



K A I C I I D
CIID
D I A L O G U E
C E N T R E

ABOUT THE
INTERNATIONAL
DIALOGUE CENTRE

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This publication is current as of November 15, 2017

I FOREWORD



The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) is the global advocate for interreligious and intercultural dialogue to foster mutual respect, sustainable peace and social cohesion.

Uniquely among international organizations, we are governed both by governmental representatives and by religious leaders from five different religions. We work in partnership with several international organisations – such as with the United Nations in helping religious leaders prevent hate speech, incitement to violence and genocide – as well as with faith-based organizations and NGOs.

Since the Centre's foundation in 2012, we enable cooperation between religious leaders and policymakers. In the Central African Republic, in Myanmar and Nigeria, we support inclusive, interreligious platforms that help communities build trust and bridge the divides that separate them. Our initiative in the Arab region unites religious leaders in denouncing any justification of violence through religion and in supporting the common citizenship of all. We established the first network of Muslim & Christian Religious Faculties and Institutes in the Arab World to help incorporate interreligious dialogue in their curricula. Our social media training provides over 300 social media advocates in the Arab region the skills to push back against online religious extremism and incitement. Our Fellows programme introduces interreligious dialogue to the educators around the world who are training tomorrow's religious leaders in conflict regions. Our work also trains young people, from scouts to young refugees, to use dialogue to solve real-life challenges.

This publication offers insights into our work to support the broader use of dialogue by religious communities, policymakers, institutions, women and youth.

FAISAL BIN MUAAMMAR
Secretary General

International Dialogue Centre - KAICIID

WHAT IS DIALOGUE?



While the word “dialogue” can often simply refer to a conversation between different people, KAICIID understands “dialogue” - whether inter- or intra-religious, intercultural, or inter-civilizational – as a form of interaction between two or more persons of different identities that emphasizes self-expression and reciprocal listening without passing judgment, in an intellectual and compassionate spirit of openness to mutual learning with deep transformative potential.

Interreligious dialogue, often also referred to as interfaith dialogue, is about people of different religious identities seeking and coming to mutual understanding and respect that allows them to live and cooperate with each other in spite of their differences.

The exponential growth in the practice of dialogue in the last half a century, especially interreligious dialogue, has led to deep transformations in both theological perceptions and interreligious



collaborations for justice and peace. Both interreligious and intercultural dialogue contribute to a paradigm shift away from winning arguments for controlling results, towards collective and inclusive decision-making for a sustainable common good.

Dialogue is at the heart of positive peacebuilding, its processes are in all phases, from prevention of conflicts, to peacemaking and postconflict rebuilding. At KAICIID, dialogue is both a means and an end, from conception of strategy and delivery of programmes, to impact assessment.

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE CENTRE?

The International Dialogue Centre is an international organization with the mission of promoting dialogue to help people understand, respect and value different religions and cultures. The Centre works to counteract discrimination and contribute to resolving conflict. The Centre is the first intergovernmental organization that convenes policymakers and religious actors as peers to encourage dialogue between people who may never meet or cooperate, to talk out their problems, especially if there is a cultural or religious issue at stake. The Centre welcomes all nations, religions and cultures.

The governing Board of Directors comprises representatives of five major religions, representing about 80% of the world's believers and thus offers the international community a unique asset. Through their networks, the Centre has access to religious communities around the world. The diversity of the multireligious governing Board also provides active assurance that the Centre's work is inclusively beneficial for all denominations. With the support of its member governments, the Centre convenes influential stakeholders to collaborate and recognise their common goals and methods. Especially collaboration between religious and secular leadership can create new, more inclusive solutions.

The Centre takes no side in any conflict since it is inclusive of all religions, yet not bound to any single faith or denomination.

The Centre helps communities use dialogue to strengthen harmonious relations.

To achieve this, the Centre fosters cooperation between diverse religious communities to close the divide created when religious identities are manipulated to engender fear and hatred or justify exclusion.

Our vision is a world in which there is respect, understanding and cooperation among people; justice, peace and reconciliation; and an end to the abuse of religion to justify repression, violence and conflict.

OUR ROLES

- We help create the platforms, knowledge, and commitment that foster interreligious dialogue (IRD) in conflict areas.
- We support international and national institutions in using IRD to work for positive change.
- We convene religious leaders, policymakers and other stakeholders to engage in IRD.
- We create and disseminate knowledge on IRD to help achieve peace and reconciliation.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

IN THE FACE OF CONFLICT

The Centre's Council of Parties and Board of Directors declare in the face of conflict the following:

WE BELIEVE

- We believe in the sanctity of life and the inherent dignity of the person.
- We believe that religion is an enabler of respect and reconciliation.
- We believe that dialogue among people of different religions and cultures is the path to lasting peace and social cohesion.
- We affirm the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
- These equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

WE REJECT

- We condemn violent conflict in the world, more so violence committed in the name of religion, and call for an end to violent hostility. We deplore loss of life and commend those who seek to alleviate suffering, as well as those who strive to promote wellbeing, harmony and peace.
- We oppose the instrumentalisation of religion to make war.



- We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.
- And we condemn hate speech and extremism that incite violence and fuel prejudice.
- The Centre combats prejudice and intolerance, in all their forms.

WE WILL ACT

The Centre counteracts the abuse of religion to justify oppression, violence and conflict and facilitates peaceful resolution.

We continue to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to foster respect, understanding and cooperation among people.

WE RESOLVE

We resolve to promote mutual respect and understanding among followers of all religions and peoples of all cultures, particularly through dialogue.

Let us look upon each other as sisters and brothers and let us appreciate difference as enrichment rather than fearing "otherness" as a threat.

GOVERNANCE

The Centre is overseen through a multilateral governance structure: The Founding States of the Centre (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Austria and Kingdom of Spain with the Holy See as a Founding Observer) constitute the "Council of Parties" responsible for overseeing the work of the Centre. The Board of Directors comprises high-level representatives of major world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism).

COUNCIL OF PARTIES

The Council of Parties is the organ of the Centre in which the Parties to the Centre's Establishment Agreement are represented, with the Holy See attending as Founding Observer. The Council convenes at least once a year. Its functions include the election of members of the Board of Directors and the appointment of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General.



The Council of Parties adopts the Centre's financial regulations, work programme and annual budget. The Council of Parties also, on the basis of proposals of the Board of Directors, nominates the members of major religions and faith-based and cultural institutions to the Advisory Forum. It approves international agreements and the establishment of cooperative relationships with public or private entities that can contribute to the Centre's work. The Council of Parties also decides on the admission of new parties and observers to the Agreement.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The International Dialogue Centre is governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of prominent representatives from five major world religions. The nine member Board designs and supervises the Centre's programmes.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



DR. HAMAD AL-MAJED

Faculty Member, Imam Muhammad Bin Saud University

Dr. Al-Majed's positions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia show his commitment to dialogue - bringing people together, elaborating on mutual understanding and avoiding violence among religious groups.

Dr. Al-Majed is convinced of the importance of dialogue between different groups in the education system.

CAREER SUMMARY

- Faculty member of education at the Imam Muhammad Bin Saud University in Riyadh
- Founding Member of the National Society for Human Rights in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Director General of the Islamic Culture Centre in London (1996- 2001)
- Chief Editor of the Islamic Quarterly Magazine, London, UK (1996-2001)
- Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the British Muslims' Heritage Centre



DR. KEZEVINO ARAM

President, Shanti Ashram

Dr. Aram has been part of interfaith dialogue efforts for the past twenty years. Together with Shanti Ashram's partnership platform encompassing 215 partners she is deeply committed to integrated human development initiatives. She founded the International Center of Child and public health in 2016 and through it multiple public health initiatives are currently being implemented for vulnerable children.

CAREER SUMMARY

- Chairperson of the International Ethics Education Council for Children at Arigato International
- Member, Task force, International Initiative to End Child Poverty and member of the Governing Council, National Foundation for Communal Harmony, Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
- Trustee, M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation
- Alumnus and Visiting Professor of the Harvard School of Public Health & PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research



H.E. MONSIGNOR MIGUEL AYUSO

Titular Bishop of Luperciana, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

Bishop Ayuso has always been active in interreligious dialogue, teaching in both Cairo and Rome as well as writing several important publications on issues related to Christian-Muslim dialogue. As a priest he worked in the local Church in Egypt and Sudan from 1982 to 2002.

