

6th European Policy Dialogue Forum

Social Cohesion in Changing Climates

Fostering Inclusive Paths to Equity in Europe

10-13 November 2025
Auditorium Mont Blanc, 6th Floor
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Chem. des Crêts 17, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland
<https://www.kaiciid.org/epdf>

In a Europe grappling with rising tensions, increasing inequality, deepening polarisation, and conflicts, the erosion of social cohesion, exacerbated by growing environmental degradation, signals an urgent need for renewal. Today's fragile societal and ecological landscapes represent a *kairos* – a critical, defining moment that calls for both thoughtful reflection and decisive action.

According to its historical understanding, the concept of *kairos* emphasises the urgent need to respond to the challenges of the present in ways that promote a more equitable and sustainable future for all. Addressing societal fractures, including those caused by environmental degradation, is essential to upholding equity, intergenerational justice, and preserving life on Earth. This decisive moment calls for a transformative shift toward more just, equitable, and inclusive societies – ones that foster a culture of inclusion, uphold human rights, and protect natural resources from the consequences of harmful and unsustainable practices.

The deep interconnection between social cohesion and the planet's health demands a shared sense of responsibility, particularly towards future generations, and requires collective, inclusive action. Community leaders and actors, together with religious leaders and faith-based organizations, guided by shared values such as equity, fraternity, kindness, care for the Earth, and the profound sense of interdependence between humanity and nature, can serve as powerful agents of change. They have the capacity to mobilise communities, inspire moral responsibility, and influence principled policies and practices rooted in compassion, justice, and shared purpose.

The 6th edition of the European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF), the European dialogue platform of the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), aims to provide a safe and dynamic space for reflection on how these shared values – cutting across communities, cultures, religious and belief traditions – can inform a renewed social pact that bridges divides and fosters cohesive, resilient, and sustainable societies. By bringing participants from diverse secular, religious and belief backgrounds – including policymakers and public authorities, religious leaders and actors, the private sector, and international and civil society organizations – the 6th EPDF's sets out to encourage dialogue, long-term action and broad partnerships heal societal rifts and address environmental challenges as two complementary and reinforcing aspects of cohesive and sustainable societies.

THE FORUM

Under the motto “**Inspire, Connect, Engage**”, around 100 participants from Europe – including one third aged between 18 and 30 – will gather in Geneva from 10 to 13 November 2025. Co-organised with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the European Council of religious Leaders and the

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KAICIID-supported platform, the Network for Dialogue, the Forum aims to build bridges between communities, cultures and religions, generations, and social groups across the 46 member states of the Council of Europe.

Drawing on the convening capacity of KAICIID, since 2019, the European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) has explored the transformative potential of interreligious and intercultural dialogue to foster a genuine culture of belonging and address ethnic, religious, and social inequities in Europe.

THE OBJECTIVES

- To deepen understanding of how interreligious and intercultural dialogue can help address the persistent social divisions and environmental challenges facing Europe today, by providing a safe and dynamic space for mutual learning;
- To foster a platform for the exchange of experiences, grounded on shared principles of care, human dignity, equity, fraternity and environmental protection, encouraging collaborative and dialogue-driven networks;
- To support broad-based, inclusive coalitions, particularly among secular actors, religious leaders, belief communities, and faith-based actors, to advance collective efforts toward more cohesive and sustainable societies.

THE ORGANISERS

Thanks to its dual governance structure – a Council of Parties made of States, and a Board of Directors made up of religious leaders – the **International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)** is an intergovernmental organization uniquely placed to bring together followers of different religious traditions, religious leaders and policymakers and harness the transformative power of interreligious and intercultural dialogue as effective tools to promote justice, peace, social cohesion and reconciliation.

The 6th edition of the EPDF is organised with the support of the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)**, the world's largest humanitarian network, comprising 191 National Societies that work to save lives, build community resilience, strengthen localisation and promote dignity around the world.

Established in 2019, the **Network for Dialogue**, is a Europe-wide KAICIID-supported community of faith-based and secular organizations committed to harnessing interreligious and intercultural dialogue methods to promote refugee and migrant inclusion in hosting communities.

The **European Council of Religious Leaders/Religions for Peace Europe (ECRL/RfP Europe)** brings together senior religious leaders from Europe's historical religions to think and act together on key societal challenges of common concern. Members are represented from traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam together with Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs and Zoroastrians.

BACKGROUND

In an increasingly multi-religious and multicultural Europe, the voices of those left behind by economic transitions that generate wealth for a few, without ensuring broad-based socioeconomic inclusion, echo the cry of the Earth, wounded in its fragile ecosystems. Amid the growing exclusion of minorities, including migrants and refugees, and the rapid environmental degradation that disproportionately impacts marginalised communities, the European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) aims to provide a space to reimagine how interreligious and intercultural dialogue can help foster common engagement and a much-needed shift. Guided by core values shared across human rights-based commitments, religious and belief traditions – human dignity, equity, fraternity, care for one

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another, and care for the planet – the EPDF invites reflection and dialogue on how to foster a more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable future for all.

Why a Policy Dialogue

In ancient Greek, the term *polis* referred not just to a city, but to a living political and social community. Its true distinction wasn't only in whether it was ruled democratically or oligarchically, but in the principle of *isonomy* – the idea that all free citizens were equally subject to the same laws. These laws were seen as reflections of a universal order, aligning the city's justice with the harmony of the cosmos.

This deep correspondence between the individual and the *polis* made participation in public life not just a duty, but a path to personal fulfilment. The *agora* – the public square – was the beating heart of this vision; a space where religious leaders and citizens came together to discuss the concerns of the City-State and explore possible solutions, together.

The European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) echoes this spirit. It is a modern *agora* – a space where a diverse group of people of different faiths, convictions, and sectors come together to engage in dialogue for the benefit of the *polis*, the common good, the collective future. Here, policy is not just technical – it is deeply human, rooted in shared values and mutual responsibility.

Why Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue Matters for Social Cohesion and Climate Justice

In this broader effort, interreligious and intercultural dialogue is one of the most suitable tools to overcome the barriers that separate “us” and “them”. Far from being an abstract theological exercise, interreligious and intercultural dialogue helps build a shared vision grounded in common values of solidarity, equity, and care for the Earth. It creates much-needed spaces for constructive engagement, collective responsibility, and a renewed sense of belonging, fostering human connections and shared commitment essential for joint action. Interreligious and intercultural dialogue methods also help rebalance power dynamics, foster solidarity, and support a social contract rooted in mutual dignity, human rights and respect for the natural environment.

The Forum will explore how the role of religious leaders and faith-based actors can significantly contribute to addressing the intersecting social and environmental crises in partnership with secular organizations and entities. In today's context of widening socioeconomic disparities, which continue to limit equal access to essential resources such as employment, healthcare, education, and a healthy environment, religious and community leaders have the potential to serve as powerful voices for unity and justice. While their roles and influence vary – and can be ambivalent – those committed to dialogue and shared values can help transcend polarisation and encourage a collective effort toward a more equitable and sustainable future, grounded in ethical principles common across traditions and cultures. Religious leaders and faith-based actors continue to serve as anchors of care, proximity, and hope, pointing toward a broader, more inclusive, and more equitable horizon for all.

For policymakers, local authorities and the private sector, underestimating the profound influence and role of religious leaders, faith-based actors, and local community organizations can lead to missed opportunities for greater positive impact in multi-faith and multicultural societies.

Core Themes at the Heart of the 6th EPDF

Social Cohesion in Changing Climates is both a call and an opportunity – to rediscover the power of human connection, reaffirm equity as the foundation for human dignity, and transform our shared spaces into places of mutual care and renewal.

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Addressing systemic challenges will guide discussions toward actionable strategies, particularly at the local level. The EPDF will showcase inspiring local initiatives as springboards for dialogue on adapting such experiences elsewhere and influencing national and regional policy frameworks.

Like in an ideal *agora*, in dialogue with religious leaders, policymakers, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, the 6th EPDF will explore:

- Why interreligious and intercultural dialogue matters when addressing the intersecting social and environmental crises;
- Why pervasive inequalities are exacerbating discrimination, growing precarity and environmental degradation, undermining access to essential resources, such as quality employment and education, public health, and the erosion of a healthy environment
- Why urban spaces – given their complexities – stand as pivotal environments of transformation, and places where participatory governance, community-based solutions, volunteering and shared values underpinning cohesive and sustainable communities can be scaled into meaningful change in policies and practices;
- Why the private sector must be actively engaged, recognising the responsibility of businesses for shaping the living conditions through their investments, employment practices, and use of natural resources and the future of innovative financing models.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES



Please scan to read the **EPDF Expert Meeting Report "Common Horizons"** from the preparatory meeting that took place in Rome, providing critical insights in view of the EPDF in Geneva.



