The Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on Faith for Rights

Report and outlook
Faith for Rights

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Foreword by the High Commissioner

Human rights are closely connected to religion, security and peace. Religious leaders play a crucial role in either defending human rights, peace and security – or, unfortunately, in undermining them. Supporting the positive contributions of faith-based actors is crucial, as is preventing the exploitation of religious faith as a tool in conflicts, or as interpreted to deny people’s rights.

Human rights and faith can be mutually supportive. Indeed, many people of faith have worked at the heart of the human rights movement, precisely because of their deep attachment to respect for human dignity, human equality, and justice. I am convinced that faith-based actors can promote trust and respect between communities. And I am committed to assisting governments, religious authorities and civil society actors to work jointly to uphold human dignity and equality for all.

In recent years, my Office has been working with faith-based actors to conceive the ‘Faith for Rights’ framework. Its 18 commitments reach out to people of different religions and beliefs in all regions of the world, to promote a common, action-oriented platform.

The ‘Faith for Rights’ framework includes a commitment not to tolerate exclusionary interpretations, which instrumentalize religions, beliefs or their followers for electoral purposes or political gains. In this context, it is vital to protect religious minorities, refugees and migrants, particularly where they have been targeted by incitement to hatred and violence.

We look forward to seeing the ‘Faith for Rights’ framework translated into practical outreach tools and capacity-building programmes. Already, it has been picked up by a number of communities. For example, the 18 commitments have been translated into Greek and Turkish in the context of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, to be used in human rights education projects across the island.

Respect for human rights shapes societies that are more peaceful, more resilient, more sustainably developed – more successful, across a whole range of metrics. School by school and town by town, local success stories can inspire positive changes elsewhere in the world.

We hope the ‘Faith for Rights’ framework will also inspire interdisciplinary research on questions related to faith and rights. Deeper exploration of the ethical and spiritual foundations provided by religions and beliefs can help to debunk the myth that human rights are solely Western values. On the contrary: the human rights agenda is rooted in cultures across the world. Respect for human life, and human dignity, wellbeing and justice, are common to us all.

‘Faith’ can indeed stand up for ‘Rights’ so that both enhance each other. As the ‘Faith for Rights’ framework proclaims, “We are resolved to challenge the manipulation of religions in both politics and conflicts. We intend to be a balancing united voice of solidarity, reason, compassion, moderation, enlightenment and corresponding collective action”. I look forward to your progress towards these goals.

Michelle Bachelet
High Commissioner for Human Rights
April 2019
Overview

In 2017, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights launched the “Faith for Rights” framework with an expert workshop in Beirut. This framework provides space for a cross-disciplinary reflection and action on the deep, and mutually enriching, connections between religions and human rights. The objective is to foster the development of peaceful societies, which uphold human dignity and equality for all and where diversity is not just tolerated but fully respected and celebrated.

In his video message, the High Commissioner for Human Rights stressed that religious leaders are potentially very important human rights actors in view of their considerable influence on the hearts and minds of millions of people. The 2012 Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence already laid out some of religious leaders’ core responsibilities against incitement to hatred. Expanding those responsibilities to the full spectrum of human rights, the faith-based and civil society actors participating at the OHCHR workshop in March 2017 adopted the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”.

The Beirut Declaration considers that all believers – whether theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other – should join hands and hearts in articulating ways in which “Faith” can stand up for “Rights” more effectively so that both enhance each other. Individual and communal expression of religions or beliefs thrive and flourish in environments where human rights are protected. Similarly, human rights can benefit from deeply rooted ethical and spiritual foundations provided by religions or beliefs. Rather than focusing on theological and doctrinal divides, the Beirut Declaration favours the identification of common ground among all religions and beliefs to uphold the dignity and equal worth of all human beings.

Linked to the Beirut Declaration are 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”, with corresponding follow-up actions. These include the commitments to prevent the use of the notion of “State religion” to discriminate against any individual or group; to revisit religious interpretations that appear to perpetuate gender inequality and harmful stereotypes or even condone gender-based violence; to stand up for the rights of all persons belonging to minorities; to publicly denounce all instances of advocacy of hatred that incites to violence, discrimination or hostility; to monitor interpretations, determinations or other religious views that manifestly conflict with universal human rights norms and standards; to refrain from oppressing critical voices and to urge States to repeal any existing anti-blasphemy or anti-apostasy laws; to refine the curriculums, teaching materials and textbooks; and to engage with children and youth who are either victims of or vulnerable to incitement to violence in the name of religion.

In 2019, High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet stressed that the “Faith for Rights” framework aims at transforming messages of mercy, compassion and solidarity into inter-communal and faith-based projects towards social, developmental and environmental change. She also underlined the importance of governments, religious authorities and a wide range of civil society actors working jointly to uphold human dignity and equality for all.

The #Faith4Rights toolkit, launched online in 2020, aims at translating the “Faith for Rights” framework into practical peer-to-peer learning and capacity-building programmes. It contains 18 learning modules, mirroring each of the commitments on “Faith for Rights”. These modules offer concrete ideas for learning exercises, for example how to unpack the 18 commitments, share personal stories, search for additional faith quotes or provide for inspiring examples of artistic expressions. The whole concept is interactive, result-oriented and conducive to critical thinking. The toolkit is open for adaptation by facilitators in order to tailor the modules to the specific context of the participants. This toolkit builds on a wealth of comparable tools by several UN agencies that have been integrated into the #Faith4Rights toolkit. Its annex proposes several cases to debate, which illustrate the intersectionality of the 18 commitments and enhance the skills of faith actors to manage religious diversity in real-life situations towards the aims of “Faith for Rights”.

“Faith for Rights”
I warmly welcome you to this expert meeting on “Faith for Rights”, which provides space for a long-overdue cross-disciplinary reflection on the deep, and mutually enriching, connections between religions and human rights.

Our objective is to foster the development of peaceful societies, where diversity is not just tolerated but fully respected and celebrated. Societies which uphold human dignity and equality for all.

The UN Charter speaks of the world’s “faith in fundamental human rights”. You have come together to discuss faith for rights – based on our common values and hopes.

“Faith for rights” should also enhance the freedom of religion or belief, which is integral to the universal and interdependent freedoms that my Office upholds. I very much hope we can work together to promote this and all other human rights, and to combat violations.

Hatred, discrimination, oppression, injustice, marginalisation and extreme poverty: these are drivers of conflict, destruction and misery. All have common roots. The absence of justice. The absence of empathy and solidarity, which impel true care for all our fellow human beings.

They also have common solutions: respect for the dignity, equality, and human rights of all.

I believe religious leaders, with their considerable influence on the hearts and minds of millions of people, are potentially very important human rights actors. They can play a crucial positive role in helping to shape our present and future. In 2012, the Rabat Plan of Action laid out some of religious leaders’ core responsibilities against incitement to hatred. Today I hope your discussions can build on that, to articulate the human rights responsibilities of religious leaders and look at how they could be appropriately supported.

I am convinced that rather than focusing on the tension zones between some religious interpretations and human rights, we can find common ground and shared goals.

I look to you to help us establish a vision and a roadmap to improve the lives of people across the world.

I ask you to stand up for human rights, at this time of great turmoil in world affairs, and to help safeguard the deep and essential principles of equality and human dignity which risk being swept away.

I wish you fruitful discussions. Thank you.
Expert workshop (Beirut, 28-29 March 2017)

The Beirut expert workshop on 28 and 29 March 2017 built upon the Rabat Plan of Action in light of its increased relevance given the aggravated trends of incitement on various grounds. The workshop participants drafted a holistic narrative of the human rights responsibilities of religious leaders of which the Rabat Plan of Action provides a central component. Finally, the experts considered options for civil society follow-up in terms of structured collaboration and projects.

The 30 participants of the Beirut workshop included both experts from the Middle East and North Africa region and from the international level. It was a fully gender-balanced meeting (with 50% women and 50% men participating) of faith-based and civil society actors working in the field of human rights, including relevant United Nations Special Rapporteurs and Treaty Body members. The participants are independent from Governments and have field activities in advocating for religious coexistence, minority rights, cohesive societies, women’s rights/related topics and have a commitment to universal human rights norms and standards.

The two days event was divided into an opening session and three working groups in World Café format, which ensured that each member of the three working groups drafted and discussed the three components of the meeting’s outcome:

1. **The Beirut Declaration**
   Moderator: Abdelwahab Hani (CAT member); rapporteur: Melhem Khalaf (CERD member)

2. **The 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”**
   Moderator: Nazila Ghanea (Oxford University); rapporteur: Ahmed Shaheed (UN Special Rapporteur)

3. **Options for civil society follow-up**
   Moderator: Agnes Callamard (UN Special Rapporteur); rapporteur: Tahmina Rahman (Article 19)

On 29 March 2017, the participants unanimously adopted the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”. They also presented the outcome documents at a press conference, which was covered by several TV channels (Manar, Future, LBC, MTV, Al-Jadeed, Al-Jazeera and Al Lulua), radio stations (Voix du Liban and the National Lebanese Radio) as well as newspapers (e.g. The Daily Star Lebanon).

A page dedicated to “Faith for Rights” is also available on the OHCHR website at: www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/FaithForRights.aspx
Beirut Declaration on “Faith for Rights”

English version

“There are as many paths to God as there are souls on Earth.” (Rumi) ¹

1. We, faith-based and civil society actors working in the field of human rights and gathered in Beirut on 28-29 March 2017, in culmination of a trajectory of meetings initiated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),² express our deep conviction that our respective religions and beliefs share a common commitment to upholding the dignity and the equal worth of all human beings. Shared human values and equal dignity are therefore common roots of our cultures. Faith and rights should be mutually reinforcing spheres. Individual and communal expression of religions or beliefs thrive and flourish in environments where human rights, based on the equal worth of all individuals, are protected. Similarly, human rights can benefit from deeply rooted ethical and spiritual foundations provided by religions or beliefs.

2. We understand our respective religious or belief convictions as a source for the protection of the whole spectrum of inalienable human entitlements — from the preservation of the gift of life, the freedoms of thought, conscience, religion, belief, opinion and expression to the freedoms from want and fear, including from violence in all its forms.

- “Whoever preserves one life, is considered by Scripture as if one has preserved the whole world.” (Talmud, Sanhedrin, 37,a).
- “Someone who saves a person’s life is equal to someone who saves the life of all.” (Qu’ran 5:32)
- “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and with your entire mind; and your neighbour as yourself.” (Luke 10:27)
- “Let them worship the Lord of this House who saved them from hunger and saved them from fear.” (Sourat Qurais, verses 3,4)
- “A single person was created in the world, to teach that if anyone causes a single person to perish, he has destroyed the entire world; and if anyone saves a single soul, he has saved the entire world.” (Mishna Sanhedrin 4:5)
- “Let us stand together, make statements collectively and may our thoughts be one.” (Rigveda 10:191:2)
- “Just as I protect myself from unpleasant things however small, in the same way I should act towards others with a compassionate and caring mind.” (Shantideva, A Guide to the Bodhisattva’s Way of Life)
- “Let us put our minds together to see what life we can make for our children.” (Chief Sitting Bull, Lakota)

3. Based on the above, among many other sources of faith, we are convinced that our religious or belief convictions are one of the fundamental sources of protection for human dignity and freedoms of all individuals and communities with no distinction on any ground whatsoever. Religious, ethical and philosophical texts preceded international law in upholding the oneness of humankind, the sacredness of the right to life and the corresponding individual and collective duties that are grounded in the hearts of believers.

4. We pledge to disseminate the common human values that unite us. While we differ on some theological questions, we undertake to combat any form of exploitation of such differences to advocate violence, discrimination and religious hatred.

- “We have designed a law and a practice for different groups. Had God willed, He would have made you a single community, but He wanted to test you regarding what has come to you. So compete with each other in doing good. Every one of you will return to God and He will inform you regarding the things about which you differed.” (Qu’ran 5, 48)
5. We believe that freedom of religion or belief does not exist without the freedom of thought and conscience which precede all freedoms for they are linked to human essence and his/her rights of choice and to freedom of religion or belief. A person as a whole is the basis of every faith and he/she grows through love, forgiveness and respect.

