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KAICIID is the only intergovernmental organization governed by religious representatives and dedicated to the facilitation of dialogue between different cultures and faiths. Its unique mandate allows the Centre to bridge the gap between religious leaders and policymakers in order to advocate peace and combat violent extremism. This approach is motivated by the belief that religious leaders and policymakers must work together in order to effectively address the many conflicts and problems in which religious identity is manipulated to justify violence. We equip religious communities with skills such as an understanding of policy frameworks, human rights, and sustainable development, while also training policymakers on religious literacy, interreligious dialogue and inclusion.

DIALOGUE
IS THE HEART
OF POSITIVE
PEACEBUILDING



OUR VISION IS A WORLD IN WHICH

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



While “dialogue” can simply refer to a conversation, at KAICIID, we believe it is so much more. Whether interreligious, or intercultural, dialogue is an important form of intellectual interaction in the spirit of openness and compassion. Dialogue takes place when people of different religious and cultural identities seek mutual understanding and respect, allowing us to coexist peacefully in spite of our differences.

Dialogue is at the heart of positive peacebuilding. Its processes are in all phases, from prevention of conflicts, to peacemaking and post-conflict rebuilding. Interreligious and intercultural dialogue contribute to a paradigm shift away from winning arguments and controlling outcomes, towards collective and inclusive decision-making for a sustainable common good.

At KAICIID, dialogue is both a means and an end: from conception of strategy, to the way we foster collaboration, to the way we work together with our partners to build peaceful, just societies.

KAICIID GOVERNANCE

KAICIID's governance, which represents more than 20 communities around the world, reflects the Centre's commitment to ensure inclusion of all the world's mainstream religious and spiritual traditions into its activities and programmes.



KAICIID IS OVERSEEN THROUGH A MULTILATERAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE.

The Centre's founding Member States (Republic of Austria, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kingdom of Spain with the Holy See as a founding observer) constitute the Council of Parties, responsible for overseeing KAICIID's work.

The Board of Directors comprises high-level representatives of major world religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. The Advisory Forum, a consultative body which supports the activities of the Board, comprises influential leaders from world religions, religious and cultural institutions and communities.



ARAB REGION

For centuries, religion has been a pivotal part of political life in the Arab world; however, the misuse of religion by violent factions has led to increased polarisation and conflict. Many Arab countries are plagued by violence, large-scale displacement, sectarianism, violent extremism, and the collapse of critical infrastructures - the combination of which significantly challenges regional, national and global stability.



Advocating Rights and Inclusion through Platforms for Peace

In order to address these issues, KAICIID operates under the framework of the Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World. The platform works with high level religious leaders throughout the region to develop concrete action plans that cover issues such as common citizenship, interreligious education, media and partnerships with policymakers.

Additionally, the KAICIID-supported Network of Religious Faculties and Institutes in the Arab Region supports the development of education tools and interreligious curricula which foster religious and cultural diversity.

Training and Equipping the Next Generation of Leaders

The Centre regularly engages young people in its programming, such as through the Social Media as Space for Dialogue Programme, in order to train and equip the next generation of leaders. Over 164 million people in the Arab Region actively engage on social media, including extremists who use social media to promote stereotypes and incite violence. KAICIID provides young people with the capacity to combat online hate speech and extremism and advocate inclusion and moderation among their peers.

Moreover, the Centre's Arab Fellows Programme trains young religious leaders, activists, and academics to implement peace initiatives in their local communities.



Launched in 2018, the INTERRELIGIOUS PLATFORM FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION IN THE ARAB WORLD supports religious authorities from Muslim and Christian institutions to advocate the rights and inclusion of all communities in the Arab Region. The platform equips members to combat the instigation of hatred and sectarianism and promote the fundamental rights and dignity of all human beings. It also connects religious leaders with policymakers in the region to advocate inclusive policies and give voice to marginalised communities.

AFRICA • CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Central African Republic (CAR) has endured decades of political instability and crippling poverty. Since 2013, widespread fighting between armed groups and sectarian violence has forcibly displaced 900,000 people, resulting in one of the worst humanitarian disasters of our time. The situation has partially improved since the signing of the Khartoum peace agreement in 2019, but security in the country remains an issue.



Rebuilding Trust in Shattered Communities

Over the last few years, violence in CAR has broken down the social fabric of the country and prevented the State from delivering services, creating an urgent need for religious leaders to step in as aid administrators, development coordinators, and support systems for vulnerable populations. KAICIID advocates the inclusion of these religious leaders in peace processes given their ability to foster national efforts towards reconciliation from within their respective communities.

