

DIALOGUE FOR PEACE

International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

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About the International Dialogue Centre

The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) is an intergovernmental organization that promotes dialogue to strengthen social cohesion. We do this by enhancing understanding and cooperation between people of different cultures and followers of different religions. The Centre was founded by Austria, Saudi Arabia and Spain. The Holy See is the Founding Observer. Our Board of Directors comprises prominent representatives from five world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism).

What is Interreligious Dialogue?

We believe that dialogue between people of different identities that emphasizes self-expression and reciprocal listening without passing judgement leads to mutual learning. Interreligious dialogue enables people of different religious identities to seek, and reach mutual understanding and respect that allows them to live and cooperate with each other, while valuing their unique identities.

Building Bridges between Policymakers and Religious Leaders

We connect religious leaders and policymakers in a sustained dialogue for peace. Working through and with partners around the world, we promote interreligious dialogue (IRD) to help find sustainable solutions to contemporary challenges and conflict situations. We work in four priority areas:

We apply IRD for peace and reconciliation in four conflict situations: the Central African Republic (CAR), Myanmar and Nigeria, as well as some parts of the Arab region with a focus on Iraq and Syria.

We offer training and capacity building so that more religious leaders, especially youth leaders, can become active peacemakers in their communities.

We advocate and support the broader use of interreligious dialogue by international organizations, policymakers and other stakeholders.

We offer, through the Dialogue Knowledge Hub, a virtual platform with resources for the field of dialogue worldwide.

United Against Violence in the Name of Religion (UVNR)

- Common Citizenship Consultation in Vienna (April 2014)
- First High-Level Meeting of Religious Leaders in Vienna (November 2014) **Vienna Declaration**
- Meeting in Beirut (May 2015)
- Meeting in Athens (September 2015) **Athens Declaration**
- Launch of the KAICIID Arab Region Programme (January 2016)
- Second High-Level Meeting of Religious Leaders in Vienna (February 2018)

Under the UVNR initiative, the Centre works with an inclusive network of religious leaders and their communities, collaborating partners, including UNESCO, UNDP, the UN Office for the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect and ISESCO, as well as various NGOs, to implement the action plan that steers the Centre's programme for the Arab region. The programme's vision is to establish and support a network of religious leaders, dialogue practitioners, young theologians and their teachers from diverse traditions and beliefs who use IRD as active peacemakers in their communities.



Network of Muslim and Christian Religious Seminaries and Faculties in the Arab World

The establishment of a network of Christian and Muslim religious seminaries and faculties in the Arab region is a core priority of the UVNR initiative. This network, first convened in December 2016 and formally launched in May 2017, is the first network of this kind in the Arab region. By initiating dialogue between Muslim and Christian scholars who educate tomorrow's religious leaders, it serves an essential role in anchoring the practice of interreligious dialogue in religious education.

This project creates a large, interconnected community of religious leaders, teachers and students from various theological

KAICIID International Fellows Programme

The International Fellows Programme is a learning and training programme empowering institutions that educate future religious leaders by training educators to promote interreligious dialogue education and practice. As of 2017, 112 Fellows from 34 countries and 8 religions have completed, or are currently enrolled, in the Fellows Programme. 75% of Fellows are affiliated with Academic/Research institutions.

The Fellows participate in three residential trainings supplemented by online trainings and courses related to interreligious dialogue coexistence, pluralism and peacebuilding. The Fellows also develop and implement small-scale initiatives in their communities. During the past two years, over 60 initiatives have been implemented, benefiting over 3,600 people around the world. 64 Fellows have already graduated from the programme and are now members of the KAICIID Fellows

and Sharia seminaries and faculties in the Arab region who use IRD tools in their teaching to bring forth peacemakers who will be active in their respective communities. The Network will also support the development of educational tools that foster religious and cultural diversity and promote peace, coexistence and reconciliation.

Social Media as Space for Dialogue

Social media training for religious community leaders is a UVNR action plan priority. Training participants learn and test best practices in utilizing social media as a space for interreligious and intercultural dialogue to create respectful awareness about people of other religions and instill a culture of dialogue to support peace.

In 2015, over 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. They produced a manual and an action plan to organize regional social media capacity building workshops for religious institutions. In 2016, the training continued in Amman, Jordan; Cairo, Egypt; and Erbil, Iraq. In 2017, training continued in other locations. This programme is carried out in partnership with local organizations and has trained approximately 400 participants.

Network (KFN), a global network of religious leaders, educators and IRD practitioners trained in dialogue, mediation and peacebuilding. In 2017, nearly 50 new initiatives were implemented by the International Fellows and the Arab Region Fellows Programme.