6. We hereby solemnly launch together from Beirut the most noble of all struggles, peaceful but powerful, against our own egos, self-interest and artificial divides. Only when we as religious actors assume our respective roles, articulate a shared vision of our responsibilities and transcend preaching to action, only then we will credibly promote mutual acceptance and fraternity among people of different religions or beliefs and empower them to defeat negative impulses of hatred, viciousness, manipulation, greed, cruelty and related forms of inhumanity. All religious or belief communities need a resolved leadership that unequivocally dresses that path by acting for equal dignity of everyone, driven by our shared humanity and respect for the absolute freedom of conscience of every human being. We pledge to spare no effort in filling that joint leadership gap by protecting freedom and diversity through “faith for rights” activities.

7. The present declaration on “Faith for Rights” reaches out to persons belonging to religions and beliefs in all regions of the world, with a view to enhancing cohesive, peaceful and respectful societies on the basis of a common action-oriented platform agreed by all concerned and open to all actors that share its objectives. We value that our declaration on Faith for Rights, like its founding precedent the Rabat Plan of Action on incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (October 2012), were both conceived and conducted under the auspices and with the support of the United Nations that represents all peoples of the world, and enriched by UN human rights mechanisms such as Special Rapporteurs and Treaty Body members.

8. While numerous welcomed initiatives attempted over time to link faith with rights for the benefit of both, none of these attempts fully reached that goal. We are therefore convinced that religious actors should be enabled, both nationally and internationally, to assume their responsibilities in defending our shared humanity against incitement to hatred, those who benefit from destabilising societies and the manipulators of fear to the detriment of equal and inalienable human dignity. With the present F4R Declaration, we aim to join hands and hearts in building on previous attempts to bring closer faith and rights by articulating the common grounds between all of us and define ways in which faith can stand for rights more effectively so that both enhance each other.

9. Building on the present declaration, we also intend to practice what we preach through establishing a multi-level coalition, open for all independent religious actors and faith-based organisations who genuinely demonstrate acceptance of and commitment to the present F4R declaration by implementing projects on the ground in areas that contribute to achieving its purpose. We will also be charting a roadmap for concrete actions in specific areas, to be reviewed regularly by our global coalition of Faith for Rights.

10. To achieve the above goal, we pledge as believers (whether theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other) to fully adhere to five fundamental principles:

“Faith for Rights”
a) Transcending traditional inter-faith dialogues into **concrete action-oriented Faith for Rights (F4R) projects at the local level**. While dialogue is important, it is not an end in itself. Good intentions are of limited value without corresponding action. Change on the ground is the goal and concerted action is its logical means.

- **“Faith is grounded in the heart when it is demonstrated by deeds.”** (Hadith)

b) **Avoiding theological and doctrinal divides** in order to act on areas of shared inter-faith and intra-faith vision as defined in the present F4R declaration. This declaration is not conceived to be a tool for dialogue among religions but rather a joint platform for common action in defence of human dignity for all. While we respect freedom of expression and entertain no illusion as to the continuation of a level of controversy at different levels of religious discourse, we are resolved to challenge the manipulation of religions in both politics and conflicts. We intend to be a balancing united voice of solidarity, reason, compassion, moderation, enlightenment and corresponding collective action at the grassroots level.

c) **Introspectiveness** is a virtue we cherish. We will all speak up and act first and foremost on our own weaknesses and challenges within our respective communities. We will address more global issues collectively and consistently, after internal and inclusive deliberation that preserves our most precious strength, i.e. integrity.

d) **Speaking with one voice**, particularly against any advocacy of hatred that amounts to inciting violence, discrimination or any other violation of the equal dignity that all human beings enjoy regardless of their religion, belief, gender, political or other opinion, national or social origin, or any other status. Denouncing incitement to hatred, injustices, discrimination on religious grounds or any form of religious intolerance is not enough. We have a duty to redress hate speech by remedial compassion and solidarity that heals hearts and societies alike. Our words of redress should transcend religious or belief boundaries. Such boundaries should thus no longer remain a free land for manipulators, xenophobes, populists and violent extremists.

e) We are resolved to **act in a fully independent manner**, abiding only by our conscience, while seeking partnerships with religious and secular authorities, relevant governmental bodies and non-State actors wherever Faith for Rights (F4R) coalitions are freely established in conformity with the present declaration.

11. **Our main tool and asset is reaching out to hundreds of millions of believers** in a preventive structured manner to convey our shared convictions enshrined in this F4R declaration. Speaking up in one voice in defence of equal dignity of all on issues of common challenges to humanity equally serves the cause of faith and rights. Human beings are entitled to full and equal respect, rather than mere tolerance, regardless of what they may believe or not believe. It is our duty to uphold this commitment within our respective spheres of competence. We will also encourage all believers to assume their individual responsibilities in the defence of their deeply held values of justice, equality and responsibility towards the needy and disadvantaged, regardless of their religion or belief.

- **“People are either your brothers in faith, or your brothers in humanity.”** (Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib)
- **“On the long journey of human life, Faith is the best of companions.”** (Buddha)
12. We aim to achieve that goal in a concrete manner that matters for people at the grassroots level in all parts of the world where coalitions of religious actors choose to adhere to this declaration and act accordingly. We will support each other’s actions, including through a highly symbolic annual Walk of Faith for Rights in the richest expression of our unity in diversity each 10th of December in all parts of the world.

13. Articulating through the present declaration a common vision of religious actors, on the basis of the Rabat Plan of Action of 2012 and follow-up meetings, would provide the tipping point for disarming the forces of darkness; and help dismantling the unholy alliance in too many hearts between fear and hatred. Violence in the name of religion defeats its basic foundations, mercy and compassion. We intend to transform the messages of mercy and compassion into acts of solidarity through inter-communal social, developmental and environmental faith-based projects at the local, national, regional and global levels.

14. We fully embrace the universally recognised values as articulated in international human rights instruments as common standards of our shared humanity. We ground our commitments in this F4R declaration first and foremost in our conviction that religions and beliefs share common core values of respect for human dignity, justice and fairness. We also ground these commitments in our acceptance of the fact that “Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible”. Our duty is to practice what we preach, to fully engage, to speak up and act on the ground in the defence of human dignity long before it is actually threatened.

- “Oh you believers, why don’t you practice what you preach? Most hateful for God is preaching what you don’t practice.” (Qu’ran 61: 2-3)
- “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” (Proverbs 31:8-9)

15. Both religious precepts and existing international legal frameworks attribute responsibilities to religious actors. Empowering religious actors requires actions in areas such as legislation, institutional reforms, supportive public policies and training adapted to the needs of local religious actors who often are one of the main sources of education and social change in their respective areas of action. International conventions and covenants have defined key legal terms such as genocide, refugee, religious discrimination and freedom of religion or belief. All these concepts have corresponding resonance in different religions and beliefs. In addition, numerous declarations and resolutions provide elements of religious actors’ roles and responsibilities that we embrace and consolidate in this F4R declaration.

16. We agree as human beings that we are accountable to all human beings as to redressing the manner by which religions are portrayed and too often manipulated. We are responsible for our actions but even more responsible if we do not act or do not act properly and timely.

- “We will ask each of you about all what you have said and done, for you are accountable” (Quran, Assaafat, 24)
- “Every man’s work shall be made manifest.” (Bible, 1 Corinthians iii. 13)

17. While States bear the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting all rights for all, individually and collectively to enjoy a dignified life free from fear and free from want and enjoy the freedom of choice in all aspects of life, we as religious actors or as individual believers do bear a distinct responsibility to stand
up for our shared humanity and equal dignity of each human being in all circumstances within our own spheres of preaching, teaching, spiritual guidance and social engagement.

- “Whoever witnesses an injustice or wrong doing should change its course by his hand. If He or she cannot do that, they by his words. If he or she is unable to do that then by their hearts. This would be the weakest of acts of faith” (Hadith).

18. Religious communities, their leaders and followers have a role and bear responsibilities independently from public authorities both under national and international legal instruments. By virtue of article 2 (1) of the 1981 UN Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion of Belief, “no one shall be subject to discrimination by any State, institution, group of persons or person on the grounds of religion or belief”. This provision establishes direct responsibilities of religious institutions, leaders and even each individual within religious or belief communities.

19. As much as the notion of effective control provides the foundation for responsibilities of non-State actors in times of conflict, we see a similar legal and ethical justification in case of religious leaders who exercise a heightened degree of influence over the hearts and minds of their followers at all times.

20. Speech is fundamental to individual and communal flourishing. It constitutes one of the most crucial mediums for good and evil sides of humanity. War starts in the minds and is cultivated by a reasoning fuelled by often hidden advocacy of hatred. Positive speech is also the healing tool of reconciliation and peace-building in the hearts and minds. Speech is one of the most strategic areas of the responsibilities we commit to assume and support each other for their implementation through this F4R declaration on the basis of the thresholds articulated by the Rabat Plan of Action.

21. Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (article 20, paragraph 2), States are obliged to prohibit any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. This includes incitement to hatred by some religious leaders in the name of religion. Due to the speaker’s position, context, content and extent of sermons, such statements by religious leaders may be likely to meet the threshold of incitement to hatred. Prohibiting such incitement is not enough. Remedial advocacy to reconciliation is equally a duty, including for religious leaders, particularly when hatred is advocated in the name of religions or beliefs.

22. The clearest and most recent guidance in this area is provided by the 2012 Rabat Plan of Action which articulates three specific core responsibilities of religious leaders: (a) Religious leaders should refrain from using messages of intolerance or expressions which may incite violence, hostility or discrimination; (b) Religious leaders also have a crucial role to play in speaking out firmly and promptly against intolerance, discriminatory stereotyping and instances of hate speech; and (c) Religious leaders should be clear that violence can never be tolerated as a response to incitement to hatred (e.g. violence cannot be justified by prior provocation).
Endnotes

1. All quotations from religious or belief texts were offered by participants of the Beirut workshop in relation to their own religion or belief and are merely intended to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

2. OHCHR organized related international meetings, expert seminars and regional workshops, including in Geneva (October 2008), Vienna (February 2011), Nairobi (April 2011), Bangkok (July 2011), Santiago de Chile (October 2011), Rabat (October 2012), Geneva (February 2013), Amman (November 2013), Manama (2014), Tunis (October 2014 and April 2015), Nicosia (October 2015), Beirut (December 2015) and Amman (January 2017).

3. See UN Human Rights Committee, general comment no. 22 (1993), UN Doc. CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.4, para. 2.

4. Article 29, paragraph 1, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).


6. These include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief (1981); Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992); Principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response Programmes (1994); UNESCO Declaration on Principles of Tolerance (1995); Final Document of the International Consultative Conference on School Education in Relation to Freedom of Religion or Belief, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination (2001); Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools (2007); United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007); The Hague Statement on “Faith in Human Rights” (2008); Camden Principles on Freedom of Expression and Equality (2009); Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 on Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence and Violence against, Persons Based on Religion or Belief (and Istanbul Process, 2011); Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (2012); Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes (2014); Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2015); as well as the Fez Declaration on preventing incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes (2015).

7. Under certain circumstances, in particular when non-State actors exercise significant/effective control over territory and population (e.g. as de facto authorities), they are also obliged to respect international human rights as duty bearers (see UN Docs. CEDAW/C/GC/30, para. 16; A/HRC/28/66, paras. 54-55).

8. See UN Doc. A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, annex, appendix, para. 36.
Déclaration de Beyrouth sur « La foi pour les droits »

« Il y a autant de chemins vers Dieu que d’âmes sur la terre. » (Rumi)

1. Nous, acteurs de la société civile et organisations concernés par la foi et engagés dans le domaine des droits de l’homme, réunis à Beyrouth les 28 et 29 mars 2017 au terme d’une série de réunions organisées par le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l’homme (HCDH), exprimons notre profonde conviction que nos religions respectives et nos croyances partagent un engagement commun pour la protection de la dignité et de l’égal valeur de tous les êtres humains. Les valeurs humaines universelles et l’égal dignité constituent les racines communes de nos cultures. La foi et les droits sont des domaines intimement liés qui doivent se renforcer mutuellement. Le sentiment religieux et les croyances individuelles et collectives peuvent s’exprimer et se développer là où les droits de l’homme, qui reposent sur l’égal valeur de tous les êtres humains, sont protégés. Réciproquement, les droits de l’homme peuvent tirer profit des fondements éthiques et spirituels profondément enracinés dans toutes les religions ou croyances.

