



# 2nd International Dialogue of Civilizations & Tolerance Conference

19 - 21 FEB 2025 - ABU DHABI

Presented By



In Partnership With



# REPORT

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## DEDICATION:

We are pleased to present this comprehensive report for the 2nd Edition of the International Dialogue of Civilizations & Tolerance Conference. Building on the remarkable success of the inaugural conference in 2024, this year's gathering further expanded our collective vision and broadened the platform for global leaders, scholars, and community representatives to share insights and collaborate toward meaningful change.

This document stands as a testament to the forward-thinking leadership of the United Arab Emirates, whose commitment to fostering dialogue and tolerance among diverse communities serves as an inspiration worldwide. Over the course of this pivotal event, we have witnessed the invaluable contributions of government officials, community leaders, youth representatives, educators, and experts from various fields. Their collective insights, shared through thought-provoking discussions and collaborative sessions, underscore the transformative power of open dialogue in bridging cultural divides.

It is through these genuine exchanges that we move closer to a global environment grounded in respect, understanding, and mutual support.

In recognizing your devotion to advancing these shared values, we also pay tribute to the hard work, determination, and optimism embodied by everyone involved in the conference. From moderators and panelists to volunteers and attendees, each participant has played an essential role in fostering a spirit of unity.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our cooperative efforts in promoting peaceful coexistence. We hope this report will serve as both a record of our accomplishments and a guiding framework for future initiatives aimed at furthering harmony and inclusion in our ever-evolving global community.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies



صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن زايد آل نهيان  
رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة



HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



أن التعايش والحوار وتعزيز الوعي بالقيم الإنسانية المشتركة بين البشر، على اختلاف أديانهم وأجناسهم، أساس السلام والاستقرار والازدهار في العالم أجمع.

يعيش بيننا في دولة الإمارات أكثر من 200 جنسية يسهم أفرادها معنا في تنمية هذا الوطن. التسامح والتعايش والالتزام بالقوانين والحفاظ على الأمن والأمان أسس متينة لمجتمعنا، ونتطلع إلى أن يلتزم بها كل من يعتبر الإمارات وطن. هذه الأرض الطيبة، أرض التسامح والتعايش والمحبة ستظل آمنة مستقرة؛ بحفظ الله تعالى ثم بحكمة قيادتها وإخلاص أبنائها

نؤكد أن التعايش والحوار وتعزيز الوعي بالقيم الإنسانية المشتركة بين البشر، على اختلاف أديانهم وأجناسهم، أساس السلام والاستقرار والازدهار في العالم أجمع.



Solidarity and understanding are essential for achieving peaceful coexistence throughout the world. We pray that our shared human values will guide us towards lasting peace and stability for all.

In the United Arab Emirates, more than 200 nationalities live among us, with their members contributing alongside us to the nation's growth. Tolerance, coexistence, adherence to the law, and preserving security and safety form the solid foundations of our society. We look to everyone who regards the UAE as their home to uphold these values. By the grace of God Almighty, and through the wisdom of its leadership and the dedication of its citizens, this blessed land— the land of tolerance, coexistence, and love—will remain safe and stable.

We reaffirm that coexistence, dialogue, and raising awareness of the common human values shared by people of different faiths and backgrounds are the cornerstone of peace, stability, and prosperity for the entire world.





صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم  
نائب رئيس الدولة - رئيس مجلس الوزراء - حاكم دبي



HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM

UAE Vice President, Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai



التسامح لا نرفعه شعاراً ولكننا نعيشه نهج حياة

التسامح قوة تدفع المجتمع إلى الأمام.. نحن نربي أولادنا على التسامح ونغرس فيهم قيم التعاون واحترام التنوع والاختلاف ليكونوا أقوياء بثقتهم في أنفسهم. تربينا في مدرسة زايد على قيم نبيلة عديدة من أهمها التسامح.. والإمارات ستظل النموذج والقذوة في الانفتاح الواعي على الآخر وتقبل أفكاره وتفهم متطلباته. وأؤمن بأن الشعوب المتسامحة هي شعوب إنسانية عالمية تستحق الريادة. ولعل أكثر ما تحتاجه منطقتنا اليوم أن تتسامح شعوبها وأطيافها الدينية والثقافية.

- نعمل على ترسيخ مكانة الإمارات عاصمةً للتسامح والتعايش الإيجابي.. وتأكيد إسهامها في تحقيق تقارب حقيقي بين الثقافات لكي تبقى دولتنا دائماً صاحبة الإسهام الأكثر تأثيراً في إقامة وتفعيل حوار عالمي يعين على إقرار أسس التفاهم بين الشعوب في مختلف ربوع العالم على اختلاف أفكارهم وتنوع ثقافتهم



Tolerance is not merely a slogan we raise, but a way of life we practice.

Tolerance is a force that propels society forward. We raise our children on the values of tolerance, instilling in them cooperation and respect for diversity and difference, so they can grow strong in their self-confidence. We were brought up in the school of Zayed on many noble values, chief among them tolerance. The UAE will remain a model and an example of conscious openness to others, acceptance of their ideas, and understanding of their needs. I believe that tolerant people are truly global and humane, deserving of leadership. Indeed, what our region needs most today is for its peoples and their various religious and cultural groups to embrace tolerance.

We strive to establish the UAE's position as a capital of tolerance and positive coexistence, and to reaffirm its contribution to genuine cultural closeness. This ensures that our nation remains the most influential in cultivating and activating a global dialogue, helping to establish a foundation of mutual understanding among people around the world—regardless of their varying ideas and diverse cultures.



**معالي الشيخ نهيان بن مبارك آل نهيان**  
عضو مجلس الوزراء، وزير التسامح والتعايش بدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة

**H.E SHEIKH NAHAYAN MABARAK AL NAHYAN**

Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, UAE



في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، ندرك أن شبابنا ليسوا مجرد وعد بالغد، بل هم حاضرنا النابض بالحياة والديناميكية. مع كون أكثر من نصف سكان دولتنا تحت سن الخامسة والعشرين، فإن تمكينهم ليس مجرد طموح، بل هو حجر الأساس لتقدمنا الوطني. يذكّرنا صاحب السمو الشيخ محمد بن زايد آل نهيان، رئيس دولة الإمارات، في كثير من المناسبات بأن شبابنا هم أثمن مورد وطني لدينا، فإن طاقتهم وأفكارهم وطموحاتهم هي القوة الدافعة وراء نجاحنا المستمر.

إن تمكين الشباب هو مهمة مشتركة تقع على عاتق العائلات والمؤسسات التعليمية والمجتمعات والقطاع الخاص، لتزويدهم بالمهارات والمعرفة والقيم التي يحتاجونها لصياغة مستقبل أكثر إشراقاً. وعندما نستثمر في شبابنا، فإننا نحميهم من الأيديولوجيات الهدامة ونُعِدّهم لقيادة مستقبلهم بالحكمة والنزاهة والرحمة.

كما أن تنوعنا الثقافي يمنح شبابنا فرصة فريدة لتجربة وجهات نظر مختلفة، وتبني القيم المشتركة، والانخراط بروح من الانفتاح، وكل تفاعل يخوضونه، سواء في المجتمعات المحلية أو أماكن العمل أو على المنصات العالمية، يعكس من نحن كأمة. عليهم أن يكونوا قدوة في النزاهة، وأبطال التعايش، وسفراء السلام.



In the United Arab Emirates, we recognize that our youth are not merely the promise of tomorrow—they are our vibrant, dynamic present. With more than half of our nation's population under the age of 25, their empowerment is not simply an aspiration; it is a cornerstone of our national progress. His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, often reminds us that our youth are our most valuable national resource. Their energy, ideas, and ambitions drive our continued success.

Empowering youth is a shared mission. It is the responsibility of families, educational institutions, communities, and the private sector to equip young people with the skills, knowledge, and values they need to shape a brighter future. When we invest in our youth, we protect them from destructive ideologies and prepare them to lead with wisdom, integrity, and compassion.

Our cultural diversity offers our young people a unique opportunity to experience different perspectives, embrace shared values, and engage in a spirit of openness. Every interaction they have—whether in local communities, workplaces, or on global platforms—reflects who we are as a nation. They must be role models of integrity, champions of coexistence, and ambassadors of peace. I also take pride in recognizing the indispensable contributions of Emirati women, who have transcended traditional roles to become leaders shaping our economy, culture, and governance.





## H.E DR. ABDULLA BELHAIF AL NUAIMI

Chairman of Sharjah Consultative Council  
Chancellor of Emirates Scholar Center for  
Research and Studies



The theme of this year's conference, "Empowering Youth for a Tolerant Future," reflects the UAE's deep-rooted values and its global reputation as a champion of peace and coexistence. Under the patronage of Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, we have come together to exchange ideas, foster dialogue, and develop actionable strategies that strengthen the bonds between cultures and civilizations.

Yet, dialogue alone is not enough. We must act—educate, inspire, and empower the next generation to carry forward the ideals of tolerance and mutual respect. Youth are not merely beneficiaries of our efforts; they are the architects of our future. They have the power to shape societies, bridge divides, and lead transformative change.

Investing in our youth today is an investment in global stability and peace. Instilling the principles of dialogue, understanding, and coexistence in them is not just an academic exercise—it is a vital contribution to the well-being of nations. The values we nurture in our young people today will determine the strength of our societies tomorrow.



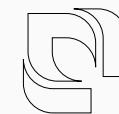
## DR. FIRAS HABBAL

President - Vice Chancellor  
Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



Throughout this dialogue, we have confronted challenges head-on, seeking common ground and shared solutions. We have listened intently to diverse perspectives, recognizing the richness that arises from our differences. Together, we have celebrated the beauty of cultural diversity while acknowledging the imperative of tolerance and mutual respect. In the spirit of collaboration, we have achieved significant milestones.

We have forged new partnerships and strengthened existing ones, laying the groundwork for sustained cooperation in the pursuit of peace and harmony. We have exchanged ideas and best practices, enriching our collective understanding of the complexities inherent in our globalized world.



## DR. FAWAZ HABBAL

Conference President, Director General  
Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies



This gathering has not only served as a crucible for robust dialogue and exchange but has also illuminated the path forward for future generations.

In an era marked by increasing globalization and interconnectedness, the imperative for fostering dialogue among civilizations and nurturing tolerance has never been more pressing. It is through forums like this conference that we reaffirm our commitment to embracing diversity, cherishing mutual respect, and cultivating understanding across cultural divides.

Education and scientific research stand as pillars upon which the edifice of dialogue and tolerance is built. They provide us with the tools to dismantle barriers, challenge prejudices, and forge meaningful connections.



01

AT  
A GLANCE



IDCT 2ND EDITION- ABUDHABI 2025

## ABOUT IDCT

Under the esteemed patronage of  
 H.E SHEIKH NAHAYAN MABARAK AL NAHYAN,  
 CABINET MEMBER AND MINISTER OF TOLERANCE AND COEXISTENCE, UAE

The Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies, presents the second edition of the International Dialogue of Civilizations & Tolerance conference, in Partnership with the Ministry of Tolerance & Co-existence of the UAE and Supported by Abu Dhabi Convention and Exhibition Bureau.

Building on the success of our inaugural event, the conference aims to serve as a premier platform for fostering global dialogue and understanding. Convening experts from academia, politics, and various sectors, we aim to address the core issues at the heart of civilizational dialogue. Together, we will explore the complexities of engaging with diverse values and norms, demonstrating that constructive dialogue is not only possible but essential for crafting innovative solutions to the global challenges we face today.



19 - 21 FEB, 2025



Abu Dhabi Energy Center  
 Abu Dhabi - UAE





Presented By



promote interdisciplinary research and knowledge exchange to address regional challenges and opportunities. ESCRS aspires to be a recognized hub of research excellence, driving positive societal change and contributing to global knowledge networks through evidence-based research and informed policy recommendations.

### Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies (ESCRS) :

Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies (ESCRS) is a premier independent institution dedicated to advancing academic research in the UAE and the Arab region. Our mission is to enrich public discourse, inform decision-making, and foster innovation through rigorous research, scholarly publications, and impactful conferences and seminars. Collaborating with academic, governmental, and private sector partners, we



### Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence:

The Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence is entrusted with overseeing and implementing the National Tolerance Program, endorsed by the UAE Federal Cabinet. This initiative embodies the UAE's unwavering commitment to tolerance, pluralism, and peaceful coexistence, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration both locally and globally. As the United Arab Emirates celebrates its Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years since its founding, it

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embarks on a journey toward the next fifty, sharing its experience as a peaceful and inclusive nation. The UAE continues to embrace global perspectives, emphasizing the power of unity in creating a better future for all of humanity. From this pivotal position, the Ministry actively collaborates with entities, communities, and organizations worldwide to enhance its role as a catalyst for tolerance, cultural harmony, and social cohesion.



