



NETWORK OF CENTERS FOR
CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

شبكة مراكز العلاقات المسيحية-الإسلامية

THE NETWORK OF CENTERS FOR CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS (NCCMR)

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we approach 2026, the family of NCCMR wishes all its friends and partners a productive year ahead, filled with peace and prosperity. The past year has shown us that the world is changing at a breathtaking pace. We have sadly witnessed conflicts proliferate and endure, reminding us how essential it is to unite as a family, to pray for one another, and to work together for peace worldwide.



We continue to work hand in hand, with open hearts, fostering greater Christian–Muslim understanding and goodwill, and promoting harmony and mutual understanding in Africa, Asia, the MENA region, and the world at large. By God’s grace, the past year has been fruitful and blessed. We look back on many accomplishments, with even more projects to pursue in the years ahead.



CONTEXTUAL DICTIONARY OF CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

Since the beginning of 2024, we have been working diligently to collect more than 100 entries for the *Contextual Dictionary of Christian–Muslim Relations*. The journey began with the careful selection and review of a preliminary list of terms, followed by outreach to a wide network of scholars and experts exclusively from Africa, Asia, and the MENA region.

The process was far from easy. It required extensive back-and-forth communication to ensure timely submissions by the authors while upholding the highest academic standards. Despite these challenges, the team’s persistence and collaboration ensured steady progress. The review phase demanded significant time and dedication, with each entry meticulously examined for accuracy, consistency, and overall quality.

These efforts also included translating all contributions from Arabic and French into English, thereby creating a unified and accessible body of work for the English edition of the *Dictionary*. Today, we are proud to have brought together an exceptional group of 45 contributors—Christians and Muslims, women and men, representing different denominations—from 23 countries.

After more than a year of continuous coordination, follow-up, review, and editing, we are now preparing the complete set of entries for publication in English, while already working on the French and Arabic versions.



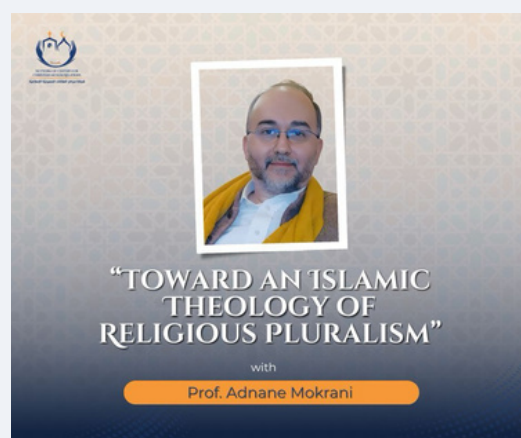
CMR WEBINARS



As part of our Webinar Series on Christian–Muslim Relations, we had the distinct pleasure of hosting Professor Azza Karam in January 2025. Prof. Karam is the Founding President and CEO of Lead Integrity, as well as a long-time United Nations associate and advisor. She delivered a lecture entitled “Interreligious Engagement: Rethinking Social Cohesion in Troubled Times.”

Prof. Karam addressed fundamental and challenging questions such as: What is interreligious engagement? and can it contribute to a socially cohesive world in a time of social and cultural fragmentation? Her presentation made it clear that informed interreligious engagement—rather than interfaith dialogue alone—represents the more demanding yet necessary step toward achieving social cohesion and restoring political peace.

In May 2025, Professor Adnane Mokrani, from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, addressed our audience with a lecture entitled “Toward an Islamic Theology of Religious Pluralism.” Prof. Mokrani explored questions such as What is Islamic theology’s position on religious pluralism? He argued that belief in universal divine justice and mercy is the essential key to salvation, and that Islamic theology affirms that every individual—regardless of faith or background—has the possibility of connecting with God.



In September 2025, Professor Joseph Cumming, International Director of the Woodberry Intercultural Institute and faculty member at Fuller Theological Seminary, delivered a lecture entitled “Christian–Muslim Theological Dialogue.” He addressed the often-polemical nature of inter-theological dialogue and debate, and strongly advocated for rational engagement and open dialogue as essential pathways to mutual understanding and to the pursuit of truth.

