

# PERIODICAL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 16 - DECEMBER 2022



**DICID**

مركز الدوحة الدولي لحوار الأديان  
Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue

# Qatar2022

Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, in cooperation with the Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organizes the 14th Doha Conference for Interfaith Dialogue:

## “Religions and Hate Speech: Between Scripture and Practice”

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16 of the journal  
“RELIGIONS”

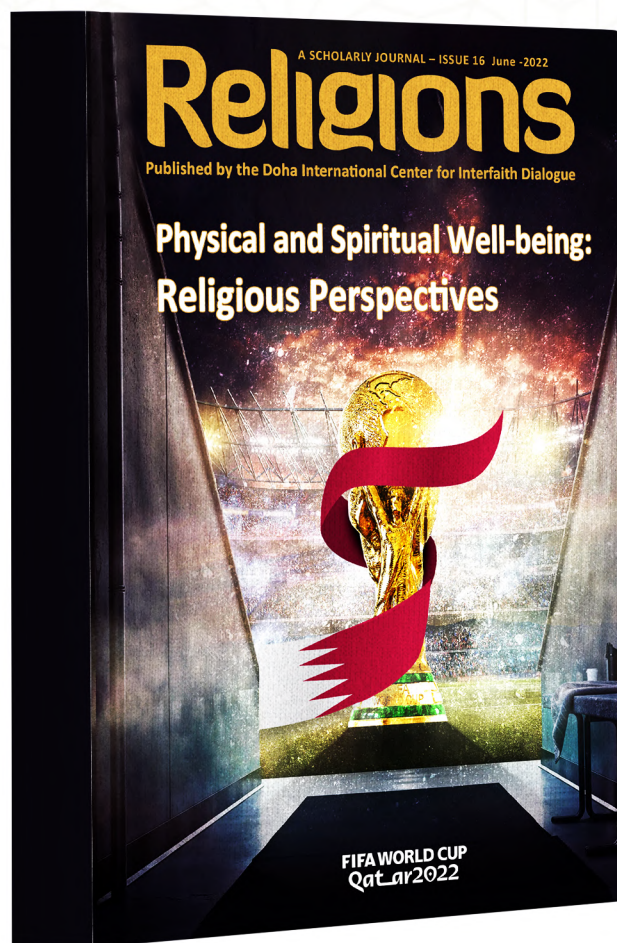
#### Local Seminars

Doha International  
Center for Interfaith  
Dialogue

#### International Participation

Dr. Ibrahim Al Naimi  
participates in the Eighth  
Meeting of the United  
Nations Istanbul Process

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**Our vision:** is to be a leading advocate in achieving peaceful coexistence among followers of religions and a world-class academic reference in the field of interfaith dialogue.

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## Editorial

Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue is pleased to present to its esteemed readers and contributors the 16th edition of this newsletter, which contains many updates on DICID's activities and its most important and recent scholarly publications, including the 14th Doha Interfaith Conference, held on May 24-25 at the Sheraton Hotel, entitled: "Religions and Hate Speech: Scriptures and Practices".

This major conference was attended by over 300 religious and academic figures from more than 70 countries. This issue of the periodical also contains the sixteenth issue of the peer-reviewed journal "Religions," entitled "Physical and Spiritual Well-being: Religious Perspectives". It is published in conjunction with the World Cup FIFA Qatar 2022, the first-ever World Cup in the Middle East.

We also read news about DICID's local seminars, including a symposium (The Role of Interfaith Dialogue in Building Trust among Multicultural Societies) organized in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America in Qatar and the Katara Public Diplomacy Center. You will also find news about the (campaign to raise awareness of respect for religions and cultures), which grew out of DICID's efforts to communicate and interact with the various elements of Qatari society, including workers of different nationalities living in Qatar, and to consolidate the concept of participation between police officers and the various social groups. This campaign was conducted in collaboration with the Community Police Department.

Last but not least, the issue also contains a brief story on official local and international visits to the center, as well as reports on new MOUs that will pave the way for better cooperation and the achievement of common goals.

**Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Naimi**



## **Prof. Aisha Yusuf Omar al-Mannai**

Director of Muhammad bin Hamad Al-Thani Center for Muslim Contribution to Civilization at the College of Islamic Studies (CIS), Hamad bin Khalifa University.

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Vice chair of the Board of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue.

Vice-Chairman of the Qatar Red Crescent.

She is former Dean of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies at Qatar University (2003 - 2013) and Dean of the Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies, HBKU (2016 - 2017). She is also a member of the Arab Parliament, Al-Shura Council (Qatar) and the League of Arab States. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the State Incentive and Appreciation Awards (2004 - 2007), a member of the Board of Directors of the National Human Rights Committee (2003 - 2007) and a member of the Cultural Working Group: Europe - Mediterranean Basin- Gulf (Dialogue of Peoples and Civilizations), French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Prof. Dr. Aisha Yusuf Omar al-Mannai earned a bachelor's degree in education and Sharia from Qatar University 1981, a MA in 1985, and a doctorate from Al-Azhar University in Egypt in 1990. She heads several national and international organizations and associations and is a member of numerous national and international organizations and associations.

Prof. Aisha has received several awards including the Award of Excellence for the Arabian Gulf from H.H. Shaykh Tamim Bin Hamad, 2015, the Henry Davison Award - International Association of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, Switzerland 2015, the Arab Women Award from the Arab League, 2014, the Community Service Award - Ajman, United Arab Emirates, 2011, the Award for Personage of Peace and Proximity from the Islamic Republic of Iran, 2011, the Medal of Honor for Arts and Sciences of the First Level

from the Arab Republic of Egypt, 2007.

Prof. Dr. Aisha is the author of several articles and books on theology, tasawwuf and religions, including Introduction to the Creed and Religions, Foundations of the Creed between Shia Imamate and Mu'tazilites, Islamic Mysticism and Morality, Abu-Haf's Omar Al-Suhrawardi: His Life and Mysticism, Muslim Women and the Renaissance, Al-Takleef bi ma la Yutaq [The Prescription of the Intolerable According to Muslim Theologians], Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali's Methodology of Religious Discourse, and many others to mention.

When she was asked about her experience as Vice Chairman of the Board of the International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, and her view on the importance of dialogue in general and religious dialogue in particular, she replied, "There is no doubt that dialogue is of utmost importance at any time and





in any place until the hour strikes. Dialogue is the only and optimal solution to all human problems. God Almighty has endowed human beings with reason, logic and thought, but He has not preserved and protected them from errors and mistakes in thought and opinion.

The wisdom of God Almighty has made it necessary to place man on the list of hierarchies in His creation of all creatures, and God Almighty has subjected to him the universe with all that is in it, and has distinguished him with ability, reason, and will, and has assigned to him rights and duties, and has made him the representative of the earth, as the Almighty said: In it ( [Hud: 61], “He has created you from earth and made you settle therein”, and not only that, but the Almighty also sent him messengers and prophets who delivered to

him the teachings of God Almighty and his messages, showed him the way so that he would not go astray, and explained to him what was hidden from him and made man accountable and responsible. The Almighty said, “I did not create jinn and humans except to worship Me”: 51: 56. “O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know each other (and not so that you may despise each other). Verily, the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted”. 49:13. The Prophet (ﷺ) said, “All of you are guardians and are responsible for your subjects” (Bukhari and Muslim), and he, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said, “O people, your Lord is One, and your father is One, you are all descended from Adam, and he was made



of clay.” Narrated by Imam Ahmad.

These teachings were delivered by all prophets and messengers and confirmed by the noble Quran in obedience to all prophets: “The Messenger has believed in what has been revealed to him from his Lord, and the believers as well. All have believed in Allah, and His angels and His Books, and His Messengers. “We make no division between any of His Messengers,””. 2: 285.

Prof. Dr. Aisha also added: “One of the most important features of modernity and postmodernity is the issue of “Interfaith Dialogue” and similar terms and concepts. There are a number of objective reasons for this, the most important of which are:

- 1- The topics of scientific research arise from community needs and local, regional or global problems. Interfaith dialogue has proven its worth.
- 2- The age of technology and the resulting speed of communication, the reality of globalization and the participation of

people in the common life events require the need to understand the other and demand the reality of living together. This is done through dialogue and communication.

- 3- The fact that some groups have emerged that play a role in spreading terror and destabilizing security and stability in some areas is another factor that promotes, connects and intensifies efforts to create a culture of dialogue and coexistence. It is known that Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue is responsible for studying issues of interfaith dialogue from a religious and cultural perspective with a sober and scientific approach, as it is the official institution and center in Qatar that promotes peaceful coexistence between followers of religions and different nationalities and is a world reference in the field of interfaith dialogue. And the consolidation of a culture of coexistence.