## Aim of the Conference:

**Promoting global peace and understanding:** The conference provides a platform for scholars, researchers, and practitioners from different regions of the world to come together and engage in meaningful dialogue on issues related to intercultural communication, understanding, and tolerance. This can help promote global peace and understanding by fostering greater empathy and respect for different cultures and perspectives.



**Addressing contemporary challenges:** In today's increasingly interconnected world, there are many contemporary challenges related to intercultural dialogue and understanding, such as migration, globalization, and conflicts. The conference provides an opportunity to explore these issues in depth and generate innovative solutions and recommendations.

**Fostering academic collaboration:** The conference provides a valuable opportunity for academics and researchers from different regions of the world to come together, share their research, and collaborate on new projects. This can lead to new insights, partnerships, and opportunities for research funding and collaboration.



## Conference Objectives

1

Foster meaningful discussions and idea-sharing among scholars, researchers, and professionals from diverse fields and backgrounds.

2

Encourage the exploration of critical issues related to intercultural communication, mutual respect, and tolerance.

3

Provide a platform for presenting and debating groundbreaking research and innovative solutions.

4

Strengthen academic collaboration and networking opportunities among participants.



5

Acknowledge and celebrate scholarly contributions that advance dialogue and cooperation among civilizations.

6

Inspire attendees to pursue professional growth and integrate knowledge into educational curricula.

7

Support the publication and dissemination of research findings in academic journals and relevant forums.

8

Contribute to global peace, understanding, and the harmonious coexistence of diverse cultures and civilizations.



# 02

# COMMITTEES

## Higher Committee

### - H.E DR. ABDULLA BELHAIF AL NUAIMI

Chairman of Sharjah Consultative Council  
Chancellor of Emirates Scholar Center for  
Research and Studies



### - H.E. AFRA AL SABRI

Director General,  
Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence



### - DR. FIRAS HABBAL

President - Vice Chancellor  
Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



### - DR. FAWAZ HABBAL

Conference President, Director General  
Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies



### - DR KHALIL HUSSAIN KHALIL

Advisor to the Minister of Tolerance  
and Coexistence



## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

### CHAIR

- H.E DR. ASHRAF EL-SHIHY	Former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Arab Republic of Egypt		
- DR. MAXIME JAFFRÉ	Assistant Professor at UAEU	- DR. NOURA AL KARBI	Chair of the Research Outreach Department ,Sharjah University
- DR. ZEKIRIJA SEGDINI	Professor for Islam in Contemporary Society – University of Vienna	- DR FATMA AL DAHMANI	Head of the Tolerance and Coexistence Department at Mohamed bin Zayed University for Humanities
- DR. LUCIAN REINFANDT	Senior Researcher- Austrian Fund for the Documentation of Religiously Motivated Political Extremism	- DR WILLIAM GUÉRAICHE	Head of Research and Publication Abrahamic Family House
- DR. MOHAMMED DAHIRI	Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Delegate for Diversity, Inclusion, Volunteering and Refugee		

## Local Committee

### CHAIR

- DR KHALIL HUSSAIN KHALIL	Advisor to the Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence		
- KHALID AL ALI	Treasury and Board Member, Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies	- OSAMAH ALI	Office of the Minister
- DR. RASHED KARKAIN	Environmental & Sustainable Development Expert	- DR. MARWAN AL NAJJAR	Board of Trustees Member, Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies
- HUDA RAPHAEL SIEVERS	Researcher and Tolerance Advocate	- HAMDA SAIF AL AMERI	Director General, Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence
- TAMIMA MOHAMMED AL NISR	Director of Events and Exhibitions Department at WATANI AL EMARAT Foundation	- MAI ENABA	Minister office, Ministry of Tolerance and Co-existence

## Technical & Support Committee

- DR MARWAN AL NAJJAR	MEDIA & PR, Board Member of Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studiesa	- MUHAMMAD ISRAR AHMAD	IT manager, Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies
- MONICA FAWZY	Media Office Manager, Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies.	- KYRILLOS ROSHDY	Creative office Manager, Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies
- AMR ASHRAF	Digital office Manager, Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies.	- NELE KRISTIN	Manager of Commercial Services & Funding Office ,Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies
- DR. AHMED ABOUALAM	Research Manager, Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies.		

## Internaional Committee

### CHAIR

- IMAM HASSEN CHALGHOUMI	Imam of the municipal Drancy Mosque in Seine-Saint-Denis		
- SHANNON SEBAN	City Council Member of Rosny-sous-Bois	- EINAT LEVI	Strategic Consultant and Partnership Builder in the MENA Region
- JEAN CANDIOTTE	UAE Representative   TOM	- ADRIANO TERESI	Director General at AB GROUP







# 03

## OUTCOMES & RECOMMENDATIONS



## Recommendations:

1

Incorporate intercultural education into school curricula at all levels, stressing the significance of understanding and respecting various cultures from an early age.

2

Encourage interdisciplinary research projects that explore innovative educational strategies for promoting dialogue and tolerance among young people, drawing from fields such as psychology, sociology, and education studies.

3

Create mentorship programs that connect young students with seasoned educators and researchers, offering opportunities for guidance, collaboration, and engagement in intercultural projects.

4

Allocate resources to develop and distribute educational materials, including online courses, multimedia content, and interactive platforms, that foster cross-cultural learning and cultivate empathy and understanding.



5

Advocate for the use of technology and digital tools in education to create immersive learning environments that expose students to diverse cultures and perspectives from around the world.

6

Support initiatives that encourage student exchange programs, cultural exchanges, and international collaborative research projects, enhancing cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation.

7

Provide funding and resources for research on the effectiveness of educational interventions in promoting tolerance, diversity appreciation, and intercultural understanding among youth.

8

Strengthen collaborations between educational institutions, community organizations, and government bodies to design comprehensive educational initiatives that tackle societal issues related to prejudice, discrimination, and intolerance.



## Next Edition Goal

1

Expand the reach and impact of the conference by attracting a broader and more diverse range of participants, including scholars, researchers, policymakers, educators, students, and representatives from civil society organizations.

2

Deepen the conference's thematic focus to address emerging issues and challenges in intercultural dialogue, tolerance, and cooperation, such as the effects of globalization, technological developments, and social transformation.

3

Fortify partnerships with international organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies to pool



4

Increase the engagement of young people in the conference by offering dedicated sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities aimed at empowering future leaders and advocates for change.

5

Integrate innovative formats and interactive sessions into the conference program, such as panel discussions, roundtable debates, and hands-on learning activities, to encourage meaningful dialogue and exchange of ideas.























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

Highlight the importance of research and evidence-based practices in shaping policies and initiatives that foster dialogue, tolerance, and mutual respect among diverse cultures and civilizations.















04

PARTICIPANTS

FLAG	COUNTRY	USER COUNT
	Algeria	23
	Australia	19
	Azerbaijan	36
	Bahrain	32
	Belgium	29
	Burkina Faso	3
	Central African Republic	9
	Chad	2
	China	16
	Denmark	17
	Egypt	65
	Ethiopia	9
	France	41
	Germany	29
	Ghana	15
	Greece	21
	Iceland	7
	India	71
	Iran	4
	Iraq	18
	Israel	116
	Italy	29

	Japan	9
	Jordan	17
	Kazakhstan	12
	Kenya	8
	Kosovo	2
	Lebanon	26
	Libya	3
	Malaysia	17
	Morocco	51
	Mozambique	2
	Nepal	18
	Netherlands	25
	Nigeria	11
	Oman	22
	Pakistan	14
	Palau	2
	Palestine	19
	Philippines	23
	Poland	11
	Qatar	19
	Russia	48
	Saudi Arabia	28
	Somalia	3



	South Sudan	9
	Spain	21
	Sudan	5
	Syria	10
	Thailand	16
	Tunisia	10
	United Kingdom	68
	United States	110
	Vatican	79
	Yemen	3
	Zimbabwe	49
	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	1109
<b>TOTAL ATTENDEES</b>		<b>2,490</b>





05

ACHIEVEMENT



87

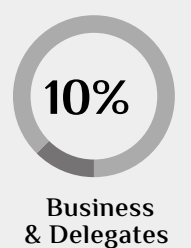
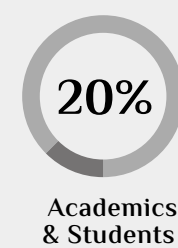
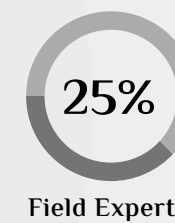
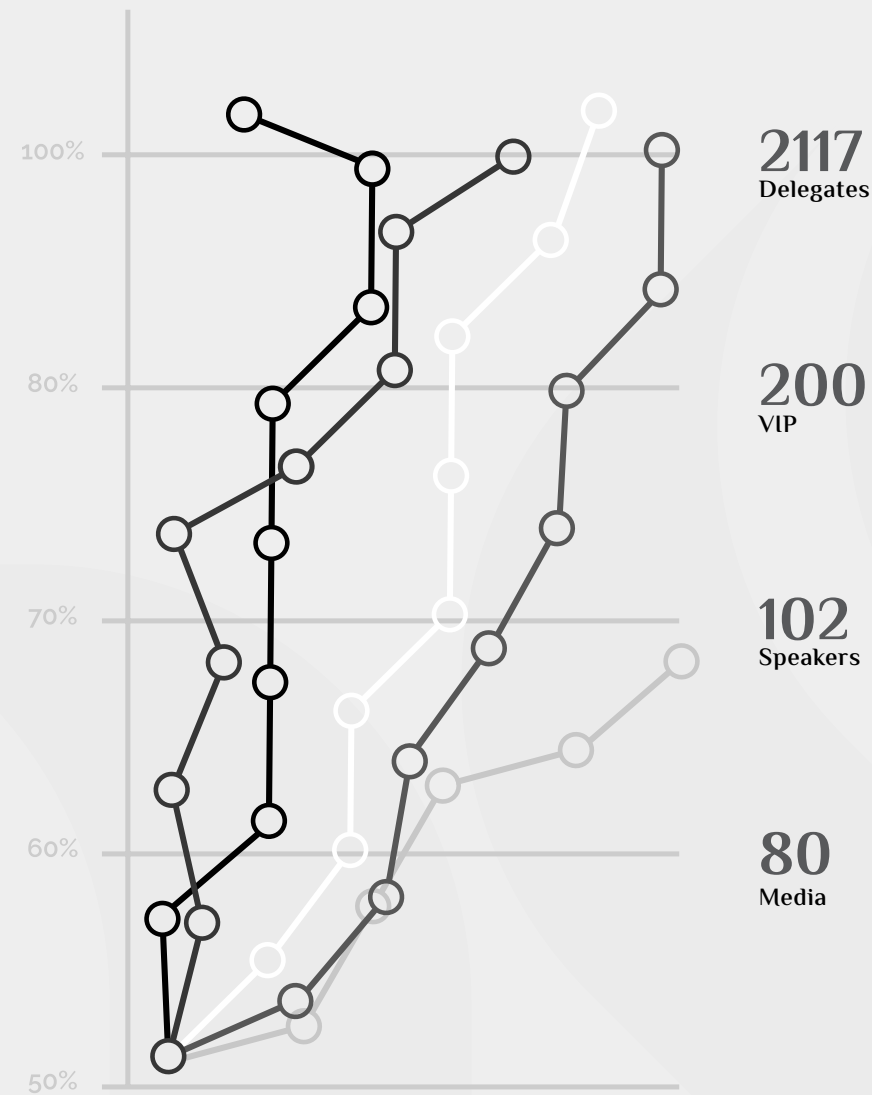
INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION

64

COUNTRIES

2490

ATTENDEES







06

SPONSORS  
& PARTNERS

## abu dhabi

Convention & Exhibition Bureau

### Abu Dhabi Convention Bureau :

Drives and supports the development and promotion of business events tourism throughout the emirate efficiently, effectively, and transparently, and in partnership with all its stakeholders. Its main mission is to champion the emirate as a dynamic global business events leader. Abu Dhabi Convention Bureau can assist with any planners' needs and acts as a one-stop shop, offering free advice, help with planning and local knowledge. Key assistance includes researching bid opportunities,



assisting with a tailored bid strategy to ensure competitiveness, providing destination promotional collateral and boosting delegate numbers through the authority's international offices. The Abu Dhabi Convention Bureau team provides co-ordination with local partners, and helps arrange introductions to key Abu Dhabi stakeholders, secures support from mainline industry and tourism leaders, and assists with government liaison, researching appropriate venues, offering PR and marketing support, and providing innovative activities and pre- and post-conference ideas. Our ground breaking Advantage Abu Dhabi is aimed at catalysing and seeding innovative and viable business events aligned to the Abu Dhabi Government's 2030 Economic Vision.





## THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

### The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:

Is a global religious organization dedicated to promoting faith in Christ and supporting local communities. Established in 1830, the Church now has millions of members in over 160 countries. It is renowned for its initiatives focused on family values, education and humanitarian work, offering assistance to those in need regardless of their religion or culture. At this event, the Church highlights its vision of fostering peace,



### TRENDS Research & Advisory:

Is an independent research center dedicated to shaping the future by analyzing the geopolitical, economic, and social aspects of regional and global developments while adhering to international research standards. TRENDS builds partnerships with global research centers, think tanks and governmental and non-governmental organizations to enhance

تريندز للبحوث والاستشارات  
TRENDS RESEARCH & ADVISORY



cooperation and expand its regional and global impact. The center publishes diverse studies and organizes lectures, conferences, and events to facilitate the exchange of research and expertise.



tolerance and spiritual values within global communities. We invite you to engage with the Church's representatives to learn more about their impactful programs and to visit the Church's FamilySearch booth at the event.







مؤسسة الإمارات  
للعلوم والبحوث  
Emirates Science  
& Research Foundation

### The Emirates Science & Research Foundation (ESRF) :

Is a non-governmental, internationally-oriented, association established in United Arab Emirates in 2024. ESRF is committed to promoting the highest quality science in GCC to drive progress in research and innovation. We work closely with our members and partners, sharing our expertise and offering solution-orientated scientific support aimed at increasing the quality and effectiveness of science and science-related activities in UAE.



We partner with diverse institutions by leading successful projects, facilitating informed decision-making through a broad range of science support partnerships: Research Assessment and Grant Evaluation, the coordination of projects, funding programs and the hosting scientific platforms.



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# AGENDA





19 FEBRUARY 2025

DAY<sup>1</sup>

FEBRUARY 19 @ 10:300 AM - 11:30 AM

## Opening Ceremony

UAE National Anthem - Official Video

### WELCOMING REMARKS

AL GURM HALL

- H.E SHEIKH. NAHAYAN MABARAK  
AL NAHYAN

Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance  
and Coexistence, UAE



- H.E SHAYKH ABDALLA BIN  
BAYYAH

Chairman of the UAE Fatwa Council and  
Head of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace



- H.E DR. ABDULLA BELHAIF  
AL NUAIMI

Chairman of Sharjah Consultative Council  
Chancellor of Emirates Scholar Center for  
Research and Studies



### Official Announcement:

Topic: Pre-Launch of the Tolerance and Artificial Intelligence Platform  
(UAETOLERANCE.AI)

- DR. FIRAS HABBAL

President - Vice Chancellor  
Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



- DR. FAWAZ HABBAL

Conference President, Director General  
Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies



### Coronation:

Announcement of winners of the tolerance award 2025

FEBRUARY 19 @ 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

## Meet our speakers

[www.idctconference.org](http://www.idctconference.org)

### Keynote Session 1

AL GURM HALL

- DR. MOHAMMED ABDULLA  
AL-ALI

CEO of TRENDS Research and Advisory



- ELDER DAVID A. BEDNAR

Member of the Quorum of the Twelve  
Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints



- H.E. MAQSUD KRUSE

Chairperson of the National Human Rights  
Institution



FEBRUARY 19 @ 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

### PANEL DISCUSSION 1

AL GURM HALL

Topic: Creating Inclusive Communities: Youth Leadership  
and Social Responsibility

- DR. MOHAMMED DAHIRI

Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies,  
Delegate for Diversity, Inclusion,  
Volunteering and Refugee



- PROF. ZEKIRIJA SEJDINI

Professor for Islam in Contemporary Society  
- University of Vienna



- DR. YIGAL BEN-SHALOM

President of The Association for Yemenite  
Society, Culture, Research  
and Documentation



- DR. RASHED KARKAIN

Environmental & Sustainable Development  
Expert



FEBRUARY 19 @ 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

MEDIA STAGE

**H.E DR. ABDULLA  
BELHAIF AL NUAIMI**

CHAIRMAN OF THE SHARJAH CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL  
AND CHANCELLOR OF EMIRATES SCHOLAR CENTER

**BOOK SIGNING**

FEBRUARY 19 @ 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

MOU Signing

توقيع مذكرة تفاهم

باحثي الامارات  
EMIRATES SCHOLAR  
مركز بحوث ودراسات علمية  
Scientific Research Center

Bahá'í  
International  
Community

Press Conference

مؤتمر صحفي

باحثي الامارات  
EMIRATES SCHOLAR  
مركز بحوث ودراسات علمية  
Scientific Research Center

FamilySearch

MOU Signing

توقيع مذكرة تفاهم

باحثي الامارات  
EMIRATES SCHOLAR  
مركز بحوث ودراسات علمية  
Scientific Research Center

The Supreme  
Druze Religious Council



## Meet our speakers

[www.idctconference.org](http://www.idctconference.org)

### Keynote Session 2

AL MURBAN HALL

- H.E DR. DAVID RUTSTEIN

Secretary-General of the Bahá'í International  
Community



### PANEL DISCUSSION 2

AL MURBAN HALL

Topic: The Role of Spiritual Principles in Building a Unified Global  
Community.

- CHIEF RABBI MOSHE LEWIN

VP, Conference of European Rabbis, Special  
adviser to the chief rabbi of France



- MICHAEL D SCHLANK

CEO at NJY camps



- H.E JAMES E. HARRIS

Honorary Consul of the Republic of Vanuatu



FEBRUARY 19 @ 2:00 PM - 2:10 PM

FEBRUARY 19 @ 2:10 PM - 2:30 PM

FEBRUARY 19 @ 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

FEBRUARY 19 @ 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM





20 FEBRUARY 2025

# DAY 2



## Meet our speakers

[www.idctconference.org](http://www.idctconference.org)

### KEYNOTE SESSION 3 AL GURM HALL

#### - H.E SHEIKH. MOWAFAQ TARIF

The spiritual leader of the Druze community in the State of Israel



#### - H.E DR. DAVID RUTSTEIN

Secretary-General of the Bahá'í International Community



### PANEL DISCUSSION 3 AL GURM HALL

Topic: Diplomacy and Faith: Strengthening Cross-Cultural Understanding in a Globalized World.

#### - H.E DR. ETIENNE BERCHTOLD

Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the United Arab Emirates



#### - H.E. ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHE Z. EL KASSIS

Apostolic Nuncio to UAE.



### PANEL DISCUSSION 4 AL GURM HALL

Topic: Diplomacy and Faith: Strengthening Cross-Cultural Understanding in a Globalized World.

#### - IMAM HASSEN CHALGHOUMI

Imam of the municipal Drancy Mosque in Seine-Saint-Denis



#### - H.E. KINANA MUDER

Ambassador of Sultan al Bohra



## PANEL DISCUSSION 5 (AR) AL GURM HALL

Topic: الشباب وصناعة المستقبل: دور الهوية الوطنية والدمج في بناء مجتمع مستدام

#### - H.E DR. ASHRAF EL-SHIHY

Former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Arab Republic of Egypt



#### - H.E NASSER AL YAMAHI

Executive Director of Fujairah Culture and Media Authority



#### - H.E ABDULLA AL KAMALI

Executive Director of People of Determination Sector at Zayed Higher Organization



#### - DR. FATMA AL-DAHMANI

Head of the Tolerance and Coexistence Department at Mohamed bin Zayed University for Humanities



## PANEL DISCUSSION 6 AL GURM HALL

Topic: Empowering Voices: Women's Influence in Promoting Civilizational Dialogue and Global Tolerance.

#### - SHEIKHA. NOORA AL SHAMSI

Board Member of the UAE Youth Leadership Program and Entrepreneur



#### - DR. DIMA RACHID JAMALI

VP, of Academic Affairs at the Canadian University Dubai



#### - SHANNON SEBAN

City Council Member of Rosny-sous-Bois, President of Renaissance Party in Seine-Saint-Denis



#### - PROF. SHERINE FAROUK

Associate Provost for Academic Projects & Internationalization, Abu Dhabi University



#### - HUDA RAPHAEL SIEVERS

Researcher and tolerance advocate



## PRESENTATION SESSION 1 AL GHAF HALL

Topic: Building Together to Heal the World

- MS. JEAN CANDIOTTE

UAE Representative | TOM



Topic: جذور التسامح في دولة الامارات ... قراءة في الوثائق التاريخية

- FATMA SULTAN MAZROUEI

Head of the Historical Archives Section at  
the National Library and Archives



Topic: A Tale of Three Cities: Insights on City Diplomacy &  
Multiculturalism from Essaouira

- EINAT LEVI

Strategic Consultant and Partnership Builder  
in the MENA Region



Topic: Building Bridges: Jewish-Muslim Engagement and Academic  
Collaboration in Israel

- DR. NESYA SHEMER

Senior Lecturer at the Department of Middle  
Eastern Studies, Bar-Ilan University



FEBRUARY 20 @ 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

FEBRUARY 20 @ 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM





## PANEL DISCUSSION 7 DIALOGUE HALL

Topic: Science and Interfaith: Building Bridges of Knowledge and Understanding.

### - DR. OMAR BORTOLAZZI

Associate Professor, Director of the Master of International Affairs at AUD (Dubai)



### - DR. LUCIAN REINFANDT

Senior Researcher- Austrian Fund for the Documentation of Religiously Motivated Political Extremism



### - DR. ALEKSANDRA BRANKOVIC

Founder of Cultural Center Taraba



### - DR. WILLIAM GUÉRAICHE

Head of Research and Publication Abrahamic Family House



### - DR. STERLING DENMARK JENSEN

Associate Professor of Tolerance and Coexistence Section at MBZUH



### - MR. MUFADDAL MOAIYADI

Head of Academic Department for Attalimiyah



### - RABBI DR. AHARON ARIEL LAVI

Managing Director of the Ohr Torah Interfaith Center



### - DR. HANI AL-BALAWI

Expert at the Center for Civilizational Dialogue, ICESCO



FEBRUARY 20 @ 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

FEBRUARY 20 @ 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM



## PRESENTATION SESSION 2 AL GHAF HALL

Topic: On Economy and Sustenance: Religion as Part of the Solution to Economic Predicaments

- RABBI DR. AHARON ARIEL  
LAVI

The Ohr Torah Interfaith Center & Blicke  
Institute for Interfaith Dialogue



Topic: التسامح الديني والتعايش الثقافي في الأندلس

- MOHAMMED DAHIRI

Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies,  
Delegate for Diversity, Inclusion,  
Volunteering and Refugee



Topic: Advancing Tolerance through Policy and Practice, UAE as role model.

- ALEKSANDRA BRANKOVIC

Founder of Cultural Center Taraba



Topic: Shaping Positive Cross-Cultural Encounters: Practical Tools from 40 Years of Jewish-Arab Youth Engagement in Israel

- TOM VIZEL

Head of International Relations and  
Educational Training at NOAL



- SAIWA ABU KASHEF

Head of youth communities at NOAL



FEBRUARY 20 @ 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

## PANEL DISCUSSION 8 DIALOGUE HALL

Topic: Innovative Strategies for Social Impact: Promoting Tolerance, and Driving Global Change.

- DR. MAXIME JAFFRÉ

Assistant Professor at UAEU



- AMJAD TAHA

CEO of Crestnux Media Company



- MAREK HALTER

French Writer, Artist, and Human Rights  
Activist



- HUDA RAPHAEL SIEVERS

Researcher and Tolerance Advocate



- MARCUS SHEFF

CEO of IMPACT-se



- LOAY AHMED ALSHAREEF

Peace Activist & Influencer



- EINAT LEVI

Strategic Consultant and Partnership Builder  
in the MENA Region



- DR. YIGAL BEN-SHALOM

President of The Association for  
Yemenite Society, Culture, Research and  
Documentation



- MRS. SANAZ SOTOUDEH

Faculty in Communication, Arts, and  
Sciences at Canadian University Dubai



- MS. JEAN CANDIOTTE

UAE Representative | TOM



- RABBI DR. YAKOV NAGEN

Executive Director of the Ohr Torah  
Interfaith Center



- DR. MARWAN AL NAJJAR

Board of Trustees Member, Emirates Scholar  
Center for Research and Studies



FEBRUARY 20 @ 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM





21 FEBRUARY 2025

DAY 3

## Meet our speakers

[www.idctconference.org](http://www.idctconference.org)

### KEYNOTE SESSION 4

AL GURM HALL

#### - DR. FIRAS HABBAL

President - Vice Chancellor  
Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



#### - PRESIDENT SUSAN H. PORTER

Primary General President of the Church  
of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



#### - GENERAL GIUSEPPE PETRELLA

General of the Carabinieri, Presidency of the  
Council of Ministers



### PANEL DISCUSSION 9

AL GURM HALL

Topic: Interfaith Dialogue, Leadership, and Policy Innovation:  
Addressing Global Challenges in Modern Societies.