Please scan to see **more EPDF-related resources**, such as policy briefs and research papers.



Under “Resources” you can read the draft **EPDF Call to Action**.

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Agenda

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025

09:30 – 10:00 WELCOMING COFFEE AND REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

10:00 – 12:30 OPENING SESSION

10:00 – 10:30 INTRODUCTORY SESSION: SETTING THE CONTEXT

This onboarding session will open with a 3-minute video presentation highlighting the mission and evolution of the EPDF over the years. It will be followed by an overview of the objectives and structure of the 6th edition, setting the stage for the discussions and activities to come.

Ms. Teresa Albano, Senior Programme Manager, Europe Region Programme, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Portugal

10:30 – 12:00 OPENING REMARKS

The opening session of the 6th EPDF will feature high-level representatives from KAICIID, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and other Geneva-based institutions, alongside diplomatic representatives of the KAICIID Council of Parties. Together, they will offer key insights into the Forum's central themes – social cohesion, environmental justice, and the role of interreligious and intercultural dialogue in addressing shared societal challenges – setting the tone for an inclusive and forward-looking discussion.

WELCOMING REMARKS: Mayor Alfonso Gomez, Mayor of Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. Jagan Chapagain, Secretary General, International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, Switzerland

H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Almeida-Ribeiro, Acting Secretary General, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Portugal

Ms. Antonella Sberna, Vice President, implementation of Article 17 TFEU-Dialogue with churches, and religious and philosophical organizations, European Parliament, Belgium (*video message*)

H.E Ambassador João António da Costa Mira Gomes, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel, Metropolitan Elder of Chalcedon, KAICIID Board of Directors, Türkiye

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Ms. Heela Yoon, United Nations SDG Young Leader, Founder of Afghan Youth Ambassadors for Peace, United Kingdom

Ms. Michaela Moua, Anti-racism Coordinator, European Commission, Belgium (*video message*)

MODERATOR: Ms. Vera Ferreira, Head of Programmes and Oversight, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Portugal

12:30 – 13:00 GROUP PICTURE

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00 – 15:30 PLenary SESSION 1

WHY COMMON VALUES AND PRINCIPLES MATTER. TOWARDS A SHARED ETHICAL FOUNDATION TO ADDRESS SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

In an increasingly multi-faith and multicultural Europe there is a growing need to (re)discover values and principles that offer a common foundation for action across different traditions. Drawing on KAICIID's mission to advance interreligious and intercultural dialogue, as well as the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent – particularly humanity, impartiality, and universality – this panel will examine how shared values can serve as ethical anchors in confronting today's intertwined crises, strengthening societal bonds, fostering inclusive dialogue, and inspiring joint responses to social fragmentation and environmental injustice. By highlighting the moral dimensions of both social cohesion and climate justice, the discussion will illustrate how values-driven cooperation can help rebuild trust, empower communities, and promote long-term resilience across Europe and beyond.

INPUT SPEAKER: Father Laurent Basanese, Head of Office, Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue, member of KAICIID Board of Directors, Holy See

DISCUSSANTS:

Rabbi Alex Goldberg, Dean of the College of Chaplains and Coordinating Chaplain at the University of Surrey, member of the KAICIID-supported platform Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), United Kingdom

Imam Sayed Razawi, Chief Imam of the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society, United Kingdom

H.E. Ambassador Evren Dagdalen Akgün, Personal Representative of the 2025 Chair-in-Office on Combatting Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Türkiye

Mr. Bhupinder Tomar, Director for National Society Development Services (NSDS), International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Switzerland

Mr. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary, ACT Alliance, Switzerland

Ms. Stacy Ogembo, Founder of the Community Interest Company "BreachBuilders" in the framework of the youth-focused KAICIID-supported initiative *Catalysts for Cohesion*, Germany

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

MODERATOR: Mr. Michael Wiener, Human Rights Officer, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Switzerland

16:00 – 18:00 VISIT OF THE RED CROSS MUSEUM Av. de la Paix 17, 1202 Geneva

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WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2025

09:00 – 10:30 PLENARY SESSION 2

FRACTURED SOCIETIES, FRAGILE ENVIRONMENTS: THE HIDDEN COST OF INEQUALITY

Europe faces deepening fractures driven by structural inequalities, social exclusion, and environmental degradation. Such growing inequalities translate into a shrinking of equal opportunities that current policies seem unfit to properly rebalance. Access to quality education, fairly paid jobs, public health systems, social protection, and affordable housing is increasingly limited to a shrinking segment of the population – driven by a harmful narrative that divides people into the 'deserving' and 'undeserving' of equal human rights. Although marginalised and minority communities bear the heaviest burdens, these widening divides weaken the resilience of the entire social fabric. This session will help unpack how systemic disparities intersect across gender, race, migration, religion, ethnicity and geography, compounding fragility in both social cohesion and the natural environment. This honest diagnosis sets the stage for the Forum's journey: we must fully understand the forces pulling our societies apart before we can repair.

INPUT SPEAKER: **Mr. Sergei Suarez Dillon Soares**, Economist and Labour Market Specialist, International Labour Organization (ILO), Switzerland

DISCUSSANTS:

Mr. Kirill Buketov, International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), Switzerland

Mr. David Moya Malapeira, Director General for Migration and Refuge, Government of Catalonia, Spain

Imam Yahya Pallavicini, Chairman, EULEMA European Muslim Leaders Council, Vice co-chair, MJLC Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), Vice president, COREIS Islamic Religious Community, Italy

Ms. Lucy Plummer, Faith for Earth Interfaith Women Council, UNEP and Youth Engagement Consultant for the Soka Gakkai International Office for UN Affairs, United Kingdom

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

MODERATOR: **Ms. Teresa Albano**, Senior Programme Manager, Europe Region Programme, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Portugal

10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:30- 13:00 BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

Participants will be divided into pre-assigned groups to ensure a diverse mix of stakeholders in each group. The four break-out sessions are clustered around the Forum's two main thematic areas: social cohesion and climate justice. Each session will be led by a dedicated facilitator. This format ensures greater interaction among participants. Insights emerging from these sessions will inform KAICIID's priority areas of action as well as concrete interventions that will be mirrored in the EPDF Call to Action and the EPDF Follow-up Initiatives in 2026.

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OUTLINE OF THE SESSION: Ms. Aleksandra Djuric Milovanovic, KAICIID Fellow and Coordinator of the KAICIID-supported platform Network for Dialogue (N4D), Serbia

How interreligious dialogue can impact practices and policymaking at local level. **Focus on migrant and refugee integration and inclusion.**

Facilitators: Mr. Stefano Volpicelli (Expert on migration governance, Antonianum University), Ms. Anila Noor (New Women Connectors/N4D)

How interreligious dialogue can impact practices and policymaking at local level. **Focus on climate resilience and adaptation.**

Facilitators: Ms. Azmaira Alibhai (Faith & Ecosystems Coordinator, UNEP and KAICIID Fellow) and Mr. Mark Owen, (Secretary General of the European Council of Religious Leaders - ECRL)

How interreligious dialogue can impact practices and policymaking at local level. **Focus on social cohesion.**

Facilitators: Mr. Tim Mortimer (KAICIID Officer) and Ms. Emina Krnjić (KAICIID Fellow)

How interreligious dialogue can impact practices and policymaking at local level. **Focus on social and solidarity economy.**

Facilitators: Ms. Vera Ferreira (KAICIID Head of Programmes), and Mr. Amjad Saleem (IFRC/N4D)

13:30-14:30 LUNCH BREAK

14:30-16:00 PLENARY SESSION 3

BUILDING VALUES-BASED URBAN COMMUNITIES

Cities are on the frontlines of today's intertwined social and environmental challenges. Their multicultural and multi-religious fabric presents not only challenges, but also powerful opportunities to foster ethical governance, inclusive leadership, and socially innovative solutions. This session will explore the untapped potential of broad-based collaboration at the local level, engaging local authorities with community leaders and actors across secular, faith, religious, and cultural traditions to build communities rooted in shared values of dignity, equity, and solidarity in increasingly multi-faith and multicultural urban fabrics. With deep ties to their communities and a profound understanding of local needs and hardships, religious leaders are uniquely positioned to complement the work of local authorities and civil society organizations, including the Red Cross, often among the first to respond to social and environmental emergencies. The discussion will focus on building partnerships that turn values and principles into practice - strengthening community resilience, trust, and a shared sense of belonging from the ground up.