2. Nous considérons nos religions ou nos croyances respectives comme sources de protection de l’ensemble des droits humains inaliénables – incluant la préservation du don de la vie, les libertés de pensée, de conscience, de religion, de croyance, d’opinion et d’expression et la liberté de vivre à l’abri du besoin et de la peur, y compris de la violence sous toutes ses formes.

- « Selon les Ecritures, celui qui sauve une seule vie sauve le monde entier. » (Talmud, Sanhédrin, 37a)
- « Et qui en sauve un est comme s’il avait sauvé tous les hommes. » (Coran 5:32)
- « Tu aimeras le Seigneur, ton Dieu, de tout ton cœur, de toute ton âme, de toute ta force, et de toute ta pensée ; et ton prochain comme toi-même. » (Luc 10:27)
- « Qu’ils adorent donc le Seigneur de cette Maison, qui les a nourris contre la faim et rassurés contre la crainte. » (Sourate Qoraïch, versets 3,4)
- « L’homme a été créé unique, pour enseigner que quiconque fait périr une seule personne, fait périr le monde dans sa totalité ; et celui qui sauve une seule vie, c’est comme s’il sauvait le monde. » (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:5)
- « Unissons-nous, parlons collectivement et ne faisons qu’un par nos pensées. » (Rig Veda 10:191:2)
- « De même que je me protège contre les désagréments les plus anodins, je cultiverai la pensée de protéger les êtres et d’être envers eux compatissant. » (Shantideva, Guide du mode de vie du Bodhisattva)
- « Unissons nos esprits et voyons quelle vie nous pouvons offrir à nos enfants. » (Chef Sitting Bull, Lakota)

3. Sur la base de ce qui précède, nous sommes convaincus que, parmi tout ce qui fonde nos convictions, nos religions et nos croyances constituent l’une des sources fondamentales de la protection de la dignité humaine et des libertés de tous les individus et des communautés, sans aucune distinction. Avant même l’apparition du droit international, les textes religieux, éthiques et philosophiques ont défendu le caractère unique de l’être humain, le caractère sacré du droit à la vie et les obligations individuelles et collectives qui en découlent et qui sont enracinées dans les cœurs des croyants.

4. Nous nous engageons à diffuser les valeurs humaines communes qui nous unissent. Même si nous avons des divergences sur certaines questions théologiques, nous sommes déterminés à combattre toute forme d’exploitation de ces différences qui aurait pour objectif d’appeler à la violence, à la discrimination et à la haine religieuse.

- « Pour chacun de vous tous, nous avons défini une voie, une vocation. Si Allah avait voulu, il aurait fait de vous tous une seule communauté, mais il veut vous éprouver avec ce qu’il vous donne. Concurrencez donc dans les bonnes œuvres. C’est vers Allah qu’est votre retour à tous ; alors il vous informera de ce en quoi vous dévagiez. » (Coran 5:48)
- « Vous êtes tous les fruits d’un seul arbre, les feuilles d’une même branche. » (Bahá’ulláh)
5. Nous croyons que la liberté de religion ou de conviction ne peut exister sans les libertés de pensée et de conscience, qui précèdent toutes les libertés car elles sont liées à la nature profonde de l’homme et à son droit de choisir en toute liberté sa religion ou croyance. L’individu dans sa globalité est au cœur de toute foi et il s’épanouit à travers l’amour, le pardon et le respect.

6. Aussi nous lançons solennellement et tous ensemble depuis Beyrouth le plus noble des combats, un combat pacifique mais puissant, contre nos orgueils, nos propres intérêts et nos clivages artificiels. Nous ne pourrons promouvoir de façon crédible l’acceptation mutuelle et la fraternité entre les personnes de religions ou de croyances différentes ni leur donner les moyens de combattre les effets négatifs de la haine, de la méchanceté, de la manipulation, de la cupidité, de la cruauté et de toute autre forme d’inhumanité que lorsque nous assumerons réellement nos rôles respectifs d’acteurs religieux. Nous y parviendrons lorsque nous développerons une vision commune de nos responsabilités et passerons de la prédication à l’action. Toutes les communautés religieuses ou de croyances ont besoin d’un leadership déterminé, capable d’indiquer sans équivoque la direction à suivre en agissant pour l’égaile dignité de chacun et animée par la vision de notre humanité commune et le respect de la liberté de conscience absolue de chaque être humain. Nous nous engageons à ne ménager aucun effort pour combler ce manque de direction commune en protégeant la liberté et la diversité au travers d’activités « La foi pour les droits ».

- « Nous avons perfectionné chaque âme qui est faite d’attirance pour le mal et d’aspiration vers le bien. Y parvient celui ou celle qui s’élève sur le chemin de la justice. » (Coran 91, 7-9)

7. La présente déclaration sur « La foi pour les droits » s’adresse à des personnes de religions et de croyances du monde entier. Elle a pour objectif de promouvoir des sociétés solidaires, pacifiques et respectueuses grâce à une plateforme commune tournée vers l’action, approuvée par toutes les parties concernées et ouverte à tous les acteurs qui partagent ses objectifs. Nous apprécions le fait que notre déclaration sur « La foi pour les droits », tout comme le Plan d’action fondateur de Rabat sur l’interdiction de l’appel à la haine nationale, raciale ou religieuse qui constitue une incitation à la discrimination, à l’hostilité ou à la violence (octobre 2012), aient tous deux été conçus et conduits sous les auspices et avec le soutien des Nations Unies, qui représentent tous les peuples du monde. Les textes ont été enrichis de façon bénéfique par les mécanismes de protection des droits de l’homme des Nations Unies, notamment par les rapports spéciaux et les membres des organes conventionnels.

8. Bien que de nombreuses initiatives aient opportunément visé, au fil du temps, à établir un lien mutuellement bénéfique entre la foi et les droits, aucune de ces tentatives n’a pleinement atteint son objectif. Nous sommes donc convaincus qu’il est nécessaire de donner aux acteurs religieux, tant au niveau national qu’international, les moyens d’assumer leurs responsabilités en matière de défense de notre humanité commune contre les appels à la haine, contre ceux qui profitent de la déstabilisation des sociétés et contre les manipulateurs qui jouent sur la peur au détriment de la dignité humaine inaliénable et identique pour tous. Ainsi cette déclaration sur « La foi pour les droits », nous aspirons à unir nos efforts et nos cœurs pour tirer parti des tentatives précédentes de lier foi et droits en articulant nos bases communes. Nous avons également pour objectif d’établir comment la foi peut défendre plus efficacement les droits, de manière à ce que foi et droits s’enrichissent mutuellement.

- « Voici, l’humain est perdu, sauf ceux qui adhèrent et sont intègres, ceux qui s’exhorent à la vérité, qui s’exhorent à la constance. » (Coran 103:3)
9. Nous avons également l’intention, en nous appuyant sur cette déclaration, de mettre en pratique ce que nous prêchons en instaurant une coalition d’action à plusieurs niveaux. Cette coalition sera ouverte à tous les acteurs religieux indépendants et aux organisations confessionnelles qui s’approprient véritablement cette déclaration sur « La foi pour les droits » et qui s’engagent en sa faveur, par la mise en place de projets sur le terrain et dans des domaines qui permettent de réaliser ses objectifs. Nous élaborerons également une feuille de route pour des actions concrètes dans des domaines spécifiques qui seront réexaminées régulièrement par notre coalition mondiale « La foi pour les droits ».

10. Pour atteindre l’objectif susmentionné, nous nous engageons, en tant que croyants (théistes, non théistes, athées ou autres), à pleinement adhérer à cinq principes fondamentaux :

a) Dépasser les dialogues interreligieux traditionnels pour faire émerger des projets dans le domaine de « La foi pour les droits », orientés vers des actions concrètes au niveau local. Si le dialogue est important, il ne constitue pas une fin en soi. L’utilité des bonnes intentions est souvent limitée lorsque ces dernières ne débouchent pas sur des actions. Notre objectif est d’obtenir des changements sur le terrain et cela passe logiquement par une action concertée.

   ➢ «La foi est ancrée dans le cœur lorsqu’elle se traduit par des actions.» (Hadith)

b) Éviter les clivages théologiques et doctrinaux pour agir dans les domaines où s’exprime la vision partagée, interconfessionnelle et intraconfessionnelle, définies par cette déclaration. Cette déclaration n’est pas conçue comme un outil visant à favoriser le dialogue entre les religions, mais plutôt comme une plateforme commune en vue d’actions conjointes de défense de la dignité humaine pour tous. Nous respectons la liberté d’expression et sommes bien conscients que le discours religieux pourra rester dans une certaine mesure polémique, mais nous sommes résolus à remettre en cause la manipulation des religions à des fins politiques ou lors de conflits. Nous voulons exprimer de façon unie et équilibrée la solidarité, la raison, la compassion, la modération, l’ouverture d’esprit et les projets collectifs qui s’appuient sur ces principes au niveau local.

c) L’examen introspectif est une vertu qui nous est chère. Nous nous exprimerons et nous agirons d’abord et avant tout sur nos propres faiblesses et sur les défis inhérents à nos communautés respectives. En ce qui concerne les questions plus générales, nous les aborderons de façon collective et cohérente, après des débats internes ouverts qui garantissent le respect de notre intégrité, laquelle constitue notre plus grande force.

d) Parler d’une seule voix, notamment pour combattre tout appel à la haine qui inciterait à la violence, à la discrimination ou qui encouragerait toute autre atteinte à l’égale dignité dont jouissent tous les êtres humains, indépendamment de leurs religions, croyances, sexes, opinions politiques ou autres, origines nationales ou sociales, ou tout autre statut. Il n’est pas suffisant de dénoncer l’incitation à la haine, aux injustices, à la discrimination religieuse ou toute forme d’intolérance religieuse. Nous avons le devoir de lutter contre les discours haineux grâce à une compassion et une solidarité réparatrices, qui soignent de la même façon les cœurs et les sociétés. Nos mots pour réparer doivent transcender les frontières religieuses ou de croyances, afin que les manipulateurs, xénophobes, populistes et extrémistes violents ne soient plus en mesure d’exploiter impunément nos divisions.

e) Nous sommes déterminés à agir de façon totalement indépendante, en nous conformant seulement à notre conscience lorsqu’il s’agira de rechercher des partenariats avec les autorités religieuses et séculaires, avec les organes gouvernementaux concernés et avec les acteurs non étatiques, là où des coalitions de « La foi pour les droits » seront mises en place librement, conformément à cette déclaration.
11. Notre principal outil et atout est de pouvoir toucher des centaines de millions de croyants, préventivement et de manière structurée, pour transmettre les convictions que nous partageons et qui sont inscrites dans cette déclaration. En parlant d’une seule voix pour la défense de la dignité égale de tous face aux défis communs que l’humanité doit surmonter, nous nous mettons autant au service de la foi que des droits. Plus qu’à la simple tolérance, les êtres humains ont droit au plein et à l’égal respect, indépendamment de leurs croyances ou non croyances. Il est de notre responsabilité de respecter cet engagement dans nos sphères respectives de compétence. Nous encouragerons également les croyants à assumer leurs responsabilités individuelles pour la défense des valeurs profondément ancrées de justice, d’égalité et de responsabilité envers les nécessiteux et les défavorisés, quelles que soient leurs religions ou croyances.

- «Respecte l’être humain, car s’il n’est pas ton frère dans la religion, il est ton frère dans l’humanité. » (Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib)
- «Sur le long voyage de la vie humaine, la foi est le meilleur des compagnons. » (Bouddha)

12. Nous entendons atteindre cet objectif qui place les individus au cœur de notre démarche, d’une façon concrète et sur le terrain, dans tous les endroits du monde où des coalitions d’acteurs religieux ont choisi d’adhérer à cette déclaration et d’agir en fonction. Nous soutiendrons nos actions réciproques, notamment lors d’une Marche annuelle hautement symbolique de « La foi pour les droits » qui, le 10 décembre de chaque année, exprimera de la plus belle des façons notre unité dans le monde entier.

13. Au travers de cette déclaration, l’expression d’une vision commune aux différents acteurs religieux, sur la base du Plan d’action de Rabat de 2012 et des réunions de suivi, permettrait d’atteindre un point charnière pour désarmer les forces du mal et aider à lutter contre l’imbrication contre nature, présente dans de trop nombreux cœurs, entre ignorance, peur et haine. La violence au nom de la religion remet en cause les fondements essentiels de cette dernière qui sont la miséricorde et la compassion. Nous voulons transformer les messages de miséricorde et de compassion en actions de solidarité au travers de projets confessionnels intercommunautaires et sociaux, mais également environnementaux et de développement aux niveaux local, national, régional et mondial.