Reducing Interreligious Tension in the Central African Republic

The Centre's work in the Central African Republic is designed to re-establish dialogue and understanding between Christians and Muslims by building and supporting existing dialogue platforms, which can then be integrated into the ongoing peace processes. Implemented in collaboration with the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, the Centre convened three inter- and intra-religious meetings in Vienna as part of the project "Strengthening Peace and Cooperation within the Muslim Community".

The action plan developed at the Centre's 2016 Intra-Muslim Conference is being disseminated across CAR, while the Centre and the Network are increasing the capacity of Muslim leaders through trainings in dialogue facilitation.

Supporting Social Cohesion Among Religious Leaders in Nigeria

The Centre is working with Nigerian partners 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. Since 2015, in collaboration with Nigerian stakeholders and partners like the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, the Interfaith Mediation Centre, and the Kukah Centre, the Centre supports and coordinates workshops and conferences with its Country Expert. The CtA conferences focus on intra-religious understanding as the basis for interreligious collaboration between the different Nigerian religious communities and institutions.

The Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace was established in January 2017 and formulated its action plan. Subsequent conferences, workshops and meetings drive forward an inclusive, representative and sustainable approach towards interreligious dialogue as a tool for peace in the country. This process is recognized and welcomed by prominent Nigerian officials, such as the Sultan of Sokoto, the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria and the Cardinal of Abuja. This work is complemented by coordination and capacity building measures undertaken by the Country Expert.

Promoting Interreligious Dialogue in Myanmar

The International Dialogue Centre helped establish a multi-faith and inclusive network of prominent Burmese Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim religious leaders and civil society organizations to promote peaceful dialogue across Myanmar. Led by prominent and respected monks, Muslim leaders and civil society advocates, the Centre is part of the "Peaceful Myanmar Initiative" (PMI) network that provides interreligious dialogue and social media training in Myanmar.

Through the initiative, 320 participants have been trained on interreligious harmony and inclusive dialogue in five selected areas in the country. Additionally, KAICIID has trained a pool of 15 active peace educators and sponsored a major PMI interfaith dialogue forum in upper Myanmar.

Preventing Incitement to Atrocity Crimes

The International Dialogue Centre - in partnership with the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention - organized a 2015 religious leaders' forum in Fez, Morocco that produced an action plan to Prevent Incitement to Atrocity Crimes. The action plan prioritises countering hate speech, strengthening

interreligious education and engaging political leaders. This action plan has been refined by religious leaders at regional meetings in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The final version was adopted at a UN conference in 2017.

The Centre's Programmes for Youth

The International Dialogue Centre promotes interreligious and intercultural dialogue for, and among, youth. Our training in dialogue for youth imparts the skills they need to promote and facilitate dialogue on their own. The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is one of the largest youth organizations in the world and educates youth through a value system. Since 2013 the Centre and WOSM work closely together on training and workshops promoting dialogue on the international, regional and national levels to increase the number of the Scout dialogue facilitators and trainers. These trainings are an integral part of the Dialogue for Peace Programme which enhances dialogue values to scouts of different age groups. Additionally, the Centre developed a dialogue board game to offer players the experience of using interreligious dialogue to address difficult subjects in an engaging manner. The prototype board game was tested with scouts in 2017.

Catalyzing IRD in Organizations

The Centre strives to increase the international community's recognition and use of interreligious and intercultural dialogue as a peacebuilding tool, while we support our partners in ac-



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). Its tools, such as interactive maps, e-learning products and online databases, are designed to promote, disseminate, educate, train, support and

Enhancing Refugee Integration and Social Cohesion in Europe



The International Dialogue Centre supports refugee integration in Europe through dialogue. In 2017, the Centre launched the project "Integration through Dialogue" in Vienna, Austria, to support through dialogue the integration of women seeking refuge in Austria. The facilitators are Austrian women with migrant backgrounds trained in interreligious dialogue methods. In dialogue sessions, the facilitators enhance refugees' understanding of European values and norms to encourage refugees – especially women, girls and youth – to make use of the many services available, from language classes to health support to job training, in order to support their long-term integration.

quiring the means to use IRD effectively themselves. We collaborate with the African Union, ISESCO, OIC, UNDP, UNESCO, the World Organization of the Scout Movement among others. The Centre has incorporated religious leaders in consultations and demonstrated to co-organizers the benefits cross-sector consultations can achieve. The Centre provides intergovernmental organizations and NGOs resources to mainstream IRD as a technique adapted to their mandates in peacebuilding to increase the impact of their work. The Centre is a Core Group member of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, joining Finn Church Aid (FCA), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Religions for Peace and supporting eight projects to undertake research, platform building and conferences in nine countries.

network IRD stakeholders worldwide. The DKH currently comprises the Peace Map, including international and national directories of organizations working in IRD, the online course on interreligious dialogue, as well as e-resources including a collection of promising practices in IRD, "Dialogue Voices" video clips, a "Who's Who in IRD" database and statements for peaceful coexistence.