

Bios of speakers at the 4th European Policy Dialogue Forum in Barcelona, Spain, on 9-10 November 2022

Last update: 7 November 2022

Ms. Laura Batalla Adam, Hello Europe Migration Policy Representative, Ashoka Hello Europe



Ms. Laura Batalla Adam is Hello Europe's Migration Policy Representative. Based in Brussels, she works to bridge the gap between social innovation and policy-making in the field of migration and integration. She is also the lead for Ashoka's Changemaker Europe initiative which aims to shape a new vision of democracy and civic participation where every person can actively contribute to positive social change.

H.E. Dr. Zuhair Alharthi Secretary General of the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)



H.E. Dr. Zuhair Alharthi has a wealth of cultural experience and enjoys a parliamentary, human rights, legal and political background. He was a member of the Saudi Shura Council for 12 years (2009-2020), Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Saudi Shura Council, and member of the Board of Trustees of the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue (KACND) in 2018. He worked at the Saudi Public Prosecution and was appointed Head of the Investigation and Public Prosecution Department. In 2008, a royal order appointed him a member and official spokesperson of the Council of the Human Rights Commission. He is a renowned writer and researcher on issues of ideology, politics and law. He holds a MA in law from Brunel University and a Ph.D in law from the University of Kent. He participated as an analyst and political expert in political and news programmes for 20 years.

Mr. Omar Al-Rawi, Member of the Vienna State Parliament and City Council, Austria



Mr. Omar Al-Rawi was born in Iraq and came to Vienna in 1978. Here he studied civil engineering and worked in the construction industry after his community service. He was politically active in the Austrian National Union of Students and in the works council. Since 2001 Mr. Al-Rawi has represented the Social Democratic party in the Vienna municipal council and state parliament. From 1999 to 2011, Mr. Al-Rawi was the integration officer for the Islamic Religious Authority of Austria.

H.E. Ambassador António de Almeida-Ribeiro, Deputy Secretary General of KAICIID



Ambassador António de Almeida-Ribeiro was born in Lisbon and graduated in 1976 from the Faculty of Law (Legal and Political Sciences), University of Coimbra. He joined the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979, where he has held a variety of positions, among which Director General for Administration, Political Director and Secretary General. Throughout his career, he has served as Ambassador of Portugal to Argentina, Egypt, the Holy See, the Sovereign Order of Malta and Austria, where he was also Permanent Representative to the International Organizations based in Vienna, among other appointments around the world.

Mr. Thomas Andersson, Chairman, Current Affairs Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe



Mr. Thomas Andersson has been a member of the Current Affairs Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe since 2016 and was elected as its Chair in 2021. He has acted as Congress Spokesperson on Youth and Rapporteur on youth work and civil participation. In his home country of Sweden, Thomas Andersson is Councillor and former President of the Regional Council of Jämtland Härjedalen. Mr Andersson has worked on youth policy in his town and region since 1996 and is a strong advocate for youth participation, believing in the power of young people as actors for change, democratic values and social inclusion.

Dr. Foteini Asderaki, Professor, University of Piraeus, Greece



Dr. Foteini Asderaki is an Associate Professor of European Integration Theory and a Jean Monnet Chair on European Union's Education, Training, Research and Innovation Policies in the Department of International and European Studies, University of Piraeus, Greece. She is also the Chair of the European Doctoral School for the Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Security and Defence College in Brussels. She is the director of the Laboratory on Education Policy, Research, Development, and Interuniversity Cooperation of the University of Piraeus. She has served as Vice Chair of the Steering Committee for the Group I-Western Europe and North America at the International Bureau of Education, Unesco, Geneva, 2016-17, as a Bologna Follow-Up Group Member, 2004-09, and

as a member of various national, regional, and bilateral committees in education. She is an evaluator of European research programmes and awards.