NCCMR-DOMUNI UNIVERSITAS DIPLOMA



We are pleased to announce that the faculty for our Diploma in Christian–Muslim Relations is now complete. The NCCMR–Domuni Universitas Diploma will be launched in January 2026.

The Diploma is a collaborative academic program in Christian–Muslim relations and cross-cultural religious literacy. The online study program consists of eight courses designed to provide students with a balanced introduction to the complex dynamics and relationships between Christianity and Islam across key regions of the world.

Our distinguished professors and lecturers who will be teaching in the Diploma are listed below in alphabetical order, together with the courses they will offer:

Dr. Adnane Mokrani

Professor of Islamic Studies, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome

Course: Introduction to Islam

Dr. Aldrin M. Peñamora

Director, PCEC–affiliated Center for the Study of Christian–Muslim Relations, The Philippines

Course: Introduction to Christianity

Dr. Bernard Matolino

School of Religion, Philosophy & Classics, University of KwaZulu–Natal, South Africa

Course: Analytic Philosophy

Dr. Emad Botros

Near East School of Theology, Lebanon

Course: Scriptural Reasoning

Dr. Ghassan El Masri

Friedrich–Alexander–Universität Erlangen–Nürnberg, Germany

Course: Scriptural Reasoning

Dr. Heba Salah

Egypt's Dār al-Iftā' (House for Issuing Religious Edicts)

Course: CMR Lived Experiences in Africa, Asia, and the MENA Region

Dr. Isaac Mutelo

Arrupe Jesuit University, Harare, Zimbabwe

Course: Philosophy of Religion

Dr. Wageeh Mikhail

Director of NCCMR, Egypt

Course: Early Christian–Muslim Relations

Dr. Sarah Shaltout

Handsel Fellow, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews, Scotland

Course: Contemporary Christian–Muslim Relations

We feel truly blessed and grateful to be joined by this outstanding constellation of scholars, and we look forward to launching the Diploma in the first quarter of 2026.



CMR MICROGRANTS

In 2025, we offered modest packages of financial support (microgrants) to members of our network to implement projects fostering Christian-Muslim relations and encouraging active participation from both communities. It is remarkable how far small steps can go when taken by the right people. We received fifteen project proposals from seventeen members, including two joint initiatives. Seven projects were successfully completed in 2025, while the remaining eight will be completed in 2026.



The Ahlul Bait Foundation of South Africa (AFOSA) implemented a project exploring prayer in Muslim and Christian traditions through shared experiences and theological dialogue. Under the leadership of Maulana Syed Aftab Haider, AFOSA organized a two-day retreat in the Western Cape, bringing together fifteen Muslim and fifteen Christian youth to reflect on prayer in both traditions.

The Al-Amana Centre in Oman organized a seven-day training program in Muscat under the leadership of Rev. Justin Meyers. The program brought together ten Christian and Muslim participants from Bethlehem to learn about interfaith engagement and the promotion of religious harmony.



The Center for the Study of Religions at Africa International University in Kenya organized interreligious scripture-reading sessions under the leadership of Professor Josephine Mutuku. The project also included an educational field trip, designed to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between Christian and Muslim communities.



Fr. Emmanuel Pisani of the **Dominican Institute for Oriental Studies** in Cairo organized a four-week training program for five Dominican brothers, aimed at deepening their knowledge of Arabic and Islam and preparing them for future interreligious dialogue in their home countries.

The Henry Martyn Institute in India, under the leadership of Dr. Packiam Samuel, explored the history, practices, and peace-building dimensions of Islam and Christianity through interactive sessions and field visits. This was achieved through an academic interfaith course for twenty participants.



The Strength in Diversity Development Centre, led by its Executive Co-Director Imam Shefiu Abdulkareem Majemu, organized an Interfaith Scriptural Reasoning workshop in Akwa Ibom, Nigeria. The workshop and related activities played an important role in promoting mutual religious respect through shared learning from one another's scriptures, while encouraging dialogue and reconciliation. The event received wide coverage on Nigerian television and in national newspapers.

