

PROGRESS REPORT
2013 – 2015

K A I C I I D

CIID

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

INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE CENTRE

Impressum

International Dialogue Centre - KAICIID
King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre
for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue

Schottenring 21
A-1010 Vienna
Austria

Telephone: +43 1 313 22-0
E-mail: office@kaiciid.org
www.kaiciid.org
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FOREWORD



KAICIID Secretary General
Faisal Bin Muaammar,
November 2015

From its inauguration as an intergovernmental organization in November 2012, the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) has grown from a pioneering experiment to an internationally recognized partner for UN agencies, national governments and internationally active religious and interreligious organizations.

Initially the Centre pursued a strategy of combating prejudice and rectifying misperceptions about the “Other”, about religions and their followers. Through a global review of best practices, the Centre focused on determining how best to influence educational policy and media behavior to resolve misunderstandings and conflict arising from ignorance and intolerance.

This course of action was radically re-evaluated in Spring 2014 with the increasing violence committed in the name of religion in Iraq, Syria, the Central African Republic, Nigeria and Myanmar, to name only a few locations where these crimes occur. The driving force behind the Centre’s re-evaluation of its road map was the certainty that if the religious communities worldwide could not be unified in their condemnation of these crimes, the survival of religious minorities would be threatened, the social and religious fabric of relations between religious communities in the region of Syria and Iraq would be forever damaged.

After months of effort, November 2014 stood out as a watershed event in the Centre’s young development when the Centre held its first High Level Meeting of influential religious leaders and policymakers from the Arab region and beyond. These stakeholders’ unanimous support granted the

Centre a mandate to work with the communities that had been most severely affected by violence to launch new programmes to facilitate interreligious dialogue to build peace. This achievement report is therefore primarily concerned with the efforts to unite against violence in the name of religion, the keystone initiative in the Centre's first three-year planning cycle.

The Centre has devoted the past 12 months to Social Cohesion Initiatives in Iraq, Syria, the Central African Republic, Nigeria, and Myanmar. In the following pages, the individual programmes and initiatives undertaken to build bridges between the followers of different religions and the members of different cultures are described.

In the face of conflict, I have learned over the past three years that the greatest challenge is not to find security. No, the greatest challenge is to resist the temptation to respond to hate with hate, to violence with violence, to fear with fear. Only through dialogue can we break the vicious cycle of ignorance leading to mistrust, leading to prejudice, leading to hate, leading to conflict, leading to retaliation and ever worsening conflict.

Dialogue dissolves animosities if pursued diligently and with an open heart. Our diverse cultural and religious heritages demand that we seek to establish earnest and sustainable interreligious dialogue for peace. I ask you to support this vital and noble undertaking.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2013-2015

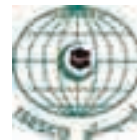
KAICIID signed Memoranda of Understanding with:



UNESCO



African Union



ISESCO

Religions for Peace 

Religions
for Peace



OIC



World Scout
Movement



ISCREB



UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE
MADRID

Universidad Complutense
de Madrid



University of Montreal

In January 2016 KAICIID signed a Memorandum of Understanding with:



UNDP

ORGANIZATIONS

African Union • Alliance of Civilisations • Arab League • Club de Madrid • Council of Europe • European Commission • European Union • European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights • European Union External Action Service • NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization • Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights • Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees • OPEC • Organization for Islamic Cooperation • OSCE • OSCE/ODIHR • UNDP • UNESCO • United Nations • UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs • UN Office for Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect • UN Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth • UN Population Fund • UN Women • Union for the Mediterranean

2013 - 2015

KAICIID’S MULTILATERAL AND
BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC OUTREACH

COUNTRIES

Afghanistan • Algeria • Argentina • Armenia • Austria • Azerbaijan • Belgium • Belize • Bosnia • Brazil • Central African Republic • Chile • Colombia • Cuba • Cyprus • Dominican Republic • Ecuador • Egypt • El Salvador • Ethiopia • Finland • Greece • Guatemala • India • Indonesia • Iraq • Japan • Jordan • Kazakhstan • Kenya • Korea • Kuwait • Lao • Lebanon • Libya • Mexico • Morocco • Myanmar • Namibia • Nicaragua • Nigeria • Oman • Panama • Pakistan • Philippines • Qatar • Russia • Saudi Arabia • South Africa • Spain • Sudan • Syria • Thailand • Tunisia • Turkey • Ukraine • United Arab Emirates • United States of America • Yemen

**KAICIID brought
to the dialogue table...**

HIGH-LEVEL & GRASSROOTS

- Buddhist
- Christian-Catholic
- Christian-Churches of the East
- Christian-Orthodox
- Christian Protestant
- Druze
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Mandeian
- Muslim-Sunni
- Muslim-Shia
- Yazidi
- + Others

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



COMPLETED PROJECTS

Indonesia
Tanzania
India



ONGOING PROGRAMMES

Iraq
Syria
Central African Republic
Myanmar
Nigeria



KAICIID INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAMME

39 Fellows

21 nationalities

5 world religions





EVENTS

November 2013 – December 2015

12 conferences

16 trainings

27 workshops

About **2,700** trainees

UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

Violence committed in the name of religion threatens the survival of religious minorities, the social and religious fabric of relations between religious communities, as well as religious institutions and communities.

In a groundbreaking initiative, “United against Violence in the Name of Religion” (UVNR), launched in November 2014, KAICIID is working with Christian, Muslim and other minority religious communities from Iraq, Syria and the larger Middle East region to denounce violence in the name of religion. UVNR calls on the international community to protect religious and cultural diversity in Iraq and Syria, and to affirm that violence in the name of religion is violence against religion.

Under the UVNR initiative, KAICIID is undertaking a number of activities with a range of partners, including UNESCO, UNDP, the UN Office for the Prevention of Genocide and ISESCO, as well as various NGOs.

“I ... EXTEND PROFUSE THANKS TO THE COUNTRIES WHICH FOUNDED THE CENTER: THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN, AND THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA, FOR PROMOTING DIALOGUE AMONG VARIOUS GROUPS OF HUMAN BEINGS OF VARIOUS RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS, CULTURAL FORMATIONS, AND CIVILIZATION ENVIRONMENTS. DIALOGUE NATURALLY CALLS FOR SEEKING PARTNERSHIPS IN ORDER TO DISSEMINATE VALUES AND CULTURE.”

H.E. DR. ABDULLAH BIN ABDULMUHSEN AL TURKI
SECRETARY GENERAL, MUSLIM WORLD LEAGUE







KAICIID
DIALOGUE
CENTRE

UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

SOCIAL COHESION INITIATIVES IN IRAQ/SYRIA

Objective

- To bring together religious, interreligious and civil society institutions currently engaged in strengthening inter-community understanding and respect, supporting and strengthening reconciliation, sustaining social cohesion, diversity and plurality and dialogue in the Arab world.
- To denounce with one voice all violence in the name of religion
- To call on the international community to protect religious and cultural diversity in Iraq and Syria
- Highlight practical ways to support the indigenous institutions and initiatives, secure political commitment to fund and implement strategies leading to the above objectives
- To offer engagement opportunities for young people to support religious pluralism and help them discern and spurn any attempt to recruit their support for violent activities

Outputs

- **June 2014, Vienna:** Initial Consultation with the Arab Group for Christian-Muslim Dialogue, which included 21 participants from Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, France, Switzerland and Jordan; the Adyan Foundation; the Arab Reform Initiative; the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services in Egypt; the Center of Christian-Muslim Studies at Balamand University; Diyar Consortium; the Forum for Religion and Cultures for Development and Dialogue; the Global Center for Justice and Humanity; the House of the Egyptian Family in Al Azhar, the Iraqi Council for Interfaith Dialogue; the Iraqi Institute for Human Rights; the Organization of Islamic Cooperation; the Middle East Council of Churches; the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue; the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies; the Syrian League for Citizenship; the World Council of Churches.
- **September 2014, New York:** Foreign Ministers of Austria and Saudi Arabia, Deputy Foreign Minister of Spain and Secretary of the Pontifical Council sign the Ministerial Declaration at the UNGA: "In the Face of Conflict"

- **November 2014, Vienna:** In an unprecedented demonstration of multi-religious solidarity, KAICIID gathered leaders of Christian, Muslim and other religious communities from Iraq, Syria and the larger Middle East region meeting at the KAICIID Conference “United Against Violence in the Name of Religion: Preserving Religious Diversity in Iraq and Syria“ on 19 November 2014. The attendees included Patriarch Gregory III Laham, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East and Alexandria and Jerusalem, Patriarch Ignatius Youssef Younan of Antioch and All the East for the Syriac Catholic Church, the Grand Muftis of Egypt (Sheikh Shawkiqi Ibrahim Alam), Jordan (Sheikh Abdul al Karim Al Khasawneh) and Lebanon (Sheikh Abd Al Latif Derian), Metropolitan of Germany Isaac Barakat representing Patriarch Yohanna X (Yazigi), the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, Patriarch of Babylon of the Chaldeans Louis Raphael I Sako, Anba Marcos Bishop of Shobra El Khema representative of His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark, Head of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt and the Mufti of Tripoli and North Lebanon Malek Al Shaar. The participants met to develop and issue action commitments, recommendations, and collaborations to support new and existing programmes in the region.

- o **Vienna Declaration** is as an unequivocal statement in support of diversity, as well as a united rejection of the violence directed against minority communities and committed in the name of religion in the region.

180 Participants

from Austria, Belgium, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Kingdom and the USA

25 High Level Participants



UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

- **April 2015, Fez:** in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention: The Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing Incitement that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes.