Ms. Radia Bakkouch, InterFaith Tour Program; President of Coexister



Ms. Radia Bakkouch is the head of research and documentation for the InterFaith Tour program, a world tour project of interfaith initiatives whose mission is to identify, study and promote peace practices. She was president and director of advocacy and research of Coexister France, a non-formal education movement that offers young people of different beliefs a positive experience of diversity in 30 cities in France. She is a trainer and facilitator of numerous workshops and conferences in France and internationally on the connection between religion and social cohesion (notably for the UNAOC). She holds a master's degree in international public management from Sciences Po Paris (PSIA) where she specialized in the Middle East and in conflict resolution.

Ms. Kiran Bali, Former Global Chair of the United Religions Initiative (URI)



Ms. Kiran Bali MBE JP is a global organizational leader and activist in the areas of environmental justice, women's empowerment, interfaith understanding, and peacebuilding through multidisciplinary approaches. Kiran served as the Chairperson of the United Religions Initiative for more than half of its history, leading organisational change, two global recruitment processes and providing stability through several transitional periods. Kiran was honoured with the Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2007 and has since received many international awards for her achievements. In 2022, she was honored by New York State Assemblyman Hon. Nader Sayegh for her global service of distinction. A regular keynote speaker on the world stage and an Ambassador for Climate Action, Kiran empowers grassroots communities to make a sustainable impact. As a UK

magistrate, Kiran underpins all her initiatives with the principles of social justice, compassion and equity toward creating inclusive communities.

Prof. Dr. Míriam Díez Bosch, Director of the Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture



Prof. Dr. Míriam Díez Bosch is a journalist specialising in religion. She is a professor at the University Ramon Llull in Barcelona, where she is the Director of the Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture. Journalist and theologian, she is the Director of Global Engagement at Aleteia.org and the Vice-President of the Catalonia Religion Foundation. Prof. Bosch wears multiple other hats including Vicepresident of the International Society for Media, Religion and Culture, board member of the steering committee of the Institute for Migration Studies at the Comillas Pontifical University of Madrid, and Board Member of the ARC advisory board of the Center for the Anthropology of Religion and Cultural Change, at the Sacro Cuore University in Milan. She is the founder and director of the Chair on Religious Freedom and Belief.

H.Em. Metropolitan Emmanuel, Metropolitan Elder of Chalcedon and member of the KAICIID Board of Directors



H.Em. Metropolitan Emmanuel Adamakis is a member of KAICIID's multi-religious Board of Directors and a newly elected Metropolitan Elder of Chalcedon. He has been a robust advocate for consensus and dialogue between religions since his election in 2003 as Metropolitan of France and Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He has served as President of the Conference of European Churches, the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of France, and Director of the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union. He is one of the Moderators of the World Conference of Religions for Peace and holds responsibility for interreligious dialogue with Judaism and Islam on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Prof. Dr. Miquel Essomba, Professor at Autonomous University of Barcelona



Prof. Dr. Miquel Àngel Essomba i Gelabert (Barcelona, 1971) is an associate professor in the Department of Applied Pedagogy at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. With a Cameroonian father and a Catalan mother, he was spokesperson for SOS Racisme until 2003, and between 2008 and 2012 he was director of the UNESCO Center of Catalonia - Unescocat, a position in which he replaced Agustí Colomines, director of training in intercultural education for the Council of Europe and expert consultant in diversity and education for the OECD, Unesco and the European Commission. In the 2012 Catalan Parliament elections, he was number eleven, as an independent, on the list for the Barcelona constituency of ICV-EUiA, and in 2015 he was appointed Commissioner of Education of the Barcelona City Council.