#### - AMBASSADOR (RET.) MARC J. SIEVERS

Director of AJC Abu Dhabi



#### - DR. ANTHONY RAJU

Advocate at the Supreme Court of India



### CLOSING CEREMONY

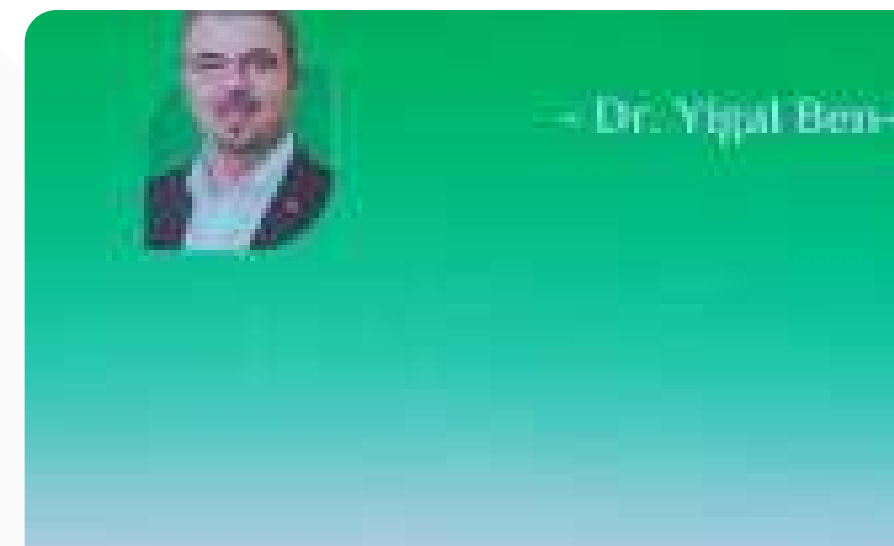
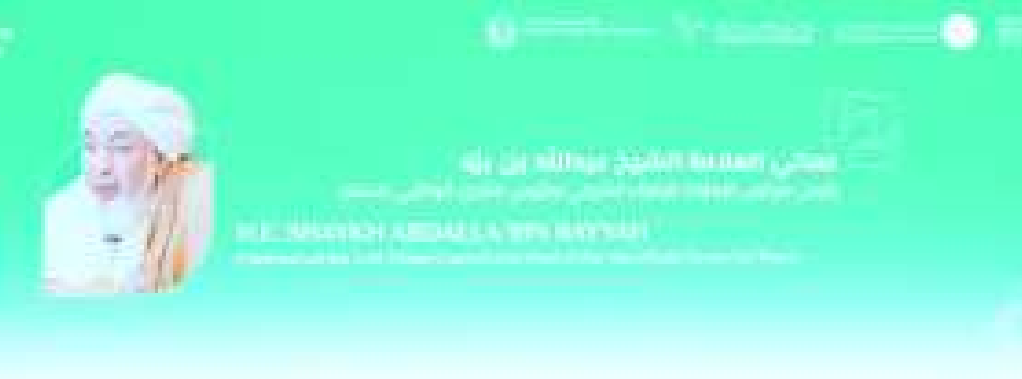
AL GURM HALL



FEBRUARY 21 @ 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

FEBRUARY 21 @ 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM







08

SPEAKERS  
BIO



## - H.E SHEIKH NAHAYAN MABARAK AL NAHYAN

Cabinet Member and Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence, UAE



His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan assumed his role as Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence in October of 2017. Joining the Federal Government in 1992, His Excellency held several key positions including the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Minister of Education and the Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development. In addition to his ministerial portfolio, H.E. Sheikh Nahayan served as the Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University from 1983 to 2013, the Chancellor of the Higher Colleges of Technology from 1988 to 2013 and the President of Zayed University from 1998 to 2013. His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan received his secondary education from the British Millfield School in the UK before joining the Magdalen College at Oxford University.



## - H.E SHAYKH ABDALLA BIN BAYYAH

Chairman of the UAE Fatwa Council and Head of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace



His Excellency Shaykh Abdalla Bin Bayyah is the Chairman of the UAE Fatwa Council and the President of the Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace, playing a leading role in promoting peace, tolerance, and interfaith dialogue globally. A highly respected Islamic scholar and jurist, he has been at the forefront of efforts to foster religious moderation and reconciliation.

Shaykh Bin Bayyah has held numerous distinguished positions, including serving as Vice President of the International Union of Muslim Scholars and a member of several global religious and academic councils. He has been instrumental in shaping contemporary Islamic thought, advocating for coexistence and countering extremism through scholarship and diplomacy.

With a deep expertise in Islamic jurisprudence, Shaykh Bin Bayyah has authored numerous works on ethics, governance, and peacebuilding, making significant contributions to religious discourse worldwide.



## - H.E DR. ABDULLA BELHAIF AL NUAIMI

Chairman of Sharjah Consultative Council  
Chancellor of Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



Dr. Abdulla Belhaif Al Nuaimi, a respected figure in the field of climate change and environmental policy, was the former Minister of Climate Change and Environment in the UAE, beginning his tenure in July 2020.

In this pivotal role, he was instrumental in shaping and executing the nation's climate resilience and ecosystem protection strategies through the formulation of impactful policies and initiatives. Beyond his ministerial duties, Dr. Belhaif chaired both the UAE Council for Climate Change and Environment and the National Biosecurity Committee.

Prior to this, from 2013 to 2020, he held the position of Minister of Infrastructure Development.

During his tenure, he was a driving force behind the advancement of federal infrastructure projects, including inter-emirate highways and government facilities.

He also presided over the Sheikh Zayed Housing Program and the Federal Transport Authority.

Recently, Dr. Belhaif has transitioned into a thought leadership role, delivering keynote speeches on navigating uncertain environmental futures for various organizations. Currently, he is an active lecturer and author, focusing on topics related to climate change, renewable energy and the built environment.



## - DR. FIRAS HABBAL

President – Vice Chancellor  
Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies



Dr Firas Habbal is the President of Emirates Scholar Center and Chief Executive Officer of Geminos Investment Group with a strong background in leadership, business development, and scientific research,

Dr Habbal have made significant contributions to various organizations. His educational background includes a PhD in International Business Management, MSc in Project Management, and BSc in Internet Commerce.

He is also member of multiple research committees and president of more than 15 Scientific conference in UAE

Dr. Habbal worked as Regional Director at many respectful organizations, and he fulfilled his academic career as an Associate Professor in the Department of Business, at 3 different universities: Al Ain University of Science and Technology, American University in Emirates, and Fujairah Academy.

He is serving as Editor in Chief of 3 international journals and an editorial member and reviewer of several international reputed journals

Dr. Habbal has been Co-Chair of many international indexed conferences, Head of local chair of more than 20 international conferences both domestically and globally.

Dr. Habbal interest areas of research are Quality Management, International Management, Data Management, Technology Acceptance, Artificial Intelligence, and Data Sensing.

He has successfully published more than 21 publications in more than 18 indexed journals and 6 international conferences and contributed to more than 6 registered patents.





## - DR. FAWAZ HABBAL

Conference President, Director General  
Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies



Dr. Fawaz Habbal is an esteemed Associate Professor with a PhD in E-Government Applications and Business Information Technologies, specializing in Process Automation, Artificial Intelligence, and Business Innovative Technologies.

His research interests encompass Computer Applications, AI in data prediction, and Data Science. Dr. Habbal possesses extensive experience in strategy, particularly within innovation, digitalization, and information technology across various industries.

As the Founder, Director General, and Board of Trustees Member at the Emirates Scholar Center for Research & Studies in the UAE, he leads a multidisciplinary research team.

His leadership is pivotal in steering research efforts towards impactful academic contributions. In this capacity, he demonstrates a profound understanding of research methodologies, knowledge dissemination, and aligning research with organizational objectives.



## - DR. MOHAMMED ABDULLA AL-ALI

CEO of TRENDS Research and Advisory



Dr. Mohammed Abdulla Al-Ali, an Emirati researcher and writer specializing in strategic and media issues, has been the CEO of TRENDS Research & Advisory since 2019.

He also serves on the advisory boards of several academic and research institutions.

Before joining TRENDS, Dr. Al-Ali spent approximately 25 years at various research and academic institutions, including the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), where he held roles such as Deputy Director-General for Community Service and Deputy Director-General for Financial and Administrative Affairs. Additionally, he served as Editor-in-Chief for several scholarly journals and worked at Zayed University in the UAE.

Throughout his career, Dr. Al-Ali has supervised numerous research projects focused on regional and global developments. His published works include several books and research papers, such as The Changing Middle East: Prospects for Achieving Sustainable Security in the Region, Climate Change: Dimensions and Future Trends, The Muslim Brotherhood: Side Glances, Future Trends: The World in the Next 50 Years, and The UAE and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Model of Crisis Management and Sustainable Recovery. He holds a Ph.D. in Criminology from Mutah University in Jordan, a Master of Arts in Diplomacy from the American University in the UAE, and a Bachelor's degree in Media from the UAE University.





## - ELDER DAVID A. BEDNAR

Member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Elder David A. Bednar The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church Leadership Elder David A. Bednar has been engaged in fulltime Church service since his call to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in 2004 at age 52.

This governing body under the Church President oversees the Church's 17 million members in more than 200 nations and territories.

As one of the Twelve Apostles, his current responsibilities include supervising Church spiritual and humanitarian activities in the Middle East and North Africa, Central Europe, and the western United States and Canada. He often meets with ambassadors, senior government officials, and heads of state.

He is based at Church headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Professional Life: Elder Bednar earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Brigham Young University. He also received a doctoral degree in organizational behavior from Purdue University. He was a professor of business management at Texas Tech University and at the University of Arkansas from 1980 to 1997.

He served as the president of Brigham Young University-Idaho from 1997 to 2004.

He directed an innovative transition of the school from the largest private junior college in the United States to a four-year university with current on-campus and on-line enrollment of more than 40,000 students. Personal Life: Elder Bednar married Susan Kae Robinson in 1975, and they are the parents of three sons.



## - H.E. MAQSUD KRUSE

Chairperson of the National Human Rights Institution



H.E. Maqsoud Kruse grew up in a multicultural and multiethnic family environment to a German father and an Emirati mother, which enabled him to develop a deep understanding of cultural and social influences, as well as an appreciation for the values of tolerance, coexistence, and diversity.

Since 2021, he has served as the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI). Prior to this, he was the Strategic Communications Advisor at the Ministry of Presidential Affairs (MOPA) and a member of the National Media Team commissioned by the UAE Cabinet. Before that, he was the Executive Director of Hedayah, the International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, where he led efforts in dialogue, capacity building, and research. He also served as a Steering Board Member of the Policy, Think and Do Tanks Constituency for the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF).

Before joining GAL, Kruse worked in the UAE Armed Forces as an Organizational Psychologist in areas related to Applied Psychology, Strategic Planning, and Leadership Development. With two decades of experience across international, governmental, and private sectors, he is also a recognized public speaker and media commentator featured on major outlets such as CNN, Sky News Arabia, Phoenix TV, Abu Dhabi TV, Al Hurra TV, SBS Radio, Sharjah Radio, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The National.



## - DR. RASHED KARKAIN

Environmental & Sustainable Development Expert



Dr. Rashed Mohamed Karkain is an Emirati entrepreneur, innovator, researcher, and author of Sustainable Development Leaders. He serves as Vice President of the Society of Scholars in the UAE and holds a Ph.D. in Environment and Health and a B.S. in Chemical Engineering.

With over 28 years of experience in sustainable development, environmental leadership, project management, the green economy, carbon capture, and green hydrogen, he has 15 registered intellectual properties with the UAE's Ministry of Economy.

Dr. Karkain has received multiple honors, including the Dubai Government Excellence Program Award, the Rashid Award for Scientific Excellence, the UAE Innovate Award, and the Leadership Impact Award from Westford. He is the founder and managing director of the Sustainable Development Research and Training Institute, which leads accredited training programs, workshops, and consultancy services focused on sustainability and environmental protection.

## - PROF. ZEKIRIJA SEJDINI

Professorship for Islam in Contemporary Society, University of Vienna



Prof. Zekirija Sejdini specializes in Islamic religious education, Qur'anic hermeneutics, and interreligious dialogue.

He has held key academic and leadership positions, including founding and directing the Institute of Islamic Theology and Religious Education at the University of Innsbruck and co-directing the Center for Interreligious Studies.

His research and teaching span multiple institutions, including Yale University and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. Recognized with several prestigious awards, he is fluent in eight languages and actively promotes interfaith understanding.

