# Global Interreligious Council Directory

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> \* The bulk of the data on national religious demographies have been derived from the following sources: Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures Project, United States State Department, IndexMundi, Statista, and World Population Review. There is currently a call to ensure that we can upgrade the data using national sources.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Please note that the IRC Directory is a living document and will be expanded and updated with new information where appropriate. Questions or concerns can be forwarded to <a href="mailto:info@rfp.org">info@rfp.org</a>.

#### **ASIA**

Asian Conference of Religions for Peace

Religions for Peace Australia

Religions for Peace Bangladesh

Religions for Peace Cambodia

Religions for Peace China

Religions for Peace Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Religions for Peace India

Religions for Peace Indonesia

Religions for Peace Japan

Religions for Peace Kyrgyzstan

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Religions for Peace Pakistan

Religions for Peace Philippines

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Religions for Peace Europe Council of Religious Leaders

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Religions for Peace Belgium

Religions for Peace Bosnia and Herzegovina

Religions for Peace Bulgaria

Religions for Peace Finland

Religions for Peace France

Religions for Peace Germany

Religions for Peace Italy

**Religions for Peace Netherlands** 

Religions for Peace Romania

Religions for Peace Russia

Religions for Peace Spain

**Religions for Peace United Kingdom** 

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Religions for Peace Ireland (In Formation)

#### LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

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Religions for Peace Argentina

Religions for Peace Brazil

Religions for Peace Chile

Religions for Peace Colombia

Religions for Peace Costa Rica

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Religions for Peace Guatemala

Religions for Peace Guyana

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Religions for Peace Panama

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Religions for Peace Barbados (In Formation)

Religions for Peace Bolivia (In Formation)

Religions for Peace Cuba (In Formation)

Religions for Peace Dominican Republic (In Formation)

Religions for Peace Ecuador (In Formation)

Religions for Peace Nicaragua (In Formation)

Religions for Peace Puerto Rico (In Formation)

Religions for Peace Uruguay (In Formation)

Religions for Peace Venezuela (In Formation)

#### MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

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## AFRICA



# African Council of Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace

Official Name of IRC: African Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace (ACRL-RfP)

**Secretary General:** Dr. Francis Kuria **Address:** 5 Mararo Ave.

P.O Box 6352-00200 Nairobi, Kenya

Website: <a href="www.acrl-rfp.org">www.acrl-rfp.org</a> / <a href="mailto:Twitter">Twitter</a> <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a> / <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a> / <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">Twitter</a> <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a> / <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a> / <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a> <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a> <a href="mailto:secretariat">www.acrl-rfp.org</a> <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a> <a href="mailto:secretariat">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a> <a href="mailto:secretariat">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a> <a href="mailto:secretariat">secretariat</a> <a href="m

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Building external capacities through the formation, rejuvenation and strengthening of National Interreligious Councils, Women of Faith Networks (WOFNs), Interfaith Youth Networks (IYNs) and regional hubs
- Strengthening ACRL internal capacities, such as organisational structures and human resources, to undertake programmematic interventions effectively and efficiently
- Holding interreligious peace training and dialogue sessions to empower religious leaders, WOFNs and IYNs
  across the continent to prevent conflict and build a resilient culture of peace
- Counteracting radicalisation, violent extremism and the misuse of religion

- Advocating for the general disarmament of all weapons of destruction and the universal implementation of regional and international treaties relating to disarmament, such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- Advancing inclusive democracy and good governance by encouraging religious leaders to enhance their engagement in electoral processes, strengthen accountable leadership and reinforce virtues in society Nurturing a sustainable environment through
  - Contributing to the movement towards a global, inclusive green economy by supporting Sustainable Development Goals

#### Constituency:

ACRL-Religions for Peace is comprised of 10 Pan-African Religious Coordinating Bodies (RCBs), five sub-regional networks, 30 National Interreligious Councils (NIRCs), the Africa Women of Faith Network (AWFN) and the Africa Interfaith Youth Network (AIYN). The Council has representation from Africa Traditional Religion, Bahá'í, Christian, Hindu and Muslim faith families. The five regional platforms are: the hub of Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Indian Ocean Island Countries, Southern Africa and Western Africa.

The RCBs include: African Forum for Muslim Councils, All Africa Conference of Churches, Association of Evangelicals in Africa, Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa, Hindu Council of Africa, Organisation of African Instituted Churches, Seventh Day Adventist Church East-Central Africa Division, Symposium of Episcopal Conference in Africa & Madagascar and World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation – Africa.

The 30 NIRCs include: *Religions for Peace* Benin, Proposed Interreligious Council Botswana, Conseil Interreligieux pour la Paix au Burkina Faso (Interfaith Council of Peace in Burkina Faso), *Religions for Peace* Burundi, Camerounaise pour le Dialogue Interreligieux (The Cameroonian Association for Interreligious Dialogue, ACADIR), Interreligious Council of Central African Republic, *Religions for Peace* Comoros (Working Group), Forum National des Confessions Religieuses de Côte d'Ivoire (National Forum of Religious Confessions of Cote d'Ivoire), Interreligious Council of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development Dialogue and Action, Ghana Conference of *Religions for Peace*, Conseil National Interreligieux de Guinée (National Interreligious Council of Guinea), Interreligious Council of Kenya, Interreligious Council of Liberia, Forum for Religious Leaders and Faith Organisations in Madagascar, Malawi Public Affairs Committee, Council of Religions of Mauritius, Council of Religions of Mozambique, Nigeria Interreligious Council, Groupe de Dialogue Interreligieuse de la Réunion (Reunion Island Interreligious Dialogue Group), Interfaith Commission of Rwanda, Interfaith Committee of Seychelles, Interreligious Council of Sierra Leone, *Religions for Peace* South Africa, Interreligious Council of South Sudan (Working Group), Sudan Interreligious Council of Uganda, Zambia Interfaith Networking Group.

**Women of Faith Network:** First launched in 2003, the Africa Women of Faith Network (AWFN) was rejuvenated in 2016 during the 3rd ACRL-*Religions for Peace* General Assembly, where the Executive Committee of the Network was elected. AWFN members are influential decision makers in advocacy efforts and initiatives, advancing the objectives of the Council within faith communities. AWFN engages Christian, Islamic, Bahá'í, Hindu and Africa Traditional Religion communities from the ACRL-*Religions for Peace* regional coordinating bodies, NIRCs and other Pan-African women faith based organisations. AWFN is fully integrated in the implementation of activities in all strategic priority areas of the Council, dependent on the programme's availability of funds. There are five active AWFN projects.

Contact: Ms. Linnet Ng'ayu, Institutional Strengthening Advisor ( <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a> / AWFN Website )

Interfaith Youth Network: The African Interfaith Youth Network (AIYN) is the youth platform of ACRL-Religions for Peace and the regional representation of the Global Interfaith Youth Network of Religions for Peace. The Network encourages religious youth to promote just and harmonious societies on the continent. AIYN was rejuvenated during the 3rd ACRL-Religions for Peace General Assembly in 2016, where officials of the Executive Committee of the Network were elected. AIYN engages Christian, Islamic, Bahá'í, Hindu and African Traditional Religion representatives from the ACRL-Religions for Peace regional coordinating bodies, NIRCs and other youth-focused faith organisations. AIYN is involved in the implementation of activities — including capacity building and advocacy — in all the strategic objectives areas of the Council, dependent on the programme's availability of funds.

 $Contact: Ms. \ Linnet \ Ng'ayu, \ Institutional \ Strengthening \ Advisor \ (\ \underline{secretariat@acrl-rfp.org} \ / \ AIYN \ \underline{Website} \ )$ 

## Religions for Peace Benin

**Religious Demography:** 18.1% African Traditional Religions (Including Vodou), <1% Buddhist, 29.7% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 23.8% Muslim (Predominantly Sunni), <1% Orthodox Christian, <1% Other Christian, <1% Other Religions, 23.0% Protestant, 5.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Benin / Religions for Peace Benin

Secretary General: Mr. Radji Adegbele Saibou

Website: www.acrl-rfp.org

**Email:** secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Strengthening the capacity of religious leaders to raise awareness about social issues and lobby for human rights issues
- Committing to the Religions for Peace's "Arms Down!" Campaign for Shared Security to abolish nuclear weapons
- Leading violent conflict resolution efforts through religious representation in the <u>International Meeting of</u>
   Prayer for Peace of Tirana
- Campaigning for public health issues, such as HIV/AIDS
- Advocating for the implementation of sustainable development policies

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Campaigning to stop deforestation, conserve natural resources, and raise awareness about the medicinal plant benefits

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Informally partnering with United Religions Initiative Africa to resolve conflict and alleviate poverty and HIV/AIDS

#### Constituency:

Anglican Church, Associations et Organisations des Religion Endogenes du Littoral, Celestial Christian Church (Eglise du Christianisme Celeste), International Sufi Alawiyya Association - Benin (Association Internationale Soufie Alawiyya - Benin), Islamic Foundation of Fii Sabilahi Charity (Fondation Islamique du Charite Fii Sabilahi), Kimbaguist Church, La Jama'at Islamique Ahmadiyya – Benin, Methodist Protestant Church of Benin (Eglise Protestante Methodiste du Benin), Roman Catholic Church (Eglise Catholique Romaine), Union of Muslim Women of Benin (Union des Femmes Musulmanes du Benin), Vodou National Community of Benin (Communaute National du Culte Voudoun du Bénin), Yehwe Vodou Congregation (Congregation Voudoun Yehwe)

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Benin's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was formed in 2010 and has 10 Christian, Muslim and Vodoun representatives. Programmes focus on gender-based issues, International Women's Day and HIV/AIDS.

Contact: Mme Tairat, President of the Religions for Peace Bénin Women's Committee ( secretariat@acrl-rfp.org )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Benin's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was formed in 2010 and has 12 Christian, Muslim and Vodoun youth representatives. Activities focus on peacebuilding and youth interfaith dialogue through events such as interfaith sporting competitions.

Contact: Abdul Dayane Ibikanmi, Vice President of the *Religions for Peace* Bénin Youth Committee ( <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a>)

## Religions for Peace Burkina Faso

**Religious Demography:** 15.4% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 18.5% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 61.6% Muslim (Predominantly Sunni), 4.1% Protestant, <1% Other Religions, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Conseil Interreligieux pour la Paix au Burkina Faso (Interfaith Council of Peace in Burkina Faso)

Secretary General: Imam Alidou Ilboudo

Website: <a href="www.acrl-rfp.org">www.acrl-rfp.org</a> / Facebook
Email: <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Contributing to the <u>International Day for Religious Tolerance</u> to curb violence and extremism, advance social cohesion and promote freedom of conscience and religion
- Providing a space for interreligious and inclusive dialogue
- Coordinating conferences to build the peacebuilding capacities of religious leaders
- Creating awareness about public health measures to curb the spread of COVID-19

#### Constituency:

Burkina-Niger Episcopal Conference, Catholic Church of Burkina Faso, Christian Communities, CIRP/BF Interreligious Peace Council in Burkina, Muslim Communities, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Burkina Faso's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was established in August 2019 and includes Christian and Muslim representatives. Activities range from interfaith dialogue, humanitarian assistance to women, refugee aid, peace programmes and responsible citizenship programmes.

Contact: Ouattara Habiboud, WOFN President ( secretariat@acrl-rfp.org )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Since August 2019, *Religions for Peace* Burkina Faso's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) has grown to include approximately 500 young people from Catholic, Islamic and Evangelical religious traditions. Programmeming incorporates educational and collaborative initiatives to foster interfaith dialogue, good governance.

Contact: Kogo Vincent, Interfaith Youth Network President (secretariat@acrl-rfp.org)

## Religions for Peace Burundi

**Religious Demography:** 5.7% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 65.3% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 2.3% Muslim (Ismaili, Shia, Sunni), 26.2% Protestant, <1% Other Religions, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: The Interreligious Council of Burundi / Religions for Peace Burundi

Secretary General: Mr. Isidore Hakizimana Website: www.acrl-rfp.org

Email: religionsforpeaceburundi@gmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Facilitating interreligious and inter-cultural dialogues, reconciliation and collaborative social justice reform efforts
- Campaigning for democratic governance, political participation, increased civic education and governmental stability in partnership with the UN Democracy Fund
- Ensuring secure and peaceful 2020 elections as religious leaders urge media outlets to refrain from publishing unsubstantiated statements or derogatory remarks about politicians, political views and election issues
- Instituting an interfaith platform for social cohesion funded by Christian Aid Burundi in Bujumbura Mayorship
- Mobilising high-level religious leaders to <u>promote children's rights</u>, <u>development initiatives and bahavioural</u> <u>change measures</u> to fight against youth malnutrition in partnership with UNICEF

Advancing gender equality through

- Implementing the Communities Richer in Diversity project to leverage the influence of faith leaders and
  institutions to promote cultural diversity and respect for the equal dignity of men and women
- Championing women's empowerment and working to stop gender-based violence

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

Supporting religious leaders in advocating for sustainable development issues

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Partnering with USAID and Catholic Relief Services to advance post-election conflict resolution and social cohesion
- Hosting interreligious public forums with 50+ religious leaders, civil society organisations, international nongovernmental organisations and government leaders to systematically address the reintegration of refugees and conflict-inducing land disputes

#### Constituency:

Anglican Communities, Catholic Church Evariste, Evangelical Church of Burundi, Methodist Communities Lutherans Communities, Muslim Community of Burundi, National Council of Churches of Burundi (Protestant)

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Burundi's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) engages over 2,000 Catholic, Muslim and Protestant members. Programmes focus on women's empowerment and development, preventing gender-based violence, women's leadership and addressing social justice issues. The WOFN is working to establish a new leadership committee.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Burundi does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Burundi actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes related to interfaith peacebuilding, addressing youth political rights, social justice issues and youth entrepreneurship and development.

#### Partnerships:

Catholic Relief Services, Christian Aid Burundi, International Christian Peace Service, Muslim Council of Burundi, Norwegian Church Aid, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, United Nations Democracy Fund, United Nations Development Programme, United States Agency for International Development

## Religions for Peace Cameroon

**Religious Demography:** 3.3% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 38.3% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 18.3% Muslim, 2.7% Other Religions, 31.4% Protestant, 5.3% Unaffiliated

**Official Name of IRC:** *Religions for Peace* Cameroon / The Cameroonian Association for Interreligious Dialogue (ACADIR)

Secretary General: Abbé Etienne Etoundi Essama

Website: www.acadir.org / www.acadir.cm / ACRL Website / Facebook

Email: info@acadir.cm

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Mobilising concerted interreligious efforts against all forms of violence, injustice and desecration of human life
- Organising training workshops on interreligious dialogue and facilitating discussions among religious communities to promote peace, harmony and social progress in Cameroon
- Connecting with the broader population through newsletters to share information about "telespirituality" through digital tools such as Zoom and WhatsApp amid the COVID-19 pandemic

Strengthening interreligious education through

Hosting events, such as the National Episcopal Conference of Cameroon, which gathered religious leaders
from various faith traditions to speak about key tenets of their respective religions and inspire interreligious
collaboration

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Forming a consultation body to address issues that concern the religious and ethical aspects of the ACADIR members in its mission to serve as a mediator of interfaith dialogue

#### **Constituency:**

Cameroon Council of Protestant Churches, Cameroon Islamic Cultural Association, Cameroon National Episcopal Conference, Council of Dignitaries and Imams of Cameroon, Higher Islamic Council of Cameroon (CSIC), Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa, Yaoundé Orthodox Archdiocese Pentecostals, Seventh-day Adventists

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Cameroon's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was established in 2019 and includes Catholic, CEPCA, Muslim and Yaoundé Orthodox Archdiocese representatives. The WOFN's programmes focus on interfaith dialogue, women's empowerment projects and charitable activities. Both women and youth are also involved in broader ACADIR activities on the national IRC level.

Contact: Malla Bertha, Head of Women's ACADIR/WOFN Assistant (info@acadir.cm)

Interfaith Youth Network: Religions for Peace Cameroon's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 2015 and includes Catholic, CEPCA, Muslim and Yaoundé Orthodox Archdiocese representatives. The IYN's programmes focus on tree plantation, fostering youth interreligious dialogue and youth entrepreneurship.

## Religions for Peace Cote d'Ivoire

**Religious Demography:** 10.2% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 21.1% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 37.5% Muslim, <1% Other Religions, 22.3% Protestant, 8.0% Unaffiliated

**Official Name of IRC:** Forum National des Confessions Religieuses de Côte d'Ivoire (National Forum of Religious Confessions of Cote d'Ivoire)

Secretary General: Imam Kone Ibrahim

Website: <a href="www.acrl-rfp.org">www.acrl-rfp.org</a> / Facebook
Email: <a href="mailto:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org">secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Advocating for peaceful elections and partnering with USAID and the Office of Transition Initiatives to build
  the capacity of religious leaders as influencers of peace to maintain social cohesion
- Organising seminars and training sessions on conflict prevention and methods of preventing retaliatory violence
- Mobilising religious leaders to emphasize shared interreligious values while <u>condemning violent political</u>
   <u>conflict</u>, the use of armed force for political ends, destruction of private and public property and the loss of human life
- Condemning terrorism and advancing peaceful collaboration and religious pluralism in society
- Teaching peace and tolerance through <u>regional youth educational seminars and trainings</u>
- Championing interreligious solidarity and supporting constituent communities by attending fundraising ceremonies and events, such as the launch the Catholic Church of Côte d'Ivoire radio

#### **Constituency:**

Bahá'í Communities, Buddhist Communities, Catholic Communities, Christian Communities, Church of Celestial Christianity, Evangelical Communities, Methodist Communities, Muslim Communities, Spiritual Ministry of the Soldiers of God of Cote d'Ivoire for the Deliverance of the World, The Harrist Church, The Unification of Churches

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Côte d'Ivoire's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was established in 1994 and has 28 members representing Bahá' í, Buddhist, Christian and Muslim communities. Programmes focus on advocacy for women's issues, peacebuilding training and the reintegration of women and young people.

Contact: (associationdesfemmesreligieuse@gmail.com)

Interfaith Youth Network: Religions for Peace Côte d'Ivoire's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was formed in 2011 and has 1,500 members from Catholic, Buddhist, Evangelical, Methodist and Muslim communities and from the Revealed Churches of Africa. Youth programmeming focuses on interreligious dialogue and education, peacebuilding training and environmental protection efforts.

Contact: Deacon Jean Boris Houlonon, *Religions for Peace* Côte d'Ivoire's IYN Representative (jeunesse.fncr.ci@gmail.com)

## Religions for Peace Democratic Republic of the Congo

**Religious Demography:** <1% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 47.3% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 1.5% Muslim, <1% Other Religions, 1.8% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of the Democratic Republic of Congo (IRC-DRC)

Secretary General: Rev. Kinyamba Lunge Armand

Website: www.acrl-rfp.org

Email: secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Facilitating interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding efforts to prevent and transform conflict
- Advancing integral human development

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Mobilising the country's major faith bodies to partner with the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, which aims to bring moral urgency and spiritual resources to the global efforts to end tropical deforestation

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Lobbying the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and advocating for general awareness on nuclear disarmament and small and light weapon disarmament

#### Constituency:

African Traditional Faith Communities, Anglican Church DRC, Bahá'í Faith DRC, Catholic Church, Church of Revivals, Kimbaguist Church, Muslim Community of the DRC, The Independent Church

**Women of Faith Network:** The Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was formed in 2006 and has representation from Catholic, Protestant, Kimbaguist, Church of Revivals, the Independent Church, Islamic, Bahá'í and African Traditional Faith communities. The WOFN's programmes focus on gender-based violence, the environment, maternal health and peace consolidation efforts.

Contact: Thérèse Bimpa Abulukayi, Network Coordinator of Women of Faith and Children ( secretariat@acrl-rfp.org )

Interfaith Youth Network: The Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was formed in 2010 and has 5,000 members representing Catholic, Protestant, Kimbaguist, Church of Revivals, the Independent Church, Islamic, Bahá'í and African Traditional Faith communities. The IYN's programmes focus on the environment, peace and justice, employment and training, HIV/AIDS and preventing child exploitation.

Contact: Christian Lupemba ( secretariat@acrl-rfp.org )

## Religions for Peace Ethiopia

**Religious Demography:** 2.6% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 34.6% Muslim, 43.1% Orthodox Christian, <1% Other Religion, 19.0% Protestant, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development Dialogue and Action (EIFDDA)

Executive Director:Mr. Jihad KenoWebsite:eifdda.et / eifdda.orgEmail:info@eifdda.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Ensuring social accountability through the influence and mobilization efforts of senior religious leaders
- Supporting good governance; fair legal frameworks and the full protection of human rights, particularly those
  of minorities
- Curbing the effects of HIV/AIDS through preventative measures
- Promoting value-based developmental dialogue and action
- Committing to the integration of the core values of Integrity, Diversity, Mutual respect, Dignity,
   Love/Inclusiveness, Nonviolence, and Trustworthiness throughout the implementation of the IRC's mission
   Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through
  - Building the capacity of member FBOs, and creating conducive environments for sustainable collaboration

#### Constituency:

Ethiopian Catholic Church, Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekan Yesus-Development and Social Service Commission, Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council-Ethiopian Muslims Development Association, Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church, Ethiopian Meserete Kristos Rural Development Agency, Ethiopian Mulu Wengel Amagnoch Church Development Organisation, Ethiopian Muslims Development Agency, Ethiopian Muslims Relief and Development Association, Ethiopian Orthodox Church Child and Family Affairs Organisation, Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development Interchurch Aid Commission, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í of Ethiopia

**Women of Faith Network:** EIFDDA established the Women of Faith Network (WOFN) in 2013 with representation from all constituent religions. Programmes focus on peacebuilding, reproductive health issues and HIV/AIDS.

Contact: Medihanit Mamo, ( info@eifdda.org )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** The Ethiopian Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was formed in 2013 and has 20 members representing various religious traditions including Bahá'í, Catholic, Muslim, Orthodox and Protestant communities. Programmeming focuses on peacebuilding, conflict resolution and health initiatives.