To that end, the KAICIID-supported Plateforme des Confessions Religieuses de Centrafrique (PCRC) works with Catholic, Evangelical, and Muslim communities on projects targeted at healing and rebuilding trust in shattered communities. The platform also collaborates with authorities on policies regarding interfaith and community issues. Currently, the PCRC is working to establish regional offices (antennae structures) in all of the country's 16 prefectures.

Championing a Strategy for National Reconciliation

Through its collaboration with the CAR Ministry for National Reconciliation, KAICIID plans to support Local Peace Committees (LPCs), ensuring the inclusion of religious and community leaders in these structures, as well as training committees to use dialogue facilitation to mitigate conflict.

Supporting Conflict Sensitive Journalism

Despite these efforts, highly politicised journalism has placed huge strains on the country's efforts for peace. Many media outlets are under intense pressure from armed groups and lack proper training and resources. The Centre provides much-needed training in conflict-sensitive journalism to local media outlets, developing their capacities to report on interethnic and interreligious issues in a more professional and responsible way.

AFRICA • NIGERIA

Nigeria boasts the largest economy in Africa and represents one of the fastest-growing populations in the world, with more than 200 million inhabitants forming over 250 ethnic groups. While Nigeria's diversity and growth show significant promise, the country also faces fierce challenges such as high unemployment, degradation of natural resources, and the threat of extremist violence.



Building Peaceful, Just Communities

KAICIID has supported the establishment of the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) in Nigeria, which convenes 100 Christian and Muslim religious leaders from across the country. Through this interfaith partnership, the IDFP works to protect holy sites, uphold the freedom of religion, promote conflict sensitive journalism, prevent hate speech and foster interfaith education and exchange.

Interfaith Partnerships in Action

Together with its partners, KAICIID conducts fact-finding missions to communities devastated by clashes between nomadic cattle herders and local farmers. The conflict, which has been mainly fuelled by scarcity of resources, has left several thousand dead and homes destroyed.

Additionally, the Centre and its partners are establishing local mediation units, which will serve as early warning and response mechanisms, as well as implementing targeted national campaigns to advocate human rights and violence-free elections.



Each year, KAICIID funds approximately 20 small grants, which support local organizations and actors in Nigeria to implement initiatives targeted at promoting peace and building safe, inclusive communities.



ASIA • MYANMAR

Myanmar's deep-rooted ethnic and intercommunal conflicts have shaped the country's national challenges and current security issues. Religious and ethnic minority groups have experienced decades of systemic and institutionalised discrimination, threatening their legal status and political rights.



Promoting Tolerance through a Multireligious Network for Peace

In response to the violence, the KAICIID-supported Paungsie Metta Initiatives (PMI) has become one of the largest and most influential interreligious dialogue networks in the country, working to protect marginalised groups and religious minorities. The network is multireligious, led by representatives from the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim communities, as well as civil society leaders.

Connecting Religious Leaders with Traditional and New Media

Because hate speech and rumour-mongering have fuelled violence across Myanmar, KAICIID and its partners consistently work with traditional and social media to ensure that media outlets provide accurate facts and avoid religious and ethnic stereotypes and discrimination. Currently, KAICIID supports local civil society organizations, which work to facilitate constructive collaborations between journalists, religious leaders and peace activists.



In 2018, the PMI launched the country's first Interreligious Training Centre which trains government officials, religious and civil society leaders on religious literacy, peacebuilding, and social media as a tool for conflict prevention.



EUROPE

MUSLIM-JEWISH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (MJLC)

Protecting Pluralism and Religious Freedom in Europe

The KAICIID-supported Muslim and Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC) was founded in 2016 in Vienna, Austria. The Council has equal representation among the Jewish and Muslim communities with three Jewish and three Muslim religious leaders serving as its governance. It was registered as an Austrian NGO in 2018.

The Council collaborates on issues such as Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and xenophobia in Europe. It also offers expert advice to EU bodies on legislation which directly affects Jewish and Muslim religious and traditional practices (e.g. clothing, circumcision and slaughter regulations).

The [MJLC](#) advocates religious freedoms, which are anchored in European law, through joint campaigns to defend the rights of religious minorities across the continent. By setting an example of collaboration and respect, the Council seeks to encourage understanding and build trust between Muslim and Jewish communities.

PROGRAMME FOR THE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF PEOPLE SEEKING REFUGE IN EUROPE (PSR)

Over the past few years, Europe has grappled with the best way to ensure the successful long-term integration of people seeking refuge. KAICIID's PSR Programme addresses integration needs through two main projects: First, through Project Integration through Dialogue which works with people seeking refuge to deepen their understanding of Austrian systems, services and culture. Second, through a network of grassroots organizations, which work together to turn effective integration practices into policy.

