

TOLERANCE

Harmony in Difference



Dr. RASHID ALLEEM

Author of 21 Alleem Sustainable Development Goals

Tolerance

Harmony in Difference

Dr. RASHIDALLEEM



Tolerance Harmony in Difference

Alleem Research & Development Center

Tel.: +971 6 573 3321

E-mail: abc@alleem.com

P.O. Box 1610, Sharjah UAE

Copyright © Dr. Rashid Alleem 2018. All rights reserved. Dr. Rashid Alleem owns the right to be identified as the Author of this Work.

ISBN: 978-969-9637-40-7

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior written consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published. Without a similar condition, including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser, and without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in, or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise), without the prior written permission of both the copyright owner and the above-mentioned publisher of this book. Any person or a company who does any unauthorized act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

SCOM Publishers, Okara Pakistan

ALSO BY THE AUTHOR

The SEWA Way

I Am Committed

Is Success a Sin?

Inspirational Stories

New Year Resolutions

My Leadership Secrets

Successful Marketing Plan

The SEWA Marketing Plan

My Green Journey in Hamriyah

The SEWA Customer-Centric Model

Alleem Sustainable Development Goals

The 13 Critical Traits of Team Dynamics

SEWA Brand Turnaround & Rejuvenation

Sustainability: The Fourth Wave of Economy

For more information on the above books, contact

Alleem Knowledge Center

(+971) 6 573 3321

abc@alleem.com

alleem.com

“Leave your mark. Be ashamed
to die without leaving a legacy
and winning some victory for
humankind.”

Dr. Rashid Alleem

To
His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed
Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, for
creating the first Ministry of Tolerance in
the world

Acknowledgments

To say this book is “by Rashid Alleem” is an overstatement. Without the significant contributions made by the Alleem Research and Development team, this book would certainly not exist. You, the team, have given your spirit to do your work with a true vision. I am grateful for your commitment to transforming lives in different parts of the world. You have been the wind beneath my wings.

I owe much gratitude to H.E. Dr. Mohamed Omar

A. Balfaqeeh, UAE Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore, for his continuous encouragement and support throughout this book project. I am also thankful for our great country that promotes tolerance and acceptance of others through the Ministry of Tolerance.

Most of all, I thank you, my readers, for your attention, engagement, and feedback. I hope you will write to me at rashid@alleem.com. Finally, I offer my undying gratitude to my family, whose patience, encouragement, and love kept me going through this long and challenging project. Every day, they remind me of what matters the most.

Foreword



I am pleased to write this foreword on a book that has great meaning to all humankind.

In this world where we are experiencing a period of global transition, modern technology is connecting us ever more closely. Social media play a critical role in deepening cross-cultural exchanges every day. Amid the diversity of societies, intolerance is on the rise in many areas. The closeness of the people does not mean there is more understanding.

Younger generations are exposed to various views, ideologies, and fake news, which present challenges and threaten the peace and stability of societies.

Tolerance demands an active choice of reaching out on the basis of mutual understanding and respect, especially where disagreement exists.

Tolerance can, and must, be learned. We need to teach girls and boys not just how to live together but how to act together as global citizens. We need to nurture tolerance by promoting cultural understanding and respect at all levels.

The world must be prepared to defend a tolerant society against the onslaught of the intolerant, and this is the time the world should work together.

Dr. Rashid Alleem made a good choice in choosing “Tolerance” as the title for this book, which provides lessons from real-world stories. This book comes at the right time to highlight the importance of tolerance in our life.

Noting the contents of the book and background of its author, whom I believe reflects the voice of the UAE on this important subject, I am sure it will complement the efforts and contribution of the global community in promoting tolerance.

Dr. Mohamed Omar A. Balfaqeeh
Head of Mission, UAE
Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore

Introduction



*“In the practice of tolerance,
one’s enemy is the best teacher.”*

—Dalai Lama—

The world is transforming at breakneck speed, and the myriad changes it brings affect each and every one of us. We live in a highly connected world in an era rich with information and disruptive innovation. However, we may have lost the human touch. We pretend too much. We wear game faces. We become more aggressive with one another, and the outcome is social chaos: children killing their peers at school, ethnic cleansing of minorities, internal displacement of people that creates an increasing number of refugees, and the list goes on.