14. Nous approuvons pleinement les valeurs universellement reconnues qui sont énoncées dans les instruments internationaux relatifs aux droits de l’homme et qui constituent des normes communes, partagées par notre humanité. Nous fondons nos engagements d’abord et avant tout sur cette déclaration « La foi pour les droits » et sur notre conviction que les religions et les croyances partagent des valeurs fondamentales communes de respect de la dignité humaine, de la justice et de l’équité. Nos engagements reposent aussi sur le fait que nous acceptons que « l’individu a des devoirs envers la communauté dans laquelle seul le libre et plein développement de sa personnalité est possible »4. Il est de notre devoir de prêcher par l’exemple, de nous engager pleinement, de nous exprimer et d’agir sur le terrain pour la défense de la dignité humaine bien avant que cette dernière soit réellement menacée.

- «Oh, ceux qui adhèrent, pourquoi dites-vous ce que vous ne faites pas ? C’est un grand vice auprès d’Allah de dire ce que vous ne faites pas.» (Coran 61:2-3)
- «Mais toi, tu dois parler pour défendre ceux qui n’ont pas la parole et pour prendre le parti des laissés pour compte. Parle en leur faveur : gouverne avec justice, défends la cause des pauvres et des malheureux.» (Proverbes 31:8-9)
15. Les préceptes religieux et les cadres juridiques internationaux existants confèrent des responsabilités aux acteurs religieux. Responsabiliser les acteurs religieux impose de mettre en œuvre des actions dans des domaines tels que la législation, les réformes institutionnelles, les politiques publiques de soutien et la formation, ces actions devant être adaptées aux besoins des acteurs religieux locaux qui constituent souvent l’une des principales ressources en matière d’éducation et de changement social dans leurs champs d’action respectifs. Les conventions et les pactes internationaux ont permis de définir des termes juridiques de référence, comme les notions de génocide, de réfugié, de discrimination religieuse et de liberté de religion ou de croyances. Tous ces concepts trouvent un écho dans les différentes religions et croyances. De plus, de nombreuses déclarations et résolutions fournissent des éléments pour la définition du rôle et des responsabilités des acteurs religieux que nous adoptons et consolidons dans cette déclaration.

16. Nous reconnaissions, en tant qu’êtres humains, qu’il est de notre responsabilité envers tous les individus de corriger la façon dont les religions sont dépeintes et le plus souvent manipulées. Nous sommes responsables de nos actions, d’autant plus si nous n’agissons pas ou si nous n’agissons pas correctement et en temps utile.

17. Les États assument la responsabilité principale de promouvoir et de protéger les droits de tous, individuellement et collectivement, à jouir d’une vie digne, à l’abri de la peur et du besoin et à bénéficier de la liberté de choix dans tous les aspects de leur vie. En tant qu’acteurs religieux ou individuellement, en tant que croyants, nous avons quant à nous la responsabilité de défendre notre humanité partagée et l’égale dignité de tous les êtres humains en toutes circonstances, dans nos propres champs d’action que sont la prédication, l’enseignement, l’accompagnement spirituel et l’engagement social.


19. Tout comme la notion de contrôle effectif constitue le fondement des responsabilités des acteurs non étatiques en période de conflits, il existe une justification similaire, juridique et éthique, dans le cas des responsables religieux qui exercent en permanence une grande influence sur les cœurs et les esprits des fidèles.

20. La parole est essentielle pour l’épanouissement des individus et des communautés. Elle constitue un moyen décisif pour porter les bons comme les mauvais messages de l’humanité. La guerre commence dans les esprits et se propage au travers de discours souvent alimentés par des incitations dissimulées à la haine. Les discours positifs sont aussi des outils curatifs qui contribuent à la réconciliation et à l’édification de la paix dans les cœurs et dans les esprits. Le discours constitue l’une des responsabilités fondamentales que nous nous
engageons à assumer et à mettre en œuvre en nous épaupant mutuellement au travers de cette déclaration, sur la base des paramètres articulés par le Plan d’action de Rabat.

21. Selon le Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques (article 20, paragraphe 2), les Etats sont tenus d’interdire toute forme d’appel à la haine nationale, religieuse ou raciale qui constituerait une incitation à la discrimination, à l’hostilité ou à la violence. Cela comprend l’incitation à la haine par certaines autorités religieuses au nom de la religion. En raison du positionnement de l’orateur, du contexte, du contenu et de la portée des sermons, de telles déclarations par des chefs religieux peuvent s’apparenter à de l’incitation à la haine. Interdire ces appels à la haine ne suffit pas. Plaider en faveur de la réconciliation constitue également un devoir, y compris pour les chefs religieux, notamment lorsque la haine est professée au nom des religions ou des croyances.

22. Les orientations les plus nettes et les plus récentes dans ce domaine sont énoncées dans le Plan d’action de Rabat de 2012 qui développe les trois responsabilités spécifiques et fondamentales des autorités religieuses : (a) les autorités religieuses doivent s’abstenir de propager des messages d’intolérance ou d’utiliser des expressions qui peuvent inciter à la violence, à l’hostilité ou à la discrimination ; (b) les autorités religieuses ont également un rôle fondamental à jouer en dénonçant résolument et immédiatement l’intolérance, les stéréotypes discriminatoires et les cas de discours haineux ; et (c) les autorités religieuses doivent clairement préciser que la violence ne peut en aucun cas être considérée comme une réponse acceptable à l’appel à la haine (ainsi, des provocations préalables ne justifient nullement la violence).
Notes

1 Toutes les citations de textes religieux ou spirituels ont été proposées par les participants au groupe de travail de Beyrouth en fonction de leurs propres religions ou croyances et elles ne sont présentées qu’à titre d’illustration, ne visant aucunement l’exhaustivité.


4 Article 29, paragraphe 1 de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l’homme (1948).


7 Dans certaines circonstances, lorsque des acteurs non étatiques exercent un contrôle significatif et effectif sur un territoire et une population (par exemple en tant qu’autorités de fait), ils sont assujettis à des obligations et sont eux aussi obligés de respecter les droits internationaux de l’homme (voir les documents des Nations Unies : CEDAW/C/GC/30, para. 16 et A/HRC/28/66, para. 54 et 55).


[Ce texte a été traduit en français par Madame Marie Naudon, volontaire auprès de « UN Volunteers », plateforme de travail coopératif au sein des Nations Unies. Nous lui exprimons notre sincère gratitude pour son travail de qualité.]
إعلان بيروت: "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"

الطريق إلى الله بعد نفيس الخلافة (جلال الدين الرومي)

1. نحن أطراف المجتمع المدني والمنظمات المعنية بالدين والمعتقد العامون في مجال حقوق الإنسان، المجتمعون في بيروت يومي 28 و29 مارس 2017 تتوعد إسنادا متوافق من المشاريع التي أطلقتها المنظمة العالمية للأمم المتحدة لحقوق الإنسان، نعرب عن قناعتنا العميقة بأن كافة الأديان والمعتقدات تتلاقى في الاعتقاد أن الإنسان هو تجسيد للإنسانية المشتركة والكرامة المشتركة. تشكلان معًا جذور المسؤولية والمسؤولية الاجتماعية التي تضمن أن الأديان والمعتقدات ينبغي أن تغرس أ독مة في الحياة، و것 ذلك في محور الجمهورية المشتركة وفقا لل点多بيان ووطنيتها.

2. نحن على قناعة بأن الأديان والمعتقدات تضمن كافة الاستحقاقات البشرية غير القابلة للتصرف بدءاً بالحفاظ على الحق في الحياة، وحرية التفكير، والدين، والمعتقد والتعبير، وصولاً إلى الحرية من العوز والخوف، بما في ذلك الحرية من العناصر المشتركة وحقوق الإنسان، وحرية التعبير والتحديات وتوريث التحرر من العنف، والتمييز، والكراهية الدينية.

3. استنادًا لما تقدم، ضمن جملة مصادر إيمانية أخرى، نؤكد على قناعتنا بأن الأديان والمعتقدات هي أحد المصادر الأساسية لرياضة أقصى الأخلاق، وال IPPROTOج، والمساهمة في تكريس فكرة وحيدية من النوع البشري، وندعو إلى توزيعها في الحياة والاجتماعية وفقا للقوانين والمواثيق في قلب المجتمع بشكل معميق.

4. نضيف أن للدين جائزة خاصة ومنهجية، ونشأ الله لجعلهم أمة واحدة ولكن يعذّبهم في ما اتّخاذ فاستبيروا الخيرات إلى الله مزيج عاما، فليت كن له بسببهم بما كنوه في نفوقهم للقرون، المادية: 48، "كلم إملاء شجرة واحدة، وأوراق غصن واحد" (بهاء الله).
الإيمان والعمل يدا واحدة وقلب واحدا للاستفادة من المحاولات السابقة لتقريب الإيمان والحقوق من خلال فضلا عن المتلاعبين الذين يُحَمِّليه هذه الطريق بشكل لا لبس فيه من خلال العمل كافٍ إلى فعل، عندها أن تتم مراجعتها بانتظام من قبل تحالفنا العالمي حول "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق".

إن إعلان التعهدات الثمانية عشر حول "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق" نوجه إلى أتباع الديانات المختلفة في مختلف أنحاء العالم، بهدف تعزيز المجتمعات المشتركة والسلبية والذين يتعرضون الاختلاف. ويتضمن هذا الإعلان أرضية مشتركة قائمة على أسلوب الإيجابي، وعلو تفاوت بين كل الأطراف المعنية وتظل متغيرة لجميع الجهات التي تستهدف نفس غايات هذا الإعلان. ونحن نقدر أن إعلان "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"، مثل "برنامج عمل الـ18 التحديات"، مشتركة قائمة على التمتع أو العفو أو الجهود، ونعمل على التنوع والتفاني في المجتمعات، فضلاً عن المستفيدين الذين يمارسون الترحيب على حساب كرامة الإنسان المستوية وعذر القائمة للتقريب. ويجب إعلان "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"، مما يهدف إلى القضاء على العنف والعنف والظلم والظلم والظلم والظلم...

1. نحن على قناعة بأنه لا حرية دينية ولا حرية معتقدية لم تتحم حرية الفكر والمعرفة التي تسبق كافة المهارات لأنها ترتبط بكونية الإنسان، فهذا الإعلان، وهو يسوي للبحوث والتنبؤ والاحترام، وله شاء رَبُّك لأمن من الأراضي يفهم جميع أثره ولهائمه، فاقتلت نَكَّة الناس حتى يكونوا مُؤمنين.

2. نحن نسلط على جميع الجماعات القائمة على الإيمان والمعتقد تحتاج إلى قيادة حازمة تنهي هذا الطريق بشكل لا يشبهه من خلال العمل لضمان كرامة الإنسان المشتركة بين المجتمعات، ونعمل على التعمير في المجتمعات المشتركين للحرية المتعلقة بالوضع الذي يسعهم بها كل كائن يشعري. ونتعهّد بدليل قضاء جميع من أجل إرساء قواعد القيادة المشتركة لجماعة المؤمنين بالحقوق من خلال حماية الحرية والتلوّن عبر نشاطات "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق".

3. وننسب وما سأولهما فجورها وفتقراها، فإذا ألم من زُهاها وقد خاب من ذمها" (القرآن، الشمس: 7-9).

4. إن إعلان التعهدات الثمانية عشر حول "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق" نوجه إلى أتباع الديانات المختلفة، ونعمل على البند، والابتعاد عن جماعات الموت، ونعمل على التمتع من خلال العمل لضمان كرامة الإنسان المشتركة بين المجتمعات المستوية وعذر القائمة للتقريب. ويجب إعلان "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"، مما يهدف إلى القضاء على العنف والعنف والظلم والظلم والظلم...

5. نحن على قناعة بأنه لا حرية دينية ولا حرية معتقدية لم تتحم حرية الفكر والمعرفة التي تسبق كافة المهارات لأنها ترتبط بكونية الإنسان، فهذا الإعلان، وهو يسوي للبحوث والتنبؤ والاحترام، وله شاء رَبُّك لأمن من الأراضي يفهم جميع أثره ولهائمه، فاقتلت نَكَّة الناس حتى يكونوا مُؤمنين.