Approaching Integration from a Position of Empowerment

In an effort to identify gaps and needs within European integration services, KAICIID implemented a one-year pilot project in Vienna, Austria. The resulting Toolkit provides civil society organizations with the resources to replicate a 13-module interactive dialogue course, designed to integrate newcomers into all aspects of their host country including health services, language-learning, opportunities for further education and an understanding of cultural expectations.

Although the sessions are focused on familiarising participants with integration in Austria, the lessons and techniques are easily adaptable for universal use in organizations and government programmes across the globe. The Toolkit is available for free download in both German and English on the KAICIID website.



TURNING BEST PRACTICES INTO POLICY

Taking lessons learned from the grassroots level, the Network for Dialogue coordinates with religious institutions, leading organizations and government agencies in the field of integration to turn dialogue approaches and best practices into policy. Since 2019, the Network has organized an annual European Policy Dialogue Forum on Refugees and Migrants that brings together policymakers, religious leaders, academics and civil society to foster dialogue in Europe.

A NEW GENERATION FOR PEACE

Globalisation and increasing technological interconnectedness mean that encounters with religious and cultural diversity are inevitable. Currently not enough schools are training young leaders in dialogue or equipping them with the skills to navigate the complex diversity of culturally and religiously informed perspectives as well as other worldviews.







FELLOWS

The KAICIID International Fellows Programme (KIFP) is a one year training programme, designed to equip leaders and educators with skills in dialogue in order to empower them to take an active role in fostering peace around the world.

Creating a Global Community of Leaders

The Fellows represent a global community of diverse religious leaders, educators, and IRD practitioners from over 60 countries and 9 religions. Training modules target the precise skills the Fellows say they need most: project design, facilitation, communication, outreach, peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and evaluation. During the programme, Fellows learn to design sustainable models that incorporate best practices from the field and receive valuable knowledge on mobilising partners and resources.

DURING THE PROGRAMME, THE FELLOWS IMPLEMENT IRD PROJECTS TAILORED TO THE NEEDS OF THEIR INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITIES.

A survey of KAICIID Fellows showed that at least half of their affiliated institutions had a complete lack of experience in interreligious programming or faced significant challenges in implementing activities and initiatives. The Fellows Programme is designed to fill this critical educational void.

Providing a Network for Continuing Professional Development

After graduation, Fellows become members of the KAICIID Fellows Network (KFN), which provides continuing learning and professional development opportunities to reinforce lasting outcomes in the field. Through the Network, Fellows receive further opportunities and resources to implement new projects as well as to support and promote their work. By working together, inspiring and supporting one another, 276 Fellows alumni form the cornerstone of the Centre's efforts for lasting peace.



KAICIID AND THE **UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

KAICIID aligns its programming and strategy with Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognising that religious leaders are key partners in their implementation. The Centre particularly targets SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by fostering the promotion of inclusive development platforms and placing faith communities at the heart of peacebuilding efforts.



PROVIDING KNOWLEDGE TO FOSTER SUSTAINABLE PEACE

KAICIID's Dialogue Knowledge Hub (DKH) offers knowledge tools, free e-learning courses and webinars which teach dialogue as a tool to solve global policy issues. All DKH online courses are linked with global initiatives and development goals for sustainable peace. Additionally, the Hub's networking and knowledge exchange resources allow users to connect with one another and share innovative best practices from the field. These resources can be accessed for free through the KAICIID website.

EQUIPPING YOUTH TO BE AGENTS OF CHANGE

Recognising that youth play an important and positive role in the promotion of peace and security, the Centre partners with the World Organization of the Scout Movement on the "Scouts for SDGs" initiative. KAICIID's specially designed Dialogue for Peace Programme provides youth, especially women and girls, with the skills to participate in peace processes and serve as agents of positive change in their communities.

MAINSTREAMING DIALOGUE IN ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

KAICIID's Collaborations and Networking Programme is the first formalised programme that works to familiarise partners at all levels with dialogue in order to help them achieve their objectives under the SDGs and regional agendas. KAICIID also works to foster inclusion of religious institutions and actors in the development initiatives of secular organizations, and on additional areas of shared concern.

GET INVOLVED

Are you interested in learning more about
interreligious dialogue and how it can
transform your community or the
work of your organization?

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US
AT ONE OF OUR MANY TRAININGS
OR INTERCULTURAL EVENTS
AROUND THE WORLD.

For more information, follow us on



@KAICIID

or register for our newsletter by emailing

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