Mr. Andrea Gagliarducci, Vatican analyst for EWTN / ACI Group



Mr. Andrea Gagliarducci is Vatican analyst for EWTN / ACI Group. He has been reporting about the Vatican and religious issues since 2007, and his main interests are in the fields of international diplomacy, with a specific expertise on the Pontifical Diplomacy; Vatican Finances; Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue; and all the issues related with the Church in Europe. Gagliarducci boasts two personal blogs: MondayVatican (in English), a weekly analysis on all the things Vatican, and Vatican Reporting (in Italian) where he randomly publishes reflection on religious information. Along with his activity in EWTN, he gives consultancies on Vatican related issues with the production of insight reports and he contributes for several other media outlets, like the Spanish magazine *Omnes*, the French magazine *Cardinalis*, the Polish KAI Agency and other media. He wrote six books, the last one on the meaning of the Vatican ceremonial (*Linguaggi Pontifici*, Editoriale Romani).

Mufti Dr. Nedzad Grabus, Mufti of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Mufti Nedzad Grabus holds the position of Mufti of the Islamic Community in Sarajevo. He is a Professor of Theology at the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He was the editor of the first interreligious programme in Sarajevo that covered both Islamic and Christian issues. Dr. Grabus is a member of the editorial board of the Journal for Ecumenical Theology and Interreligious Dialogue “Unity and Dialogue” of the Institute for Ecumenical Theology and Interreligious Dialogue in Maribor, Slovenia. He is Vice-President of ECRL, as well as Co-President of the Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of Religions for Peace. He is Chair of the Interreligious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ms. Tajana Graovac, Project Lead of Neue deutsche Medienmacher*innen, Germany



Ms. Tajana Graovac has a Master's degree in American studies and political science and has been the project manager of the No Hate Speech Movement Germany since 2021. Before that, Graovac was a community and content manager for social media. Her work focuses on hate speech, digital violence, conspiracy theories and disinformation, and other internet phenomena. In addition, she leads workshops and training sessions on anti-racism and non-discriminatory language.

Prof. Dr. Joan Hernández-Serret, Director, Official Interreligious Board (GTER), Spain



Prof. Dr. Joan Hernández-Serret teaches sociology, culture, and religious diversity courses for the degree, master's, and doctoral programs at universities such as the Faculty of Communication and Humanities of the International University of Catalonia (UIC), the Catalan School of Public Administration, the Institute Superior of Religious Sciences of Barcelona (ISCREB) - Faculty of Theology, University of Barcelona (UB), University of Sant Joan de Déu, and in the interreligious course e-learning of the KAICIID. He is also the Director of the Official Interreligious Board in Spain - GTER, the Director of the Diocesan Secretariat for Interreligious Relations of the Catholic Church of Archdiocese of Barcelona, and the representative of RfP in Spain. He was a co-director of IV Parliament of the World Religions in Barcelona in 2004, and now is working as co-director of the International event in Spain: A Multireligious Intergenerational Response to the Social and Environmental Crises Manresa 2022.

Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister, Chief Rabbi of Jewish Community in Vienna, Austria



Chief Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister has been the Community Rabbi of Vienna since 2008. He has received various rabbinic ordinations in different theoretical and practical areas of Jewish law from some of the most prominent rabbinic authorities. He is a Board Member of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER); the President of the Union of Mohalim in Europe (UME); the Chief Rabbi of Lower Austria, Burgenland, Styria and Carinthia; the Secretary General of the Rabbinical Court of Austria; and also the highest rabbinic representative of the Jewish Community of Austria in all interreligious and socio-political matters. He is a lead advocate for interreligious dialogue within the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council.

Mr. İbrahim Vurgun Kavlak, General Coordinator, Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM), Turkey



Mr. İbrahim Vurgun Kavlak received a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy in 2002 and a Master's Degree in Human Rights in 2007 from Hacettepe University. Since 2005, İbrahim Vurgun Kavlak has been the General Coordinator at Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (SGDD-ASAM), which has been one of the leading implementing partners of several UN organizations, international organizations and public institutions, carrying out projects in Turkey and abroad with a staff of 2.100 people. He has extensive professional work experience in the areas of migration policies, forced displacement, protection, irregular migration, disadvantaged communities, human rights, social inclusion, intercultural dialogue, policy analysis, and conflict transformation. He has coordinated implementation of projects which provide solutions to the problems of refugees and asylum-seekers in Turkey, to support them in accessing basic rights and services and to provide protection, psychosocial support and health counselling.