The Pak Mission Society, through its Senior Advisor Dr. Maqsood Kamil (Director of the Arete Institute), conceived and implemented the project Youth in Action for Social Cohesion in Pakistan. This strategically designed initiative aimed to position youth as proactive agents of change. The project included a high-level national consultation workshop that created a safe and inclusive space for Christian and Muslim youth to engage in candid dialogue. In addition, it produced a professionally developed five-episode podcast series that amplified both expert and youth voices on interfaith harmony and reached a wide national audience across Pakistan.



We are deeply grateful to our members for making such meaningful and effective use of these microgrants. We hope that these small steps will continue to grow and contribute to ever greater goals of peace, understanding, and cooperation.

NCCMR SYMPOSIUM

The NCCMR Annual Symposium, originally scheduled for 16–18 June 2025 in Amman, Jordan, had to be postponed—rather than cancelled—due to the very unfortunate war that broke out in the Middle East just three days before the opening session. This decision, made with deep regret, followed extensive planning and close coordination with our partners at the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies (RIIFS) and resulted in the loss of considerable preparation efforts, travel arrangements, financial resources, and months of dedicated work. We had looked forward to welcoming 36 international participants, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal, for a rich program of dialogue, workshops, and cultural exchange. While this disruption was a sobering reminder of how profoundly wars affect human cooperation, it has also strengthened our resolve to continue pursuing mutual understanding as a path to peace. We now look forward to bringing our members together in Amman in the summer of 2026 for the long-awaited symposium, and in the meantime, we remain committed to fostering meaningful Christian–Muslim engagement and pray for lasting peace and justice in the Middle East.



NCCMR STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING CAIRO, 15-19 NOVEMBER 2025

All members of the NCCMR Steering Committee held their annual meeting in Cairo, together with the full NCCMR team. Our esteemed Steering Committee members traveled from around the world to take part in this important gathering.



The meetings included in-depth discussions on the strategies and objectives of NCCMR, as well as detailed exchanges on the future challenges facing Christian–Muslim relations and the ways in which NCCMR can contribute to addressing them.



During the Steering Committee's stay in Cairo, NCCMR and its distinguished guests paid a visit to His Excellency Dr. Rev. Andrea Zaki Stephanus, President of the Protestant Churches of Egypt and President of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS). Dr. Zaki presented the work of CEOSS and invited NCCMR to explore avenues for future collaboration. Ms. Samira Louka, Senior Director of the Forum of Intercultural Dialogue Unit at CEOSS, also attended the meeting.



The Committee also had the honor of meeting His Excellency Professor Dr. Nazir Mohammed Ayyad, Grand Mufti of Egypt and President of the Supreme Council of the General Secretariat for Fatwa Authorities Worldwide. His Excellency presented the work of the Grand Mufti's office and the Supreme Council. The meeting was fruitful and provided an opportunity to discuss potential cooperation and joint projects.



The visit further included a meaningful meeting with His Grace Anba Ermia, General Bishop and President of the Coptic Orthodox Cultural Center. His Grace spoke about Bayt al-‘Ā'ilah al-Maṣriyyah (the Egyptian Family House) and highlighted its many achievements in promoting Christian-Muslim relations and inclusive citizenship.



The Steering Committee also visited the Center for Middle Eastern Christianity, toured its library and manuscript exhibition, and spent a productive day at the Dominican Institute of Oriental Studies. This visit offered a rare oasis of greenery and calm amid the otherwise busy city of Cairo. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our hosts and look forward to future encounters and continued collaboration.