CAREER SUMMARY

- Member of the Comboni Missionaries
- Ordinated as priest in 1980
- Served as parish priest in Sacred Heart Parish in Abbasiyya/Cairo as well as Director of the Pastoral, Liturgical and Catechetical Centre of El Obeid Diocese/Sudan (1982 - 2002)
- Awarded PhD in Theology by the Faculty of Theology of Granada, Spain (2000)
- President of the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (2005 - 2012)



H.E. METROPOLITAN EMMANUEL

Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

During his service to the Church, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel has become an advocate for peace and dialogue.

CAREER SUMMARY

- Metropolitan of France, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (election 2003)
- Vice President of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of France
- Co-President of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP)
- Director of the Liaison Office of the Orthodox Church to the European Union in Brussels
- In charge of Interreligious Dialogue with Judaism and Islam on behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



THE REVEREND MARK POULSON

Secretary for Interreligious Affairs to the Archbishop of Canterbury and National Interreligious Affairs Adviser for the Church of England

Reverend Poulson has been instrumental in fostering flourishing relationships across different faiths and communities in Southall as Vicar of St. John's Church. Southall is an extraordinarily diverse area of West London where he and his family live.

CAREER SUMMARY

- Reverend Poulson was the Vicar of St John's Church, Southall for 11 years.
- He has also been involved nationally in the Church of England's Presence and Engagement Programme as a long-standing member of its Task Group.
- He is a Member of the Board of the Church's successful partnership with Government, the Near Neighbours Project.



SHEIKH UL-ISLAM A. PASHAZADE

Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims' Board (CMB) and Sheikh ul-Islam of Caucasus

His Virtue Prof. Dr. Allahshukur Pashazade was born in 1949 in Azerbaijan and received his religious education in Mir Arab Madrasah, Bukhara, then at Tashkent Islamic University, Uzbekistan. Upon his return to Azerbaijan, he held several religious posts. In 1980 he was elected Chairman of the CMB and received a title of XXII Sheikh ul-Islam of Caucasus.

CAREER SUMMARY

- Sheikh ul-Islam and Chairman of the Caucasian Muslims Office since 1980
- Co-chair of CIS Interreligious Council since 2004.
- Current chairman of the Advisory Council of Muslim Leaders of CIS.
- Current chairman of the Supreme Religious Board of Caucasian peoples.
- Senior Fellow of the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought of H.K. of Jordan
- Fellow of "Taqreeb bayn al Mazaheb" Committee for the Islamic convergence and "Dar al Taqreeb" Foundation for the Islamic convergence



THE REVEREND KOSHO NIWANO

President-Designate Risho Kosei-Kai

Granddaughter of founder Nikkyo Niwano and first daughter of President Nichiko Niwano. Reverend Niwano currently devotes herself to sharing the teachings of the Lotus Sutra with leaders both in Japan and overseas as well as with the members who visit the Great Sacred Hall for worship services and special events from all parts of Japan.

CAREER SUMMARY

- President-Designate of Risho Kosei-kai
- Participated at several interfaith congresses including Religions for Peace World Assembly, and the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace
- Studied at Risho Kosei-kai's Gakurin seminary
- Graduated from Gakushuin University, Tokyo



CHIEF RABBI DAVID ROSEN

International Director of Interreligious Affairs, American Jewish Committee

Rabbi David Rosen was Chief Rabbi of Ireland and Senior Rabbi of the largest Orthodox Jewish Congregation in South Africa. Today he is one of the most prominent Jewish leaders in the field of interreligious affairs.

CAREER SUMMARY

- International Director of Interreligious Affairs of AJC and its Heilbrunn Institute for International Interreligious Understanding
- Past Chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations
- Honorary Advisor on Interfaith Relations to the Chief Rabbinate of Israel
- Honorary President of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ)
- Knighted by the Vatican in 2005 as Commander of the Order of Gregory the Great. Decorated CBE (Commander of the British Empire) in 2010 by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.



DR. MOHAMMAD SAMMAK

Secretary-General of the National Committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue

For Dr. Sammak, dialogue is a way of life. It is the culture of building bridges between peoples of different religions and cultures, and the art of searching for the truth in the point of view of the other.

CAREER SUMMARY

- Secretary-General of Lebanon's National Committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue
- Secretary-General of the Islamic Spiritual Summit (Sunni-Shiite-Druze-Alawite) in Lebanon
- Secretary of the Arab Group for Christian-Muslim Dialogue.
- Member of the Board of Presidents of the World Conference Religion for Peace – New York
- Writer and political commentator for important newspapers such as Al-Itihad (Abu Dhabi) and Al-Mustaqbal (Beirut), and author of 30 books.

THE ADVISORY FORUM

As set forth in the Centre's Establishment Agreement, a consultative body with up to 100 members from world religions, religious organizations and cultural institutions was established to support the activities of the Board and advise on their programmes. The Advisory Forum has met annually since April 2016, developing task forces and action plans. The Advisory Forum consists of leading figures from the religious, non-governmental and intergovernmental fields working in over 20 countries. By February 2017 it had 47 members representing over a dozen of religions and traditions.

As of May 2017, the Advisory Forum included the following members:

- [Dr. Haggat Mahamat Ahmat](#), CEO, Cultural Center for Research and African and Arab Studies
- [Mr. Rahmatullah Bin Enayatullah Ahmed](#), Director-General of Conferences and Studies, Muslim World League
- [Msgr. Khaled Boutros Akasheh](#), Bureau Chief for Islam, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue
- [Dr. Suhair Hasan Al Qurashi](#), President, Dar Al-Hekma University
- [Dr. Hussein bin Ghazi Alsamerai](#), Member, Iraqi High Council of Senior Scholars for Call and Verdicts
- [Dr. Saleh Suleman Al-Wohaibi](#), Secretary General, World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY)
- [Dr. Ibrahim Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Zaid](#), Secretary General, Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs
- [Professor Reverend George Aubrey Armstrong](#), Fellow, College of St. John the Evangelist
- [Bishop Rev. Dr. Camillo Angelo Ballin](#), Bishop, Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia
- [Dr. Mohamed Bechari](#), Secretary General, European Islamic Conference
- [Sayyed Ali bin Mohamad El-Amine](#), Former Mufti of Tyre and Jabal Amel; Member of the Muslim-Elders Council
- [Claudio Epelman](#), Executive Director, Latin American Jewish Congress; Representative to the Holy See, World Jewish Congress
- [Dr. Rosalee Velloso Ewell](#), Executive Director - Theological Commission, World Evangelical Alliance
- [Ms. Ela Gandhi](#), Honorary Executive Trustee, Gandhi Development Trust; Co-President, World Council of Religions for Peace
- [Dr. John Georgopoulos](#), Representative, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey to the Pastoral Ministry of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
- [Prof. Dr. Abderrahim Hafidi](#), University Professor, Islamologist, TV journalist
- [Chief Rabbi Isaak Haleva](#), Chief Rabbi of Turkey
- [Rev. Dr. Margaretha Maria Hendriks-Ririmasse](#), Lecturer, Theological Faculty of the Indonesian Christian University in Moluccas (UKIM)