Rev. William Kenney, Auxiliary Catholic Bishop Emeritus of Birmingham



Rev. William Kenney is a member to the International Department of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales (CBCEW) and represents the Conference in COMECE (Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community), and also has responsibility for the Conference's work in Iraq, Sudan and South Sudan. He is a member of the Las Casas Advisory Board which promotes critical reflection on questions of human dignity in the light of Catholic social teaching and theology; a trustee of the Newman Trust, Oxford since 2012; a member of the diocesan Justice & Peace Commission and most recently, the Chair of the Pastoral Planning Group, which coordinates planning for the future of the Southern region of the diocese.

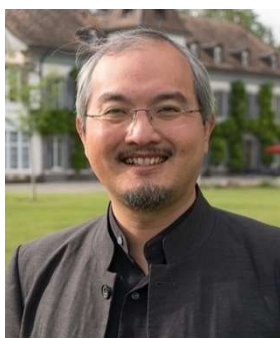
Ms. Seyran Khalili, Project Lead at New Women Connectors



Ms. Seyran Khalili is a Kurdish-Norwegian organisational psychologist with a B.A in Educational Philosophy, University of Oslo and M.Sc. in Organisational Psychiatry & Psychology, King's College London. She advocates for issues of social injustice through dialogue, information, and community debates. She works within a matrix of theory-based innovations in public service, leadership development, and cross-cultural communication. Lately, her interest is focused on service design and innovation processes for city development. Seyran serves as a deputy Board member of the Norwegian NGO "LIM – Equality, Inclusion and Diversity" since February 2017. She is also an associate of King's College London studying theology and philosophy of religion. As a young change-maker, she was selected youth ambassador at the Università della Svizzera Italiana.

She is a member of the GERIS (Global Exchange on Religion in Society) network and is well-grounded in advocacy work in an EU and global context.

Rev. Dr. Sivin Kit, Program Executive for Public Theology & Interreligious Relations, The Lutheran World Federation



Rev. Dr. Sivin Kit, a pastor of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia, is the program executive for public theology and interreligious relations with the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, tasked with pursuing strategic theological questions and contributing in areas of religion in the public space, interreligious collaboration, and peacebuilding. Previously, he taught theology, ethics, homiletics, and religious studies at the Malaysia Theological Seminary, where he was also director of the Centre for Religion and Society. He has published articles in the fields of public theology, Christian-Muslim relations, ecumenism, and interreligious relations in Southeast and East Asia. His wider interests include contextual theology and religion and media. Kit holds a B.Th. and M.Th. from the South East Asia Graduate School of Theology. He received his PhD in religion, ethics, and society from the University of Agder, Norway.

Dr. Kishan Manocha, Head of Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)



Dr. Kishan Manocha is the Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department at the OSCE ODIHR based in Warsaw, Poland. From 2015-2020, he was ODIHR's Senior Adviser on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Kishan has coordinated a range of projects to assist governments, civil society and religious communities to address intolerance. He has extensive experience in Europe, North America, the Middle East and North Africa, and Central and South Asia as a policy adviser, advocate, researcher and trainer. He holds degrees in psychology and medicine from the University of London and in law from the University of Cambridge. He is currently a Fellow at the Centre for Religion and Values at Dublin City University, a member of the Global Steering Committee of the UN Plan of Action for Religious Leaders to Prevent Incitement to Violence, the International Religious Freedom Alliance's Global Council of Experts, and a trustee of the Freedom Declared Foundation.