INPUT SPEAKER: Imam Ahmed Tabaković, Secretary of the Office of the Mufti for Western Europe, Islamic Community, Bosnia and Herzegovina

DISCUSSANTS:

Ms. Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General, ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy, Italy

Mr. Benedetto Zacchioli, Mr. Benedetto Zacchioli, President, European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR), President of the Global Steering Committee of International Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ICCAR, UNESCO)

Ms. Ela Serdaroglu, Lead Shelter, Climate and resilience unit, International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Switzerland

Mr. Ali Ercan Özgür, founder and Managing Director of IDEMA, International Development Partners and co-founder of Needs Map, Türkiye

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

MODERATOR: Mr. Davide Bernocchi, Secretary General, International Catholic Migration Commission, former member of the KAICIID Advisory Forum, Switzerland

16:00-16:30 COFFEE BREAK

16:30-18:00 PLENARY SESSION 4

MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS

Step into the Marketplace of Ideas – a dynamic, fair-style space designed to spark conversations, connections, and inspiration. The room will come alive as social innovators and impact investors take their places at individual desks arranged throughout the venue, ready to welcome visitors. After an initial one-minute pitch from civil society and social businesses, you're invited to interact with innovative investors and city networks and engage in discussing bold ideas, grassroots innovations, and visionary approaches to bridge the gap between values and delivery.

At the heart of this marketplace is the concept of **social and solidarity economy** (SSE) – recognised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) as a driver of inclusive, sustainable development. The SSE demonstrates how cooperation, solidarity, and democratic governance can reshape economies around people and planet rather than profit alone. Importantly, its principles of solidarity, equity, and respect for the planet resonate strongly with the ethical teachings of many religious and faith traditions, which place the dignity of people and the care for environment at the centre of their values. To frame this vision, a faith-based movement will provide an inspirational input, setting the tone for the conversations to follow.

This is a space to engage and connect – to be inspired by grassroots solutions and forward-looking, values-based investors and consider how similar ideas could work in your own setting. Let curiosity guide you. Let ideas inspire change.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION: Ms. Jana Jakob, Programme Officer, Europe Region Programme, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Portugal

INPUT SPEAKER: Mr. Kristian Noll, Chair, Faith for Earth Youth Council, UNEP and Partnerships and Impact Coordinator, London School of Economics, Faith Centre, United Kingdom

FEATURING:

- [Fairbnb](#) and [Needs Map](#), Italy and Türkiye
- [University Corridors for Refugees](#), Italy
- [Reconstruir](#), MEERU, Portugal
- Cities for Inclusion Initiative in Xanthi, Greece
- [Mondragon Corporation](#), Spain
- [Dialogue for Peace](#), Scouts for SDGs, Switzerland
- [Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment and Human Rights](#), Switzerland
- [International Waqf Fund](#), United Kingdom
- [Gulbenkian Foundation](#), Portugal
- [Consulus Europe](#), Italy and Singapore
- [Initiatives of Change Caux Foundation](#), Switzerland
- [Formation et Sensibilisation de Luxembourg](#), Luxembourg
- [House of Religions – Dialogue of Cultures](#), Switzerland

19:30 NETWORKING RECEPTION Crowne Placa Hotel, Avenue Louis-Casà 75-77, Geneva

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THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2025

09:00-10:30 PLENARY SESSION 5

ETHICAL FUNDING FOR SHARED FUTURES IN A FRAGMENTED EUROPE

In a Europe increasingly defined by fragmentation and overlapping crises – social, political, and environmental – the challenge lies not only in defining shared values, but in delivering them. Ethical funding offers a tangible bridge between principles and practice: a means to turn commitments to social cohesion and climate justice into concrete, coordinated action. By directing resources toward initiatives that foster inclusion, interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and sustainable development, ethical funding can help ensure that solidarity is not merely a vision, but a measurable outcome. This session explores how value-based investment frameworks can work hand in hand to build trust, reduce polarisation and translate ethical intent into policy impact – advancing a Europe where financial choices support the common good and shared futures.

INPUT SPEAKER: Bishop Kari Mangrud Alvsvåg, President, Religions for Peace Europe, European Council of Religious Leaders (RfP Europe/ECRL), Norway

DISCUSSANTS:

Mr. Dietrich Werner, President of Globethics, Switzerland

Professor Jagbir Jhutti Johal, Women's Faith Forum and Professor of Sikh Studies, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Mr. Martin Palmer, Founding President, FaithInvest, United Kingdom

Mr. Cristi Buceceanu, Moderator for Consulus Europe, Italy

Ms. Claudia Barbarano, DLA Piper, Global Law Firm, United Kingdom

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

MODERATOR: Ms. Dimitra Missira, External Relations, Equality and Incl\usion Officer, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Portugal

10:30-11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00-12:00 PLENARY SESSION 6

HARVESTING INSIGHTS AND THE EPDF CALL TO ACTION

Building on the collective experience and diverse expertise of policymakers, religious leaders, civil society actors and academics, the session will aim to distil a set of shared priorities and actionable follow-up actions informing the EPDF Call to Action, which aspires to guide KAICIID intersectoral and interreligious efforts in 2026 and beyond, toward more cohesive, just and sustainable societies across Europe.

12:00-13:30 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The 6th EPDF will close with a high-level session featuring distinguished speakers, including members of the KAICIID Board of Directors and key institutional partners. Their concluding reflections will highlight the value of inclusive dialogue, celebrate the milestones achieved, and reaffirm KAICIID's commitment to fostering shared solutions through interreligious and intercultural cooperation. This session will serve as both a moment of gratitude and a renewed call to collective responsibility

Ms. Birgitte Bischoff Ebbesen, Regional Director for Europe, International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Switzerland

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H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Almeida-Ribeiro, Acting Secretary General, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Portugal

H.E. Ambassador David Fernández Puyana, Permanent Delegation of the University for Peace to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland

Sister Jayanti, Spiritual Teacher, Brahma Kumaris, United Kingdom

Mufti Nedžad Grabus, Mufti of Sarajevo and co-Chair of the KAICIID-supported platform, the Muslim-Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Miguel Rohula Reis, Policy Officer, Baha'i International Community Office, Belgium

Moderator: Teresa Albano, Senior Programme Manager, Europe Region Programme, International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), Portugal

13:30-14:30 LUNCH BREAK

DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS

EVALUATION

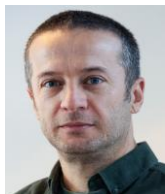
Thank you so much for your participation in the 6th EPDF! We would very much appreciate your feedback. Kindly scan the QR-code below to access the evaluation form.



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BIOGRAPHIES



Dr. Altug Akin

Need Map Europe & Izmir University of Economics, Turkey
altugakin@gmail.com

Altug Akin is an associate professor doctor at Izmir University of Economics, Turkey. His research focus is mainly about the relationship between communication and social/behaviour change: How do we better understand and use communication for a better social and personal life?



Ms. Teresa Albano

Senior Programme Manager, The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)
teresa.albano@kaiciid.org

Ms. Albano has extensive experience across the Balkans, Mediterranean, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa, working with organizations such as the OSCE and IOM. An expert in humanitarian aid, migration governance, and anti-trafficking, she lectured at the Vienna Diplomatic Academy and Italian universities including Sapienza and Tor Vergata. She is also the author of several publications and academic papers on migration and trafficking.



Rabbi Nathan Alfred

Senior Rabbi, Liberal Jewish Community of Geneva
rabbinate@gil.ch

Rabbi Alfred grew up in London and read Classics at King's College, Cambridge. After time spent in Budapest playing chess, he studied rabbinics in London and Jerusalem, receiving semicha in 2008. He led communities in Europe (Belgium and Luxembourg), in Asia (Singapore), and in New York. In January 2024 he moved with his family to Switzerland where he works as the Senior Rabbi of the GIL, the Communauté Juive Libérale de Genève. He is currently chair of the European Rabbinical Assembly (ERA).



Ms. Azmaira Alibhai

Environmental Policy Consultant

Azmaira was the Faith & Ecosystems Coordinator at the United Nations Environment Programme supporting management of the Faith for Earth Coalition, strategic partnerships and engagement across the UN system including at the UNFCCC, INC, CBD and focusing on culture and development. She was primarily responsible for the mobilization of faith actors for the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030). Azmaira also volunteers her time managing the environment portfolio of the Aga Khan Youth Board for Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda and South Africa focusing on Sustainable Lifestyles and Islam & the Environment (2022, 2023).