## - DR. MOHAMMED DAHIRI

Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Delegate for Diversity, Inclusion, Volunteering and Refugee



Dr. Mohammed Dahiri holds a Ph.D. in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the University of Seville, with additional doctoral studies in Comparative Literature and Translation from Mohamed V University of Rabat.

He has pursued higher education at institutions including the University of Granada, Università di Bologna, and ITD-Amherst. He is a professor in the Arab and Islamic Studies Department at Complutense University of Madrid and a researcher at the University Institute of Religious Sciences. He is also a founding member of the UNESCO Chair in Conflict Resolution and Culture of Peace at the University of Cordoba.

He collaborates with various research groups in Spain and Morocco and teaches in doctoral and master's programs at universities across Europe and North Africa. In 2022, he was appointed Academician of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Fine Arts, and Noble Arts of Cordoba.

## - DR. YIGAL BEN-SHALOM

President of The Association for Yemenite Society, Culture, Research and Documentation



Dr. Yigal Ben-Shalom is a prominent expert in social policy and has vast experience in both public and private sectors.

Holding an academic degree in social policy, he has held key positions that contributed to national development.

He served as the Director General of the Ministry of Labor from 1996 to 2000, where he initiated national projects focused on at-risk children, domestic violence, and care services.

Additionally, he led MBS Systems Company, specializing in strategic planning and information systems.

At the National Insurance Institute (NII), where he worked from 1970 to 1987 and later served as Senior Deputy Director General, Dr. Ben-Shalom revolutionized the computer systems and assisted in implementing major social security laws.

As Director General of NII from 2004, he introduced a reform plan dividing the institute into insurance and social clusters, enhancing services for the elderly, disabled, and children.

His efforts led to new pension schemes, disability reforms, and initiatives for at-risk youth. A senior lecturer at Bar-Ilan University, Dr. Ben-Shalom has greatly influenced Israel's social welfare landscape.





## - H.E. DR. DAVID RUTSTEIN

Secretary-General, Baha'i International Community



Dr. David Rutstein is an accomplished global health leader and interfaith advocate with over 36 years of experience in public health and diplomacy.

A retired Rear Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service, he previously served as Deputy Surgeon General of the United States.

Dr. Rutstein is the founder of SolHEALTH, a nonprofit focused on preventive healthcare worldwide, and has contributed to international medical and humanitarian initiatives across multiple countries. As Secretary-General of the Baha'i International Community, he actively promotes dialogue on human dignity, social justice, and unity among cultures and religions.





## - CHIEF RABBI MOSHE LEWIN

Vice President, Conference of European Rabbis | Special  
Advisor to the Chief Rabbi of France



Rabbi Moshe Lewin is a leading Jewish scholar, interfaith advocate, and community leader.

As Vice President of the Conference of European Rabbis and Special Advisor to the Chief Rabbi of France, he plays a pivotal role in fostering dialogue among religious communities in Europe.

He co-founded Emouna, the Amphitheater of Religions at Sciences Po Paris, which brings together religious leaders from various faiths to promote understanding and cooperation.

Recognized for his contributions to interfaith harmony, Rabbi Lewin has been honored with France's National Order of Merit and the Legion of Honor.

## - MICHAEL D. SCHLANK

CEO, NJY Camps



Michael D. Schlank is a prominent leader in Jewish education and youth engagement.

As CEO of NJY Camps, one of the largest Jewish summer camp organizations in North America, he has been instrumental in fostering inclusive spaces for cultural and spiritual growth among young people.

With a background in public policy and education, Schlank has led initiatives that strengthen Jewish identity, social responsibility, and interfaith collaboration.

His extensive experience in nonprofit leadership and government advisory roles underscores his commitment to ethical leadership and youth empowerment.

## - H.E. JAMES E. HARRIS

Honorary Consul of the Republic of Vanuatu



James E. Harris is a diplomat and global strategist engaged in international trade, investment, and interfaith dialogue.

As Honorary Consul of the Republic of Vanuatu, he plays a key role in fostering economic and cultural relations between the Pacific region and the Middle East.

He is a strong advocate for ethical governance, peacebuilding, and sustainable development, serving as an advisory council member for Pacific Trade Invest (PTI) and a Commonwealth Foundation Executive Committee member.

His diplomatic efforts promote global cooperation and social cohesion.





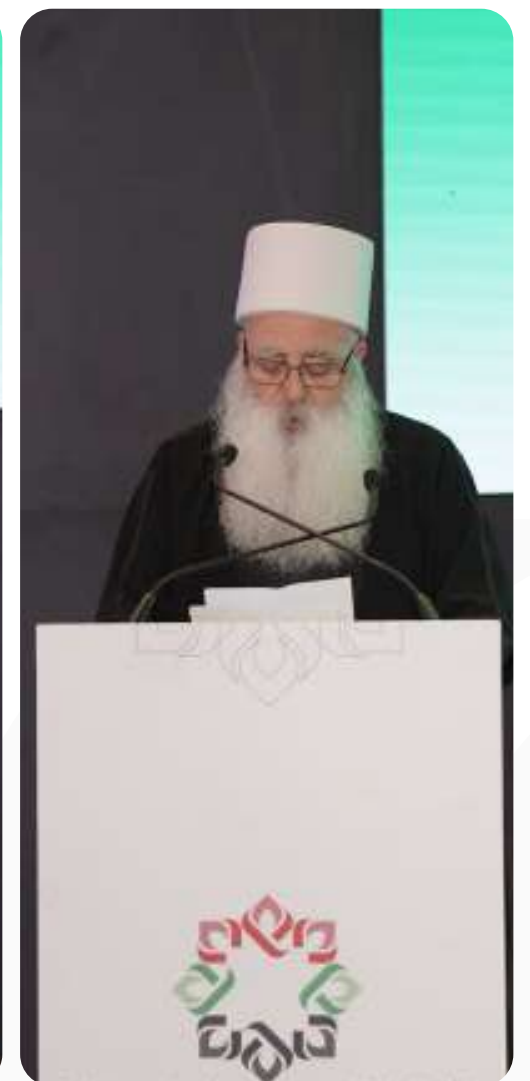


## - H.E. SHEIKH MOWAFAQ TARIF

The spiritual leader of the Druze community in the State of Israel



Sheikh Mowafaq Tarif is the spiritual leader of the Druze community and chairman of the Supreme Druze Religious Council. Born in 1963 in Julis, Upper Galilee, he studied Druze theology in Hasbaya, Lebanon, before assuming leadership responsibilities. He has served as a religious judge and later as chairman of the Druze High Appeal Religious Court. He is a key figure in interfaith relations and has actively promoted religious tolerance, social cohesion, and the protection of Druze heritage and identity.





## - H.E. DR. ETIENNE BERCHTOLD

Ambassador of the Republic of Austria  
to the United Arab Emirates



Dr. Etienne Berchtold took up his duties as Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to the United Arab Emirates in August 2022.

At the Federal Chancellery, he previously worked as a Foreign and European policy spokesperson for Federal Chancellors Karl Nehammer, Alexander Schallenberg, and Sebastian Kurz.

Before that, he worked as a spokesperson for Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, as well as an employee at the Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels and for Shell Austria GmbH. He holds a background in law and diplomacy.



## - H.E. Archbishop Christophe Z. El Kassis

Apostolic Nuncio to the United Arab Emirates



Archbishop Christophe Zakhia El-Kassis is a seasoned Vatican diplomat and clergyman of the Catholic Church.

Born in Lebanon, he was ordained as a priest in 1992 and later entered the Holy See's diplomatic service in 2000.

He has served in several Vatican embassies around the world, including Indonesia, Sudan, and Turkey.

In 2019, he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Pakistan and later to the United Arab Emirates in 2021.

Fluent in multiple languages, Archbishop El-Kassis plays a key role in fostering interfaith dialogue and strengthening the Vatican's diplomatic relations, particularly in the Middle East.

His extensive experience in ecclesiastical diplomacy and his commitment to promoting religious harmony make him an influential figure in global faith-based diplomacy.





## - H.E. KINANA MUDER

Ambassador of Sultan al Bohra, President of Anjuman Najmi, Representative of Sultan al Bohra in Dubai, UAE



H.E. Kinana Muder represents the Sultan al Bohra community in the UAE, fostering interfaith dialogue and promoting religious tolerance. Through his leadership, he has contributed to various educational and cultural initiatives aimed at strengthening community bonds and encouraging peaceful coexistence among diverse religious and cultural groups.

## - HASSEN CHALGHOUMI

Imam of the Municipal Drancy Mosque in Seine-Saint-Denis



Hassen Chalghoumi, a Franco-Tunisian born in Tunisia in 1972, plays a significant role in France as President of the Association Culturelle des Musulmans de Drancy and Imam of the Drancy mosque. With a rich and varied career, he has also been the founder of the Forum des Imams de France since 2008 and Chairman of the Union des Peuples pour la Paix since 2014. His commitment to interfaith dialogue is underlined by his membership in the European Commission for Interfaith Dialogue and Communication. His educational background and previous professional experience enrich his profile and reflect his deep commitment to understanding and collaboration between diverse communities.



## - H.E. DR. ASHRAF EL-SHIHY

Former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Arab Republic of Egypt



Prof. Dr. Ashraf Mohamed El-Shihy is a distinguished academic leader and expert in higher education policy and research. He currently serves as the President of Badr University in Cairo (BUC) and has previously held key positions, including Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research, President of the Egyptian Chinese University, and President of Zagazig University. Dr. El-Shihy has played a significant role in shaping educational policies in Egypt and Africa. He led the Education and Scientific Research Policies Committee and served as Head of the Technical Bureau for Education, Science, and Technology in Africa, as well as the Association for Developing Education in Africa (AFEA). He has been instrumental in fostering international collaborations and strategic planning for higher education. A Professor of Structural Engineering since 1995, Dr. El-Shihy has mentored countless students and contributed to research in advanced structural engineering. He holds a BSc from Cairo University, an MSc from Southampton and Zagazig Universities, and a PhD from Southampton University. His work continues to impact education, research, and policy on a national and international level. Through his unwavering commitment to education, research, and policy development, Dr. El-Shihy continues to play a transformative role in shaping the future of higher education in Egypt, Africa, and beyond.

## - H.E NASSER AL YAMAHI

Executive Director of Fujairah Culture and Media Authority



H.E Nasser Al Yamahi serves as the Executive Director of Fujairah Culture and Media Authority, where he plays a vital role in shaping the cultural and media landscape of Fujairah. His expertise in media strategy and cultural diplomacy has helped bridge traditional heritage with modern advancements, ensuring sustainable cultural growth.

## - H.E ABDULLA AL KAMALI

Executive Director of People of Determination Sector at  
Zayed Highaer Organization



H.E. Abdullah Al Kamali is a leader in advocating for the rights and empowerment of people of determination. As the Executive Director at Zayed Higher Organization, he has been instrumental in developing inclusive policies that promote accessibility, integration, and equal opportunities for people with disabilities across the UAE.

## - DR. FATMA AL-DAHMANI

Head of the Tolerance and Coexistence Department at  
Mohamed bin Zayed University for Humanities



Dr. Fatma Al-Dahmani is the Head of the Tolerance and Coexistence Department at Mohamed bin Zayed University for Humanities (MBZUH). She earned her PhD in Islamic Jurisprudence and Contemporary Society Issues from MBZUH in Abu Dhabi. Additionally, she holds a Master's degree in Sharia Discourse and its Importance in Dialogue from Mohammed V University in Abu Dhabi. Dr. Al-Dahmani's research interests encompass the Prophet's biography and its sciences, principles of economics in Islam, objectives of Islamic law, social and humanitarian issues related to tolerance and peaceful coexistence, as well as education and teaching strategies. In her role at MBZUH, she has been instrumental in organizing training programs aimed at promoting tolerance and coexistence. For instance, she collaborated with the Ministry of Interior to conduct a training program focused on these values. Dr. Al-Dahmani has also represented the UAE in international forums, highlighting the nation's experience in fostering a culture of tolerance. She participated in a session titled "Managing Diversity and Pluralism: Experiences and Practices," where she discussed the UAE's initiatives in this domain.





## - SHANNON SEBAN

City Council Member of Rosny-sous-Bois, President of Renaissance Party in Seine-Saint-Denis



Shannon Seban is a French political activist, elected official in Rosny-sous-Bois, and President of the Renaissance political party in Seine-Saint-Denis. Coming from an immigrant background in one of France's most socio-economically challenged regions, she has dedicated her career to advocating for equality, fighting against extremism, and promoting interfaith dialogue. With experience working alongside European institutions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shannon has been an outspoken voice in combating antisemitism, racism, and political extremism in France. She frequently collaborates with religious leaders and international organizations to foster dialogue and understanding.