- [Father Heikki Huttunen](#), Secretary General, Conference of European Churches
- [Bibi Kiranjot Kaur](#), Member (Trustee), Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC)
- [Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah](#), Catholic Bishop of Sokoto, Roman Catholic Diocese of Sokoto
- [Archbishop Felix Anthony Machado](#), Archbishop, Catholic Diocese of Vasai
- [Shaikh Arshad Madani](#), President, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind
- [Bishop Hovakim Manukyan](#), Director, Inter Church Relations Department of the Armenian Church, Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin
- [Bishop James Massa](#), Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn, Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn
- [Dr. Boris Milosavljevic](#), Deputy Chair of the Board, Institute for Balkan Studies of Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA)
- [Ms. Kaushalya Munda](#), Founding Member, Adibasi Budhijivi Manch, Ranchi
- [Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni](#), Founder President, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti
- [Rabbi Baroness, DBE Julia Babette Sarah Neuberger](#), Senior Rabbi, West London Synagogue
- [Ms. Eva Ruth Palmieri](#), Council Member, Union of the Italian Jewish Communities
- [Dr. Eboo Patel](#), Founder and President, Inter Faith Youth Core (IFYC)
- [Doz. Dr. Mihailo Popović](#), Secretary and Scholar, Metropolis of Austria (Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople)
- [Rev. Dr. Peniel Jesudason Rufus Rajkumar](#), Programme Executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation, World Council of Churches
- [Swami Chidanand Saraswati](#), President, Parmarth Niketan Ashram
- [Rabbi Marc Schneider](#), President, Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEU)
- [Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh](#), Spiritual Leader and Chairman, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha
- [Dr. Simone Sinn](#), Study Secretary for Public Theology and Interreligious Relations, the Lutheran World Federation
- [Canon Dr. Andrew Brian Smith](#), Director of Interfaith Relations, Church of England – Birmingham
- [Ven. Gijun Sugitani](#), Supreme Advisor, Tendai Buddhist Denomination
- [Prof. Dr. Din Syamsuddin](#), Chairman of Advisory Council, Muhammadiyah (MUI)
- [Rev. Tsunekiyō Tanaka](#), President, Jinja Honcho - Association of Shinto Shrines
- [Prof. Ven. Bellanwila Wimalarathana Thero](#), Chancellor, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
- [Dr. William F. Vendley](#), Secretary General, Religions for Peace
- [Dr. Muhammad Hidayat Nur Wahid](#), Vice Chairman, People Consultatives Assembly, Republic of Indonesia
- [Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Hamdy Zaquq](#), Member, Senior Scholar Council of Al Azhar

SECRETARIAT

**FAISAL BIN ABDULRAHMAN BIN MUAAMMAR***Secretary General*

Faisal Bin Abdulrahman Bin Muaammar was appointed Secretary General in October 2012 and re-appointed in October 2017. Prior to this appointment, he held a number of senior positions in the Saudi Arabian administration and various nonprofit organizations.

Among the highlights of a distinguished career, which has encompassed major roles in state government and international organizations, the Secretary General has served as Vice Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Advisor to the Royal Court of the then Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Deputy of the National Guard for Cultural & Educational Affairs.

The Secretary General was instrumental in the foundation of the King Abdulaziz Public Library (KAPL) in 1987, and the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue in Riyadh (KACND) in 2003.

He continues to work as Secretary General of KACND and Supervisor-General of KAPL, as well as Advisor to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The Secretary General also serves on the boards of the following organizations - King Abdulaziz Center for Research and Archives; National Committee for Following Up on the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue Initiative; UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning; King Abdul Aziz Foundation for Islamic Studies and Humanities; King Fahad National Library; Administration Authority of the National Center for Documents and Archives (Saudi Arabia); Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies; World Scout Foundation and UNESCO's Council for Adult and Continuing Education.

**ALVARO ALBACETE***Deputy Secretary General*

Ambassador Albacete is Deputy Secretary General at the International Dialogue Centre.

Ambassador Álvaro Albacete as the Deputy Secretary General develops and coordinates the Centre's policy and action at the wider international level, in close cooperation with the European Union, the United Nations and other international organizations. At the same time, Ambassador Albacete promotes dialogue and cooperation with non-Member States to design and implement the Centre's membership enlargement strategy, under the guidance of the Centre's Member States.

Previous to his appointment, Ambassador Albacete was Ambassador at Large dealing with interreligious and intercultural dialogue for the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has worked for the European Commission in Bosnia-Herzegovina assigned to the Presidency of the State and the Ministry of European Integration between 1999 and 2002. He has also worked for the Inter-American Development Bank in Argentina, Bolivia, Panama and Paraguay, and has been a guest professor of the École Nationale d'Administration of France. He was trained in Driving Government Performance by the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Ambassador Albacete has served in diverse positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, including the Division for the United Nations, Director of Parliamentary Affairs, Deputy Director of the Minister's Cabinet and Ambassador.

**FAHAD ABUALNASR***Director General*

Fahad Abualnasr serves as Director General, in charge of proposing, developing and implementing new programmes and projects with the guidance of the Secretary General. He oversees the day-to-day operations of the Centre, and also oversees the strategic alignment and coordination of the organization in order to optimize impact. To this end, Mr. Abualnasr led the organization through its first comprehensive strategic exercise to define its strategy for 2016-2019 and is responsible for ensuring its effective implementation.

He has been closely involved in the conceptualization and implementation of the Centre's flagship initiative "United against Violence in the Name of Religion". Together with the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Abualnasr represents the organization externally in meetings with policymakers, religious leaders and at conferences.

Throughout his professional career, Mr. Abualnasr has extensively studied and worked on the issues of dialogue as a tool for building bridges and the role of young people in development. He chaired the founding committee and successfully established the Al-AgharGroup, an independent think tank in Saudi Arabia. He is on the Board of Directors of the i2Institute, established to support entrepreneurship and social innovation for scientists, technologists and engineers in the Middle East and beyond. He managed the project titled "Building Saudi Arabia's National Innovation Ecosystem Framework", in close cooperation with KACST, the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology.

PARTNERS

Since its establishment, the Centre has engaged with many religious communities, including: Buddhist, Catholic, Christian Churches of the East, Christian-Orthodox, Protestant, Druze, Hindu, Jewish-Orthodox, Mandeian, Muslim-Sunni, Muslim-Shia and Yazidi high level and grassroots representatives.

The Centre has concluded Memoranda of Understanding with 12 organizations:

- African Union
- Institut Superior de Ciències Religioses de Barcelona
- Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- Religions for Peace
- United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Office on Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect
- UNESCO
- Université de Montréal
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- World Organization of the Scout Movement

The Centre partners with leading organizations in the IRD field:

- Al-Hayat Centre for Civil Society Development
- Berghof Foundation
- Coexister
- Conference of European Rabbis
- Diyar Consortium
- Finn Church Aid
- Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Menschen Rechte Religion
- Mindanao Peacebuilding Institute
- Office of the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide
- Swe Tha Har
- The International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development PaRD
- The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
- World Council of Churches (WCC)

Since its establishment in 2012, the Centre has worked closely with the following institutions and organizations:

- Arigatou International (Kenya)
- Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture
- Club de Madrid
- Culham St Gabriel's Trust
- Ethical Journalism Network

- Euroclio
- European Buddhist Union
- Georgetown University
- Hartford Seminary
- Harvard Pluralism Project
- Hindu Forum of Europe
- Humaniti Malaysia
- International Peace Institute
- International Press Institute
- Interreligious Council for Peace, Tanzania (IRCPT)
- Islamic Cultural Centre of the United Kingdom
- Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe (CEJI)
- OSCE
- Parliament of World's Religions
- Religious Newswriters Foundation
- Right Start Foundation International (RSFI)
- Sarva Dharma Samvaad
- Shinto Foundation
- The Centre for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilisations (CDCC)
- UN Women



UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE MADRID

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers



Université de Montréal



[is]creb
Institut Superior de Ciències Religioses de Barcelona

Religions for Peace



ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

WHAT WE DO

We promote interreligious dialogue to help find sustainable solutions to contemporary challenges. We work in four priority areas. The first focuses on applying IRD for peace and reconciliation in four designated conflict situations, The Arab Region with a focus on Iraq/Syria, Central African Republic (CAR), Myanmar and Nigeria. The second centres on our capacity building efforts, which aim to empower religious leaders to become active peacemakers in communities experiencing conflict and division. In the third, we work to advocate on behalf of IRD with international organizations, policymakers and other stakeholders. Finally, in the fourth we offer, through the Dialogue Knowledge Hub, a virtual platform with resources for the field of dialogue worldwide.

OUR STRATEGY 2016-2019

In November 2015, the Board of Directors approved the International Dialogue Centre's Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2019, culminating a process that had started in April 2015 and which included the development of programme strategies and a new organizational design.

Our programme strategy focuses on work in IRD for peace and reconciliation (P&R) in four specific conflict situations. We build the capacity for P&R processes and catalyse IRD in organizations and networks. The Centre's commitment to knowledge is reflected in our dialogue knowledge hub, which comprises the peace mapping programme, e-learning programmes and virtual dialogue hubs.