Dr. Mohammad Alsaghir

Chief Executive Officer
mohammad.alsaghir@wafq.org

Mohammad is the Director of the International WAFQ Fund, based in Birmingham. With a strong commitment to global development and ethical finance, he plays a key role in advancing sustainable WAFQ initiatives across international communities. Mohammad brings a collaborative and forward-thinking approach to his work, driving impact through policy innovation and international engagement.



Bishop Kari Alvsvåg

Bishop, Church of Norway
President, ECRL/Vice president Rfp Europe
ka622@kirken.no

Kari Alvsvåg is the Bishop of Borg Diocese in the Church of Norway. Bishop Kari Alvsvåg has a broad commitment to interfaith dialogue, and is known for her dedication to building bridges between different religious communities and for her work in promoting the values of community, respect and understanding in a diverse society.



Mr. Pedro Amaro Santos

CEO

pedro@meeru.org

Former humanitarian volunteer in Greece, supporting refugee education and inclusion. Currently CEO and Co-founder of MEERU | Abrir Caminho, an NGO fostering belonging and inclusion for migrant and refugee families. Former Deputy Director and now Communications Director at Instituto Padre António Vieira, promoting human dignity and unity in diversity. Executive Coordinator of Ubuntu United Nations, a global leadership program inspired by Ubuntu, engaging young leaders from 190 countries.



Mr. Ivan Arjona Pelado

President

ivanarjona@scientologyeurope.org

President of the European Office of the Church of Scientology for Public Affairs and Human Rights and of Fundación Mejora, an ECOSOC-accredited NGO. He also serves as President of the United Nations Geneva NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief. Based in Brussels, he represents Scientology and its humanitarian initiatives before the EU, OSCE, and UN, promoting human rights and interfaith understanding worldwide.



Ms. Anastasia Aslanidou

Project Manager, Public Sector and European Programs, actina

aslanidou@actina.gr

Project Manager at actina for Public Sector and European Programs, with a focus on CSR strategy and the development of structured initiatives. Presenting at the EPDF 2025 to showcase the KAICIID-supported initiative "Youth Empowerment and Intercultural Coexistence in Xanthi," coordinated by actina in 2024, which focused on community dialogue, active youth participation, and inclusive, locally grounded collaboration.



Prof. Dr. Najib George Awad

Associate Researcher at the Center for Comparative Theology and Social Issues (CTSI), Bonn University, Germany

najeebawad72@gmail.com

Prof. Dr. Phil. Dr. Theol. Habil. American Academic born in Syria. An Associate Researcher at the Center for Comparative Theology and Social Issues (CTSI), Bonn University, Germany, and Associate Researcher at the Institute for Eastern Christian Studies, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. He is the former Full Professor of Christian Theology and Eastern Christian Thought and the Director of the PhD Program in Islamic Studies and Christian Muslim Relations at Hartford International University of Religion and Peace (HIU), CT USA.



Dr. Haythem Badawy

Director, Formation et Sensibilisation Luxembourg (FSL)

haythem@fslux.lu

Dr BADAWY is a Luxembourgish-Egyptian project leader and trainer with 20+ years of experience advancing youth, integration, and intercultural dialogue across Europe and the MENA region. A PhD in Educational Sciences, he serves as director at the Training and Awareness Association (Formation et Sensibilisation Luxembourg - FSL) and member of the Network for Dialogue. A multilingual speaker that brings policy, advocacy, capacity-building, and evidence-based practice to audiences seeking inclusive, community-driven impact.



Ms. Siân Bagshaw

Director, Organisational Culture & Effectiveness - World Organisation of the Scout Movement

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Sian is Director of Organisational Culture & Effectiveness (EDI) at the World Organisation of the Scout Movement. A global EDIS expert and Human Rights Educator, she has led initiatives with UNICEF and the UN. Her work focuses on inclusive dialogue, intergenerational engagement, and peace education. She empowers youth and communities to address systemic inequalities through non-formal education, conflict transformation, and building cultures of belonging across diverse, multicultural settings.

With the support of:





Ms. Claudia Barbarano

Senior ESG Consultant at DLA Piper UK

Claudia Barbarano, Senior ESG Consultant at DLA Piper UK LLP, designs strategies to build impact finance ecosystems supporting underrepresented groups. With a background in law, economics, and an International MBA, she blends socio-economic development with innovative finance. She supported the setup of DLA Piper Italy's pro bono practice, leading global partnerships with UN agencies and NGOs to co-create initiatives on human mobility, gender-based violence, and sustainable development.



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Project Manager at Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and volunteer Board Member of Care About Climate

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Project Manager at Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, leading Ocean and Biodiversity projects, and Board Member of Care About Climate. Sofia's experience includes participation in global youth climate networks and Youth Advisory Councils aiming to increase the influence of young people in decision-making. Sofia holds a Double Degree Master's in Management with a major in Strategy and International Management, from Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Portugal) and the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium).



Father Laurent Basanese

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Father Laurent Basanese S.J. is the Head of Office at the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue (Vatican), and a Professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University. He holds a Master of Science in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering and specializes in Arab Christian Theology and Islamic Studies, particularly the thought of Ibn Taymiyya and Elias of Nisibis. He founded the Gregorian Centre for Interreligious Studies and directed the Series Interreligious and Intercultural Investigations.



Sr Valeriane Bernard

UN Representative

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Valérie Bernard is a meditation teacher and represents the Brahma Kumaris at the UN in Geneva and at the UNFCCC conferences. She is the co-chair of the Interfaith Liaison Committee with the UNFCCC and a founder of the Geneva Interfaith Forum on climate change, environment and human rights. After the Rio Summit, Valérie produced radio programs on culture of peace and spiritual awareness and has created meditations on "serving nature".



Mr. Davide Bernocchi

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Davide Bernocchi became the Secretary General of ICMC in June 2024, after over 20 years as a professional in international aid assistance, managing large-scale programs within Catholic organizations across the MENA region, Africa, and Europe. Meanwhile, from 2017 to 2020, he served as Special Advisor on Ecumenical & Interreligious Partnership for Caritas Internationalis. In that capacity, he was appointed as a member of the KAICIID Advisory Forum.



Mr. Stefano Davide Bettera

President

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Stefano Davide Bettera is a journalist and essayist. He is a columnist for the daily newspaper Il Riformista. He is also a columnist for the British magazine The Salisbury Review. He is president of the European Buddhist Union and strategic director of the Volocom Institute of Strategic Studies. For more information on publications and articles: www.stefanobettera.com - <https://www.ilriformista.it/author/stefanobettera/>



Mr. Claudio Mario Betti

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Claudio Mario Betti, scholar and essayist, is Special Representative for International Relations of the Community of Sant'Egidio. Dedicated to interreligious dialogue, peace mediation, and cooperation, he has helped organize the Prayer for Peace Meetings inspired by Assisi. Holding a PhD and postdoctoral degree in Contemporary History, he has taught in the U.S. and now leads Development for the Rome Campus of Australian Catholic University, fostering dialogue between faith, culture, and society.



Ms. Birgitte Bischoff Ebbesen

IFRC Regional Director for Europe, The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Ms. Birgitte Bischoff Ebbesen is the IFRC Regional Director for Europe, overseeing 53 National Societies across Europe and Central Asia. She leads strategic coordination, membership services, and humanitarian diplomacy, including the Ukraine response supporting millions. With over 15 years in the IFRC network, she previously served as International Director of the Danish Red Cross. A Danish national, she holds a Master's in Public Administration and a leadership diploma from Copenhagen Business School.



Dr. Cristian Buceceanu

Moderator for Consulus Europe

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Cristian Buceceanu - Moderator for Consulus Europe - is a dedicated and active expert in international politics and international organizations. He developed projects in diverse fields, including Construction Industry in Vietnam, Regenerative Agriculture in Nigeria, and Education and Personal Development in Rome. He was a core team member and speaker for Shape The World Summit 2025 in Rome, and will begin hosting the STW Podcast series in October.



Mr. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria

General Secretary - ACT Alliance

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Rudelmar Bueno de Faria (Brazil/Switzerland) is the General Secretary (CEO) of ACT Alliance, a coalition of 158 faith-based organizations in 130 countries. With over 35 years of global experience, he has served with World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Service. He is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Faith in Action and several UN advisory bodies, focusing on gender justice, climate, peace, migration, and humanitarian response.



Mr. Jagan Chapagain

Secretary-General and Chief Executive Officer, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Mr. Jagan Chapagain is the Secretary General and CEO of the IFRC, appointed in February 2020 and based in Geneva. A former Nepal Red Cross volunteer, he has decades of humanitarian leadership experience, focusing on localization, inclusion, and youth engagement. Previously IFRC Under Secretary General for Programmes and Operations, he also served as Chief of Staff and Asia Pacific Regional Director. An engineer by training, he holds multiple leadership certifications.