“DIALOGUE INITIATED BY KAICIID AIMING TO PROMOTE PEACE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. DIALOGUE SHOULD BECOME THE MOTTO FOR EVERY SINGLE PERSON TODAY: LET’S SPEAK TOGETHER, LET’S MAKE SURE THAT WE PREVENT CLASHES OF IGNORANCE.”

**ADAMA DIENG,
UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE, UNITED NATIONS
NOVEMBER 2014**

- This initiative aims to develop early warning indicators that will support the prevention of atrocity crimes where tensions between communities of different religions have led to violence and where there is a risk that incitement to hatred could lead to atrocity crimes. Also a publicly visible declaration signed by an inclusive group of religious leaders to condemn incitement to violence and atrocity crimes and acts of violence, including those perpetrated in the name of religion and belief will be issued.
- **Delivered:** Draft Plan of Action: Commitment to take all possible measures to prevent hate speech and incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes;
- **Delivered:** Declaration (“Fez Declaration”) of principles that will be reviewed at five regional meetings with religious leaders, before being launched at a global meeting of religious leaders to be held in 2016.

67 Participants

15 High Level Participants



UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

- **May 2015, Beirut:** KAICIID brought together Islamic and Christian religious leaders from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon in addition to representatives from the Yazidi community in Iraq.
 - Foster, facilitate and coordinate local and regional initiatives focusing on citizenship and respect of diversity, especially providing space for exchanging and highlighting the successful and positive experience of the various institutions in the Arab world;
 - The participants were representing the religious institutions and communities who met in Vienna, Austria at the international conference, “United against Violence in the Name of Religion: Supporting Religious and Cultural Diversity in Iraq and Syria” in November 2014.

- **June 2015, Paris:** European Media Forum on the Universal Human Rights of Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Expression, which gathered European religious leaders, journalists, as well as civil society organizations.
 - Brought together European religious leaders with members of the press and media freedom experts to establish best practices for understanding and explaining freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief.
 - 40 religious leaders, media professionals and experts from Europe as stakeholders in the discourse on rights, including speakers from OIC, major religious institutions and leading civil society actors.
 - **Collaborators included:** the World Council of Churches; the Conference of European Rabbis; the Hindu Forum of Europe, the European Buddhist Union; the Islamic Cultural Centre of the United Kingdom; a Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe; the Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture; the Ethical Journalism Network; and the Religion Newswriters Foundation
 - **Outcome:** Participants call for KAICIID to conduct more training in media and religious literacy, and for more dialogue between sectors.

50 Participants

12 High Level Participants



UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

- **September 2015, Athens:** Interreligious Consultation on Supporting Citizenship Rights of Christians in the Middle East held in partnership with the Ecumenical Patriarchate and under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
 - o Around 40 religious leaders from the respective Christian and Muslim communities in the Middle East joined the dialogue to strengthen the network of trust between religious leaders in supporting their counterparts at a local and global level.
 - o The group discussed means to facilitate and coordinate local and regional initiatives focusing on citizenship and respect of diversity, especially providing space for exchanging and highlighting the successful and positive experience of the various institutions in the Arab world.

68 Participants

46 High Level Participants



“THUS, THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE FIRMLY SUPPORTS INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE. FROM THE DECLARATION OF ATHENS THIS PAST SEPTEMBER, ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE ENTITLED “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,” WHICH WAS CO-ORGANIZED BY THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL KAICIID DIALOGUE CENTRE AND THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE, WE QUOTE A DISTINCTIVE PARAGRAPH:

THE EXPANDING CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST THREATENS RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THIS REGION. IT ALSO UNDERMINES PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AMONG CITIZENS OF THE REGION, INCLUDING CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS, AND OTHER RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC GROUPS. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS AND OTHER RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC GROUPS ARE SUBJECTED TO BRUTAL VIOLENCE AND HORRIFIC TORMENT. ... [YET, ALL THIS] HARMS THE IMAGE OF OUR RELIGIONS. THESE CRIMES DESTROY FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN THE FOLLOWERS OF DIVERSE RELIGIONS, AND AMONG FOLLOWERS OF THE SAME FAITH. OUR RELIGIONS CALL FOR PEACE AND COEXISTENCE. THESE ARE CORE VALUES OF OUR RELIGIONS.”

**PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW, ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH
ATHENS, SEPTEMBER 2015**

UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

- **September 2015, Amman:** “Social Media as a Space for Dialogue”

- More than 120 participants from religious communities, civil society and interreligious organizations across the Middle East met in an intensive five-day workshop to develop new strategies for using social media to promote dialogue between different worldviews, cultures and religions.
- The Arab Social Media Forum, “Social Media as Space for Dialogue,” is an initiative of the Vienna-based International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), with the support of the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies (RIIFS), Al-Azhar, and the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC).
- A regional Social Media campaign that promotes pluralism and acceptance.
- An Arabic manual (a training tool) on social media and dialogue.
- A Training of Trainers programme for youth who will act as multipliers in promoting dialogue through social media.
- A platform for the participating youth that will work on monitoring violations on Social Media that promote hatred rather than acceptance.

- **November 2015, Vienna:** Network of Arab Faculties and Institutes:

Objective: To foster the culture of dialogue as a core value in religious education; to initiate dialogue between Christian and Muslim scholars, as well as between Islamic and Christian institutions to facilitate an exchange of experiences on issues related to strengthening the discourse on interreligious pluralism in the contemporary Arab and global context; as well as to address the challenges facing the current institutions in training of clergies and clerics in interreligious education and dialogue.

- First-of-its-kind meeting to fulfil the recommendation of establishing a network of religious institutes from the Arab World.
- 12 Deans and Presidents of Sharia and Christian Theology Faculties established a network of Arabic religious institutes and colleges in the Middle East.
- Launched a dialogue between Christian and Muslim religious institutions

- o Exchanged expertise in issues related to renewing the religious speech on diversity and coexistence
- o Established a new approach in teaching interreligious topics
- o **Partner:** Diyar Consortium, Global Centre of Humanity and Justice
- o **Selected participants:** Al Azhar University (Egypt), Sharia University (Jordan), Faculty of Theology of the Near East, Lebanon and others



UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

PROJECTS WITH UNDP/IRAQ:

Objective

KAICIID's commitments to strengthen social cohesion in the Arab region through two projects:

- **Regional Bureau for the Arab States:**
 - A three year project to target fragile areas and aim to understand the complexity and challenges of social cohesion in the region.
- **UNDP local country office/Iraq**
 - A mid-scale, 18 months project aiming at national impact on provincial level in war torn Iraq by identifying and empowering local and national institutions and leaders

Outcomes

- Facilitate and support regional knowledge and advocacy platforms to promote social cohesion in the Arab Region
- Identify social cohesion champions and support activities aimed at strengthening social cohesion in Iraq
- Deepen the understanding of the causes of atrocity crimes and identify practical measures that religious and community leaders can take to prevent (develop early warning indicators)

“DIVERSITY AND CO-EXISTENCE HAVE BEEN HALLMARKS OF THE CIVILIZATION OF THE ARAB STATES REGION, AND INDEED THIS HAS BEEN AMONG OUR GREATEST STRENGTHS. THERE IS AN URGENT NEED ACROSS OUR REGION TO REINFORCE OUR EMBRACE OF DIVERSITY, AND MOVE TOWARDS INCREASED RESILIENCE FORGED ON THE BEDROCK OF SOCIAL PEACE. WORKING TOGETHER, UNDP AND KAICIID AIM TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THIS IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE.”

**SIMA BAHOUS,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL, UNDP, DECEMBER 2015**

SOCIAL COHESION INITIATIVES IN NIGERIA

“HIS EMINENCE, THE SULTAN OF SOKOTO, WELCOMED KAICIID’S INITIATIVE AND FULLY SUPPORTS THE PARTNERS IN THEIR ENDEAVORS. HE HIGHLIGHTED THE TIMELY AND NECESSARY INTERVENTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS, BECAUSE “WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS TO SAVE HUMANITY FROM ITSELF. CHURCHES OF ALL KINDS ARE PLACES OF WORSHIP, NOT OF HATRED AND DISTRUST.”

KAICIID PRESS RELEASE, AUGUST 2015

Objective

To enhance capacity of the religious leaders in Africa, particularly in Nigeria, to assume a more constructive role in peace building; Engage influential regional Christian and Muslim religious leaders e.g. Cardinals and Sheikhs, and Members of the KAICIID BoD

Outputs

Delivered

- A training session that took place from 20 to 23 January 2015 in Abuja, Nigeria, with 150 Muslim and Christian women and 150 Christian and Muslim youth

In process

- Coordination of the African regional conference on the role of religious leaders in peace and stability with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (Nigeria).
- Baseline study on “Uncovering Root Causes for Violence in Nigeria- Preparing for Dialogue”

Partners

- Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation
- Women of Faith Peacebuilding Network
- Archbishop of Abuja
- Sultan of Nigeria





UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

SOCIAL COHESION INITIATIVES IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)

“THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING ALL APPROPRIATE EFFORTS TO ENSURE PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, IN THIS REGARD COMMENDS THE JOINT ACTION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN THE CAR IN PURSUING INTERCOMMUNAL PEACE, AND CALLS UPON THE CAR AUTHORITIES TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR LASTING RECONCILIATION, INCLUDING BY PROTECTING CIVILIANS FROM ANY RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC- BASED VIOLENCE.

