

12th Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference 2016
February 16 – 17, 2016
Doha - Qatar

“Spiritual and Intellectual Safety in the Light of Religious Doctrines”

In recent times, the world has become a scene for diverse battles waged for a number of reasons, from socio-political and economic domination to intellectual and religious indoctrination and supremacy. With the advancement of communication technology and social media the spread of news and information has never been faster, allowing people of diverse backgrounds and vocations to learn easier and build their own perspectives and worldviews. The same media is also used for various propagandas often hidden under the layers of public or private organizations, agencies and other similar associations set up for specific purposes.

As a result of all these affairs, the specific parts of the world have become arenas filled with violence, destruction and all sorts of different crimes and atrocities not only in physical domain but also and more importantly in intellectual and spiritual terms, since all of the vicious actions require a great deal of intellectual and psychological frameworks to direct and coordinate the way such actions are carried out and to justify at the same time, the need for their approval. The frameworks in question often project a portion of negative stereotypes about the targeted subject against which a particular action is oriented. This type of propaganda supported by numerous media usually lead to a confusion and uncertainty in one's individual orientation as it further develops into the collective and wider disorientation and instability prone to all types of violent acts and crimes that are easily transformed into a larger conflict or war.

Religion of course, is no exception. Today more than ever, religion is used or rather misused as a mean for other purposes that are often non-religious or even anti-religious in nature. Therefore, religion in many instances has been simply hijacked and completely detached from its essential qualities such as love of God and all His creation, peace and harmony within one's own soul and with his or her surrounding, social and economic order and prosperity, inspiration for various artistic expressions and other noble qualities which all religions propagate and support. Instead, religion is reduced by certain extremist groups to a powerful source for their aggressive actions against other or it is blamed by some secularist circles as the main cause for crises and instabilities among mankind.

However, all the above misconceptions about religion are of recent phenomena that were not seen in centuries prior modern and post-modern times and all of them have something in common, namely, presenting religion in negative terms and images, contributing to the distortion of spiritual and intellectual safety of the modern society. In this conference therefore, the main purpose is to address the current state of the spiritual and intellectual risks and welfare as a result of the various causes and conflicts and to pave a way by which the (traditional) religious leaders are to confront misuse of a religion and project the authentic doctrines of their religions

that will help to reduce current conflicts among people and provide better security of the spiritual and intellectual freedom within our modern society.

In order to achieve this aim, Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue has decided to call its 12th **Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference "Spiritual and Intellectual Safety in the Light of Religious Doctrines"**, whereby numerous experts and professionals from all over the world will have a great opportunity to meet and discuss the issues related to the Conference theme and provide a certain framework for dealing with the challenges that threaten the spiritual and intellectual freedom and security of our times.

The conference is divided into four main sessions in the following order:

**Plenary Session One on Topic No. 1:
Religion and its Role in Spiritual and Intellectual Security**

Security resulting from spiritual and intellectual peace is a condition for the prosperous life, development and stability of every community. It is a cornerstone of homeland security, as well as an essential part of the integrated and interconnected system concerning the concept of security and its comprehensive understanding and significance. Spiritual and intellectual security also reflects the correct and healthy mental exercise and reflection that produce the beneficial results without exaggeration or negligence. In such a way, the above security will enhance human values and principles and strengthen the sense of belonging and loyalty to one's God and homeland.

Three simultaneous sessions with the following sub-themes:

1. Essential relationship between the physical and intellectual concepts of security;
2. Protection of individuals' rights and religious and intellectual freedom in society;
3. Religion as the main source of moral values;

Plenary Session Two on Topic No. 2:

Destabilization of Moral and Intellectual Security

What drives human being to commit violent acts such as murder and suicide and to reject peace and harmony? Is there any ideological or religious justification for such aggressive acts? What are the causes behind the religiously driven hate towards others, and culturally directed negligence towards the universal principles and values of ethics, all of which lead to violence and crime against minorities, regardless of their religious or ethnic affiliation?

Three simultaneous sessions with the following sub-themes:

1. Media's negative role in shaping moral and intellectual principles and values;
2. Social media and destabilization of intellectual security;
3. Negative influence of radical clergy and political leadership on youth;



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**Plenary Session Three on Topic No. 3:
Protecting Youth from Intellectual and Moral Violation and Cultural Alienation**

In our globalized world it appears that cultural, security and media restrictions are close to vanish or being replaced by free media and cultural openness. The best solution to protect young people against various types of spiritual and intellectual propaganda and all sort of extremism seems to be the strengthening spiritual and intellectual security within a society.

Three simultaneous sessions with the following sub-themes:

1. Role of family and educational institutions in establishing intellectually and spiritually peaceful generation;
2. Reinforcement of competent and professional agencies for determining and presenting religious, media, intellectual and cultural values;
3. Effective response to all manifestations of extremism and its tackling and isolation from society;

**Panel Discussion Session on Topic No. 4:
Strategies for Protecting Spiritual and Intellectual Freedom and Security:
Future Expectations**

All state institutions, organizations and communities involved in this respect are equally responsible to unite their efforts in establishing religious, moral and cultural values in minds and hearts of young people by the effective strategies, good example and honest commitment in order to bring about the needed results and eliminate any confusion and contradiction between those values and its implementation by the given authorities. In this way, one can expect the positive change and better future for all humanity.



DICID Award Announcement
3rd Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue 2016
offered by:
Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue
Doha - Qatar

Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue is pleased to announce the Third Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue, which will take place during the 12th Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference in Doha, from 16th to 17th February 2016.

