

NCCMR Symposium

“The Future of Christian–Muslim Relations: Prospects and Challenges”

Cairo, Egypt | July 6–7, 2026

DAY 1

Monday, July 6, 2026

Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir, Cairo

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM | Registration and Welcome

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM | Opening Session

Welcome Remarks:

Dr. Wageeh Mikhail, Director, Network of Centers for Christian–Muslim Relations (NCCMR)

Distinguished Remarks:

The Most Reverend Dr. Samy Fawzy Shehata, Archbishop of Alexandria and Diocesan Bishop of Egypt, Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria

His Grace Bishop Armia, Head of the Coptic Orthodox Cultural Center

Dr. Andrea Zaki, President of the Protestant Churches of Egypt and President of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services

Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Mamdouh Saad, Member of the Supreme Advisory Board to the Grand Mufti of Egypt, representing **His Eminence Dr. Nazir Mohamed Ayyad**, Grand Mufti of Egypt.

Sheikh Dr. Mohamed El-Gendy, Secretary-General of Al-Azhar Islamic Research Academy, representing **His Eminence Prof. Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb**, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar; remarks delivered on his behalf by **Sheikh Dr. Mahmoud Al-Hawary**, Assistant Secretary-General for Da‘wah and Religious Media at Al-Azhar Islamic Research Academy.

Sheikh Dr. El-Sayed Hussein Abdel Bari, Head of the Religious Affairs Sector, Ministry of Awqaf, representing **His Excellency Prof. Dr. Osama Al-Azhari**, Minister of Awqaf, Egypt

Moderator:

Dr. Al-Shaimaa El-Demerdash, Director of the Heritage Books Project, Bibliotheca Alexandrina

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM | Group Photo and Coffee Break

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM | Special Keynote Address

Msgr. Dr. Michael Nazir-Ali, President, Oxford Centre for Training, Research, Advocacy and Dialogue (OXTRAD), UK

Moderator:

Dr. Ramy Galal, Writer, Academic, and Former Member of the Egyptian Senate

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM | Panel 1: History of Christian–Muslim Relations

Part I

Presenters:

Dr. Martin Accad, President, Near East School of Theology, Lebanon

Ms. Sara A. Shaltout, PhD Candidate, University of St. Andrews, UK

Discussant:

Dr. Sumanto Al Qurtuby, Chairman, Center for the Study of Religion and Christian–Muslim Relations, Satya Wacana Christian University, Indonesia

Moderator:

Mr. Muhammad Nasir Johari, Head of Harmony Centre, Singapore

Part II**Presenter:**

Dr. Adnane Mokrani, Professor of Islamic Studies and Interreligious Dialogue, Rome

Discussants:

Archbishop Josiah Fearon, President, Kaduna Centre for the Study of Christian–Muslim Relations, Nigeria

Fr. Joseph Victor Edwin, SJ, General Secretary, Islamic Studies Association, India

Moderator:

Dr. Zeinab Hanafy, Center for Coptic Studies, Bibliotheca Alexandrina

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM | Lunch Break

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Panel 2: Christian–Muslim Dialogue and Peacebuilding

Part I**Presenters:**

The Most Reverend Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis, Archbishop Emeritus of the Anglican Province of Alexandria and Director, Centre of Christian–Muslim Understanding and Partnership (CCMUP), Egypt

Dr. Elias Halabi, Director, Christian–Muslim Studies Center, University of Balamand, Lebanon

Discussants:

Dr. Maqsood Kamil, Professor of Christian–Muslim Relations, Pakistan

Dr. Muhammed Ashafa, Co-Founder, Interfaith Mediation Centre, Nigeria

Moderator:

Dr. Heba Salah, Senior Researcher, Dar Al-Ifta, Egypt

Part II**Presenters:**

Dr. Albert Walters, Professor of Intercultural Studies, Malaysia

Mrs. Samira Luka, Senior Director for Dialogue in the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, Egypt

Discussants:

Mr. Jihad Keno Abagero, Director, Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development, Dialogue and Action, Ethiopia

Fr. Agapios Kfoury, Adyan Foundation, Lebanon

Moderator:

Dr. Josephine Mutuku, Professor of Christian–Muslim Relations, Africa International University, Kenya

5:00 PM – 5:15 PM | Coffee Break

5:15 PM – 6:45 PM | Panel 2 Continued

Presenters:

Fr. Wasim Salman, President, Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI), Italy

Prof. Dr. Radwan Al-Sayyid, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research, Mohamed Bin Zayed University for Humanities, UAE (Paper to be read on his behalf by His Excellency Dr. Helmy El-Namnam, writer, journalist, and former Minister of Culture of Egypt).