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, UNITED NATIONS
OCTOBER 2015**

Objectives

To support local religious leaders' efforts in calling for an immediate suspension of hostilities and convening an inclusive international meeting.

- **Interreligious initiatives:** To build and strengthen the capacity of local religious leaders from all religions to build stronger alliances for peace, and to engage them in activities/projects geared towards calling for cessation of hostilities, denouncing violence, and promoting common citizenship across religious identities in CAR.



Outputs

- **May 2014**, KAICIID convened a two-day meeting of experts and religious representatives
- Fact-finding Mission to CAR, **January 2015**
- Multiple training sessions for Christian and Muslim religious leaders were held in **December 2015** in the nation's capital, Bangui, for which specific training manuals on interreligious peacebuilding have been developed.
- In addition to the project on the ground, KAICIID has convened two interfaith and intra-faith meetings in Vienna and in **October 2015** held bilateral discussions at the UNGA in New York to advocate for the end of the recent cycle of violent attacks in the country.

Partners

- Search for Common Ground (SFCG)



UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVES IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, INTRA MUSLIM DIALOGUE

Objective

The Intra Muslim initiative will develop the capacity of the Muslim leadership and support the intra-Muslim reconciliation in order to better engage them in the national peace support mechanisms and in contributing towards national dialogue and reconciliation.

Outputs

- **August 2015:** Meeting with eight Muslim religious leaders from CAR to discuss how they can bring together Muslim communities from across the country in support of national dialogue and reconciliation.
 - The meeting was convened by the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, which have joined forces to develop a long-term initiative to support the involvement of religious leaders in the process of national reconciliation in CAR.
 - Intra-religious cohesion continues to be a challenge in the ethnically and religiously diverse country. Issues of national and ethnic identity and citizenship complicate the religious leadership's attempts to forge a united way forward. This meeting aimed to strengthen the Islamic community in the Central African Republic through dialogue, and to assist their efforts to forge a unified voice and vision for the Islamic community in the Central African Republic.

Follow-up

- In **February 2016**, KAICIID convened in Vienna, 40 religious leaders, representatives from Muslim women and youth communities and civil society in the Central African Republic who unanimously agreed to work together on a range of common issues, including supporting the return of all refugees, from any religious background, who have been displaced by the recent conflict in the country. The meeting was also attended by international observers, including noted scholar Sheikh Bin Bayyah, U.S Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom David Saperstein, Ufuk Gokcen, OIC Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York. To express support from CAR's Christian communities and the government, the Archbishop of Bangui, Dieudonne Nzapalainga, Reverend Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou, and the Minister of National Reconciliation and Political Dialogue H.E. Lydie Florence N'Douba actively participated as observers.

Partners

- Finn Church Aid (FCA)
- Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- Sheikh Bin Bayyah (Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies)

SOCIAL COHESION INITIATIVES IN MYANMAR

Objectives

- KAICIID, in partnership with the OIC, is organizing meetings on religious and social divisions in Asia, looking for new solutions that may manage and mitigate violent fault lines like 'Buddhists and Muslim Tensions'.
- To discuss challenges, opportunities and risks in implementing and scaling up work and develop a tentative work plan for implementation.
- To act as an advocate for the Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma.

Partners

- HUMANITI Malaysia
- Organization of the Islamic Cooperation
- Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma

UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

Outputs

Delivered

- **24 March – 31 March 2015**, Yangon, Myanmar, the KAICIID delegation met dialogue practitioners and religious leaders, who provided background information about the situation in Myanmar. Key findings will help the work to be conducted in Myanmar.
- **6-7 April** meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to discuss ways for civil society organizations and religious leaders to contribute to improved Buddhist-Muslim relations in Myanmar and the region. Co-organized with HUMANITI Malaysia, the alternative ASEAN network on Burma, and the OIC.

THE NETWORK FOR RELIGIOUS AND TRADITIONAL PEACEMAKERS

Background

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers was established by the United Nations Mediation Support Unit. The Government of Finland Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) is – together with Finn Church Aid (FCA) - the Network's main donor contributing the core cost. MFA and FCA concluded a collaborative partnership with KAICIID to effectively develop the actions, functions and structure of the Network.

Objective

Develop a network which will support local religious and traditional peacemakers to build peace in areas of conflict, while being a core actor in international advocacy for peace.

- To support the engagement of religious and traditional peacemakers in inclusive peace building processes
- To conduct international advocacy
- To develop action-oriented research and the capacity of religious and traditional peacemakers coupled with support actors (UN agencies, inter/national NGOs, academic institutions)

Partners

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Finn Church Aid
- UN Mediation Support Unit – part of the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA)
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)
- Religions for Peace (RfP)

Outputs

- KAICIID input into nine planned Network activities until end of April 2016
- Collaboration agreement developed and signed
- Consultations on joint work plan and KAICIID role
- KAICIID participation and input into Libya consultation workshop (in cooperation with DAG), Amsterdam May 2015
- “Interim-Network Presence in New York” established (RfP premises)
- “Finnish Liaison Officer Secondment” at KAICIID, started as of 27 July
- KAICIID hosted the Network’s Advisory Group meeting with about 40 international representatives of peacebuilding institutions
- August 2015: KAICIID elected to join the Network’s Core Governance Group
- One workshop in Mombasa, Kenya to proceed with “Religious Leaders and Community Engagement” – Horn of Africa
- 2-day validation workshop in Berlin “Baseline Study – Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and their Local Mediation Support Needs”





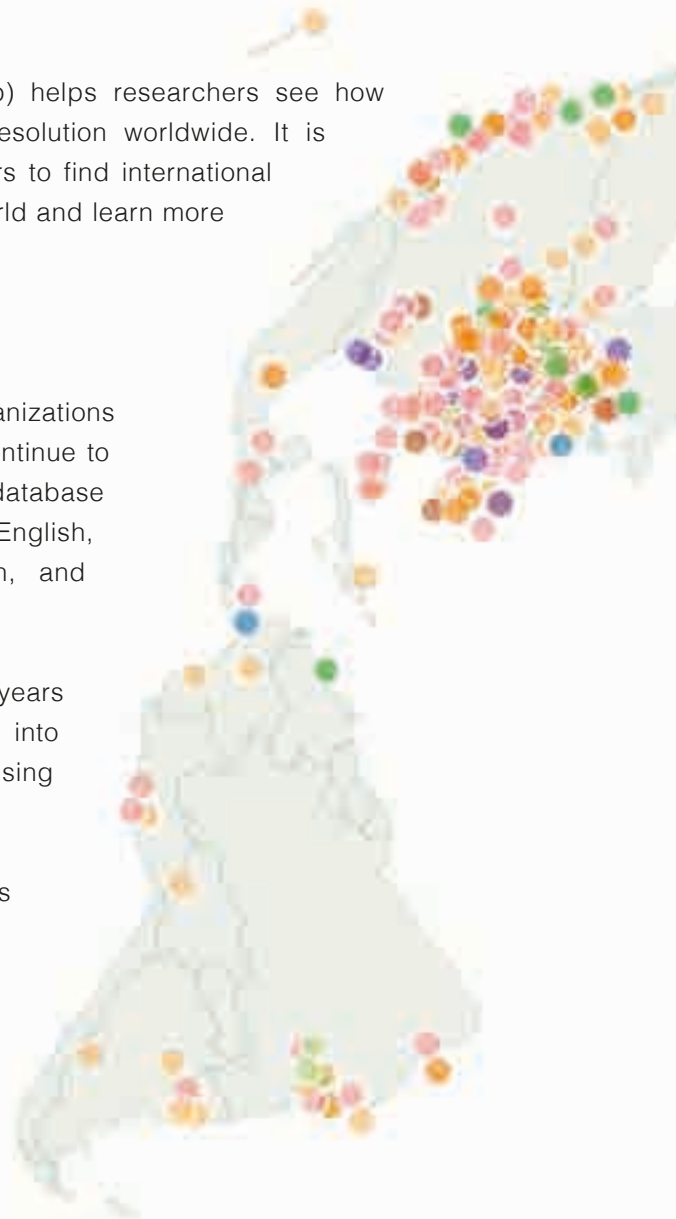
SUPPORTING DIALOGUE GLOBALLY

PEACE MAPPING PROGRAMME

The online Peace Map (<http://www.kaiciid.org/peacemap>) helps researchers see how interreligious dialogue activities contribute to conflict resolution worldwide. It is an open access directory now online to allow researchers to find international interreligious dialogue organisations active around the world and learn more about their programmes.

Outputs

- There are currently 460 Interreligious Dialogue organizations listed in KAICIID's directory, and this list will continue to expand. The ten language areas covered by the database include Arabic, Catalan, Chinese (Mandarin), English, French, German, Hindi, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.
- This website includes a history of the founding years of those organizations, providing an insight into the recent exponential growth in interest for using interreligious dialogue.
- The legend is organized in eleven categories that demonstrate the vitality of areas in which interreligious dialogue has grown over the last century.
- In addition, there are over 20 Dialogue Voices that bring personal insights into why interreligious dialogue is important on the grassroots level, from different continents.
- The Human Development Index is provided to give a sense of how different indicators shape national and regional dynamics within which interreligious dialogue takes place.
- Keyword searches are possible both through the general search bar but also through two sets of thematic areas that can be combined into Boolean searches to maximize search results. This makes this directory the most thorough place on line to find out who is active internationally in using interreligious dialogue.