Contact: Hadi Nesru ( info@eifdda.org )

#### Partnerships:

Karuna Center, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

## Religions for Peace Ghana

**Religious Demography:** 4.9% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 12.9% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 15.8% Muslim (Ahmadiyya, Shia, Sufi and Sunni), 1.1% Other Christian, <1% Other Religions, 60.8% Protestant, 4.2% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Ghana Conference of Religion for Peace (GCRP)

Executive Secretary: Hajj Muhammad Amir Kpakpo Addo

Website: <a href="www.acrl-rfp.org">www.acrl-rfp.org</a> / Facebook Email: <a href="gcrp2007@yahoo.com">gcrp2007@yahoo.com</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Chairing the HIV/AIDS Programme, Hope for African Children Initiative Ghana CPC, with special attention to assist HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children
- Engaging in national and sub-regional peacebuilding initiatives, including regional solidarity visits and conflict mediation
- Serving as a diplomatic mediator between minority political parties and the Electoral Commission of Ghana to end political stalemate and restore national peace

#### Constituency:

Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission Ghana, Christian Council of Ghana, Council of African Instituted Churches, Council of Independent Churches, Federation of Muslim Councils, Ghana, Ghana Catholic Bishops Conference, Ghana Pentecostal and Charismatic Council, National Association of Charismatic and Christian Churches, Office of the National Chief Imam

**Women of Faith Network:** The Women of Faith Network (WOFN) derives its membership from the various GCRP constitutive religious organisations. The WOFN was formed in 2008 and has 200 members representing Christian, Islamic and Indigenous communities. Programmes focus on capacity building in entrepreneurship and issues related to HIV/AIDS.

Contact: Rev. (Mrs.) Grace Agbotse, Coordinator (gcrp2007@yahoo.com)

Interfaith Youth Network: The Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) derives its membership from the various GCRP constitutive religious organisations. The IYN was formed in 2008 and has 120 members representing Christian, Islamic and African Traditional Religion communities. Programmes focus on youth empowerment, menstrual hygiene awareness, capacity building and HIV/AIDS education.

Contact: Ms. Mirian Akuaba De-Souza, Youth Coordinator (gcrp2007@yahoo.com)

## Religions for Peace Guinea

**Religious Demography:** 2.7% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 7.5% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 84.4% Muslim (Sufi and Sunni), <1% Other Religions, 3.4% Protestant, 1.8% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Conseil National Interreligieux de Guinée (National Interreligious Council of Guinea)

Secretary General: Madame Cissé Hadja Mariama Sow

Website: www.acrl-rfp.org

Email: secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Contributing to national reconciliation in Guinea during political crises in 2010 and 2015 and to multireligious peace dialogue in Liberia
- Building the capacity of religious leaders through interreligious trainings on human rights and conflict prevention
- Educating religious communities and advocating for public health measures to curb the spread of COVID-19
   Nurturing a sustainable environment through
  - Planting thousands of trees in specific areas to combat global warming

#### Constituency:

Christian Council, Coordination of Guinean Muslim Women, Islamic Council, Muslim Women of Guinea, Union of Women Ulama of Guinea

**Women of Faith Network:** The National Interreligious Council of Guinea's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was established in 2004 and includes over 70 affiliated Muslim and Christian women's groups, as well as Muslim, Catholic, Protestant, Anglican and African Traditional Religion representatives. The WOFN incorporates direct involvement in families and mobilizes feminist structures to better support the idea of living together. Programmes focus on family planning and maternal health, peacebuilding, education, gender-based violence and family relationships.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Guinea does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Guinea actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes related to interreligious education and environmental protection campaigns. Youth are engaged in quarterly training sessions.

## Religions for Peace Kenya

**Religious Demography:** 1.7% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 22.1% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 9.7% Muslim, 1.6% Orthodox Christian, 1.4% Other Christian, 1.2% Other Religions, 59.6% Protestant, 2.5% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Kenya (IRCK)

**Executive Director:** Dr. Francis Kuria Address: 5 Mararo Ave.

P.O Box 6352-00200 Nairobi, Kenya

Website: <u>interreligiouscouncil.or.ke/ Twitter / Facebook</u>

Email: <a href="mailto:info@irck.or.ke">info@irck.or.ke</a> / <a href="mailto:info@irck.or.ke">info@irck.or.ke</a> / <a href="mailto:info@irck.or.ke">info@irck.or.ke</a> / <a href="mailto:info@irck.or.ke">info.interreligiouscouncil@gmail.com</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Implementing the Social Intelligence Reporting project with support from Porticus to promote national reconciliation, reform and accelerated service delivery in Kenya through national dialogue and interfaith cooperation
- Encouraging religious leaders to preach against corruption, promote ethical bahaviour, practice societal values and demand the proper allocation of national COVID-19 relief funds
- Building the capacity of religious leaders and congregations to address maternal neonatal child health, improved nutrition, HIV/AIDS and sexual/reproductive health issues through the AFYA TIMIZA project, conducted in partnership with Amref Health Africa

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

- Implementing the Haki Madini Kenya project to ensure responsible stewardship of mining resources, demanding corporate accountability of investing companies in compensation of land issues and utilising interreligious leaders to build capacities of women and youth to benefit from mining sector success
- Encouraging religious leaders and their constituent communities to engage in afforestation and reforestation
- Mobilising calls for massive consumer goods companies to reject unnecessary throwaway plastics amid increased volumes of waste disposal from the COVID-19 pandemic

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

 Partnering with Mensen met een Missie and Kenya Community Support Centre to implement the "Freedom of Religion and Belief" project," increasing respect for and protection of religious minorities

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

Partnering with Norwegian Church Aid, the national Ministry of Health and other CSO and private sector
partners to implement the Interfaith Response to COVID-19 project, publicising WHO guidelines and
disseminating messages of hope to the Kenyan public through e-posters, audio and video recordings from
various religious leaders

#### Constituency:

Evangelical Alliance of Kenya, Hindu Council of Kenya, Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops, National Council of Churches of Kenya, National Muslim Leaders Forum, Organisation of African Instituted Churches, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims

**Women of Faith Network:** The Interreligious Council of Kenya's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was established in 2003 and has 1000 members, including representatives from each of its constituent bodies. Programmes focus on peace and governance, health and well-being and climate change.

Contact: Mrs. Phyllis Kamau, Chairlady of KWFN (info@irck.or.ke)

Interfaith Youth Network: The Interreligious Council of Kenya's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 2008 and has 1,000 members including representatives from each of its constituent bodies. Programmes focus on peace and governance, health and well-being and the environment/climate change. IRCK also <a href="https://www.netword

Contact: Mr. Philbert Aganyo, Chairperson of KIYN ( info@irck.or.ke )

#### Partnerships:

Amref Health Africa, Diakonia, Kenya Communist Support Centre, *Mensen met een Missie*, Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa, Porticus, Sida Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, United Nations Children's Fund, U.S. Agency for International Development AFYA TIMIZA, USA Marafiki

## Religions for Peace Liberia

**Religious Demography:** <1.0% African Traditional Religions (Bodio, Kui, Poro and Sande), <1% Buddhist, 7.2% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 12.0% Muslim, 1.6% Other Christian, <1% Other Religions, 76.3% Protestant, 1.4% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Liberia

Secretary General:Sheikh Musa Mohammed BambaWebsite:www.acrl-rfp.org / FacebookEmail:ircliberia1@yahoo.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Collaborating with other international interfaith bodies on issues of bahavioural change, de-radicalisation and good governance advocacy
- Working in partnership with UNICEF on its global, social and bahavioural change programmes aimed specifically at marginalised communities

Advancing gender equality through

- Conducting workshops on gender-based violence in Grand Cape Mount County and other regions Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through
  - Partnering with UNICEF for the Child Rights and Protection/Health project focused on raising awareness for HIV and AIDS

#### Constituency:

Liberia Council of Churches, National Muslim Council of Liberia

**Women of Faith Network:** Founded in 1998, *Religions for Peace* Liberia's Women of Faith Network (WoFN) represents Muslim and Christian women. Programmes advocate for women's issues like rape, domestic violence and teenage pregnancy. The group also engages in skill training for vulnerable children and has instituted welfare programmes for widows and disadvantaged rural women.

Contact: Jandy Gray, Desk Coordinator ( <a href="mailto:ircliberia1@yahoo.com">ircliberia1@yahoo.com</a>)

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Founded in 1998, *Religions for Peace* Liberia's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) provides numerous programmes for Christian and Muslim participants. Programmes promote peacebuilding activities, responsible citizenship and democracy and youth empowerment. Advocacy efforts focus on social issues, such as HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy and election monitoring.

Contact: Moses F.M.D Nemour, Youth Coordinator ( ircliberia1@yahoo.com )

#### Partnerships:

Carter Center, Economic Community of West African States, Mano River Union, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Justice, National Democratic Institute, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund

## Religions for Peace Malawi

**Religious Demography:** 1.7% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 26.2% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 13.0% Muslim (predominantly Sunni, also Shia), 1.5% Other Christian, <1% Other Religions, 55.0% Protestant, 2.5% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Malawi Public Affairs Committee (PAC)

**Executive Director:** Mr. Robert Phiri

Address: Malawi Council of Churches Building,

Private Bag, B348 City Centre

Lilongwe 3, Malawi

Website: pacmw.org / Twitter / Facebook

Email: pac@pacmw.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Implementing measures to prevent electoral process-based violence and hosting events where political candidates commit to standing against electoral violence
- Enlisting local youth groups to monitor conflict "hot spots" during elections
- Strengthening local democratic governance, promoting social cohesion and advocating for human rights issues

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

Partnering with local religious leaders, electoral commissioners, local police and the United Nations
 Development Programme to address hate speech, election rigging and conflict resolution

#### Constituency:

Anglican Communities, Baptist Convention of Malawi, Catholic Community, Episcopal Conference of Malawi, Evangelical Association of Malawi, Malawi Assemblies of God, Malawi Council of Churches, Muslim Association of Malawi, Providence Industrial Mission, Quadria Muslim Association of Malawi, Seventh Day Baptist, United Methodist Church

**Women of Faith Network:** Since 2014, *Religions for Peace* Malawi's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) has engaged over 150 members representing Muslim, Protestant, Pentecostal and Catholic communities. Programmes address specific issues such as gender-based violence and gender mainstreaming in decision making through advocacy and lobbying efforts. Other activities focus more broadly on conflict prevention and management, interreligious dialogue and shared interreligious meditation to promote social cohesion.

Contact: Sophia Regina Nthenda, Deputy Executive Director ( pac@pacmw.org )

Interfaith Youth Network: Since its foundation in 2013, *Religions for Peace* Malawi's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) has engaged over 140 Muslim and Christian youth in various programmes focused on election observation, COVID-19 awareness and conflict management/prevention/resolution.

Contact: Stella Natasha Chikombole, Programmes Officer (pac@pacmw.org)

## Religions for Peace Mauritius

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 31.1% Catholic, 48.5%, <1% Jewish, 17.3% Muslim (Predominantly Sunni), <1% Other Religions, 1.5% Protestant, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Council of Religions of Mauritius

Secretary General: Rev. Eddy Cheong See Website: www.acrl-rfp.org

**Email:** <u>religionsmru@gmail.com</u>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Mediating in conflict situations
- Advancing the cohesion and fraternity among people of all faiths
- Engaging in social cohesion projects aimed at resolving issues related to HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, poverty alleviation, violence and familial division
- Launching an educational booklet and videos through support from the <u>Multi-religious Humanitarian Fund</u> to strengthen the fabric of a post-COVID-19 society and emphasize the importance of faith in overcoming the virus

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Implementing the Intercultural Education project in secondary schools to promote tolerance and understanding of other religions' values
- Assisting in the implementation of interfaith and religious studies courses at the University of Mauritius

#### **Constituency:**

Anglican Church, Arya Sabha Mauritius, Association of Buddhist Temples of Mauritius, Bahá'í Faith, Mauritius Sanathan Dharma, Temples Federation, Muslim Citizen Council, Roman Catholic Church, Sanathan Holistic Vidhya Academy

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Mauritius does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. Family and women's issues are addressed as an integral part of the IRC's national programmes and main areas of work.

Interfaith Youth Network: Although Religions for Peace Mauritius does not have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), Religions for Peace Mauritius actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. National IRC programmes include projects aimed at youth issues, such as the Indian Ocean Region Children's Rights Observatory project. Religions for Peace Mauritius' interreligious educational efforts also predominantly focus on the secondary school level, as well as the university level.

## Religions for Peace Mozambique

**Religious Demography:** 7.4% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 28.7% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 18.0% Muslim, 27.3% Protestant, <1% Other Religion, 17.9% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Council of Religions in Mozambique (COREM)

Secretary General: Honourable Mohamad da Costa Ali Yassine

Website: <a href="www.acrl-rfp.org">www.acrl-rfp.org</a>
Email: <a href="mailto:mcorem@yahoo.com">mcorem@yahoo.com</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

Advocating for orphans and vulnerable children and working against gender-based violence
 Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Convening religious representatives to <u>advocate for stronger collaboration</u> between policy-makers, religious leaders and interfaith organisations to achieve Africa Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Facilitating collaborative dialogue among governmental and civil society organisations, political leaders and religious leaders at interfaith conferences, such as the annual National Summit on Peace and Reconciliation, which emphasizes the role of women and religious groups in the peace process
- Encouraging constructive dialogue and interaction among religious groups
- Partnering with UNICEF and JLIFLC to <u>implement projects such as the Faith for Positive Change for Children global initiative on social and bahavioural change</u>, gathering religious leaders and government officials to develop a shared sense of responsibility to protect and support children

#### Constituency:

Bahá' í Community of Mozambique, Hindu Council of Mozambique, Islamic Council of Mozambique, Mozambican Episcopal Conference, Catholic Church in Mozambique, Universal Church of the Kingdom of God in Mozambique

**Women of Faith Network:** COREM's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was founded in 2014 and includes over 180 Muslim, Catholic, Christian, Bahá' í and African Traditional Religion representatives. Programmes focus on the socioeconomic reintegration of women and youth and providing humanitarian support for vulnerable children. Activities also promote human rights, democracy, electoral policies and peace/security. Women lead social projects on the national IRC level.

Contacts: Maria Olivia Magaia Tamele, Pastor and Luisa Esperanca Quilambo Tsevete, Pastor ( mcorem@yahoo.com )

Interfaith Youth Network: Since 2014, COREM's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) has included over 550 Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Catholic representatives. Programmes focus on the environment, peacebuilding and gender-based violence. Activities also work to address issues related to HIV/AIDS, sexual health education and good governance.

Contacts: Dr. Martin Macondz and Dr. Florinda Soca ( mcorem@yahoo.com )

## Religions for Peace Nigeria

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 11.0% Catholic, 1.4% Indigenous Animism, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 48.8% Muslim (12% Shia and 38% Sunni), <1% Other Religions, 37.8% Protestant, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Nigeria Interreligious Council

Secretary General: Rev. Fr. Dr. Cornelius Omonokhua

Address: 1st Floor, Federal Secretariat Complex,

Phase I, Above Staff Clinic, Central Area, Abuja, Nigeria

Website: www.nirec.org.ng

Email: <a href="mailto:info@nirec.ng.org">info@nirec.ng.org</a> / <a href="mailto:nirec.ng@gmail.com">nirec.ng@gmail.com</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Advancing religious tolerance, peaceful co-existence, ethical values and good governance in the country
- Supporting sister-organisation Nigeria Interfaith Action Association in combating malaria
- Collaborating with anti-corruption agencies, the National Agency for the Control of AIDS and the African
   Union Commission to assist the government in creating a better society for all Nigerians
- Issuing statements condemning religious and ethnic tension, terrorist activities, militancy and violence which violate the shared values of the country's religions, traditions, and cultures
- Facilitating dialogue between Christian and Muslim youth
- Transforming dialogue into action, utilising a multi-religious platform to address the major societal issues, such as insecurity, poverty, corruption, unemployment, and disease

#### Constituency:

Ansar-ud Deen Society of Nigeria, Christian Association of Nigeria (The Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, The Christian Council of Nigeria, The Evangelical Fellowship of West Africa, The Organisation of African Instituted Churches, The Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria), Evangelical Church Winning All, National Council of Muslim Youth Organisations, Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, The Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria, The Primate Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion, The Women Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Nigeria's Women of Faith Network (WoFN) was established in 2008 and currently has 250 members, with 125 representatives each from the Christian Association of Nigeria and the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs. Activities include seminars and biannual gatherings which focus on trauma counseling, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Women also lead on *Religions for Peace* International's Women's Coordinating Committee.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Since its establishment in 2017, *Religions for Peace* Nigeria's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) has grown to include 100 members representing Christian and Muslim communities. Activities include seminars, conflict resolution training and peacebuilding efforts.

#### Partnerships:

KAICIID, UFUK Dialogue

## Religions for Peace Sierra Leone

**Religious Demography:** <1% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 7.1% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 78.0% Muslim (predominantly Sunni), <1% Other Religions, 13.6% Protestant, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Sierra Leone

Secretary General: Rev. Dr. Usman J. Fornah

Website: www.acrl-rfp.org

Email: interreligiouscouncilsl@gmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Working to diffuse electoral tensions and addressing dangerous political fault lines
- Furthering national cohesion through collaboration with UNDP
- Developing partnerships with key figures in parliament and the broader government to advocate for best practices for sustainable peace
- Instituting behavioural change campaigns in collaboration with UNICEF
- Working with religious leaders from various traditions and within religious communities to stop HIV/AIDS spread
- Utilising media platforms to bring diverse religious leaders on national and local levels to relay public health information and issue statements condemning discrimination and violence waged against COVID-19 victims

#### Constituency:

Catholic Church, Council of Churches in Sierra Leone, Federation of Muslim Women Association in Sierra Leone, Forum of Muslim Women in Sierra Leone, Lutheran Church, National Pentecostal Church

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Sierra Leone's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was formed in 2018 and has 55 members from major Islamic and Christian umbrella mosques and churches. Programmes include fellowship meetings and home visitations. Other activities engage in peace consolidation, human rights education and women's empowerment efforts. Women are key members of *Religions for Peace* Sierra Leone's constituency and fill various leadership positions on the IRC's board.

Contact: Christiana Sutton-Koroma, Coordinator (ircsl1997@yahoo.com)

Interfaith Youth Network: Although Religions for Peace Sierra Leone does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), Religions for Peace Sierra Leone actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. The National IRC and WOFN work on addressing youth affairs and child protection issues through partnerships with organisations such as UNICEF and by launching independent campaigns against early child marriage.

#### **Partnerships**

United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UN Women, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, World Vision, United Nations Development Programme

## Religions for Peace South Africa

**Religious Demography:** <1% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 7.4% Catholic, 1.1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 1.7% Muslim (predominantly Sunni), <% Other Religions, 73.2% Protestant, 14.9% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace South Africa

Secretary General: Mr. Pundit Rampersad Barath
Website: www.acrl-rfp.org / Facebook

Email: <a href="mailto:info@rfp.org.za">info@rfp.org.za</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Uniting the country's major faith bodies in condemning violence, bigotry and religious discrimination
- Standing in solidarity with victims of ethnic, cultural or religiously-motivated violence
- Hosting workshops and seminars to educate and empower men, women and youth in sectors of peacebuilding and conflict transformation

Advancing gender equality through

 Sponsoring seminars and programmes focused on overcoming gender-based violence and exploring women's rights

Nurturing a sustainable environmental through

 Mobilising religious communities to engage in various charitable works oriented towards environmental conservation

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Holding virtual interfaith prayer services for reflection and prayer, and to build mutual respect and understanding

#### **Constituency:**

ATMAN Universal Movement, Bahá' í Faith of South Africa, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Diakonia Council of Churches, Gandhi Development Trust, Jewish Communities, Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Muslim Communities, Traditional Anglican Church

Women of Faith Network: Religions for Peace South Africa's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) includes Bahá'í, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim representatives. Activities focus on education and preventing violence towards women and children.

Contact: (info@rfp.org.za)

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* South Africa's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 2019 and is comprised of 200 members from various faith traditions.

## Religions for Peace Sudan

**Religious Demography:** 2.8% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 3.0% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 90.7% Muslim (predominantly Sunni, also Shia), <1% Other Religions, 2.1% Protestant, 1.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Sudan Interreligious Council (SIRC)

 Secretary General:
 Dr. Albushra Farouq

 Website:
 www.acrl-rfp.org

 Email:
 secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Facilitating interreligious dialogue among religious leaders from various faith traditions, government officials, diplomats and international agencies to end violent conflict, heal residual tension of civil war and encourage continued peacebuilding efforts
- Advising the Ministry of Guidance and Endowments and Higher Council for Guidance and Endowments to encourage interfaith dialogue
- Providing humanitarian support through interfaith prayer services
- Assisting churches in reclaiming property confiscated by previous governments to protect religious spaces and promote reconciliation efforts

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

Sponsoring conferences with the U.S. Institute of Peace on the peacebuilding roles of religious leaders

#### Constituency:

Christian Communities, Coptic Orthodox Church, Episcopal Church of Sudan, Katmiyah Movement in Sudan, Muslim Communities, Sudan Council of Churches, Ulemaa Association of Sudan, Universal Muslim Women Union

**Women of Faith Network:** Although SIRC does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although SIRC does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), SIRC actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes related to interreligious dialogue, social cohesion and peacebuilding efforts.

## Religions for Peace Tanzania

**Religious Demography:** 1.8% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 31.4% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 32.5 Muslim (predominantly Sunni, also Ismaili, Twelver Shia, Ahmadi and Ibadi), <1% Other Religions, 29.1% Protestant, 1.4% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Peace Tanzania (IRCPT)

Secretary General: Rev. Canon Thomas Godda

**Address:** P.O. Box 76951,

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Website: <u>www.ircpt.or.tz</u> / <u>Facebook</u>

Email: <a href="mailto:ircpt.tz@gmail.com">ircpt.tz@gmail.com</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Facilitating interreligious dialogue to create an environment of mutual respect and tolerance to more effectively pursue the equity and security of all people
- Preventing and transforming conflicts by building trust and peacebuilding capacities between disparate communities in the country through affiliates on the local level
- Enhancing religious communities' abilities to respond to issues related to HIV/AIDS prevention, OVC care and support, home-based care and economic development for people living with HIV

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Implementing social media campaigns to advocate for precautious, sustainable industrial development and to emphasize environmental action as a peace issue

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Building the capacity of faith-based organisations to form positive interfaith relationships and provide early warning and peacebuilding education to young people

#### Constituency:

Ahamadiyya Muslim Jamaat of Tanzania, Bahá'í Community, Baraza Kuu la Taasisi za Kiislamu, Christian Council of Tanzania, Council of Pentecostal Churches of Tanzania, Hindu Council of Tanzania, Mufti's Office Zanzibar, Supreme Council of Muslims Tanzania, Tanzania Episcopal Council of Tanzania

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Tanzania's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) formed in 2002 and has 1,400 members representing Muslim and Christian communities. Activities focus on peacebuilding, conflict prevention, child care and development, gender issues and poverty eradication. Women also serve in leadership positions on the National IRC's board.