Prof. Dr. Antoni Matabosch, Director of ISCREB



Prof. Dr. Antoni Matabosch holds a PhD in Theology (Gregorian University in Rome) and Masters degrees in History and Journalism (Barcelona) and Ecumenics (World Council of Churches, Geneva). Retired professor from the Faculty of Theology of Catalonia and the Institut Superior de Ciències Religioses de Barcelona (ISCREB). Catholic member of the GTER (Working Group of Religions), representing the Bishops Conference of Catalonia. Honorary president of the Joan Maragall Foundation for the dialogue between Christianity and Culture. He has published 20 books and hundreds of articles on the themes of faith and culture dialogue, the Ecumenical Movement (especially about the World Council of Churches), ecological crisis, and interreligious dialogue.

Dr. Aleksandra Djurić Milovanović, Anthropologist and Programme Officer at KAICIID



Dr. Aleksandra Djurić Milovanović is a programme officer of the Europe Region Programme and coordinator of the Network for Dialogue at KAICIID. Aleksandra holds an academic position of Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Balkan Studies of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (Belgrade, Serbia). She earned her PhD in ethnology and anthropology from the University of Belgrade in 2012. She was a visiting professor at many universities, including University College Cork (Ireland) and Trinity Hall at the University of Cambridge (UK). She has published three monographs, over 50 academic articles and book chapters and one manual for IRD. Her academic research has been primarily focused on the anthropology of religion, religion and migration, and interreligious dialogue in the Balkans and Europe. She became a KAICIID International Fellow in 2018.

Mr. Frank Mohrhauer, Director, National Society Development Services at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



Mr. Frank Mohrhauer is the Director of the National Society Development Services Department of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). In his present role, Mr. Mohrhauer provides guidance and leadership for the IFRC Secretariat's work in the areas of National Society Development, specifically focusing on how to improve their governance and compliance abilities, how we can learn, innovate, and transform and use the tremendous power of youth and volunteers to tackle the big challenges of humanity, whilst providing them also with guidance and tools. He is also responsible for policy development and positioning, advocacy, protection, organizational learning, and knowledge management. One of the key areas of focus is the operationalization of the newly adopted PGI (Protection, Gender, and Inclusion) policy, as well as strengthening the education footprint of the IFRC and its 192 National Societies.

Sheikh David Munir, Imam of Lisbon Central Mosque



Shaykh Munir was born to a Yemeni father and a Mozambican mother of Indian descent. He began his religious education in 1975, at a madrasa in India (Madrassah Ashrafia), where he memorised the Qur'an. He later graduated in Islamic Theology in the Aleemiyah Institute of the Islamic Center of Karachi (Pakistan) and went on to do his MA in Islamic Studies at Karachi University, where he majored in Pedagogy and got his bachelor's degree in Languages. He left Pakistan aged 23 and since then has been the Imam of the Central Mosque of Lisbon, Religious Minister and Counselor of Lisbon's Islamic Community, and teacher of Arabic.

Prof. Dr. Mark Owen, Director, Winchester Centre of Religion, Reconciliation and Peace



Prof. Dr. Mark Owen is the Director of the Winchester Centre of Religions for Reconciliation and Peace (WCRRP), University of Winchester. Mark's research interests include the role of religion in conflict prevention, transformation and peacebuilding processes; conflict assessment and analysis; and religion and migration. Mark has carried out extensive fieldwork throughout South Asia, as well as working in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Professor Owen is currently Secretary General of the European Council of Religious Leaders, and Religions for Peace Europe.

Imam Yahya Pallavicini, President, Comunità Religiosa Islamica Italiana (COREIS)



Imam Yahya Pallavicini is President of COREIS, the Islamic Religious Community of Italy. It is one of the principal organizations of institutional representation of Islam in Italy with a vocation for theological training, ecumenism, and intercultural education. Imam Pallavicini has been a member of the Italian Minister of the Interior's Council on Islam in Italy since 2005. He is a member of the European Council of Religious Leaders and ICESCO Ambassador for Dialogue among Civilizations. Since 2015, in cooperation with KAICIID and other partners, he has participated in the writing of a Plan of Action for Religious Leaders to Prevent Incitement to Violence that could lead to Atrocity Crimes. Since 2018 he is deputy co-chair of the Muslim Jewish Leaders Council (MJLC).

