

## MEDIA RELEASE

### *Thanksgiving Interfaith Celebrations*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 22, 2017

Sikh Sangat of Canada (SSoC) will host two Thanksgiving interfaith and prayer services, partnering with various faith groups and organizations to collectively express gratitude and appreciation for all of life's blessings.

#### **Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service & Celebration – MICHIGAN, U.S.A.**

Partnering with Kaufman Interfaith Institute, various faith groups have been invited to offer prayer and reflection as a community as they express gratitude for all that we have been blessed with.

**When:** Monday November 20th, 2017 | 7 p.m.

**Where:** Trinity Lutheran Church, 2700 E Fulton, Grands Rapids, Michigan, USA

The evening will begin with a tour of the church, along with community reflection led by Fred Keller, community leader in the Michigan area, and a presentation by Simer Singh of the Sikh faith. Donations will also be collected for Family Promise of Grand Rapids.

This is an opportunity for community members to unite, give to those less fortunate and spread the universal message of love and hope.

#### **Attitude of Gratitude Celebrations – TORONTO, Canada**

In partnership with Toronto Area Interfaith Council (TAIC) and Sathya Sai International Organization (SSIO), a Thanksgiving-themed interfaith event will also be held in Toronto.

Leaders from the Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Sathya Sai and Sikh faiths will lead prayers and also present on their respective faiths. The intent is to provide guests with an exposure to other faiths to broaden their perspective and enable them to see the commonalities with their own faith. This is an opportunity to show our connectedness and how gratitude can be implemented into our everyday lives.

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This celebration will also provide an open and inclusive environment for youth to learn about/from various faith groups while building life-long relationships. Sikh youth will lead an opening and mid-event prayer to exemplify inclusion and equality.

**When:** Sunday November 26th, 2017 | 2 p.m.

**Where:** Etobicoke Community Centre, 399 The West Mall, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada

### **Parliament of the World's Religions**

Both Thanksgiving events are recognized '[Parliament of the World's Religions](#)' pre-Parliament event. Toronto, Canada will host the 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament of the World's Religions from November 1 – November 7, 2018, during which over 10,000 people will participate in the 2018 Parliament. More than 500 programs, workshops, and dialogues, alongside music, dance, art and photography exhibitions, and related events will be presented by the world's religious communities and cultural institutions.

Pre-Parliament events have already taken place in New York ([Sikh Immersion: War, Hate and Violence](#)) and Toronto ([Indigenous People](#)). In Slough, UK, an art exhibit took place during with artist Kanwar Singh spoke about the exhibit – [Without Shape, Without Form](#). An additional interfaith event also took place in Chicago which included a seminar on [Tolerance in Times of Intolerance](#).

### **About Sikh Sangat of Canada**

Sikh Sangat of Canada's mission is to disseminate the universal message of Siri Guru Granth Sahib to the whole world and contribute to the spiritual advancement of the humanity. We help individuals, families, and communities to unlock their true potential as we build solid practical foundations through Simran, based on the teachings of Siri Guru Granth Sahib.

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