14<sup>th</sup> Doha Conference on  
**INTERFAITH**

مؤتمر الدوحة الرابع عشر  
لحوار الأديان

الكارهية

الكارهية



Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, in cooperation with the Permanent Committee for Organizing Conferences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organizes The 14th Doha Conference for Interfaith Dialogue:

## “Religions and Hate Speech: Between Scripture and Practice”

(24-25) May 2022

Under the patronage of His Excellency, **Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani**, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior; Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue conducted in the capital city of Qatar Doha on May 24 – 25, 2022 the 14<sup>th</sup> Doha Interfaith Conference 2022 activities under the title: “**Religions and Hate Speech... Scriptures, and Practice**”, which was attended by elites, great personalities, intellectuals, decision-makers, thinkers and researchers of the scholars of the three monotheistic religions (Islam, Christianity, and Judaism) from all over the world. The total number of participants from abroad was 263 contributors from 78 countries, in addition to the participants from the State of Qatar.

At the beginning of the conference in the opening session H.E. Mr. **Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi** State Minister for Foreign Affairs delivered an opening speech and welcomed the audience. He praised the title of the conference, appreciated the diversity of the selected topics, and commended the Scientific conditions set up for accepting contributions. His Excellency stressed that combating hate speech is a serious issue that requires tremendous cooperation to achieve the goals of the interfaith dialogue bodies through relevant contributions at the conference, in-depth studies and analyses, and effective discussions among the leaders of the major world religions as well as researchers and intellectuals.

In a statement, about the conference, **His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue said: “The conference was scheduled for March 3 - 4, 2020, but, was postponed due to the conditions of the coronavirus pandemic, and the compromised safety of participants.” He added: “This annual conference is held periodically and is attended by more than 300 personalities from about 70 countries, in addition to participants from the State of Qatar. This conference is the regular academic and discursive forum between thinkers and

representatives of the three monotheistic religions (Islam, Christianity, and Judaism), a select group of religious scholars, academics, and leaders of centers of interfaith dialogue from around the world”. He made it clear that hate speech is a violation and undermining of human rights which are among the most important religious and humanitarian issues of today that need to be highlighted and emphasized. Therefore, the aim of this conference is to discuss the problem of hate speech and its dimensions as well as the positions of religions against it and to call for respect, tolerance, and compassion. The conference will be attended by religious scholars, former civil servants, academics, heads of institutions, college professors, college students, charitable institutions, and civil society organizations, as well as representatives of the countries most affected by hate speech.

After the opening session, two days of discussions took place in three plenary sessions, nine parallel sessions, and one closing session. In these sessions, participants gave presentations on their respective topics. The audience commented that many good papers were presented and that the presentations showed good practical activities and experiences.

His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of





Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue pointed out that Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue has become a source of pride for every Qatari citizen and every Arab and Muslim. He noted that the inclusion of this type of topics for dialogue with followers of other religions “reflects the progress we have achieved in thinking and civilizational philosophy, and that the State of Qatar, which is represented in Doha International for Interfaith Dialogue, believes that nation building begins with nation building and that this nation building is done through cooperation with fellow human beings on the basis of mutual respect, coexistence in harmony and peace, regardless of the different religions, cultures and races. The Center is the leading institution in Qatar engaged in interfaith and intercultural dialogue, capacity building in the field of dialogue, and working for a culture of peace.

In his statement, His Excellency praised the initiatives of the State of Qatar in the field of dialogue and consultation between the followers of these religions, as well as Qatar’s positive role in issues of dialogue between civilizations and cultures, which has brought Qatar a prominent global position and made it one of the most influential countries in the world in

these issues. He added that Qatar, with its wise leadership, is at the forefront of addressing such important issues. It is a country that is always in search of peace and harmony and has many notable contributions and roles to its name.

He added that the continuation of this dialogue in the state of Qatar enriches the pioneering role it plays in this field, especially as it is a multicultural country where many nationalities live, visit or participate in conferences or events it organizes, making the interfaith conferences in Doha another addition to these human dimensions.

When he was asked how the fruits of the dialogue can be transferred from the class of religious scholars and thinkers to the general public, His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Naimi replied: “Although the conference deals with leading figures and thinkers, its fruits have already migrated from the top-down, embodied in activities, research, conferences, and more. The conference is also attended by many students from universities and colleges in the country, we call on college students to participate in such important conferences.”

He emphasized that: “Among the objectives of the conference is to convey to the interlocutors



the point of view of Qatari citizens and Muslims on the issues raised and to clarify an Arab-Islamic vision of Qatar without compromising on principles or loyalty at the expense of religion, as well as to explain the principles of Islam and its call for tolerance, respect and life. And rejecting hatred and aggression against non-aggressors.”

He said, “The world in which we all live today is threatened by two fundamental dangers. The first is terrorism, which we all want to fight together, and the second, which is no less dangerous than its predecessor, is the escalation of hate speech in all its forms and its exclusionary and racist forms that classify people based on their religion, gender, or skin color.”

Dr. Al-Naimi also elaborated on the commonalities of the monotheistic religions, stressing that all religious texts in the heavenly books call to fight hatred and spread respect and tolerance, but he saw that the practice on the ground shows the opposite, where hatred is practiced in the name of religion. And before that, religions became a means to fight other religions, and hate speech was the first means to do so.

He pointed out that “the conflicts facing the world today, in which religious intolerance plays the greatest role, in which the misunderstanding of the true purposes of religion prevails, and the support of this understanding with an authoritarian view and practices borne of religious and national hatred, as well as the claim to guardianship over the mind, have emerged from extremist models based on misconceptions, prejudices, and false mental perceptions fueled by hate speech that contradict the idea of dialogue and peaceful coexistence, thus fanning the flames of conflict between civilizations.

He also pointed out that Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue has called more than once, in its conferences and on many occasions, to develop a strategy to counter the religious, legal, and moral threat of hate speech, that is increasing around us and intensifying its negative effects; The Center believes that there is no other way to confront this discourse than to confront its origin and purify its roots, by dialogue with thought, and trying every way to expose the misdirection inherent in calls for sectarianism and racism and rejection of the Other.



### Conference sessions

Prof. Al-Naimi also pointed out that the speakers and participants of the conference focused on the commonalities and called for a common word between the monotheistic religions in order to find a basis for coexistence for the benefit of humanity in general, away from discussing the ideological issues of each religion. He added, “Respect for the origins of other religions requires us to respect them now, and we invite them to a dialogue that positively reflects the reality of the followers of different religions inside and outside their countries. It is expected that the results of this dialogue will lead to a decrease in hatred between the followers of these religions, especially hatred of Islam and Muslims and what has become known as Islamophobia or the unjustified fear of Islam and Muslims that plagues the Ummah in non-Muslim countries. Addressing these problems are the goals we strive for and have already achieved.

Regarding the issues discussed at the conference,

His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi noted that three axes are discussed: The first deals with hate speech in terms of causes, motives and risks. In this context, he said, the extremist religious discourse and its role in the spread of hate speech, the concept of hate speech and the misunderstanding of religion and the promotion of moderate discourse is addressed, in addition to the issue of escalation and spread of hate speech and the extremist discourse of some clerics and political leaders and its impact on achieving world peace.

He indicated that the second focus, entitled “Patterns and Forms of Hate Speech”, focused on the danger of spreading hate speech, hate speech and incitement to violence and terrorism, the political uses of hate speech, and the effects of spreading hate speech and its effects on peaceful coexistence. It also addressed the practices of hate speech and their effects, the rise of racism due to hate speech, the escalation of hate speech against refugees and religious

minorities, hate speech and discrimination against women.

Dr. Al-Naimi stated that the third focus-of the conference is titled “The Desired Role to Confront Hate Speech” and will address the role of religious and media leaders and institutions in combating hate speech, the responsibility of religious scholars and houses of worship in raising awareness of the need to respect religions, the influence of the media in curbing hate speech, religious and moral values and their role in combating hate speech, and a culture of peace, coexistence and respect for cultural and religious diversity.

He explained that under the third axis, participants will also discuss the issue of international laws and conventions criminalizing hate speech, clarifying the limits of the application of freedom of expression and the protection of international humanitarian law, and spoke about international conventions and dealing with hate speech, religious and legal frameworks in the face of hate speech, the role of education and educational institutions in dealing with hate speech, discussion on the importance of educating younger generations in dealing with hate speech, dealing with hate speech through culture and the arts, and the need to respect diversity and to accept and understand the other.

#### **Fourth Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue**

During the opening ceremony of the conference, the fourth Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue was presented. The title and theme of the award were chosen in line with the objectives of this year’s conference:

‘Outstanding Contributions to Spreading the Culture of Moderate Discourse’. Award winners are selected based on their achievements in spreading the culture of moderate discourse, bringing together people and followers of different religions, and rejecting hate speech, incitement, discrimination, racism, extremism and terrorism. The award is overseen by a special board of trustees composed of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish scholars, as well as Center staff. The Board of Trustees selects reviewers from among the best experts from around the world to serve as reviewers. Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue was launched in 2013 and is a unique initiative of its kind in the field of interfaith dialogue worldwide

Three individuals and three institutions were selected to receive the award.

The individuals who received the award are: A.D. Mohamed Khalifa Hassan Ahmed - Egyptian in Qatar, Dr. Sabrina Lee - Italy, and Rev. Dr. Malkhaz Songelashvili - Georgia.