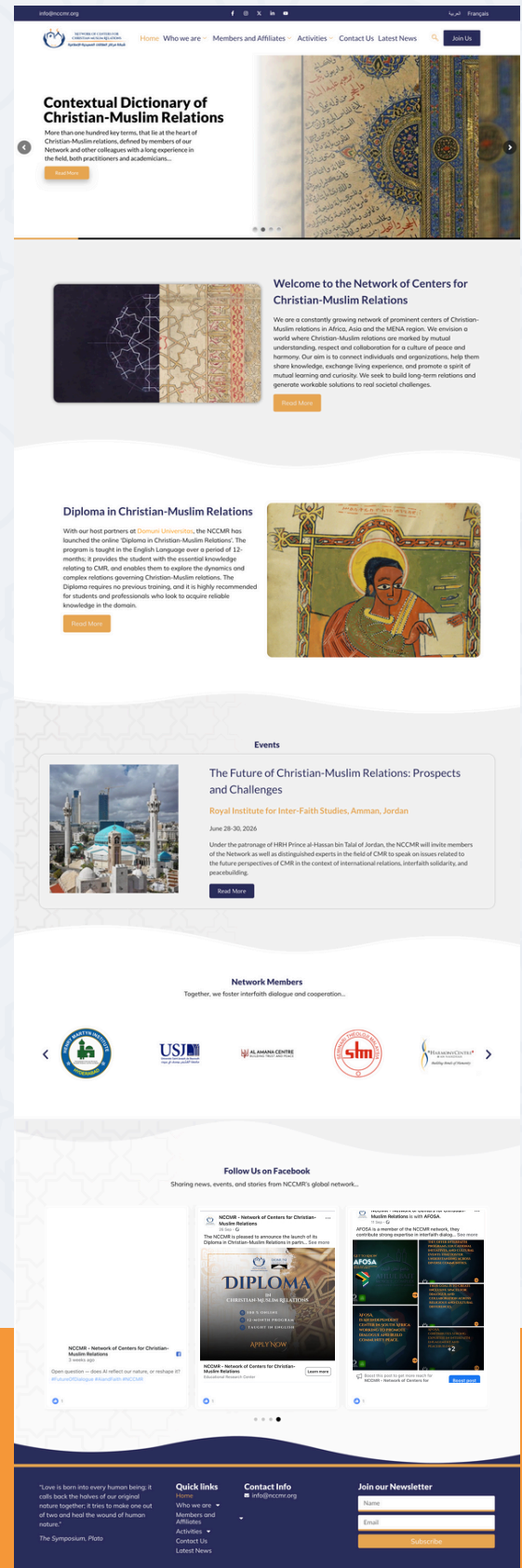


NCCMR WEBSITE

Our team greatly enjoyed building and launching the NCCMR homepage. The part of the website we are most proud to present is our members' individual pages. Each member is featured on a dedicated page with an executive summary of their work, history, and achievements, often including an audio-visual presentation of their activities.

The entire website is available in English, French, and Arabic, making our resources accessible to a broad audience across the Majority World and beyond. Visitors can explore key NCCMR initiatives, including the Diploma in Christian-Muslim Relations, the *Contextual Dictionary of Christian-Muslim Relations*, the Christian-Muslim Relations webinar series, as well as information on microgrant programs and events such as the upcoming NCCMR Symposium. The website also features a comprehensive directory of Network members and Affiliate Centers, with detailed profiles highlighting their contributions to Christian-Muslim relations.

Please visit us and our members at www.nccmr.org



NCCMR NEW MEMBERS



One of the most significant achievements of the year was the growth of the NCCMR family with the addition of eight new centers. Our new members, like our longstanding ones, play a distinguished role in promoting Christian–Muslim relations in their respective countries and regions. We are proud to have their trust and partnership. The Network now comprises 29 centers from 19 countries across Africa, Asia, and the MENA region. Our new members are:



Dar Al-Andalus Centre (DAAC), Nigeria

Founded in 2019, the Dar Al-Andalus Centre is a non-governmental organization led by Dr. Nasir Mohammed Bello. DAAC focuses on peacebuilding and conflict resolution through alternative narratives. Its mission is to empower communities through initiatives that promote reconciliation, social cohesion, resilience, and sustainable development.



Ethiopia Interfaith Forum for Development, Dialogue, and Action (EIFDDA), Ethiopia

Led by Mr. Jihad Keno Abagero, EIFDDA was established as a beacon of hope and collaboration in Ethiopia, a country marked by rich religious diversity. Recognizing that Ethiopia's faith communities possess unique strengths and perspectives, EIFDDA seeks to unite these communities by promoting value-based developmental dialogue and action and by strengthening the capacity of faith-based organizations.