Contact: Mrs. Edna R. Mdoe ( ircpt.tz@gmail.com )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Tanzania's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was formed in 2005 and engages 1,700 members from Christian and Muslim communities. Activities focus on interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding efforts, capacity building and volunteer work.

Contact: Fadhili Meta (ircpt.tz@gmail.com)

## Religions for Peace Uganda

**Religious Demography:** <1% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 42.2% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 11.5% Muslim (predominantly Sunni), <1% Other Religions, 44.4% Protestant, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Uganda

**Secretary General:** Mr. Joshua Kitakule

Address: P.O. Box 7502, Kampala, Uganda

Plot 245, Sentema Road, Mengo Kampala, Uganda

Website: <a href="https://www.ircu.or.ug/Twitter/Facebook/YouTube">www.ircu.or.ug/Twitter/Facebook/YouTube</a>

Email: <a href="mailto:info@ircu.or.ug">info@ircu.or.ug</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Easing tensions in public life and combatting electoral violence by building bridges between opposing political parties
- Advocating against the stigmatization of HIV/AIDS through the interreligious intervention of religious leaders and pushing for spaces of worship to be used as testing centers
- Addressing maternal, child, and newborn health issues

Advancing gender equality through

Implementing the Communities Richer in Diversity project, leveraging the influence of faith leaders and
institutions to promote cultural diversity and respect for the equal dignity of all men and women

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Facilitating discussions between religious groups and empowering religious minorities
- Building the competence of religious leaders to mobilize and facilitate social transformations of faith communities
- Partnering with the Ugandan government and local NGOs to provide food, alleviate economic duress and curb gender-based violence during the COVID-19 crisis through the *Religions for Peace* Multi-religious Humanitarian Fund

#### Constituency:

Born Again Faith, Church of the Province of Uganda, Seventh-Day Adventist Church, The National Alliance of Pentecostal and Evangelical Churches of Uganda, Uganda Episcopal Conference, Uganda Muslim Supreme Council, Uganda Orthodox Church

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Uganda's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) has a national coordination committee of 21 members and is one of the IRCU Governance Organs represented in the Executive Board. The WOFN was formed in 2011 with 21 members representing each of the National IRC's constituent communities. Activities focus on women's empowerment in leadership, socio-economic development, gender-based violence, and peace and governance issues.

Contact: Mrs. Jessica Nalwoga Baguma Manager-Livelihoods, Women and Youth Empowerment ( <a href="mailto:info@ircu.or.ug">info@ircu.or.ug</a> / WoFN <a href="mailto:Twitter">Twitter</a>)

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Formed in 2008, *Religions for Peace* Uganda's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) has 21 members representing each of the National IRC's constituent communities. Activities include monthly dialogues, peacebuilding efforts and co-existence among refugees, skill and livelihood trainings, climate justice advocacy and combating gender-based violence.

Contact: See WoFN contact above (IYN Twitter)

## Religions for Peace Zambia

**Religious Demography:** <1% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 21.1% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, <1% Muslim, <8.5% Other Christian, <1% Other Religions, 67.8% Protestant, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Zambia Interfaith Networking Group (ZINGO)

**Executive Director:** Ms. Julie Baratita Esmerelda

Address: 4th floor TAZARA House, Dedan Kimathi Road

P.O. Box 30360, Lusaka, Zambia

Website: http://www.zambiainterfaithgroup.org / Facebook

Email: zingo.admin@gmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

Supporting national dialogue and reconciliation efforts

Advancing gender equality through

- Addressing maternal/child health and development issues
- Advocating for and supporting women pursuing careers in the government and the civil service
- Mobilising traditional and religious leaders to address gender-based violence and the stigmatization of its victims

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

Partnering with Expanded Church Response, PACT-Zambia, Circle of Hope, Discover Health and the Zambia
Center of Communication Programme to provide training, technical support and material support to local
affiliates, religious organisations and communities with the goal of destigmatising and assisting Zambians
living with HIV/AIDS

#### **Constituency:**

Council of Churches in Zambia, Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia, Hindu Association of Zambia, Independent Churches of Zambia, Islamic Supreme Council of Zambia, National Spiritual Assembly of Bahá'í, Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops, Zambia Interfaith Networking Group

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Zambia does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Zambia does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Zambia actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes related to interreligious dialogue.

## Religions for Peace Botswana (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Botswana is currently in formation (an ad hoc committee is in place) and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 6.0% Catholic, 6.0% Badimo Traditional Indigenous Religion, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, <1% Muslim, <1% Other Religions (Bahá'í and Sikh), 65.6% Protestant, 20.6% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Botswana (In Formation) / Religions for Peace Botswana

Chairman:Rev. Gabriel TsuanengWebsite:www.acrl-rfp.orgEmail:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

#### Constituency:

Bahá' í Community, Botswana Council of Churches, Botswana Muslim Association, Evangelical Fellowship of Botswana

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Botswana does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women will participate in IRC activities and be actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Botswana does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), youth will be actively encouraged to participate in IRC activities and planning processes.

## Religions for Peace Central African Republic (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of the Central African Republic is currently in formation and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** 1.0% African Traditional Faith Traditions, <1% Buddhist, 28.4% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 8.5% Muslim, 60.5% Protestant, <1% Other Religion, 1.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Central African Republic/ Central African Interreligious Platform / Organisation des partisans pour le développement communautaire, OPPDCH (Organising Supporters for Community Development)

Secretary General:Boris Kosh KombaWebsite:www.acrl-rfp.orgEmail:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

#### **Constituency:**

Christian Communities, Muslim Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Central African Republic (*Religions for Peace* CAR) has a national Women of Faith Network (WoFN) which works with local religious leaders. Regular support of women's leadership roles and the integration of women's voices in the peacebuilding process strengthens *Religions for Peace* CAR's commitment to promoting gender equality.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Central African Republic's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) collaborates with religious leaders. Youth are encouraged to engage in activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Comoros (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of the Comoros is currently in formation and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1.0% African Traditional Faith Traditions, <1.0% Buddhist, <1.0% Christian, <1.0% Hindu, <1.0% Jewish, 98.3% Muslim, <1.0% Other Religions, <1.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Comoros (Working Group)

Coordinator: Mr. Ali Mohammed Djalim

Website: <u>www.acrl-rfp.org</u>

Email: secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

**Constituency:** Interreligious Councils are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Comoros does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women will participate in IRC activities and be actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Comoros does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), youth will be actively encouraged to participate in IRC activities and planning processes.

## **Religions for Peace Madagascar** (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Madagascar is currently in formation and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <4.5% African Traditional Faith Traditions, <1.0% Buddhist, 38.1% Catholic, <1.0% Hindu, <1.0% Jewish, 3.0% Muslim (predominantly Sunni), <1.0% Orthodox Christian, 1.1% Other Christian, 45.8% Protestant, 6.9% Unaffiliated

**Official Name of IRC:** Forum for Religious Leaders and Faith Organisations in Madagascar / Plateforme des Leaders Religieux et Organismes Confessionnels (Platform for Religious Leaders and Faith-Based Organisations)

Secretary General:Mr. Nahoda AmanaWebsite:www.acrl-rfp.orgEmail:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- <u>Facilitating interreligious and inter-generational collaboration through the Day of Prayers and Action for</u>
   <u>Children</u> in collaboration with GNRC Africa to encourage faith communities to support the welfare of children and mothers
- Partnering with MAD'AIDS, FIMIZORE, the Solidarité des HSH and the Réseau de femmes séropositives au VIH de Madagascar to advance the goals of the National Strategic Plan for AIDS
- Committing to the resolutions of the 2016 <u>Symposium of the Interfaith Network of the Indian Ocean</u> to promote peace, address climate change and work to solve issues of poverty, corruption, racism and xenophobia

#### Advancing gender equality through

 <u>Launching an advocacy campaign to prevent gender-based violence on the community level</u> through partnership with the United Nations Population Fund

#### Constituency:

African Traditional Faith Communities, Bahá' í Communities, Catholic Church Communities, Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, Hindu Communities, Muslim Communities, Youth for Christ

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Madagascar does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Madagascar does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), youth are actively encouraged to participate in IRC activities and planning processes.

## Religions for Peace Reunion Island

### (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Reunion Island is currently in formation and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% African Traditional Faith Traditions, <1% Buddhist, 80,0% Catholic, 4.5% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 4.2% Muslim, 1.1% Other Religions, 6.9% Protestant, 2.0% Unaffiliated

**Official Name of IRC:** Groupe de dialogue inter-religieux de la Reunion, GDIR (Reunion Island Interreligious Dialogue Group) / Religions for Peace Reunion Island

Secretary General: Idriss Issop Banian

Website: http://reunionweb.org/decouverte/culture/religion/dialogue-interreligieux

**Email:** gdir.reunion@yahoo.fr

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Advancing interreligious solidarity and respectful understanding by organising the Interfaith Day of the Fraternity
- Building a fraternal and harmonious community through respectful interreligious spiritual dialogue
- Mobilising peacebuilding efforts by hosting events to celebrate the United Nations' International Day of Living Together in Peace
- Intervening in schools as part of the prevention efforts against radicalisation
- Working to curb extremism by supporting the ARCC's "Let's Globalize Peace!" demonstration in Paris

**Constituency:** IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Reunion Island does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Reunion Island does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), youth are actively encouraged to participate in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Rwanda (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Rwanda is currently in formation and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% African Traditional Faith Traditions, <1% Buddhists, 93.8% Christians, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <2.2% Muslims, <1% Other Religions, <3.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interfaith Commission of Rwanda

Primary Contact: H.E. Sheikh Hitimana Salim

Website: www.acrl-rfp.org

Email: secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

**Constituency:** IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Rwanda does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women will participate in IRC activities and be actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Rwanda does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), youth will be actively encouraged to participate in IRC activities and planning processes.

## **Religions for Peace Seychelles** (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Seychelles is currently in formation and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions* for *Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% African Traditional Faith Traditions, <1% Buddhist, 83.0% Catholic, 2.1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 1.1% Muslim, 1.0% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 10.0% Protestant, 2.1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interfaith Committee of Seychelles (SIFCO)

Secretary General:Bishop Denis WieheWebsite:www.acrl-rfp.orgEmail:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Issuing statements urging citizens to participate in the upcoming election and for political leaders to ensure a non-violent, peaceful electoral campaign
- Mobilising religious leaders to speak about the meanings of peace and unity according to the founding principles of their respective religions as part of World Peace Day events
- Consulting multi-stakeholder committees on the national and local levels on preparedness to <u>curb the spread</u>
   of <u>COVID-19</u>, collaborating with the Citizens Engagement Platform of Seychelles, the Seychelles Chamber of
   Commerce and Industry, the Seychelles Hotel and Tourism Association and other governmental and private
   organisations
- Meeting with political actors and serving as a consultant on national issues such as prison and local
  governance reform, and advocating for citizens' rights to participate in local or regional governments to
  promote national unity and peace
- <u>Building interreligious solidarity by hosting interfaith prayers</u> at the National Day event celebrating independence
- Collaborating with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to plan cultural events, such as the <u>Carnaval International de Victoria</u>, to promote societal cohesion and integrate youth voices in the community

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Hosting a forum during the United Nations' Interfaith Harmony Week to promote interreligious dialogue and mutual understanding, respect and friendship among religious communities

#### **Constituency:**

Anglican Church, Bahá' í Community, Buddhist Community, Hindu Council of Seychelles, Islamic Centre for Information and Guidance, Orthodox Church, Roman Catholic Church, Seychelles Buddhist Association, Seychelles Evangelical Alliance, Zoroastrian Community

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Seychelles does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although SIFCO does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), youth are actively encouraged to participate in IRC activities and planning processes related to peacebuilding, interfaith prayer and good governance campaigns.

## Religions for Peace South Sudan (In Formation)

**Religious Demography:** 32.9% African Traditional Religions, <1% Buddhist, 39.7% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 6.2% Muslim, <1% Other Religions, 20.7% Protestant, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of South Sudan

Secretary General:Fr. James Oyet LatansioWebsite:www.acrl-rfp.orgEmail:secretariat@acrl-rfp.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Facilitating interreligious dialogue among faith leaders to further peacebuilding efforts
- Organising civil-military dialogue forums with support from the Civil Affairs Division of the United Nations
  Mission in South Sudan to foster social cohesion, build trust between the military and civilians and encourage
  reconciliation efforts

Advancing gender equality through

Implementing the Communities Richer in Diversity project to leverage the influence of faith leaders and institutions to promote cultural diversity and respect for equal dignity of all men and women

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Partnering with UNICEF and JLIFLC to implement projects such as the Faith for Positive Change for Children global initiative on social and bahavioural change, gathering religious leaders/organisations and government officials to develop a shared sense of responsibility to protect and support children

#### Constituency:

Islamic Council, South Sudan Council of Churches

**Women of Faith Network:** The *Religions for Peace* South Sudan Women of Faith Network (WOFN) is in the process of formation under the leadership of an executive committee. The WOFN has been actively engaged in peacebuilding activities in Sudan during the National Peace Festival week and in other interfaith activities.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* South Sudan's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 2019. Youth are involved in IRC efforts to promote just and harmonious societies. Youth are an essential part of the interfaith peacebuilding process and are encouraged to participate in National IRC activities.

#### Partnerships:

Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, United Nations Children's Fund

### Religions for Peace Togo (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Togo is currently in formation and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 26.1% Catholic, 35.6% Traditional Animist Religions, <1% Hindu, 14.0% Muslim (Predominantly Sunni), <1% Other Religions (Including Bahá'í), 16.9% Protestant, 6.2% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Togo (Working Group)

Chairman:Prof. Boukari BouraimaWebsite:www.acrl-rfp.org

**Email:** <u>secretariat@acrl-rfp.org</u>

**Constituency:** IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Togo is in the process of forming an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN) under the leadership of an executive committee. Members of the network have been trained to be peace actors and are engaged in peacebuilding activities in the country.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Togo does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), youth will be actively encouraged to participate in IRC activities and planning processes.





### Asian Conference of Religions for Peace

**Religious Demography:** 11.9% Buddhist, 7.1% Christian, 9.0% Folk Religions, 25.3% Hindu, 24.3% Muslim, 1.3% Other Religions, 21.2% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Asian Conference of Religions for Peace / Religions for Peace Asia

Secretary General: Rev. Nobuhiro Nemoto

**Address:** Fumon Media Center 3rd Floor, 2-7-1 Wada, Suginami-ku, Tokyo 166-0012

Website: <a href="https://rfpasia.org/">https://rfpasia.org/</a>
Email: <a href="tokyo@rfpasia.net">tokyo@rfpasia.net</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Providing mental care programmes for women and girl victims of human trafficking and offering training courses for caretakers
- Engaging in advocacy activities against child labor, child marriage, and child trafficking
- Promoting peace and reconciliation in the Korean Peninsula and bilateral dialogue between Bangladesh and Myanmar in view of the Rohingya refugee issue

#### Advancing gender equality through

- Re-affirming fundamental women rights in the household and offering opportunities for vocational training Nurturing a sustainable environment through
  - Carrying out programmes for environmental protection, including forestation programmes
  - With the leadership of China Committee on Religion and Peace (CCRP), convening an annual international seminar on environmental issues

#### Constituency:

Catholic Christian, Protestant Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Theravada Buddhist, Mahayana Buddhist, Taoist, Shinto

**Women of Faith Network:** Asia-Pacific Women of Faith Network (APWFN) is the regional network of multi-religious women's leaders of *Religions for Peace* in Asia and the Pacific. APWFN currently has 20 members, including Roman Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist representatives. APWFN brings together the commitment of women's leaders to advance common actions towards peace. APWFN functions on a permanent basis to help convene ACRP women's Forum and other programmes designed to promote aims of ACRP among women. Activities focus on restoring dignity of women and empowering women against modern day slavery and human trafficking.

Contact: Dr. Lilian Sison, Chair, APWFN ( tokyo@rfpasia.net )

Interfaith Youth Network: Religions for Peace Asia & Pacific Interfaith Youth Network (APIYN) was established in 2015, combining the Asia Youth Committee and the Asia & Pacific Youth Network. APIYN's Executive Committee is made up of 5 members and its Interfaith Youth Peace Camp hosts 60 youth leaders annually. Participants include Buddhist, Christian, Confucian, Hindu, Muslim, Shintoism, Won-Buddhist and indigenous representatives. Activities focus on strengthening interfaith youth networks throughout Asia and Pacific, raising awareness and taking action on climate change and educating youth to implement interfaith youth activity. APIYN also co-organizes the Interfaith Youth Peace Camp annually and implements the APIYN grants once a year to empower religious youth and stimulate interfaith youth activity in Asian region.

Contacts: Mr. Renz Christian Argao, Co-moderator, APIYN; Mr. Takashi Hashimoto, Co-moderator, APIYN (tokyo@rfpasia.net / Website / Facebook)

### Religions for Peace Australia

**Religious Demography:** 2.7% Buddhist, 27.8% Catholic, 1.4% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 2.4% Muslim, 3.1% Orthodox Christian, 2.0% Other Christian, <1% Other Religions, 34.3% Protestant, <1% Traditional Indigenous Religions, 24.2% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Australia

Chair: Prof. em. Desmond Cahill

Website: www.religionsforpeaceaustralia.org.au / Facebook

**Email:** wcrpaust@iinet.net.au

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Engaging Religions for Peace personnel in the work of the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- Extending and professionalizing multifaith chaplaincy by recruiting and educating chaplains, improving small
  chaplaincy training programmes, and establishing the Multifaith Chaplaincy Australia website
- Lobbying key politicians advocating for a greater profile and financial commitment to the multi-faith movement

Advancing gender equality through

- Holding training workshops on gender equality for women from Sudan, Bangladesh and Indonesia
   Nurturing a sustainable environment through
  - Engaging at the national and state level on climate issues, in coordination with and in support of local multifaith organisations
  - Maintaining the Environmental Meditation and Healing Garden
  - Celebrating World Environment Day by honouring Tasmania's Aboriginal people and their care for the environment

Championing freedom of thought, conscience, and religion through

- Contributing to the government's review of religious freedom
- Sponsoring a symposium on freedom of religion in association with the Notre Dame University (Australia)
   School of Law

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Launching the <u>Multifaith Education Australia</u> website which provides educational resources for different faiths

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Facilitating the organisation of interfaith summits, such as the G20 Interfaith Summit
- Actively engaging in multi-religious events like the UN Interfaith Harmony Week as well as international and national seminars
- Sponsoring interfaith and multicultural sessions in partnership with the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Making an <u>interfaith statement</u> from senior interfaith leaders to the Australian community regarding COVID-19
- Making a detailed submission to the Senate Committee for COVID-19 and liaising with the Prime Minister to advocate for alleviating the plight of international students and temporary visaed workers

#### Constituency:

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT), Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia (JCMA), Victorian Council of Churches Commission on Living Faiths, Dialogue and Community, The Council of Christians and Jews, Pax Christi, Unite Church Assembly and Synod, National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA), Catholic Earthcare Australia, Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ),

State and Territory Affiliates: The Canberra Interfaith Forum (CIF), *Religions for Peace* Tasmania, Multifaith Association of South Australia (MFA), Queensland Centre for Interfaith Dialogue and Culture, *Religions for Peace* Victoria, *Religions for Peace* New South Wales

**Women of Faith Network:** There are several regional Women's of Faith Networks (WOFN) in Australia, such as in Sydney and New South Wales, which meet regularly for sessions of prayer and cordial exchange. Other activities include hosting Women's forums and events that allow women to share their various experiences and perspectives, empowering others in the process.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** While *Religions for Peace* Australia's Interfaith Youth Network, Interaction, is currently in transition, *Religions for Peace* Australia continues to actively encourage routine youth engagement with its activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Bangladesh

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist (predominantly Theravada-Hinayana), <1% Christian (predominantly Catholic), <1% Folk Religions, 8.5% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 90.4% Muslim (predominantly Sunni, also Shia and Ahmadi), <1% Other Religions (Bahá'í)

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Bangladesh

Secretary General: Dr. N.H.M. Abu Bakar
President: Principal Sukomal Barua

Facebook: Facebook

Email: tokyo@rfpasia.net

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Maintaining a dialogue between religious leaders of Bangladesh and Myanmar to foster religious tolerance
- Holding health awareness programmes for both children and parents at primary schools
- Distributing rice, spices and mosquito nets at the Rohingya Refugee Camp

Advancing gender equality through

Advocating against female child trafficking

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

Organising Buddhist-Muslim summits regarding care for the environment

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnership through

- Bringing together Buddhist, Muslim, Christian, and Hindu leaders from South East Asia to address the Rohingya crisis
- Organising interreligious seminars

#### **Constituency:**

Chakma Buddhist, Rakhine Buddhist, Hindu, Tripura Hindu, Muslim, Catholic Christian, Protestant Christian, Bahá'í

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Bangladesh's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was established in 2006 and its membership is composed of Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Bahá'í, Ahmadia and Shia representatives. The WOFN participates in *Religions for Peace* Bangladesh's projects and service events including helping flood affected people, distribution of clothes to vulnerable people, relief distribution to Rohingya people, the hand-wash project and the Interreligious Awareness Training Programme. Programmes focus on preventing gender-based violence and empowering women.

Contact: Dr. Rashida Khanam, Convener, Religions for Peace Bangladesh WOFN (tokyo@rfpasia.net)

Interfaith Youth Network: Religions for Peace Bangladesh's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 1976 and its membership is composed of Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Bahá'í, Ahmadia and Shia representatives. The IYN participates in all of Religions for Peace Bangladesh's events and activities, as well as the Religions for Peace Asia Interfaith Youth Peace Camp. Moreover, the IYN's programmes include a Health Awareness programme, Interreligious Culture Awareness Seminars and relief distribution during floods.