6. نحن ننظر معاً بموجب إعلان بيروت والتعهدات الثمانية عشر حول "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"، أي نحل نشاط قوي ولكن سلمي، لمواجهة أثاثاتها، ومصالحنا الدينية وال الإسلامي والاجتماعية، وهذه تلعب عن رؤية مشتركة لمسؤولياتها وتحيز الدعوة إلى فل، عندما يُكَبَّر من خلال عناية الآخرين الذين لا يرون الإيمان، أو المعتدي، أو المتلاعبين الذين يتظاهرون بشكل لا لبس فيه من خلال العمل كافٍ إلى فعل، عندها أن تتم مراجعتها بانتظام من قبل تحالفناorld-wide من أجل "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق".

7. إن إعلان التعهدات الثمانية عشر حول "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق" نوجه إلى أتباع الديانات المختلفة في مختلف أنحاء العالم، بهدف تعزيز المجتمعات المشتركة والسلبية والذين يتعرضون الاختلاف. ويتضمن هذا الإعلان أرضية مشتركة قائمة على أسلوب الإيجابي، وعلو تفاوت بين كل الأطراف المعنية وتظل متغيرة لجميع الجهات التي تستهدف نفس غايات هذا الإعلان. ونحن نقدر أن إعلان "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"، مثل "برنامج عمل الـ18 التحديات"، مثل "برنامج عمل الـ18 التحديات"، مثل "برنامج عمل الـ18 التحديات"، مثل "برنامج عمل الـ18 التحديات"، مثل "برنامج عمل الـ18 التحديات"، مثل "برنامج عمل الـ18 التحديات"، مثل "برنامج عمل الـ18 التحديات"، مثل "برنامج عمل الـ18 التحديات"، مثل "برنامج عمل الـ18 التحديات"، مثل "برنامج WORK程式 global alliance في جميع المجالات، وتكون مصممة ونفذت برعاية ودعم من الأمم المتحدة، بأنه من خلال العمل والتضامن مع من أجل "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق".

8. لقد سعت العديد من المبادرات التي لقيت ترحيبًا على مر الزمن إلى ربط الإيمان بالحقوق، بما يعود بالفائدة على الطرح، ولكنها لم تحقق أهدافها المرجوة بالكامل. وبالتالي أرادنا القيام بأننا يجب تمكين الأطراف الفاعلين في الدين، سواء على المستوى الوطني أو الدولي، على البحث عن حلول مشتركة ضد التطرف، وقد تسببت هذه الخطوة في المجتمعات، فضلاً عن المستفيدين الذين يمارسون الترحيب على حساب كرامة الإنسان المستوية وعذر القائمة للتقريب. ويجب إعلان "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"، مما يهدف إلى القضاء على العنف والعنف والظلم والظلم والظلم...

9. واستنادًا إلى الإعلان، فإننا نعتزم أيضًا تنفيذ ما تدعيه من خلال تأسيس تحالف متعدد المتون، مقتضى على جميع الأطراف الدينية المستقلّين والمنظمات القائمة على الإيمان الذين يظهرون بصدق قبولهم بإعلان "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"، وتعزوهم به من خلال تنفيذ مشاكل على الأرض في مجالات تساهم في تحقيق هذه الغاية. كما أنا سأسعى خطة طريق للعمل الملموس في ميادين محددة، على أن يتم مراجعتها بانتظام من قبل تحالفنا العالمي حول "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق".
 بغية تحقيق الهدف المذكور أعلاه، نتعهّد، كمؤمنين (سواء في ذلك العقائد التوحيدية أو اللا التوحيدية أو اللا دينية أو غير ذلك) بتحوَّل الحوارات التقليدية ما بين الأديان إلى مشاريع عمل منسوبة مرتبطَة "بالإيمان من أجل الحقوق" وقائمة على المستوى المحلي. ورغم أن الحوار مهم، إلا أنه ليس هدفًّا حداً ذاته. فهمية التوافقيَّة الحسنة محدودة من دون العمل الماكتب لها. فالتيَّجر على الأرض هو الهدف، والعمل المشترك هو الوسيلة المنطقيَّة لتحقيقه.

10. "الإيمان ما وقر في القلوب وصدقه العمل" (حديث نبوي)

11. إن أدائنا ومصرد قوتنا الأساسيين يتلخص في قدرتنا على النفوذ إلى منطاق التعاون من المؤمنين من المؤمنين بطريقة وقائية متصلة تجعل داععنا المشاركة التي يرجِّحها إعلان "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق". إن التحدث بصوت واحد فائق عن الكرامة المشتركة لجميع الناس فيما يتبعه مساوات تطير تحديات مشتركة للإنسانية فقط بالتراويق قضيتي الإيمان والحقوق. وهو إعلان يضمن حق جميع البشر في التمتع بالأحرار الكامل والمساوي وليس فقط الفيول بهم بغض النظر عن توابعهم أو نسبهم أو الإسلام أو الهوية أو الجنسية. ويعتقدون أو لا يعتقدون. ومن واجبنا أن نتمسَّك بهذا الإعلان ومنصباً للمجالات من مجالات اختصاصنا. كما نشجع جميع المؤمنين على تحمل مسؤولياتهم الفردية مفاعلاً عن قيمتهم التي تعمَّد بها والملوحة بالعدل والمساواة ومسؤولياتهم تجاه المحتاجين والمحرومين في جميع شرائحنا. 

12. "الناس صنفان إما أخ لك في الدين أو نظير لك في الخلق." (الإمام علي بن أبي طالب).

"في رحلة الإنسان الطويلة، الإيمان هو أفضل رفيق." (ويلز).
مسيرة "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق" السنوية والتي تحمل معنى سامية كبيرة عبر عمل رمزي غني بالتعبير عن وحدتنا في التزوع كل يوم 10 ديسمبر من كل سنة في كل أنحاء العالم.

13. سيظل إرسال الروية المشتركة للأطراف الدينية التي تتبني هذا الإعلان، على أساس خطة عمل الرباط لعام 2012 واجتماعات المنظمة الأفقاء عليها، نقطة تحوّل تجريد قرى القفطان من أصلتها. وتعتبر نماذج في فض الحالة المشابكة بين الخوف والكراءية. وكلاهما مع الهجهد يوقع العنف باسم الدين وينافق بذلك أسس الحق في التسامح والتعايش.

14. إن تبني بالإجمال في العالم يمثل إيصال الرؤية المشتركة لطرائف الدينية التي تتبنى هذا الإعلان، على أساس خطّة الرباط لعام 2012 واجتماعات المتابعة اللاحقة عليه، نقطة تحول لتوجيه الأسلحة من أسلحتها. و reklm ردً على أنّها "كل فرد وأياده ناهج المجتمع حيث يمكن تطور الشخصيّة بكل حر وكوثر"، فتأتي اتجاية مجتمع المؤمنين غير المؤمنين هو ممارسة ما تبديل به، والانخراط التام في حركة مجتمعاتنا وتحدي نحن على أرض الواقع دفاع عن كرامة الإنسان قبل أن تتعرّض لتهديد طويل.

15. إن التمثيل الدينية والأطر القانونيّة الدوليّة القائمة تركز ووجود مسؤوليات على الأطراف الدينية. ولذا فإن تمكين الأطراف الفاعلة الدينية يتطلب خطوات مبدعة في مجالات متعددة على غرار التحريج، والإصلاحات المؤسسة، والسياسات العامة الداعمة والأنشطة الدينية التي يراعي حاجات الأطراف الفاعلة الدينية على المستوى المحلي الذي غالبًا ما تكون هي أحد المصدرين الرئيسيين للتعليم والتغيير الاجتماعي في مجالات عالمية. وقد حددت المواقف والاتفاقيات الدولية مفاهيم قانونية رئيسيّة مثل الإبادة الجماعيّة، اللاجئين، التمييز الديني وحريّة الدين أو المعتقد.

16. نتيجة لذلك، نشهد بأنّنا مسؤولون تجاه الناس جميعاً عن تصحيح الطرائف التي تصدر الأفكار والتي غالبًا ما ينالّها التلاعب بها. نحن مسؤولون عن أعمالنا ومسؤولون أكثر إذا لم نتصرّف أو لم نتّخذ خطوات صحيحة وتصحيحية في الوقت المناسب.

الثوابت 18}

"فأقنعه فكِّي فأقنعه فكِّي فأقنعه فكِّي فأقنعه فكِّي فأقنعه فكِّي فأقنعه فكِّي فأقنعه

17. ففي حين تتحمّل الدول المسؤولية الأساسية المتمثلة في دعم وحماية كل الحقوق لكل الناس على الصعيد الفردي والجماعي، من أجل الاستمتع بحياة كريمة لا خوف فيها ولا عوز، والتمجيح بشكل الاجتماعي في جميع مجالات حياتهم، فإنه يقع على عهدها تحمل أطراف الدينية قاعلاً أو كمؤمنين أفراد مسؤولية حياة إنسانيّتنا المشتركة والكرامة المتساوية لكل إنسان في كافة الظروف ضمن مجالاتنا الخاصة بالدعوة والتعليم والانخراط الروحي والاجتماعية.

"من رأى منكم منكراً فليغيره بيده، فإن لم يسيطع فليس به منكم منكراً."

Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on
18. إن المجتمعات الدينية وقادتها وآتباعها يضطرون بأدوار هامة وتقع على عاتقهم مسؤوليات مستقلة عن السلطات العمومية بوجه مرجعيات قانونية وطنية ودولية على السواء. فالمادة 2 (1) من إعلان الأمم المتحدة لعام 1981 بشأن القضاء على جميع أشكال التمييز والتعصب القانوني على أساس الدين أو العقد ينص على وجود أن "لا يترفع أحد للتمييز من قبل أي مادة أو مؤسسة أو مجموعة أشخاص أو شحش على أساس الدين أو العقد". وتحدد أحكام هذه المادة المسؤوليات المباشرة للمؤسسات والقادرين الدينية وحتى كل فرد ضمن المجتمعات الدينية أو العقلانية.

19. يقدر ما يوفر مفهوم السيطرة الفعالة؟ أساس مسؤوليات الأطراف غير الحكومية في أوقات النزاع، فإذا نرى مبرراً قانونياً واختلافاً مناظراً في حالة القادة الدينين الذين يمارسون درجة مرفوعة من النفوذ على قلوب وآذهان أتباعهم في كافة الأوقات.

20. إن الكلمة الطيبة بكافة أشكالها ووسائلها هي أداة أساسية من أجل الانتفاض وإطلاع الفري والجماعي، فالخطاب بشكل أحد أكثر الأدوات أهمية للجانبين الخير والشرير للإنسان. تبدأ الحرب في الأذهان وتطورها أفكاراً غالبًا ما تتوجها الدعوة إلى الكراهية. كما أن الخطاب الإيجابي يشكل أداة شفافية مصالحة وبناء للسلام في القلوب والأذهان. إن الخطاب هو أحد أكثر المجالات استراتيجية على صعيد المسؤولية التي تلزم بتحملها ودعم بعضنا البعض من أجل تطبيقها من خلال إعلان "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق" هذا اطلاقاً من المسؤوليات التي حددتها خطأ عمل الرباط لعام 2012.

21. بموجب العهد الدولي الخاص بالحقوق المدنية والسياسية (المادة 20، الفقرة 2)، يتوجب على الدول حظر دعوة إلى الكراهية القومية أو العنصرية أو الدينية. إن هذه الدعوات قد تترقى إلى مرتبة تفوقاً حادة مع الأمانة أو العدالة أو العنف. يشمل ذلك التعرض للكراهية من قبل بعض القادة الدينين باسم الدين، ويشمل موقف المتطرف، وسباق الخطاء، وتحدياً، وتهويها ونطاقها. فقد ترتقي هذه البيانات التي يطلقها القادة الدينين إلى مرتبة التعرض على الكراهية، غير أن حظر مثل هذا التعرض ليس كافياً. فالدعوة التصحيحية إلى المصالحة هي واجب أيضاً، وذلك بالنسبة إلى القادة الدينين، لا سيما حين تتعرض الدعوة إلى الكراهية باسم الدين أو المعتقد.