The Centre's approach is multilateral, as we seek complementarity between our efforts and those of international and civil society organizations.

As a professional and non-confessional centre, we work with religious and non-religious actors by facilitating dialogical platforms. Our primary commitment is to the principles and processes of dialogue. As a bridge-builder using IRD, the Centre also strives to maximise the inclusion of all the world's mainstream religious and spiritual traditions into its activities and programmes.

SOCIAL COHESION AND RECONCILIATION



Interreligious dialogue, along with the common values of peace shared by all religions, are powerful tools for reconciliation, especially in conflicts where the manipulation of religious identities for political or other aims is a factor.

The Centre's inclusive and dialogical approach to reconciliation brings together all actors in a conflict zone, providing a safe space for building peaceful relations.

UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION (UVNR)



The UVNR Initiative was launched in Vienna in November 2014 at an historic meeting that convened leaders of Muslim, Christian, and other religious and ethnic communities from Iraq, Syria and the larger Middle East, where they jointly issued the Vienna Declaration, denouncing violence in the name of religion.

Under this initiative, the Centre is working with high level representatives of five of the world's major religions, as well as representatives of the Muslim communities, the Armenian Orthodox Church, the Council of Senior Scholars from Saudi Arabia, Evangelicals, the Iraqi Muslim Association,



the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East, the Maronites, the Melkite Greek Catholics, the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), the Mouwahiddoun Druze community



in Lebanon, Protestant communities, the Yazidis, among many others. Working with this extensive network of religious leaders and communities, the Centre is undertaking activities with a range of partners, including UNESCO, UNDP, the UN Office for the Prevention of Genocide and ISESCO, as well as various NGOs.

As a first UVNR follow up event, the Centre held a meeting in Beirut, Lebanon in May 2015, where the representatives of high level religious leaders from the Arab world agreed to continue to work together. This event involved religious leaders, leading policymakers from governments,

international organizations, and humanitarian and peace organizations active in the region.

In September 2015, high level Christian and Muslim religious leaders from the Middle East met in Athens and endorsed the "Athens Declaration: United Against Violence in the Name of Religion - Supporting the Citizenship Rights of Christians, Muslims and Other Religious and Ethnic Groups in the Middle East". The religious leaders called upon political leaders and civil society to take a strong stand against growing violent extremism and terrorism which threaten centuries of peaceful coexistence in the Middle East.

ARAB REGION WITH A FOCUS ON IRAQ/SYRIA

SOCIAL MEDIA AS A SPACE FOR DIALOGUE

This programme originated from a set of recommendations made by high level religious leaders at the November 2014 UVNR conference.

In 2015, more than 120 participants from religious communities, civil society and interreligious organizations across the Middle East met in Amman to develop new strategies for using social media to promote dialogue between different worldviews, cultures and religions. The meeting produced a manual and an action plan to organize regional social media capacity building workshops for religious institutions.

The training manual, which informs users about dialogue tools, the value of social media in promoting dialogue and social cohesion, and how to use social media to implement dialogue, was used in trainings in Jordan (April 2016), Egypt (May 2016), Iraq (August 2016), Tunisia (February 2017), and Lebanon (August 2017). A team of experienced trainers and field experts further developed the manual based on the lessons learned during the trainings. Training venues were chosen throughout the region to bring together participants from surrounding areas, to ensure the inclusion of representatives from all around the Arab region.



The trainings' outcomes include, raising awareness about the Other, instilling a culture of dialogue, and training people on the best practices creating a space in social media for interreligious and intercultural dialogue to bring about peace. Also in 2015 participants were trained to become trainers themselves to be able to promote social cohesion in their own communities through their respective organizations.

This programme is carried out in partnership with local organizations at the respective locations, and has trained approximately 400 participants on using social media effectively as a space for dialogue.

NETWORK FOR RELIGIOUS MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN FACULTIES AND INSTITUTES IN THE ARAB WORLD

In November 2015, the Centre began pursuing a core recommendation of the UVNR initiative: to establish a network for religious Muslim and Christian faculties and institutes in the Arab world, in order to initiate dialogue between Muslim and Christian scholars. A network of this kind is an important first step to imbed the culture of dialogue as a core value in religious education.

This project aims to create a large community of religious leaders, teachers and students from various theology and Sharia faculties and institutes in the Arab region, using IRD tools in their programmes in order to be active peacemakers in their respective communities. The Network supports the development of education tools that foster religious and cultural diversity and promote peace, coexistence and reconciliation.

Under the umbrella of the International Dialogue Centre and in cooperation with Diyar consortium, Palestine, The Network of Muslim and Christian faculties and institutes was launched in May, 2017 in Amman, Jordan. Participants included 25 key figures from the region, from deans to senior lecturers at various Muslim and Christian faculties and institutes in the Arab region.

The participants recognised the responsibility they bear in their institutions, and the core role they play in the educational material they provide



to their fellows. They valued their inclusion to reflect on their institutes' crucial role in promoting a deeper understanding and collaboration among people of diverse religious, cultural and ideological convictions, taking into account their high respect for each other's religion and belief. Participants also developed a strategic, three-year working plan to initiate a joint course, exchange expertise, and organize joint activities reflecting the core values of social cohesion, peaceful coexistence, diversity and respecting the Other.

COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)



PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION IN THE ARAB REGION (PSCAR)

The Centre is working with UNDP's Regional Bureau for the Arab States to map social cohesion in the region, and to evaluate the role religious leaders can play in resilience and conflict prevention programmes. To this end, the two organizations are collaborating on a multi-level and multi-dimensional social cohesion index which will work to build platforms for dialogue to enhance the constructive role that religious leaders can play in promoting social cohesion in the Arab region. Projects focus on promoting intercommunal peace in communities hosting large numbers of refugees, and on addressing

vulnerabilities resulting from the crisis in the Arab region, including Iraq and Syria. To help communities build resilience to conflict, the two organizations are working together with women, youth, religious leaders and the media, as agents for change.

SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL COHESION IN IRAQ (SSCI)

The Centre is working with the UNDP in Iraq on identifying and empowering local agents for social cohesion - "Social Cohesion Champions". This involves a particular focus on religious leaders, who will be empowered to contribute to building peace in fragile societies.



HIGH LEVEL MEETING, FEBRUARY 2018

Five years after the establishment of the Centre and three years from the launch of the initiative "United against Violence in the Name of Religion (UVNR)," we believe the time has come to stop, reflect and examine both past achievements and challenges. The importance of interreligious dialogue and preventing violent extremism has never been more evident, and religious institutions as well as religious leaders have become more aware of the importance of working together to ensure a better world and promote

peace and mutual respect. Additionally, in recent years, political leaders have become more aware of the important role that religion plays in being part of the solution to today's challenges, and therefore policymakers are more inclined to include religious leaders at the dialogue table. The UVNR initiative, through the next meeting in February 2018, encourages religious leaders and policymakers to work together and address the current challenges.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

The Country Programme in the Central African Republic is designed to re-establish dialogue and understanding between Christians and Muslims through building and supporting existing dialogue platforms, which can then be integrated into the ongoing peace processes. The International Dialogue Centre works mainly through partners on the ground. In particular, our collaboration with Search for Common Ground had the objective of contributing to the reduction of interreligious and intercommunity tensions and to facilitating peace and reconciliation in CAR. It reinforced the capacity of religious leaders and supported the work already being done by the Interfaith Platform in CAR - an initiative led by Monsignor Nzapalainga, the Archbishop of Bangui; Imam Oumar Kobine Layama, President of the Islamic Community; and Reverend Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou, President of CAR's Evangelical Alliance. As part of that project, multiple workshops for Christian and Muslim religious leaders were held in December 2015 in Bangui. The Centre continues to support the Platform through the funding and implementation of Quick Impact Projects which will help to sustain the advocacy efforts for tolerance and interreligious dialogue. The project "Strengthening Peace and Cooperation within the Muslim Community", implemented in collaboration with the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, aims to develop the capacity of the Muslim leadership and support reconciliation within the Muslim



community in order to better engage them in the national peace support mechanisms and contribute towards national dialogue and reconciliation. As part of this project, the Centre has convened three interreligious and intra-religious meetings in Vienna. The outcome of the Intra-Muslim Conference held at the Centre in February 2016 was an action plan addressing the issues concerning Muslim citizenship and identity in CAR within the larger framework of national reconciliation. In 2017, the Centre and the Network began disseminating the action plan across CAR and increasing the capacity of Muslim leaders through trainings in dialogue facilitation, as a first step to be able to engage effectively in peacebuilding efforts.