## - SHEIKHA NOORA AL SHAMSI

Board Member of the UAE Youth Leadership Program and Entrepreneur



Sheikha Noora Al Shamsi is a prominent Emirati entrepreneur with a passion for promoting inclusivity and social cohesion through business and education. She has been actively involved in initiatives that support cultural dialogue and tolerance within the UAE and beyond. With a background in business development, she advocates for corporate social responsibility and community engagement as key drivers of societal progress.

## - DR. DIMA RACHID JAMALI

VP, University Advancement at the Canadian University Dubai



Dr. Dima Jamali is an influential thought leader who is leaving a mark on the higher education landscape in the UAE and globally. She is the Vice President for University Advancement at Canadian University Dubai and has over 20 years of experience in higher education, including key leadership roles at the University of Sharjah and American University of Beirut. Ranked among the top 2% of global sustainability scholars by Stanford University, she is a strong advocate for sustainability, corporate social responsibility, and social entrepreneurship. Dr. Jamali's work includes impactful publications and the founding of the UN Global Compact Network Lebanon.

## - HUDA RAPHAEL SIEVERS

Researcher and Tolerance Advocate



Huda Michelle Raphael Sievers is a distinguished researcher and advocate for Arab-Jewish dialogue in the Middle East. Born in Iraq, Huda pursued her medical studies before her education was interrupted by war. She later moved to the United States, contributing to clinical research in fields such as Obstetrics, Oncology, and Neurology. A passionate advocate for dialogue, Huda worked across the Middle East and North Africa, promoting education, conflict resolution, and the arts. In Oman, she initiated a successful U.S.-Oman medical program that fostered stronger diplomatic ties. As a member of Iraq's remaining Jewish community, Huda is dedicated to preserving the region's Jewish heritage and promoting tolerance. Fluent in four languages, she uses her knowledge and personal experiences to encourage cross-cultural understanding and bridge divides. Huda's work continues to inspire change, especially through her advocacy for sustainable water and agriculture solutions in the Gulf region.

## - PROF. SHERINE FAROUK

Associate Provost for Academic Projects & Internationalization, Abu Dhabi University



Prof. Sherine Farouk, a seasoned academic leader with over 25 years of experience across international universities in the UAE, UK, and Egypt, currently serves as Abu Dhabi University's Associate Provost for academic projects & Internationalization, Associate Dean of the College of Business for enrollment and student success, and Academic Mentor for the sustainability club.

Engaged in diverse academic projects, she focuses on global engagement, international accreditations, study abroad programs, academic ranking, and reputation.

Prof. Sherine spearheads initiatives on retention, enrollment management, and industry engagement, facilitating MOUs and professional development programs.

A former professor at the London School of Economics, she has conducted numerous international training programs and consulting projects in accounting, organizational performance, and sustainability.

With a PhD from London Metropolitan University, she has authored top-ranked research papers, supervised doctoral students, and organized the ICOM international conference.

Prof. Sherine has garnered awards and honors, contributing to social and community initiatives.



## - MS. JEAN CANDIOTTE

UAE Representative | TOM



Jean Candiotte is an Emmy-nominated Writer/Producer/Creative Director, and a Co-founder of the Jewish Community of the UAE.

She is the UAE Representative for TOM: Tikkun Olam Makers – a humanitarian tech-for-good organization.

Jean started her media career in New York, where she served as Senior Vice President for Oprah Winfrey's Oxygen Network /NBC Universal.

In 2014, a new position brought her to Dubai, where she spent her first six years as a “secret” Jew, aware of the region's sensitivities and the need to keep a low profile.

The UAE's Year of Tolerance in 2019, followed by the historic signing of the Abraham Accords in 2020, created an opening for Jews to live publicly.

Jean contributed to the book “Celebrating Tolerance,” published by the UAE's Ministry of Tolerance, which announced the presence of the country's Jewish community to the world.

She is Dubai Producer of the award-winning documentary “Amen-Amen-Amen,” about religious tolerance in the UAE, and also appears in the film.

Jean has been a guest speaker to the European Parliament and to numerous international delegations on the topic of founding a Jewish community in a Muslim nation.

Jean worked on the launch of the “We Remember” Holocaust Exhibit in Dubai.

She is the UAE Representative for the organization TOM: Tikkun Olam Makers, a global humanitarian platform that uses technology to improve the lives of People of Determination.

Jean is proud to be a community leader working alongside her Muslim, Christian, and Arab counterparts to promote tolerance and coexistence. She currently spends her time between the UAE and New York.



## - FATMA SULTAN MAZROUEI

Head of the Historical Archives Section at the National Library and Archives



Head of the Historical Archives Section at the National Library and Archives  
Fatma Sultan Al Mazrouei is a versatile author, novelist, poet, and short story writer.

She currently serves as the head of the Historical Archives Department at the National Archives, which falls under the Ministry of Presidential Affairs.

With a master's degree in Political Science from Zayed University, Fatima's literary talents span across various genres, including novels, critiques, articles, cinema, theater, children's stories, and poetry.

Fatma is a regular columnist for the Emirati newspaper Al Bayan and has contributed to numerous cultural and social magazines. Her literary portfolio boasts over 20 publications encompassing poetry, theater, short stories, novels, and articles.

She actively participates in cultural evenings, scientific conferences, and conducts workshops on short story writing, novel writing, and children's stories.

Recognized for her literary excellence, Fatma has been honored with nineteen awards in literature and culture. Notably, she received the prestigious Al Oweis Award for Best Creative and Cultural Work in 2013 for her novel "Darkness," the Sheikha Shamsa Bint Suhail Award for Literature and Culture in 2013, and the Emirates Novel Award in 2017 for her novel "My Other Story."

Her publication "Expo from Osaka to Dubai" was published by the Ministry of Information and Culture in 2023.

## - EINAT LEVI

Strategic Consultant and Partnership Builder  
in the MENA Region



Einat Levi is ROPES Director of Educational Programs.

She is an entrepreneur and strategic consultant specializing in Morocco and building bridges in the MENA region. She was a founding member of the Israeli Mission to Morocco, where she led the economic and academic fields.

She is a strategic consultant to 18 Jewish, Arab and Druze municipalities of the Haifa Bay Region and a researcher at Mitvim, the Institute for Regional Foreign Policies.

She holds a B.A. in Middle Eastern Studies and International Relations and an M.A. in Research, Management, and Conflict Resolution, from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Einat is a graduate of the Mandel Institute, the Program for Leadership in Jewish Culture.

## - DR. NESYA SHEMER

Senior Lecturer at the Department of Middle Eastern Studies,  
Bar-Ilan University



Head of the Historical Archives Section at the National Library and Archives  
Dr. Nesya Rubinstein- Shemer is a senior lecturer at the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel.

Her Ph.d dealt with Islamic law of prayer.

Dr. Shemer's areas of specialization are: Islamic law, Relations between Judaism and Islam and political Islamic movement such as Hamas and the Islamic movement in Israel.

Her Book: Hamas and Ideology: Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi on the Jews, Judaism and Israel, was published by Routledge.

Dr. Shemer publishes articles in her field, can be seen on her Academia. <https://independent.academia.edu/NesyaShemer>





## - DR. HANI BIN ALI AL-BALAWI

Expert at the Center for Civilizational Dialogue, ICESCO



With deep expertise in intercultural dialogue, global diplomacy, and the study of civilizations, Dr. Al-Balawi plays a pivotal role in promoting understanding and cooperation among diverse cultures and societies.

His work at ICESCO focuses on fostering dialogue between the Islamic world and other civilizations, emphasizing mutual respect, shared values, and peaceful coexistence.

Through his position at ICESCO, he is involved in developing initiatives that enhance the exchange of knowledge, cultural perspectives, and innovative solutions to global challenges.

## - MR. MUFADDAL MOAIYADI

Head of Academic Department, Attalimiyah



Mr. Mufaddal Moaiyadi oversees curriculum development and academic leadership at Attalimiyah.

His expertise in teaching methodologies and program development ensures high-quality education that fosters intellectual and moral growth in students.

## - DR. STERLING DENMARK JENSEN

Associate Professor, Tolerance and Coexistence Section,  
MBZUH



Dr. Sterling Jensen is an associate professor at the Mohamed Bin Zayed University for Humanities (MBZUH), specializing in international relations, security studies, and the role of religion and economics in regional security.

He has taught at the UAE National Defense College and the U.S. National Defense University.

## - RABBI DR. AHARON ARIEL LAVI

Managing Director, Ohr Torah Interfaith Center



Rabbi Dr. Aharon Ariel Lavi is the Managing Director of the Ohr Torah Interfaith Center, which works with religious leaders worldwide to make religion part of the solution to global challenges.

He is also the founder of Hakhel, the Jewish Intentional Communities Incubator in the Diaspora (awarded the 2020 Jerusalem Unity Prize by Israel's President).

Lavi holds Rabbinic Semicha and academic degrees in Economics, Geography, History, and Philosophy of Ideas.

His PhD dissertation explored the migration of ideas between US Jewry and Israeli society. In 2024, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Divinity School, and in 2024-5, he will be a postdoctoral fellow at Bar-Ilan University.

He is a published author on Jewish economic and environmental thought, community building, international religious affairs, and more. Outside of his professional life, Lavi is a medic and an avid mountain biker, racer, trainer, and trail builder.

He lives with his wife, Liat, and their five children in the community they founded together in Shuva, on the Gaza border.

## - DR. WILLIAM GUÉRAICHE

Head of Research and Publication, Abrahamic Family House



Dr. William Guéraiche leads research and publication efforts at the Abrahamic Family House, focusing on interfaith dialogue and religious understanding.

His academic background is rooted in religious studies, theology, and cultural exchange.

His work promotes unity and shared values among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, advancing scholarly discourse and fostering interreligious respect.

## - DR. ALEKSANDRA BRANKOVIC

Founder, Cultural Center Taraba



Dr. Aleksandra Brankovic holds a DBA with a thesis on “Tolerance as a Way of Living in a Multicultural and Multilingual Society: A Case Study of the UAE Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence.”

Recognized among the “10 Most Dynamic Women Entrepreneurs from Dubai” in 2024, she is dedicated to promoting tolerance through cultural and artistic initiatives.

She is also a member of the Dubai Business Women Council.

## - DR. OMAR BORTOLAZZI

Associate Professor, Director of the Master of International Affairs at AUD (Dubai)



Dr. Omar Bortolazzi is an Associate Professor and Director of the Master of International Affairs program at the American University in Dubai (AUD).

With expertise in international relations, policy analysis, and global governance, he is dedicated to advancing scholarly research and fostering a dynamic learning environment. Throughout his career, he has contributed significantly to the field through research and publications, influencing strategic programs within AUD.

As program director, he equips students with critical tools to navigate global challenges, preparing them for leadership roles in diplomacy, policy, and international development.

His work bridges academic theory and real-world applications, ensuring his students excel in an evolving international landscape.

## - DR. LUCIAN REINFANDT

Senior Researcher, Austrian Fund for the Documentation of Religiously Motivated Political Extremism



Dr. Lucian Reinfandt is a Senior Researcher at the Austrian Documentation Centre for Political Islam.

Previously, he held positions within the Austrian Federal Administration (2017–2022), the University of Vienna, and the Austrian National Library (2006–2017). Before that, he worked in the State Administration of Hamburg (2002–2005).

He holds a Ph.D. in Arabic and Islamic Studies from Kiel University (2002) and has built a distinguished career in research, focusing on political extremism and religious movements.

His work has contributed to policy development and academic discourse on religiously motivated political movements in Europe.

## - DR. MARWAN AL NAJJAR

Board of Trustees Member, Emirates Scholar Center for Research and Studies

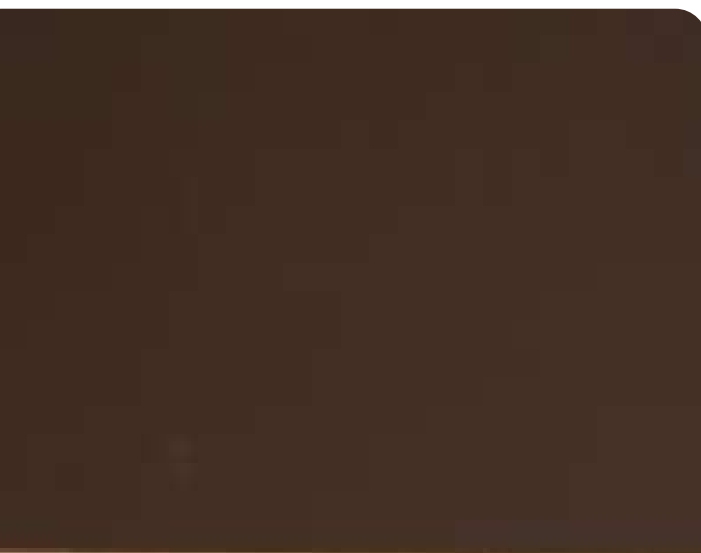


Dr. Marwan Al Najjar is an Associate Professor of Media and Mass Communications, a Board Member of Emirates Scholar, and the Vice President of Sylvan Learning.