22. إن التوجه الأوضح والأحدث في هذا المجال وفرته خطة عمل الرابطة لعام 2012 والتي حددت مسؤوليات أساسية للقادرين الدينين: (أ) على القادة الدينين الانتماء عن استخدام وسائل التمييز والتعصب والتعديات، قد تترفع على العنف أو العدالة أو التمييز؛ (ب) لقيادة الدينين أيضاً دور مهم يضطرون به في التحدث بشكل حازم وصريح ضد التمييز والقولب النمطي التميزي حالة حساب الكراهية؛ و(ج) على القادة الدينين أن يكونوا واضحين في تأكيد أنه لا يمكن أبداً السماح بالعنف كرد فعل على التعرض على الكراهية (أي لا يمكن تبرير العنف بالاستفزاز السببي).
杀 \ preservation of religious or belief-oriented freedoms and freedoms in the religious aspect, it is important to emphasize that the Declaration on the Protection of All Individuals against Discrimination in Matters Relating to Public Administration and Services, and the Prevention of Abuses, Discrimination, and Intolerance, was first adopted in 1998. It was later revised in 2004. The revised version emphasizes the importance of ensuring that individuals are protected from discrimination in matters related to public administration and services, and the prevention of abuses, discrimination, and intolerance. 

Moreover, the Declaration also calls on states to adopt measures to ensure that individuals are not discriminated against based on their religious or belief-oriented freedoms. It also emphasizes the importance of ensuring that individuals are not discriminated against in matters relating to public administration and services, and the prevention of abuses, discrimination, and intolerance. 

Finally, the Declaration calls on states to ensure that individuals are not discriminated against based on their religious or belief-oriented freedoms in matters relating to public administration and services, and the prevention of abuses, discrimination, and intolerance. It also emphasizes the importance of ensuring that individuals are not discriminated against in matters relating to public administration and services, and the prevention of abuses, discrimination, and intolerance.
The 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”

We commit...
18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”

English version

We, faith-based and civil society actors working in the field of human rights and gathered in Beirut on 28-29 March 2017, express the deep conviction that our respective religions and beliefs share a common commitment to **upholding the dignity and the equal worth of all human beings**. Shared human values and equal dignity are therefore common roots of our cultures. Faith and rights should be mutually reinforcing spheres. Individual and communal expression of religions or beliefs thrive and flourish in environments where human rights, based on the equal worth of all individuals, are protected. Similarly, human rights can benefit from deeply rooted ethical and spiritual foundations provided by religions or beliefs.

The present declaration on “Faith for Rights” reaches out to persons belonging to religions and beliefs in all regions of the world, with a view to enhancing cohesive, peaceful and respectful societies on the basis of a common action-oriented platform agreed by all concerned and open to all actors that share its objectives. We value that our declaration on Faith for Rights, like its founding precedent the Rabat Plan of Action, were both conceived and conducted under the auspices and with the support of the United Nations that represents all peoples of the world, and enriched by UN human rights mechanisms such as Special Rapporteurs and Treaty Body members.

The 2012 Rabat Plan of Action\(^1\) articulates three specific core responsibilities of religious leaders: (a) Religious leaders should refrain from using messages of intolerance or expressions which may incite violence, hostility or discrimination; (b) Religious leaders also have a crucial role to play in speaking out firmly and promptly against intolerance, discriminatory stereotyping and instances of hate speech; and (c) Religious leaders should be clear that violence can never be tolerated as a response to incitement to hatred (e.g. violence cannot be justified by prior provocation).

In order to give concrete effect to the above three core responsibilities articulated by the Rabat Plan of Action, which has repeatedly been positively invoked by States, we formulate the following chart of **18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”**,\(^2\) including corresponding follow-up actions:

I. Our most fundamental responsibility is to **stand up and act for everyone’s right to free choices** and particularly for everyone’s freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief. We affirm our commitment to the universal norms\(^3\) and standards\(^4\), including Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which does not permit any limitations whatsoever on the freedom of thought and conscience or on the freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of one’s choice. These freedoms, unconditionally protected by universal norms, are also sacred and inalienable entitlements according to religious teachings.

- “There shall be no compulsion in religion.” (Qu’ran 2:256);
- “The Truth is from your Lord; so let he or she who please believe and let he or she who please disbelieve” (Qu’ran 18:29);
- “But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...” (Joshua 24:15)
- “No one shall coerce another; no one shall exploit another. Everyone, each individual, has the inalienable birth right to seek and pursue happiness and self-fulfilment. Love and persuasion is the only law of social coherence.” (Guru Granth Sahib, p. 74)
- “When freedom of conscience, liberty of thought and right of speech prevail—that is to say, when every man according to his own idealization may give expression to his beliefs—development and growth are inevitable.” (‘Abdu’l-Bahá)
- “People should aim to treat each other as they would like to be treated themselves – with tolerance, consideration and compassion.” (Golden Rule)\(^5\)
II. We see the present declaration on “Faith for Rights” as a **common minimum standard for believers (whether theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other)**, based on our conviction that interpretations of religion or belief should add to the level of protection of human dignity that human-made laws provide for.

III. As religions are necessarily subject to human interpretations, we commit to **promote constructive engagement on the understanding of religious texts**. Consequently, critical thinking and debate on religious matters should not only be tolerated but rather encouraged as a requirement for enlightened religious interpretations in a globalized world composed of increasingly multi-cultural and multi-religious societies that are constantly facing evolving challenges.

IV. We pledge to **support and promote equal treatment** in all areas and manifestations of religion or belief and to denounce all forms of discriminatory practices. We commit to **prevent the use of the notion of “State religion” to discriminate against any individual or group** and we consider any such interpretation as contrary to the oneness of humanity and equal dignity of humankind. Similarly, we commit to prevent the use of “doctrinal secularism” from reducing the space for religious or belief pluralism in practice.

- “Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism’.” (Acts 10:34)

V. We pledge to **ensure non-discrimination and gender equality** in implementing this declaration on “Faith for Rights”. We specifically commit to revisit, each within our respective areas of competence, those religious understandings and interpretations that appear to perpetuate gender inequality and harmful stereotypes or even condone gender-based violence. We pledge to ensure justice and equal worth of everyone as well as to affirm the right of all women, girls and boys not to be subjected to any form of discrimination and violence, including harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, child and/or forced marriages and crimes committed in the name of so-called honour.

- “A man should respect his wife more than he respects himself and love her as much as he loves himself.” (Talmud, Yebamot, 62b)
- “Never will I allow to be lost the work of any one among you, whether male or female; for you are of one another.” (Qu’ran 3, 195)
- “O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another.” (Qur’an 49:13)
- “In the image of God He created him male and female. He created them.” (Genesis 1, 27)
- “The best among you is he who is best to his wife” (Hadith)
- “It is a woman who is a friend and partner for life. It is woman who keeps the race going. How may we think low of her of whom are born the greatest. From a woman a woman is born: none may exist without a woman.” (Guru Granth Sahib, p. 473)
- “The world of humanity is possessed of two wings - the male and the female. So long as these two wings are not equivalent in strength the bird will not fly. Until womankind reaches the same degree as man, until she enjoys the same arena of activity, extraordinary attainment for humanity will not be realized” (‘Abdu’l-Bahá)
- “A comprehensive, holistic and effective approach to capacity-building should aim to engage influential leaders, such as traditional and religious leaders [...]” (Joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices, CEDAW/C/GC/31-ORC/C/GC/18, para. 70)

VI. We pledge to **stand up for the rights of all persons belonging to minorities** within our respective areas of action and to defend their freedom of religion or belief as well as their right to participate equally and effectively in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life, as recognized by international human rights law, as a minimum standard of solidarity among all believers.
VII. We pledge to publicly denounce all instances of advocacy of hatred that incites to violence, discrimination or hostility, including those that lead to atrocity crimes. We bear a direct responsibility to denounce such advocacy, particularly when it is conducted in the name of religion or belief.

- "Now this is the command: Do to the doer to make him do." (Ancient Egyptian Middle Kingdom);
- "Repay injury with justice and kindness with kindness." (Confucius)
- "What is hateful to you, don’t do to your friend." (Talmud, Shabat, 31.a)
- "Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care for people will hear them and be influenced by them for good or ill." (Buddha)
- "By self-control and by making dharma (right conduct) your main focus, treat others as you treat yourself." (Mahābhārata)
- "You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against your kinsfolk. Love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18)
- "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Matthew 7:12)
- "Ascribe not to any soul that which thou wouldst not have ascribed to thee, and say not that which thou doest not." (Bahá’u’lláh)

VIII. We therefore pledge to establish, each within our respective spheres, policies and methodologies to monitor interpretations, determinations or other religious views that manifestly conflict with universal human rights norms and standards, regardless of whether they are pronounced by formal institutions or by self-appointed individuals. We intend to assume this responsibility in a disciplined objective manner only within our own respective areas of competence in an introspective manner, without judging the faith or beliefs of others.

- "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Bible, Matthew 7:1-2)
- "Habituate your heart to mercy for the subjects and to affection and kindness for them… since they are of two kinds, either your brother in religion or one like you in creation…So, extend to them your forgiveness and pardon, in the same way as you would like Allah to extend His forgiveness and pardon to you”—(Letter from Caliph Ali to Malik Ashtar, Governor of Egypt)
- "The essential purpose of the religion of God is to establish unity among mankind. The divine Manifestations were Founders of the means of fellowship and love. They did not come to create discord, strife and hatred in the world. The religion of God is the cause of love, but if it is made to be the source of enmity and bloodshed, surely its absence is preferable to its existence; for then it becomes satanic, detrimental and an obstacle to the human world." (‘Abdu’l-Bahá)

IX. We also pledge to refrain from, advocate against and jointly condemn any judgemental public determination by any actor who in the name of religion aims at disqualifying the religion or belief of another individual or community in a manner that would expose them to violence in the name of religion or deprivation of their human rights.

X. We pledge not to give credence to exclusionary interpretations claiming religious grounds in a manner that would instrumentalize religions, beliefs or their followers to incite hatred and violence, for example for electoral purposes or political gains.

XI. We equally commit not to oppress critical voices and views on matters of religion or belief, however wrong or offensive they may be perceived, in the name of the “sanctity” of the subject matter and we urge States that still have anti-blasphemy or anti-apostasy laws to repeal them, since such laws have a stifling impact on the enjoyment of freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief as well as on healthy dialogue and debate about religious issues.
XII. We commit to further **refine the curriculums, teaching materials and textbooks** wherever some religious interpretations, or the way they are presented, may give rise to the perception of condoning violence or discrimination. In this context, we pledge to promote respect for pluralism and diversity in the field of religion or belief as well as the right not to receive religious instruction that is inconsistent with one’s conviction. We also commit to **defend the academic freedom and freedom of expression**, in line with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, within the religious discourse in order to promote that religious thinking is capable of confronting new challenges as well as facilitating free and creative thinking. We commit to support efforts in the area of religious reforms in educational and institutional areas.

> “The only possible basis for a sound morality is mutual tolerance and respect.” (A.J. Ayer)

XIII. We pledge to build on experiences and lessons learned in **engaging with children and youth**, who are either victims of or vulnerable to incitement to violence in the name of religion, in order to design methodologies and adapted tools and narratives to enable religious communities to deal with this phenomenon effectively, with particular attention to the important role of parents and families in detecting and addressing early signs of vulnerability of children and youth to violence in the name of religion.

> “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

XIV. We pledge to promote, within our respective spheres of influence, the imperative necessity of ensuring **respect in all humanitarian assistance activities** of the Principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response Programmes, especially that aid is given regardless of the recipients’ creed and without adverse distinction of any kind and that aid will not be used to further a particular religious standpoint.

XV. We pledge **neither to coerce people nor to exploit persons in vulnerable situations** into converting from their religion or belief, while fully respecting everyone’s freedom to have, adopt or change a religion or belief and the right to manifest it through teaching, practice, worship and observance, either individually or in community with others and in public or private.

XVI. We commit to **leverage the spiritual and moral weight of religions and beliefs** with the aim of strengthening the protection of universal human rights and developing preventative strategies that we adapt to our local contexts, benefitting from the potential support of relevant United Nations entities.