NIGERIA

The International Dialogue Centre is working to build an inclusive and sustainable dialogue platform for peace, bringing together religious and interreligious actors, with international, governmental and civil society partners. Focusing on the diverse conflicts in Nigeria, the Centre convenes religious leaders, policymakers, regional stakeholders and experts in a series of intra- and interreligious meetings, the Coordinate to Achieve (CtA) process. On the basis of extensive consultations with over 80 stakeholders from the country, local partners like the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, the Interfaith Mediation Centre and the Kukah Centre, as well as building on the workshop in January 2015 for 300 Christian and Muslim women and youth, the CtA1 conference in September 2016 focused on intra-religious understanding as the basis for collaboration between the different religious entities in Nigeria. A permanent Central Coordination Council was established to start working on the agreed action plan. CtA2 subsequently focused on the launch of a representative and sustainable approach towards interreligious dialogue, resulting in the foundation of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace, a locally owned, and legally registered entity that works on the promotion of interreligious dialogue for peace in the country. Its administrative arm, the Executive Committee, meet regularly to coordinate initiatives and endeavours of the member organizations. Recent engagement has focused on building



the capacity of IDFP members regarding conflict sensitive communication and interreligious conflict resolution. To date, the Centre has supported advocacy efforts to ban hate speech, including a draft bill, in collaboration with the IMC and other partners. It also provides technical support to the Platform including the adoption of a 2016 joint action plan for Interreligious Dialogue and Peacebuilding. Upcoming activities will focus on locally owned and jointly coordinated initiatives to further use interreligious dialogue as a tool for peace in the country, prioritising interreligious education and the prevention of hate speech. This process has received attention, commitment and highest praise from the most prominent Nigerian dignitaries, such as the Sultan of Sokoto, the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria and the Cardinal of Abuja. It is complemented by a diverse set of coordination and capacity building measures, facilitated by the permanent presence of the Centre through the local expert in the country.

MYANMAR



KAICIID and its local partner network, the Peaceful Myanmar Initiative (PMI), a multi-religious network of religious leaders and CSOs, are focusing on the development of dialogue activities as part of local peace advocacy efforts, to revive the spirit of tolerance in the country.

KAICIID's overall objective is to promote interreligious dialogue, coexistence and reconciliation between the followers of the main religious traditions in the country. The programme makes an impact through establishing an inclusive and sustainable platform to promote interreligious dialogue and coexistence: This includes the

creation of an interreligious Centre for people of different faiths to gather, exchange views, facilitate training and implement interreligious projects. The programme has also trained a pool of trainers and over 290 religious and community leaders on interreligious dialogue in six pilot regions, with a focus on using social media as a space for dialogue. Furthermore, the Centre has worked with the main religious institutions in the country to incorporate interreligious dialogue into their curricula, and supported local peacebuilding initiatives through a small grants scheme in six pilot areas, and through partners, in Rakhine State.

COOPERATION WITH THE UN OFFICE ON THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE



The UN Office on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect and the International Dialogue Centre's collaboration started at the launch of the Centre's "United against Violence in the Name of Religion" initiative in November 2014, and culminated in the launch of the first ever action plan specifically designed to enable religious leaders to prevent and counter incitement to violence - the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent and Counter Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes - by Secretary-General António Guterres at a July 2017 meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Plan of Action was developed over two years of intensive consultations at the global and regional levels organized by the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, and KAICIID, with the support of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

A total of 232 religious leaders and actors from 77 countries took part in the consultations.

Participants included Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs from different groups and denominations, as well as representatives from various religious minorities, including Baha'i, Candomblé, Kakai, Yazidi and humanists. At least 30 percent of participants at all meetings were women.

The Action Plan was developed in response to an alarming spike in recent years in hate speech and incitement to violence against individuals or communities, based on their identity. Incitement to violence, in public discourse and the media, is both a common warning sign and a precursor of atrocity crimes. The Action Plan is the first document to focus on the role of religious leaders and actors in preventing incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes and the first to develop context specific regional strategies with this objective.

Implementation of the Plan of Action will contribute to the prevention of atrocity crimes, especially in areas affected by religious and sectarian tensions and violence and enhance the respect, protection and promotion of human rights.

The Plan of Action is pioneering both in its focus on religious leaders and actors, and in the wide range of organizations and stakeholders that contributed to its development. It contains concrete recommendations to prevent incitement to violence, strengthen communities' resistance to incitement, and build mechanisms for a united response.



AFRICAN UNION INTERFAITH DIALOGUE FORUM

In an effort to promote interreligious dialogue as a means to build peace and enhance social cohesion in Africa, the African Union Commission and the International Dialogue Centre organized the 2nd Interfaith Dialogue Forum from 10 to 11 November 2016 in Abuja, Nigeria.

The Forum supports aspiration 3, goal 11, and priority area 1 of Agenda 2063 on the role of religious leaders in the development agenda, Peace and Security, and Women and Gender. The Forum gathered more than 80 participants from over 27 African Union Member States, including religious leaders, policymakers, civil



society representatives, scholars and experts. The delegates approved a Declaration and a Plan of Action on their joint work in priority areas and issues that were identified, such as education, partnerships, media and development.

The Forum also elected a Steering Committee, comprising 12 religious leaders to support and strengthen the process of interreligious and intercultural dialogue within African countries and communities. In May 2017, a follow-up meeting of the Steering Committee took place, resulting in a mid and long term strategic plan as well as proposals for further activities to boost the Forum and Steering Committee's capacities.

CAPACITY BUILDING

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAMME

The International Fellows Programme is a one-year learning and training programme. Its goal is to empower institutions that educate future religious leaders by training and mentoring these future leaders' educators to promote interreligious dialogue education and practice in their religious educational institutions. The selected Fellows participate in three residential trainings supplemented by online training and courses related to interreligious dialogue, coexistence, pluralism and peacebuilding. This integrated learning process provides the Fellows with an initial framework to facilitate their own training and programmes within their home institutions. The Fellows also develop and implement small-scale local and international initiatives during the course of the programme, while organizing and attending dialogues, lectures, field visits and conferences. As of November 2017, 112 Fellows from 34 countries and 8 religions have completed the Fellows programme and 45 new fellows have been selected for KIFP International & Africa Region cohorts to start the Programme in January 2018 ". An additional 64 Fellows have already graduated from the programme and are now members of the KAICIID Fellows Network (KFN), a global



network of religious leaders, educators and IRD practitioners trained in dialogue, mediation and peacebuilding. Over 75% of the Fellows are affiliated with academic/research institutions and 85% of the Fellows are affiliated with religious/confessional institutions. Since 2016, in addition to the international programme, a regional Fellows programme also takes place. In 2016, the regional programme was focused on South-East Asia, while in 2017 it is centred on the Arab region, involving another 24 participants. At the end of 2016, the Fellows had implemented over 60 initiatives, impacting over 3,600 people - a number which will continue to increase. Almost 45 additional initiatives were implemented in 2017.

REFUGEES IN EUROPE PROGRAMME



The arrival of people seeking refuge in Europe affects interreligious and intercultural relations. The International Dialogue Centre seeks to support existing refugee integration efforts in Europe by convening and fostering dialogue in order to address fears and prejudices. The Centre seeks to support, in particular, the religious and cultural integration of women seeking refuge. In 2017, the Centre piloted the project “Integration through Dialogue” in Vienna, Austria, by hiring and training Austrian women with migrant backgrounds to serve as cultural bridges between people seeking refuge and Austrian institutions and communities. The facilitators are tasked with holding dialogue sessions and activities about integration-related issues in order to support participants’ understanding of European values and norms, and to encourage participants – especially women and girls– to be engaged and empowered in their own integration process, and to make use of services and protections. The Centre also plans to convene religious leaders and other religious-based actors from select European cities in order to exchange

ideas and find ways for religious communities to cooperate in order to counter xenophobia and support constructive migration narratives.