Islamic Studies Association, India

Founded in 1979, the Islamic Studies Association is led by Dr. Joseph Victor Edwin SJ, General Secretary. ISA promotes national integration among India's cultural, social, and religious communities and supports government programs. It works to enable Christians and Muslims to know, understand, respect, and appreciate one another as members of a single human family, while remaining rooted in their respective faith traditions.



Kaduna Centre for the Study of Christian-Muslim Relations, Nigeria

Established in 2012 by the Most Revd. Archbishop Dr. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, then Bishop of the Diocese of Kaduna and now Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion worldwide, the Kaduna Centre continues under his leadership as Director. Over the years, the Centre has been deeply engaged in programs and initiatives that foster improved knowledge of Islam and deeper understanding between Christian and Muslim communities.



Institute of Islamic Studies, The Philippines

The Institute of Islamic Studies was established in 1973 by presidential decree as part of the Philippine Center for Advanced Studies. Under the leadership of its Director, Dean Professor Julkipli M. Wadi, the Institute aims to provide university students—both Muslims and non-Muslims—with opportunities to participate fully in national life and development. The Institute's full membership is currently pending the completion of administrative requirements.



Centre for Education, Training and Documentation on Islamic-Christian Dialogue and Integral Development (CEFDICDI), Senegal

Founded in 2024 in Dakar by Dominican priests and managed by Fr. Pierre-Marie Niang, CEFDICDI seeks to preserve the Senegalese model of political stability and peaceful coexistence between religions. The Centre envisions a Senegal where Muslims and Christians live in lasting harmony, supported by strong institutions of dialogue, education, and mutual respect.



Al-Mowafaqa Ecumenical Institute of Theology, Morocco

Based in Rabat and managed by Professor Jean-Patrick Nkolo Fanga, Al-Mowafaqa Institute provides theological and interreligious education that fosters dialogue and mutual understanding. Supported by the Catholic Church and the Evangelical Church in Morocco, the Institute offers a space for training, reflection, and the promotion of ecumenical, interreligious, and intercultural dialogue.



Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC), Nigeria

The Centre, based in Kaduna, Nigeria, was co-founded by Pastor James Wuye and Imam Muhammad Ashafa. IMC is a renowned organization dedicated to promoting trust and tolerance among Christian, Muslim, and traditional communities. The Centre has implemented over 2,852 program activities at local, national, and international levels. Its work focuses on conflict resolution and interfaith cooperation, powerfully embodied in the founders' own story of transformation—from former adversaries to partners in peace.



Affiliate Centers

In response to growing interest from institutions outside the Majority World, NCCMR has established an Affiliate Membership for Western institutions working in the field of Christian–Muslim relations. This affiliation enables members to support and engage with NCCMR’s global mission by joining a multi-regional network across Africa, Asia, and the MENA region, fostering cross-cultural collaboration, joint research, and international initiatives. Affiliate Members also benefit from access to specialized training, resources in religious literacy and peacebuilding, and enhanced global visibility through the NCCMR platform.

This year, we are honored to welcome two Affiliate Centers, one in Germany and one in the United States:



Research Center for Religious Diversity (Forschungsstelle für religiöse Vielfalt), University of Erlangen–Nuremberg, Germany, supervised by Professor Dr. jur. Dr. h.c. Mathias Rohe.



Duncan Black Macdonald Center, Hartford International University, USA, under the leadership of Dr. David D. Grafton.

EPILOGUE

As we conclude this Annual Report, we do so with gratitude for the commitment, trust, and collaboration of our members, partners, and friends across the world. The achievements of 2025 reflect not only the resilience of our Network amid global uncertainty, but also the enduring power of Christian–Muslim cooperation rooted in mutual respect, scholarship, and shared responsibility. Looking ahead, NCCMR remains steadfast in its mission to foster Christian–Muslim mutual understanding and to cultivate peace through dialogue, education, and collective action. With hope, humility, and renewed determination, we look forward to the year ahead and to continuing this journey together.

