

Interreligious Dialogue.

Report on Women's Interfaith dialogue Talanoa session.

Theme: "Sharing Our Faith with Other Religions"

On 29 August 2026, a Women's Interfaith Dialogue Session on the theme "Sharing Our Faith with other Religions" was organized at the Bahá'í Faith office space in Suva. The program began with opening remarks by the Interreligious dialogue coordinator Ms. Pescila Magdalin setting a respectful and welcoming tone at the gathering of Hindus, Muslims and Christian faiths. An opening prayer was led by Ms. Kesaia and members from the Bahai faith who were also part of the women's program.

Sainiana Tamatawale also worked alongside me on the event day and I was very grateful to have her. Sainiana led the dialogue session where participants introduced themselves, shared the faith organization they represented, and expressed one hope for the dialogue. This helped participants understand the diversity represented in the room and created an opportunity for everyone to share their expectations for the session. Each faith community was then invited to share about its faith tradition, culture, and practices. Participants used storytelling, personal experiences, reflections, and learnings to explain what was important to them. Each group shared one teaching which was very common "to respect, love all and serve all" from their faith that promotes peace, compassion, and unity.

Ms. Pescila Magdalin led the quiet reflection session on a minute of silence was observed during the program, providing an opportunity for contemplation. The questions and discussions by the members on the different faith teachings were conducted in a very respectful and polite manner, demonstrating the willingness of participants to listen to and understand perspectives different from their own.

An important part of the gathering was the community sharing initiative. Participants brought grocery and clothe items that were collected and shared with a group of vulnerable students. Only one person from the group had come to receive the items on their behalf who was also present at the gathering. This activity provided a practical expression of the values discussed during the dialogue, particularly compassion, generosity, service, and care for others. Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to come together and learn from different faith communities and space to establish new relationships and strengthen connection. The program concluded with refreshments and fellowship made the session both informative and meaningful.



THE different faith communities showed a strong interest in strengthening relationships and promoting peaceful coexistence. The combination of dialogue, reflection, community sharing, and fellowship made the session both informative and meaningful.



Sharing our Faith and values - working together to promote peace, compassion, friendship, and unity within the community. Opportunities for participants to deepen their relationships and undertake further joint community service and peace-building activities.



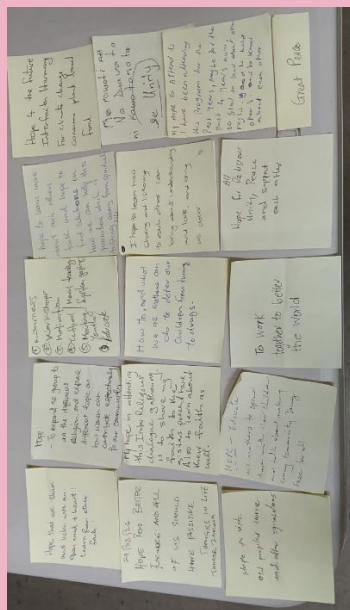
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The members are enjoying the opportunity to share their faith and learn from others in a respectful and friendly environment and expressed one hope for the dialogue.



The sharing of grocery items/clothes received by a student (on behalf of the group of students) demonstrated practical solidarity and compassion.



Pescila Magdalin
Columban IRD Coordinator.

Positive atmosphere for dialogue:
Participants were able to ask questions
and share experiences in a safe and
respectful environment. Shared values of
hope identified and recognized common
values such as peace, compassion, unity,
service, kindness, and care for others.