COOPERATION WITH THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

The International Dialogue Centre promotes interreligious and intercultural dialogue for and among youth. Our training in dialogue gives youth the skills they need to promote and facilitate dialogue on their own.

The Centre and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2013 to promote and institutionalise dialogue within the Scouts Movement. In the past three years, the Centre and WOSM have been working closely on trainings and workshops promoting dialogue on the international, regional and national levels in order to increase the number of the Scouts dialogue facilitators and trainers. These trainings are an integral part of the Dialogue for Peace Programme which enhances dialogue values for scouts of different age groups. The programme will offer to scouts three levels to develop their dialogue skills: Dialogue Badge for all sections, and Dialogue Facilitator badge for Venture/



Rover section and Adult Leaders. Additionally, a Dialogue Trainer level will be available for the scouts wishing to promote dialogue in their communities. The Centre and WOSM are also co-developing the Scouts Dialogue Learning Model consisting of three manuals on dialogue (Dialogue Knowledge Source, Trainers Manual & Facilitators Manual) and a Handbook for the Dialogue Badge.

Additional areas of joint work include:

- Consulting for the Duty to God Task Force: the Centre conducted a study of spiritual development in scouting based on the data gathered by WOSM through an online survey across the movement.
- Supporting the Interreligious Forum of World Scouting: the Centre facilitated and participated in the 2017 Interreligious Symposium held in New York
- Interreligious Dialogue Game: the Centre is developing a dialogue board game that teaches the players how dialogue can be used to deal with difficult subjects in a way that is both fun and engaging. The prototype game was tested and improved with the participation of Scouts in 2017.

CATALYSING INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE IN ORGANIZATIONS

To ensure the broadest possible application of interreligious and intercultural dialogue as a peacebuilding tool, the International Dialogue Centre helps organizations acquire the motivation and means to use dialogue effectively. The "Catalysing IRD Programme" focuses on collaboration with the Centre's peer organizations, enabling them to explore IRD techniques which correspond to their interests and mandates.

With the African Union Commission, ISESCO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Organization of the Scout Movement, among others, the Centre has helped its partners incorporate religious leaders and perspectives into otherwise secular events, demonstrating that cross-sectoral consultations can achieve rich, practical results. Co-organized expert consultations, such as with the OSCE in April 2017, produce fresh ideas and incentives for partners to incorporate aspects of IRD into their work.

With the aim of improving coordination and raising the profile of IRD endeavours internationally, the Centre became a Core Group member and supporter of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers in 2015, as well as the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PARD) and the Joint Learning Initiative (JLI). This position allows the Centre to directly consult and offer guidance to a global constellation of more than 40 experienced peacebuilding organizations.

Within the Network, the Centre has supported eight projects to undertake research, platform-building and conferences in nine countries and encouraged advocacy for IRD methods and practices at the United Nations. At the same time, the Centre is strengthening its relationship with European Union institutions, so that emerging opportunities for IRD to complement and enhance their initiatives can be fully explored.

DIALOGUE KNOWLEDGE HUB

The KAICIID Dialogue Knowledge Hub (DKH) is a virtual platform where the interested public, stakeholders, policymakers and religious communities can access electronic resources on interreligious dialogue (IRD).

DKH seeks to contribute to the process of informing, educating and networking on interreligious dialogue for peace and reconciliation worldwide through a variety of e-tools.

The DKH currently comprises:

1. Peace Map, a searchable online mapping, analysing and networking tool on activities and organizations that promote peace through interreligious dialogue worldwide
2. Dialogue Voices Database, a searchable database of short audio-visual clips from within the field, providing IRD practitioners with a space to share their success stories and their challenges
3. Promising Practices Database, a searchable database of innovative approaches and activities in IRD. It serves IRD practitioners as a resource by offering documentations of successful IRD activities, and guidelines on how to replicate them in different contexts.



4. KAICIID Online Course on Interreligious Dialogue, a three-credit bachelor degree course that can be offered at any academic institution within a wide range of programmes. Also, a non-accredited massive open-source version of this course can be offered to the general public.
5. Who's Who Database, an online compendium of individuals active in one or more aspects of IRD (e.g. policymakers, trainers, activists, etc.)
6. A database of Statements for Peaceful Coexistence as well as against the use of violence in the name of religion.
7. An Almanac of Cyclical IRD Events which showcases organizations around the world holding regular interreligious events and granting international awards in IRD.

GLOBAL ACTIVITIES



ONGOING PROGRAMMES

- Arab Region with a focus on Iraq/Syria
- Central African Republic
- Myanmar
- Nigeria

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- India
- Indonesia
- Tanzania

KAICIID INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAMME

112 Fellows,
34 nationalities,
8 religions

COMPLETED PROGRAMMES

MEDIA

THE IMAGE OF THE OTHER

Information and opinions carried through the mainstream news media, religious media, opinion websites and, increasingly, on social media platforms all contribute to shaping perceptions that members of different religious and cultural communities have of one another. Many faith communities find their lived realities are not accurately portrayed by the news media or online, where stories of conflict or hate speech receive more attention.

The Media Programme, developed on the basis of discussions with media professionals and journalism support organizations, aimed to strengthen accurate reporting about religion and religious communities.

In addition, it worked to increase self-representation in media and social media by people of faith who are active in interreligious dialogue.



TRAINING MANUALS FOR JOURNALISTS

Images of Faith: Religion, Minorities and Conflict in News Media

The Centre developed a toolkit for journalists on covering stories with a religious dimension, which includes advice from journalists for dialogue leaders seeking to have their voices heard. The tips and best practices contained in this publication were developed by more than 40 journalists meeting in Cape Town, South Africa,

as part of the International Press Institute World Congress in April 2014 for a discussion of best practices for reporting on religion.

The toolkit contains:

- Recommendations for reporters on the coverage of:
 - The internal affairs of religious communities
 - Religious minorities
 - Conflicts that have a religious dimension
- Suggestions on how to find sources for stories about religion and religious people
- Recommendations for interreligious dialogue practitioners seeking to engage with the media, from a journalist's perspective

Their suggestions were compiled and edited by the Centre.

TRAINING MANUALS FOR INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE PRACTITIONERS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Media Wise: Empowering Responsible Religious Leadership in the Digital Age

The Centre connected the news media with another group that has a tangible impact on peoples' perceptions of the "Other", religious leaders who like other members of society, are influenced by and through the media. They have expertise in their traditions, but are

not necessarily media experts or experts on other faiths. Religious leaders need to analyse news media content, understand risks and opportunities associated with digital media to act as responsible and informed consumers and transmitters of information and opinion. The curriculum, developed in cooperation with UNESCO, empowers religious leaders to navigate the news media and the Internet with confidence and more capably address misinformation or bias about their own or other religious communities and beliefs.

Speak Up: Social Media and Communications Training for Interreligious Dialogue Practitioners

There are many religious leaders, including those in conflict situations, who take pains to promote interreligious dialogue, and practice solidarity with members of other religious communities. Social media platforms provide a way for everyone to have a voice. Dialogue practitioners have the means to correct stereotypes, counteract hate speech and quell incitement with messages of peace and reconciliation. The Centre's Social Media and Communications Training gave interreligious dialogue practitioners in Nairobi, Kenya, and New Delhi, India, tools to tell their stories, create their own channels of information and engage the mainstream press.

EUROPEAN MEDIA FORUM

In June 2015, the Centre held the European Media Forum in Paris, France on the universal human rights of freedom of religion and freedom of expression, which gathered European religious leaders, journalists, as well as civil society organisations. The participants agreed that closer relations between journalists and religious communities increase the media's religious awareness and the religious leader's media awareness. Cooperative working relationships and shared understandings of the mindful exercise of universal rights will help both media and religious leaders proactively counteract hate speech and discrimination by fostering empathy for people of different faiths and cultural backgrounds.

EDUCATION

Education shapes perceptions early in life. How "Others" (individuals with different cultural or religious backgrounds), are depicted in education leaves an imprint on the minds of the youth. When negative stereotypes are present, these depictions can undermine tolerance and lead to discrimination.