ED
OLOGUE
TALK



SUPPORTING DIALOGUE GLOBALLY

FELLOWS PROGRAMME

“FEELING AT HOME BY THE FIRE IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WITH KAICIID, BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS AND TOGETHERNESS. LEARNING AND EXPERIENCING THROUGH DIALOGUE POSITIVITY, TRUST, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, EMPATHY, OPEN HEARTS AND MINDS, TO EMBRACE DIVERSITY, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, COMMUNICATION SKILLS, COMPREHENSION OF EACH OTHER, FOCUS AND HELPFULNESS ALL RESULTING IN COMMITMENT, ACCEPTANCE, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. WE ARE GRATEFUL, INSPIRED, WISER, AND NETWORKED TOGETHER, BEING CENTERED ON GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT DIALOGUE.”

KAICIID FELLOWS 2015 REFLECTION

- A learning and training programme that empowers institutions that train future religious leaders by training teachers to facilitate dialogue by giving them the tools, experience, networks and knowledge to pursue interreligious dialogue and prepare their own students to become facilitators and leaders in interreligious dialogue.
- KAICIID recognizes the integral part of knowledge-sharing among religious education institutions that train future leaders and connects these institutions and their select teachers to build a network of an active transnational community of interreligious dialogue peacemakers and peacebuilders.
- Exchange programmes across religious educational institutions exist in local and regional areas within only a few countries around the world. In most countries, no such exchange exist either due to a lack of interest, a lack of resources, and/or a lack of diversity of religious institutions to make it possible. In addition, current conflicts in and across many countries today are in part due to the lack of widespread and institutionalized dialogue opportunities and practices among local religious leaders and experts. Finally, with the growing globalization of religions today, it makes sense to put in place an international Fellows programme that addresses not only these problems but also the need to network those institutions that train religious leaders transnationally so that interreligious dialogue can become a common feature of any religious training.

Outputs

- **For 2015:** 20 Fellows, 16 Countries, 5 Continents, 5 Religions (including different religious affiliations), Average Age 41,5 years old, 14 Academic Institutions and 8 Religious and/or Interreligious Institutes/Centres.
- 19 initiatives were implemented around the world by KAICIID Fellows (projects, courses). These include books publication, IRD classes, training and research.
- Training sessions in dialogue, peace and reconciliation conducted in Vienna and Kuala Lumpur.
- **In 2016,** 20 Fellows from 15 countries and five conflict regions are being trained.



SUPPORTING DIALOGUE GLOBALLY

MULTIRELIGIOUS COLLABORATION FOR THE COMMON GOOD

- In India, Indonesia, and Tanzania, KAICIID worked with interreligious dialogue platforms, including Religions for Peace (RfP) counterparts, to strengthen and expand these platforms and the services they deliver. Field-based services are at the core of the flexible and partner-oriented project approach.
- Practical cooperation among religious communities is supported, to deliver IRD capacity, interreligious education, child well-being and protection. KAICIID media, dialogue and education programming, including capacity-building training, was also delivered through sustained field presences.

Outputs

- Field presences in Jakarta and Dar es Salaam
- Over 200 contacts established for building networks, data collection on local IRD actors
- **June:** Jakarta, Darussalam, over 300 IRD actors trained on methodologies, education, social aspects of IRD
- **September:** Baseline studies designed and conducted
- Workshops for developing local IRD manuals for formal and informal education in Indonesia (50 participants from the education sector)

Partners

- Religions For Peace International and local partners: Interreligious Council for Peace Tanzania, Centre for Dialogue between Cultures and Civilizations Indonesia, Sarva Dharma Samvaad India



INCORPORATING DIALOGUE INTO THE SCOUTS MOVEMENT

- KAICIID and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding and have been working closely together on integrating interreligious dialogue (IRD) into the Scouts movement. In this respect, KAICIID is pursuing a two-year plan to promote dialogue to incorporate dialogue as part of the scout's life learning experience in over 160 member states.
- The collaboration between KAICIID and WOSM is a result of the two organizations commitment to promote their core belief that "dialogue among people of different religions and cultures is the path to lasting peace and social cohesion".

Outputs

- **February 2014** Training for Scout leaders, Vienna
- **August 2014**, Youth training at the World Scout Youth Forum, Rogla-Slovenia
- **March, 2015**, KAICIID-WOSM Workshop, Vienna
- **June 2015**, Training of Scout trainers from six regions, Vienna
- **July-August 2015**, +40 trainings, World Scouts Jamboree, Japan
- Developed the Scouts Dialogue Learning Model.



SUPPORTING DIALOGUE GLOBALLY

DIALOGUE BEYOND DIALOGUE

November 2014: The conference and public lecture

- This conference addressed a growing interest in interreligious dialogue as a field of academic research, as well as a practical tool for peacebuilding. The event explored the subject of interreligious dialogue through a dialogical process, bringing together academics and practitioners in a shared space to promote understanding of each other's work, and how they can benefit from one another.

Outputs

- The conference and public lecture in **November 2014**
- Networking with major researchers in the field
- Three books (In process)
- **62 Participants** from Canada, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, USA

TALKING DIALOGUE

- The project brought together a dozen young doctoral scholars studying interreligious and intercultural dialogue from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives. It examined in a comparative approach, the major interreligious and intercultural encounters.



Outputs

- Workshops in Vienna and Cordoba
- Networking with major international IRD organizations
- Publication of one edited volume (in process)

Partners

- International Interfaith Centre – Southampton, UK
- Council for Parliament of World's Religions – Chicago, USA
- Temple of Understanding – New York, USA
- WCC – Geneva, Switzerland
- UPF – New York, USA
- IARF – Southampton, UK
- World Conference of Faiths – Southampton, UK
- United Religions Initiative – San Francisco, USA
- Religions for Peace- Kyoto, Japan
- PFC – Swarthmore, USA



SUPPORTING DIALOGUE GLOBALLY

DIALOGUE DAYS

November 2014:

- Held in Nairobi, Kenya, and New Delhi, India, to raise awareness of interreligious dialogue as a tool for peace, broaden KAICIID's service to religious and interreligious dialogue leaders, and pilot new KAICIID training material in the field.
- The initiatives brought together religious leaders, dialogue practitioners, policy makers and media experts for training and discussion on these groups' roles in shaping perceptions of the religious Other in East Africa.

November 2014: Nairobi, Kenya: **42 participants** from Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Mauritius



CONFERENCES CO-ORGANIZED OR CONTRIBUTED TO BY KAICIID:

- **May 2015: OSCE Security Days**

- KAICIID Secretary General Faisal Bin Muaammar was a speaker at the closing session of this important conference. The Secretary General spoke to the importance of promoting partnerships within the international community. The Secretary General was joined on the panel by Fathallah Sijilmassi, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative of UNAOC, and Hatem Atallah, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation



- **July 2015: Union of the Mediterranean**

- Meeting on intercultural and interreligious dialogue; organised at the suggestion of the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, José Manuel García-Margallo, and in partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) and the European Union (EU).
- This is the first meeting in a long-term action-oriented process that aims to strengthen organizational capacity and foster cooperation as a means of countering discrimination and intolerance.



- **October 2015: Club de Madrid**

- KAICIID participated in the Club de Madrid 2015 Policy Dialogue “Madrid+10: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism” as one of the five main institutional contributors to the conference. KAICIID supported the organization of the event and contributed with its expertise to the conference documents, including the Global Consensus. The conference channeled the collective ideas and political will of policymakers and opinion-formers from all over the world and produced a Global Consensus on how to confront and prevent radicalization and violent extremism.





"THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNESCO AND KAICIID IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO CHALLENGE THE IDEA THAT DIVERSITY IS A PROBLEM TODAY, TO PROMOTE IT AS A DYNAMIC FORCE AND AN ENRICHING FACTOR THAT RENEWS HUMANITY AND ENLARGES OPPORTUNITIES,"

UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL IRINA BOKOVA, MAY 2014



"I WELCOME THIS CENTRE'S COMMITMENT TO OPENING YOUR DOORS TO ALL THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS. I FULLY SUPPORT YOUR VISION OF RELIGION AS AN ENABLER OF RESPECT AND RECONCILIATION."

BAN KI MOON, UN SECRETARY GENERAL



SUPPORTING DIALOGUE GLOBALLY

- o In the framework of the conference, KAICIID organized a thematic workshop “Building Peace through Interreligious Dialogue. The workshop provided a platform for interactive discussions on the potential of interreligious and intercultural dialogue in building peace and social cohesion. It focused on experiences of religious leaders and policy-makers from Central African Republic (CAR), Syria and Iraq.
- o The 2015 Policy Dialogue was attended by over 300 participants, comprised of current and former political leaders and policy-makers, international experts, government representatives, religious leaders, private sector, academia, think tanks and civil society representatives. KAICIID’s participation in this event provided an opportunity for outreach to policy-makers, representatives of civil society as well as to the Spanish press. Faisal Bin Abdulrahman Bin Muaammar, Secretary-General of the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), spoke on a panel with Élisabeth Guigou, President of the Anna Lindh Foundation and President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly, Hanif Qadir, Active Change Foundation, Sarah Sewall, Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, United States, and Fuad Siniora, Member of Club de Madrid, Prime Minister of Lebanon (2005-2009).

- **October 2015: Parliament of World’s Religions**

- o The Parliament is the leading global gathering for interreligious dialogue practitioners. KAICIID was represented prominently with a booth and branding, as well as several side events.
- o KAICIID provided training for the participants of the Parliament of the World’s Religions in Salt Lake City, United States, on the use of interreligious dialogue for social cohesion. The Director General addressed 8,500 religious leaders, grassroots activists and practitioners from 50 traditions and more than 80 countries.