Contact: Ms. Nadia Afreen, Convener, Religions for Peace Bangladesh IYN (tokyo@rfpasia.net)

### Religions for Peace Cambodia

**Religious Demography:** 95% Buddhist (predominantly Theravada Buddhism), 0.4% Catholic, 2.0% Muslim, 0.6% Other Religions (animist, Bahá'í, Jewish and Cao Dai adherents), <2% Protestant

Official Name of IRC: Cambodian Interreligious Council

Secretary General: Venerable Yon Seng Yeath

Acting Sec. Gen.: Venerable Oeun Sam Art

Address: Supreme Patriarch's office (Library Building),

Watt Unnalom, Sangkat Chey Chumneas, Khand Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Email: tokyo@rfpasia.net

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Organising a National Interfaith Forum on combating Human Trafficking
- Delivering food items, hygiene supplies and cash allowances to prisoners and marginalised communities
- Developing resources for interfaith activities and peacebuilding
- Distributing food items, household stuffs and hygiene supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

Organising join interfaith conservation efforts such as tree plantings

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Organising the Religious Youth Peace Camps that raise awareness of the important role religious play in achieving world peace and the ways in which religious conflicts can be solved through interactive group workshops
- Collecting books, articles, research papers, films, graphics, and art works for the interfaith research library in order to develop resource materials for interfaith work and studies in Cambodia

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Providing multi-religious forums encompassing major Cambodian religious groups, and interfacing with students, youth groups, government official and NGO representatives
- Attending multi-religious events, such as the International Day of Prayer and Action for Children

#### Constituency:

Catholic Church of Cambodia, Evangelical Fellowship Cambodia, Buddhist, Muslim

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Cambodia does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. Women are particularly involved in *Religions for Peace* Cambodia's interfaith engagements and charity activities, and are representatives of Buddhism and Christianity.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Cambodia's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 2014 and currently has 10 members, including Buddhist, Muslim and Christian representatives. IYN activities are focused on encouraging youth to take part in public dialogue and raising awareness on the importance of youth in building social peace.

Contact: Ms. Khim Nathymon, Youth Wing Head ( tokyo@rfpasia.net )

**Partnerships:** Caritas Cambodia, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Cults and Religion, Buddhism for Development Organisation, UNICEF

### Religions for Peace China

#### Religious Demography:

Official Name of IRC: China Committee on Religion and Peace (CCRP)

Secretary General: Mr. La Can

President: Ven. Pagbalha Geleg Namgyai

Address: No.21, Taipingqiao Str. Xicheng Dis, Beijing, China

Website: www.cppcc.gov.cn/ccrp/zzhyw/syyw/

Email: <a href="mailto:ccrp1994@hotmail.com">ccrp1994@hotmail.com</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

- Conducting seminars, open to participants from around the world, on the intersection between faith and climate action
- Convening a symposium on "Religions & Building Ecological Civilizations" in Beijing and visiting projects of water pollution control and prevention and holy places in Zhejiang province.

Fostering interreligious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Hosting foreign interreligious bodies and other counterparts in China, using these visits as venues of religious and cultural dialogue, as well as mutual capacity building though experience sharing
- Visiting and building linkages with interreligious counterparts both regionally and globally
- Holding interreligious prayer ceremonies in which different faith traditions come together to pray for peace

#### Constituency:

China Buddhist Association, China Taoist Association, China Islamic Association, Bishops' Conference of Catholic Church in China, Chinase Patriotic Catholic Association, China Three-self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches, China Christian Council

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* China established its Women of Faith Network (WOFN) in 2019 which currently includes Buddhist, Taoism, Muslim, Catholic and Protestant representatives. Activities focus on serving society, peace education, environmental protection and protecting women rights and interests.

Contact: Ven. Huang Zhi'an, Chair, CCRP WOFN ( ccrp1994@hotmail.com )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* China established its Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) in 2019, and currently includes Buddhist, Taoism, Muslim, Catholic and Protestant representatives. Activities focus on serving society, peace education, environment protection, and young leadership.

Contact: Ven. Yishun, Chair, CCRP IYN (ccrp1994@hotmail.com)

# Religions for Peace Democratic People's Republic of Korea

**Religious Demography:** 1.5% Buddhist, 2.0% Christian (Protestant, Roman Catholic, Russian Orthodox Church), 25.2% Other Religions (including Chondoism), 71.3% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Korean Council of Religionists (KCR) (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

President: Mr. Kang Ji Yong

Email: <a href="mailto:kcrp21@gmail.com">kcrp21@gmail.com</a> (All communication to KCR is through KCRP (Korean Conference of

Religions for Peace/Religions for Peace South Korea)

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

• Providing relief materials and funds to disaster-stricken and flooded areas in the North of DPRK Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Engaging in inter-Korean dialogue with Religions for Peace South Korea for shared security on the Korean peninsula following 25 years of holding dialogues and building trust
- Contributing to regional and global multi-religious collaboration through the membership in RfP-Asia and International

Constituency: Chondoism, Christianity (Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox) and Buddhism

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Democratic People's Republic of Korea actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace India

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 2.5% Christian (predominantly Protestant), <1% Folk Religion, 79.5% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 14.4% Muslim, 2.3% Other Religions (including Sikh, Jain, Zoroastrian and Bahá'í), <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace India

Secretary General: Mr. Naryanapillai Vasudevan

Website: <a href="www.rfpasia.org/national-chapters/india/">www.rfpasia.org/national-chapters/india/</a>

Email: tokyo@rfpasia.net

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Committing to the ongoing national-level campaign Violence-free India ("Himsamukt Bharat")
- Organising the "Shanti Sena" Peace Corps which trains youth and adult citizens in nonviolence, peacebuilding and peace-keeping to form an unarmed peace army
- Advocating for an on-going campaign to establish a Ministry of Peace in the Government to promote peace and harmony in the country
- Attending seminars, workshops and conferences on issues such as peace education, human rights, environment and sustainable development, communal harmony, gender equality

#### Constituency:

Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Bahá'í, Parsi, Jewish

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* India's Women of Faith Network's (WOFN) activities include organising lectures and workshops at educational institutions advancing gender equality and women's empowerment and raising awareness about human trafficking.

Contact: Dr. Deepali Bhanot, Chair, Religions for Peace India WOFN (tokyo@rfpasia.net)

Interfaith Youth Network: Religions for Peace India's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) currently has five members and is chaired by Rishad Shameer. Activities include engaging in tree plantation and engaging in debates and discussions on relevant and contemporary issues. Religions for Peace India also engages with Youth through its Education for Peace programme which promotes harmonious co-existence and acceptance of diversity and plurality by children through the creation of Peace Clubs (Shanti Kendras) in schools and other educational institutions in various parts of the country.

Contact: Rishad Shameer, Chair, Religions for Peace India IYN (tokyo@rfpasia.net)

### Religions for Peace Indonesia

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 2.9% Catholic, 1.7% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 87.2% Muslim (predominantly Sunni, also includes Shia and Ahmadi Muslims), <1% Other Religions (includes Confucianist, Sikh, Bahá'í, Falun Dafa and Aliran Kepercayaan communities), 6.9% Protestant, <1% Traditional Indigenous Religions, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Indonesia Conference on Religion and Peace (ICRP)

Secretary General: Prof. Dr. Philip K. Wijaya

Chairman: Prof. Dr. KH. Muhammad Sirajuddin Syamsuddin

Website: www.icrp-online.com / Facebook / Instagram / YouTube / Twitter

**Email:** <a href="mailto:icrp@cbn.net.id">icrp@cbn.net.id</a> / <a href="mailto:icrppeace@gmail.com">icrp@cbn.net.id</a> / <a href="mailto:icrppeace@gmail.com">icrp@cbn.net.id</a> / <a href="mailto:icrppeace@gmail.com">icrp@cbn.net.id</a> / <a href="mailto:icrppeace@gmail.com">icrppeace@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:icrppeace@gmail.com">icrppeace@gmailto:icrppeace@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:icrppeace@gmailto:icrppeace@

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Providing programmeming and events to schools designed to build camaraderie and facilitate peacebuilding
- Holding consultative group meetings on human trafficking issues

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

Coordinating convenings for key stakeholders and local partners in the framework of the <u>Interfaith Rainforest</u> <u>Initiative</u> (IRI) that aims to protect the world's rainforests and the indigenous peoples that serve as their guardians.

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Holding seminars through which group members deepen their understanding of other religious groups
- Holding discussion on religious literature, hosted by clerics and lay academics
- Providing a platform for religious schools across faith traditions to come together and discuss best practices when it comes to a host of common issues and widely held beliefs

#### **Constituency:**

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Semarang, Indonesian Bahá'í National Spiritual Council, Nahdlatul 'Ulama - Revival of the Ulama, Parisada Hindu Dharma Indonesia - Indonesia Hinduism Society, Budi Daya Faith, The WAHID Institute, Church Council in Indonesia, Indonesia Buddhist Council, Konferensi Agung Sangha Indonesia - Indonesian Sangha Grand Conference, Nurcholish Madjid Society

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace Indonesia* does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. In particular, women are invited to speak at seminars and lead female religious congregations.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Indonesia's Interfaith Youth Network was established in 2018 and currently has 40 members. Activities include workshops focusing on areas such as the environment and rain forest protection. *Religions for Peace* Indonesia also engages with interfaith youth communities by providing training and informal education on how to manage religious diversities, critical thinking and problem-solving in their own diverse context.

(IYN Website)

#### Partnership:

Indonesia Foreign Affairs Ministry

### Religions for Peace Japan

**Religious Demography:** 66.7% Buddhist, 1.5% Christian, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, <1% Muslim, 6.2% Other Religions, 69% Shinto

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Japan

Secretary General: Rev. Yoshinori Shinohara

Address: Fumon Media Center, 2-7-1 Wada Suginami-ku, Tokyo 166-8531

Website: www.wcrp.or.jp / Facebook / Youtube / Instagram

Email: <a href="mailto:info@wcrp.or.jp">info@wcrp.or.jp</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Working with the United Nations in a consultative role on the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons globally
- Advancing the cause of <u>nuclear disarmament</u> and proliferation (<u>Religions for Peace Japan Ban Nuclear Weapons Twitter / Religions for Peace Japan Ban Nuclear Weapons Facebook / <u>Religions for Peace Japan Ban Nuclear Weapons Instagram</u>)
  </u>
- Delivering humanitarian assistance to natural-disaster affected areas in Japan
- Building confidence and solidarity among North East Asia
- Training facilitators for reconciliation and peace

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Collaborating with international interfaith bodies such as the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, and engaging in dialogue with other international groups on the intersection between faith and sustainable ecology

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Providing peace education through programmes such as the "Educational Task Force for Reconciliation" and "Support Syria Refugees'

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Engaging in conferences with other interfaith bodies internationally, either directly or through the United Nations

#### **Constituency:**

Anglican Church in Japan, Association of Shinto Shrines, Atsuta Shrine, Chichibu Shrine, Daigoji Temple, Ennokyo, Fusokyo, Horyuji, Tendai, Todaiji, Fushimi Inari Taisha, Gedatsukai, Hiyoshi Shrine, Honmonhokkeshu, Ikuta Shrine, Ise Jingu, Ittoen, Japan Muslim Assocation, Jodo Shu, Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Konkyo, Kurozumikyo, Meiji Shrine, Myochikai, Nakayamashingoshoshu, National Christian Council in Japan, Nichiren-shu, Oomoto, Omiya, Hachiman Shrine, Rissho Kosei-kai, Rinzai-shu, Roman Catholic, Society of the Atonement of Japan, Sotoshu, Shinseikai, Shinshu Honganjiha, Tenrikyo, Tsubaki Grand Shrine, Yakushiji Temple, Yumiya Hachiman Shrine, Zenrinkyo

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Japan's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) has 17 committee members and its activities include holding interfaith seminars and study tours, providing humanitarian assistance, offering programmes on the topic of human dignity and publishing guidebooks.

Contact: Ms. Yasuko Miyoshi, Director of General Affairs ( <a href="mailto:rfpj-info@wcrp.or.jp">rfpj-info@wcrp.or.jp</a>)

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Japan's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) is made up of 18 Board members from Shinto, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and other religions. Activities include holding interfaith summer camps, engaging in exchange programmes, and creating a solidarity and hope digital campaign during COVID-19.

Contact: Mr. Takashi Hashimoto ( <a href="mailto:rfpj-info@wcrp.or.jp">rfpj-info@wcrp.or.jp</a> / IYN <a href="mailto:Facebook">Facebook</a> / IYN <a href="mailto:Instagram">Instagram</a> )

### Religions for Peace Kyrgyzstan

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, <1% Hindu, <1% Indigenous Religions (including Tengrism), <1% Jewish, 88.0% Muslim (predominantly Sunni, also includes Shia and Ahmadiyya communities), 9.4% Orthodox Christian, <1% Other Religions (including Bahá'í), 1.7% Protestant, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interfaith Council in Kyrgyzstan

Chairman: Vladislav Hegay (Heo)

Website: <a href="www.rfp-ifc.kg">www.rfp-ifc.kg</a>
Email: <a href="tokyo@rfpasia.net">tokyo@rfpasia.net</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Promoting the idea of religious co-existence in the context of a secular republic
- Combating radicalisation in religious schools
- Providing material aid to vulnerable and marginalised populations in Kyrgyzstan
- Facilitating a platform for religious leaders and various speakers to address issues such as children's rights, educational programmes and the potential of sport in overcoming hostility

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Engaging in a state-led public discussion on the regulation of religious education aiming to curb radical teachings while protecting citizens' right to practice their religion of choice

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Developing relations and creating linkages between different faith groups in the country, providing forums for dialogue and understanding
- Organising interfaith events in which representatives of different faiths can hold classes and learn from each other.

#### Constituency:

Grand Mufti of Kyrgyzstan, Buddhist Community in Kyrgyzstan, Presbyterian Congregation, Assemblies of God, Baha`i Faith Community, Russian Orthodox Church, Roman Catholic Church

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Kyrgyzstan does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. Women make up 50% of the IRC's employees and 30% of its membership and are representatives of Protestant, Orthodox, Muslim and Bahá' í faiths.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Kyrgyzstan does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Kyrgyzstan actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Malaysia

**Religious Demography:** 17.7% Buddhist, 4.8% Catholic, 2.3% Folk Religions, 6.0% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 63.7% Muslim (predominantly Sunni), <1% Other Religions (including Confucianism and Taoism), 4.5% Protestant, <1% Unaffiliated

**Official Name of IRC:** Malaysian Interfaith and Culture Interaction Association (Pertubuhan Interaksi Kepercayaan Dan Budaya Malaysia)

**Secretary General:** Dr. Poey Tiang Peow

Website: www.rfpasia.org/national-chapters/malaysia / Facebook

Email: <a href="mailto:tokyo@rfpasia.net">tokyo@rfpasia.net</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

 Attending the 2018 National Aspiration and Leadership Summit, which focused on empowering youth to contribute towards building a peaceful and multicultural society in Malaysia

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Organising the Batch Holistic Education Teachers Training Programme, which encourages teachers to use religious principles to educate society towards upholding the quality of leaderships, moral standards, etc.
- Organising seminars and providing resources for trainers to educate prisoners on religious moral and spiritual principles

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

Facilitating seminars on different topics relating to the intersection between Social Welfare and Faith

#### Constituency:

Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Taoist, Confucian, Sikh, Indigenous faiths

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Malaysia's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was established in 2006 and currently has 100 members, including representatives from Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Folk religious communities. Programmes focus on peace education, peace culture and peace dialogue.

Contact: Pearly Chan Poh Yee, Chair, Religions for Peace Malaysia WOFN ( tokyo@rfpasia.net )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Malaysia's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 2006 and currently has 200 members, including representatives from Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Folk religious communities. Programmes focus on peace education, peace culture and peace dialogue.

Contact: Robert Chia Soon Yoong, Head, Religions for Peace Malaysia IYN (tokyo@rfpasia.net)

### Religions for Peace Mongolia

**Religious Demography:** 55.1% Buddhist, 2.3% Christian (predominantly Protestant), 3.5% Folk Religions (including Shamanist), <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 3.2% Muslim, <1% Other Religions (including Bahá'í), 35.9% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Mongolia

Secretary General: Ven. Bulgan Tumeekhuu

Website: www.rfpasia.org/national-chapters/mongolia/

Email: tokyo@rfpasia.net

#### Main Areas of Work:

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

- Implementing the "Religions in Mongolia for Environment Protection" initiative
- Convening youth representatives of Mongolia's major religious bodies to discuss the impact of climate change on the nomadic way of life to develop solutions for preserving traditional ways of life from ecological pressure
- Providing assistance and consultation to government and research institutions on traditional perspectives and concerns vis-a-vis climate change

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Instrumentalising venues of interfaith discussion and dialogue in the fight against climate change, both highlighting commonalities between different faiths and tying them together through join action and purpose

#### Constituency:

Mongolian Muslim Association, Mongolian Bahá' í Association, Zanabazar Buddhist University, National University of Mongolia

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Mongolia does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Mongolia's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) includes representatives from Muslim, Buddhist, and Bahá' í communities. Programmes focus on environmental protection, interreligious understanding, and multi-religious collaboration.

### Religions for Peace Myanmar

**Religious Demography:** 80.1% Buddhist (predominantly Theravada), 1.7% Hindu, 5.8% Indigenous Religions, 4.0% Muslim (predominantly Sunni), 6.5% Protestant

Official Name of IRC: Nyein Chan Metta (Religions for Peace Myanmar)

Secretary General: Daw Yin Yin Maw President: U Myint Swe

Address: No. 58, 1st Floor, Bo Gyoke Aung San Road, Pazundaung Township

Yangon, Myanmar

Website: www.rfpmm.org / Facebook

Email: office@rfpmm.org / ratanametta2004@gmail.com / rfpmmoffice@gmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Launching the Advisory Forum on National Reconciliation and Peace, which brought together government ministries, Ethnic Armed Organisations, parliamentarians, civil society groups, foreign diplomats, and UN officials to discuss the conflict in the Rakhine State
- Protecting children by educating young mothers, building, and maintaining community centers, and providing them with education and nutrition in partnership with Yangon Kayin Baptist Women Association, Karuna Myanmar Social Service, Ratana Metta Organisation, Positive Muslim Group and Urban Rural Mission
- Facilitating the relocation of internally displaced persons through consultation with local authorities and setting up meetings between local actors
- Providing "Do No Harm and Conflict Sensitivity" training

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Implementing projects that focus on water supplies, planting and pairing activities and cleaning the environment

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Organising visits of religious spaces to share knowledge of different faiths' traditions and teachings
   Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through
  - Building international ties with leaders in foreign governments, creating partnerships between local faith communities and the United Nations and expanding dialogue within those faith communities in order to tackle the Rohingya crisis

#### **Constituency:**

Ratana Metta Organisation, Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangha, Myanmar Council of Churches, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Yangon, Islamic Centre of Myanmar

**Women of Faith Network**: *Religions for Peace* Myanmar's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was established in 2014 and currently has 150 members, including Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and Muslim representatives. Activities focus on organising development and peacebuilding programmes, women empowerment, advocating for the involvement of women in peace processes, gender equality, prevention of domestic abuse and climate change. Women representatives are also involved in all of *Religions for Peace* Myanmar's programmes.

Contact: Daw Yin Yin Maw, Secretary General ( office@rfpmm.org )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Myanmar's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 2013 and currently has 100 members, including Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim and Sikh representatives. Activities focus on the media, climate change, peacebuilding sessions, visiting religious sites, volunteering at HIV shelters, disseminating knowledge about elections, civil society, nutrition, health and child protection; and campaigning against hate speech.

Contact: Meera Lwin Mar Oo, Youth Representative ( office@rfpmm.org )

#### Partnerships:

Ratana Metta Organisation, Yangon Kayin Baptist Women Association, Karuna Myanmar Social Service (Taunggyi), Positive Muslim Group, Urban Rural Mission

### Religions for Peace Nepal

**Religious Demography:** 10.3% Buddhist, <1% Christian (primarily Protestant), 3.7% Folk Religions (including Kirat, animist and Bon), 80.7% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 4.6% Muslim (primarily Sunni), <1% Other Religions (including Jain, and Sikh), <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Nepal

President: Ms. Indira Manandhar

Secretary General: Ms. Pooja Manandhar

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rfpnepal

Email: tokyo@rfpasia.net

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Identifying common ground between various religious groups, and bringing them together in faith-inspired service projects focused on providing relief to impoverished and disenfranchised Nepalese
- Providing material relief to marginalised members of society, including donating clothes and blankets
- Advocating against child marriage practices, specifically through multi-media educational tools
- Providing relief to the victims of natural disasters by bringing diverse religious and ethnic communities
  together to offer humanitarian support i.e. providing essential school items, improving health and sanitation
  through the construction of toilets and bathrooms, contributing material to reconstruct earth-quake or flood
  affected homes
- Hosting programmes on disarmament of shared security

Advancing gender equality through

Holding trainings and seminars for women on self-sufficiency and income generation

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Advancing interreligious understanding by creating spaces for different religious and ethnic communities to share their beliefs, culture, and traditions with one another

#### **Constituency:**

Nepal Jain Parishad, Bahá' í National Centre, St. Xavier Church, Islami Sangh Nepal, Asslam Society, Brahma Kumari Rajyog, Hindu, Gurdwara Guru Nanak Satsang, Buddhist communities

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Nepal's Women of Faith Network (WoFN) comprises women of various faiths. The Nepali WOFN participates in *Religions for Peace*'s general activities and is active in implementing the organisation's projects, including giving aid to earthquake victims.

Contact: Ms. Indira Manandhar, President, Religions for Peace Nepal ( tokyo@rfpasia.net )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Religions for Peace Nepal's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) engages with interfaith youth through youth gatherings introducing young people to Religions for Peace and its future endeavours to ensure the involvement and interest of youth representatives.