In fighting stereotypes and discrimination, the International Dialogue Centre's education programme promoted more accurate representation of diversity through interreligious and intercultural education. It connected

researchers, practitioners, educators and policymakers to methods, models and materials used in intercultural and interreligious education in all world regions that have been successful in promoting diversity. The programme supported the exchange of ideas and approaches, serving as a platform for public outreach on the Image of the Other and sharing best practices, ideas and materials transregionally.

In the first year of the programme, the Centre held four regional conferences to survey practitioners and gather best practices and recommendations that were then presented at the Global Forum in November 2013. In 2014, work continued on the implementation of these best practices and recommendations, as well as new ones through the Policy Network and the Centre's programme on sacred sites.

Since 2013, the Centre has deepened its cooperation with international actors working in the field of education, like UNESCO, with whom we worked on Global Citizenship Education and a tool to assist educators in writing textbooks that are free of stereotypes and prejudices. The Centre and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) have also worked together on interreligious and intercultural education.

Our work with education continues today across all our programmes, with special reference to the Fellows programme, the Online Learning Programme, and the Network of Theological Institutes.

MULTIRELIGIOUS COLLABORATION FOR THE COMMON GOOD (MCC)



The Multireligious Collaboration for the Common Good programme comprised projects in Tanzania and Indonesia, both countries in which constructively managing diversity is a social and governmental priority. The project was designed to strengthen the capacity of local interreligious institutions (the Interreligious Council for Peace, Tanzania and the Centre for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilisations (CDCC) in Indonesia) to undertake IRD and related activities in support of social cohesion. The projects were led by the Centre's consultants in each country and affiliates of Religions for Peace, and focused on empowering local actors to deliver solutions tailored to local needs and context. During the course of this programme, two national IRD studies, handbooks for religious leaders on promoting child welfare, and six manuals for teachers delivering interreligious or peace education at religious institutions, schools, universities and government agencies were

produced. The resources remain in use, while the partners' continue in both countries.

STRENGTHENING INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE IN INDIA

In partnership with Sarva Dharma Samvaad (meaning "All religions dialogue"), or SDS, a civil society organization based in Delhi, India the Centre supported the delivery of a diverse portfolio of activities in India between 2015 and 2017. The programme was designed to address unrest and social antagonism by developing dialogue platforms and young people's ability to engage their peers as well as decision-makers in sensitive discussions on religious and cultural topics, without relying on elder interlocutors. More than 100 young religious leaders and activists were trained in 'social media as a space for dialogue', media literacy, strategic advocacy for interreligious dialogue and the role of interreligious dialogue and platforms in India. In many cases, the trainees imparted these skills when they returned to their religious institutions and took part in an intensive interreligious five-day youth camp. Following consultations with academics and religious leaders, the Centre supported SDS in compiling and publishing a report in 2017 on the history of interreligious dialogue in India.



A COMMON WORD AMONG YOUTH

Recognising the potential of youth to act as influential advocates for diversity, tolerance and social cohesion, the International Dialogue Centre partnered with ISESCO, Right Start Foundation International (RSFI), the World Scout Movement, and Georgetown University to launch "A Common Word among the Youth" (ACWAY) in December 2015. Around 80 young people from 75 different countries undertook immersive, week-long instruction in interreligious relations and dialogue, conflict mediation and project planning to equip

them with the skills to be ambassadors for harmony in their respective communities. Over the following year, more than 40 projects, designed by the participants with support of the organizers, were carried out worldwide. Five won awards in the form of mini-grants for the quality and thoughtfulness of their designs. ACWAY continues under the coordination of RSFI.

FROM CONCEPT TO FOUNDATION



The journey to the International Dialogue Centre began in 2005 when the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, convened Islamic scholars from around the world to deepen intra-Muslim dialogue.

During a historic visit to the Vatican in November 2007, the King discussed his idea for an interreligious dialogue initiative to His Holiness, who pledged his support to the project.

In June 2008, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, opened the International Islamic Conference for Dialogue in Makkah, followed by the International Conference for Dialogue in Madrid.

That November, following the adoption of the Madrid Declaration at the World Conference on Dialogue, the UN General Assembly took note of the initiative. In July 2009, the World Interreligious Dialogue Follow-Up Conference in Vienna unanimously endorsed the initiative to establish an international centre for interreligious dialogue.

On 13 October 2011, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Austria signed the International Dialogue Centre's Establishment Agreement. These three nations with the Holy See as Founding Observer today constitute the Centre's Council of Parties.

ESTABLISHMENT AGREEMENT OF THE KING ABDULLAH BIN ABDULAZIZ INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

THE PARTIES SIGNATORY HERETO,

CONVINCED of the importance of interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an instrument to address the religious and spiritual dimension of human beings and to, inter alia, support conflict prevention and resolution, sustainable peace and social cohesion;

WISHING to promote mutual respect and understanding among different religious and cultural groups;

REAFFIRMING the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;

EMPHASIZING the principles and values of human life and dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion;

SEEKING to combat all forms of discrimination and of stereotyping based on religion or belief;

PROMOTING regular exchanges and networking of representatives of religions and faith-based and cultural institutions, and, as appropriate, representatives of state and non-state institutions, universities, civil society actors and other individual experts;

EXPRESSING appreciation for the initiative of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, to further mutual understanding and global harmony;

NOTING the objectives of the UN Charter as well as existing efforts and initiatives for inter-religious dialogue and intercultural understanding and recalling in this regard the Declaration of the Madrid World Conference on Dialogue of 18 July 2008 and the Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the Promotion of Interreligious and Intercultural

Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace of 13 November 2008;

WISHING to promote their common goals by establishing the King Abdullah International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (hereinafter referred to as "the Centre") on the basis of a multilateral Agreement open to other States and International Organizations as Parties or Observers;

ACKNOWLEDGING the support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Austria and the Kingdom of Spain in preparing the establishment of the Centre and their long-term commitment to support the Centre; and

RESPONDING to the invitation of the Republic of Austria to locate the Centre in Vienna;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

ARTICLE I Establishment and Status

1. There is hereby established the Centre as an international organization.
2. The Centre shall possess international legal personality.
3. The Centre shall inter alia have the capacity:
 - (a) to contract;

- (b) to acquire and dispose of immovable and movable property;
- (c) to institute and respond to legal proceedings; and
- (d) to take such other action as may be necessary or useful for the fulfillment of its purpose and activities.

4. The Centre shall operate in accordance with this Agreement.

ARTICLE II Objectives and Activities

1. The objectives of the Centre shall be to:
 - (a) enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue, thus fostering respect, understanding and cooperation among people, promote justice, peace and reconciliation and counteract the abuse of religion to justify oppression, violence and conflict;
 - (b) promote a responsible way of living the religious and spiritual dimension of individuals and society;
 - (c) promote respect and preservation of the sacred character of holy sites, as well as religious symbols;
 - (d) address the contemporary challenges to society, such as the dignity of human life, preservation of the environment, sustainable use of natural resources, ethical and religious education and poverty alleviation.

2. To achieve these objectives the Centre shall, inter alia:

- (a) serve as a forum for representatives of major religions and faith-based and cultural institutions and experts in order to enhance communication and information exchange and in order to facilitate cooperation;
- (b) cooperate with appropriate interreligious, intercultural and other bodies and initiatives with similar goals as well as with States and International Organizations;
- (c) convene conferences, workshops, discussions and other meetings; and
- (d) undertake other activities in accordance with its objectives.

ARTICLE III Headquarters

1. The headquarters of the Centre shall be located in Vienna, Austria, under such terms and conditions as agreed between the Centre and the Republic of Austria.
2. The Centre may establish facilities in other locations as required to support its activities.

ARTICLE IV Organs

The Centre shall have:

- (a) a Council of Parties;

- (b) a Board of Directors;
- (c) an Advisory Forum; and
- (d) a Secretariat.