As for the institutions, they won: Islamic Culture Foundation - Spain, Wolf Foundation - United Kingdom, and Side by Side Foundation for Antiracism - Germany.

#### **Exhibition accompanying the conference**

#### **&Opening of the new headquarters of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue**

The exhibition accompanying the conference was inaugurated by His Excellency Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, before the opening of the conference activities. At the end of the first day, the new headquarters of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue was also inaugurated at Katara Cultural Village in the presence of many key conference participants (100 people) and a number of Qatari dignitaries.

The new headquarters was inaugurated by Prof.

Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al-Naimi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue.

### publications on the conference

Accompanying the conference, Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue published a number of publications on the conference theme, including the following:

1- The “**Religions**” peer-reviewed journal: it is published by Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue. The fifteenth issue was made available to the esteemed readers and authors. The issue was dedicated to the topic “Hate Speech: between the teachings and the current realities”. Our esteemed authors have enriched the issue with informative articles characterized by in-depth analysis and a solid knowledge base.

### 2- Periodical Newsletter, Issue 15:

Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue has released its 15th issue of Periodical Newsletter to its esteemed readers and writers, in conjunction with the final preparations for the fourteenth annual DICID International Conference entitled: “Hate Speech: Scriptures and Realities,” held in Doha, Qatar, on May 24 -25, 2022. The issue has also highlighted the

international seminar titled: “Escalation of Hate Speech among Minorities in the West”.

### 3- “Selected Papers”:

Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue has published two selected letters in Arabic and English, “Religions and Hate Speech: Causes, Types, and Ways to Confront. The Arabic paper was edited by Dr. Ahmed Abdel Rahim, while the English paper was edited by Dr. Sinad Marharovic, under the same title.

### Conference Closing Remarks

In light of the paper presented and the discussion that took place, we would like to briefly address some of the key points that were highlighted during the deliberations. These concluding remarks include the findings and recommendations that the conference concluded; they are as follows:

**First**, to affirm that all religions call for respect and peace and that they condemn all forms of hate speech, extremism, racism, and discrimination based on religion, gender, or race.

**Second**, to emphasize that confronting extraterrestrial thought and action is a human





duty and a noble work. We will work together to combat terrorism and extremism at the level of individuals, institutions, religious leaders, and political and civil societies in order to establish human ethics, spread peace and love, and build a civilized world.

**Third:** Condemnation of all forms and types of hate speech and rejection of behaviors and practices of extremist groups that call themselves religion, while the essence of religion is far removed from their deeds and actions.

**Fourth:** The need to use all legal means to develop an ethical strategy for the media on a professional basis. The goal is to limit the spread of hate speech on social media in the name of freedom of expression and to enforce compliance with the law on these platforms.

**Fifth:** The need to develop, adopt and submit a proposal to international organizations to develop curricula (especially for early childhood education) that teach the correct and proper religious principles and values that call for respect and coexistence and eradicate anything that inspires and incites hatred. And urge religious leaders to implement this proposal in their respective countries in accordance with the teachings of their religions.

**Sixth:** Ensuring that there are no forms of double standard discourse among those involved in interfaith dialogue; there should be no internal discourse that supports, incites, and calls for hatred, while external discourse publicly condemns hatred in the presence of people.

**Seventh:** Stressing that the phenomenon of Islamophobia and prejudice against Islam is not the method of the majority in the West, but is practiced by minorities who ignore the true teachings of Islam and its essence, and are not familiar with the history of Islam and its civilization of tolerance, pluralism, and acceptance of others.

**Eight:** Emphasizing the transition from this phase of interfaith dialog to a phase of genuine partnership and interaction between the institutions of religions as well as civil societies; a single voice condemning hate speech regardless of its sources and originators.

**Nine:** Communication with effective and influential interfaith dialogue bodies worldwide about the need to unite efforts in support of oppressed people suffering from hate speech and genocide, as is happening in Kashmir, the Rohingya minority, and the Uyghurs, and to openly reject all forms of hatred and oppression whenever and wherever it occurs, regardless of race or religion.



“Publication of issue 16 of the journal “RELIGIONS

## Physical and Spiritual Well-Being:” “Religious Perspectives



Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue is pleased to present to its esteemed authors, readers and all followers the sixteenth issue titled “Physical and Spiritual Well-being: Religious Perspectives”. *RELIGIONS* is an annual and bilingual (English and Arabic) peer-reviewed journal for interfaith studies published by Doha

International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, dealing with interfaith dialogue and relations between Islam and other religions.

The choice of this theme is, of course, in conjunction with the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, the first-ever World Cup in the Middle East. The issue intended to provide a platform for researchers and academics to

seriously consider the following topics: Religions, the priority of physical and psychological and human well-being.

The issue opened with a Dialogue with Mr. **Hassan Al Thawadi**, Secretary General of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy - 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

In this issue, you will find many high-quality contributions in Arabic and English. English contributions include Spirituality and Sport: A Way towards Perfection, by Senad Mrahorović, Empowering Muslim Women and Girls through Sports, by Alena Demirovic and Mustafa Sefo, A New Age for Religious Demand: Spiritual Care and Mental Well-Being, written by Makoto Mizutani, Psychological Well-Being and Islam, contributed by Mohammad Aamir, Spirituality in Play, by Muhammed Shaahid Cassim, Islam, Malay, Women and Sports from the Brunei Darussalam Perspective submitted by Rozaitul Matzani and Majdey

Zawawi, The influence of religious music in all religions: Empowering spirituality and psychological well-being among people, written by Saleem Zoughbi, Physical Health Promotion in Light of the Holy Qur'an and Islamic Sunnah, contributed by Samar Elkhalfifa and Wishah Elkhalfifa as well as Torah, Bible, and Qur'an: Ethical Codes to Combat Racism in Sports authored by Sekou Marafa Toure. In addition to a book Review of "Training the Body: Perspectives from Religion, Physical Culture and Sport" written by Senad Mrahorović.

It is worth mentioning that the issue contains Nine (9) other important papers written in Arabic and one book review paper.

We expect that readers will find a variety of intellectual contributions and discussions in Arabic and English on the topic of Physical and Spiritual Well-being: Religious Perspectives.

You may [click this link to get access to the English papers](#),

[https://www.dicid.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Religions\\_Issue\\_16\\_En.pdf](https://www.dicid.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Religions_Issue_16_En.pdf)

and this link is for the [Arabic papers](#).

[https://www.dicid.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Religions\\_Issue\\_16\\_Ar.pdf](https://www.dicid.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Religions_Issue_16_Ar.pdf)



## **Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, in cooperation with the Embassy of the United States of America, and Katara Public Diplomacy organized a symposium entitled “Role of Interfaith Dialogue in Building-Trust Among Intercultural Communities**

**On the occasion of 50 years of diplomatic relations between the State of Qatar and the United States of America and among intellectual and cultural activities conducted by Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue for promoting the notion of coexistence and creating awareness among people, and as part of maintaining the effective cultural role Katara is known for, for being Qatari pivot to present its cultural, civilizational and intellectual heritage of the state of Qatar, as well as aiming to achieve the common objectives of the organizing parties; Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, in cooperation with the Embassy of the United States of America, and Katara Public Diplomacy organized a symposium entitled “Role of Interfaith Dialogue in Building-Trust Among Intercultural Communities.**

**Great figures and famous personalities of academics, researchers, and intellectuals attended the event, including Prof. Aisha Al-Mannai, vice-chairperson of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue and the Director of the Muhammad Bin Hamad Al Thani Center for Muslim Contribution to Civilization (CMCC) in College of Islamic Studies (CIS) at Hamad Bin Khalifa University’s (HBKU), H.E Mr. Michael Schreuder, the acting deputy chief of Mission, at the embassy of the United States of America – Qatar.**

Prof. Aisha Al-Mannai opened the event with a foreword she delivered. It contained a word of thanks to the audience, speakers, and the organizing bodies collectively: Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, the Embassy of the United States of America, and the Cultural Village Foundation – Katara. She stressed the significance of the cooperative efforts that bring together the embassy of the USA in Qatar, Katara Public Diplomacy, and DICID, touching upon various forms of synergy among these institutions. She then shed the light on the interfaith dialogue as not only a necessary demand of the contemporary world but also as a very useful fruit of modernity in the research centers and among writers, due to its proven presence in cultivating people about the various relevant issues to coexistence and pluralism. She also added: “We all see and witness the great determinations DICID is doing towards realizing and achieving its objectives, it works hard to spread awareness on interfaith Dialogue among religious traditions with all possible means, instilling the culture of pluralism, and promoting acceptance of the others”.

Prof. Aisha also stated: “in this distinct event that commemorates 50 years of diplomatic relations between the State of Qatar and the United States of America, and at this special moment, it is important to put emphasis on in this short forward that DICID along with the cooperative bodies (the USA in Qatar, Katara Public Diplomacy) that work to organize the event; they have selected the symposium title, speakers and topics to be delivered with all care due to the importance of the event. She concluded by saying “trust-building is the backbone of coexistence and mutual respect, and it is a result of effecting and observing the moral code in all religious traditions in

regards to ethics and dealing with others”.