Contact: Ms. Pooja Manandhar, Secretary General, Religions for Peace Nepal ( tokyo@rfpasia.net )

### Religions for Peace New Zealand

**Religious Demography:** 1.1% Buddhist, 36.7% Christian (12.6 Roman Catholic, 8.5% Presbyterian), 2.6% Hindu, 1.3% Indigenous Maori, 0.1% Jewish, 1.3% Muslim, 0.4% New Age Movements, 47.8% No Religion, 15% Other Christian, 0.9% Sikh

Official Name of IRC: The Religious Diversity Centre Aotearoa New Zealand (\*official affiliation is being confirmed)

**Co-Chairpersons:** Jocelyn Armstrong & Dr. Jenny Te Paa Daniel

Address: University of Otago House

385 Queen St. PO Box 5543

Auckland 1141

Website: www.rdc.org.nz / Facebook / Twitter / Youtube

Email: admin@rdc-org-nz

#### Main Areas of Work:

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

Supporting the development of the interfaith submission on the Zero Carbon Bill

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Hosting Leadership Diversity Days for students to experience first-hand both the positive aspects and challenges inherent in living with religious diversity
- Hosting annual Jewish-Muslim student dialogues encouraging students to meet fellow students from different faith backgrounds in a safe and secure environment
- Offering Professional Development workshops/training seminars to organisations, associations and businesses wishing to help their members and/or employees become more familiar with matters of religious diversity

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Organising national interfaith forums and meetings for religious leaders
- Partnering in initiatives and dialogue with organisations such as Coexister Interfaith and KAICIID
- Organising panel discussion series on the topic of interfaith perspectives on current issues

#### Constituency:

Christian, Hindu, Bahá'í, Sikh, Buddhist, Jewish

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* New Zealand does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* New Zealand does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* New Zealand actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Pakistan

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 1.6 Christian (predominantly Protestant), 1.9% Hindu, <1% Indigenous Religions (including Kalash and Kihal), <1% Jewish, 96.4% Muslim (predominantly Sunni, also includes Shia and Ahmadi), <1% Other Religions (including Zoroastrian, Bahá'í, Sikh and Jain), <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Pakistan

President: Mr. Khalid Nawaz Khan Marwat

Secretary General: Ms. Huma Ikramullah tokyo@rfpasia.net

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Distributing groceries and masks to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Organising peace conferences aiming to combat terrorism and create an environment of peace and tranquility
- Holding seminars on human rights which were attended by diplomats, ministers, parliamentarians, vice chancellors and members of civil society
- Raising awareness and visiting internally displaced persons' camps
- Advocating for Polio vaccination teams throughout the country

Advancing gender equality through

Supporting the Women Protection Bill and its implementation in letter and spirit

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

Supporting and assisting animal organisations during the COVID-19 pandemic

#### Constituency:

Muslim, Christian, Hindu

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Pakistan's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was established in 2000 and currently has 18 members, including representatives from Muslim, Christian, Hindu and minority sects. Activities focus on women's rights, human rights, peace, tolerance and knowledge dissemination.

Contact: Mrs. Seemi Ikramullah, Chairperson, WOFN ( tokyo@rfpasia.net )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Pakistan's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 2005 and currently has 15 members, including representatives from Muslim, Christian, Hindu and minority sects. Activities focus on community service projects, environmental protection, sustainable development, and raising awareness about human rights.

Contact: Dr Sehreen Khan, President, IYN ( tokyo@rfpasia.net )

### Religions for Peace Philippines

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 81.0% Catholic, <1% Hindu, 1.5% Indigenous syncretic faiths and animism, <1% Jewish, 5.5% Muslim, <1% Other Religions, 10.7% Protestant, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Philippines

Secretary General: Dr. Lilian Sison

President: Maria Lourdes Salma Veloso Mastura

Address: Graduate School University of Santo Tomas Espana, Manila 1015, Philippines

Website: www.religionsforpeaceph.org / Facebook

Email: tokyo@rfpasia.net

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Contributing to civil society conflict mediation efforts between the government and Moro Islamic Liberation
- Partnering with UNICEF in multi-religious birth registration <u>project</u> bringing together Muslim, Christian, and Indigenous communities
- Working with UNICEF on social and behavioural change programmes aimed specifically at children and young families in marginalised communities
- Providing psycho-social training and seminars for military
- Working within religious communities to develop tailor-made methods of child protection

Advancing gender equality through

- Combatting human trafficking and modern slavery
- Empowering and training women to be leaders in their religious communities and in the fight against climate change

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Offering forums and workshops on interreligious dialogue
- Coordinating a youth multi-religious theological exchange

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Convening senior religious and youth leaders to reflect and discern common action as a response to the enduring negative impact of the wars and the rise of religious extremism

#### Constituency:

Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, Focolare, Archdiocese of Manila, Imam Council of the Philippines, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Silsilah Dialogue Movement

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Philippines' Women of Faith Network (WOFN) focuses its activities on campaigning for child protection, providing psycho-social support training of community women leaders and teachers mobilising to face climate change and advocating against human trafficking.

**Interfaith Youth Network**: *Religions for Peace* Philippines' Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) focuses its activities on nurturing a sustainable environment through the National Greening Programme which involves tree and mangrove planting. In response to COVID-19, the network also delivered multi-religious humanitarian aid by providing food packages and sanitation essentials to affected and minority communities.

Contact: Renz Christian Argao, Religions for Peace IYN Coordinator (tokyo@rfpasia.net)

### Religions for Peace Singapore

**Religious Demography:** 33.9% Buddhist, 7.1% Catholic, 2.3% Folk Religions, 5.2% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 14.3% Muslim (predominantly Sunni), 9.7% Other Religions (including Taoist, Sikh, Zoroastrian and Jain), 10.8% Protestant, 16.4% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Organisation Singapore (IRO)

President:Mr. Tan Thiam Lye, BBM (L)Honourary Secretary:Sr. Theresa Seow Lee HuangVice Presidents:Venerable Seck Kwang Phing

Vice Presidents: Mr. Rajesh R Shah Address: 7 Maxwell Road

MND Building Complex Annexe B

#05-02, Singapore 069111

Website: www.iro.sg / Facebook

Email: contact@iro.sg

#### Main Areas of Work:

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Organising the Harmony of Faiths Singapore Talks, a series of interactive talks focused on knowledge building and sharing about different faiths in Singapore

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Conducting interfaith prayer ceremonies and promoting mutual respect between religious communities in Singapore
- Creating spaces for lively interfaith discussions by hosting lectures, seminars, and talks

#### Constituency:

Singapore Buddhist Federation, Jewish Welfare Board, Singapore, Taoist Federation (Singapore), Association of Muslim Lawyers Singapore, Lutheran Church in Singapore, National Council of Churches of Singapore, Kampong Kapor Methodist Church, Sikh, Singapore Jain Religious Society, Shree Lakshminarayan Temple, Hindu Endowments Board, Parsee Zoroastrian Association of South East Asia, Infant Jesus Sisters in Singapore (Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, United Indian Muslim Association, Ramakrishna Mission Singapore, Wat Ananda Metyarama Thai Buddhist Temple, Kong Meng San Phor Kark See Monastery, Canossian Daughters of Charity, The Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá' ís of Singapore

Women of Faith Network: The IRO Women of Faith Wing (WOF) meets monthly to deepen the understanding of the different faiths of the participants. The WOF also has an ongoing array of fun and meaningful activities each month, including the Walking the Path of our Culture and History series where visits are organised to places of worship. The highlight WOF event in 2019 was the International Women's Day Celebration on 2nd March 2019, where stories of the impact of women in religions were shared by members of the Bahá' í, Christian, Muslim and Taoist faiths.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** The IRO Youth Wing serves youths and young adults aged 18 to 40 from different religions. The group was refreshed in 2019, during IRO's 70th year, with the objectives of forging friendship among young people from across different religions, catalysing conversations about religion and inter-religion harmony, and facilitating interfaith and inter-belief dialogue.

### Religions for Peace South Korea

**Religious Demography:** 15.5% Buddhist (including Won Buddhist), 7.9% Catholic, <1% Hindu, <1% Indigenous Religions (including Jeongando, Cheondogyo, Daejonggyo and Daesun Jinrihoe), <1% Jewish, <1% Muslim, <1% Other Religions (including Confucianist), 19.7% Protestant, 44% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Korean Conference of Religions for Peace (KCRP)

Secretary General: Rev.Kim Teasung

Address: #602, 112-7, Changgyeonggung-ro, Jongno-gu

Seoul, Republic of Korea

Website: <a href="www.kcrp.or.kr">www.kcrp.or.kr</a>
Email: <a href="kcrp21@gmail.com">kcrp21@gmail.com</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Advancing efforts towards denuclearization
- Maintaining dialogue with North Korea with a focus on coordinating humanitarian aid
- Fostering interfaith dialogue between different religious leaders in Korea

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Holding interfaith seminars and meetings for the general public to enhance understanding of various faiths
- Organising Interfaith Stay, an interfaith experience offered to the general public in which participants visit religious places and learn about other religious communities
- Publishing a monthly newspaper Jonggyo wa Pyeong'hwa and a quarterly English magazine Religion & Peace that covers issues related to religion- both in and beyond Korea
- Attending the APIYN Youth Camp

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

Building a network of collaboration and fostering dialogue between Korean and Japanese youth

#### Constituency:

National Council of Churches Korea, The Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, Won-Buddhism, Confucianism, Chondogyo, The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea, The Association for Native Korean Religions

**Women of Faith Network:** The Korean Conference of *Religions for Peace* has had an active Women of Faith Network (WOFN) since 1990 and currently has 15 members. Activities include organising seminars on topics such as interfaith dialogue, the environment, and ageing and death.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** The Korean Conference of *Religions for Peace* has had an active Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) since 1990 and currently has 20 members. The IYN regularly participates in the Religious Youth Camp Exchange which promotes harmonious relationships between the Japanese and Korean people through youth interreligious dialogue and peace-building activities.

### Religions for Peace Sri Lanka

**Religious Demography:** 69.3% Buddhist (predominantly Theravada), 7.3% Christian (predominantly Catholic), <1% Folk Religions, 13.6% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 9.8% Muslim, <1% Other Religions, <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Sri Lanka Council of Religions for Peace

Secretary General: Ven. Prof. Medawachchiye Dhammajothi Thero

Acting President: Ven. Boralesgamuwe Pemaratana Thero
Website: <a href="https://www.rfpasia.org/national-chapters/sri-lanka/">www.rfpasia.org/national-chapters/sri-lanka/</a>

Email: <a href="mailto:tokyo@rfpasia.net">tokyo@rfpasia.net</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Running and maintaining the multi-faith Tachibana pre-school in Vayniya district, providing pre-school education for marginalised children of various religious backgrounds
- Hosting special Buddhist religious ceremonies, presided by Most Ven. Kotugoda Dhammawasa
   Uththareethara Nayaka Thro, Supreme Patriarch of Sri Lanka Amarpura Nikaya, to amplify the message of
   interreligious harmony, unity and friendship in the wake of the most recent disaster and all recent communal
   strife in Sri Lanka
- Conducting 'edutainment' programmes and workshops in Myanmar amongst marginalised youth to promote awareness on SDGs and build capacities in responding to child protection issues
- Providing humanitarian support through the distribution of basic supplies to marginalised people

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

- Engaging in international interfaith climate action conferences, discussing best practices and perfecting plans
  of action on climate crisis issues
- Leveraging religious leaders in Sri Lankan religious communities to promote climate awareness, especially among youth

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnership through

Promoting multi-religious unity and solidarity in the response to the 2019 Easter Sunday Massacre

#### Constituency:

Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Hindu

**Women of Faith Network:** Sri Lanka Council of *Religions and Peace's* Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was formed in 2015, and has members from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, and Islamic faiths. Activities focus on organising Empowerment of Women Projects and implementing self-help projects for marginalised women and war widows.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Sri Lanka Council of *Religions and Peace's* Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 2015. Activities focus on engaging in youth exchange programmes, advocating for youth as a catalyst for promoting multi-faith peace and reconciliation, and nurturing a sustainable environment through tree planting and climate change awareness programmes.

### Religions for Peace Thailand

**Religious Demography:** 93.2% Buddhist (predominantly Theravada), <1% Christian, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 5.5% Muslim, <1% Other Religions (including Confucian, Sikh and Taoist), <1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace – Interreligious Council of Thailand

Secretary General: Dr. Suphatmet Yunyasit

Address: Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University

Panyaphiphat Building 999 Phuttamonthon 4 Rd.

Salaya, Nakhon Pathom 73170, Thailand

Website:www.thairfpirc.com / FacebookEmail:suphatmet.yun@gmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Engaging in a multi-religious conflict transformation project in southern Thailand
- Hosting the "Faith for Social and Bahaviour Change Initiative" workshop
- Equipping Thai youth with the requisite knowledge and skills to be agents of change and conflict transformation
- Organising praying and peace walks aimed at raising awareness that violent means are not a proper solution to conflict
- Deepening the ties within IRC-Thailand itself by increasing occasions of discussion and collaboration between the national WoFN and the IYC

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Collaborating with the Royal Academy of Sciences Thailand to create accessible resources for religious studies that promote coexistence among Thai citizens.

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Collaborating with international interfaith bodies in dialogue and consultations, and sharing experience in tackling a host of societal issues

#### Constituency:

The World Fellowship of Buddhist, Wat Paknam, Wat Pha Sukkatho, Sathiandhammasathan, National Office of Buddhism, Sheikhul Islam Office of Thailand, Islamic Committee of Pattani, Islamic Committee of Samut Prakarn, Islamic Committee of Narathiwat, Islamic Committee of Yala, Kamalulislam Mosque, Center for Muslim World Policies, Catholic Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Christian Unity, Christian Foundation of Asia, Diocesan Social Action Center for Suratthani Catholic Foundation, Christian Council of Thailand, Kurusinghasapha Association, Sikh Organisation of Thailand, Ramakrishna Vedanta Association of Thailand

**Women of Faith Network**: *Religions for Peace* Thailand's Women of Faith Network (WoFN) - Women of Faith for Peace - was established in November 2015 and currently has 30 members. Membership includes representatives from Buddhims, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism, Bahá' í and Brahma Kumari. Programmes focus on capacity building and support for women and families affected by violent conflict as well as community safety in the three southernmost provinces of Thailand.

Interfaith Youth Network: Religions for Peace Thailand's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) was established in 2018 and currently has 30 members. Its membership includes representatives from Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. Programmes focus on capacity building for youth on conflict analysis and conflict transformation as well as youth engagement in peace processes. Religions for Peace Thailand has also held interfaith youth camps in local communities in which religious leaders try to create mutual understanding by exchanging ideas and knowledge of common history and traditions of participants of different faiths.

#### Partnerships:

## EUROPE



# **European Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace**

Official Name of IRC: European Council of Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace

Secretary General: Dr. Mark Owen

Address: Centre of Religion, Reconciliation and Peace

University of Winchester

Sparkford Road

Winchester Hampshire SO22 4NR

Website: www.ECRL.eu / Twitter / Facebook / LinkedIn

**Email:** <u>secretariat@ECRL.eu</u>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Since 2019, representatives of Religious Leaders, Women, Youth and IRCs developed a proposal for a new *Religions for Peace* structure in Europe, which was agreed by their membership in early 2020. It was agreed that a new *Religions for Peace* body should be formed in Europe, which fully incorporates all regional level *Religions for Peace* members/affiliates in Europe – to include Religious Leaders, Women, Youth and IRCs representation. The new organisational structure will retain separate sub-committees for Religious Leaders, Youth, Women and national bodies, but share governance, strategic objectives, administration, communications etc. A new united regional organisation is due to launch in early 2021.

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Preventing hate crimes through initiatives such as Speech for Change, newly piloted in Bosnia
- Nurturing a sustainable environment through
- Organising European hub interreligious discussion sessions for The Global Faith for Nature Conference
   Strengthening interreligious education through
  - Developing an innovative, interactive online platform which can be used by both religious organisations and faith groups

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Developing the Religions for Peace network in Europe and building close religious networks in Europe that are convenient for all stakeholders
- Implementing multi-religious approaches to Integration Research through initiatives such as the Research Project with University of Winchester
- Building partnerships, such as the Research Project's partnership with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

#### **Constituency:**

Catholic Communities, Dharmic Communities, including Sikhs, Buddhists, Hindus and Zoroastrians, Jewish Communities, Muslim Communities, Orthodox Christian Communities, Protestant Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** Founded in 2018, ECRL-*Religions for Peace's* Women of Faith Network (WOFN) joins a diversity of faith and interfaith-based women's organisations in Europe to work together for peace. There are currently 10 members representing the Regional Interreligious Council's constituent faith communities. The Network creates opportunities for women to communicate and learn from each other, share good practices and work in partnership with other organisations on issues concerning women and girls. Programmes promote peacebuilding and work with religious leaders, grassroots leaders, governmental actors and statutory and voluntary organisations.

Contact: Maria Cristina Kaveri ( <a href="mailto:secretariat@ECRL.eu">secretariat@ECRL.eu</a> )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** First established in 2006, ECRL-*Religions for Peace's* Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) is composed of 20 European youth faith-based organisations, religious communities and non-religious organisations that facilitate interfaith dialogue. 10 members represent the Regional Interreligious Council's constituent faith communities. Programmes focus on tackling hate speech, campaigning against nuclear weapons and addressing climate change.

Contact: Daniel Eror ( secretariat@ECRL.eu )

### Religions for Peace Albania

Religious Demography: 7% Albanian Orthodox, 2% Bektshi Order, 4% Other, 10% Roman Catholic, 57% Sunni Muslim, 20% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Albania – Religions for Peace (IRCA)

Secretary General: Dr. Genti Kruja

Website: www.knfsh.al / Facebook / Instagram / Twitter

Email: info@knfsh.al

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Advocacy efforts for Albanian politicians to find commonality and solve national political crises
- Mobilising Interfaith Youth and Women of Faith Networks as key actors in preventing extremism and radicalism
- Launching an interfaith initiative to distribute emergency aid to orphans and vulnerable families affected by COVID-19, promoting collaboration among Christians, Muslims, women and youth

Championing freedom of thought, conscience, and religion through

 Reinforcing the importance of interfaith dialogue and tolerance in various spaces, including the European Parliament

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Facilitating dialogue and cooperation among the religions represented in Albania: Bectanite, Catholic, Muslim, Orthodox and Protestant communities

#### Constituency:

Bektashi World Headquarters, Catholic Church of Albania, Evangelical Brotherhood of Albania, Muslim Community of Albania, Orthodox Autocephalous Church of Albania, The Episcopal Conference of Albania

Women of Faith Network: Religions for Peace Albania has an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), established in 2019. It is comprised of five members representing five different religious communities: Sunni Muslim, Orthodox Christian, Catholic, Bektashi (Sufi) Muslim and Protestant Christian faiths. Activities focus on providing humanitarian aid and organising cultural activities with the women's sectors in various religious communities. The Network also organizes meetings and conversations with intellectual women, students, and young believers to strengthen interfaith dialogue and harmony in the country.

Contact: Shelda Agaraj ( info@knfsh.al )

Interfaith Youth Network: Religions for Peace Albania has an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), first established in 2019. It has 10 members with representation from Sunni Muslim, Orthodox Christian, Catholic, Bektashi (Sufi) Muslim and Protestant Christian communities. Programmes focus on strengthening interfaith dialogue among young people through the development of seminars or trainings, sports activities, etc.

Contact: Geraldo Mehmeti ( info@knfsh.al )

### Religions for Peace Austria

**Religious Demography:** 57%Catholic, 7.9% Eastern Orthodox, 8.7% Evangelical Christian, 3.3.% Muslim, 23.1% Other/None/Unspecified

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace (WCRP) Austria

Secretary General: Dr. Brigitte Maria Proksch

Website: <a href="www.weltreligionen.at/Twitter/Facebook">www.weltreligionen.at/Twitter/Facebook</a>
Forum@weltreligionen.at / info@weltfriede.at

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Organising interreligious conferences with neighboring countries and seminars, workshops, exhibitions and round table meetings of religious leaders to promote collaborative peacebuilding efforts
- Sponsoring the Interreligious Forum Wiener Neustadt, gathering representatives of religious communities
  and civil society to promote peaceful coexistence in Wiener Neustadt by sharing interreligious prayer,
  identifying common values or objectives and defining religion as a shared source of strength

Championing freedom of thought, conscience, and religion through

 Advocating for human rights issues and <u>hosting international interreligious conferences</u> on freedom of conscience

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Inviting religious leaders and representatives to lead lectures and conversations on topics related to their faith communities' religious beliefs and practices
- Partnering with the Catholic Academic Association and the Municipal Department for Culture of the City of Vienna to host the AGORA public educational lecture series on interreligious dialogue

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Collaborating with the Center for Religion and Globalization at Donau-Universität Krems and interreligious partners to <u>organise conferences on religious pluralism, human rights and refugees</u> to prevent polarization and xenophobia

#### Constituency:

Bahá' í Communities, Buddhist Communities, Christian Communities, Hindu Communities, Muslim Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Austria does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Austria does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), youth are actively encouraged to participate in IRC activities and planning processes related to peacebuilding efforts, human rights issues and interreligious education.

#### Partnerships:

Catholic Academic Association, Municipal Department for Culture of the City of Vienna

### Religions for Peace Belgium

**Religious Demography:** 9.2% Atheist, 3% Buddhist, .4% Jewish, 5% Muslim, 32.6% No preference, 2.5% Protestant and Other Christian, 50% Roman Catholic

Official Name of IRC: Belgium Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace

Secretary General: Ms. Karla Van Assche President: Imam Essan Secundar

Website: Religionsforpeace.be (under construction) / www.ECRL.eu

Email: secretariat@ECRL.eu

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Facilitating interreligious dialogues among religious leaders and their constituent communities
- Leading the celebration of various religious traditions' major events to create an environment of mutual respect and admiration for different faith communities
- Distributing face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic to display interreligious solidarity throughout the country

Advancing gender equality through

- Honouring the role of women from various religious traditions by celebrating International Women's Day
   Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through
  - Convening different religious leaders to attend and participate in Brussels' Parliament meetings

#### Constituency:

Buddhist Communities, Christian Communities, Hindu Communities, Jain Communities, Jewish Communities, Muslim Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Belgium does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. Women representatives from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Orthodox communities serve within the National IRC, and two to three females represent their respective communities in the IRC.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Belgium does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Belgium actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

# Religions for Peace Bosnia & Herzegovina

Religious Demography: 3% Other, 15% Roman Catholic, 31% Serbian Orthodox, 51% Sunni Muslim

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Religions for Peace

Secretary General: Mr. Igor Kozemjakin

Address: Ferhadija 16, Sarajevo 71000

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Website: <a href="www.mrv.ba">www.mrv.ba</a> / <a href="Facebook">Facebook</a> / <a href="Instagram">Instagram</a>

Email: office@mrv.ba

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, inclusive, and just societies through

- Strengthening interreligious dialogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina through grassroots projects in 15 local communities
- Promoting respect for religious diversity and the fundamental human rights of every person while highlighting the common values of religious and spiritual traditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Advocating for respect for victims of war crimes regardless of their religious or ethnic background
- Campaigning for interreligious cooperation and reconciliation efforts to create a more inclusive society in the aftermath of the ethnic cleansing of the early 1990s
- Facilitating the return of refugees and internally displaced persons

Advancing gender equality through

 Denouncing the stigmatization of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and preventing violence against women

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

Promoting the restoration of religious buildings and cultural sites destroyed by conflict

#### Constituency:

Islamic Communities, Jewish Communities, Roman Catholic Church, Serbian Orthodox Church

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Bosnia and Herzegovina's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) consists of over 100 women from four traditional churches and religious communities from all parts of the country. The WOFN was formed in 2011 and has 200 members representing Islam, Orthodox Christianity and Roman Catholicism. Programmes focus on issues related to family upbringing, preventing violence against women and engaging in charitable works.

