

WORLD RELIGION DAY 2021 COMMEMORATED IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Theme: The Golden Rule - Treating others as we ourselves wish to be treated.

The inaugural and intimate inter-faith devotional gathering amongst religious leaders and representatives in Papua New Guinea, with the sincere intention of promoting unity, respect, peace and harmony in our diverse country for the well-being of all our people.

Supported by:



Islamic Society of
Papua New Guinea



Cardinal of
Papua New Guinea



Interfaith Initiative
Papua New Guinea



PNG Council of
Churches



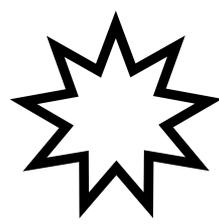
Evangelical
Alliance Papua
New Guinea



Hindu Community
Papua New Guinea



Catholic Bishops'
Conference



Baha'i Community
Papua New Guinea



Archdiocese of
Port Moresby



Buddhist
Community
Papua New Guinea

CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

World Religion Day is celebrated around the globe in over 80 countries to foster inter-faith understanding and harmony amongst diverse people and beliefs, focusing on the common moral principles underlying all religious teachings and exploring the role of religion in society.

During the planning for World Religion Day 2021 spanning several consultations amongst numerous religious leaders and elders from the PNG Council of Churches, the Evangelical Alliance, the Islamic Society, the Office of External Affairs for the Baha'is of PNG and other minority faiths including Buddhist, Hindu and Jewish representatives; a genuine and sincere collective desire highlighted throughout discussions was the need for unity, peace and mutual respect to be nurtured amongst all faith-communities as important attributes for the prosperity and well-being of all our diverse people.

Representatives from the Department of Community Development, Youth and Religion were also invited and attended as essential observers during collective consultations which were hosted at the Port Moresby Archdiocese Chancery.

For the inaugural national-level gathering, many genuine concerns had to be considered and carefully addressed during planning to preserve the spirit of cordial collaboration, including the mutual understanding that no sermons would be offered by any representative during the program, but instead to focus the program on reading selected Sacred Scriptures or passages from the Holy Books/Texts (relating to the theme) by each faith representative.

It is our sincere hope that World Religion Day will continue to evolve as an annual space where all faith representatives and denominations are welcome to participate and collectively learn how we can walk together, shoulder-to-shoulder in building the spirit of unity, harmony and peace for the well-being of our diverse community.

Our sincerest gratitude and acknowledgement of the early support and encouragement of this gathering by Cardinal, Sir John Ribat, the General Secretary of the PNG Council of Churches Reverend Roger Joseph and other significant faith representatives without which, this endeavour would not have proceeded.

THE GATHERING SPACE

Held on 18 January 2021 at Port Moresby Nature Park Central Lawn, World Religion Day 2021 was commemorated by several religious leaders and faith-representatives with the theme focusing on The Golden Rule: Treating others as we, ourselves, would wish to be treated.

Readings from Holy Scriptures/Text were shared by Cardinal, Sir John Ribat (Catholic Church), Bishop Gundu Kagl (Lutheran Church), Bishop Jacob Harry (United Church), Pastor Tau Kove (President, Central Papua Conference, Seventh Day Adventist), Kini Kila (Evangelical Alliance), Imam Ahmed Deedat John Barre (Islamic Society), Fermi Wu (Buddhist Representative), N. V. Kalyanaraman (Hindu Representative), Gezina Volmer, Director of Office of External Affairs (Baha'i Representative) and Meriba-May Igara (Christian Community).

The devotional program was followed by light refreshments and the opportunity to intermingle characterised by the spirit of friendship, respect and unity.

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