Followed by the foreword speech given by H.E Mr. Michael Schreuder the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of the United States of America in Qatar delivered opening remarks of the United States of America in Qatar. He extended a word of thanks to Prof. Aisha Al-Mannai, the moderator Ms. Marjon E Kamrani, the speakers, the audience, and all those who participated in making this event take place. He expressed that continuing to discuss relevant and various issues and topics of interfaith dialogue leads to many positive outcomes, including trust-building. He conveyed an important message that in interfaith dialogue communities are compelled to communicate and make their language understandable and acceptable. He stated: “Our goal in interreligious dialogue is not to construct one religion for the whole world but to share and learn from one another in celebration of our diversity and sharing the values we hold dear”.

He also pointed out that interfaith dialogue should be characterized by clarity, trust, transparency, kindness, patience, generosity, and prudence. He then mentioned in this regard that in the United States of America, religious freedom lies at the heart of peoples’ identity. He said: “The United States recognizes religious freedom as an inalienable right and it is therefore committed to its preservation and advancement for all”. And he emphasized at the end of his remarks after he expressed special thanks to Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi for the great efforts he is doing, he emphasized the readiness of the embassy of the United States in Doha to proudly work and cooperate with Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, to promote a culture of coexistence and tolerance.

Moreover, the event moderator Ms. Marjon E Kamrani, a political officer at the USA Embassy in Qatar highlighted the uniqueness and distinction of the event for many factors: the importance of the topic chosen for the symposium, the diversity of the themes to be discussed, as well as the academic variety among the distinguished speakers and the different background that should enrich the discussion.

Then she called upon Dr. Clyde Wilcox, Interim Dean, School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Qatar to deliver his paper entitled role of interfaith dialogue in contemporary relations. He commenced by saying: “This is my first interaction with the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, and I am honored to be a part of the panel”. In his presentation, he highlighted the means of how individuals and societies should observe and maintain to enforce interfaith dialogue. Many personal experiences were provided to prove the validity of the points and to support the related ideas. He stated: “We know that friendly relationships – even friendships – across religious lines reduces religious prejudice and hostility, and builds trust and tolerance”.

He was followed by the second paper presenter Dr. Eid Ahmad Mohamed, Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature Program at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, who talked about Interfaith dialogue and awareness as tools to counter violent extremism. He expressed the importance of evoking the unity of the origin of mankind in facilitating communication, mutual respect, and then trust-building. “Bearing in mind human noble values that we all share paves ways to encounter prejudice, racism, and

superiority claims. Commonalities and global ethics we all believe should be brought to promote tolerance, love, equality, mutual respect and coexistence”. He supported the highlighted points he touched on by providing personal experiences as an Egyptian who lived, studied, and graduated from American universities and Canada.

Dr. Zachary Valentine Wright, Associate Professor at Northwestern University in Qatar was then invited to address Peace and reconciliation through interfaith dialogue. He stressed the importance of self-controlling and the so-called purification of one’s soul in Islamic heritage (TAZKIYAH) in promoting interfaith dialogue and focusing on respecting the other and building trust in dealing with him/her. “Purification is a very useful tool in Islamic theology and thought for self-controlling. It also leads to perfection “IHSAN” and all will result in acceptance of the other”. Many Qur’anic verses, Prophetic traditions, and Muslim Scholars’ statements were quoted to support the discussion.

Before closing the event, the moderator Ms. Marjon then opened the Q & A session that enriched the discussion. Then she thanked the audience, speakers, all those who contributed by asking questions or giving comments and sent a special thanks to the three organizing bodies; Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, the Embassy of the United States of America, and the Katara Public Diplomacy. She said: “After a long time of shifting this kind of event to virtual instead of physical because of the COVID 19 pandemic; I can see everywhere in the hall, before, after, and during the presentations smiles and happiness caused by physical interaction and meeting.” I hope you have a good and safe drive home.

## Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue participates in Cultural Symposium at the 31<sup>st</sup> Doha International Book Fair 2022



Within the activities of the Doha International Book Fair in its thirty-first session, under the slogan “Knowledge is Light”, held under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture and the Qatar Cultural and Heritage Events Center, The Doha International Book Center organized a cultural symposium to discuss the book, “The Link between Religion and Science in the Light of the Noble Qur’an”, hosting a discussion with the author of the book, Dr. Badrane Benlahcene, associate professor and researcher at the Ibn Khaldun Center for Humanities and Social Sciences,

and Professor of comparative religion.

Dr. Ahmed Abdelrahim, senior researcher at the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, moderated the symposium. It was attended by a number of exhibition visitors, directors of publishing houses interested in issues of dialogue and religions, intellectuals, and a group of academics.

At the beginning of his speech, Dr. Badrane Benlahcene briefed the audience on his book; how the idea of writing it came to him, and the group to which the book was



directed to. He said: “All the chapters of this book revolve around one axis, which is religion and science in the light of the Holy Qur’an. It deals with the connection between religion (Islam) and science. It considers various issues of knowledge, thought, reading, reason and understanding, the integration of perceptual powers, the expansiveness of existence and the limitations of the conscience, the connection of knowledge with work, and other issues that we consider as gifts the Holy Qur’an provides us. The articles of the book aim at establishing a cultural awareness that transforms science to a culture that includes everyone, and a medium in which our values are formed about science and religion and the civilizational role they have, in the light of the integrative vision that the Qur’an establishes in the consciousness of the Muslim human being.

In the articles of this book, according to what he presented, the author has endeavored not to turn into an argument, justify positions, or provide academic lessons. His goal was an educational and informative

goal, opening the minds of Muslim youth to the importance of these issues, and establishing a new awareness of the Qur’an, science and religion. It restores to the Muslim mind its cognitive and intellectual effectiveness, just as it restores to the Muslim person, individually and as a group, their effectiveness and complementarity.

The discussion on the book and its topics revolved around a dialogue between the moderator and the author, and many questions were raised about the issues presented in his book. The most important of which was the question about the broader concept of science as a subject and method, and the relationship between religion and science, as well as the extent to which the Western cognitive model in applied sciences and humanities makes the connection between Religion and science.

To this, Dr. Badrane Benlahcene, the author of the book, says: “Contemporary knowledge has made religion and science opposites, either a contradiction or that they are two isolated islands from each other, and this has led humanity to a kind of schizophrenia between religion, faith and science, and the Western cognitive model is basically a material model. According to its scientific method, it rejects any source of knowledge outside the scope of physical sensory examination subject to experience and observation, and this strips man of his basic cognitive components, the first of which is religion, with which his instinct is raised, his psyche is balanced, his mind is purified, his conscience upright, and his spirit elevated.”

He added: “The Holy Qur’an establishes (knowledge is not based on a single source, but rather it integrates sensory, mental and