Before you roll your eyes or, worse yet, put down this book, let me say this: I decided to write this book because it is needed in this hour. Living in the global village means culture and religions meet and should interpenetrate with love. Instead, all too often, the outcome is a tragic collision of hatred and violence. Yet the basic spiritual teachings of the world’s great religions and faiths are remarkably similar. Mahatma Gandhi said it well: “There will be no lasting peace on earth unless we learn not merely to tolerate but even to respect the other faiths as our own.” Yes, it’s not easy, but it’s possible, and it requires honesty, vulnerability, and transparency.

I believe that no matter how different our backgrounds, you and I share many more similarities than differences. We have so much in common. Unfortunately, although we learn about the diversity of the world at a young age in school, no one ever brought it all together into *unity*.

What inspired me to write on the subject of tolerance is the recent declaration the President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed, of 2019 as the Year of Tolerance, as he believes that tolerance is

achieved if we appreciate, accept, and respect other religions, faiths, and cultures.

Getting the Most from this Book

Don't just quickly read this book; make it your friend. Interact with it. Underline the important points. Write your own thoughts in the margins. Make it your book. Share it with others.

A journey is always better when it is shared. Let's get started together.

Happy Reading!

Dr. Rashid Alleem
Sharjah, UAE
International Tolerance Day

Part I

UAE Tolerance Program

*“We don't see things as they are,
we see them as we are”*

Anaïs Nin

1. Ministry of Tolerance

On January 15, 2017, I had the privilege of meeting Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi, the president of Zayed University and UAE Minister of State for Tolerance at her university. We discussed her unique role in the ministry and the ministry's importance for society at large.

Sheikha Lubna asserted, "the UAE is one of the greatest examples of tolerance." The UAE's tolerance is reflected in the very fabric of its society, incorporating both nationals and foreign residents in such a way that "everything reflects tolerance." Sheikha Lubna is well-positioned to have a broad perspective on the nation's composition and needs. She previously held four ministerial portfolios and was the UAE's first female Minister of the Economy. Talking about her new job as Minister of State for Tolerance, she explained that the UAE has service ministries, such as social welfare; ministries with international roles, such as foreign affairs; policy-making ministries; and two new and "odd" ministries: the ministries of happiness and tolerance. She noted that "these reflect the values that are integral to all of us. Tolerance is acceptance—accepting and rejoicing in our differences. We have to interact with the community. It is a challenging job, but an exciting ministry. Hopefully, we will see great results."

Indeed, after seeing the ministry's progressive plans, I, too, truly expect to see great results. I wish you all the best, Sheikha Lubna, and thank you for your dedication.

UAE National Tolerance Program

During the holy month of Ramadan, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, vice president of the UAE and ruler of Dubai, announced in a meeting at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, that the country would continue to promote the principles of tolerance set by His Highness Sheikh Zayed, the UAE's founding father. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed said,

“Tolerance is a key value of our ancestors and our founding fathers. The UAE has succeeded in spreading it throughout the Arab region and the world.”

He continued: “The holy month of Ramadan is a great opportunity to spread the spirit of tolerance and show the real image of moderation and respect for others,” adding, “Tolerance is the basis for building societies and promoting values of peaceful coexistence. Today, we need to be more tolerant and united to face the changes happening around us.”

According to a report by the Emirates News Agency, the National Tolerance Program would involve collaborations among federal and local entities within five main themes:

- Strengthening the government’s role as an incubator of tolerance;
- Consolidating the role of each family in nation building;
- Promoting tolerance among the youth and steering them away from extremism;
- Enriching scientific and cultural content; and
- Integrating international efforts to promote tolerance.

2. Capital for Tolerance

UAE Global Initiative for Tolerance

Following the announcement of the National Program for Tolerance, the UAE increased its commitment to the value of tolerance by launching a landmark global initiative for tolerance on October 8, 2016. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed noted that its intent is to build up the UAE as a capital for tolerance and promote openness in the region. Weeks after this announcement, the hand sign of a dove (the Tolerance Sign) and a dedicated hashtag, #Tolerance_Unites_Us, were announced during an event that saw four doves being released into the sky at the base of Burj Khalifa, the tallest building in the world.

UAE Issues Law against Hate Crimes and Discrimination

The UAE has, for some time, sought to codify its stance on tolerance. In 2015, the UAE issued a new law against any form of discrimination on the basis of religion, caste, creed, doctrine, race, color, or ethnic origin following a decree by President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The new law, No. 02 of 2015, commonly known as the Anti-Discrimination Law, criminalizes any acts that might stoke religious hatred and/or insult religion through any form of expression, be it speech or the written word, books, pamphlets, or via online media. The law also includes provisions punishing those who label other religious groups or individuals as infidels or unbelievers.

The law is intended to provide a sound foundation for an environment of tolerance, broad-mindedness, and acceptance in the UAE, seeking to safeguard people against acts that promote religious hate and intolerance regardless of their origin, beliefs, or race. Penalties for violating the law's various provisions include jail terms ranging from six months to more than 10 years and fines ranging from AED 50,000

to AED 2 million (13,600 USD to 545,000 USD).

The law condemns any actions that would comprise hate speech or the promotion of discrimination or violence against others using any form of media, including online, print, radio, and visual media. It demands that strict action be taken against any form of expression of hatred or incitement to hate crimes spread in the form of speech or published media.

The law also criminalizes any act that amounts to abuse of religion or vandalism of religious rituals, holy sites, or symbols and takes a serious view of violence committed on the basis of religious doctrines.

Regarding entities or groups established specifically to provoke religious hatred, the law recommends stringent punishments for groups or supporters of any organizations or individuals that are associated with hate crimes. It bars any kind of event, such as conferences and meetings within the UAE, organized with the sole purpose of sowing seeds of discrimination, discord, or hatred against individuals or groups on the basis of faith, origin, or race. Receiving financial support for such activities is also punishable under the new law.

Moreover, it encourages anyone involved in any activity that violates the Anti-Discrimination Law to submit themselves voluntarily to the authorities and includes provisions allowing the courts to waive penalties in such cases.

Tolerance Award

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Tolerance Award is also introduced to honor global personalities who promote tolerance. The award, headed by Shaikha Lubna Al Qasimi, Minister of State for Tolerance, embraces five branches, three of which will be dedicated to human intellect, literary creativity, and aesthetic arts, and the other two will be related to organizing innovative contests in youth projects and modern media.

According to a news article published by *Gulf News* on October 27, 2016,

renowned Arab television presenter Lojain Omran was appointed as the ambassador for the Mohammad Bin Rashid Award for Tolerance with a task to spread the culture of tolerance and promote the values of peace across the region.

Lojain Omran, also a social media influencer with millions of followers from across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the region, pledged to enhance and promote the values of tolerance and coexistence using her social media accounts, which she described as a powerful tool to reach out to people from various backgrounds.

Lojain Omran said the UAE is already a role model for tolerance, and with an initiative like this, the UAE will further nurture such values among the community, across the region, and the world.

“I call on everyone to be an ambassador of tolerance. Tolerance is something that begins from within us and is spread outwardly. I hope everyone can begin spreading this message. It is my responsibility as a human being to spread this message first, and now it is my duty as an ambassador to do so. I have always emphasized inner peace and values of respect and understanding with others and have learned to accept others regardless of their background.”

Omran said that she will work hand in hand with those working with the award to deliver “the humanitarian mission whose aim is to realize and achieve acquaintances, dialogue, understanding and respect in the Arab societies, hoping to strengthen the role of young leaders in the beloved UAE as well as the Arab world.”

The hashtag launched has been translated into different languages as a way to spread the message of tolerance coming from the UAE. Ahmad Al Mansouri, secretary-general of the Mohammad Bin Rashid Award for Tolerance, said the award carries a crucial message about the UAE, a country that has fostered the peaceful coexistence of people of more than 200 nationalities with different cultures.

“The tolerance initiative is one of the many noble initiatives launched by Shaikh Mohammad, with a goal to eliminate violence, extremism, hatred, and discrimination across the region and around the world

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