IMAGE OF THE OTHER: MEDIA

MEDIA WISE

KAICIID conducted training in media literacy for religious leaders and actors. The media shape the way that we perceive the world outside our immediate experience. In an era of free expression and digital information, images, ideas and information are instantly available. For religious leaders, who are influencers and multipliers of ideas, the potential is huge, but so are the risks.

Outputs

- Needs assessment and field survey
- Created KAICIID adaptation of a UNESCO media and information literacy curriculum for use by religious leaders: “Media Wise: Empowering Responsible Religious Leadership in the Digital Age”. This curriculum is suitable for use in a three-day intensive program, or in a semester-long university-level course.
- Pilot training delivered to ca. 50 religious leaders in Nairobi, Kenya and New Delhi, India in **Nov. 2014**

Partners

- UNESCO
- Arigatou Int'l (Kenya)
- Sarvadharm Samvaad (India)
- Centre for Dialogue and Cooperation among Civilisations
- Interreligious Council for Peace Tanzania



IMAGE OF THE OTHER: MEDIA

SPEAK UP: SOCIAL MEDIA

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 KAICIID Social Media and Communications Training offered interreligious dialogue practitioners the tools to tell their stories, create their own channels of information and engage the mainstream press.

The curriculum in this pilot form was tested during KAICIID's Dialogue Days in November.

Outputs

- Needs assessment and field survey (for entire media programme) conducted via Media Experts Consultation workshop in **March 2014**
- Created KAICIID original curriculum on social media and earned media (communications) skills: "Speak Up: Social Media and Communications Training for Interreligious Dialogue Practitioners".
- Pilot training delivered to 80 practitioners in Nairobi, Kenya and New Delhi, India in Nov. 2014

FAITH IN REPORTING

Faith in Reporting (FiR) is a global network of journalists from faith-based media initiated by KAICIID. It promotes dialogue, and serves as an umbrella under which faith-based media can undertake joint activities and participate in mainstream media events.

The positive role of religious institutions in peace and reconciliation, especially in conflict areas, is difficult to "sell" to the mainstream press. But journalists from faith-based media are in an excellent position to do so – they are able to draw on their own faith and link the religious and media sectors.

KAICIID collaborated with the Ethical Journalism Network to establish the Faith in Reporting network in March 2014 at a meeting in Yangon, Myanmar.

Outputs

- Workshop of 30 journalists from faith-based and mainstream media held in Cape Town, South Africa in **April 2014**, resulting in the publication “Images of Faith: Encouraging self-representation in the media”, a toolkit for journalists covering religion.
- KAICIID hosted panel discussions on the need for high-quality reporting about religion in Cape Town, South Africa (**2014**) and Yangon, Myanmar (**2015**) at the International Press Institute’s Annual World Congress.
- Network rationale confirmed through recommendations at the Paris, France event “United against Violence in the Name of Religion: How do freedom of religion and freedom of expression coexist in Europe?” dialogue event.



IMAGE OF THE OTHER: EDUCATION

April 2015: Global Citizenship Education (GCE) in the Arab States, Cairo

- Under the joint patronage of Grand Imam Sheikh Ahmad Al Tayyeb and Minister of Education of Egypt H.E Dr. Moheb AL Rafie, KAICIID and UNESCO co-organized a conference on Global Citizenship Education (GCE) in the Arab States
- Recommendations from the conference were included in a shared report on GCE produced by UNESCO and KAICIID for ongoing consultation and action.

April 2015: Governmental Policy Makers on Interreligious Education: “Pioneering Policy and Practice: Technology and the Future of Interreligious and Intercultural Education”, Rabat

- Policy makers from Kenya, Korea, Lebanon, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, and Senegal met to discuss the future of interreligious and intercultural education (IIE). This event was organized by KAICIID and ISESCO.
- Participants took part in a cross-regional exchange about diverse tools and models for excellence in education that includes building the skills for intercultural dialogue.
- It highlights successful interreligious and intercultural learning methods developed in ISESCO member states.
- KAICIID presented an online toolkit that KAICIID is developing for curriculum design, self-assessment and measuring student achievement. The core section of the toolkit helps users identify priorities for both pedagogy and teacher professional development, as well as effective resource allocation for IIE. This unique toolkit allows users to apply their specific context and needs.

2013 regional conferences

- In May 2013, KAICIID organized the first of a series of four regional conferences to survey and communicate best practices, better connect practitioners and gather recommendations. These conferences had the following objectives:
 - To identify successful methods, models and materials used in intercultural and interreligious education in all world regions,
 - To make them known trans-regionally, connecting researchers, practitioners, educators and policymakers
 - To highlight existing recommendations while aggregating new, policy-relevant findings

Output

- May, Vienna - Euro-Mediterranean region in an advisory partnership with the European Association of History Educators (EUROCLIO) and participation from organizations including the Council of Europe, Georg Eckert Institute, ISESCO, OSCE, UNESCO and Norway's Wergeland Centre.
- August, Addis Ababa- the African Union Commission and KAICIID jointly organized the regional conference with participants from 13 African nations. In addition to discussions with policy and religion experts and the participation of numerous representatives of African governments, the conference opened possibilities for large-scale inter-governmental and faith community partnerships in the African Region.
- September, New Delhi- in cooperation with the World Council of Arya Samaj 30 participants from 10 countries from the Asia-Pacific region discussed numerous challenges, as well as best practices.
- October, Buenos Aires, in cooperation with the Organization of Ibero-American States religious leaders, educators, NGO representatives, researchers, politicians, policy-makers and intergovernmental organization officials from ten nations in the Americas attended this conference.

KAICIID ONLINE COURSE ON INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE (KOCID)

The course is offered to students officially registered at one of our partners (contributing universities or observing universities), and the general public. In academic settings, in order to successfully pass each course, in addition to online activities, students must individually pass an online exam, and submit a final paper. In those settings, each course is equal to a three-credit first year bachelor's degree course.

Output

- KOCID and its 12 modules are designed, structured, developed, produced, uploaded, tested, and finalized. Each module includes instructions, pre-recorded materials (personal presentation of the professor, introduction of the module, lectures), online mandatory and supplementary readings, supplementary web sites and clips, an auto-test, and designed forum activities.

Partners for KOCID

- University of Montreal
- Complutense University of Madrid
- ISCREB
- American University in Washington, DC
- University of Sussex, UK

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ADVISORY FORUM

Objective: support the activities of the Board of Directors and advise on its programme of work and the substance of the Centre's activities.

Membership: The members of the Advisory Forum shall consist of up to 100 members of the world's major religions and faith-based and cultural institutions. The Board will review the membership to ensure wide and effective participation of religions and faith-based and cultural institutions

- **Q4 2014-Q1 2015:** Board of Directors proposed candidates for the 61 open positions on the Advisory Forum's membership
- **Q2 2015:** Council of Parties considered candidates' list
- **Q3 2015:** Invitations issued
- **Q4 2015:** Confirmations received: 44 candidates confirmed their participation
- **Q1 2016:** Constituent Meeting of the Advisory Forum

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

- African Union
- World Organization of the Scout Movement
- Université de Montréal
- Religions for Peace
- Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)
- Institut Superior de Ciències Religioses de Barcelona
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid
- Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
- UNESCO
- UNDP



UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE
MADRID

Religions for Peace

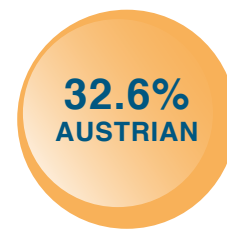
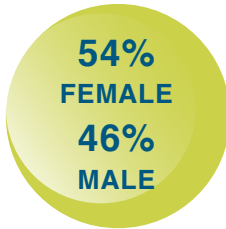


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ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STAFF COMPOSITION



MID-TERM STRATEGIC REVIEW PROCESS

- **April 2015:** Council of Parties approves a paper on the strategic considerations
- **May 2015:** Strategic review process begins
- **June 2015:** Strategic framework approved by the Board of Directors
- **November 2015:** Complete strategy confirmed
- **February 2016:** CoP informed

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH DECEMBER 2014 TO NOVEMBER 2015

- **Articles on KAICIID in international media: + 1000**
- **Multilingual Website Launches**
 - Website: **300%** increase in monthly website visits (from 2014 to 2015, current average = **9325** visitors per month)
 - United against Violence in the Name of Religion: November 2014, Arabic and English
 - English website - January 2015
 - German website – June 2015

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- o Spanish website – June 2015
- o Arabic website – ongoing revision

- **Web Content since January 2015**

- o **231** Articles published
- o **179** Videos produced
- o **14** publications (Arabic, English, French, German, Spanish)

SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Twitter: 1819%** growth in followers from 2015-2016. KAICIID has also facilitated the creation of a network of young Arab social media activists on Facebook, following its conference in Amman on social media.
- KAICIID Advisors Mohammed Abu-Nimer and Patrice Brodeur participated in a Google Hangout to mark World Interfaith Harmony Week in 2015 which reached hundreds of viewers.



 facebook.com/kaiciid



kaiciid.org



 twitter.com/kaiciid

AUSTRIAN OUTREACH

2014

Expert Lectures: Media and Religion; Peace Building in Nigeria; Image of the Other: Amr Khaled discussion with Austrians

2015-2016

On-going:

- Serving as meeting platform for Austrian religious organizations in their interreligious collaboration
- Hosting visits by local politicians, diplomats, NGOs, private people interested in KAICIID's work
- **Diplomatic outreach:** meetings with Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps in Vienna and globally, deepening engagement with diplomatic representations from European and Arab countries.