Mr. Ilan Cohn

Director, HIAS Europe

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Ilan Cohn is the Director of HIAS Europe in Brussels. HIAS is the oldest refugee aid organisation in the world, with roots in the Jewish community. For the past two decades, Ilan worked on migration and integration at the international level through a number of intergovernmental organisations (IOM, UNHCR, EU and OSCE/ODIHR).

With the support of:





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Swami Bhairavananda Saraswati (Jimmy Coryn), is the founder of Shiva Forum Europe and Sanatana Dharma Europe & Belgium, promoting interreligious understanding and ethical leadership rooted in Sanatana Dharma. Accredited under Article 17 TFEU of the European Parliament, he engages with policymakers and faith leaders to foster peace, compassion, and shared human values. His mission bridges spirituality and dialogue, nurturing harmony among diverse traditions for a more conscious and united world.



Ambassador João António da Costa Mira Gomes

Portugal's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva

João António da Costa Mira Gomes, Portugal's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, previously served as Ambassador to Spain (2020–2024), Germany (2015–2020), and NATO (2010–2015). He was also Secretary of State for National Defence and Maritime Affairs (2006–2009) and has held senior diplomatic posts in Brussels, Paris, and Sofia. Mr. da Costa Mira Gomes holds a law degree from the Portuguese Catholic University.



Mr. Barnabás Cseh

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Barnabás Cseh is an intern at COMECE and a master student, studying Circular Economy Management in Budapest. He possesses a BA in International Relations and a MA in Development Policy Programme Management. He was working, volunteering or studying in Germany, France, Ukraine, Türkiye and Belgium.



Ambassador Evren Dağdelen Akgün

Personal Representative of the 2025 Chair-in-Office on Combatting Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Türkiye

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Ambassador Evren Dağdelen Akgün, born in Ankara in 1968, is a Turkish career diplomat. She served as Ambassador to Thailand and Permanent Representative to UNESCAP (2017–2021). Previously Deputy Director General for Policy Planning and Head of EU Affairs at the MFA, she co-chaired the UN Friends of Mediation network. With postings in Brussels, Washington D.C., and Tashkent, she now serves on the Antalya Diplomacy Forum's advisory board. She holds advanced degrees from Bruges and Vienna.



Ambassador António de Almeida-Ribeiro

Acting Secretary-General, The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

Ambassador António de Almeida-Ribeiro, born in Lisbon, graduated in Law from the University of Coimbra in 1976 and joined Portugal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979. He has served as Director General for Administration, Political Director, and Secretary General. His ambassadorial posts include Argentina, Egypt, the Holy See, the Sovereign Order of Malta, and Austria, where he was also Permanent Representative to international organizations in Vienna.



Mr. Carlo De Marco

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Professional of international cooperation, project management and social research, with an expertise in Global Citizenship Education, Migrations and Sustainable Development. As Secretary General of the Border Towns and Islands Network (BTIN) I have the opportunity to do what I like most: to make institutions, civil society organization, NGOs and, ultimately, people cooperating for the achievement of shared visions and goals.

With the support of:





Ms. Viviana Diaz Frias

Communications Manager - ICMC Europe/Share Network
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Policy communications strategist with 8+ years' experience in communications, migration, social impact, and digital engagement across media outlets, leading UN institutions—including IOM, WHO/PAHO—and NGOs in Europe and Latin America. Currently Communications Manager at the Brussels-based ICMC Europe, specializing in strategic storytelling, stakeholder relations, and empowering marginalized communities through international initiatives.



Dr. Aleksandra Djuric Milovanovic

Network for Dialogue Coordinator

Dr Aleksandra Djurić Milovanović is a Principal Research Fellow at the Institute for Balkan Studies, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SASA), and Network for Dialogue Coordinator at the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID). She serves as an Expert on the OSCE ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief and is a member of COST Action COREnet, focusing on religion, migration, and social inclusion in Southeast Europe.



Mr. Rüdiger Dossow

Consultant

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Diplom-Jurist (Univ. Erlangen, Germany), LL.M. (Univ. Virginia, USA), DAAD-Fellow at The Hague Academy of International Law in Summer 1987. Former Lawyer at Rogers & Wells (now Clifford Chance, New York City, 1990) and Beiten Burkhardt Mittl & Wegener (now Beiten ADVANT, Nuremberg, Germany, 1991 - 1993) and subsequently senior civil servant at the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, France, 1994 - 2025).



His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel

Metropolitan Elder of Chalcedon Metropolitan of France, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (election 2003) President of the Conference of European Churches (CEC) and of the Assembly of Orthodox Bishops of France Co-President of the World Conference

His Eminence Metropolitan Emmanuel, elected Metropolitan Elder of Chalcedon in 2021, previously served as Metropolitan of France and Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate since 2003. He has led major interfaith efforts as President of the Conference of European Churches and Co-President of Religions for Peace. Former Director of the Orthodox Church's EU Liaison Office, he advances dialogue with Judaism and Islam, promoting peace and understanding among faiths.



Ms. Beatrice Eriksson

Senior Adviser, The Swedish Agency for the Support for Faith Communities

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Beatrice Eriksson serves at the Swedish Agency for the Support for Faith Communities, working on crisis management, and dialogue between faith communities and public institutions from a Freedom of Religion or Belief perspective. Her role focuses on strengthening inclusion, trust-building, and rights-based collaboration. Her background is in social work, crime prevention, emergency response coordination, and international work on human rights and the prevention of violent extremism. Member of OSCE/ODIHR Advisory Board for FORB and Security.



Ms. Maxine Estaran Luu

Diaspora Advisory Board Member, International Organizations of Migration

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I am an MSc International Development student at the London School of Economics with experience at the European Parliament, Union for the Mediterranean, and International Organization for Migration. My work focuses on policy research, diaspora engagement, and climate resilience, particularly in promoting inclusive and sustainable development. I am currently contributing to the IOM office for Brussels and Luxembourg office, as Diaspora Advisory Board Member.



Mr. Ander Etxeberria Otadui

Cooperative Dissemination Director at MONDRAGON

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Ander Etxeberria Otadui joined the MONDRAGON Group 27 years ago at Otalora cooperative and management training centre. Subsequently he worked as head of personnel at Ikerlan cooperative. Since 2016 he is the Director of Cooperative Dissemination receiving at Otalora people who want to know about MONDRAGON's Cooperative Experience, and taking part in conferences worldwide. He studied Technical Engineering at the University of Mondragon and Sociology at the University of Deusto.



Ms. Vera Ferreira

Head of Regional Programmes, The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID)

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Vera Ferreira is Head of Regional Programmes at the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), leading initiatives across Africa, the Arab Region, Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. With over 17 years of experience in peacebuilding and human rights education, she fosters interreligious dialogue and social cohesion. Previously, she served as Head of Programmes at Arigatou International and Secretary General of the International Movement of Apostolate of Children.



Rabbi Alex Goldberg

Executive Member, UN Faith for Rights / Faith Convenor, City of London

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Rabbi Alexander Goldberg is the Rabbi of Guildford Synagogue and Dean of Religious Life and Belief at the University of Surrey. He teaches at Oxford University and serves on the UN's Faith for Rights Steering Group. A human rights advocate and interfaith leader, he advises institutions globally on faith, ethics, and community development, and is the Faith Convenor of the City of London's Faith in the City initiative.



Mayor Alfonso Gomez

Mayor of Geneva

Alfonso Gomez is a Swiss politician of Spanish origin (Galicia) and has been a member of the Executive Council of the City of Geneva since 2020, where he heads the Department of Finance, Environment and Housing. He served as Mayor of Geneva in 2023–2024 and again since 1 June 2025. Before taking on this role, he worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and devoted a large part of his career to community engagement and the promotion of sustainable development.



Mufti Grabus

Mufti of Sarajevo

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Nedžad Grabus, Mufti of Sarajevo. He is a Professor of Theology at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also teaches at the Faculty of Theology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. From 2006 to 2021, he served as the Mufti of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He is Co-President of Religions for Peace, Member of the Assembly of the Interreligious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Co-chair of Muslim Jewish Leadership Council.



Ms. Hind Hafuda

MJLC Ambassador – Yalla-City-Walks & Subprojects

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Hind Hafuda, 24, is an artist, art educator, and interfaith advocate from Vienna. She studies Arts & Education and Design in Context at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, teaches at schools, and works at Weltmuseum Wien. Her art explores postcolonialism, cultural transformation, and interfaith dialogue. Active in the Forum Muslim Women Austria, she co-founded Yalla-City-Walks to foster intercultural understanding through movement, conversation, and community engagement.