Dr. Sónia Pereira, High Commissioner for Migration of the Republic of Portugal



Dr. Sónia Pereira took office as the New High Commissioner for Migration of Portugal in 2020, thus assuming the role of President of the Board of Directors of the High Commission for Migration (ACM, I.P.). With a degree in economics and a PhD in geography, Ms. Pereira was responsible for coordinating the Government's Assistance Project for Refugee Resettlement at the Lisbon office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). She has worked on international migration since 2000 both within academia and for intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. Her research interests include labour migration, as well as migrants' socio-economic inclusion, socio-spatial practices and artistic and political participation.

Ms. Milica Pešić, Executive Director, Media Diversity Institute (MDI)



Ms. Milica Pešić is the Executive Director of MDI, an international organization specialized in the inclusion of diversity through media and media education. She designed and supervised multi-national, multi-annual diversity media development programmes in Europe, NIS, MENA, SEA, Sub-Sahara, West Africa, and the Caribbean. As a journalist she has reported for the BBC, Radio Free Europe, the Times HES, and TV Serbia. Milica has also worked for New York University, the International Federation of Journalists (Brussels), and the AIM (Paris). She has co-designed an MA course in Media and Diversity taught at the University of Westminster (UK), and provided media training for the UN, Council of Europe, UNICEF, OSI, EBDR, Internews, Freedom Forum, and the IFJ. Her interests are currently in hate speech / extreme expressions, cancel culture, woke movement, audience education and conflict-reporting.

Prof. Dr. Peter Petkoff, Brunel Law School and Regent's Park College, Oxford, UK



Prof. Dr. Peter Petkoff is a Senior Law Lecturer at the Brunel Law School. He is Director of the Religion, Law and International Relations Programme, a collaborative international research network at Regent's Park College, Oxford, and Managing Editor of the Oxford Journal of Law and Religion. He is Legal Consultant on Media Freedom and Freedom of Expression for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. He belongs to several international research networks which study the broader questions of law and religion and religion and politics. He has extensive contacts with human rights lawyers as well as with Jewish, Islamic and Christian lawyers working in this area.

Chief Imam Sayed Razawi, Chief Imam, Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society



Chief Imam Sayed Ali Abbas Razawi is the Chief Imam and Director-General of SABS. He is also a director and associate at Harvard University's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, as well as being a Visiting Scholar at the University of Strathclyde. Nationally, he has served as an advisor on the United Kingdom's Independent Sharia Review commissioned by Theresa May and participates as a member of the Oxfam GB Zakat Advisory Panel. Internationally, Imam Razawi is a trustee and member of multiple international organizations and non-governmental bodies including an International Trustee of Religions for Peace (RfP).

Ms. Eunice Romero, Director General of Migration, Refuge and Anti-Racism of the Catalan government, Spain



Ms. Eunice Romero Rivera is currently the director general of Migrations, Refugee and Antiracism at the Generalitat de Catalunya. She obtained a degree in political science and a post-graduate degree in public policy at the Tec de Monterrey (Mexico), and a research qualification in sociology at the Autonomous University Barcelona (UAB). She has done research on identity, national construction and immigration. She is a PhD student in Information Society at the Open University of Catalunya (UOC). Her thesis studies how processes of national subjectivation accompany, interrelate and co-constitute social stratification around the sense of belonging to Catalonia. She's expert in nationalism, immigration and diversity. She has developed sociological research at the UAB, the UOC and the LSE (London) and has also worked advising the Catalan Government (2016/2019). In the area of social implementation and innovation, she has been Commissioner for Cohesion Policy and director of the Social Area of Omnium Cultural.

