



NCCMR Symposium Final Statement

At the conclusion of the NCCMR Annual Symposium 2026, held in Cairo on July 6–7 under the theme “The Future of Christian–Muslim Relations: Prospects and Challenges,” participants affirmed that Christian–Muslim dialogue stands today at a decisive moment. In a world wounded by war, polarization, hostility toward the other, and the misuse of religion, Christian–Muslim conversation is called to become a courageous practice of bearing witness to truth, deepening commitment, fostering solidarity, and embracing shared responsibility.

The symposium opened with distinguished religious and public voices from Egypt, reminding participants that Christian–Muslim relations are not only an academic concern but also a public responsibility. The keynote address and subsequent panels explored the history of Christian–Muslim relations, the challenges of dialogue and peacebuilding, and the urgent need for interfaith and intrafaith solidarity. Regional breakout sessions on Africa, Asia, and the Middle East further affirmed that the future of this field must be shaped from within the contexts where Christians and Muslims live together most closely.

The symposium also celebrated the concrete work already undertaken by NCCMR. In a relatively short period, the Network has expanded its membership across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East; advanced the *Contextual Dictionary of Christian–Muslim Relations* with contributions from Christian and Muslim scholars across many countries; developed the NCCMR–Domuni Universitas Diploma in Christian–Muslim Relations; organized webinars with leading international voices; supported local initiatives through its Microgrants Program; strengthened its institutional life through Steering Committee meetings; and developed a trilingual website in English, Arabic, and French. These projects demonstrate that NCCMR is not merely a platform for discussion, but a living network committed to scholarship, formation, peacebuilding, and practical cooperation.

Across the symposium, participants emphasized the need to engage religious sources with depth, reverence, and responsibility, rather than using them merely as proof-texts or instruments of argument. This requires careful attention to sacred texts, tradition, history, and lived context, so that religious sources may be understood faithfully and applied wisely. Such responsible engagement is essential for challenging distorted and extremist interpretations, while drawing from the moral, spiritual, and theological riches of Christianity and Islam in ways that uphold human dignity, promote peace, and serve the common good.

The symposium encouraged Christians and Muslims to pursue more sustained theological reflection on the major questions facing our societies, including care for creation, the rejection of violence, and shared responsibility for society. Participants recognized that such questions continue to influence how Christians and Muslims view one another. For this reason, genuine dialogue requires humility, seriousness, and a willingness to listen carefully to the wisdom, concerns, and convictions of the other faith tradition.

Looking ahead, NCCMR commits itself to strengthening Christian–Muslim relations through collaborative action, youth engagement, religious literacy, contextual scholarship, peacebuilding, and initiatives that promote inclusive citizenship. Meeting in Egypt, a land of long Christian and Muslim presence, the symposium ended with renewed hope and invited members and partners to continue this work with courage, integrity, and shared commitment to the common good.