Chief Rabbi Schlomo Hofmeister

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Ms. Jana Jakob

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Before joining KAICIID's Europe Region Team, Jana Jakob led government missions on faith communities, democracy, equality, and gender at the Swedish Agency for Support to Faith Communities. She has worked for the City of Stockholm and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Hanoi and Berlin on religion and politics. A political scientist with a Master of Theology from Uppsala University, Jana has long experience in interreligious dialogue, women and youth engagement.



Ms. Nishanie Jayamaha

Co-coordinator, Secretariat for the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations

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Nishanie has over 20 years of experience working in the United Nations, international organizations, government institutions, NGO, and private sectors with expertise ranging from disaster management and risk reduction, humanitarian and early recovery response and coordination, protection, access negotiations, gender, civic space, learning, and climate change. Prior to the Charter, she was at ICVA, the World Humanitarian Summit Secretariat, UN OCHA, PHAP and the Centre for Women's Research.



Professor Jagbir Jhutti-Johal

BA (UCL), DPhil (Oxford), Professor of Sikh Studies, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham

Jagbir Jhutti-Johal is Professor of Sikh Studies at the University of Birmingham, with over 25 years of expertise in Sikh theology, interfaith dialogue, and contemporary issues. A former Commissioner on CORAB and current Commissioner on the Independent Commission on community and cohesion, she advises policymakers and serves on the UK FoRB Forum and OSCE/ODIHR expert panel. She is also a trustee of Faiths for the Climate and the Race Equality Foundation, and actively supports women's and children's initiatives.



Mr. Blazhe Josifovski

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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Blazhe Josifovski is President of Go Green Skopje, a leading environmental NGO in North Macedonia promoting sustainability, circular economy, and youth engagement. He has coordinated national and regional projects on waste reduction, food surplus redistribution, and social inclusion. With over a decade of civic leadership experience, he advocates for systemic green transitions and stronger community participation in environmental policymaking.



Mr. Rajganna Kannanathan

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I am a security policy expert specialising in South Asia and a senior fellow at the Swiss Institute for Global Affairs. I serve on the advisory board of the EU-SOAR project. Currently, I am a KAICIID European Fellow and a research associate at the Religion & Security Council (RSC) in Rome. I hold a Master's degree in International Relations and International Affairs from the Geneva School of Diplomacy and King's College London.

With the support of:





Ms. Dina Sintia Kapleu

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Sintia Kapleu is a dynamic professional and researcher with a solid background in Social and Political Sciences and International Relations. Her research focuses on Sustainable Development Goals, Peace and Conflict Studies, Good Governance, Diaspora Studies, and Democracy. She has written on topics related to Migration, peacebuilding, and diaspora studies. Sintia is the Co-founder and Executive Director of BreachBuilders e.V., a youth-led non-profit organisation grounded on three core pillars: Equity and Inclusion, Youth Empowerment and Growth through knowledge.



MSc. Nasibe Nur Karik

Specialist at the International Students Office/ Western Balkans University
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Nasibe holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences and a Master's in Public Relations. Currently, she serves as a Specialist at the International Students Office, where she supports global engagement and student success. Her work focuses on fostering cross-cultural communication, enhancing international partnerships, and promoting inclusive experiences for diverse student communities. Passionate about intercultural exchange, she strives to create welcoming and enriching academic environments for all.



Sister Jayanti Kirpalani

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Sister Jayanti is the Additional Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris and the Director of the organisation's activities in Europe and the Middle East. The Brahma Kumaris is an international NGO accredited with General Consultative Status with ECOSOC and she is its NGO representative at the UN in Geneva. As a spiritual teacher for over 55 years, she has dedicated her life to self-transformation and service to humanity.



Mr. Paul Klahre

Dialogue facilitator & peace educator, World Organisation of the Scout Movement
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Paul Klahre is a peace educator, dialogue facilitator, and youth advocate with World Scouting. His experience spans leading intercultural trainings across Europe, the Arab Region and Africa. In his professional role as Capacity Development Coordinator for UNOY Peacebuilders, he works with over 130 youth-led peace organizations. Paul was Germany's UN Youth Delegate in 2020 and holds a Master's Degree in International and Development Studies from the Geneva Graduate Institute.



Protodeacon Mladen Kovacevic

Deacon at Saint Savva Church in Belgrade, Serbian Orthodox Church, deacon
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I live in Belgrade, where I serve as a deacon of the Serbian Orthodox Church. I hold degrees from the Orthodox Seminary and the Moscow Theological Academy, and I am fluent in English and Russian. Currently, I am pursuing a Master's degree in Tourism Studies, exploring the potential of religious tourism as a space for intercultural and interfaith dialogue. As a KAICIID Fellow, I actively contribute to projects that foster understanding and cooperation among diverse communities.



Ms. Emina Krnjic Hadzic

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Emina Krnjic Hadzic is a KAICIID Fellow (IFP 2025) with expertise in the right to freedom of religion or belief (FoRB). She currently serves as a Programme Officer in the Human Rights Section of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina. With extensive experience in promoting human rights, Emina also works on advancing interreligious and intercultural dialogue within Bosnia and Herzegovina's diverse, multi-religious context. She is skilled in engaging with key stakeholders on FoRB-related issues and actively monitors developments and potential violations of this right.



Prof. Genti Kruja

President of Religions for Peace Europe

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Prof. Genti Kruja is a lecturer of Sociology & Interfaith Dialogue at Bedër University and Secretary General of Inter-Religious Council of Albania.

He is author of two books “Albanians Facing the Challenges of Interfaith Understanding” and “History of Interfaith Dialogue”. In 2024 he was elected as a President of European National Interreligious Bodies (ENIB) & in January 2025 he was elected as a President of Religions for Peace Europe. He was elected also as expert of OSCE/ODIHR).



Ms. Lam Teng Si

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Ms Lam Teng Si is a Senior Analyst with the Social Cohesion Research Programme (SCRIP). She holds a Research Master's in Social and Behavioural Sciences from Tilburg University and a Bachelor's in Sociology from NUS. Her work involves conducting quantitative research, such as using surveys to study intergroup relations and social cohesion. Her earlier research explored citizenship, national identity, and immigration attitudes.



Ms. Sofia Lanza

Interfaith and Ecumenical Dialogue Facilitator and Advocate

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Sofia Lanza is an advocate for interfaith and ecumenical dialogue, committed to promoting peace and collaboration among diverse faith communities across the UK and Western Europe. A young Roman Catholic leader, she formerly served as President of the Catholic Student Union at the University of Edinburgh. She holds a degree in Middle Eastern Studies and is currently pursuing Ecumenical Studies at the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey.



Ms. Kristina Larkin

Global Partnerships & Resource Development Officer, World YMCA

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Kristina Larkin is a senior YMCA leader in Alberta, Canada, temporarily on a staff placement with World YMCA. World YMCA is the coordinating body of the worldwide YMCA Movement, with YMCAs in over 120 countries serving over 65 Million people. Our purpose is to strengthen, connect, and represent YMCAs around the world, enabling them to deliver a greater impact for young people and communities.



Ms. Bisan Liftawi

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Senior protocol and diplomacy professional with over ten years of experience in intergovernmental and international institutions. Currently serving as Chief of Protocol at the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), overseeing high-level diplomatic engagement, governing bodies' coordination, and international event management. Skilled in managing relations with ministries, embassies, and multilateral organizations, and ensuring full adherence to protocol standards that uphold institutional integrity and intercultural respect.

Ms. Yu Long

Intern, Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Intern at the IPU Interfaith Team, contributing to major interfaith initiatives, including the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue. Recently graduated from the Geneva Graduate Institute with a Master's degree in International and Development Studies.

With the support of:





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Eidel, 24, raised in a Hassidic family, is a sociology graduate with a focus on the sociology of religion. She works as a Yiddish teacher and as a tour guide at Austria's oldest surviving synagogue. She has also actively been involved with the Austrian Jewish Student Union (JöH) and the interreligious dialogue project Likrat. As an MJLC Ambassador in Vienna, she co-founded Yalla-City-Walks, Yalla-City-Sports, and Yalla-City-Talks, creating spaces for young people to connect across faiths through dialogue, movement, and shared experiences.



