

Date: 29 – 31 December 2013
Paris, France

LIVING WHERE WE DON'T MAKE THE RULES

A Muslim Minority Leaders Colloquium

A Communique.

The World for All Foundation, in partnership with the International Union of Muslim Scholars, is proud to announce a Colloquium of Muslim Minority Leaders to reflect on the state of the Muslim World, especially the situation of Muslims who live in societies where they constitute a numerical minority.

The rubric, “Living Where We Don’t Make The Rules”, attempts to reflect the anguish that minorities often experience as they try to find synergy between the tenets, values and requirements of their faith, on the one hand, and the dominant culture and, in some cases, social and political hostility towards them, on the other.

Even countries where Muslims constitute a majority may reflect a variation of this anguish as a dominant globalization, or a prevailing secularism, or a powerful military, may create conditions similar to that experienced by minorities.

The format of a Colloquium is an attempt to create structured discussion, avoiding undue engagement without concrete outcomes, but also avoiding a series of lectures without engagement towards practical solutions and action.



109 Campground Road, Claremont 7760, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa
P.O. Box 4365, Cape Town 8000, Republic of South Africa
Tel / Fax : +2721 685 4772

The Colloquium format comprises a manageable number of participants, broadly representative of the minority experience across the 6 continents, within the framework of a round table, and with discussion cascading from inputs by a selection of people who have thought about, or worked within, certain fields, to respondents who, having listened to the inputs would respond robustly in order to challenge, affirm or enrich the inputs-but mostly to contextualize discussion-and then invite the plenary to engage with the inputs and the responses. The moderators would be selected on their ability to elicit the outcomes that would constitute the concrete programme that should be implemented after the Colloquium.

The content of the Colloquium would encompass the following broad areas:

- An overview that analyses the state of the ummah;
- Examining the impact of globalization, islamophobia and extremism;
- Evaluating some conceptual tools that can reposition Muslims to make a significant contribution to their societies; by understanding the application of Islam in a minority context;
- Identifying the issues that confront Muslims in the West;
- Understanding how minorities can help regenerate the Islamic Civilisation; and
- Locating the work among minorities within the ferment occurring in the Muslim heartlands.

The Colloquium should conclude with a Declaration that could lay the basis for:

- A broader and more representative Conference of Muslim Minority Communities; and
- A programme towards an engagement by Muslims with fellow global citizens of other faiths, ideologies, and cultures.

Furthermore, the Colloquium Declaration would be a working document inviting discussion and debate on the content areas, so that the global Muslim Community may consider:

- how to defuse both extremism and islamophobia;
- how to establish shared spaces based on attaining the objectives of Islam, occupying the middle ground, and reconceptualising the application of shariah;
- how to manage historical issues which have become contentious in the west; and
- how to focus on being party to establishing, again, Islam as a civilization.

Finally, the Colloquium could establish a Co-ordinating Network or Secretariat that would ensure the implementation and continuity that would distinguish the initiative as an action-oriented one.