Dr. Verica Rupar, Professor, Auckland University, New Zealand; Chair of the World Journalism Education Council



Dr. Verica Rupar is a professor of journalism at the School of Communication Studies, AUT, New Zealand, and a Chair of the World Journalism Education Council. Her academic work includes studies of the relationship between journalism, media and democracy, as well as communication practices around key social issues relevant to the promotion of social inclusion. Verica's most recent research focuses on the "post truth" environment and dramatic diffusion of misinformation in the digital world. Her publications include *Inclusive Journalism*, *Journalism, Themes and Critical Debates*, *Getting the facts right: reporting ethnicity and religion*, *Scooped: Politics and Power of Journalism in Aotearoa New Zealand* and *Journalism and meaning-making*. She has

worked previously as a journalist in Serbia, Slovenia and Hungary, and taught journalism in New Zealand, Serbia, Australia and the UK.

Dr. Amjad Saleem, Manger of Inclusion, Engagement and Protection at International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)



Dr. Amjad Mohamed Saleem is the Manager of the Inclusion, Engagement and Protection unit, to implement IFRC's Strategy 2020 – Promotion of Social Inclusion and a Culture of Non-Violence and Peace, and to support the youth and volunteering aspects of the third "Enabling Action". Amjad sits on the board of the Joint Learning Initiative for Faith and Communities. He was a thematic advisor for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in 2015, the vice chair for the NEAR Network (2016) and civil society advisor to the Commonwealth Foundation (2012-2014). He is a regular contributor to Huffington Post and State of Formation, an alumni of the International Visitors Leadership Program and a Hive Global Leaders Fellow. Amjad has an M.Eng from Imperial

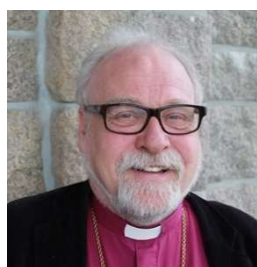
College, London, a MBA from U21 Global Singapore and is currently pursuing a part time PhD from Exeter University around 'Identity in Post Conflict Sri Lanka'.

Mr. Pasha Shah OBE, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, UK Government



Mr. Pasha Shah OBE is the Assistant Director responsible for Faith at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the UK Government. Before joining the British Civil Service, Pasha undertook research on social economic and community development programmes on behalf of and in partnership with major Universities and NGO's. He also developed and delivered a host of training programmes for public sector organisations and the education sector. Pasha has also led development projects in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East. In the UK he has worked extensively on issues associated with community cohesion and integration. He was awarded an OBE in 2022 for services to the faith sector.

Rt.Rev. Atle Sommerfeldt, European Council for Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe



Rt. Rev. Atle Sommerfeldt was born in 1951, studies in sociology and Nordic literature before graduating as a theologian. Postgraduate studies in Germany. He served in different capacities in the Church of Norway Council on ecumenical and international relations and as Assistant General Secretary in Botswana Christian Council. He also served as General Secretary in Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) 1993-2012 and bishop in the diocese of Borg 2012-2021. As General Secretary in NCA he was involved in extensive inter-faith cooperation in humanitarian aid, long-term development and advocacy in Europe, Latin-America, Africa and Asia with indigenous people's organisations,

Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist partners. As bishop, he was involved in inter-faith diapraxis linked to anti-racialisation work, pilgrimages and building of a Cathedral of Hope for climate justice and SDGs. He currently serves as a member of the European Council for Religious Leaders/RfP Europe.

Ms. Hanne Kro Sørborg, Gender Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator in Kristiansand Municipality, Norway



meet at the crossroads of different affiliations.