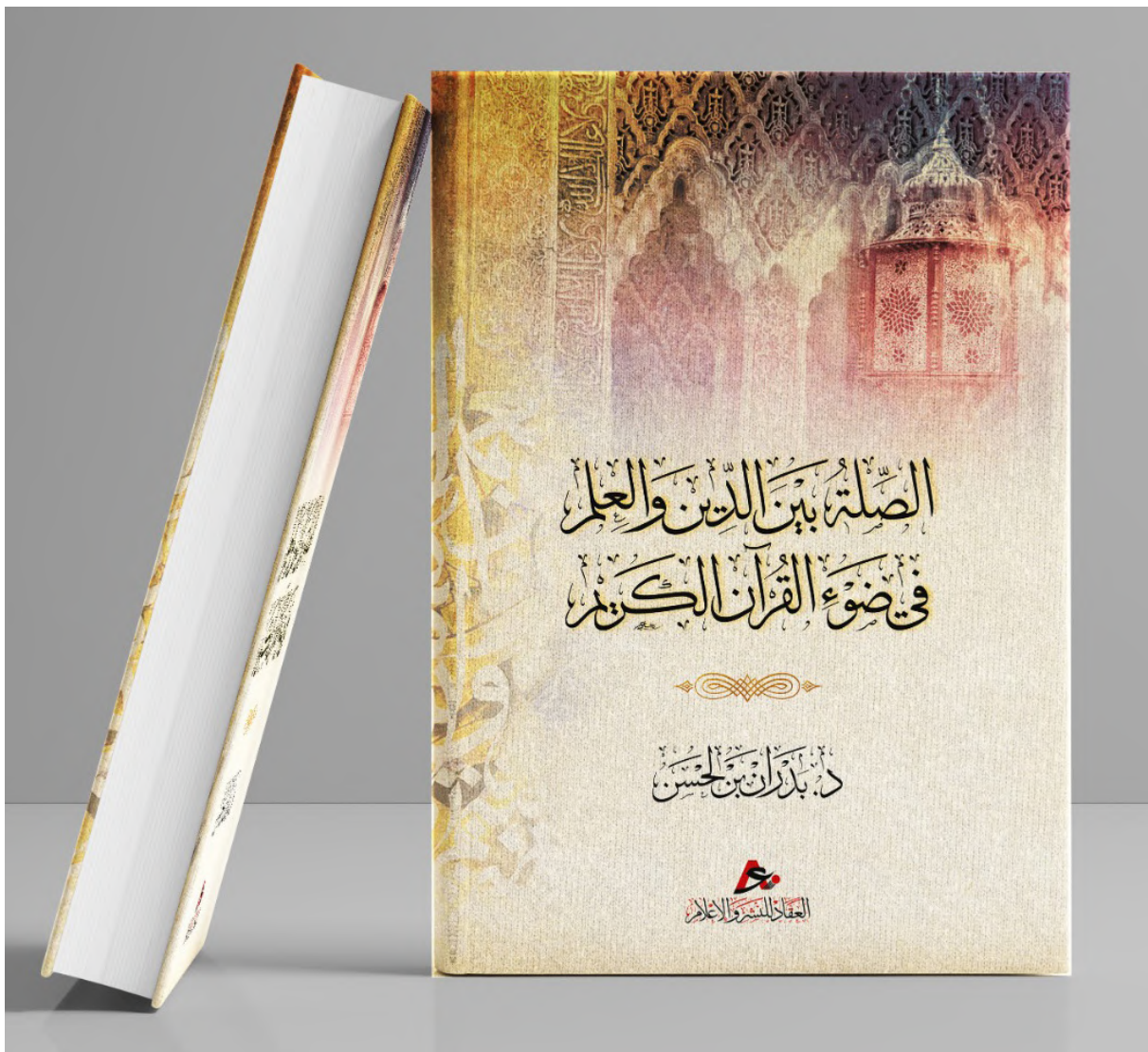


spiritual perceptions, and the monotheistic vision that the Qur'an brought is based on a monotheistic conception in which human life is integrated, and his cognitive powers are integrated on knowledge of the truth".

Asking him about ways to restore a renaissance, as he always poses in his books and articles, Dr. Badrane Benlahcene said: "The Arab and Islamic nation today is experiencing a launch attempt to establish its civilizational cycle anew. In our lives, so that we do not fall into a distorted or contradictory reductionist understanding, especially with regard to

the relationship between religion and science."

It is worth noting that the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, which is the leading institution in Qatar concerned with interfaith and intercultural dialogue, participates - as it usually does every year - in the exhibition with its own stall where the center displays various publications of books specialized in dialogue in both Arabic and English, as well as its own Adyan journal, which is issued by the center periodically. So far, fifteen issues have been issued.



## HBKU's College of Islamic Studies Welcomes DICID Chairman for Lecture on 'Coexistence in Qatar'

Dr. Ibrahim Saleh Al Naimi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID), delivered a lecture titled "Coexistence in Qatar" at Hamad Bin Khalifa University's (HBKU) College of Islamic Studies (CIS). The lecture was attended by HBKU graduate students, faculty members, academic figures, and visitors with an interest in interfaith dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

The lecture is part of an important project on the Discourses of Hate, Tolerance and Co-existence led by Dr. Josef Meri, Historian of Interfaith Relations and the History of Religions at CIS, and engages an interdisciplinary team of scholars from across HBKU. It was delivered under CIS' joint cooperation agreement with DICID, as well as part of the intensive scientific efforts of Dr. Al-Nuaimi towards achieving the goals of DICID, promote awareness on interfaith dialogue, instill a culture of pluralism and acceptance of others, and share these issues scientifically and practically with graduate students, the Qatari community, and its scientific and cultural elites.

The event was opened by Dr. Meri, during which he highlighted the importance of this unique session. Dr. Aisha Al-Mannai, Director of the Muhammad Bin Hamad Al Thani Center for Muslim Contribution to Civilization (CMCC) at CIS, delivered opening remarks, and stressed the importance of the joint cooperation efforts that bring together CIS and DICID, touching upon forms of

synergy between the two institutions. As part of the opening sessions, a short welcome clip was displayed by Mr. Dominic Genetti, the President and General Manager of ExxonMobil Qatar Ltd.

Dr. Al Naimi delivered his lecture, which began by thanking CIS and praising the efforts and achievements of Dr. Al-Mannai at DICID, CIS, and Qatar University's College of Sharia and Islamic Studies level in particular. The lecture focused on five key points, including the presentation of a brief overview on DICID, the role of the Qatari law in promoting peaceful coexistence, real models of such coexistence in the Qatari society, and the idea of establishing DICID based on a direction from the government to broaden the culture of peaceful coexistence. Dr. Al-Nuaimi concluded his lecture by highlighting DICID's key efforts intended to instill the culture of peaceful coexistence in Qatar.

"The vision of DICID aligns with Qatar's vision of dealing with all nationals and residents with respect for them and their religions, and allowing them to practice their religious rituals comfortably, without prejudice to the righteous teachings of the Islamic religion or the Qatari customs and traditions. A center like DICID in the Arabian Peninsula calling for dialogue and tolerance indicates globally how Islam is a religion of tolerance and love, and refutes all allegations on attaching Islam with terrorism or any other untrue accusations. DICID reflects Islam



as fully concerned with dialogue between followers of different religions, and provides them with an opportunity to coexist in Qatar as a safe, stable, and peaceful state that enables discussion of issues with followers of the other religions from different countries, and encourages tolerance and dialogue.”

Since its establishment in 2007, DICID has undertaken its natural role in maintaining the appropriate settings for training Qatari and resident youth on issues of dialogue and bringing citizens and residents together regardless of their religions through community roundtables, which provide a platform for dialogue among communities, where they discuss issues of interest in various fields, including education, health, legal matters, and the cultural life in general. The center has also initiated a dialogue between them, the

Qatari society, and official organizations so that their perspectives with regards to all issues are heard. This has been made possible through collaborations between the center and various institutions, including churches in Qatar.

Dr. Meri commented after the lecture: “CIS was honored to host HE Dr. Al-Nuaimi to speak on the importance of mutual and constructive co-existence and dialogue. While cultural, religious, and intellectual diversities bring with them a set of challenges, this has been an opportune way to engage faculty and students and deepen our understanding of the importance of strengthening social bonds. As well as instilling knowledge in our students, we also aim to equip them to become leaders and change-makers in a rapidly changing world.”

## The Police Department together

**DICID, in collaboration with the Community Police Department, conducts a campaign to raise awareness of respect for religious and cultural diversity**

In the context of promoting a culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence between individuals and groups from different cultures and religions residing in Qatar, and in order to communicate and interact with the various groups in society, including groups of workers from different nationalities, and in order to consolidate participation between the police and society, the Police Department, in partnership with the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue held an awareness campaign on respect for religious and cultural diversity at the residence of Qatari Diar employees and workers (QD-SBG), on Sunday evening, April 10, 2022.



The meeting was attended by Lt. Col. Rashid Mubarak Al-Khayarin, Head of Awareness and Education Department at the Police Department, Dr. Ahmed Abdel Rahim, Acting Manager of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, as well as a number of company officials.

The meeting targeted about 500 company workers of various Asian and Arab nationalities. The Lt. Col. Rashid Mubarak Al-Khayarin explained that the campaign is part of the strategic plan of the Ministry of Interior and is in accordance of its main goal towards achieving security, stability and reducing crime rates. The administration's key goals for its annual plan for 2022 is to reduce crime rates by raising awareness of the dangers of theft crimes and raising awareness of the importance of respecting religions and cultures.

He pointed out that the awareness campaign began with a visit to the headquarters of Qatar Diar, focusing on a number of axes, foremost of which is respect for customs and traditions, and awareness of theft crimes in the residential areas of workers, adding that the campaign will continue throughout the holy month to include a number of regions in the country.

In the meeting, Dr. Ahmed Abdel Rahim

reviewed the importance of respecting cultures and religions, and the meaning of their differences, especially in the workplace, in addition to respecting the laws of the state and the necessity of mixing with other cultures and religions and accepting difference, and dealing with difference wisely and what unites people despite their differences.

He also stressed that such awareness campaigns intersect their objectives with Qatari efforts to promote coexistence and peace, and contribute to highlighting the value of tolerance, compassion and compassion in Qatar, which is a country of peace and tolerance for its citizens and residents despite the various nationalities and religions.

It is worth noting that the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue pays great and real attention to the conditions of the communities residing in Qatar, as these communities have an important role in consolidating the values of peaceful coexistence and tolerance between the communities on the one hand, and with the Qatari society on the other hand and accordingly, since its establishment, cooperation with local communities has been a top priority for the center.”

## Dr. Ibrahim Al Naimi

participates in the Eighth Meeting of the United Nations Istanbul Process



His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim bin Saleh Al Naimi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, participated in the Eighth Meeting of the United Nations Istanbul Process, which was held on Wednesday 16 February 2022 by the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the landmark UN Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 16/18 on “Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence and Violence Against Persons Based on Religion or Belief” adopted in 2011.

