

DMSC Hosts First-Ever Iftar Party in its History: Unity in Diversity

On the occasion of holy Ramadan, for the first time in its existence, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC) hosted an Iftar party at its office premises, breaking new ground. The goal of this program was to promote unity and inclusivity among the diverse communities in the society. The event witnessed a heart-warming gathering of local Muslim brothers and sisters, alongside sex workers, coming together to observe Ramadan and celebrate the spirit of unity at Sonagachi.

DMSC expanded its outreach by hosting this Iftar party, signalling a commitment to diversity and inclusivity. The event aimed to create a space where individuals from different backgrounds could come together in fellowship and solidarity, transcending social barriers.

Event Overview:

On 8th April 2024, DMSC welcomed numerous local Muslim brothers and sisters, alongside sex workers of Sonagachi and other areas of Kolkata to partake in this Iftar celebration. The event commenced with Muslim brothers and sisters performing Salah, the Islamic prayer, after breaking their fast at sunset. This spiritual practice added a profound dimension to the event, emphasizing the significance of faith and devotion during the month of Ramadan.

Following the prayers, attendees gathered to enjoy the Iftar meal, symbolizing the breaking of the fast. As the evening unfolded and participants gathered to break their fast together, Ms. Bishakha



Laskar, DMSC's Secretary took it upon herself to ensure that every individual felt valued and respected. With grace, she moved among the guests, offering plates of food with her hands, embodying DMSC's commitment to serving marginalized communities with dignity and compassion. Traditional dishes were served, showcasing the rich culinary heritage of the Muslim community. The act of sharing a meal not only satisfied physical hunger but also fostered bonds of friendship and understanding among all present.

Inclusivity and Solidarity:

The Iftar party also garnered attention from local news media, with reporters in attendance to capture the historic moment. News outlets praised DMSC for its efforts to promote social cohesion and solidarity, showcasing the organization as a beacon of hope and tolerance in an

increasingly fragmented world. In interviews, attendees shared their thoughts on the significance of the event and its impact on community relations. "This Iftar party is a beautiful



example of unity in diversity," remarked one participant. Moreover, the event served as a platform for meaningful dialogue and exchange, facilitating connections between diverse communities and fostering greater understanding and empathy. As emphasized by the

Secretary of DMSC, "The organization celebrates Hindu festivals such as Durga Puja and Bhai Phota. In line with its ethos of inclusivity and anti-discrimination, DMSC extended its efforts this year to embrace the holy month of Ramadan and ensure that our Muslim staff and other community members feel valued and included."

Significance:

The significance of this occasion lies not only in its novelty but also in its profound symbolism of inclusivity and acceptance. For many of the sex workers in attendance, the event provided a rare opportunity to engage in cultural and religious practices often overlooked or marginalized in society. By participating in the Iftar celebration alongside their Muslim peers, they experienced a sense of validation and belonging, transcending societal barriers and prejudices. In doing so, DMSC reaffirmed its commitment to advocating for the rights and dignity of all individuals, irrespective of their social status or profession.



Conclusion:

As DMSC continues to champion inclusivity and social cohesion, events like these serve as powerful reminders of the importance of embracing difference and building bridges across communities. By bringing together diverse communities in a spirit of unity and mutual respect, DMSC reaffirmed its commitment to championing social justice and equality for all. As we reflect on this momentous occasion, let us be inspired to continue our journey toward a more inclusive and compassionate society, where every individual is embraced and empowered to thrive.