“DIALOGUE IS NECESSARY BECAUSE IN NEIGHBOURING EACH OTHER, WE HAVE TO SPEAK TO EACH OTHER. WHAT WE DO HERE ON A HIGH ACADEMIC LEVEL IS WHAT WE MUST DO IN OUR DAILY LIFE WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS, WHATEVER RELIGION THEY MAY HAVE.”

**H.E. CARDINAL CHRISTOPH SCHÖNBORN
ARCHBISHOP OF VIENNA, NOVEMBER 2015**

AUSTRIAN OUTREACH



"TO MY KNOWLEDGE, KAICIID IS THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION IN WHICH LEADING FIGURES OF THE FIVE MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS COOPERATE. THROUGH ITS EFFORTS, THE CENTRE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN RELIGIONS AND THUS MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE EVOLUTION AND ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

I EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR KAICIID, ITS MANAGEMENT AND ALL EMPLOYEES FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND, IN THE INTERESTS OF DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS, CULTURES AND RELIGIONS, I WISH YOU THE BEST SUCCESS FOR YOUR FUTURE WORK."

H.E DR. HEINZ FISCHER, FEDERAL PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

FEBRUARY 2016

AUSTRIAN OUTREACH

February 2015: Focus group meeting with NGO representatives on human rights issues at the KAICIID headquarters.

March 2015: First Focus Group meeting gathering 15 official representatives from the Austrian Buddhist, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Protestant and Roman Catholic communities with the aim of discussing possible future collaborations between KAICIID and their communities.

March 2015: European Muslim Jewish Dialogue; hosting meetings of the Austrian chapter of the Muslim and Jewish Dialogue undertaken by young people from these communities.

June 2015: KAICIID Musical Dialogue, two musical ensembles: uniting musicians with diverse international backgrounds and 'Western' classical and jazz music with traditional and contemporary music from the Maghreb.

August 2015: Intrareligious Football match.

August 2015: Vienna trips for refugees: Possibilities to engage in dialogue with Arabic speaking staff members and external partners (e.g. IGGiÖ Youth chapter) to provide them with some positive impressions to better cope with their often challenging everyday lives.

On-going since July 2015: Translation Services for ambulance services and relief organisations handling incoming refugees.

November 2015: 50th Anniversary of the Interreligious Milestone Declaration **"Nostra Aetate"**
The panel discussion "Nostra Aetate in Our Time: Interreligious Relations 50 years after the Second Vatican Council," convened representatives of religious communities in Austria and KAICIID's Board of Directors at the International Dialogue Centre.

November 2015: Interreligious Football match with Afghani, Iranian and Syrian refugees teamed with students from the Vienna University's Catholic and Evangelical theological faculties.

December 2015: European Muslim Jewish Dialogue

December 2015: Refugees cultural orientation visit for Afghani and Syrian refugee families, visit a Christmas Market and the Parliament with a meeting with a Parliamentarian.

December 2015: Refugees cultural orientation visit for Afghani and Syrian refugee families, Christmas Market and Albertina Museum.

January 2016: Expert Lecture: “Light in God’s Houses”, the universal symbolism of the use of light in sacred architecture.

February 2016: Lecture by Austrian Federal President Heinz Fischer as part of the Centre’s initiatives for World Interfaith Harmony Week, attended by Austrian religious leaders and parliamentarians, as well as government officials, diplomats, media and KAICIID Board and Fellows.

February 2016: Refugees cultural orientation visit for refugee children who will be have the opportunity to explore their new home city with the help of professional facilitation and translation.



HIGH-LEVEL PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS/BILATERAL MEETINGS

BUDDHIST

1. **President Nichiko Niwano**, President of Rissho Kosei-kai
2. **Ven. Kojun Handa**, Tendai Zasu, Supreme Priest of Tendai Buddhist Denomination
3. **Ven. Jakushun Kinoshita**, President of Tendai Buddhist Denomination
4. **Ven. Gijun Sugitani**, Supreme Advisor, Tendai Buddhist Denomination
5. **Ven. Eigen Onishi**, Special member of Religions for Peace Japan/ General Manager of Kiyomizu Temple
6. **Rev. Kojitu Kobori**, President of Hieizan Enryakuji Temple
7. **Rev. Tsunekiyo Tanaka**, President of Association of Shinto Shrines and Japan Religious Committee for World Federation
8. **Gerhard Weißgrab**, President of the Austrian Buddhist Religious Organisations

CHRISTIAN-CATHOLICS

1. **His Holiness Pope Francis**
2. **His Beatitude Patriarch Moran Mor Bechara Boutros al-Rahi**, the Maronite Patriarchs of Antioch
3. **His Beatitude Patriarch Gregory III Laham**, Melkite Greek Catholic Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, and Alexandria and Jerusalem
4. **His Beatitude Patriarch Raphael I Louis Sako**, Patriarch, Chaldean Catholic Church
5. **His Beatitude Patriarch Ignatius Ephrem Joseph III Younan**, Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, Syrians for the Syriac Catholic Church
6. **His Eminence Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn**, Archbishop of Vienna
7. **His Eminence Cardinal Oaniyekan**, Archbishop of Abuja

CHRISTIAN-ORTHODOX

1. **His All Holiness Bartholomew I**, Patriarch, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople
2. **His Beatitude Patriarch Yohanna X**, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East
3. **His Holiness Pope Tawadoros II**, Pope of the Alexandria and Patriarch of the see of St. Mark, head of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt.
4. **His Holiness Karekin II**, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians
5. **His Holiness Syrian Orthodox Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II**
6. **His Holiness Patriarch Aram I Keshishian**, Head of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia and Catholicos of the Holy See of Cilicia of the Armenian Apostolic Church

CHRISTIAN-PROTESTANT

1. **Rev. Dr. Safouat Al Baiyadi**, President, Protestant Community of Egypt
2. **Rev. Dr. Habib Bader**, President of the National Evangelical Church, Lebanon
3. **Bishop Michael Bünker**, Protestant Church in Austria

DRUZE

1. **H.E. Sheik al-Aql Naim Hassan**, Druze spiritual leader and head of the Druze Council in Lebanon.

HINDU

2. **Bhai Mohinder Singh**, Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, Chairman

JEWISH

1. **Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt**, Chief Rabbi of Moscow
2. **Chief Rabbi Melchior Jair**, Chief Rabbi of Denmark
3. **Rabbi Moshe Lewin**, Executive Director of the Conference of European Rabbis
4. **Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister**, Community Rabbi in Vienna

MANDEAN

1. **Sheikh Alaa Aziz Tarish**, Deputy Chairman, Mandaean Community in Iraq

HIGH-LEVEL PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS/BILATERAL MEETINGS

MUSLIM-SUNNI

1. **Sheikh Salih bin Abdullah al Humaid**, Imam of the Grand Mosque, Mecca, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
2. **H.E. Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb**, Grand Imam and Sheikh Al Azhar
3. **H.E. Sheikh Shawki Ibrahim Alam**, Grand Mufti of Egypt
4. **H.E. Sheikh Abdel-Latif Derian**, Grand Mufti of Lebanon
5. **H.E. Sheikh Mustafa Ceric**, Grand Mufti of Bosnia
6. **H.E. Shaikh Salih Abdullah Humaid**, Imam of the Grand Mosque of Makkah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
7. **H.E. Sheikh Abdul Kareem Khasawneh**, Grand Mufti of Jordan
8. **H.E. Sheikh Malek al-Shaar**, Mufti of Tripoli and North Lebanon
9. **H.E. Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Abbadi**, Secretary General, League of Mohammedan Scholars in Morocco
10. **H.E. Sheikh Mahmoud Abdulaziz Al Anni**, Head, Association of Iraqi Muslim Scholars
11. **H.E. Sheikh Abdallah bin Mahfudh bin Bayyah**, President, Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies
12. **H.E. Sheikh Dr. Abdulateef Al-Humayem**: President of Iraqi Sunni Endowment
13. **H.E. Sheikh Saad bin Turki Al Khathlan**, Member, Senior Scholars, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
14. **H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Mutlaq**, Member, Supreme Religious Council; President, Board of Directors of King Abdul Aziz Center for National Dialogue of Saudi Arabia
15. **H.E. Sheikh Kais Bin Muhammed Bin Abdullatif Al Sheikh Mubarak Al-Tamimi**, Member, Supreme Religious Council of Saudi Arabia
16. **Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulmuhsen Al Turki**, Secretary General, Muslim World League

MUSLIM-SHIA

1. **H.E. Sayyid Ali Al-Amin**, Shia Religious Leader, Lebanon
2. **H.E. Sayyid Ali Al-Hakeem**, Director, Al-Hakim Foundation, Lebanon

YAZIDI

1. **His Sublime Highness Mir Tahsin Saied Beg**, the head of the Yazidi community

"I AM CONVINCED THAT THIS CENTRE IS GOING TO BECOME A REFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE FOR PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN RELIGIONS AND CULTURES, AND ULTIMATELY, CONTRIBUTING TO THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF ALL PEOPLES."