He also serves as COO at SAHARA Communications. With over 20 years of experience in strategic communications, he has played a pivotal role in driving profitability and enhancing the reputation of startups, free-zone authorities, and government entities in the UAE and beyond.

His entrepreneurial acumen, extensive network, and academic expertise have allowed him to establish strategic partnerships and deliver impactful results that exceed stakeholder expectations.





## - RABBI DR. YAKOV NAGEN

Executive Director of the Ohr Torah Interfaith Center



Rabbi Dr. Yakov Nagen is the Executive Director of the Ohr Torah Interfaith Center and the head of Ohr Torah Stone's Blicke Institute for Interfaith Dialogue.

He is a Rabbi at the Yeshiva of Otniel and has written ten books on Jewish spirituality, Talmud, and interfaith dialogue.

His work bridges the gap between Judaism and other faiths, fostering mutual understanding.

Rabbi Nagen's leadership at the Ohr Torah Interfaith Center focuses on enhancing interfaith relations and promoting dialogue among different religious communities.

His academic contributions and practical efforts in fostering interfaith understanding have made him a respected figure in the field of Jewish spirituality and interfaith relations.

## - MRS. SANAZ SOTOUDEH

Faculty in Communication, Arts, and Sciences at Canadian University Dubai



Sanaz Sotoudeh is an internationally acclaimed Canadian pianist known for her versatility in music, performing across Europe, North America, and the Middle East.

She has collaborated with top musicians and orchestras and has been featured on platforms such as BBC Radio 3, Khaleej Times, and Abu Dhabi TV.

Sanaz has performed with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and at prestigious venues such as Dubai Opera and Steinway Hall UAE.

She holds a degree in solo piano performance from McGill University and the Royal Academy of Music, both on full scholarships.

Sanaz has been an artist-in-residence at renowned institutions like the Banff Centre and Orford Musique.

She is also a faculty member at Canadian University Dubai, where she works closely with UNESCO to promote the performing arts in the UAE.

Through her work, she fosters a vibrant cultural community at the university, collaborating with embassies and cultural organizations.

## - LOAY AHMED ALSHAREEF

Peace Activist & Influencer



Loay Alshareef is a linguist and educator based in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, with a profound passion for modern and ancient Semitic languages, particularly Arabic, Hebrew, and Syriac.

Born and raised in Saudi Arabia with a religious Muslim background, Loay was initially exposed to negative views about Jews and Israel, but his perspective began to shift during his studies in France, where he lived with a Jewish host family.

This experience challenged and ultimately transformed his views, inspiring him to actively counter antisemitic disinformation and support initiatives like the Abraham Accords.

Since 2012, Loay has been creating and producing educational content on YouTube, focusing on language, history, and cultural understanding.

He aims to leverage his deep knowledge of Judeo-Arabic heritage to foster better relations between Arabs and Jews, contributing to a future of mutual respect and cooperation.

Loay holds a Master's degree in Software Engineering from Penn State.

## - MARCUS SHEFF

CEO of IMPACT-se



Marcus Sheff is CEO of The Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se), a research and policy non-profit that analyzes textbooks, employing standards on peace and tolerance as derived from UNESCO declarations and resolutions and presents recommendations to policymakers.

He has testified at the US Congress, briefed at the White House, National Security Council, US State Department, the United Nations, European Parliament, and Commission and to governments and parliamentarians around Europe.

He regularly appears in US, European and UK media. He worked as a political reporter at The Nation, an editor at The Jerusalem Post and as a foreign correspondent.

He established The Word Shop Ltd., a strategic communications firm that became the leader in its field. Subsequently, he became an executive for global communications firms Dow Jones International and Advanstar Inc.

He was the Executive Director at The Israel Project from 2007-2014. He is non-executive chairman of a specialist biologicals company. He was educated at Bolton School, the University



## - MAREK HALTER

French Writer, Artist, and Human Rights Activist



Marek Halter, born in Warsaw in 1936, is a renowned French writer, artist, and human rights activist with a long history of advocating for peace and social justice. After escaping the Warsaw Ghetto, Halter became a key figure in the global fight for human rights, particularly for Middle Eastern peace.

In 1967, he founded the International Committee for Negotiated Peace in the Middle East and organized numerous campaigns for Soviet Jews.

He also created the magazine Elements to promote dialogue between Israelis, Palestinians, and Arabs. Halter's literary work includes his best-selling book The Book of Abraham, which has sold over five million copies worldwide.

Known for his support of the European Union and active role in humanitarian causes, Halter has earned numerous distinctions, including the Légion d'Honneur.

His continued efforts in promoting peace, his dedication to dialogue, and his commitment to social causes have solidified his legacy as a global peace advocate.

## - AMJAD TAHA

CEO of Crestnux Media Company



Amjad Taha is the CEO of Crestnux Media Company, a leading organization specializing in media production, digital marketing, and innovative content creation.

With a keen business acumen and extensive experience in the media industry, Amjad has successfully guided Crestnux Media to become a prominent player in the ever-evolving digital landscape.

Under his leadership, the company has expanded its services, developing cutting-edge strategies that deliver impactful and engaging content to a diverse global audience.

Amjad's expertise spans across media strategy, brand development, and creative direction, and he is known for his ability to combine artistic vision with business strategy.

His leadership has helped shape Crestnux Media into a dynamic company known for its creative storytelling and tailored marketing solutions.

Through his forward-thinking approach, Amjad Taha continues to drive growth and innovation at Crestnux, positioning the company as a leader in the digital media and communications sector.

## - DR. MAXIME JAFFRÉ

Assistant Professor at UAEU



Dr. Maxime is a Professor of Sociology in the Department of Government and Society, United Arab Emirates University, UAE.

My scholarly interests focus on sociology of culture, cultural policies, urban studies, and data science.

Prior to joining UAEU, I worked as Research Fellow for the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) at the Centre Norbert Elias in Marseille, France.

I was also affiliated with the University of Chicago, contributing to the development of a cultural map of Paris Métropole, commissioned by the City of Paris. Since 2019, I have served as Principal Investigator of the UAEU-funded research project 'Multiculturalism and Tolerance in the UAE'.

In 2022, I launched a new research project on 'Building Indicators for Abu Dhabi Cultural Statistics System', supported by the ASPIRE Award for Research Excellence, in collaboration with the Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi.







## - TOM VIZEL

Head of International Relations and Educational Training at NOAL



Tom Vizel is the Head of International Relations and Educational Training at NOAL, Israel's largest Jewish-Arab youth movement. He specializes in cross-cultural education, youth leadership development, and fostering meaningful dialogue between diverse communities. Tom has led numerous initiatives aimed at building trust and cooperation between Jewish and Arab youth in Israel, as well as broader regional partnerships. He is also the founder and director of 4MENA Network, an organization fostering partnerships and collaboration across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), with a focus on education, dialogue, and peacebuilding.

## - SALWA ABU KASHEF

Head of youth communities at NOAL



Salwa Abu Kashef is the head of youth communities at NOAL, where she builds and develops leadership communities among young Arab leaders in Israel. She has extensive experience in youth empowerment, community engagement, and intercultural education. Previously, Salwa served as the southern region director of NOAL, overseeing Arab sector branches, staff training, and cross-cultural youth encounters. She has led national and international delegations, facilitating Jewish-Arab dialogue through educational initiatives. Salwa was part of the founding team of a school for Bedouin youth in southern Israel, emphasizing leadership development and inclusive education. Her work focuses on fostering young leaders, strengthening Arab communities, and creating opportunities for meaningful social change.



## - SUSAN H. PORTER

General President of the Primary, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



President Susan H. Porter Primary General President  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints Susan H. Porter was raised in New York and currently lives in Utah, United States.

She graduated from Brigham Young University (Provo, Utah, USA) with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry.

She has worked in a research lab, as a math teacher and is a volunteer in her community and Church. Susan was called to serve in the Primary General Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 2021 and has served as president since 2022.

The Primary organization focuses on teaching children, ages 18 months to 11 years, how to live according to Christian values through music and lessons in Sunday classes.

Primary also provides activities, service and leadership opportunities for the more than 800,000 Primary children worldwide.

Susan is involved in developing and implementing programs that support the spiritual growth of young members, including curriculum, videos, a magazine for children, and biannual broadcasts to children worldwide.

As a leader in the Church, she also serves on committees that oversee the Church's efforts for members of all ages, including the development of a new international hymnbook.

In her current assignment, Susan has traveled to Europe, Africa, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, South America, and the Caribbean islands, providing training and leadership development for Church leaders and meeting with government officials, community leaders and humanitarian organizations.

She frequently speaks at large international conferences, including the General Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Brigham Young University Education Week and Women's Conference, and international broadcasts to Church leaders. Susan and her late husband, Bruce, are the parents of four children and have twelve grandchildren

## - GENERAL GIUSEPPE PETRELLA

General of the Carabinieri, Presidency of the Council of Ministers



Giuseppe Petrella General of the Carabinieri, Work Experience

Feb. 2023 – Present: Presidency of the Council of Ministers – External Relations and Security Issues for Sen. Matteo Salvini, Vice President of the Council of Ministers.

Feb. 2022 – Feb. 2023: Carabinieri Corps – Deputy Commander of the Special Departments of the Carabinieri. Aug. 2012 – Feb. 2022: Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Senior Executive (Brigadier General of the Carabinieri Reserve). Sep. 2010 – Aug. 2012: Carabinieri Corps – Commander of the 6th Mobile Battalion CC “TOSCANA.” Sep. 2002 – Sep. 2010: Carabinieri Corps – Head of Section 3<sup>A</sup> (External Relations and Documentation) at the Ceremonial Office and Promotional Activities of the General Command of the Carabinieri. Apr. 2002 – Sep. 2002: Carabinieri Corps – Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commander General of the Carabinieri at the General Command of the Carabinieri. Dec. 1997 – Apr. 2002: Carabinieri Corps – Aide-de-Camp to the Interregional Commander of Milan at Comando Interregionale dei Carabinieri di Milano. Sep. 1996 – Dec. 1997: Carabinieri Corps – Commander of the Carabinieri Company of South Bologna. Sep. 1993 – Sep. 1996: Carabinieri Corps – Commander of the Carabinieri Company of Jerzu (Nuoro). Jul. 1992 – Sep. 1993: Carabinieri Corps – Commander of the Operational and Mobile Radio Unit at the Carabinieri Company of Mazara del Vallo (Trapani). Sep. 1990 – Jul. 1992: Carabinieri Corps – Commander of the Cadet Platoon at the Carabinieri School of Campobasso. Education 2020/2021: Attendance and title of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Study Session of the Institute for Advanced Defense Studies, Centre for Advanced Defence Studies, Palazzo Salviati – Rome (16 June 2021). 2001/2002: 2nd Level Master's Degree in Global Strategy and Security Defence Studies, University of Turin – Turin (21 October 2003).

Master for the Training of Experts in Problems of International Cooperation and Security, Free University Maria SS. Assunta – Rome (19 June 2003). Master's Degree in Internal Security Sciences, University of Rome “Tor Vergata” – Rome (26 March 1993).

Bachelor's Degree in Homeland Security Sciences, University of Rome “Tor Vergata” – Rome. Law Degree, University “La Sapienza” – Rome. Carabinieri Officers' School – Attainment of the rank of Lieutenant (1988–1990). Military Academy of Modena – Attainment of the rank of Second Lieutenant (1986–1988). Scientific High School Diploma (July 1986).

Language Skills and Competencies 17 April 2004: 3rd level of English language, Foreign Language Centre of the Carabinieri.





## - AMBASSADOR (RET.) MARC J. SIEVERS

Director, AJC Abu Dhabi



Ambassador (Ret.) Marc J. Sievers was appointed inaugural Director of AJC Abu Dhabi in 2021, bringing over 30 years of U.S. diplomatic experience. He previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Oman (2016-2019) and has held key diplomatic roles across the Middle East, including Egypt, Iraq, Turkey, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. At AJC, he focuses on strengthening relations between the Gulf and the American Jewish community, promoting the Abraham Accords, and fostering interfaith dialogue. Ambassador Sievers is fluent in Arabic and Hebrew and has been recognized with multiple State Department awards for his service.

## - DR. ANTHONY RAJU

Advocate, Supreme Court of India



Dr. Anthony Raju is a leading advocate at the Supreme Court of India and the founder of the All India Council of Human Rights, Liberties & Social Justice (AICHLS). He specializes in human rights law, social justice, and criminal law, with a focus on protecting marginalized communities. Dr. Raju is an internationally recognized human rights defender, peace ambassador, and social activist committed to promoting justice, equality, and civil liberties.









