony the Muslims, Christians and Sikh leaders cut the Christmas cake, present the cake to each other's and extends the Christmas greetings. During the ceremony the all participants raised their hands in chain to express the National and Religious harmony and unity



A view cake cutting during the Interfaith Christmas celebration ceremony



Christian, Muslim and Sikh Leadership raising their hands in chain to show national solidarity and unity



A group photo of Christian, Muslim and Sikh Leadership during the Interfaith Christmas Celebration ceremony



ہمیں بھی پاکستان کی آئی و فار  
 ہیں جتنے مسلمان پاکستانی پاکستان کی ایک قومیت کا  
 نہیں بلکہ سب پاکستانوں کا ہے اور مصیبت پاکستانی مسلم  
 سبھی ہو، ہندو برادر کے شہری ہیں ان خیالات کا اظہار  
 پاکستان کونسل فار سوشل و پیئر ایڈیٹریون رائٹس کے زیر  
 اہتمام سیاکوٹ کینٹ میں واقع جارجی ہوئی ٹوٹتی  
 کیسٹریڈول چرچ میں منعقد بین الاقوامی سیمینار کرسٹم  
 سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے سیکرٹری کارپوریشن سیاکوٹ کے  
 میئر قوجہ اختر چوہدری، رکن مہتاب آہلی چوہدری محمد  
 آکر، ایڈیٹریون سیاکوٹ ایڈیٹریون سیمینار، پاکستان کونسل  
 فار سوشل و پیئر ایڈیٹریون رائٹس کے چیئر مین عمر اچاز  
 قوری، ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر منصور احمد، کونسل بورڈ کے  
 وائس چیرمین عالی مقامی امجد قادری، سابق ممبر پنجاب  
 اسمبلی چوہدری طاہر محمود بھٹی ایڈووکیٹ، مرکزی امام  
 بارگاہ مسیحی عیالہ کے خطاب اور ممتاز عالم دین علامہ  
 سید سید اہسن نقوی، مرکزی کنگہ گوردوارہ ہاؤس چوری کے  
 مہتمم سردار چنگرل سنگھ، ایمان صنعت و تجارت  
 سیاکوٹ کی ایگزیکٹو کونسل کے رکن چوہدری محمد اچاز، چوہدری  
 سلطان ممتاز سنی، رہنما اور پاکستان کونسل کے چیئر مین نے خطاب کر کے  
 مہتمم سیکرٹری اور دیگر مہتممین نے خطاب کیا۔ اس موقع پر  
 مسلمان سنی رہنماؤں نے ہاتھوں میں ہاتھ ڈال کر مذہبی  
 رواداری اور ترقی و اتحاد کا مظاہرہ کیا اور مشترکہ طور پر کرسٹم  
 ایکٹ کا اظہار میں ممتاز سنی، مسلمان سنی و سیاحی  
 رہنماؤں صنعت کاروں اور مول سماجی کے نمایندوں  
 نے بڑی تعداد میں شرکت کی۔ مہتممین نے مزید کہا کہ  
 پاکستانی قوم کے اتحاد نے وہیبت گروہوں اور اچانچندوں  
 کے مزاحمت کو ختم کیا ہے۔ اور کونڈ میں دستخط کر  
 کر کے سنی قوم میں خوف اور پاکستانوں میں تفریق  
 ڈالنے کی سازش با کام ہوئی ہے اور تمام مذاہب کے لوگوں  
 نے اس جارحی چرچ میں کرسٹم کی تقریب میں شرکت کر  
 کے ثابت کر دیا ہے کہ دستخط دہاری قومیں کو پال نہیں  
 کر سکتے۔ چوہدری پاکستانی قوم اور سنیوں اور سنی ترقی  
 کیلئے کی قربانی سے درخشاں نہیں کریں گے

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# دھرتی

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پاکستان کی ترقی، استحکام کیلئے اقلیتوں کا کردار اہم ہے، اعجاز زوری  
 پاکستان میں مسلم، سنی، سکھ، ہندو برادر کے شہری ہیں، چیئر مین پاکستان کونسل  
 سیاکوٹ (چرنی ٹاؤن) قیام پاکستان سے  
 سے مذہبی اقلیتوں سمیت ساری قوم کا کردار ملتا ہے  
 لکھنؤ پاکستان کی ترقی و استحکام اور خوشحالی کے حوالے اور پاکستان کی مذہبی (جیت) 26 اگست 2017

کے لیے ہیں  
 (رب القرآن)

# روزنامہ اشراق انٹرنیشنل لاہور

DAILY ASH-SHARQ  
 INTERNATIONAL LAHORE

پیر 6 اگست 2017ء نمبر 1439ء 25:00 11:00 2017ء 2074ء پ



سیاکوٹ: پاکستان کونسل فار سوشل و پیئر ایڈیٹریون رائٹس کے زیر اہتمام جارحی مقامی چرچ میں منعقد بین الاقوامی سیمینار کرسٹم سے سیاکوٹ کے  
 میئر قوجہ اختر چوہدری اور دیگر ہاتھوں میں ہاتھ ڈال کر ترقی و اتحاد کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہیں۔



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