H.M JUAN CARLOS, FORMER KING OF SPAIN

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION

1. AL Azhar al Shareef
2. World Council of Churches (WCC)
3. Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)
4. Organization of Islamic Cooperation
5. Islamic Relief
6. Religions for Peace RFP
7. Culture and Dialogue Committee, Druze Council
8. Iraqi Council for Interfaith Dialogue
9. Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Center
10. Khaznawi Organization for Dialogue and Religious Reform, Syria
11. Iraqi Institute for Human Rights
12. European External Action Service
13. Ulama Kurdish Union, Iraq
14. Christian-Muslim National Committee for Dialogue
15. Assyrian Orthodox Organization, Lebanon
16. Adyan Foundation, Lebanon
17. Hakim Foundation
18. Dar al-Ilm Imam Al-Khoei
19. Pro Oriente
20. Royal Institute for Interfaith Dialogue, Jordan
21. Order of Malta
22. The Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services in Egypt
23. Forum for Religions and Cultures for Development and Dialogue, Lebanon
24. the Lebanese Center for Studies Dialogue and Rapprochement, Lebanon
25. The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue
26. Deans of 12 sharia and theology faculties from the Arab world
27. Al Hayat center for civil society development, Jordan

IN THE FACE OF CONFLICT

The King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue Centre's Board of Directors adopted in consensus this Statement of Principles. Thereafter, the KAICIID Dialogue Centre's Council of Parties endorsed the Statement and approved its publication. The Council of Parties consists of the Parties to the KAICIID Founding Agreement: the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Spain, and the Holy See, attending as the Founding Observer State.

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 instrumentalization 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.

KAICIID combats prejudice and intolerance, in all their forms.

We Will Act

KAICIID counteracts the abuse of religion to justify oppression, violence and conflict and facilitates peaceful resolution by bringing conflict parties to the dialogue table.

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, and let us appreciate difference as enrichment rather than fearing “otherness” as a threat.



VIENNA DECLARATION

UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE IN THE NAME OF RELIGION: SUPPORTING RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN IRAQ AND SYRIA

19 November 2014

Under the auspices of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, high-level representatives of the major world religious and social institutions have gathered to agree on programs and initiatives that contribute to strengthening the unity against violence in the name of religion to support religious and cultural diversity in Iraq and Syria.

Because the multi-religious nature, KAICIID and its diverse board is an example for commitment to preserving religious and cultural diversity, and unequivocally reject all forms of violent actions, especially the ones that are committed in the name of religion. The center strives to foster dialogue and to strengthen the foundations of citizenship. KAICIID desires to enhance the spirit of moderation, and to establish purposeful and sincere dialogue founded upon the principles of coexistence, mutual understanding and cooperation.

Although conflicts in the world over the past two decades in various regions have caused tremendous grief for us, we recognize that the ramifications of this current conflict have dangerously expanded and targeted the followers of every religion—Muslims, Christians and others. We unanimously denounce these destructive actions wherever they may occur. We especially condemn the harrowing and treacherous events that have recently occurred in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq and Syria.

We reject violence in all its forms especially the violence perpetuated in the name of religion because we believe escalating violence and destruction ultimately destroy the entire foundation for social cohesion. In the wake of such losses, there have been hundreds of thousands of casualties—innocent men, women, and children—as well as millions of refugees who have fled or have been forcefully uprooted, exposed to injustice, and driven from their homes. The homelands left behind are scarred, as well, because communities are fragmented by violence and war.

As leaders of various religious and faith traditions, we must oppose persecution inflicted on all the components of the social fabric especially Christians, Yazidis and other religious and ethnic groups such as Turkmen and Shabak in Iraq and Syria. Persecution of people, violating their sanctity as the case of Yazidi women and enslaving the people are ways contrary to every human conscience. Persecution and execution of people who exercise their basic human right to worship as they choose contradict noble religious ideals, as well as tear the fabric of civilization, nullifying past humanitarian gains. The effort of many religious leaders over the years to establish a shared ethic of peaceful coexistence between all the segments of the Iraqi and Syrian societies, Christians, Muslims, Yazidis, Turkmen and Shabak.

And, because of the exposition of Islam's teachings, the Muslims' values, and civilizational role to a mutilation by extremist groups, which manipulate religion in the service of justifying its killing and destruction against Muslims and others and destructing conducts by harming the innocents, defiling states and their sovereignty, demolishing religious shrines and worshipping places, and imposing hegemonic rules and laws over citizens. These actions which stem from strange ideas that are totally incompatible with our cultures and history, contrast with the genuine Islamic teachings, and destroy the connections, not just between the followers of diverse religions, but also among the followers of the same faith.

Clearly, the region is in a fragile period of history, and the international and regional complexities of these circumstances are not easily understood, nor solved. Perhaps, the first step is to listen to the appeal of the displaced, the orphans, the widows, and the bereaved. We have gathered today as religious authorities from the Arab countries and the world, in the presence of high level governmental, intergovernmental, and civil society officials to affirm the common bond of the right of every human to follow one's own faith without fear of death or destruction. We raise a joint plea to the powerful and almighty God to strengthen us to shoulder our responsibility at this moment in history. In the shadow of these difficult circumstances, we remain sincere in our convictions, true to our religious teachings and mindful of our humanitarian values.

We gather together to listen to each other, and to think together about possibilities for cooperation to transform the crisis. It is through dialogue and the strengthening of our mutual values of citizenship, that the windows of hope and aspiration will be opened. We must tear down the barriers of fear, holding grudges and injustice, which divide people and eliminate their dreams and hopes of peace.

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We gather together to declare in a unanimous voice, and to abide by the following principles and initiatives:

THE PRINCIPLES

1. We commit ourselves to adopt dialogue as the primary and most potent for resolving conflicts and disagreements, and to support initiatives and institutions that consider dialogue the best method for constructing national peace, coexistence and promotion of common citizenship.
2. We explicitly and completely condemn the serious violation of human rights in Iraq and Syria. We share the indignation of those who have suffer these grave injustices and arbitrary abuse. Regardless a person's chosen religious tradition, they are entitled to be treated humanely and with dignity. Unchecked mass murder and bloody conflict are correctly categorized as crimes against humanity. We also reject and denounce supporting or sponsoring terrorism. We appeal to the world's leaders and governments, the League of Arab States, the Conference of Islamic Cooperation and the UN Security Council to intervene with the appropriate methods to stop these crimes and to end the conflicts that are destructive to people and to civilization alike. Nothing justifies violating civilians or threatening their lives and livelihood.
3. We declare our solidarity with all who are oppressed due to these events, especially those who have been uprooted and displaced from their homes and homelands. We call upon relevant political powers and international community to spare no effort to restore these people to their cities and villages, and to return their houses and normal living conditions. Further, we call upon all countries who are involved in some way with this struggle, together with the international community and its international organizations to find a rapid and appropriate solution to the issue of refugees in Iraq and Syria. We call upon the world to help countries in which the current situation is threatening stability and creating a crisis in securing the necessary resources for the entire population to survive.
4. Together we repudiate all exploitation of religion in political conflict and the usurpation of religious symbols by extremists used as a means for segregation and a cause for injustice and oppression. At every official spiritual and public level, we reject the fractured teaching and defamation of values within Islam, especially by those who claim Islamic ruler-ship in Iraq and Syria and their followers. We invite all people of faith and good will to condemn these practices and to stand united against these tactics.

5. We assert that every religious, ethnic, cultural or linguistic heritage is an irreplaceable and an inherent part of the Arab culture, rooted in its history, and contributes to the vibrancy and diversity of the fabric of those communities. We also affirm that each person is vital to the future of these countries as they coexist equally with the same rights and duties to create solidarity between the Muslims and the Christians in the Middle East. Therefore, we call for the preservation of this diversity in the Arabic societies, which has been our legacy for several millennia. Diversity is both a cultural prerogative and an authentic source that reflects the different elements comprising the national identity. We proclaim the imperative need for Christians, Muslims, and other cultural and religious components to become a cohesive unit in Arab societies.
6. Building upon the past experience of Christian-Muslim coexistence, despite all of the disturbances, relapses and imperfect conduct throughout history, we affirm that this very coexistence is one of the main pillars of the Arab civilization, and serves as evidence of the mutually beneficial relationship between Muslims and Christians.
7. We call for all people to honor—without hesitation or reservation—the human rights and freedoms of every people group. We request special attention be given to freedom of belief and freedom of practicing religious rites, because these are prerequisites to protecting freedom diversity and promoting dialogue. We also stress the necessity of adopting the concept of joint citizenship, which embraces diversity and deems it foundational to executing justice and peace within societies. Peace and justice cannot be attained without regard for the rule of law and governing bodies. In addition, the role of religious institutions, in collaboration with other societal institutions, are necessary for developing citizenship by means of defining the qualities of citizenship and spreading positive values.
8. Firmly clinging to hope despite the difficulties we are facing, we must not despair or cease from the work of peace-building, and arriving at an appropriate mutual understanding between the followers of diverse religions. We appeal to all people of faith and good will, striving to build a more cooperative and peaceful world, to adopt these commitments and to work with us jointly toward achieving this goal.

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General Recommendations

- Immediate call to end violence in the name of religion;
- Encourage religious leaders to condemn all violence against others, be it within their tradition or outside, whether majorities or minorities, and to respect their rights;
- Focus on Citizenship, in education and social cohesion;
- Improve national policies, legal frameworks, infrastructure, personal encounters, etc. vis-à-vis majorities/minorities, youth, women, local communities, religious scholars;
- Introduce more dialogue oriented projects proactively;
- Focus on the relationship between religions and states, separation versus harmonization needs further discussion;
- Support displaced people and refugees including reintegration in their homes.

Social Cohesion

- Encourage law and policy makers in majority Muslim countries to strengthen legal rules against violence in the name of religion;
- Counteract poverty and unemployment as main factors for extremism (economic growth is part of the solution);
- Work on developing good self-critical tools and methods in religions, interpretations of religious texts;
- Call for all international and religious organizations to help in the crisis of the Yazidi minorities in particular.