Dr. Al-Naimi was invited as speaker as the Chairman of the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue representing the State of Qatar, to mention the activities and landmark efforts in progressing interfaith harmony and combating religious hatred. He highlighted the urgent need for the active implementation of the Istanbul Process Action Plan given the instability of religious communities over the past few years caused by the increasing global spread of hate speech, intolerance, racism, nationalism and religious extremism, which has collectively hampered progress towards international cooperation. He stated, "... religion needs to be exonerated and differentiated. It should be part of the peacemaking process instead. And it lies in our hands to see it in action". In his speech, he also touched on the Center's activities which includes the annual International Conference on Interfaith Dialogue the most recent of which is upcoming in Doha on the 24th and 25th of May 2022 entitled, "Religions and Hate Speech: Between Scripture and Practice".

The Center also holds round tables that discuss issues related to communities in Qatar. At the local level, the Center regularly organizes training courses for students and teachers in independent and private schools with the aim of training on dialogue and communication skills with different religions and cultures, in addition to issuing the "Adyan/Religions" journal in Arabic and English, periodical newsletters, translated books, and selected letters, and publications related to the center's activities. On the international level, Dr. Al-Naimi mentioned that the center has numerous symposia and international conferences outside Qatar focused on promoting a culture of dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

It is worth noting that the Istanbul Process focuses on concrete, positive measures that

states can take to combat religious intolerance while protecting the freedoms of religion and free speech. The Eighth Meeting as such was themed as 'Looking Back and Moving Forward' and was attended by around 200 high-level representatives of States, inter-governmental organizations, civil society, faith and community leaders.

The conference was inaugurated by His Excellency Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. In his speech, he presented a preventive and action-oriented strategy to counter religious hatred and especially islamophobia, which has been on an alarming rise in recent years. The Foreign Minister of Turkey, His Excellency Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu also addressed the meeting along with the OIC Secretary General H.E. Hissein Brahim Taha, the UK Minister of State for the UN H.E. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, the US Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights at the U.S. Department of State H.E. Uzra Zeya, the President of the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, the High Representative for UN Alliance of Civilizations and the former OIC Secretary General Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu.

The agenda of this year's meeting discussed the world's most pressing concerns over growing hate and conflict directed towards religious communities and presented initiatives and success stories along with their case studies that has since enabled communities to effect positive change in combatting hatred and hate speech, ten years after the 16/18 resolution. The State of Qatar represented in the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue is committed to bringing about a culture of peace, tolerance and inter-faith harmony and continues to take steps for its achievement.

## Doha International Center

for Interfaith Dialogue participates in the 7th Conference of “Religious Leaders” in Kazakhstan



Mr. Muhammad Al-Ghamdi

Mr. Muhammad Al-Ghamdi, member of the Board of Directors of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, participated in the work of the 7th Conference of “Religious Leaders” in Kazakhstan, as DICID had received a kind invitation from the Head of the Conference Secretariat to participate in the event. Under the auspices and in the presence of the President of the State of Kazakhstan, Mr. Qasim Jomart Tokayev, Kazakhstan hosted the seventh session of the Conference of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in the capital Nur-Sultan on September 14-15, in the presence of the Grand Imam, Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, Sheikh of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, and His Holiness Pope Francis, Pope of the Vatican and participation of major religious leaders from around the world, as well as 100 delegations from 60 countries representing all religions. The conference was titled “The Role of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in the Spiritual and Social Development of Humanity in the Post-Pandemic Era” Among them was the delegation of the State of Qatar led by Mr. Khalid bin Shaheen Al-Ghanim, Director of the .Department of Islamic Affairs at the Ministry of Awqaf



The Leaders of Religions Conference is a unique event hosted by Kazakhstan for the first time in 2003 and held every three years. It confirms its prominent role in supporting initiatives for peace, tolerance and dialogue between leaders and followers of religions, based on the belief in the great role of religious leaders in spreading the voice of moderation to promote dialogue and combat religious intolerance, which some extremist organizations strive to achieve in societies.

The conference began with a united call from religious leaders and leaders: “that God unite peoples, end wars and conflicts, that security and safety prevail, that love replace hatred, that acquaintance replace fanaticism, and that God empower us to eliminate all environmental disasters”.

The goals of the Conference of Religious Leaders include: the consolidation of peace and coexistence, mutual respect and tolerance among religions, nations and ethnic groups, the prevention of the use of religion to escalate conflicts, the strengthening of traditions of dialogue between religions and sects, cooperation with all international organizations and the expansion of dialogue between representatives of different religions with the participation of representatives of the

media, youth associations and intellectuals, and the development of a culture of tolerance and mutual respect in the face of hatred and extremism.

The conference has discussed several issues including, the role of religions in fostering spiritual and moral values in the modern world, the role of education and religious enlightenment in enhancing respectful coexistence of religions and cultures, justice and peace, the contribution of religious leaders and politicians to promoting global interreligious dialogue and peace, resisting extremism, radicalism and terrorism, especially based on religion, and the contribution of women to the well-being and sustainable development of society and the role of religious communities in supporting the social status of women.

The Leaders of Religions Conference is a unique event hosted by Kazakhstan for the first time in 2003 and held every three years. It confirms its prominent role in supporting initiatives for peace, tolerance and dialogue between leaders and followers of religions, based on the belief in the great role of religious leaders in spreading the voice of moderation to promote dialogue and combat religious intolerance, which some extremist organizations strive to achieve in societies.





## **Doha International Center for interfaith Dialogue in Qatar (DICID) participates in the International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) for All in London**

The International Ministerial Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) for All began on Tuesday morning July 5 at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre (QEICC) in London. The conference is taking place for two days, July 5 and 6, 2022, and is hosted by the UK government. The event builds on previous Ministerial-level conferences held by the United States in 2018 and 2019 and in virtual format by Poland in 2020.

The ceremony began with an opening speech by Charles, Prince of Wales, heir apparent to the British throne (via video), followed by a speech by Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (via video). This was followed by the speech of Lord Ahmed, who is responsible for organizing the conference. Many other notable figures spoke at the opening ceremony, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Issa, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, a number of representatives of various religions, and the British Foreign Secretary Mary Elizabeth Truss (Liz Truss).

All speakers at the opening ceremony emphasized religious freedom and the need to exercise it at all levels. The delegations of the State of Qatar at the conference are His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, Chairman of DICID, and Mr. Mohammed Al-Jabir Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of the State of Qatar in London.

The event calls for strengthened global action on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) for all. Speaking about the importance of attending the conference, Prof. Ibrahim said, “It is necessary for DICID to be part of this global gathering that brings together governments, parliamentarians, faith and belief representatives, and civil society to push for strengthened global action on freedom of religion or belief for all. For DICID has proven to the world the great role that the State of Qatar, represented in DICID, plays in spreading the culture of religious freedom.”

Commenting on DICID’s contribution to the conference, Prof. Ibrahim said, “The importance of this unique global event is not only to follow the latest reports from researchers, human rights organizations and other experts and leaders on this important issue, but also to share ideas and best possible actions to strengthen international efforts to ensure freedom of

religion or belief, and to develop clear plans, strategies, and roadmaps.”.

Furthermore, DICID’s contributions to the conference included shedding light on the need to take into account the nature of local cultures and the nature of the teachings and instructions of traditional religions themselves as

we work to ensure their freedom, Prof. Ibrahim said, “We discussed several relevant issues related to religious freedom at the conference, including the means to prevent religious freedom violations and abuses. We identified ways to protect and promote religious freedom around the world without forgetting the rights of local people to maintain their belief system and practice their religion as they are required to do according to the teachings of different religious traditions.

Lastly, Prof. Ibrahim said, “DICID looks forward to expanding the scope of its partnerships and making further efforts in collaboration with relevant organizations to create the broadest possible alliance to consolidate the issue of religious freedom. We will continue to work to achieve our goals and explore opportunities to apply new knowledge and approaches. We will also inspire the next generation to champion and defend freedom of religion or belief across the world”.



## Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi

### gives a presentation at a regional conference on “The Role of Religious Leaders and Actors in Combating Hate Speech

Within the framework of the international participation of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue in everything related to spreading the culture of dialogue and strengthening the role of the State of Qatar in combating hate speech and supporting all efforts aimed at enhancing the value of world peace, and at the invitation of the Office of the UN Human Rights Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) located in Lebanon, **His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim bin Saleh AlNaimi**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, delivered a keynote address at the regional conference on “**The Role of Religious Leaders and Actors in Combating Hate Speech**,” held on Thursday, September 1, 2022.

The paper His Excellency delivered at the fourth session of the conference dealt with “**Initiatives to Combat Hate Speech in the Arab Region**” and was entitled: “**The Initiatives of the State of Qatar and Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue to Combat Hate Speech**”; the paper addressed relevant initiatives in line with the “**Fez Process**,” where the “Fez Process” refers to a series of consultations organized by the United Nations Office for the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect between April 2015 and December 2016 with religious leaders, faith-based and secular organizations, regional organizations, and

experts from all regions of the world. The recommendations contained in the Action Plan were developed by the religious leaders and stakeholders who participated in these consultations.

Prof. Al-Naimi began his presentation with an introduction on the importance of the role of religious leaders and actors in combating hate speech, and then went into detail about the initiatives of the State of Qatar to combat hate speech, followed by the efforts and initiatives of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue in the same framework.