> “Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these” (Mark 12, 31)
> “But love your enemies, do good to them and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great” (Luke 6, 35)
> “The God-conscious being is always unstained, like the sun, which gives its comfort and warmth to all. The God-conscious being looks upon all alike, like the wind, which blows equally upon the king and the poor beggar.” (Guru Granth Sahib p. 272)
> “The religion of God and His divine law are the most potent instruments and the surest of all means for the dawning of the light of unity amongst men. The progress of the world, the development of nations, the tranquility of peoples, and the peace of all who dwell on earth are among the principles and ordinances of God.”(Bahá’u’lláh)

XVII. We commit to support each other at the implementation level of this declaration through **exchange of practices**, mutual capacity enhancement and regular activities of skills updating for religious and spiritual preachers, teachers and instructors, notably in areas of communication, religious or belief minorities, inter-community mediation, conflict resolution, early detection of communal tensions...
and remedial techniques. In this vein, we shall explore means of developing sustained partnerships with specialised academic institutions so as to promote interdisciplinary research on specific questions related to faith and rights and to benefit from their outcomes that could feed into the programs and tools of our coalition on Faith for Rights.

XVIII. We pledge to use technological means more creatively and consistently in order to disseminate this declaration and subsequent Faith for Rights messages to enhance cohesive societies enriched by diversity, including in the area of religions and beliefs. We will also consider means to produce empowering capacity-building and outreach tools and make them available in different languages for use at the local level.

Endnotes

1 See UN Doc. A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, annex, appendix, para. 36.

2 See Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: “(1) Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching. (2) No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair his freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice. (3) Freedom to manifest one’s religion or beliefs may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others. (4) The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions.”


4 These include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief (1981); Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992); Principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response Programmes (1994); UNESCO Declaration on Principles of Tolerance (1995); Final Document of the International Consultative Conference on School Education in Relation to Freedom of Religion or Belief, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination (2001); Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools (2007); United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007); The Hague Statement on “Faith in Human Rights” (2008); Camden Principles on Freedom of Expression and Equality (2009); Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 on Combating Intolerance, Negative Stereotyping and Stigmatization of, and Discrimination, Incitement to Violence and Violence against, Persons Based on Religion or Belief (and Istanbul Process, 2011); Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (2012); Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes (2014); Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2015); as well as the Fez Declaration on preventing incitement to violence that could lead to atrocity crimes (2015).

5 All quotations from religious or belief texts were offered by participants of the Beirut workshop in relation to their own religion or belief and are merely intended to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

| 1 | ...to stand up and act for everyone’s right to free choices, particularly for everyone’s freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief |
| 2 | ...to use the declaration on “Faith for Rights” as a common minimum standard of interaction between theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other believers |
| 3 | ...to promote constructive engagement on the understanding of religious texts through critical thinking and debate on religious matters |
| 4 | ...to prevent the notions of “State religion” and “doctrinal secularism” from being used to discriminate or reduce the space for diversity of religions and beliefs |
| 5 | ...to ensure non-discrimination and gender equality, particularly regarding harmful stereotypes and practices or gender-based violence |
| 6 | ...to stand up for the rights of all persons belonging to minorities and to defend their freedom of religion or belief, particularly in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life |
| 7 | ...to publicly denounce all instances of advocacy of hatred that incites to violence, discrimination or hostility in the name of religion or belief |
| 8 | ...to monitor our own interpretations, determinations or other religious views that manifestly conflict with universal human rights norms and standards |
| 9 | ...to condemn any judgemental public determination by any actor who in the name of religion disqualifies the religion or belief of another individual or community |
| 10 | ...not to tolerate exclusionary interpretations on religious grounds which instrumentalize religions, beliefs or their followers for electoral purposes or political gains |
| 11 | ...not to oppress critical voices on religious matters in the name of “sanctity”, and to advocate for repealing any anti-blasphemy and anti-apostasy laws |
| 12 | ...to review the curriculums and teaching materials wherever some religious interpretations seem to encourage or tolerate violence or discrimination |
| 13 | ...to engage with children and youth, who are either victims of or vulnerable to incitement to violence in the name of religion |
| 14 | ...to ensure that humanitarian aid is given regardless of the recipients’ creed and that aid will not be used to further a particular religious standpoint |
| 15 | ...not to coerce people in vulnerable situations into converting from their religion or belief, while fully respecting everyone’s freedom to have, adopt or change a religion or belief |
| 16 | ...to leverage the spiritual and moral weight of religions and beliefs in order to strengthen the protection of universal human rights and develop preventative strategies |
| 17 | ...to develop sustained partnerships with specialised academic institutions to promote interdisciplinary research, programs and tools on the implementation of the 18 commitments |

**We commit...**

**Faith for Rights**
Les 18 engagements concernant « La foi pour les droits »

Nous, acteurs de la société civile et organisations concernés par la foi et engagés dans le domaine des droits de l’homme, réunis à Beyrouth les 28 et 29 mars 2017, exprimons la profonde conviction que nos religions et croyances respectives partagent un engagement commun destiné à promouvoir la dignité et l’égalité de tous les êtres humains. Les valeurs d’humanité et d’égalité en dignité que nous partageons sont par conséquent les racines communes de nos cultures. La foi et les droits doivent être des domaines qui se renforcent mutuellement. Les expressions individuelles et communes des religions ou croyances prospèrent et fleurissent dans des environnements où les droits de l’homme, basés sur l’égalité entre tous les individus, sont protégés. De la même manière, les droits de l’homme peuvent bénéficier de fondements éthiques et spirituels profondément enracinés dans les religions et croyances.

La présente déclaration relative à «La foi pour les droits» s’adresse à toutes les personnes appartenant à toutes les religions et croyances de toutes les régions du monde, avec pour objectif de favoriser des sociétés inclusives, pacifiques et respectueuses sur la base d’une plateforme commune orientée vers des actions acceptées par tous les acteurs qui partagent ses objectifs. Nous valorisons le fait que notre déclaration relative à « La foi pour les droits », tout comme son acte fondateur, le Plan d’action de Rabat de 2012, ont été conçus et menés sous les auspices et avec le soutien des Nations Unies, qui englobent tous les peuples du monde et enrichis par les mécanismes de l’ONU relatifs aux droits de l’homme, notamment des rapports spéciaux et des membres des organes de traités des droits de l’homme.

Le Plan d’action de Rabat de 2012 définit trois responsabilités clés spécifiques des dirigeants religieux : (a) les dirigeants religieux doivent s’abstenir d’utiliser des messages d’intolérance ou des expressions susceptibles d’inciter à la violence, à l’hostilité ou à la discrimination ; (b) les dirigeants religieux jouent également un rôle crucial dans l’expression prompte et ferme contre l’intolérance, les stéréotypes discriminatoires et les discours haineux ; et (c) les dirigeants religieux doivent clairement affirmer que la violence ne peut jamais être tolérée comme une réponse à l’incitation à la haine. La violence ne peut pas être justifiée par une provocation préalable.

Afin de concrétiser de façon tangible les trois responsabilités clés mentionnées ci-dessus et définies par le Plan d’action de Rabat que les États ont évoqué à plusieurs reprises de manière positive, nous formulons la charte suivante de 18 engagements relatifs à «La foi pour les droits», ainsi que les actions de suivi correspondantes :

I. Notre responsabilité la plus fondamentale consiste à agir pour protéger le droit de chacun à choisir librement, notamment la liberté de pensée, de conscience, de religion ou de croyance. Nous affirmons notre engagement en faveur des normes et des standards universels, y compris, l’Article 18 du Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques, qui ne permet aucune dérogation à la liberté de pensée, de conscience ou à la liberté d’avoir ou d’adopter une religion ou une croyance de son choix. Ces libertés, protégées inconditionnellement par des normes universelles, sont également des droits sacrés et inaliénables selon les enseignements religieux.

- « Point de contrainte en religion. » (Coran 2:256)
- « La vérité vient de votre seigneur ; ainsi toute personne choisit de croire ou de ne pas croire. » (Coran 18:29)
- « Et s’il est mauvais à vos yeux de servir l’Eternel, choisissez aujourd’hui qui vous servirez…» (Josué 24,15)
- « Personne ne doit contraindre un autre ; personne ne doit exploiter un autre. Chacun, chaque individu a le droit inaliénable de chercher et de poursuivre le bonheur et l’épanouissement personnel. L’amour et la persuasion sont les seules lois de cohérence sociale. » (Guru Granth Sahib, p. 74)
- « Si la liberté de conscience, la liberté de penser et le droit de parler sont dominants, il faut dire que chaque personne selon sa propre idéalisation peut exprimer ses croyances. Le développement et la croissance sont inévitables. » (’Abdu’ll-Bahá)
- « Les gens devraient chercher à se traiter comme ils voudraient être traités eux-mêmes - avec tolérance, considération et compassion. » (Règle d’or)
II. Nous considérons la présente déclaration relative à « La foi pour les droits » comme un standard commun minimum pour les croyants (qu'ils soient théistes, non-théistes, athées ou autres), motivé par notre conviction que les interprétations des religions ou des croyances devraient renforcer la protection de la dignité humaine déjà prévue dans les lois faites par les hommes.

III. Comme les religions sont nécessairement sujettes aux interprétations humaines, nous nous engageons à promouvoir un engagement constructif dans la compréhension des textes religieux. Par conséquent, la réflexion critique et le débat sur les questions religieuses ne devraient pas seulement être tolérés, mais doivent même être encouragés comme une exigence pour toute interprétation religieuse éclairée dans un monde global, composé de sociétés de plus en plus multiculturelles et multi-religieuses qui sont confrontées à des défis en constante évolution.

IV. Nous promettons de soutenir et de promouvoir un traitement égal dans tous les domaines et manifestations de religion ou croyance et de dénoncer toutes les formes de pratiques discriminatoires. Nous nous engageons à éviter l'utilisation de la notion de « religion d'État » qui pourrait favoriser une discrimination entre les individus ou les groupes et nous considérons toute interprétation de « religion d'État » comme contraire à l'unité de l'humanité et à l'égale dignité entre tous les individus. De manière similaire, nous nous engageons à éviter qu'un « sécularisme doctrinal » réduise dans la pratique l'espace pour le pluralisme des religions ou des croyances.

V. Nous promettons de garantir la non-discrimination et l'égalité des sexes lors de la mise en œuvre de cette déclaration relative à « La foi pour les droits ». Nous nous engageons notamment à revisiter, dans le cadre de nos domaines respectifs de compétence, ces compréhensions et interprétations religieuses qui semblent perpétuer des inégalités entre hommes et femmes et des stéréotypes malveillants ou qui justifieraient même une violence fondée sur le sexe. Nous promettons de garantir la justice et l'égalité de tous et affirmons également le droit de toutes les femmes, filles et garçons, de n'être soumis à aucune forme de discrimination et de violence, y compris les pratiques néfastes, comme la mutilation génitale féminine, les mariages forcés et mariages d'enfants et les crimes commis au nom dudit honneur.

VI. Nous promettons de protéger les droits de toutes les personnes appartenant à des minorités dans le cadre de nos domaines respectifs d'action, et de défendre leur liberté de religion ou de croyance ainsi que leur droit à participer également et effectivement à la vie culturelle, religieuse, sociale, économique et publique, conformément au droit international des droits de l’homme, comme un standard minimum de solidarité parmi tous les croyants.
VII. Nous promettons de dénoncer publiquement toutes les instances d’incitation à la haine qui attisent la violence, la discrimination ou l’hostilité, y compris celles qui conduisent à des crimes atroces. Nous portons une responsabilité directe dans la dénonciation d’une telle incitation, particulièrement si elle est menée au nom d’une religion ou d’une croyance.

- « Maintenant, tel est le commandement : traite les autres comme tu voudrais être traité. » (Empire du Milieu Ancienne Egypte)
- « Réparer l’offense avec justice et la bonté avec bonté. » (Confucius)
- “Les mots prononcés devraient être utilisés avec soin car les gens les entendront et pourront être influencés par eux en bien ou en mal.” (Boudhha)
- « Grâce à la maîtrise de soi et au dharma (bonne conduite) qui devrait être ton principal objectif, traite les autres comme tu te traites toi-même. » (Mahabharata)
- « Tu ne te vengeras pas et tu ne garderas point de rancune contre les enfants de ton peuple. Tu aimeras ton prochain comme toi-même. » (Lévitique 19 :18)
- “Tout ce que vous voulez que les hommes fassent pour vous, faites-le de même pour eux, car c’est la loi et les prophètes.” (Matthieu 7 :12)
- « N’attribuez pas à n’importe quelle âme ce que vous ne voudriez pas vous voir attribuer et ne dites pas ce que vous ne faites pas. » (Bahá’u’lláh)

VIII. Par conséquent, nous promettons d’établir, chacun dans le cadre de nos sphères respectives, des politiques et méthodologies permettant le suivi des interprétations, déclarations ou autres opinions religieuses qui sont manifestement en conflit avec les normes et standards universels des droits de l’homme, qu’elles soient prononcées par des institutions officielles ou par des individus auto-définis. Nous souhaitons assumer cette responsabilité d’une manière objective et disciplinée, uniquement dans le cadre de nos domaines respectifs de compétence et de manière introspective, sans juger la foi ou les croyances d’autrui.