Ms. Hanne Kro Sørborg is a trained social worker and sexologist. In 2020, she was awarded the title of Social Worker of the Year in Norway for her work. Hanne has worked with inclusion work for children and young people, as an adviser in the democracy unit and now as an adviser for equality, inclusion and diversity in Kristiansand municipality, Norway. Kristiansand aims to be "a city for all" where diversity is a resource. Everyone, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion or outlook on life, ability to function, sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity, must have the opportunity to participate in society on equal terms. One of her tasks is to coordinate "A city for all", which is celebrated for a whole week every February. Here, diversity is highlighted, people collaborate,

Dr. Alice Szczepanikova, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)



Dr. Alice Szczepanikova is a Migration and Freedom of Movement Adviser at OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw. Responsible for developing and implementing the migration programme of the Democratization Department, she focuses on supporting migrant and refugee integration at the national and local level and on capacity building for human rights defenders at international borders. Prior to joining ODIHR, Alice worked as a policy analyst in the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in Brussels. She developed an innovative learning tool / serious game about migration and integration called Destination Europe. Alice has a PhD in sociology from the University of Warwick.

Mr. Dani de Torres, Expert, Council of Europe - Intercultural Cities programme



Mr. Dani de Torres is an expert of the Intercultural Cities programme of the Council of Europe and director of Diversit and of the Spanish network of intercultural cities (RECI). He is also founder of Antirumours Global, focusing on the international expansion of the antirumours strategy as a methodology to dismantle prejudices and stereotypes and make the most of diversity. During the period 2007-2011 he was Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue of Barcelona when he led the work for the adoption of the Barcelona Intercultural strategy (2010-2020). Dani has advised several cities and organisations and provided training and workshops in more than 25 countries. He is also lecturing at the MA in Migration Studies of the Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona).

Ms. María Lucía Uribe, Executive Director at Arigatou International Geneva



the International Partnership for Religion and Sustainable Development from 2017 to 2021 and is currently a member of the G20 Interfaith Summit Working Group on Education.

Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe Torres is the Executive Director of Arigatou International Geneva. She heads the strategic direction of the Ethics Education for Children Initiative as an International Knowledge and Action Hub with partners in more than 40 countries. Ms. Uribe currently convenes the International Consortium on Nurturing Values and Spirituality in Early Childhood for the Prevention of Violence. She is also the convener of the Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect, leading their advocacy work with the United Nations and Human Rights mechanisms in Geneva. Ms. Uribe holds a Master in Peace and Conflict Transformation from the University of Basel, Switzerland and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Finance from Externado University, Colombia. She served in the Steering Group of

Dr. Lakshmi Vyas, President, Hindu Forum of Europe



Dr. Lakshmi Vyas serves as President at the Hindu Forum of Europe – one of the largest leadership platforms in Europe. She was also elected Faith Leader in Europe by Religion for Peace. Dr. Vyas is the former Principal of Elphinstone College and is currently a visiting Professor at the American University of Sovereign Nations. She has worked in many different roles, in the UK and Europe, including both intergovernmental and NGOs. She speaks eight languages and was awarded the Best Woman Award by the British Asian Award Organization. In 2019 she got the coveted “Ambassador of Happiness” award. Dr. Vyas is an outstanding leader cum achiever and works tirelessly against all odds for the community. In July 2022 she was awarded Bharat Pravasi Award for Distinguished Services to the Nation and outstanding individual Achievements at the 'Senate' Paris.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Wipf, President European Council of Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe



Rev. Dr. Thomas Wipf, Zurich Switzerland, is the President of the European Council of Religious Leaders ECRL and President of Religions for Peace Europe. He studied protestant theology at the Universities of Basel, Münster and Zurich. After his time as a Reformed parish pastor, he was President of the Swiss Reformed Church, the Community of Evangelical Churches in Europe and member of the Presidium of the Conference of European Churches (CEC). He is also the founder of the Swiss Council of Religions and served as its first President. For his services to European Protestantism, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in Protestant theology from the Universities of Münster (Westphalia) and Debrecen (Hungary).