Discussants:

Dr. Joseph Mutei, Professor of Christian–Muslim Relations, St. Paul’s University, Kenya

Dr. Jawad Qureshi, Co-Director, Duncan Black Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian–Muslim Relations, USA

Moderator:

Mr. Yilma Boru, Director of Programs, Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development, Dialogue and Action, Ethiopia

DAY 2

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Steigenberger Hotel El Tahrir, Cairo

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM | Opening Session

Featured Presenters:

Dr. Azza Karam, Founder and CEO, Lead Integrity, The Netherlands (pre-recorded video message)

Dr. Damaris Wilmers, Woodberry Intercultural Institute, USA, representing Rev. Dr. Joseph L. Cumming, International Director of the Woodberry Intercultural Institute, USA

Moderator:

Mr. Nasir Mohammad Bello, Director, Dar Al-Andalus Centre, Nigeria

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM | Coffee Break

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM | Panel 3: Inter- and Intrafaith Solidarity

Part I

Presenters:

Dr. Roula Talhouk, Director, Institute for the Study of Muslim–Christian Relations, Saint Joseph University, Lebanon

Dr. Jose Abraham, Professor of Islamic Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary, USA

Discussants:

Rev. James Wuye, Co-Founder, Interfaith Mediation Centre, Nigeria

Mawlana Syed Aftab Haider, Director, Ahlul Bait Foundation, South Africa

Moderator:

Dr. Yohannes Bekele, Lecturer in Christian–Muslim Relations, Mekane Yesus Seminary, Ethiopia

Part II

Presenters:

Fr. Martin Ganeri, OP, Director, Institute for Interreligious Relations, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Italy

Dr. Alexander Massad, Professor of World Religions, Wheaton College, USA

Discussants:

Dr. Katja Thörner, Executive Director, Research Center for Religious Diversity, Germany

Rev. Justin Meyers, Director, Al-Amana Centre, Oman

Moderator:

Dr. Matthew Anderson, Centre for Christian–Muslim Understanding and Partnership (CCMUP)

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Lunch Break

2:30 PM – 4:30 PM | Regional Breakout Sessions

The following three breakout sessions will run simultaneously.

Session I: The Future of Christian–Muslim Relations: The African Context (in French)

Fr. Emmanuel Pisani, OP, Director, Dominican Institute for Oriental Studies, Egypt

Dr. Jean Patrick Nkolo Fanga, Director, Institut œcuménique de théologie Al Mowafaqa, Morocco

Fr. Julien Mathieu Manga, Centre for Education, Training and Documentation on Islamic-Christian Dialogue and Integral Development, Senegal

Moderator:

Dr. Roula Talhouk, Director, Institute for the Study of Muslim–Christian Relations, Saint Joseph University, Lebanon

Session II: The Future of Christian–Muslim Relations: The Asian Context (in English)

Dr. Julkipli Wadi, Dean, Institute of Islamic Studies, University of the Philippines

Dr. Amr Al-Hafi, Academic Advisor, Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, Jordan

Moderator:

Dr. Sumanto Al Qurtuby, Chairman, Center for the Study of Religion and Christian–Muslim Relations, Satya Wacana Christian University, Indonesia

Session III: The Future of Christian–Muslim Relations: The Middle Eastern Context (in Arabic)

Dr. Sameh Fawzy, Researcher, Bibliotheca Alexandrina

Dr. Louay Mahmoud, Director, Center for Coptic Studies, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt

Rev. Eid Salah, Researcher in Arab Christian Studies, Egypt

Fr. Milad Shehata, O.F.M., Director of the Franciscan Center for Coptic Studies, Egypt

Moderator:

Dr. Atef Gendi, Director, Center for Middle Eastern Christianity, Egypt

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM | Coffee Break

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM | Closing Session

Closing Reflections:

The Most Reverend Dr. Mouneer Hanna Anis, Archbishop Emeritus of the Anglican Province of Alexandria and Director, Centre of Christian–Muslim Understanding and Partnership (CCMUP), Egypt

Fr. Emmanuel Pisani, OP, Director, Dominican Institute for Oriental Studies, Egypt

Dr. Atef Gendi, Director, Center for Middle Eastern Christianity, Egypt

Dr. Wageeh Mikhail, Director, Network of Centers for Christian–Muslim Relations (NCCMR)