The paper concluded with a series of suggestions and recommendations for developing the role of religious institutions in combating hate speech, including: “Religious institutions must open up to the various institutions of society and cooperate with each other to spread a culture of tolerance, moderation and coexistence. Organizing conferences, seminars, workshops, and training courses in schools, universities, and youth meeting centers, and setting up youth camps or round tables involving academics, religious scholars, and influential figures in society and among the youth. And more attention to education about Dialogue, diversity, differences and coexistence.

His Excellency stressed the importance of continuing to hold such conferences through which “we can create a network of effective



relationships and partnerships aimed at crystallizing a common vision for collective action in promoting the values of tolerance, combating hatred and spreading a culture of peace in our societies, especially those that have suffered the scourge of various conflicts, so that they can return to the path of development and reconstruction.

It is worth noting that this conference took place in the framework of the Advocacy Week, with the participation of several parties and numerous activities organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with its

partners, to raise awareness and stimulate Dialogue on dealing with hate speech and promoting a culture of peaceful and effective social Dialogue on the role of religious leaders and actors in preventing the spread of hatred and combating incitement to it, by bringing together leaders and representatives of various actors in the Arab region to share knowledge and experiences among themselves. The conference will address the progress made in efforts by religious leaders and actors in the Arab region to combat hate speech and promote tolerance and respect for diversity.

## His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi Chairman of Doha International Center for interfaith Dialogue in Qatar (DICID), attends the IRF Summit in Washington DC



Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, Chairman of DICID, is participating in the IRF 2022 Summit, which is taking place in Washington for three days. The activities of the Summit started on Tuesday, June 28, continued on Wednesday, and will conclude on Thursday, June 30, 2022. The event was attended by a large number of active individuals and bodies from civil society organizations, human rights institutions, academics, researchers, and a group of religious leaders and decision-makers in related fields.

The presence of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, embodied in the participation of His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, is indeed an asset to the event and a valuable contribution to the Summit; Due to the great influence and remarkable role played by DICID at the

local, regional and global levels, as well as noting that the Center is the State of Qatar's platform for religious Dialogue, religious freedom, and peace building and that the Center is the State of Qatar's prominent interface for promoting the values of peace, tolerance, coexistence and spreading the culture of acceptance and pluralism, not to mention the Center's remarkable contributions at the global level in recent years. In addition, the Center is a partner of this summit. Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi said, "It is very important to work on achieving the goals of DICID, as it is also necessary to highlight the role of the State of Qatar in the field of religious freedom. Accordingly, we are pleased to be a partner in creating a strong coalition with organizations that advocate for religious freedom worldwide and aim to raise public awareness of the international movement for religious freedom. Prof. Ibrahim added, "The

importance of this summit is to look at the status of religious freedom in the world and create a platform for religious leaders, decision-makers, and civil society institutions to intensify efforts to maintain the positive points we have achieved so far on religious freedom and address the challenges that countries face on religious freedom.

This event of the International Religious Freedom Summit 2022 is about the report on religious freedom in the world and the characteristics of the countries of the world in creating an environment and regulations that allow all different parts of society, whether they are citizens or residents, to enjoy religious freedom, to follow and practice their faith and beliefs without coercion or persecution. Thus, the importance of this summit is not only for countries to recognize their efforts for religious freedom, but also to discover the latest research in this field to further develop religious freedom and reduce discrimination, hatred, persecution, and abuse of religion and religious symbols.

Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) has shared prominent messages recalling the typical efforts and activities it conducts. Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi said in his message, “We look forward to expanding the scope of partnerships and making more efforts in collaboration with relevant organizations to create the widest possible alliance to consolidate the issue of religious freedom in all parts of the world.” He added, “Creating an environment of religious freedom consolidates peace, contributes to the rejection of violence and hatred, and assists to limit the phenomenon of insulting and offending religions, as we see from time to time in some societies. He added: ((There is no doubt that this will serve our own societies, the Arab and Islamic communities, I mean to preserve our religion in our societies and to ensure that Muslims abroad will have more freedom to practice their faith in other communities, and we, in turn, offer freedom to expatriates to practice their religion in accordance with the principles of our religion and the laws of the state)).



## **Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi receives the chief executive officer of STIRLING Foundation at DICID headquarters**



Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi receives the chief executive officer of STIRLING Foundation at DICID headquarters

On Wednesday, August 10, His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi, Chairman of the Board of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) Qatar received Dr. Edward B. Rowe, CEO of Stirling Foundation and sponsor of “A Common Word Among the Youth (ACWAY), at DICID headquarters in Katara Cultural Village. The meeting was also attended via Zoom by Mr. Rawaad Mahyub, Executive Director at

ACWAY, Dr. Liliia Khasanova, Head of Operations of ACWAY, and a number of DICID staff.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi welcomed Dr. Edward and thanked him for visiting Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, and His Excellency briefed the guests on DICID’s main activities and events aimed at achieving its objectives and mission, focusing on the aspects that can open doors for cooperation with ACWAY, saying, “It is necessary to focus on youth activities in all



fields, as they are the next generation and the millstone of society, and they bear the responsibility for continuity and construction and are the bridge between generations. While DICID aims to promote peace, coexistence and dialogue in general, the role of youth as an active and positive element in this regard is also taken into account, and DICID has various activities aimed at young people in the fields of research, publication, culture, sports, courses, education, and educational travel and tours.”

On the other side, Dr. Edward thanked DICID for the opportunity to participate in the 14th International Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, which DICID hosted in Doha on May 24-25, 2022, “It was a great pleasure for him and his delegation to participate in the conference. It was a special event that paved the way to build a bridge of communication with DICID and discuss ways of cooperation.”

His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim and Dr. Edward discussed the possibility of cooperation and

partnership in launching the “Global Youth Dialogue Forum - Qatar 2023”, which aims to provide a platform for young people from around the world to enhance understanding between religions and cultures and share ideas, experiences and initiatives to promote understanding between religions and cultures. The forum also provides a space for training on dialogue and peacebuilding through intergenerational exchange workshops.

Prof. Ibrahim and Dr. Edward also talked about the importance of constructive cooperation aimed at achieving the goals of both parties. They also decided that this meeting will be followed by communication and other meetings to discuss aspects of practical partnership and exchange mechanisms and strategies for organizing activities and events related to youth and their role in spreading the culture of interfaith dialogue, acceptance of the other, coexistence and tolerance.



## Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi

**received Sweden Special Envoy to OIC and for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue at the DICID headquarter**



His excellency Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) Qatar, received Ms. Ulrika Sundberg, the Ambassador, Special Envoy to OIC and for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue (Department of Middle East and North Africa Stockholm, Sweden) at the DICID headquarter in Katara Cultural Village.

The meeting began with a warm welcoming by Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi to the distinguished guest Ms. Ulrika Sundberg, followed by a deep word of appreciation and thank for paying a special visit to the DICID. Meanwhile, Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi expressed DICID readiness to support the related focused and objective initiatives that aim at promoting coexistence and trust-building among followers of traditional religions, emphasizing the fact that the cooperation with similar bodies is among the DICID main objectives and targets in realizing its vision and

missions. On the other hand, Ms. Ulrika Sundberg also thanked Prof. Ibrahim for the opportunity, the distinctive welcoming, and for being one of the invitees to participate in the upcoming soon DICID 14th annual conference, to be held on May 24th – 25th 2022, which is about: “Religion and hate speech: scriptures teachings and reality”. Additionally, for further clarifying the conference objectives and expected findings, Prof. Ibrahim stated: “We continue working on building successful relations and an effective bridge of communication with countries, organizations, and religious leaders. We also spend efforts on spreading messages of peace, coexistence, tolerance, and interfaith dialogue to the whole world through our conference platforms from Doha – Qatar. We also aim in the conference to extend means of cooperation and partnership through shedding light on various topics and subjects associated with the conference title and in line with themes of the conference: Religion and hate speech: scriptures teachings and reality. Certainly, this will massively contribute thoroughly to instilling the culture of dialogue and promoting the values of coexistence”. H.E. Prof. Al-Naimi also added that despite the significance of the interfaith dialogue, and although Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue spares no efforts to disseminate awareness of coexistence through its numerous activities; the COVID 19 pandemic has proved the necessity of working together towards spreading human values of pluralism and mutual respect. It has also emphasized the significance of collective work to defeat unexpected phenomena challenging humanity as a whole.



## **Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi has received his Excellency Mr. Arman Issagaliyev, the ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, the undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Qatar; and the Chairman of the Board of Directors, of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID), Qatar has received his Excellency Mr. Arman Issagaliyev, the ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan at DICID headquarter in Katara Cultural Village.

His highness Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi has opened the visit with a warm welcoming to the honorable guest and his entourage. Dr. Ibrahim praised the distinctive cooperation between the two parties concerning interfaith engagements as well as the effective wonderful participation in the DICID annual conference by the participants from Kazakhstan. He has also added that the DICID will be very happy to see further participation from the religious leaders, intellectuals, and researchers from Kazakhstan in the upcoming soon DICID 14th annual conference on May 24th – 25th 2022, which is about: “Religion and hate speech: scriptures teachings and reality”.