ARTICLE V Council of Parties

1. The Council of Parties shall consist of representatives of the Parties to this Agreement.
2. The Council of Parties shall:
 - (a) elect the members of the Board of Directors for a renewable term of four years;
 - (b) adopt the Centre's financial regulations;
 - (c) adopt the work programme and annual budget of the Centre;
 - (d) establish a Financial Advisory Committee to advise the Board of Directors and the Secretariat on financial and budgetary matters;
 - (e) appoint the independent external auditors;
 - (f) nominate, on the basis of the proposal of the Board of Directors, the members of major religions and faith-based and cultural institutions to the Advisory Forum;
 - (g) approve international agreements;
 - (h) approve the establishment of cooperative relationships in accordance with Article X;
 - (i) adopt the Council of Parties' rules of procedure;
 - (j) appoint the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for a renewable period of four years;
 - (k) elect its officers, including its Chairperson

- and two Vice-Chairpersons;
- (l) decide on the admission of new Parties to this Agreement; and
- (m) decide on the admission of Observers.

3. The Council of Parties shall meet at least once a year and the quorum for such meetings shall be not less than three quarters of the Parties. Unless otherwise provided by this Agreement, the Council of Parties shall take its decisions by a majority vote of the Parties. Each Party shall have one vote.
4. The election of the members of the Board of Directors in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) and the admission of new Parties or Observers in accordance with paragraph 2 (l) or (m) shall require the consensus of the Parties.

ARTICLE VI Board of Directors

1. The Centre shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of up to twelve members from the major religions of the world taking into account their diversity. Among the members of the Board of Directors the below religions shall have the following minimum number of members:
 - (a) one member from Judaism;
 - (b) three members from Christianity;
 - (c) three members from Islam;
 - (d) one member from Hinduism; and
 - (e) one member from Buddhism.The members shall be elected by the Council

of Parties taking due account of their personal merits and experience regarding the objectives of the Centre, based on recommendations by their religions as appropriate.

2. The Board of Directors shall:
 - (a) determine and carry out the activities and operations on the basis of the work programme of the Centre;
 - (b) propose to the Council of Parties the members of the world's major religions and faith-based and cultural institutions to be nominated to the Advisory Forum;
 - (c) review periodically the membership of the Advisory Forum to ensure wide and effective participation of religions and faith-based and cultural institutions;
 - (d) convene meetings of the Advisory Forum;
 - (e) inform the Advisory Forum of its planned activities and operations and solicit its advice;
 - (f) establish task forces primarily from among the members of the Advisory Forum and the Board of Directors to address specific issues;
 - (g) coordinate the work of the Centre with interreligious and other bodies and initiatives as well as, in close cooperation with the Secretary-General, with States and International Organizations;
 - (h) establish, in close cooperation with the Secretary-General, committees as deemed necessary for the efficient functioning of the Centre;
 - (i) adopt its rules of procedure; and
 - (j) elect its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

3. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once a year and the quorum shall be three quarters of its members.

The Board of Directors shall take its decisions by a majority vote of its members. Each member shall have one vote.

4. Members of the Board of Directors may resign at any time by written notice to the Board of Directors. Such resignation shall be effective upon its receipt by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

Advisory Forum

1. The Advisory Forum shall support the activities of the Board of Directors and advise on its programme of work and the substance of the Centre's activities. The Advisory Forum shall consist of up to 100 members of the world's major religions and faith-based and cultural institutions who shall be nominated in accordance with Article V paragraph 2 (f) for a renewable term of four years, taking into account the need to ensure a presence from all regions of the world.

2. Members of the Advisory Forum, who shall act in an individual and independent capacity, may resign at any time by written notification to the Board of Directors.

3. The Advisory Forum shall meet as convened by the Board of Directors, but at least once a year. The quorum shall be not less than the majority

of its members. The Advisory Forum shall adopt its recommendations, as far as possible, by consensus or, failing that, by a two thirds majority of its members. Each member shall have one vote. Members of the Board of Directors may attend the meetings of the Advisory Forum. The Advisory Forum shall adopt its rules of procedure and shall elect its officers, including its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

ARTICLE VIII

Secretariat

1. The Secretariat shall assist the other organs of the Centre in carrying out their activities and functions and shall maintain a permanent staff in Vienna.

2. The Secretariat shall be headed by a Secretary General responsible for the day-to-day management of the Centre. The Secretary General shall report to the Board of Directors and the Council of Parties and be accountable to the Council of Parties.

3. In particular, the Secretary-General shall:

- (a) represent the Centre externally;
- (b) ensure the proper administration of the Centre, including human resources and financial management;
- (c) propose an annual budget and work programme for adoption by the Council of Parties after having consulted the Board of

Directors;

- (d) enter into contracts and arrangements on behalf of the Centre and negotiate international agreements for approval by the Council of Parties;
- (e) propose the establishment of cooperative relationships in accordance with Article X for approval by the Council of Parties;
- (f) actively seek appropriate funding for the Centre and accept voluntary contributions on behalf of the Centre in accordance with the financial regulations; and
- (g) undertake other assignments or activities as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX

Finances

1. The resources of the Centre shall include the following:

- (a) voluntary contributions by Parties and Observers;
- (b) contributions and donations from other appropriate sources; and
- (c) other income, inter alia accruing from contributions.

2. The fiscal year of the Centre shall be from 1 January to 31 December.

3. The accounts of the Centre and its financial affairs shall be subject to an annual independent external audit according to international financial standards and regulations.

ARTICLE X

Cooperative Relationships

The Centre may establish cooperative relationships with public or private entities which can contribute to the Centre's work.

ARTICLE XI

Privileges and Immunities

1. The Centre, the members of the Board of Directors, the members of the Advisory Forum, the Secretary General and other Secretariat staff and experts shall enjoy such privileges and immunities as agreed between the Centre and the Republic of Austria.

2. The Centre may conclude agreements with other States in order to secure appropriate privileges and immunities.

ARTICLE XII

Liability

1. No Party to this Agreement shall be required to provide financial support to the Centre beyond such contributions as it has pledged.

2. The Parties to this Agreement shall not be responsible, individually or collectively, for any debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the Centre; a statement to this effect shall be included in each of the agreements entered into by the Centre under Article XI.

ARTICLE XIII

Amendments

This Agreement may be amended only with the consent of all Parties. Notification of such consent shall be made in writing to the Depositary. Any amendment shall come into force upon receipt by the Depositary of the notification of all Parties to this Agreement, or at such other date as the Parties may agree.

ARTICLE XIV

Transitional Provisions

1. The rights and duties entered into by the provisional bodies of the Centre shall, where applicable, be transferred to the Centre upon the entry into force of this Agreement.
2. The first Board of Directors shall consist of nine members.

ARTICLE XV

Entry into Force and Depositary

1. This Agreement shall enter into force sixty days after the date of deposit of the instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval by the States having signed the Agreement.

2. States and International Organizations which have not signed this Agreement may subsequently accede to it after their admission has been approved by the Council of Parties in accordance with Article V paragraph 4.
3. For every State or International Organization which accedes to this Agreement after the date of its entry into force, this Agreement shall enter into force sixty days after the date of deposit of its instrument of accession.
4. The Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria shall serve as Depositary of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XVI

Observers

Any State or International Organization may become Observer to the Centre after its admission has been approved by the Council of Parties in accordance with Article V paragraph 4. Representatives of an Observer may attend and speak at the Council of Parties meetings in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure and the provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE XVII

Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute arising between the Centre and any Party to this Agreement or between any Parties under this Agreement shall be settled by negotiation or other agreed means of settlement.

ARTICLE XVIII

Withdrawal

1. Any of the Parties to this Agreement may withdraw from this Agreement by written notification to the Depositary. Such withdrawal shall become effective three months after receipt of such notification by the Depositary.
2. Withdrawal from this Agreement by a Party to this Agreement shall not limit, reduce or otherwise affect its pledged contribution for the fiscal year in which it withdraws.

ARTICLE XIX

Termination

1. The Parties to this Agreement, acting unanimously, may terminate this Agreement at any time and wind up the Centre by written notification to the Depositary. Any assets of the Centre remaining after payment of its legal

obligations shall be disposed of in accordance with a majority decision of the Council of Parties.

2. The provisions of this Agreement shall survive its termination to the extent necessary to permit an orderly disposal of assets and settlement of accounts.



The Centre shall... "enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue, thus fostering respect, understanding and cooperation among people, promote justice, peace and reconciliation and counteract the abuse of religion to justify oppression, violence and conflict."

KING ABDULLAH BIN ABDULAZIZ INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

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