09



CONFERENCE  
ABSTRACT'S



## ENGAGING YOUTH IN BRIDGING CULTURES AND BOOSTING TOLERANCE THROUGH TRANSLATION CURRICULUM

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Tolerance Conference, 1(1)



## الذات والغيرة، مشروع إنساني لتكريس الحوار والتواصل

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الذات والغيرة، مشروع إنساني لتكريس الحوار  
2nd International Dialogue of Civilizations &  
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## الجمع في التأثير بالمقتضى الإنساني بين المسلمين وغيرهم

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#### HOW TO CITE

الجمع في التأثير بالمقتضى الإنساني بين  
المسلمين وغيرهم (2025). 2. (International Dialogue of Civilizations & Tolerance  
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## TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION AND GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

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### ABSTRACT

Transformative education has recently triggered many discussions and debates and promised better learning outcomes. Mezirow (1978, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1997, 2000); Cranton (1994, 2002); Taylor (1998); Merriam (2001) have published articles and books on various aspects of the transformation experience. Transformative education is a process by which our taken-forgranted frames of reference are transformed by making them more inclusive, open, emotionally capable of change, and reflective (Mezirow, 2000). Attempts have been made to identify the factors that trigger perspective transformation, participants' roles, course contents, learning environments, and the evident common themes in the transformation experience. Transformation experiences include changes in the way individuals perceive themselves, others, and the world around them. To investigate the impact of transformative education on students' development of effective communication behaviours for better intercultural understanding, a postcourse interview is conducted with a sample of MA students at the ENCG Business School-Marrakesh, Cadi Ayad University, Morocco. Appropriate qualitative content analysis of participants' answers and reactions to interview questions is used. The main reason for conducting content analysis is to see whether a communication course on Soft Skills/21st-century skills can provide an appropriate environment for transformational learning that may trigger changes in students' perception of the world around them, and allow them to improve their communication behaviors for better interaction with others. Participants reportedly believe the course has allowed them to reconsider previous assumptions, adopt more effective communication behaviors, and develop essential transferrable skills for better intercultural encounters across borders.



## THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF CITY DIPLOMACY IN PEACEBUILDING IN THE MENA REGION

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## ON ECONOMY AND SUSTENANCE: RELIGION AS PART OF THE SOLUTION TO ECONOMIC PREDICAMENTS

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Economic Thought, Al-Ghazali,  
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### ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to investigate the contributions of faith traditions to economic thought, offering fresh perspectives on foundational questions that govern economic behavior: How do we define property and efficiency? How do humans make economic decisions? And how do these concepts mediate the relationships between individuals, and between humanity and the divine? The paper will examine key principles of Jewish economic thought and their relevance in addressing these timeless questions. It will also position these principles within a broader comparative framework, analyzing parallels and divergences with Islamic jurisprudence, particularly through the lens of Al-Ghazali's legal philosophy. Al-Ghazali's influential framework, which emphasizes the preservation of life, lineage, religion, knowledge, and property, serves as a cornerstone for understanding the theological and legal rationalizations that underpin some of Islamic thought. This framework also profoundly influenced Christian theology and subsequently, Western legal and economic traditions. By juxtaposing Al-Ghazali's thought with the legal and economic philosophy of Jewish thinkers such as Maimonides, this paper will explore how the rationalization of divine law is not merely a theological pursuit but also a legal and economic one. Both traditions grapple with questions of how divine principles are translated into actionable laws that govern human interactions, with implications extending into modern economic practices. In some cases, they can even offer out-of-the-box ideas to address the economic predicaments of our time. This, this paper urges scholars to consider how the integration of theological insights can contribute to rethinking modern economic systems.

## ADVANCING TOLERANCE THROUGH POLICY AND PRACTICE, UAE AS ROLE MODEL

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## جماليات التسامح في اللهجة الإماراتية: معجم الكلمات والدلالات

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التسامح اللغوي اللهجة الإماراتية العفو والصفح  
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### HOW TO CITE

جماليات التسامح في اللهجة الإماراتية: معجم  
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### ABSTRACT

تُعدُّ اللهجة الإماراتية بمثابة كنزٍ لغوي يزخر بتعبيرات التسامح والتعايش. ملخص تعبيراتي لا تعكس فقط الكلمات، بل تجسد روح المجتمع الإماراتي المتأصلة في قيم العفو والتراحم. في هذا البحث، نتناول معجمًا من ألفاظ التسامح المتداولة في اللهجة الإماراتية، ونستعرض ما تحمله من دلالات اجتماعية وثقافية تعكس وبتحليلنا لهذه الألفاظ، نتعرف. جماليات التواصل اليومي وأصالة الثقافة المحلية على عمق الروابط الإنسانية التي تجمع بين أفراد المجتمع، وكيف تشكل اللغة جسورًا تربط بين الأجيال وتحفظ هذه القيم النبيلة. ومن خلال الدراسة، نأمل أن نلقي الضوء على دور اللهجة الإماراتية في تعزيز هوية جامعة، تعبق برائحة التراث. وتمد جسور المحبة بين الناس



## حوار الحضارات عند جلال الدين الرومي

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لحضارات. جلال ا. التسامح

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## دور الدين في تعزيز ثقافة التسامح والحوار بين الحضارات - إقليم كردستان نموذجا

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الأديان, الحوار بين الأديان, المؤسسات الدينية,  
الثقافة الدينية, التفاهم المتبادل, الفهم المشترك,  
. النزاعات الطائفية, التعايش السلمي بين الأديان

#### HOW TO CITE

دور الدين في تعزيز ثقافة التسامح والحوار بين  
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### ABSTRACT

تستعرض هذه الورقة البحثية دور الدين في تعزيز ثقافة التسامح والحوار بين الحضارات، مع التركيز على إقليم كردستان العراق كنموذج حي لتفاعل الأديان والثقافات المتعددة. يتميز إقليم كردستان بتنوع ديني وثقافي كبير، حيث يضم مجتمعات مسيحية، إيزيدية، سنية، شيعية، وأديان أخرى، ما يخلق بيئة غنية بالفرص يتناول البحث دور الأديان المختلفة في كردستان في .التحديات في نفس الوقت بناء جسور من التسامح والتفاهم بين هذه المجتمعات المتنوعة. من خلال تحليل النصوص الدينية والممارسات اليومية. يسلط البحث الضوء على كيفية تأثير القيم الدينية ف ي تعزيز قيم التسامح والاحترام المتبادل بين الأفراد والجماعات. كما يتناول البحث تجربة الدين في إقليم كردستان في تمكين حوار الحضارات، لا سيما في مواجهة التحديات السياسية والاجتماعية التي قد تنشأ من الاختلافات الدينية يستعرض البحث أيضًا دور المؤسسات الدينية في كردستان في توجيه .والثقافية رسائل التعايش السلمي من خلال المبادرات التعليمية، والأنشطة الثقافية، والحوار بين الأديان. كما يسلط الضوء على أهمية التعاون بين رجال الدين والسياسيين والمجتمع المدني في خلق بيئة تسهم في تعزيز التسامح الديني وتفادي العنف أخيرًا. يناقش البحث التحديات التي تواجه تعزيز التسامح الديني في الطائف ي المنطقة، مثل تأثيرات النزاعات السياسية والإقليمية. وكيف يمكن للإقليم أن يكون .نموذجًا يحتذى به في تعزيز ثقافة الحوار والتعايش السلمي بين الأديان المختلفة

## جذور التسامح في دولة الامارات ... قراءة في الوثائق التاريخية

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## LIFE ENHANCEMENT FOODS: NUTRITIONAL BENEFITS AND IMPACT ON HEALTH

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### ABSTRACT

Understanding the impact and benefits of life-enhancing foods is important in order to incorporate them into new recipes and meal plans that can improve mental, emotional, and physical health. Life-enhancing foods can also be classified as functional foods. Functional foods, rich in bioactive compounds, offer potential health benefits beyond basic nutrition. They contain specific bioactive compounds that can positively impact our health. These foods can prevent diseases, boost immunity, and improve cognitive function. Whether naturally occurring or fortified, they play a crucial role in promoting overall well-being. Most foods are functional in some way or the other when they have the potential ability to affect health positively. By incorporating a variety of nutrient-rich foods into your diet, you can harness their power and enhance your health. Examples of functional foods are fruits and vegetables (rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants), whole grains (provide fiber, B vitamins, and other essential nutrients), fatty fish (packed with omega-3 fatty acids), nuts and seeds (offer healthy fats, protein, and fiber), yogurt (contains probiotics, which support gut health), dark chocolate (high in antioxidants), and tea (contains antioxidants and may boost brain function). Many studies have been conducted on functional foods and foods associated with longevity, examining how they impact human health. Also, many communities from different parts of the world have embraced life-enhancing foods and have been using them for centuries. This study is an attempt to bring out the salient findings on life-enhancement foods and how they have impacted communities to live healthy and long lives.



## التسامح الديني والتعايش الثقافي في الأندلس

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#### HOW TO CITE

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## THERAPEUTIC IMPLICATIONS OF AHKAM AL TAJWEED

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enhancement, voice regulation,  
memorisation

#### HOW TO CITE

Therapeutic Implications of  
Ahkam al Tajweed. (2025).  
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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine how the Ahkaam al-Tajweed, a set of rules applied during the memorization of the Quran is a science towards speech and voice regulation. Adherence to these rules while memorizing the Quran improves articulation and regulates the voice. Physical observations were done on certain students and transformations were seen. The results indicate that students who previously faced speech and articulation problems showed transformation after beginning Quran memorization while adhering to Tajweed rules. Voice and speech disorders can be classified into three: functional, neurological, and organic. This study primarily focuses on the issues managed solely by the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), particularly those treated through functional therapy approaches. There are various approaches to treating functional disorders, such as learning to reduce the rate of speech, opening the mouth more than usual, or vocal chanting. These practices are inherently integrated into the Ahkam al-Tajweed rules, which are obligatory during the recitation and memorization of the Quran. However, certain organic and neurological speech and voice disorders may require management by professionals other than an SLP, such as an ENT physician, who may address the issue through surgical intervention.

## الجدل الحضاري المعاصر : نحو منظور جديد لحضارة واحدة لعالم واحد

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المعلوماتية ، المرجعية الفاسفية والأخلاقية ،  
التعايش السلمي والتسامح، حضارة القوة وقوة  
الحضارة ، الإنجازات العلم

#### HOW TO CITE

الجدل الحضاري المعاصر : نحو منظور جديد  
لحضارة واحدة لعالم واحد . ( 2025 ) .  
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## RIGHT TO THE DIFFERENT IN THE ARAB ISLAMIC HERITAGE - THE VERBAL TRADITION AS AN EXAMPLE

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### ABSTRACT

This paper seeks to know the nature of the image that our ancient thinkers woven around the other who differs with them from outside the Islamic belief, so that the approach to this image can provide us with an extent that we believe is of importance regarding the issue of the right to difference and the recognition of the non-Muslim other as a different party that cannot be in any way In any case, it must be rejected or excluded. The study assumes that our ancient thinkers were aware of the importance of debating and arguing with the different other according to rules and approaches that contributed greatly to enriching our Arab-Islamic culture, through their possession of the idea of difference and recognition of the different other without casting it as infidelity or killing it, but coexisting with it and opening up to its different culture and humanity. Can we really find something in our Arab-Islamic heritage that can support us in this case? And to what extent was the thinker in our Arab-Islamic culture able to push the difference towards the paths of cultural dialogue between civilizations, democratic partnership, and coexistence between religions and humanities



## تجديد الحضارة بالشرق الأوسط في ظل تحديات النظام العالمي المعاصر

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#### HOW TO CITE

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ndلحضارة واحدة لعالم واحد ). 2. ( 2025 )  
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## THE IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON YOUTH VALUES: EXAMINING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND BIAS

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### ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly embedded in the digital lives of youth, influencing their values, behaviors, and perceptions of diversity and inclusion. This study investigates AI's dual role as a catalyst for promoting tolerance and as a potential source of bias. It explores how AI-driven content, such as social media algorithms, recommendation systems, and automated decision-making, shapes young people's perspectives on cultural, racial, and gender diversity. The research emphasizes the importance of designing ethical AI systems free from prejudices that could perpetuate stereotypes or marginalize communities. By analyzing real-world examples and academic studies, the paper highlights how biased AI algorithms can undermine efforts to foster inclusivity among youth. Conversely, it discusses the potential of AI-powered educational tools and platforms to instill values of acceptance, equality, and mutual respect. The findings stress the need for policymakers, educators, and technologists to collaborate in mitigating biases in AI while leveraging its potential to cultivate tolerance in a digitally connected world. This work contributes to the global discourse on ensuring that technology aligns with principles of equity and human dignity



# 10

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