Furthermore, Prof. Ibrahim appreciates a fact that Kazakhstan is one of the well-stable countries in the region, enjoying peace, stability, prosperity, and co-existence. It is also a very clear and notable fact that Kazakhstan as a country accepts pluralism and diversity of

culture. “Indeed, the capital city of Kazakhstan; Astana (Nur-Sultan previously) is exemplary and the newest in the world. Astana reflects multi-cultures, traditions, and backgrounds, as it is also a beautiful mixture of civilizations and religions living together and coexist peacefully under one roof” he said.

On the other side, his Excellency Mr. Arman Issagaliyev, the ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan has submitted an invitation letter to Prof. Ibrahim, welcoming him to attend the seventh international conference for local and international religious leaders. The conference is going to be held during 14 – 15 of September 2022. The conference has taken place for the first time in 2003, and it is organized every three years in Nur-Sultan city, and it is now a remarkable event and a role model of deepening the notion of cooperation and interfaith dialogue.

Besides, the main objectives of the conference are; to create a platform for dialogue in this unstable world, bring religions together through dialogue, support efforts of conflicts resolution, through peaceful means, reduce tensions of misunderstanding among adherents of the different religious traditions, as well as spending efforts in order to rectify misconnects that associate Muslims to terrorism.

## Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi receives the Ambassador of the Republic of Egypt at the DICID headquarters



His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim Saleh Al-Naimi, Chairman of the Board of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID) Qatar, received H.E. Mr. Amr Kamal El-Din El-Sherbiny, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the State of Qatar, at the headquarters of DICID at Katara Cultural Village.

His Excellency Prof. Ibrahim Al-Naimi opened the meeting by welcoming the Ambassador, Mr. El-Sherbiny and thanking him for his visit. He wished him success in his office and appreciated his willingness to cooperate in promoting the culture of dialogue and improving relevant issues and activities between DICID and cultural activities in which the Embassy is interested.

His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim expressed his pleasure for the participation of the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt in

the 14th Doha Conference for Interfaith Dialogue, entitled: “Religions and Hate Speech between Practice and Scriptures” organized by Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue on May 24-25, 2022 at the Sheraton Hotel. The participation of the delegation contributed to the success of the conference as various internationally and locally known official bodies were present. He stated, “We are pleased with the participation of the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the conference, which left a positive impression and made a scientific contribution to the success of the conference and its activities. Special thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Endowments, as well as Al-Azhar and the General Secretariat for Fatwas and Institutions in the World. The personal presence of Al-Azhar Undersecretary Dr. Muhammad Abdul Rahman Al-Dhawini and



his contributions were a special feature of the event.” He wished for more scientific and interactive activities between the center and Egypt.

For his part, the Ambassador, Mr. El-Sherbiny, expressed his pleasure for this visit and his meeting with the Chairman of the Board of DICID, “which contributes in the field of dialogue, bridge building and education in the State of Qatar.” His Excellency the Ambassador praised the great success of the 14th Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue held last week “as it was an important and effective event that left a wonderful impression, and it was an opportunity to meet with the Egyptian delegation and participants from Egypt, as well as many experts and leaders at the local, regional and global levels,” he said. He added that the conference was characterized by the diversity of participants at all levels,

reflecting the good selection criteria of participants and the accuracy of scientific standards in the study of research papers and works presented.

The Ambassador, Mr. El-Sherbiny, presented the award of the “General Secretariat of Fatwa Bodies in the World” to His Excellency the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Al-Naimi, on behalf of Dr. Ibrahim Najm, Advisor to the Mufti of the Republic and Secretary-General of the “General Secretariat of Fatwa Bodies in the World”, as an expression of the great success and outstanding efforts of DICID and in appreciation of its contributions in the field of dialogue, tolerance and spreading the culture of coexistence, pluralism, and acceptance of the other, which are among the most important principles of Islam in dealing with the other.

## Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue signs four memoranda of understanding with international institutions at the closing ceremony of the 14th Doha Conference for Interfaith Dialogue, May 2022

Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue signed four memoranda of understanding with international institutions under the title (Religions and Hate Speech...Between Practice and Scriptures) at the closing ceremony of the 14th Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue held in Doha on May 24-25, 2022.

DICID recognizes that a variety of these institutions in different countries are necessary to achieve DICID's goals of expanding its relationships and building bridges of cooperation and understanding among adherents of religions, cultures, and civilizations throughout the world, building capacity in the area of dialogue, the culture of peace, and acceptance of others, and activating religious values to address issues



and problems that affect humanity and to address aspects of life's interaction with religion.

The first of these institutions to sign a memorandum of understanding was a European institution, the Muslim League in the Republic

of Poland, represented by Dr. Abdul-Jabbar Ahmad al-Kubaisi, the Secretary General of the Islamic Association and Director of the Warsaw Center. He works in solidarity with other Islamic centers to achieve common goals by conducting various visits, delivering lectures in schools and universities, and participating in various events and conferences.

The second institution came from Africa, namely from the Republic of Mali. DICID signed a memorandum of understanding with the Per-



manent Secretariat for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, represented by Mr. Jobero Diallo, the Secretary-General. This is an institution specialized in national policy to prevent and counter extremism and terrorism, attached to the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Customs. It is also tasked with ensuring the technical coordination of the Lead Committee and the Coordination Committee and evaluating the national policy on preventing and countering extremism and terrorism.

Another memorandum of understanding was signed with a third institution from the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Nazarbayev Center for the Development of Dialogue between Religions and Civilizations, represented by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Bulat Sarsenbayev. It is an international institution established by the first President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, with the aim of seeking common points of convergence and humanitarian milestones between religions and cultures for peace.


At the closing ceremony of the 14th Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in May 2022, DICID also signed the fourth Memorandum of Understanding with an academic scientific institution in the United States of America,

Brigham Young University. It is a non-profit institution engaged in higher education. It is a private research college located in Provo, Utah, USA. It was founded in 1875 by religious leader Brigham Young and is sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church). Its goal is to strengthen the spiritual aspect of education, expand the intellectual realm of education, and build a human personality that leads to lifelong learning and service.

These Memoranda of Understanding are based on the intention of both parties to achieve their common goals and to exchange benefits and experiences in the field of scientific and academic expertise; considering that Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue in the State of Qatar is an international center that strives to spread the culture of interfaith dialogue.




The main points of these memoranda of understanding are coordination and joint support in organizing conferences and symposia; conducting workshops and training courses; publishing books, research papers and projects, and other academic publications; and developing capacity in the areas of interreligious dialog, comparative studies, peace studies, and convergence of civilizations, as well as exchanges of researchers and staff between the two institutions.







Sport is a unique and powerful tool for promoting dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of every member of the human family. It is a driving force for positive social change.




**Ban Ki-moon**  
secretary-general of the United Nations  
(2007 - 2016)

Sport teaches honesty, integrity, humility, professionalism, discipline, work ethics, overcoming adversity, teamwork and above all – sportsmanship and a respect for your opponent.






“ Exercise is man's best protection against disease and the most effective treatment for diseases that plague the human body and mind. Scientists have come to the conclusion that exercise prevents the mental deterioration of man in old age. Regular exercise is an effective way to improve memory and develop mental abilities. ”


“ In today's reality, sport has become a means of getting to know people, uniting nations, and bringing the policies of states and governments closer together, and «sport affects and is affected by society, just as society affects and is affected by sport.» ”

**Prof. Ihsan Muhammad Al-Hassan**  
Book (Sociology of Sport)





«Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.»



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**Nelson Mandela**



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Sport is a universal language. At its best it can bring people together, no matter what their origin, background, religious beliefs or economic status.

**Kofi Annan**  
 secretary-general of the United Nations  
 (1997 - 2006)





## Article of this issue

### Religion And Sports

The human being – undoubtedly – has been the primary focus in religion; his soul and physical body, and just as the goodness of a person is spiritually superior to his faith, it also transcends his physical strength. This comprehensive view of human health, both spiritually and physically, makes (sports) an effective means for building and strengthening the human body; an important requirement that religion calls for and urges, not only as entertainment. Therefore, the status of sports, in reality, is not only related to human physical health. It is also connected to his psyche, behavior and morals.

Sports or physical activity is one of the most important aspects that affect the soul and mental health of a person before it affects the body. Through it, the ethics of honesty, integrity, humility, discipline, patience, and teamwork can be rooted in a person, in addition to respect for the other, even if it is a competitor. This is a clear matter that can not be denied with the eye or with the mind.

In a world where hate speech and the clash of civilizations can dominate most minds, attract attention, and influence others, and in a time when we are witnessing the escalation of differences and conflicts at all levels, we recognize that one of the most profound forms of change that can be achieved in our world is to bring people of different cultures, races, colors, and religions together on the basis of a common human principle through which their differences are honored and coexistence and affection are achieved.

Perhaps through sport we can eliminate the corruption of fanaticism and instead achieve harmony, peace, coexistence, dialogue and acceptance of the other. Sport has the potential to be a great soft power, capable of addressing the most complex humanitarian problems that political or economic forces have been unable to solve.

**Dr. Ahmed Abdelreheem**