Contact: Olivera Jovanovic, Senior Advisor ( office@mrv.ba )

Interfaith Youth Network: Although *Religions for Peace* Bosnia and Herzegovina does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Bosnia and Herzegovina actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes related to peacebuilding, refugee aid and interreligious dialogue. The National IRC is in the process of establishing a formal IYN by building upon the pre-existing local chapter groups of connected young activists from Jewish, Muslim, Roman Catholic and Serbian Orthodox Christian communities.

### Religions for Peace Bulgaria

**Religious Demography:** 59.4% Eastern Orthodox, 7.8% Muslim, 3.7% None, 1.7% Other (Armenian Apostolic Orthodox, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant), 27.4% Unspecified

Official Name of IRC: Bulgarian Forum for Interreligious Dialogue and Partnership (BFIRDP)

Secretary General: Dr. Marcel Israel

Website: <a href="https://www.bfidp.com">www.bfidp.com</a> (under construction) / <a href="https://www.ECRL.eu">www.bfidp.com</a> (under construction) / <a href="https://www.ECRL.eu">www.bfidp.com</a> (under construction) / <a href="https://www.eCRL.eu">www.ECRL.eu</a>

Email: office@bfidp.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

 Conducting seminars, talks and symposiums on the legal and social ramifications of xenophobia and religious or ethnic bigotry in Bulgaria

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

- Creating a symposium on religion and ecology, which focused on the connection between sustainable ecology and religious heritage
- Advocating for the post-pandemic recovery process to include interreligious efforts to achieve UNDP Sustainable Development Goals

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Facilitating high-level round table dialogues between experts and stakeholders on the role of education in fighting xenophobia and fostering religious coexistence in Bulgaria

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

Organising virtual conferences to discuss spirituality during the COVID-19 crisis, such as the "Religions in a Pandemic World: Challenges and Opportunities" webinar supported by the Religions Directorate of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria

#### **Constituency:**

Armenian Apostolic Church, Buddhist Communities, Jewish Communities, National Council of Religious Communities in Bulgaria, Orthodox Christian Church, Roman Catholic Church, State Islamic Institute, St. Trivelius Institute (Evangelical Higher Academy)

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Bulgaria does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. Women also serve in leadership positions within the National IRC.

#### **Interfaith Youth Network:**

Although *Religions for Peace* Bulgaria does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Bulgaria actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. Youth and young adults from Christian Orthodox, Muslim, and Christian Evangelical communities are engaged in dialogue, webinars, and conferences hosted by the National IRC. *Religions for Peace* Bulgaria has been collaborating with students from the Faculty of Theology at the State University of Sofia, the University of Veliko Tarnovo/Bulgaria, the Higher Islamic Institute/Sofia and the Higher Evangelical Academy/Sofia to organize an IYN.

### Religions for Peace Finland

Religious Demography: 28.5% Atheist/Agnostic/Unaffiliated, 68.7% Lutheran, 1.1% Orthodox Christian, .8% Other

Official Name of IRC: National Forum for Cooperation in Finland – (CORE Forum)

Secretary General: Inka Nokso-Koivisto

Address: Fredrikinkatu 33 B 3. krs
00120 Helsinki, Finland

Website: <u>uskot.fi</u> / <u>Facebook</u> / <u>Twitter</u> / <u>Instagram</u> / <u>Podcast</u>

Email: info@uskot.fi

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Hosting seminars, discussion series and cultural events to build bridges between religious communities
- Preventing hate crimes and promoting peaceful, collaborative work towards shared interreligious goals to create an environment of mutual respect

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

Arranging seminars and events on religious freedom and human rights issues

Strengthening interreligious education through

Leading religious education initiatives for youth at schools

Fostering multi-religious collaboration through

- Mobilising CORE Forum constituents to serve as representatives on various advisory bodies, including the Finnish Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations and the Advisory Board for Non-Discrimination Matters
- Cooperating with and consulting public authorities and governmental ministries on religious matters and situations requiring religious sensitivity

#### **Constituency:**

Central Council of Jewish Communities in Finland, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Finnish Buddhist Union, Finnish Ecumenical Council, Finnish Islamic Congregation, Islamic Council of Finland, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Finland does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities, are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work and serve in leadership roles on the National IRC's Board. *Religions for Peace* Finland also has an Equality Commission, which works against all forms of discrimination and equality.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Finland does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Finland actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. Youth are engaged in the National IRC through social media and video campaigns. Interreligious youth education is also an integral aspect of the National IRC's work. *Religions for Peace* Finland recently <u>hosted a virtual interfaith webinar for youth</u> to share how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their lives and spirituality.

### Religions for Peace France

**Religious Demography:** 40.4% Atheist/Agnostic/Unaffiliated, 47.8% Catholic, 0.4% Jewish, 3.3% Muslim, 6.6% Protestant

Official Name of IRC: Religions pour la Paix – France (CMRP)

Secretary General: Mr. Jacques Hubert

Website: www.religionspourlapaix.fr

Email: religionspourlapaix@gmail.com / religionspourlapaix@yahoo.fr

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Organising inclusive and interreligious Circles of Prayer and Recollections for Peace to create conflict-free environments for dialogue
- Engaging in interreligious peacebuilding events, such as opening the Decade of Peace and Fraternity in Lille
- Strengthening interreligious education through
- Gathering teachers, parents and educational actors through the Education for Peace Commission to reflect on tools for teaching young people about religio-cultural diversity, peacebuilding and violence prevention in schools
- Maintaining an interreligious calendar to honour various religious traditions' major holidays
- Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through
- Hosting meetings and conferences, such as the <u>Conference on Bioethics and Religions</u> in Cergy, with religious speakers representing each constituent faith tradition

#### Constituency:

CMRP consists of approximately 30 regional groups, half of which (including Lille, Cergy, Nantes, Angers, etc.) are very active and include local religious representatives. The main religious communities represented at the regional level include Muslims, Christians (Catholics, Protestants, and Orthodox), Jews, Bahá' ís, and Buddhists. The national level includes representatives from Muslim, Catholic, Orthodox, Jewish, and Bahá' í communities.

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* France's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) formed in 2007. There are also groups of women from Buddhist, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Orthodox communities in the National IRC at large and within leadership positions.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* France is affiliated with the Coexister Group, which manages the Interfaith Youth Network (IYN). At the regional level, youth groups and youth interventions are organized with young people from universities. The IYN has representation from Muslim and Christian communities.

### Partnerships:

la FIF (Foundation for an Islam of France), The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

### Religions for Peace Germany

Religious Demography: 34% Atheist/Agnostic/Unaffiliated, 29.9% Catholic, 6.1% Muslim, 1.3% Orthodox, 29.8% Protestant

Official Name of IRC: Round Table of Religions in Germany / Religions for Peace Germany

Secretary General: Dr. Franz Brendle

**Website:** www.religionsforpeace.de / www.runder-tisch-der-religionen.de

Email: rfp@r-f-p.de

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Organising activities of local chapters to engage and provide material assistance with refugees in our towns
- Implementing peace education programmes on a local basis
- Promoting interfaith solidarity and mutual understanding through the publication of <u>Gemeinsam beten?</u> <u>Interreligiöse Feiern mit anderen Religionen</u> ("Pray together? Interfaith Celebrations with Other Religions) on interreligious prayer and celebrations
- Distributing 20,000 surgery masks in 12 different towns to address needs resultant from COVID-19 pandemic
- Creating info-text videos and prayer days to provide interreligious solidarity and empathy during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Maintaining an interreligious calendar to honour various religious traditions' major holidays and celebrating the annual Day of Religions

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Engaging religious leaders to share faith-inspired perspectives on climate justice in collaboration with the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, which aims to bring moral urgency and spiritual resources to end tropical deforestation

### Constituency:

Bahá' í National Spiritual Council, German Buddhist Union, Islamrat für die Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Islamic Council for the Federal Republic of Germany), Central Council of Jews in Germany, Nordelbische Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church), Orthodox Christian Church, Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland/EKD (Protestant Church in Germany), Roman Catholic Church, Türkisch-Islamische Union der Anstalt für Religion/DITIB (The Turkish-Islamic Union for Religious Affairs), Zentralrat der Muslime in Deutschland/ZMD (Central Council of Muslims in Germany)

Women of Faith Network: Although *Religions for Peace* Germany does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. The local chapter in Augsburg is also a women's group. Since its foundation in 2018, the local chapter has grown its membership to include 17 representatives from Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian (Roman Catholic, Old Catholic, Protestant), Jewish and Muslim (Sunni, Ahmadiyya, Alevi) communities. Women participate in the annual celebration of Peace Festival in Augsburg and engage in interfaith dialogue and interreligious education programmes.

Contact: Dr. Elisabeth Naurath, Chairwomen of the *RfP*-Group Augsburg-Schwaben ( <u>rfp@r-f-p.de</u> / Augsburg Women's Chapter Website )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Germany does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), youth are actively encouraged to participate in IRC activities and planning processes related to peacebuilding and humanitarian aid efforts for refugees.

### **Religions for Peace Italy**

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 80.8% Christian, <1% Hindu, <1% Traditional Religions, <1% Jewish, 4.9% Muslim, <1% Other, 13.4% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Italia ONLUS

**Secretary General:** Dr. Luigi de Salvia **Address:** Via di Porta Castello 33

00193 Rome, Italy

Website: www.religioniperlapaceitalia.org / Facebook

Email: info@religioniperlapaceitalia.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Holding interreligious study seminars, peace education initiatives, interreligious dialogues and conflict interventions
- Engaging an interreligious day of prayer, fasting, and works of charity for victims of the COVID-19 pandemic to promote solidarity among religious traditions

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Hosting ecumenical and interreligious meetings on the role of religious communities in environmental protection, such as the "We Protect the Earth Together" conference organized in collaboration with the Municipal Administration of Bagno a Ripoli and the Municipal Commission for Peace and Rights

Strengthening interreligious education through

 <u>Distributing an interreligious calendar</u> to schools, religious communities, volunteer associations and civil authorities to honour various religious traditions' major feast days and to spread awareness among faith traditions

### **Constituency:**

Adventist Christian Communities, Bahàì Communities, Brahma Kumaris Communities, Hindu Communities, Hindu Hare Krishna Communities, Jewish Communities, Lutheran Christian, Muslim Communities, Roman Catholic Church, Serbian-Orthodox Christian, Sikh Communities, Taoist Communities, Waldensian Christian Communities, Zen Buddhist Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Italy's Women of Faith Network (WOFN) was formed in 2007 and has 40 members representing Jewish, Sikh, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Soka Gakkai, Taoist, Roman Catholic, Protestant Chrisian, Bahá' í and Risshò Kòsei Kai communities. Activities focus on education, the empowerment of women, preventing violence against women, immigration issues and women's roles in society and in various religions.

Contact: Francesca Baldini, WOFN Managing Director ( women@religioniperlapaceitalia.org / WOFN Facebook )

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* Italy's Interfaith Youth Network (IYN) has 5-10 youth representatives from Bahá'í, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Orthodox Christian, Protestant and Roman Catholic communities. Activities focus on interfaith dialogue, social cohesion and curbing prejudice and hate speech.

Contact: Mr. Alessandro Benedetti ( youth@religioniperlapaceitalia.org )

### Religions for Peace Netherlands

**Religious Demography:** 5.1% Muslim, 50.7% None, 5.6% Other (Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish), 14.9% Protestant (2.9% Calvinist, 6.4% Dutch Reformed, 5.6% Protestant Church of The Netherlands), 23.6% Roman Catholic

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Netherlands

Chair: Mrs. Mirjam H.J.C. Ates-Snijdewind

Website: www.religiesvoorvrede.nl / Facebook / Twitter

**Email:** <u>religiesvoorvrede@yahoo.com</u>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Organising inter-generational dialogue focused on the virtue of hope
- Advocating for nuclear disarmament through interreligious prayer events at the memorial days of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and through campaigns to distribute special postcards about nuclear disarmament to politicians

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

- Advocating for climate change issues, such as deforestation and plant and animal extinction
- Preparing video interviews with scientists, key influencers and environmental organisations about the United Nations Development Programme's Sustainable Development Goals and sustainability in daily life to promote environmental consciousness among society at large

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Hosting educational programmes focused on peaceful coexistence and actively co-organising the foundation of a permanent "School of Peace"

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

<u>Co-hosting a virtual conference with The Bahá' ís of the Netherlands</u> to mark the 100th anniversary of the
delivery of the First Tablet to The Hague to reflect on how the vision for peace presented in the tablet can
serve as a peacebuilding model today

### Constituency:

Buddhist Communities, Confucian Communities, Hindu Communities, Muslim Communities, Jainist Communities, Jewish Communities, Protestant Christian Communities, Roman Catholic Church, Shinto Communities, Sikh Communities, Sufi Communities, Taoist Communities, Zoroastrian Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Netherlands does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. The National IRC is involved in the ECRL-*Religions for Peace* WOFN, with former National IRC members now serving within the ECRL-*Religions for Peace* WOFN. Women also serve in leadership positions on *Religions for Peace* Netherlands' Daily Board.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Netherlands does not have an official Interfaith Youth Network, *Religions for Peace* Netherlands actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. Young members also serve on *Religions for Peace* Netherlands' General Board and Daily Board, and participate in events hosted by ECRL-*Religions for Peace*, such as the interreligious Young Bridgebuilders training event hosted in partnership with Erasmus+.

### Religions for Peace Romania

**Religious Demography:** 6% No Data, 81% Orthodox Christian, 1.5% Other, 6.25 Protestant Christian, 5.1% Roman Catholic, <1 % Unnafiliated

Official Name of IRC: Fundatia Ecomondia Filiala Bucuresti / Religions for Peace Romania

Secretary General:Mr. Kiss OctavianWebsite:https://ecrl.eu/Email:secretariat@ECRL.eu

#### Main Areas of Work:

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Advocating for interreligious preservation of ecosystems, cherishing nature and protecting the planet's limited resources

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Engaging in the Global Network of Religions for Children's Learning to Play Together intercultural and interfaith programme for youth's ethics education, endorsed by UNICEF and UNESCO
- Promoting values of mutual interreligious understanding and respect among youth by assisting with the translation, editorial process, and dissemination of the GNRC "Good Practices Booklet"
- Partnering with the Ministry of Education, Teacher's Houses and Ministry of Youth to launch interreligious educational programmes

### **Constituency:**

Atheist Communities, Orthodox Christian Communities, Muslim (Turkish) Communities, Protestant Christian Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Romania does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work related to human rights issues and interreligious educational programmes.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Romania does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Romania actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities, such as interreligious educational programmes. Youth are also engaged through the GNRC's Learning to Play Together interfaith programme. In Romania, these programme activities are implemented for children living in an institution to better meet their immediate needs.

#### Partnerships:

Romanian Ministry of Education, Romanian Ministry of Youth

### Religions for Peace Russia

Religious Demography: 73.3% Christian, 10% Muslim, 16.2% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Council of Russia (ICR)

Secretary General: Rev. Dmitrii Safonov Address: 115191 Danilovsky Val, 22

Moscow, Russia

Website: <u>interreligious.ru</u> / <u>Facebook</u>
Email: <u>interrel.council@yandex.ru</u>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Countering extremism, radicalism and interethnic hostility to promote interreligious and inter-cultural peace, harmony and coexistence
- Advancing the incorporation of moral values within society to encourage interreligious collaboration and respectful peacebuilding efforts
- Hosting interfaith meetings with organisations, such as the Christian Interfaith Advisory Committee, to discuss how religious communities can contribute to the formation of the nation

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Facilitating dialogue between religious leaders and the local and federal governments in legal, social and economic spheres to secure the rights of marginalised religious communities and promote the prosperity of society
- Acting as a unifying public instrument and mediator to peacefully settle conflicts, such as the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

### **Constituency:**

Buddhist Traditional Sangha of Russia, Central Muslim Spiritual Board of Russia, Central Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Russia, Congress of Jewish Religious Organisations and Associations in Russia, Coordination Centre of Muslims of the North Caucasus, Council of Muftis of Russia, Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society, Russian Orthodox Church, Spiritual Administration of Muslims of the Republic of Tatarstan, Spiritual Administration of Muslims of the Russian Federation

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Russia does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Russia does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Russia actively encourages youth participation in activities and planning processes related to promoting moral values within society and working towards interreligious and inter-cultural peace.

### Religions for Peace Spain

**Religious Demography:** 7.6% Agnostic, 11.3% Atheist, 8.2% Non-believer, 2.8% Other, 68.9% Roman Catholic, 1.1% Unspecified

Official Name of IRC: Grupo de Trabajo Estable de Religiones (GTER) / Religions for Peace Spain

**Director:** Dr. Joan Hernández Serret

 Website:
 www.grupdereligions.org/ / Facebook / YouTube / Twitter

 Email:
 gter@grupdereligions.org / grupdereligions@gmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Preventing intolerance and attacks against marginalised religious and ethnic groups by hosting monthly meetings with religious leaders to support other faith traditions suffering from discrimination
- Collaborating with the administration to regulate the permissions to open religious buildings in the cities to ensure equittance for all religions and to create a more harmonious society
- Strengthening interreligious collaboration to address issues such as immigration and prisons reform
- Engaging the United Nations' World Interconfessional Harmony Week in the Parliament of Catalonia to celebrate pluralism in society

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

Supporting interfaith environmental sustainability events, such as the <u>Interfaith Dialogue for Hope and Action</u>, to develop the tools to assist in the implementation and enhancement of nationally-determined contributions to combat climate change

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Organising international interfaith meetings, such as the Interreligious Ibero-American Forum of Heads of State and Government

### **Constituency:**

Archpriest of the Patriarchate of Serbia, Bahá' í Communities, Catalan Coordinator of Buddhist Entities, Catholic Church of Barcelona, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Evangelical Council of Catalonia, Federation of the Islamic Council of Catalonia, Hindu temple IKSON Barcelona, Islamic Cultural Council of Catalonia, Israelite Community of Barcelona, Orthodox Church in Spain, Protestant Federation Spain, Serbian Patriarchate Orthodox Church, Sikh Communities, Taoist community led by Master Yuan Limin, Tarraconense Episcopal Conference, Union of Islamic Communities of Catalonia

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Spain does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. An official WOFN is expected to be established in the near future.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Spain does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Spain actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes related to environmental sustainability, interreligious tolerance and peacebuilding efforts and immigration issues.

### Partnerships:

Catalunya Religió, Fundació Migra Studium, Generalitat de Catalunya Departament de Governació, Administracions Públiques i Habitatge, Direcció General d'Afers Religiosos

### Religions for Peace United Kingdom

Religious Demography: 64.3% Christian, 4.8% Muslim, 27.8% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace United Kingdom

Chair: Mr. Jamie Creswell

Website: www.rfpuk.org / Facebook / Twitter

Email: secretary@rfpuk.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

Advocating for nuclear disarmament and de-proliferation

Advancing gender equality through

 Hosting interreligious discussions and seminars on the lives and experiences of women peace-makers to educate and empower attendees and foster mutual respect and understanding

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Hosting interreligious seminars on the intersection between the climate crisis and the traditions and scriptural imperatives of various faiths to bring the crisis into focus

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

Advocating for the freedom of peaceful practice of religions and tackling extremism

Fostering multi-religious collaboration through

Building platforms of mutual dialogues and support between religious communities

### Constituency:

Anglican, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, London Buddhist Vihara, Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony UK (MCRRH), Muslim Council of Britain, Northwood Synagogue, Soka Gakka, Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe

**Women of Faith Network**: *Religions for Peace* United Kingdom formed the Women of Faith Network (WOFN) in 2016 and has 10 members representing Bahá'í, Buddhist, Brama Kumaris, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian communities. Programmes focus on women's empowerment, the elimination of gender-based violence and environmental protection. The WOFN has been involved in a number of initiatives and events including "Untold Stories of Women of Faith in the Suffragette Movement," which was organized in partnership with Interfaith Scotland and held during Scottish Interfaith Week.

Contact: Ravinder Kaur Nijjar, Chair of *Religions for Peace* UK Women of Faith Network ( <a href="mailto:secretary@rfpuk.org">secretary@rfpuk.org</a> / <a href="mailto:work">WOFN Website</a> )

Interfaith Youth Network: Although *Religions for Peace* UK does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* UK actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. The National IRC is working to establish an IYN and steering group of young leaders — including women, youth from underrepresented minorities and LGBTQ community members — to advocate for youth issues. Current programmes focus on fighting extremism, generating employment opportunities and providing bereavement support and religious services for youth affected by COVID-19.

Contact: Jamie Cresswell, Religions for Peace UK Chair ( <a href="mailto:chairman@rfpuk.org">chairman@rfpuk.org</a> / IYN Website / IYN Facebook)

### Religions for Peace Croatia (in transition)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Croatia (*Religions for Peace* Croatia) is in transition as it strengthens its governance structures through representativity and inclusivity, and scales up its programmematic capacities. Through these infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** 4.57% Atheist, 86.28% Catholic, 1.7% Muslim, 4.44% Orthodox Christian, .34% Protestant, 2.17% Undeclared

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Croatia

Member of the Board: Dr. Tomislav Kovač Website: www.ECRL.eu

Email: secretariat@ECRL.eu / kovactomislav@hotmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Facilitating collaborative peacebuilding partnerships among various religious communities and civil society
- Advocating for the resolution of all forms of violence, poverty, hunger and other forms of suffering in the world
- Building a tolerant multi-religious society through the annual <u>celebration of the traditional interreligious</u> choir concert at the Music Institute in Zagreb on International Human Rights Day
- Promoting ecumenical and interreligious dialogue in Croatian society
- Developing interfaith projects and worships with religious leaders

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Collaborating with the Interreligious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina to plan upcoming joint interreligious peacebuilding programmes and events

### Constituency:

Croatian Bishop's Conference (CBC) Council for Ecumenism and Dialogue, Diocese of Varaždin, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Croatia, Islamic Community of Zagreb, Jewish Communities, Roman Catholic Church, Serbian Orthodox Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Croatia does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Croatia does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Croatia actively encourages youth to participate in IRC activities and planning processes related to interreligious dialogue.

### Religions for Peace Ireland (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Ireland is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** 12.4% Atheist/Agnostic/Non-religious/Unaffiliated, 2.7% Church of Ireland, 1.3% Muslim, 1.3% Orthodox, 1.6% Other Christian, 2.4% Other, 78.3% Roman Catholic

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Ireland

Website: <a href="www.ECRL.eu">www.ECRL.eu</a>
Email: <a href="mailto:secretariat@ECRL.eu">secretariat@ECRL.eu</a>

**Constituency:** IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Ireland does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women will participate in IRC activities and be actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Ireland does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), youth will be actively encouraged to participate in IRC activities and planning processes.

# LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



# Religions for Peace - Latin America & the Caribbean Council of Religious Leaders (LACCRL-Religions for Peace)

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 72.1% Catholic, 1.7% Folk Religions, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, <1% Muslim, <1% Orthodox Christian, 1.2% Other Religions, 16.7% Protestant, 7.7% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiones por la Paz América Latina y el Caribe

**Moderator:** H. E. Cardinal Raymundo Damasceno Assis

Vice Moderator: Sheikh Muhammad Yusuf Hallar

Vice Moderator: Mr. Claudio Epelman

**Secretary General:** Mr. Elías Szczytnicki

Address: José Santiago Wagner 2461 Pueblo Libre, Lima 21, Perú

Social Media: <u>Facebook</u>

**Email:** <u>informes@religionesporlapaz.org</u>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Affirming values of living together, diversity and inclusion in faith communities
- Mobilizing faith communities to fight against injustice, xenophobia and violence in relation to refugees and migration

Advancing gender equality through

Dialoguing with intergovernmental organizations on women

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

- Mobilising the country's major faith communities to partner with the <u>Interfaith Rainforest Initiative</u>, which aims to bring moral urgency and spiritual resources to mobilize global efforts to end tropical deforestation
- Encouraging the participation of faith communities in international fora on the environment

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

Accompanying faith communities in the protection of places of worship

Strengthening interreligious education through

■ Leading the Latin American Inter-Religious Council on Peace Education (CILEP)

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Co-coordinating the regional Inter-Religious Alliance for the Agenda 2030 to advance an action-oriented partnership between governments and faith-based organizations in the implementation, follow-up and review of SDGs

#### Constituency:

Latin American Catholic Episcopal Council, Caribbean and Latin American Confederation of Religious Women and Men, Latin American Council of Churches, Caribbean Conference of Churches, Anglican Communion in Latin America and the Caribbean, Lutheran World Federation, Council of Evangelical Methodist Churches of Latin America and the Caribbean, Alliance of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches of Latin America, Latino Evangelical Alliance, Evangelical Association of the Caribbean, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Greek Orthodox Church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Latin American Jewish Congress, Islamic Organization for Latin America and the Caribbean, Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha of Trinidad and Tobago, Maya Q' eqchi' Spirituality, National Institute of Afro-Brazilian Tradition and Culture, National Confederation of Haitian Voodooists, Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean, ACT Alliance, World Vision Latin America and the Caribbean, CADENA

Women of Faith Network: The *Religions for Peace* Latin America and Caribbean Women of Faith Network (LACWFN) is composed by Catholic, Anglican, Protestant, Evangelical, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Bahá'í, Hindu, Indigenous and Afro-Latin American/Caribbean members. Main activities focus on response to violence against women.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** The *Religions for Peace* Latin America and Caribbean Youth Network (LACYN) is composed by Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, Jewish, Muslim and Indigenous members. Main activities focus on promoting interreligious understanding.

### Partnerships:

United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Environment Programme, KAICIID, Organization of American States, Ibero-American General Secretariat, Latin American and Caribbean Parliament, Institute for Economics and Peace, World Vision, Regional Ecumenical Center of Advisory and Service

### Religions for Peace Argentina

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhist, 76.8% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindu, <1% Jewish, 1.0% Muslim, 7.3% Protestant, <1% Orthodox Christian, 1.1% Other Christian, <1% Other Religions, 12.2% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Comité Interreligioso por la Paz (COMIPAZ)

Co-President: Most Rev. Pedro Torres
Co-President: Rev. Norberto Ruffa
Co-President: Rabbi Marcelo Polakoff
Co-President: Sheikh Jihad Sleiman

Secretary: Ms. Maria Pedicino Keuroghlian

Address: c/o Arzobispado de Córdoba, Hipólito Yrigoyen 98, X5000JHN, Córdoba, Córdoba

Website: www.comipaz.wordpress.com / Facebook / Twitter

**Email:** comipazsolidario@gmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Delivering support to vulnerable and margined communities
- Preventing and mediating conflicts and advancing social cohesion

Strenghtening interreligious education through

- Developing interreligious dialogue and holding interfaith prayers to deepen understanding and mutual respect
- Organizing the Free Chair of Religious Studies, in partnership with the Catholic University of Cordoba

### Constituency:

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cordoba, Evangelical Pastoral Council of Cordoba, Israelite Union Center of Cordoba, Arab Muslim Society of Cordoba, Lutheran and Reformed Congregation in Cordoba, Greek Orthodox Church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Armenian Apostolic Church, Bahá'í Community

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Argentina does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** The COMIPAZ Youth is composed of Catholic, Evangelical, Jewish and Muslim members, all of whom participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

Partnerships: Municipality of Cordoba, Catholic University of Cordoba

### Religions for Peace Brazil

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 65.0% Catholic, 2.8% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, <1% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 23.0% Protestant, 7.9% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiões pela Paz Brasil

**Executive Director:** Dr. Flavio Conrado

Address: SQS 412 BL M, Brasília, 70278-000 DF, Brasil

Email: informes@religionesporlapaz.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

 Launching the initiative "Lamento 100 mil", including the "Multi-religious Declaration for the Brazilian Nation amid the COVID-19 Crisis", to promote hope, solidarity and self-care face the pandemic and remember the victims in the country

### Constituency:

National Conference of Catholic Bishops of Brazil, National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil, Brazilian Evangelical Christian Alliance, Alliance of Baptists, Israelite Confederation of Brazil, Islamic National Union of Brazil, National Institute of Afro-Brazilian Tradition and Culture

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Brazil does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Brazil does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Brazil actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Partners:

Institute of Religious Studies

### **Religions for Peace Chile**

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 71.8% Catholic, 1.5% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 2.0% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 15.5% Protestant, 8.6% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Asociación Chilena de Diálogo Interreligioso para el Desarrollo Humano (ADIR Chile)

**Executive Director:** Rev. Omar Cortés

Communications and Management Coordinator: Ms. Maria Jose Ananias

Address: % Iglesia Anglicana San Adrés, Vicente Pérez Rosales 1765,

La Reina, Santiago, Región Metropolitana, Chile

Website: www.adir.cl / Facebook / Twitter / Instagram / LinkedIn / YouTube

Email: comunicaciones@adir.cl

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

Encouraging common values on human development

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

- Holding trainings for preventing religious discrimination
- Granting the Respect for Spiritual Diversity Certification to public and private institutions to accompany both public
  and private institutions to promote respect and equal conditions for all religious denominations in the workplace

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Holding cultural and educational talks, seminars, and workshops with the aim of advancing interreligious dialogue and understanding

### Constituency:

Catholic Church, Council of Protestant and Historical Churches of Chile, Anglican Church, Lutheran Church, Theological Evangelical Community of Chile, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Jewish Community, Islamic Community, Baha'i Faith, Brahma Kumaris, Sikh Community, Ancestral Peoples, Spiritual Forum of Santiago for Peace

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Chile does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. *Religions for Peace* Chile has 50 women members, including Hindu, Sikh, Sufi, Bahá'í, Brahma Kumari, Mapuche and Christian representatives. Women participate in *Religions for Peace* Chile's assemblies, activities and in work with children and teenagers.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Chile does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Chile actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Partnership:

Global Network of Religions for Children

### Religions for Peace Colombia

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 82.3% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, <1% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 10.0% Protestant, 6.6% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Asociación Consejo Interreligioso de Colombia (ACIC)

President: Rt. Rev. Francisco Duque-Gomez

Secretary General: Sr. Constanza Arango

Address: % Iglesia Episcopal Anglicana, Carrera 6 No 49-85 Bogotá, Colombia

**Email:** <u>informes@religionesporlapaz.org</u>

### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

- Defending the peace agreement and denouncing assassinations of social leaders and human rights activists
- Advocating for the care and well-being of children

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Mobilizing faith communities to partner with the <u>Interfaith Rainforest Initiative</u>, which aims to bring moral urgency and spiritual resources to end tropical deforestation

### Constituency:

Catholic Episcopal Conference of Colombia, Conference of Religious Women and Men de Colombia, Evangelical Council of Colombia, Episcopal Anglican Church of Colombia, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia, Presbyterian Church of Colombia, Methodist Colombian Church, Seventh-day Adventist Church, United Pentecostal Church of Colombia, Greek Orthodox Church of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Syrian Orthodox Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Islamic Charity Association of Bogota, Yamantaka Buddhist Meditation Center - Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition, Soto Zen Community of Colombia, International Society for Krishna Consciousness

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Colombia does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. *Religions for Peace* Colombia includes women representatives from Catholic, Buddhist, Muslim, and Jewish faiths.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Colombia does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Colombia actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

Partnership: United Nations Enviornment Programme

### Religions for Peace Costa Rica

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 66.7% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.5% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 22.7% Protestant, 7.9% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiones por la Paz Costa Rica

Secretary General: Rev. Eduardo Chinchilla

Address: % Iglesia Episcopal Costarricense, 200 m. al Norte de Cemaco, Zapote, San José, Costa Rica

**Email:** informes@religionesporlapaz.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Coordinating the National Platform of Faith-based Organizations for the Implementation of the SDGs to advance an action-oriented partnership between the Government of Costa Rica and faith-based organizations

#### Constituency:

Catholic Episcopal Conference of Costa Rica, Costa Rican Episcopal Church, Costa Rican Lutheran Church, Evangelical Lutheran German Speaking Church of Costa Rica, Costa Rican Wesleyan Methodist Church, Costa Rican Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Moravian Church, Serbian Orthodox Church, Costa Rican Evangelical Alliance Federation, Israelite Zionist Centre of Costa Rica, Congregation B'nei Israel, Muslim Cultural Centre of Costa Rica, Baha'i Community of Costa Rica, Zen House of Costa Rica, Costa Rican Tibetan Cultural Association, Indigenous Peoples

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Costa Rica does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Costa Rica does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Costa Rica actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace El Salvador

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 51.1% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.4% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 35.7% Protestant, 11.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiones por la Paz El Salvador

Co-Coordinator: Fr. Pio Gonzalez
Co-Coordinator: Mr. Jean Claude Kahn
Co-Coordinator: Sheik Emerson Burkele
Co-Coordinator: Ms. Maria Elena Sol

Secretary: Ms. Luz de Maria Zetino

Address: c/o Mezquita Dar Ibrahim, Alameda Franklin Delano Roosevelt 1909, Col. Flor Blanca, San

Salvador

Website: Facebook

**Email:** informes@religionesporlapaz.org

### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

Advocating to reduce armed violence to achieve human development

Strengthening interreligious education through

Developing interreligious dialogue to deepen understanding and mutual respect

### Constituency:

Catholic Church, Emanuel Baptist Church, UNIFE Foundation, Israelite Community of El Salvador, Hispanic American Islamic Community, Interser Buddhist Community, Salvadoran Indigenous Ancestral Rescue, Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* El Salvador does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* El Salvador does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* El Salvador actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Guatemala

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 58.2% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.4% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 35.6% Protestant, 4.1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Dialogo Interreligioso Guatemalteco sobre el Desarrollo (DIRGD)

**Executive Secretary:** Ms. Ana Victoria Peláez

Address: 14 Avenida 11-16 Apto. 2144. Zona 2, Ciudad de Guatemala 01002, Guatemala

Facebook: Facebook

**Email:** <u>informes@religionesporlapaz.org</u>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

• Advancing integral human development through the implementation, follow-up and review of SDGs Advancing gender equality through

 Engaging faith communities to overcome violence against women and to assure access to justice for the families of the victims

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

Protecting the religious freedom of Indigenous peoples

Strengthening interreligious education through

Developing interreligious dialogue to deepen understanding and mutual respect

### Constituency:

Catholic Episcopal Conference of Guatemala, Evangelical Alliance of Guatemala, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jewish Community of Guatemala, National Conference of Ministers of Mayan Spirituality of Guatemala Oxlajuj Ajpop, Maya Q'eqchi'' Spiritual Guides, Tibet House Guatemala, Sentinels for the Dignification of the State

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Guatemala does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. *Religions for Peace* Guatemala has women representatives from indigenous Maya faith and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Guatemala does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Guatemala actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Guyana

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 24.9% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, 24.9% Hindus, <1% Jews, <6.4% Muslims, 1.5% Orthodox Christians, 1.3% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 49.8% Protestant, 2.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Organisation of Guyana (IROG)

**Chairperson:** Rev. Ronald McGarrell **Secretary:** Ms. Jennifer Dewar

Address: c/o Bahá' í National Centre, 220 Charlotte St., Bourda, Georgetown, Guyana

Facebook: Facebook

Email: <a href="mailto:iroguyana@outlook.com">iroguyana@outlook.com</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

- Developing local IRCs to advance social cohesion
- Acting to overcome violence against children

Strengthening interreligious education through

Holding an annual program of activities (including concerts, panels, prayers and television programs) for the
 World Interfaith Harmony Week

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

Negotiating to establish an interreligious television station

### Constituency:

Christian Brethren Church, Practical Christianity Ministries, Al-Mustafa Islamic Trust, Muslim Youth League of Guyana, Essequibo Ahmadiyya Organisation Lahore, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá' ís of Guyana, Oneness University Guyana, Guyana Rastafari Council, Universal Peace Federation

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Guyana does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. *Religions for Peace* Guyana has women representatives from Hindu, Muslim and Bahá' í faiths.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Guyana does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Guyana actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

#### Partnerships:

Rights of the Child Commission of Guyana, Ministry of Social Cohesion of Guyana, Guyana Inter-Religious Television Board

### Religions for Peace Haiti

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 56.8% Catholic, 2.2% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, <1% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 29.6% Protestant, 10.6% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions pour la Paix Haiti (RPPH)

**President:** Most Rev. Pierre-Andre Dumas

Secretary General: Rev. Clement Joseph

Address: #5 1er Rue Hérard, Bourdon, Port-au-Prince 7, Haiti W.I.

**Email:** <u>informes@religionesporlapaz.org</u>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

- Supporting the national dialogue process and mediating among conflicting parties
- Calling to respect human dignity and highlight violations and abuses of human rights
- Accompanying the Core Group and raising international awareness on the humanitarian crisis

Advancing gender equality through

Working with religious women's organizations to fight gender-based violence

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

Advocating for environment protection and climate justice

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Developing a program on education for tolerance and peace at schools and churches located in the most vulnerable gang-violence areas, in partnership with the Social Mission of the Haitian Churches

#### Constituency:

Catholic Episcopal Conference of Haiti, Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, Social Mission of Haitian Churches, National Confederation of Haitian Voodooists

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Haiti does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Haiti does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Haiti actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Honduras

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 50.3% Catholic, <1% Orthodox Christians, 36.6% Protestant, <1% Other Christians, 1.1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Other Religions, 10.5% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Comité Interreligioso de Honduras (CIH)

Coordinator: Deacon Rudy Vásquez

Address: c/o Catedral Episcopal Santa María de los Ángeles, Boulevard. Suyapa, 1ra Entrada,

Colonia Florencia Norte, Tegucigalpa MDC, Honduras

Social Media: <u>Facebook</u> / <u>Twitter</u>

Email: informes@religionesporlapaz.org

### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

- Advocating as religious leaders for common good in politics and society
- Training of people of faith as leaders of local communities

Advancing gender equality through

 Preventing teenage pregnancies through addressing youth well-being, self-esteem and leadership, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund

### Constituency:

Catholic Episcopal Conference of Honduras, Evangelical Confraternity of Honduras, Episcopal Church of Honduras, Christian Reformed Church of Honduras, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**Women of Faith Network**: Although *Religions for Peace* Honduras does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. *Religions for Peace* Honduras includes women representatives from Evangelical, Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Episcopal, Reformist, Adventist, Mormon, Jewish and Muslim faiths. Women are particularly involved in activities focused on education, workshops and socializations, socio-economic empowerment of women, gender-based violence, racial and xenophobic discrimination, protection of indigenous rights, cultures and languages.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Honduras does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Honduras actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. *Religions for Peace* Honduras has youth representatives from Episcopal, Catholic, Adventist, Reformist, Mormon and Orthodox faiths. Youth are particularly involved in activities focused on workshops preventing teenage pregnancy, volunteering, training, combatting discrimination and youth leadership empowerment.

### Partnership:

**United Nations Population Fund** 

### Religions for Peace Jamaica

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 2.6% Catholic, 4.5% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.6% Other Christians, 1.0% Other Religions, 72.9% Protestant, 17.2% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Jamaica Council for Interfaith Fellowship (JCIF)

Acting President: Ms. Stacey Mitchell Secretary General: Rev. Martin Schade

Address: c/o UTCWI, 7 John Golding Rd., Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica

Facebook: Facebook

**Email:** informes@religionesporlapaz.org

### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

- Organizing the <u>Interfaith Thanksgiving Service</u> on the National Heritage Week, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment, and Sport of Jamaica
- Engaging to end AIDS, provide support to people affected by HIV and address related stigma and discrimination

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Holding public events to educate about religious diversity and tolerance, such as the annual Interfaith Awareness Day
- Developing a mobile app for online learning to foster improve interfaith understanding and cooperation

### Constituency:

United Theological College of the West Indies, United Congregation of Israelites, Islamic Council of Jamaica, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Jamaica, Soka Gakkai International, Sanatan Dharma Mandir, Rastafari Innity Council, Universal Peace Federation

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Jamaica does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Jamaica does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Jamaica actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Partnerships:

University of Technology, Jamaica, Students' Association of the United Theological College of the West Indies, The Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS

### **Religions for Peace Mexico**

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 85.0% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.7% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 8.3% Protestant, 4.7% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Consejo Interreligioso de México (CIM)

President: Rev. Efren Velazquez

Address: Av. San Jerónimo 117, Col. San Àngel, Álvaro Obregón, Ciudad de México, CDMX 01000,

México

Facebook: Facebook

Email: informes@religionesporlapaz.org

### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

 Advocating for the care of marginalized women and children, in partnership with the National Human Rights Commission of Mexico

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

- Holding interfaith celebrations for the care for creation
- Collaborating with churches and schools to develop climate protection programs

Strengthening interreligious education through

Working with schools and universities to promote tolerance and coexistence

### Constituency:

Catholic Church, Anglican Church of Mexico, Lutheran Synod of Mexico, Israelite Tribune, Nur Ashki Jerrahi Sufi Order, Buddhist Community of Mexico, Sikh Dharma de México

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Mexico does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. *Religions for Peace* Mexico has women representatives from Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Buddhist, Anglican and Lutheran faiths. Women's activities include delivering speeches and actively engaging in ceremonies, especially the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. *Religions for Peace* Mexico is planning to establish a national WOFN in the near future.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Mexico does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Mexico actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. *Religions for Peace* Mexico is planning to establish a national IYN in the near future.

### Partnership:

Mexican Human Rights Commission

### Religions for Peace Panama

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 75.3% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.3% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 16.4% Protestant, 4.8% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Comité Interreligioso de Panamá (COIPA)

President: Rabbi Gustavo Kraselnick

**Executive Secretary:** Ms. Isis Navarro

Address: Ciudad del Saber Edif. 224 1er Piso Of. D, Clayton, Ancón, Panamá

**Email:** informes@religionesporlapaz.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

- Advocating for rule of law, good governance and anti-corruption
- Mediating political and social conflicts
- Acting as a moral and ethical voice for fair and transparent elections
- Preventing violence against children

Advancing gender equality through

Raising awareness on gender-based violence

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

Cooperating with the Government to respond to COVID-19

### Constituency:

Panamanian Catholic Episcopal Conference, Ecumenical Committee of Panama, Panamanian Jewish Congress, Islamic Cultural Center of Colon, Bahá' í Faith in Panama, Soka Gakkai International

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Panama does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Panama does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Panama actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Partnerships:

Global Network of Religions for Children, Ministry of Health of Panama, United Nations Children's Fund

### Religions for Peace Paraguay

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 89.6% Catholic, <1.7% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.0% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 6.3% Protestant, 1.1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Foro Permanente de Diálogo Interreligioso de Paraguay

President: Fr. Aldo Bernal

**Secretary General:** Ms. Susana de Benítez Codas **Address:** Alberdi 1236, Asuncion, Paraguay

**Email:** forodedialogointerreligioso.py@gmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

Advocating for religious equality

Strengthening interreligious education through

Outreaching religious diversity in the media

#### Constituency:

Paraguayan Catholic Episcopal Conference, Association of Evangelical Pastors of Paraguay, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Hebraica Union of Paraguay, Umran Foundation, Ananda Marga Paraguay

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Paraguay does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Paraguay does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Paraguay actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Peru

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 81.2% Catholic, 1.0% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.8% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 12.5% Protestant, 3.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Consejo Interreligioso del Perú-Religiones por la Paz

Co-President: Most Rev. Salvador Piñeiro

Co-President: Rev. Pedro Merino

Co-President: Rabbi Guillermo Bronstein

**Executive Secretary:** Ms. Laura Vargas

Address: Jose Santiago Wagner 2461 Pueblo Libre Lima 21, Perú

Facebook: Facebook

Email: <a href="mailto:informes@religionesporlapaz.org">informes@religionesporlapaz.org</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

 Developing the Inter-Religious Committee for Refugees and Migrants to assist people affected by humanitarian crises, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Advancing gender equality through

 Raising awareness on gender-based violence and violence against children, in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru

Nurturing a sustainable environment through

 Mobilizing faith communities to partner with the <u>Interfaith Rainforest Initiative</u>, which aims to bring moral urgency and spiritual resources to end tropical deforestation

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

Advocating for religious freedom

#### Constituency:

Peruvian Catholic Episcopal Conference, Conference of Religious Women and Men of Peru, National Evangelical Council of Peru, Union of Evangelical Christian Churches of Peru, Anglican Church of Peru, Lutheran Church of Peru, Methodist Church of Peru, Evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed Church in Peru, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Greek Orthodox Church of the Patriarchate of Antioquia, Jewish Association of Peru, Islamic Association of Peru, Baha'i Community of Peru, Peruvian Institute of Buddhist Studies, Zen Sotoshu Community of Peru, Brahma Kumaris Peru

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* Peru's Women of Faith Network was established in 2003 and currently has 25 members, including Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, Jewish, Muslim, Bahá'í, Church of Jesus Christ, Buddhist and Brahma Kumari representatives. Activities focus on women's rights and fighting against violence towards women and girls.