In recent times, the world has become a scene for diverse battles waged for a number of reasons, from socio-political and economic domination to intellectual and religious indoctrination and supremacy. With the advancement of communication technology and social media the spread of news and information has never been faster, allowing people of diverse backgrounds and vocations to learn easier and build their own perspectives and worldviews. The same media is also used for various causes often hidden under the layers of public or private organizations, agencies and other similar associations set up for specific purposes.

Some of these propagandas that are disguised in religious forms are often intended for other reasons and as such should be considered non-religious or rather anti-religious in its nature, since the perpetrators of these agendas have stripped religion of its essential qualities such as love of God and His creation, serenity and content within oneself and its surrounding, socio-economic order and sustainable development as well as numerous others noble qualities that all religions teach and propagate. Therefore, religion has become reduced by certain extremist groups to a powerful source for their aggressive actions against other or it is blamed by some secularist circles as the main cause for crises and instabilities among mankind.

However, in order to tackle this problem, all relevant institutions of the educational and social nature are responsible to reevaluate and reestablish moral values and its nurturing in minds and hearts of individuals through the well organized planning and coordination between the community and the state relevant institutions. Among the basic requirements for attaining the spiritual security is the rational and spiritual confrontation of all extremist ideas and deviant teachings that propagate and support confusion, hatred and violent actions, not only against other and different religious or ethnic groups or people but also within the members of one single society. In line with this objective, Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue has dedicated its **3rd Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue 2016**, for the projects relating to **“Strategies for Protecting Spiritual and Intellectual Freedom and Security: Future Expectations”**.

Objectives of Award

1. Enriching and promoting a culture of peaceful coexistence and acceptance among followers of different faiths;
2. Attracting and drawing youth towards building a positive dialogue between the followers of diverse religious traditions;
3. Reinstate and reinforce religious values in addressing the issues and problems of concern to humanity and promoting peaceful coexistence and understanding between different civilizations and faiths.
4. Expand the content of religious dialogue to include all aspects of life that interact with religion.
5. Expand the field interreligious dialogue to include wider circle of researchers, academics and others who are interested in the relationship between religious values and life's issues.
6. Facilitate and share important scholarly insights, educational experiences and training in areas related to religious dialogue.
7. Encouraging researchers and specialized institutions for fruitful collaboration between them in order to reach new prospects for dialogue such as bringing about new proposals for conflict resolution and peace building.
8. Honor and appreciate prominent, productive and creative persons and organizations for their work in the field of interreligious dialogue.

Award Categories

This year award will be given to:

An Outstanding Organization

The award is restricted to the excellent organizations that are actively engaged in or produced a project concerning **Strategies for Protecting Spiritual and Intellectual Freedom and Security in a Society**, thus educating community on how to rationally and spiritually confront any sort of extremism therein.

A Prominent Individual

The award is restricted to the distinguished individuals who produced a specific work or project about **Strategies for Protecting Spiritual and Intellectual Freedom and Security in a Society**, and who are actively tackling extremist views among the members of his or her society while promoting peace and harmony with rational arguments.

The jury will decide on the merit of winners through assessing their works or projects done in the aforementioned field either by a specialized research and study or by an outstanding social activity.

Award Conditions

For Institutions

- At least three years of active and clear engagement in the field of interfaith dialogue;
- Projecting a significant and impact on society in the positive and apparent ways;
- The project or activity done by the given institutions should benefit society in the realm of interfaith dialogue;
- Institutions are required to prepare or implement a project concerning spiritual and intellectual security for the protection of society, and remain actively involved in it;
- Institutions should not be engaged in political sphere nor should it accept any award by political parties;

For Individuals:

- Preference is given to the learned individuals with noble characters and prolific engagement in the field of interfaith dialogue;
- Candidate should not be involved in a leadership of any political party;
- Candidate should have already a number of the published works or produced activities that directly deal with interfaith dialogue and issues related to the **Protection of Spiritual and Intellectual Freedom and Security in a Society**;

Nomination Procedures

- Interested individuals and institutions may be nominated personally or by third-party
- Award application with all necessary documents must be sent via e-mail.
- Award application or project should be written in Arabic or English.
- Award application should be in the range of 4000-7000 words.



- Alongside award application candidates may include scholarly studies, academic publications or films published or produced by them respectively as support for their nominations.

Value of Award

The Award value is one hundred thousand US dollars (100,000 USD), in addition to gold medal and certificate provided by DICID.

Award Committee

The Award committee consists of the distinguished representative of three monotheistic religions and certain members of DICID. The function of the Award committee includes:

- Announcement of the Award, its themes and conditions;
- Selection of jury;
- Announcement of the Award winners based on the recommendations by the jury;

Jury

The Jury members are selected each year by the Award committee from among the specialists in the given Award theme. The names of the judges are confidential, and their main responsibilities are the following:

1. Examination of projects selected for the award.
2. Evaluation of the nominated projects based on the strict academic criteria.
3. Submission of the sealed reports and recommendations to the Award committee that are officially announced during the meeting of the Award committee.

Award Procedures

1. The Award winners are not allowed to run for another Award in the following year.
2. The Award can be annulled the submitted project lacks an adequate quality
3. The Award winners will be announced at Doha International Conference on Interfaith Dialogue.



4. The Award winners upon receiving Award will make presentations of their respective projects and achievements.
5. The Award projects suitable for publication will be published by DICID.
6. The Award winners will be invited to attend the annual conference organized by DICID.

All nominations should be sent to Doha Centre for Interfaith Dialogue at the following address:
(award2016@dicid.org)

The deadline for accepting nominations for 3rd **Doha International Award for Interfaith Dialogue 2016**, expires on 31.12.2015 at 2:00 pm (Greenwich time)

For additional information, please visit our website at www.dicid.org.