Media

- Create positive campaigns to counter extremist campaigns. Send positive messages to support mainstream voices;
- Establish media relations and trainings regarding the image of the other;
- Invest in youth as messengers for peace;
- Build a grassroots network of youth; youth to youth;
- Make existing information digestible through social media, which is the best way to reach youth.

Education

- Revise principles of education curricula and review curricula on religion (e.g. create religious diversity guide to world faiths);
- Reform educational systems with regard to the image of the other and interreligious relations;
- Design a formal framework for dialogue and exchange, by using religious texts that endorse dialogue;
- Include religious leaders in the creation of curricula, strengthening citizenship and supporting socio-cultural transformation;
- Train curriculum developers along with teachers and educators to include the idea of dialogue;
- Expand exchange of programmes in education and across communities.

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Recommended Actions

- Collect, study, acknowledge and promote success stories of interreligious and peace initiatives;
- Introduce IRD education and training to students of religions including developing interreligious dialogue curricula;
- Train religious leaders to disseminate the values of diversity and citizenship;
- Establish a network of local religious leaders who believe in diversity and pluralism;
- Provide a social media platform to increase important moderate voices;
- Provide a training for a large number of youth, and empower them on social media;
- Form a regional follow up committee to enact the recommendations.

EUROPEAN MEDIA FORUM

In Paris, France on 15 and 16 June 2015, the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), based in Vienna, held the European Media Forum 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. This forum is part of the implementation of the Vienna Declaration “United against Violence in the Name of Religion”, which was adopted in November 2014 and was followed up by the May 2015 conference in Beirut, Lebanon on preserving religious and cultural diversity in Syria and Iraq.

Organised with the support of KAICIID Board member and Metropolitan of France, His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel, and attended by KAICIID Board members Swami Agnivesh, Father Miguel Ayuso, Dr. Seyyed Ata'ollah Mohajerani, Reverend Kosho Niwano, Chief Rabbi David Rosen and Dr. Mohammed Sammak, the meeting brought together religious leaders from European Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim communities, as well as leading civil society organisations such as Article 19, and the International Press Institute, and media organisations such the BBC, European Broadcasting Union, El País, Reuters, Religion News Service and others.

The following organizations supported the European Media Forum: the World Council of Churches; the Conference of European Rabbis; the Hindu Forum of Europe, the European Buddhist Union; the Islamic Cultural Centre of the United Kingdom; a Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe; the Blanquerna Observatory on Media, Religion and Culture; the Ethical Journalism Network; and the Religion Newswriters Foundation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

General recommendations: Engage in Dialogue and Bridge Building

Generally, there was recognition that there needs to be increased dialogue specifically among and between religious leaders and media professionals and, at times, with the inclusion of policy makers and human rights actors.

Specific recommendations given are:

To engage in dialogue for mutual understanding to fill the various gaps in knowledge by:

- Sharing information about each other's mandates, codes of conduct and ethics;
- Learning about working procedures and structures;
- Building respect;

EUROPEAN MEDIA FORUM

- Exchanging expertise and information on past and current developments of topical issues;
- Building an alliance to defend freedom of expression and freedom of religion and belief, which are interdependent;
- To build a lasting and constructive cooperation and action among religious leaders and media professionals and beyond;
- To engage EU, UNESCO and other regional international organizations in these dialogues;
- To work towards ensuring that incitement laws are in line with international standards; and
- To work towards rescinding blasphemy laws.

Important Issues:

There is a need for religious terminology that is appropriate for media usage, with explanation if necessary. The use of appropriate language and terminology needs to be considered seriously.

There is a need to distinguish between social problems within religious communities from religious identities and beliefs.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MEDIA PROFESSIONALS:

Generally there were recommendations to make the coverage of religion in media more accurate and avoid bias and stereotypes.

Specific recommendations given are:

- To strengthen religious literacy among journalists and media practitioners;
- Media should seek to build their audiences' religious literacy;
- To train journalists and media practitioners in preventing hate speech/incitement etc. so that comments can be better moderated without being censored;
- To be knowledgeable about using religious terminology.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS:

Religious communities need to take responsibility for engaging the media more effectively by:

- Considering how European and national interreligious councils can be resources for media;
- Strengthening media literacy;
- Explaining and challenging the use of religious terminology by the media;
- Considering how institutional hierarchies affect the ability of religious voices to communicate with the press. Improve communication within religious institutions and empower local-level voices;
- Promoting solidarity between religious leaders;
- Understanding that news media prefer sources (interviewees) who are:
 - Competent
 - Reliable
 - Relevant
 - Confident
 - Available (on short notice)
 - In regular contact with journalists (i.e. initial contacts before a crisis; avoid firefighting)
- Journalists need not just a talking head, but also someone who can speak with them in depth “on background” or “off-the-record”
- Clarity, humility, transparency are the best ways to deal with sensitive questions;
- Being proactive with various forms of media, as well as producing their own news, otherwise silence can be misunderstood because it often leads to negative assumptions or suspicions;

EUROPEAN MEDIA FORUM

- Understanding that religious leaders, also on a local level, are interesting voices because they are influential, have knowledge on both religious and social issues.
- Understanding that news media must prevail in a highly competitive environment, so if religious leaders are approached by several media at once, they can be selective;
- Considering creating a “code of conduct” or guidelines for religious voices speaking with media.
- Religious communities need to improve their communications capacity by:
 - Improving the capacity of religious leaders to better understand how media works;
 - Developing web sites and tools that make their information more accessible;
 - Designating a spokesperson;
 - Developing more effective messaging and story-telling;
 - Giving background briefings to journalists;
 - Developing relationships with journalists;
 - Providing qualified lay-experts who will interest journalists (not just clerics);
 - Linking religious representatives to journalist associations;
 - Inviting regularly media professionals to events and celebrations;
 - Making more effective use of social media (bearing in mind both its risks and opportunities);
 - Increasing religious communities’ private and public acknowledgements of accurate, positive or fair coverage to leadership of media outlets;
- Organizing interreligious initiatives that demonstrate solidarity in real time response to crisis.
- Religious communities need to take a proactive and innovative approach for generating events of public interest (i.e.: thinking outside of the box) by:

- Organizing events with bloggers and social media actors that cover religious and social matters;
- Engaging with popular culture, celebrities, comedians, actors, story-tellers, etc. (ex. Soap opera script writers).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KAICIID

Specific recommendations for KAICIID were to:

- Provide media literacy and communications training for religious leaders;
- Provide religious literacy training for journalists;
- Create dialogue between religious leaders and journalists;
- Create rapid response mechanism for interreligious initiatives and media to collaborate at times of crisis in particular;
- Bring faith-based news media and non-religious and mainstream news media closer together;
- Convene an international meeting of bloggers and social media experts;
- Convene an international meeting of religious broadcasters;
- Become a facilitating entity in the Istanbul Process;
- Create a handbook for journalists about sensitive terminology in religious reporting, first highlighting existing resources to avoid duplication and then adding any missing dimensions;
- Ensure that events include more women and youth, as well as take into account non-believer communities.

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

2-3 November 2014

We Christian and Muslim religious leaders have unanimously committed ourselves to encourage all initiatives and actions aimed at supporting citizenship rights of all people, Christians, Muslims and other religious and ethnic groups, in the Middle East.

The expanding conflict in the Middle East threatens religious and cultural diversity in this region. It also undermines peaceful coexistence among citizens of the region, including Christians, Muslims, and other religious and ethnic groups. Hundreds of thousands of Christians, Muslims and other religious and ethnic groups are subjected to brutal violence and horrific torment. They are forced to flee their homes. Christians, Muslims, and other religious and ethnic groups are abused and killed by violent extremists. These violent extremists' heinous acts stem from ideas that are totally incompatible with our shared cultures and history, and contradict authentic religious teachings.

These ideas harm the image of our religions. These crimes destroy fellowship between the followers of diverse religions, and among followers of the same faith. Our religions call for peace and coexistence. These are core values of our religions.

Speaking with one voice as Christian and Muslim religious authorities, we declare that the Christian and other religious and ethnic communities constitute an integral and inseparable part of the Middle East's religious and cultural diversity, are rooted in its history, and contribute to the formation of our shared Middle Eastern identity.

We denounce in the strongest terms the persecution of the Christian, other religious and ethnic communities in the Middle East. We condemn those who manipulate religion to justify violence against people of other faiths and desecrate sacred sites and symbols.

On behalf of our religious communities, we express our unshaken solidarity with Christian and other religious and ethnic communities. We pledge to work together to actively build peace with justice, and to do everything in our power to create the kind of conditions in which the Christian and other religious and ethnic communities can live in freedom and dignity in the Middle East as full citizens.

We religious leaders jointly appeal to policymakers in the region to preserve diversity within their societies.

We religious leaders jointly appeal to policy makers and media not to associate any terrorist act committed in the name of religion with any religion, and to host credible voices to speak in the name of religion.

We also recognize and appreciate the voices raised in unison and joint initiatives launched in the region to support and strengthen the social fabric based on the principles of common citizenship.

At the local level, we religious leaders support early efforts to stem attempts to segregate religious communities and foster conflict, as well as to facilitate joint local development projects to help different communities meet, cooperate and build trust.

We call upon religious and political leaders, as well as civil society to take a strong stand against growing violent extremism and terrorism which threaten centuries of peaceful coexistence in the Middle East.

We call for the release of all hostages, abducted civilians and religious leaders, and the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their homes and properties.

We commend the initiative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and in particular His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, in convening this meeting in the context of “Dialogue between Christians and Muslims”, as we support the continuing implementation of KAICIID’s initiative, “United against Violence in the Name of Religion”.



CID

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.”

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