

COUNSELLING NEWSLETTER

In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

TOLERANCE

WHAT IS TOLERANCE?

The ability or willingness to tolerate the opinions or behaviors which are different from us.



IMPORTANCE OF TOLERANCE:

Tolerance is needed in all walks of life. It plays a vital role to establish peace and love in the society. Tolerance is not only accepting other people's opinions, beliefs and behaviors but also respecting and understanding the beliefs that may seem very strange to us, unknown for us or we cannot agree with.



TO BE TOLERANT MEANS TO ACCEPT DIVERSITY:

Different Appearance:

Different Opinions:

Different Beliefs:

Different Traditions:

Different Cultures:



Direct From Counsellor's Office:

Workshop was conducted on the topic "Appreciating Differences" for the boys and girls of grades 7th 8th and 9th on 16th September. In the workshop students were told about the importance of tolerance. Workshop also involved an activity in which students of different Nationalities were called on the stage and told to shake hands and hug to show solidarity, peace and tolerance.

TOLERANCE AND ISLAM

Tolerance is the basic principle of Islam. It is a religious duty. Islam teaches tolerance on all levels: individual, groups and states. Tolerance is the mechanism that supports human rights and the rule of law.

The Qur'an says very clearly: **(To every People have We appointed rites and ceremonies which they must follow, let them not then dispute with you on the matter, but do invite (them) to your Lord: for you are assuredly on the Right Way. If they do wrangle with you, say, 'God knows best what it is you are doing.' 'God will judge between you on the Day of Judgment concerning the matters in which you differ')** (Al-Hajj 21:76-69).

Tolerance does not mean "concession, arrogance or sympathy. It is not tolerating the things that one does not care about. Tolerance according to Islam does not mean starting believing that all the religions are equal. It does not mean that we do not believe in the hegemony of Islam over other faiths and ideologies. It does not mean that we do not deliver the message of Islam to others and do not wish them to become Muslims

The Qur'an speaks about the self-esteem of all human beings. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) spoke about the equality of all human beings, irrespective of their race, color, language or cultural background. Sharia recognizes the rights of all people to life, property, family, honor and morality.

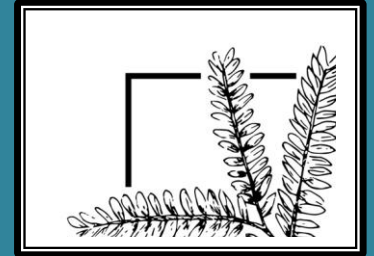
Islam emphasizes on the establishment of equality and justice, both of these values cannot be established without tolerance. Islam recognized the principle of freedom of belief or freedom of religion. It does not allow any pressure in the matters of faith and belief. The Qur'an says, **(There is no compulsion in religion)** (Al-Baqarah 2:256).

If in the matters of religion, compulsion is not acceptable, then by implication we can say that in other matters of cultures and other worldly practices it is also not acceptable. In *Surat Ash-Shura* Allah says to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), **(If then they turn away, We have not sent you as a guard over them. Your duty is but to convey (the Message)...)** (Ash-Shura 42:48). In another place Allah says, **(Invite (all) to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious. Your Lord knows best, who have strayed from His Path, and who receive guidance)** (An-Nahl 16:125).

All these verses give note that Muslims do not coerce people; they must present the message to them in the most cogent and clear way, invite them to the truth and do their best in presenting and conveying the message of God to humanity, but it is up to people to accept or not to accept. Allah says, **(And say, 'The truth is from your Lord, so whosoever wants let him believe and whosoever wants let him deny')** (An-Nahl 16:29).

2019, THE YEAR OF TOLERANCE

On 15 December 2018, H. H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed declared 2019 as the Year of Tolerance. The announcement aims at highlighting the UAE as a global capital for tolerance and its approach, since its establishment, to be a bridge of communication between peoples of different cultures in a respectful environment that rejects radicalism and stresses on the acceptance of the other.



The Year of Tolerance is based on five main pillars:

- *to deepen the values of tolerance and co-existence among cultures by teaching the youth the values of tolerance*
- *to solidify the UAE as the global capital for tolerance through a series of initiatives, projects and dialogues between various cultures and civilisations*
- *to implement multiple cultural programs and make contributions to build tolerant communities*
- *to focus on legislative and policy-oriented objectives that contribute to mandating cultural and religious tolerance via dialogue*
- *to promote tolerance through targeted media initiatives and projects.*

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Supreme National Committee of the 'Year of Tolerance' said,

"Tolerance is a rooted value in our society and today it became an institutional work that needs rally everyone's efforts to enhance the country's pioneering role as a global capital of tolerance."

Tolerance was a key pillar of Shaikh Zayed's thought, and it was at the heart of his philosophy for life and governance. He established a pioneering model for tolerance that guaranteed the cohesion and strength of UAE society.

"It is our duty, and the duty of the whole of society, to forgive the sinner and help him return to the right path. Allah, the Almighty, is forgiving, so can we not forgive"?

- Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan