



**Sveriges Buddhistiska Samarbetsråd (SBS)**  
**The Buddhist Cooperation Council of Sweden**

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Stockholm, April 2015.

Congratulatory message to the UN Vesak celebration 2015 in Bangkok.

The Buddhist Cooperation Council of Sweden hereby likes to send our warmest regards at the occasion of the UN Vesak celebration. It is indeed an excellent opportunity for sharing our deepest gratefulness towards Shakyamuni Buddha, and towards the unbroken line of transmission of His teaching by the Buddhist masters of all traditions until today.

At this auspicious occasion we share our happiness about the many positive developments, but also our feelings of sincere concern about the deep sufferings caused by the increasing violent actions during the last years. These violence crimes are occurring both in Buddhists and non-Buddhist regions of the world. This is highly contradicting the universal ethics of love and understanding, and each and everyone's responsibility for peaceful co-existence in the society.

Since many years The Buddhist Cooperation Council of Sweden is engaged in interfaith networking, e.g. in the National Interfaith Council of Sweden. The various religious leaders in Sweden are united in their position on religious hostility, and especially on hatred towards the Muslim and Jewish populations. A national campaign of solidarity with the slogan '**Refuse to Hate!**' was initiated by the religious leaders, and manifested in February 2015 during the Global Interfaith Harmony Week in many Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and other places of reverence in Sweden.

For your information we include the manifest, besides of the English version, in different Asian languages. We call upon all Buddhist leaders, associations and members for sharing our collective increasing efforts to strongly propagate the basic Buddhist values of non-violence.

Sincerely Yours

The Buddhist Cooperation Council of Sweden

Trudy Dechen Fredriksson, Chairwoman