Contact: Giuliana Ramírez, Coordinator (<u>red.interconfesional.mujeres.peru@gmail.com</u>) <u>Facebook</u>

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Peru does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Peru actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

**Partnerships:** United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations of Peru, United Nations Environment Programme

### Religions for Peace Suriname

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 29.3% Catholic, 5.3% Folk Religions, 19.8% Hindus, <1% Jews, 15.2% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.0% Other Christians, 1.8% Other Religions, 21.2% Protestant, 5.4% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligieuze Raad in Suriname (IRIS)

Chairperson: Mr. Issac Jamuliddin

Address: % SIV, Keizerstraat 88, Paramaribo
Email: <a href="mailto:informes@religionesporlapaz.org">informes@religionesporlapaz.org</a>

### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

- Advocating for rule of law, good governance and anti-corruption
- Acting as a moral and ethical voice for fair and transparent elections

### Constituency:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Paramaribo, Madjlies Moesliemien Suriname, Surinamese Islamic Association, Sanatan Dharm Maha Sabha Suriname, Arya Dewaker Suriname

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Suriname does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Suriname does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Suriname actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

# Religions for Peace Trinidad and Tobago

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 26.1% Catholic, 1.9% Folk Religions, 22.7% Hindus, <1% Jews, 5.9% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.6% Other Christians, 1.4% Other Religions, 37.8% Protestant, 1.9% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Interreligious Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago (IRO)

President: Rev. Knolly Clarke
Secretary General: Baba Neal Rawlins

Address: 55-57 Pointe-a-Pierre Rd., San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago

Social Media: <u>Facebook</u>

**Email:** secretaryirott@gmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies through

- Speaking to the nation on matters of social, moral, and spiritual concern
- Holding the National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving
- Advocating for relief to refugees and migrants from humanitarian crisis
- Engaging to end AIDS, provide support to people affected by HIV and address related stigma and discrimination

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Organizing statements, press conferences and marches regarding interfaith diversity and understanding. Nurturing a sustainable environment through
  - Working to care for creation and promote climate justice

### **Constituency:**

Catholic Archdiocese of Port of Spain, Anglican Church in the Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Anjuman Sunnat-ul-Jamaat Association, Trinidad Muslim League, Bahá'í Faith in Trinidad and Tobago, Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad Academy of Hinduism, National Council of Orisha Elders of Trinidad and Tobago, Mount Olivet Spiritual Baptist Church, Triune Shouters Baptist

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Trinidad and Tobago does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. Additionally, member organisations have programmes for women focusing on issues of domestic violence.

Interfaith Youth Network: Although *Religions for Peace* Trinidad and Tobago does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Trinidad and Tobago actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. Additionally, member organisations have programmes for youth focusing on issues of sexuality and HIV/AIDS.

Partnerships: Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS

### Religions for Peace Barbados (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Barbados is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography**: <1% Buddhists, 4.3% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, 1.0% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 2.8% Other Christians, 1.4% Other Religions, 88.0% Protestant, 1.9% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Barbados

Facilitator: Mr. Suleiman Bulbulia

**Email:** informes@religionesporlapaz.org

### Constituency:

IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Barbados does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organization's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Barbados does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Barbados actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Bolivia (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Bolivia is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 79.0% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.2% Other Christians, 1.0% Other Religions, 13.7% Protestant, 4.1% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiones por la paz Bolivia

Facilitator: Ms. Beatriz Castro

**Email:** informes@religionesporlapaz.org

### Constituency:

IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Bolivia does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organization's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Bolivia does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Bolivia actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Cuba (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Cuba is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 51.7% Catholic, 17.4% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.5% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 5.6% Protestant, 23.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiones por la Paz Cuba

Facilitator: Rev. Joel Ortega Dopico

Email: <a href="mailto:informes@religionesporlapaz.org">informes@religionesporlapaz.org</a>

### **Constituency:**

IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Cuba does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Cuba does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Cuba actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

## Religions for Peace Dominican Republic (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Dominican Republic is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 66.5% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, <1% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 20.8% Protestant, 10.9% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiones por la Paz República Dominicana

President: Rt. Rev. Julio Cesar Holguin
Secretary General: Rev. Lorenzo Mota King

Address: c/o SSID, Luis Pérez García 8, Ensanche La Fe, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana

Email: informes@religionesporlapaz.org

### Constituency:

IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Dominican Republic does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Dominican Republic does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Dominican Republic actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Ecuador (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Ecuador is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 83.4% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.1% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 9.6% Protestant, 5.5% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiones por la paz Ecuador

Facilitator: Mr. Camilo Torres Perl

Email: informes@religionesporlapaz.org

### **Constituency:**

IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Ecuador does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Ecuador does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Ecuador actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

### Religions for Peace Nicaragua (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Nicaragua is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 58.4% Catholic, 1.4% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, <1% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 26.5% Protestant, 12.5% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Comité Interreligioso de Nicaragua (CIN)

Facilitator: Bishop Victoria Cortes

Email: informes@religionesporlapaz.org

#### Constituency:

IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Nicaragua does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Nicaragua does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Nicaragua actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

## **Religions for Peace Puerto Rico** (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Puerto Rico is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 69.7% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.9% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 25.1% Protestant, 1.9% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiones por la paz Puerto Rico

Facilitator: Rev. Jorge Zijlstra

Email: <a href="mailto:informes@religionesporlapaz.org">informes@religionesporlapaz.org</a>

### **Constituency:**

IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Puerto Rico does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Puerto Rico does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Puerto Rico actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

## Religions for Peace Uruguay (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Uruguay is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 46.8% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, 1.1% Orthodox Christians, 3.7% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 6.3% Protestant, 40.7% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiones por la paz Puerto Rico

Secretary Ad-Hoc: Ms. Gabriela Viale

Social Media: Facebook

Email: dialogointerreligiosouruguay@gmail.com

#### Constituency:

IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Uruguay does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Uruguay does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Uruguay actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

## Religions for Peace Venezuela (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Venezuela is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions* for *Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1% Buddhists, 77.6% Catholic, <1% Folk Religions, <1% Hindus, <1% Jews, <1% Muslims, <1% Orthodox Christians, 1.5% Other Christians, <1% Other Religions, 10.1% Protestant, 10.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religiones por la Paz en Venezuela

**Co-Coordinator:** Most Rev. Trinidad Fernandez **Co-Coordinator:** Very Revd. Francisco Salazar

**Co-Coordinator:** Rev. Cesar Mermejo

Email: informes@religionesporlapaz.org

#### **Constituency:**

IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels.

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Venezuela does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Venezuela does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Venezuela actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

# MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA



# Religions for Peace Middle East & North Africa Council of Religious Leaders

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Middle East & North Africa Council of Religious Leaders

Website: <a href="https://www.rfp.org/where-we-work/">https://www.rfp.org/where-we-work/</a>

Email: info@rfp.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Developing interreligious collaborative action plans to confront violent religious extremism and implement de-radicalisation initiatives supported by credible resource materials
- Issuing joint interreligious statements to urge for the multi-religious protection and respect of religious sites
- Leading series of consultations to produce MENA-specific (Christian, Islamic and Jewish) religious warrants in support of citizenship, Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 and the protection of vulnerable communities
- Serving as a neutral regional convener for Syrian religious leaders as they advance interreligious cooperation to stop sectarian violence, advance reconciliation efforts and assist the Syrian population

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

Mobilising religious communities to promote religious freedom on the national level
 Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Engaging senior religious leaders from various traditions with the objective of supporting religious communities and building their capacities
- Developing multi-religious resource materials, such as training guides, manuals and toolkits to build the capacity of senior religious leaders and representatives of the MENA religious communities

#### Constituency:

Al-Hakim Foundation - Iraq, Al-Hawza al-Illmiyah, Arab Muslim-Christian Dialogue Group - Lebanon, Armenian Apostolic Church, Association of Women's Progress - Tunisia, Azhar Center for Dialogue, Bahrain Women's Association for Development, Big Mosque-Sulaimaniya, Bishop of Christian Valley - Homs, Cairo University, Coptic Evangelical Organisation for Social Services - Egypt, Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue, Enumenical Patriarch of Constantiople, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue - Syria, Global Center for Renewal and Guidance, Holy Land Council, Institute for Interreligious Dialogue - Iran, Intercultural, Dialogue Platform - Turkey, International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Iraq Interreligious Council, Islamic Christian National Dialogue Committee - Lebanon, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural, Organisation - Saudi Arabia, Jewish Community -Turkey, KAICIID Dialogue Center, Kalam Research and Media Institute - Libya, Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, League of Arab States, Maronite archbishop of Beirut, Maronite patriarchate of Lebanon, Mashouk Khaznawi Foundation for Dialogue and Renewal - Syria, MECC - Lebanon, MENA Council-Religions for Peace is comprised of fifty leaders from twenty-three countries (all countries in the Arab League plus Iran, Turkey and Cyprus), Middle East Council of Churches, Minister of Islamic Affairs, Endowments, Call and Guidance - Saudi Arabia, Mir'aaj Center for Dialogue -Syria, Mohammad al Khamis University - Morocco, Molham Volunteering Team - Syria, Muslim Women Forum of Syria, National Dialogue Committee - Lebanon, Organisation of Islamic Conference, Presidency of Religious Affairs -Turkey, Qatar University, Shia Waqf - Iraq, Syriac National Council of Syria, Syriac Orthodox Church, Syrian Religious Leaders Working Group, Syrian Women of Faith Network, Thaqafat Association - Morocco, The Chaldean Catholic Church, The Coptic Church Center - Egypt, The higher Islamic Shiite Council, The Jasmine Foundation - Tunisia, The Journalist and Writers Foundation - Turkey, Tribal Leadership Council of North Eastern Syria, Union of Islamic Radio & Television Stations, Women's Solidarity Association of Iran, Yemeni International Affairs and Dialogue Center, Zamzam Center - Jordan

The National IRCs include: Center for Interreligious Dialogue & Civilization (Religions for Peace Iran), Council of Heads of Religions in Israel - Religions for Peace, Religions for Peace in Palestine, Religions for Peace Iraq and Religions for Peace Tunisia.

**Women of Faith Network:** *Religions for Peace* International and the Middle East-North African (MENA) Council are aiming to guide and strengthen a WOFN. The Network is involved in the implementation of activities in all the strategic objectives areas of the Council, dependent on the programme's availability of funds.

## Religions for Peace Iraq

**Religious Demography:** <1.0% Buddhist, <1.0% Christian, <1.0% Hindu, <1.0% Indigenous Religions, <1.0% Jewish, 99.1% Muslim (64-69% Shia, 29-34% Sunni), <1.0% Other Religions, <1.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Iraq

Secretary General: Haider Al-Husseinawi

Website: <a href="https://www.rfp.org/where-we-work/">https://www.rfp.org/where-we-work/</a>

Email: <a href="mailto:info@rfp.org">info@rfp.org</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Providing humanitarian assistance to marginalised Iraqis, especially in the northern regions of the country
- Facilitating the training of Iraqi doctors and medical professionals in conjunction with hospitals in South Korea
- Uniting Christian, Kakai, Shia, Sunni and Yazidi communities in Iraq through the adoption of an Interfaith Statement on the Victims and Survivors of ISIL

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Convening delegations of Christian, Shia and Sunni religious leaders to forge an international and interreligious partnership with Religions for Peace Japan

#### Constituency:

Christian Communities, Kakai Communities, Shia Communities, Sunni Communities, Yazidi Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Iraq does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women are active on the regional and international levels.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Iraq does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Iraq actively encourages youth to participate in IRC activities and planning processes related to humanitarian aid and peacebuilding efforts.

## Religions for Peace Israel

Religious Demography: <1.0% Buddhist, 2.0% Christian, 1.6% Druze, <1.0% Hindu, <1.0% Indigenous Religions, 74.0% Jewish, 20.1% Muslim, <1.0% Other Religions (Samaritans, Karaites, Ahmadi Muslims, Seventh-day Adventists, Messianic Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, Bahá'í), 3.2% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Council of Heads of Religions in Israel

Secretary General: Mr. Oded Wiener

Website:https://www.rfp.org/where-we-work/Email:info@rfp.org / odedwiener@gmail.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Strengthening interreligious education through

- Promoting visits to Jewish and Arab schools in Israel, as religious representatives share insights with high school pupils about their respective traditions, exemplifying interreligious respect and cooperation as an essential educational message
- Leading multi-faith trips to Holocaust memorial sites for educational purposes and to promote interfaith solidarity in Israel

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Holding an annual Gathering of the Heads of Religions to discuss interfaith harmony, peace and coexistence
- Facilitating international interreligious leadership delegations to advance the shared goal of respectful religious pluralism

#### Constituency:

American Jewish Committee, Department of Christian Communities, Ministry of Interior, Department of Muslim Communities, Ministry of Interior, Druze Community, Roman Catholic Community

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Israel does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Israel does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Israel actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. Youth are currently integrated in the organisation's national and local projects through programmes aimed at instructing and assisting high school pupils.

### Religions for Peace Iran (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Iran is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

**Religious Demography:** <1.0% Buddhist, <1.0% Christian, <1.0% Hindu <1.0% Indigenous Religions, <1.0% Jewish, 99.5% Muslim (90-95% Shia, 5-10% Sunni), <1.0% Other Religions, <1.0% Unaffiliated

Official Name of IRC: Center for Interreligious Dialogue & Civilization (CIID)

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mohamad Mehdi Taskhiri

Address: Department of Education and Research, Building No. 14

Islamic Culture and Relations Organisation, Imam Khomeini Complex

Resalat Expressway, Tehran, Iran

Website: <a href="http://en.cid.icro.ir/">http://en.cid.icro.ir/</a>

Email: <a href="mailto:cid@icro.ir">cid@icro.ir</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Holding philosophical, legal, social, political and cultural dialogue with regional and international religious figures and institutions, as well as with religious minorities inside and outside the country
- Preparing the grounds for peaceful coexistence between the followers of religions, particularly religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Engaging in the multi-religious Global Day of Praying and Benevolence in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Hosting conferences and roundtables with religious leaders from various traditions
- Building constructive understanding and interaction between religious leaders and thinkers on international level

#### **Constituency:**

Islamic Culture and Relations Organisations, Religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, The Council of Swiss and Philippines Bishops' Conferences, The Russian Orthodox Church, Vatican Catholic Church, World Council of Churches

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Iran does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Iran does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Iran actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes related to peacebuilding and interreligious dialogue.

## Religions for Peace Palestine (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Palestine is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

Religious Demography: 2.4% Christian, 97.6% Muslim

Official Name of IRC: Al-Liqa' Center for Religious Heritage and Cultural Studies in The Holy Land / Religions for Peace in Palestine

Address: Bishop Dr. Munib Younan
Address: Al-Liqa' Center Headquarters
54-56 Al-Quds Jerusalem Str

54-56 Al-Quds Jerusalem Str. P.O. Box 11328 Jerusalem

Website: <a href="http://www.al-liqacenter.org.ps/eng/">http://www.al-liqacenter.org.ps/eng/</a> (Under construction) / <a href="facebook">Facebook</a>

Email: al-liqa@p-ol.com

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Reaffirming the construction of a pluralistic society based on human dignity, notions of civil rights and equal citizenship
- Facilitating interreligious discourse and understanding among Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities through events such as the <u>Annual Christian-Muslim Dialogue Conference</u> to prevent conflict and intolerance
- Championing collaborative peacebuilding among influential secular or academic institutions, civil society actors, politicians, religious leaders and institutions on the grassroots level
- Hosting programmes on interfaith and cultural dialogue and educational events on Palestinian Contextual Theology
- Promoting interreligious peacebuilding values through conferences and by publishing journals, newsletters and books
- Working for the rights of the oppressed, the poor and the marginalised in society

Advancing gender equality through

Hosting events focused on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

 Providing educational programmeming on topics such as the freedom of religion, freedom of expression and freedom of speech

#### Constituency:

Catholic Patriarch of Jerusalem, Christian Communities, Jewish Communities, Muslim Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Palestine does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's peacebuilding efforts.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Palestine does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Palestine actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes. Youth from Muslim and Christian communities engage in annual conferences, lectures, seminars and contests for preparatory and secondary school students in several regions during religious occasions.

### Religions for Peace Tunisia (In Formation)

The Interreligious Council (IRC) of Tunisia is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. IRCs are built on the principle of religious representativity, reflecting the fabric of religious demography on those levels. Through these IRC infrastructures, *Religions for Peace* advances common action among the world's religious communities for a comprehensive, holistic, and sustainable peace.

Religious Demography: <1.0% Other (Bahá' í, Christian, Jewish, Shia Muslim), 99% Sunni Muslim

Official Name of IRC: The Interreligious Group for Peace Tunisia - Religions for Peace

Secretary General: Hon. Mehrézia Labidi-Maiza

Website: https://www.rfp.org/where-we-work/

Email: <a href="mailto:info@rfp.org">info@rfp.org</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Facilitating Islamic-secular dialogue through joint initiatives between religious and non-religious organisations
- Advocating for peaceful coexistence and respect for all religious traditions rather than exclusion or marginalisation
- Building the capacity of religious leaders to stop hate speech and violence by attending conferences, such as
   Religions for Peace's "Keeping the Faith in Times of Hate: The Practical Utility of Human Rights" webinar
- Mobilising faith communities to assist refugees and migrants in rebuilding their lives, prevent hostility and xenophobia and to encourage political leaders to work for inclusion and solidarity

Championing freedom of thought, conscience and religion through

 Organising roundtables, such as the "Regional Roundtable on Freedom of Religion and Belief: Reality and Challenges"

Strengthening interreligious education through

 Hosting lectures, workshops and study visits to places of worship to educate future generations about different religious traditions, interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Partnering with the Attalaki Association to create interfaith focus groups with representatives from all religious groups
- Collaborating with the Attalaki Association and UNHCR to provide food and shelter to refugees during COVID-19

#### Constituency:

Bahá'í Communities, Christian Communities, Jewish Communities, Muslim Communities

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Tunisia does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Tunisia does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Tunisia actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

#### Partnerships:

Attalaki Association, Aydan Foundation, Talaki Association, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

#### **North America**

## Religions for Peace North America

Website: <a href="https://rfp.org/movement/rfp-networks/north-america/">https://rfp.org/movement/rfp-networks/north-america/</a>

Email: <a href="mailto:info@rfp.org">info@rfp.org</a>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Emphasizing the sacredness of all people and life as a way to unite religions against militarism Nurturing a sustainable environment through
- Marching in solidarity with other environmental activists at the Climate Strike in New York City
   Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through
  - Providing a platform for North American multi-religious leaders to convene and engage with each other on issues of mutual interest

#### Constituency:

Anglican North American Province, Council of Shia Muslim Scholars in North America, Federation of Jain Associations of North America, Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America, Free Methodist Church of North America, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Hindu Students' Council, Kesher, Muslim Students Association of North America, Islamic Society of North America, World Student Christian Federation, Islamic Circle of North America. North American Baptist Conference, North American Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities Organisation, Orthodox Church in North America, Serbian Orthodox Church in North & South America, Shia Association of North America, Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas, Thaqalayn Muslim Association, World Alliance of Reformed Churches Caribbean & North America Area, Christian Reformed Church in North America, Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus

**Women of Faith Network:** The Women of Faith Network (WOFN) of North America is currently in formation, and is in the process of affiliating with *Religions for Peace*. Its activities focus on environmental conservation, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and enhancing interfaith networking among women of faith in North America.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* North America does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* North America actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

## Religions for Peace Canada

**Religious Demography:** 5% Anglican, 1.9% Baptist, 1.7% Christian Orthodox, 1% Judaism, 2% Lutheran, 3% Muslim, 4% Other, 2% Pentecostal, 2% Presbyterian, 38% Roman Catholic, 6% United Church of Canada

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace Canada

**President:** Ms. Pascale Frémond **Address:** 5630 17e avenue, #2

Website: Facebook

**Email:** <u>religionsforpeacecanada@gmail.com</u>

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Holding non-violence trainings and seminars
- Supporting asylum seekers
- Advancing the cause of nuclear disarmament and de-proliferation in cooperation with the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
- Promoting the <u>Canadian Peace Initiative</u>, that supports the drive to establish in Canada a codified "Department of Peace"

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

- Collaborating with Religions for Peace USA to combat hate crimes and to address racial and ethnic tension
- Partnering with <u>Canadian Interfaith Conversation</u>

#### Constituency:

Christian, Quaker, Bahá' í, Mennonite, Unitarian, Muslim, and Mormon

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Canada does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work. *Religions for Peace* Canada includes women representatives from Catholic, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and United Church of Canada faiths.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* Canada does not currently have an official Interfaith Youth Network (IYN), *Religions for Peace* Canada actively encourages youth participation in IRC activities and planning processes.

#### Partnerships:

Canadian Interfaith Conversation

## Religions for Peace United States of America

Religious Demography: 23% Catholic, 2.1 % Judaism, 1.8% Mormon, 0.8% Muslim, 18.2% None/Athiest/Agnostic,

48.9% Protestant

Official Name of IRC: Religions for Peace USA

**Executive Director:** Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia

Address: 777 United Nations Plaza, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Website: www.rfpusa.org / Facebook / Twitter

Email: rfpusa@rfpusa.org

#### Main Areas of Work:

Promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies through

- Holding the "Interventions for Peace: Interfaith Communities Respond to Hate Crimes and Violence" non-violence seminar which addressed issues of violence and hate through a model of Non-Violence Trainings in the form of Bystander Intervention and Unarmed Civilian Protection
- Advancing the understanding and acceptance of American Muslims through the "Our Muslim Neighbor" programme
- Collaborating with *Religions for Peace* Canada to combat hate crimes and to address racial and ethnic tension Strengthening interreligious education through
  - Hosting the Interfaith Academy, which provided religious leaders with an opportunity to learn more about other faiths, meet other religious leaders, and build capacities for dialogue and understanding

Fostering multi-religious collaboration and global partnerships through

 Partnerships with faith institutions like the NY Buddhist Council, National Jewish Christian Dialogue, and the National Council of Churches

#### **Constituency:**

Islamic Council of North America, United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church USA, Rissho Kosei-kai, Unitarian Universalist Association, Won Buddhist International, Native American, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Jain, Hindu, Buddhist, Unitarian, Zoroastrian

**Women of Faith Network:** Although *Religions for Peace* USA does not have an official Women of Faith Network (WOFN), women participate in IRC activities and are actively engaged in the organisation's main areas of work.

**Interfaith Youth Network:** *Religions for Peace* USA is currently working on re-activating the North American Interfaith Youth Network (NAIYN). Programmes offered include young adults of faith and address issues of concern to future generations.

#### Partnerships:

New York Buddhist Council, National Jewish Christian Dialogue, National Council of Churches