Cllr Cylcia Manwa

Councillor, Thurrock Council
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Cllr Cylcia Manwa, 21, made history at 19 as one of the UK's youngest elected politicians. She holds a Politics and International Relations degree from LSE and serves as Deputy Cabinet Member in Thurrock, Essex. Passionate about empowering women, ethnic minorities, and young people, she advocates for greater representation and opportunities, working to ensure all voices are heard in politics and beyond.



Ms. Rita Marascalchi

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Rita heads the Council of Europe Inclusion and Integration Unit, managing the Intercultural Cities Programme (ICC) and providing secretariat services to the experts committee on intercultural inclusion (ADI-INT). Her work involves helping local authorities leverage diversity and fostering multi-level governance for inclusion. Previously, she worked with NGOs and international organizations on human rights, refugees, and migration in various roles, including project manager and evaluator.



Dr. Sarah Markiewicz

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Dr.theol. Sarah Markiewicz is the Advisor on Interfaith Dialogue for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global organisation of national parliaments. Her work focuses on fostering parliamentary engagement with religion and belief for peaceful and inclusive societies. Her previous experience spans the UN, academia and faith-based and civil society organisations across development cooperation, global governance, peace-building, prevention of violent extremism, human rights and gender equality in Europe, Middle East and North America



Mr. Pierre Martinot-Lagarde

Special Advisor for Socio-Religious Affairs

As part of the Partnerships Department, I am in charge of relationships with civil society, including Faith-Based Organizations, International Non-Governmental Organizations, Local governments associations.



Ms. Dimitra Missira

External Relations, Equality and Inclusion Officer

Dimitra Missira has over a decade of experience promoting interreligious dialogue, social cohesion, and inclusive development. She is currently External Relations, Equality and Inclusion Officer at the International Dialogue Centre – KAICIID. Previously, coordinated KAICIID's International Fellowship Programme and youth initiatives. Her earlier work spans NGOs, and national institutions. Ms. Missira co-chairs the Gender Equality and Empowerment Workstream at PaRD and the Gender Working Group of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the UN IATF.



Mr. Tim Mortimer

Programme Officer, Europe Region. International Dialogue Centre, KAICIID
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As the son of two vicars, Tim has a lifelong curiosity about how faith impacts people's lives in different ways. He is an interreligious dialogue professional, currently based at the KAICIID HQ in Portugal where he works with the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), Europe Muslim Leaders Majlis (EuLeMa) and is the focal point for engagement with young people in Europe. Talk to Tim about running, disability and learning Portuguese.



Ms. Michaela Moua

Anti-Racism Coordinator, European Commission

Michaela Moua is the first EU Anti-Racism Coordinator. Originally from Finland, she has held senior roles in NGOs and worked at the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman's office and the Ministry of Justice. With extensive expertise in combating racism and promoting equality, she focuses on building ethnically inclusive societies across Europe. She is also a solution-focused brief therapist, specializing in the mental health impacts of racism and discrimination.



Dr. David Moya Malapeira

Director general of Migration and Refuge Affairs (Government of Catalonia)
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Dr. David Moya Malapeira is Director General of Migration and Refuge Affairs at the Government of Catalonia. Formerly Professor of Constitutional and Migration Law at the University of Barcelona, he co-coordinated the Interuniversity Master in Contemporary Migration (UAB-UB) and co-directed the Spanish Yearbook on Migration. He has served as an expert and evaluator for EU institutions, governments, and NGOs on migration and asylum law.



Mr. Kristian Noll

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Kristian Noll is the Partnerships and Impact Coordinator at the LSE Religion and Global Society Unit, where he leads climate-focused knowledge exchange initiatives. As co-founder of the London Youth Forum for Faith and Ecology and former chair of the UNEP Faith for Earth Youth Council, he has also spearheaded global initiatives to integrate faith and youth perspectives in environmental policy. He holds an MSc in Environmental Policy and Regulation from LSE and previously worked in the German and UK parliaments.



Ms. Anila Noor

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A global policy and social change expert, advocating for migration, gender equality, and refugee rights. A former refugee, she founded New Women Connectors (NWC) to promote meaningful participation and inclusive policymaking. As spokesperson for the BMZ Action Network on Forced Displacement and Gender Ambassador for the WTO, she links grassroots realities to global frameworks. Recognized as a Vital Voice and shortlisted for the 2025 P.E.A. Awards, she champions intersectional and climate justice for displaced women.



Ms. Stacy Ogembo

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Stacy Ogembo is a Research Associate at TU Darmstadt's Research Training Group Standards of Governance and Co-Lead of the Human Rights Accountability Division at the Center for Migration, Gender, and Justice. She is also a Founding Board Member of Breach Builders e.V., a youth-led organization promoting youth participation, which was born out of the catalyst for cohesion program.



Mr. Benny Oon

Chief Operating Officer

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Mr Benny Oon is the Chief Operating Officer at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, overseeing operations, governance, and strategic initiatives. He also works with the Social Cohesion Research Programme in RSIS to stage major initiatives like the International Conference on Cohesive Societies. A former Singapore government Senior Director, he holds degrees from USC and NUS and received Singapore's Public Administration Medal (Bronze).



Professor Mark Owen

Secretary General, European Council of Religious Leaders

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Professor Mark Owen is Director of the Centre of Religions for Reconciliation and Peace (CRRP), a world leading research Centre on religion and peacebuilding. Mark's research interests include the role of religion in conflict prevention, transformation and peacebuilding processes conflict assessment and analysis the role of religion in tackling the climate crisis and religion and migration. Professor Owen is currently serving as Secretary General of the European Council of Religious Leaders, Religions for Peace.



Dr. Ali Ercan Ozgur

Co-Founder & Chairman of the Board, NeedsMap

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Ali Ercan Özgür, PhD, is an Ashoka Fellow and German Marshall Memorial Fellow, as well as a visionary social entrepreneur shaping the future of inclusive development. Founder of Needs Map, IDEMA, INOGAR, Artbox Agency, and ETKİ VCIF, he transforms social challenges into lasting opportunities through collaboration and innovation. Honored with the British Council Social Impact Award, he has written pioneering works on local governance, human rights, and child-friendly cities.



Imam Yahya Pallavicini

chairman EULEMA European Muslim Leaders Council

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Imam of al-Wahid central mosque in Milan. Vice President of COREIS the Islamic Religious Community ITALY (www.coreis.it), one of the main Italian Islamic organization providing theological training, interreligious dialogue and intercultural education, advocacy for Muslim religious needs with the Italian Government.

Since 2004 he has been invited in the High Level Meetings with Religious Leaders by the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council of Europe on policies about Islam in the West. Chairman of EULEMA the European Muslim Leaders Council (Brussels, www.eulema.org)



Mr. Martin Palmer

President of Faithinvest and Chair of WWF's Beliefs and Values Programme

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Martin Palmer is a theologian, Sinologist, environmentalist, writer, and BBC broadcaster. In 1986, he co-founded with HRH The Prince Philip the international faith and environment movement, hosting the first global meeting between major religions and environmental leaders in Assisi. Together they later founded the **Alliance of Religions and Conservation** (1995) and **FaithInvest** (2019), fostering millions of faith-based environmental projects and promoting responsible investment by faith groups worldwide.



Ms. Safak Pavey

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With a background in international policymaking and UN diplomacy, she brings expertise in humanitarian affairs, peacebuilding, social and ecological policy, and the UN Women, Peace & Security agenda. A former Deputy Speaker and Member of the Turkish Parliament, she also served in NATO and Turkey-EU committees. A UN Independent Expert and former UNHCR official, she is a Young Global Leader and recipient of multiple international awards for peace and human rights.

With the support of:





Ms. Lucy Plummer

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Lucy Plummer is a member of SGI-UK (Soka Gakkai International), a community of Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism practitioners. Lucy is SGI representative to the United Nations for Youth Engagement and a consultant for the SGI Office for UN Affairs. Lucy is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Applied Buddhism based at Taplow Court, UK. Lucy is a doctoral student of policy at the University of Bath focusing on meaningful youth engagement in policy for sustainable development.



Ambassador David Fernández Puyana

Permanent Observer of UPEACE to the United Nations in UN Geneva & Vienna and UNESCO in Paris

Ambassador David Fernández Puyana is the Permanent Observer of UPEACE to the United Nations in UN Geneva & Vienna and UNESCO in Paris. He is an international lawyer, human rights scholar, and advisor with expertise in peace studies and diplomacy. He has served in various capacities at UNESCO and the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica in Geneva



Imam Dr Sayed Razawi OBE

Chief Imam and Director General

Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society

Imam Dr Sayed Razawi OBE JP is a British scholar and religious leader specializing in Islamic philosophy, mysticism, and comparative religion. He serves as Chief Imam and Director General of the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society, Visiting Scholar at Strathclyde Business School, and Associate at Harvard Divinity School. A national and international advisor, he sits on multiple interfaith bodies and authored the Drumlanrig Accords uniting Jews and Muslims in the UK.



Mr. Isak Reichel

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Isak Reichel is the director of the The Swedish Agency for support for Faith Communities. He has previously had the position of Secretary General at the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities in Sweden.



Mr. Miguel Reis

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Miguel works for the Bahá'í International Community Brussels Office. Born and raised in Portugal, but now based in Brussels, he works on files related to social cohesion, and contributes to policy areas including anti-racism, youth, and cities.



Mr. Gurmman Saini (Guruttama Dasa)

Leadership Team, ISKCON Finland & Hindu Forum Finland

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Gurmman Saini is a Finnish religious-interfaith activist, part of the leadership team of ISKCON Finland and Hindu Forum Finland and he is KAICIID Europe Fellow (2021). He represents religious communities on Finland's National Commission on Sustainable Development for 2024–2027. Despite the young age, Gurmman has professional experience in mediation, participation, policy advocacy and youth work.



Dr. Amjad Mohamed Saleem

Manager, Strategic Engagement: Youth, Peace and Fundamental Principles

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Amjad is a peacebuilding, humanitarian, and development leader with extensive experience in interfaith engagement, youth mobilisation, inclusion, and global peace initiatives. Having worked with the IFRC and International Alert, he serves on the boards of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and Muslim Aid UK. A published author, he holds advanced degrees from Imperial College, Exeter University, and Manipal GlobalNxt, and is a Fellow at Universiti Malaya, CCHS Doha, and Sunway University.



Ms. Judi Sbat

Co-founder

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Judi Sbat is a Syrian project management and peacebuilding expert with over a decade of experience at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She specializes in strategic communications, women's empowerment, and community engagement. As Co-Founder of the Peace Makers Initiative, Judi is dedicated to advancing dialogue, inclusion, and peacebuilding across Syria.



Ms. Antonella Sberna

MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament

Antonella Sberna has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2024, she is a member of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) political group. Since July 16, 2024, she has been the Vice-President of the European Parliament. She is a member of the legislative committees on cohesion policy, the housing crisis, and food security and the environment.

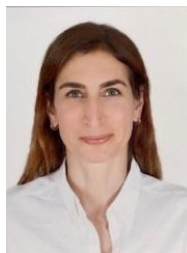


Ms. Frederique Seidel

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Seidel is a former UNICEF Deputy Representative, Child Rights Education Manager, and Communication Specialist. She has served as a spokesperson for the UN and OSCE in the post-war Balkans and as a journalist for Deutsche Welle TV. Her WCC initiative on intergenerational climate justice won the 2019 Keeling Curve Prize. Holding a master's in Sociology from the Sorbonne and Freie Universität Berlin, she co-authored *The Lancet* research on climate change and violence against children.



Ms. Ela Serdaroglu

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Ela Serdaroglu leads IFRC's global work on urban resilience. Her current professional interests focus on building the resilience of urban communities, addressing extreme heat, greening and environment, partnerships and coalition-building, design and implementation of complex multi-disciplinary programs like rental assistance. Ela holds a BSc from the Middle East Technical University and masters degrees from Harvard University and University of Groningen on urban planning and international humanitarian assistance respectively.



Mr. Mohammad Shehadat

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Peacebuilding and youth activist, founder of the Youth for Peace Initiative, a youth-led platform empowering displaced and host-community youth to become active global citizens and agents of change. Mohammad is a member of several global youth networks such as: One Young World Switzerland National Board, UNESCO Global Youth Community, selected as a 2022 Kofi Annan Changemaker, and served as Youth and Peace Associate at the Kofi Annan Foundation in Geneva.



Mr. Prathit Singh

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Prathit Singh is the Project Coordinator of the Geneva Policy Outlook, an initiative of the Geneva Graduate Institute and the Republic and Canton of Geneva to understand the pulse of Geneva's policy space. He completed his Masters in International and Development Studies with a specialism in Human Rights and Humanitarianism. His research expertise includes climate change, humanitarianism and child and youth rights



Mr. Sergei Soares

Labour Economist at International Labour Organization

Sergei holds a PhD and master's in economics from the University of Brasília and a physics degree from the Jesuit University in Rio de Janeiro. He has worked at Brazil's Institute for Applied Economic Studies (Ipea) since 1998, serving as its president in 2014–2015, and joined the ILO's Research Department in 2020. His work focuses on inequality, poverty, education, racial discrimination, social protection, and labour markets.

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Ms. Demetra Socratous

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Demetra Socratous is a teacher, a drama facilitator and a Human Rights and Peace trainer. An active youth leader and socio-cultural manager, she has coordinated major cultural projects in Cyprus. Also a children books writer, her works explore child cancer, parental imprisonment, refugee child's trauma. She is a Heritage Youth Ambassador (Cyprus Bicomunal Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage) and a Board Member of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research.



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Imam Ahmed Tabakovic serves as Secretary of the Office of the Mufti for Western Europe and Imam of Nur congregation in Verona. Former Head Imam of the IC of Bosniaks in Italy. An active participant in interreligious dialogue at local and state level. Member of the board of Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research in Sarajevo. He is a member of Ethics Committee of Halal Italia.



Ms. Soukaina Taoufik

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Soukaina Taoufik is an Academic Researcher in Political Science at the University Grenoble Alpes and the Founder of the African Youth Centre for SDGs. Her research explores migration governance, fundamental rights, and social cohesion policies in North Africa and the Mediterranean region.



Mr. Bhupinder Tomar

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Bhupinder, an Indian national, is Head of Delegation for Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo, based in Abuja. He previously led IFRC's response to the 2014 Ebola crisis and held leadership roles across Africa and Asia. Formerly with UNITAR's Defeat-NCD Partnership in Myanmar, he guided national NCD strategies. A Chevening Scholar, he holds degrees in Public Administration, Business, Labour Law, and Development Studies from the London School of Economics.



Ms. Antonella Valmorbida

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Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA since 1999, has extensive experience in promoting local democracy, empowerment and civil society participation, as well as good governance across Europe, the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and the Mediterranean area. She is a senior European consultant in local development, with a particular focus on implementing participatory processes for urban regeneration. She manages a network of 300 members in over 45 countries in Europe and beyond.



Ms. Tanja Viklund

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Tanja Viklund serves at the Swedish Agency for Support for Faith Based Communities, where she works on crisis management and dialogue between faith-based communities and public institutions, in areas such as emergency preparedness, security and social sustainability. She has a background as a police officer, including work as a dialogue officer, focusing on building relationships and communication with groups engaged in public advocacy.



Mr. Stefano Volpicelli

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Supporting religious and lay practitioners and organizations to strengthen performance, strategy, and impact.



Ms. Naisha Vora

President of Young Jains UK
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Currently working in Private Equity, I have been involved in the Jain Community since the age of 9. I have been in the Executive Committee of YJUK for the last 2 years, the first being as Secretary, current as President. We engage the community and spread awareness about the faith, commitment to Seva (Selfless Service).



Prof. Dr. Dietrich Werner

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Protestant Theologian and ordained pastor from Germany former executive staff of WCC for higher education former senior advisor to Bread for the World, Berlin President of Globethics



Dr. Michael Wiener

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Michael Wiener has been working since 2006 at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, focusing on the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. Since 2017, he has been working on the design and implementation of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on "Faith for Rights".



Ms. Heela Yoon

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Heela Yoon is a UK-based communications professional, activist, and founder of MUSKA and AYAPO. Recognised by the United Nations as a Young Leader for the SDGs, she has led initiatives supporting over 43,000 families through mental health, education, and humanitarian aid. Passionate about trauma awareness, refugee inclusion, and tech for good, Heela continues to champion youth leadership and gender equality across global platforms.



Mr. Benedetto Zacchioli

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Benedetto Zacchioli is President of ECCAR and an expert in human rights and urban inclusion. A Theology graduate, he has held political roles in Bologna and served at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers as Chief of Cabinet and Advisor on State-religion relations. He founded the UNESCO ICCAR Youth Bootcamp and Nova Project, a non-profit promoting youth empowerment, inclusion, and sustainability.



Prof. Angeliki Ziaka

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Professor Angeliki Ziaka is Programme Executive for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation at the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva. She holds a PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Strasbourg. A scholar of religions and interfaith dialogue, she has published widely and serves as editor of Current Dialogue, the WCC's journal on interreligious engagement.