- « Ne jugez point, ou vous serez vous-même jugés. Car comme vous jugez autrui, vous serez jugés et la même mesure que vous utilisez sera utilisée pour vous. » (Bible, Matthieu 7 :1-2)
- « Habitez votre cœur à la miséricorde pour les autres et à l’affection et la bonté pour eux… étant qu’ils sont de deux natures, soit votre frère en religion ou une personne comme vous dans la création… Par conséquent, accordez-leur votre indulgence et votre pardon de la même manière que vous aimeriez qu’Allah vous accorde son indulgence et son pardon. » (Lettre de Caliph Ali à Malik Ashtar, Gouverneur de l’Egypte)
- « L’objectif essentiel de la religion de Dieu est d’établir une unité parmi l’humanité. Les manifestations divines étaient les fondateurs de l’amitié et de l’amour. Elles ne sont pas intervenues pour créer la discorde, le conflit et la haine dans le monde. La religion de Dieu est la cause de l’amour, mais si elle devient la source de l’hostilité et de l’effusion de sang, son absence est sûrement préférable à son existence ; car elle devient satanique, nuisible et un obstacle au monde humain. » (‘Abdu’l-Bahá)

IX. Nous promettons également de nous abstenir, de lutter contre et de condamner conjointement toute déclaration publique de tout acteur qui, au nom de la religion, vise à disqualifier la religion ou la croyance d’un autre individu ou d’une autre communauté, d’une manière qui pourrait les exposer à la violence au nom de la religion ou à une privation de leurs droits.

X. Nous promettons de n’accorder aucun crédit aux messages d’exclusion qui seraient basés sur des motifs religieux d’une manière qui instrumentaliserait les religions, croyances ou leurs partisans et pourrait inciter à la haine et à la violence, par exemple à des fins électorales ou gains politiques.

XI. Nous nous engageons également à ne pas opprimer les voix et opinions dissidentes sur les questions de religions et de croyances, qu’elles soient perçues comme fausses ou offensantes, au nom du caractère « sacré » du thème et nous encourageons les États qui ont encore des lois contre le blasphème ou l’apostasie à les abroger, étant donné que ces lois ont une influence négative sur la liberté de pensée, de conscience, de religion ou de croyance ainsi que sur tout dialogue ou débat sain sur les questions religieuses.

XII. Par ailleurs, nous nous engageons à revoir les curriculums, matériels pédagogiques et manuels lorsque certaines interprétations religieuses ou la manière dont elles sont présentées peuvent donner à penser qu’elles incitent à la violence ou la discrimination. Nous promettons également de
promouvoir le respect du pluralisme, de la diversité dans le domaine religieux ainsi que le droit de ne pas recevoir d’instruction religieuse incompatible avec les croyances personnelles. De plus, nous nous engageons à défendre la liberté académique et la liberté d’expression, conformément à l’Article 19 du Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques, et ce dans le cadre du discours religieux afin de promouvoir le fait que la pensée religieuse est capable de se confronter à de nouveaux défis, ainsi que de faciliter la pensée libre et créative. Nous nous engageons à soutenir les efforts en matière de réforme religieuse dans les domaines éducatifs et institutionnels.

➢ « Le seul principe de base possible pour une morale solide est la tolérance et le respect mutuels. »
(A. J. Ayer)

XIII. Nous promettons de mettre à profit les expériences et leçons apprises de l’engagement avec les enfants et les jeunes victimes ou vulnérables à la violence au nom de la religion, afin de définir les méthodologies, outils et récits adaptés permettant aux communautés religieuses de traiter ce phénomène de manière efficace, avec une attention particulière accordée au rôle important des parents et familles dans la détection et prise en charge précoce des signes de vulnérabilité des enfants et des jeunes à la violence au nom de la religion.

➢ « Ne laisse personne te mépriser à cause de ta jeunesse ; mais sois un modèle pour les fidèles, en parole, en conduite, en charité, en foi, en pureté. » (1 Timothée 4 :12)

XIV. Nous promettons de promouvoir, dans le cadre de nos sphères respectives d’influence, la nécessité impérative de garantir le respect dans toutes les activités d’assistance humanitaire des Principes de conduite pour le mouvement international de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge et des ONG dans les programmes d’intervention en cas de catastrophes, en particulier que l’aide soit accordée indépendamment de la croyance des bénéficiaires, sans distinction défavorable d’aucune sorte et que l’aide ne soit pas utilisée pour promouvoir un point de vue religieux particulier.

XV. Nous promettons de ne forcer personne ou d’exploiter des personnes dans des situations vulnérables à se convertir à une autre religion ou croyance, tout en respectant complètement la liberté de chacun à pratiquer, adopter ou changer de religion ou de croyance et le droit de l’exprimer par l’enseignement, la pratique, le culte et le respect, que ce soit en tant qu’individu ou en communauté avec d’autres, en public ou en privé.

XVI. Nous nous engageons à optimiser le poids spirituel et moral des religions et croyances dans l’objectif de renforcer la protection de droits universels de l’homme et de développer des stratégies préventives que nous adapterons aux contextes locaux, tout en bénéficiant du soutien potentiel des entités compétentes des Nations Unies.

➢ « Tu aimeras ton prochain comme toi-même. Il n’y a pas d’autre commandement plus grand que celui-là. »
(Marc 12 : 31)
➢ « Mais aimez vos ennemis, faites du bien, et prêtez sans rien espérer. Et votre récompense sera grande. »
(Luc 6 : 35)
➢ “L’être conscient de Dieu est toujours pur, comme le soleil qui donne confort et chaleur à tous. L’être conscient de Dieu veille sur tous avec la même attention, comme le vent qui souffle d’une façon égale sur le roi et le pauvre mendiant. » (Guru Granth Sahib p. 272)
➢ « La religion de Dieu et sa loi divine sont les instruments les plus puissants et les plus sûrs de tous les moyens pour éclairer l’unité entre les hommes. Le progrès du monde, le développement des nations, la tranquillité des peuples et la paix de tous ceux qui résident sur terre sont parmi les principes et ordonnances de Dieu. »
(Bahá’u’lláh)

XVII. Nous nous engageons à nous soutenir mutuellement au niveau de la mise en œuvre de cette déclaration par un échange de pratiques, un renforcement mutuel des capacités et des activités régulières d’actualisation des compétences pour les prédicateurs spirituels et religieux, les enseignants et instructeurs, notamment dans les domaines de la communication, les minorités religieuses ou de croyances, la médiation intercommunautaire, la résolution des conflits, la détection précoce des tensions communautaires et les mesures correctives. A cette fin, nous nous engageons à
explorer les moyens de développer des partenariats durables avec des institutions académiques spécialisées, afin de promouvoir la recherche interdisciplinaire sur des questions spécifiques liées à la foi et aux droits et à bénéficier de leurs résultats qui pourraient être intégrés dans des programmes et outils de notre coalition « La foi pour les droits ».

XVIII. Nous nous engageons à utiliser les moyens technologiques de manière plus créative et constante afin de diffuser cette déclaration et les messages suivants sur la foi pour les droits pour permettre la cohésion sociale enrichie par la diversité, y compris dans les domaines de la religion et de la croyance. Nous souhaitons également considérer les moyens permettant de stimuler le renforcement des capacités et de diffuser les outils en les proposant en différentes langues pour une utilisation au niveau local.

Notes
2 Voir Article 18 du Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques : « (1) Toute personne a droit à la liberté de pensée, de conscience et de religion ; ce droit implique la liberté d’avoir ou d’adopter une religion ou une conviction de son choix, ainsi que la liberté de manifester sa religion ou sa conviction, individuellement ou en commun, tant en public qu’en privé, par le culte et l’accomplissement des rites, les pratiques et l’enseignement. (2) Nul ne subira de contrainte pouvant porter atteinte à sa liberté d’avoir ou d’adopter une religion ou une conviction de son choix. (3) La liberté de manifester sa religion ou ses convictions ne peut faire l’objet que des seules restrictions prévues par la loi et qui sont nécessaires à la protection de la sécurité, de l’ordre et de la santé publique, ou de la morale ou des libertés et droits fondamentaux d’autrui. (4) Les Etats parties au présent Pacte s’engagent à respecter la liberté des parents et, le cas échéant, des tuteurs légaux de faire assurer l’éducation religieuse et morale de leurs enfants conformément à leurs propres convictions. »
5 Toutes les citations provenant de textes religieux ou de croyances ont été proposées par les participants de l’atelier de Beyrouth en relation avec leurs religions ou leurs convictions et sont simplement destinées à être illustratives et non exhaustives.

[Ce texte a été traduit en français par Madame Sama El Roumi. Nous lui exprimons notre sincère gratitude pour son travail de qualité.]
التوصيات الثمانية عشر حول
"الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"  

نحن، أطراف المجتمع المدني والمنظمات المعنية بشؤون الدين والمعتقد، العاملون في مجال حقوق الإنسان ومجتمعون في بيوت يو مي 29/3-2017، نحث على إقامة المعاقب على كافة الأديان والمعتقدات تنقسم التزاماً بحقوق الإنسان واال斤مة المشتركة لجميع البشر. وبالتالي فإن الإنسان المشترك والكرامة المشتركة تشكلان ما جدير بانتهاكها، كما أن الإنسان والحقوق يعترف كلاً من الآخرين بتفهم الفرد ومجتمع مثل الأديان والمعتقدات ينمو ويزدهر في بيئة تعاون فيها حقوق الإنسان انطلاقاً من القيمة المشتركة لجميع البشر، وعلى نحو مماثل تعرّض حقوق الإنسان بالأسس الأخلاقية والروحية المتخصصة في الوجدان والتي ترسّحها الأديان والمعتقدات.

إن إعلان بروت،"الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"، موجه إلى جميع الناس سماً أتباع الأديان والمعتقدات في العالم

بهدف تعزيز قيم مجتمعات متسمة بالإسلامية والتي تحترم الاختلاف، وذلك على أساس إرضاء مشتركة مفتوحة لمشاركتها كل من يومها.

كما تتبنى مساحة الأمم المتحدة، التي تمثل جميع شعوب العالم، مجموعاً من أجل التوصل إلى إعلان "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"، والتي أحرزت آليات الأمم المتحدة لحقوق الإنسان، مثل المقررين الأمميين الخاصين وأعضاء الهيئات التعاقدية لحقوق الإنسان، على strengths مع خطة عمل للفترة لسنار 2012.

أقرت خطة عمل للبروت لسنار 2012، ثلاث مسؤوليات أساسية من نوعٍ بالإعدادات الدينية، وهي:

أ- الاستثناء عن استخدام رسائل التصوير أو أشكال التعبير التي يمكن أن تحمّل على العنف أو العودة أو التمييز.

ب- التحدث على وجه شديد ضد التعصب والتمييز والتحفظ الكراهية.

ج- عدم التسامح إزاء العنف كفّ على التحريض على الكراهية، بحيث لا تصبح الاستفزازات المسبقة مزراً للعنف المستقبلي.

ومن أجل دعم هذه المبادئ الأساسية التي وردت في خطة عمل للبروت والتي أشارت إليها الدول مرازاً بشكل ايجابي، فإننا بصياغة ثمانية عشرة تعهدًا حول "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"، وكذلك إجراءات لتخفيفها:

I. إن مسؤوليتنا الأساسية هي الدفاع عن حق كل فرد في حرية الاعتقاد، ولا سيما فيما يتعلق بحرية الفكر، القدرة، الدين أو المعتقد، وتشمل في هذا الخصوص التزامات بالمقرر 3، المبادئ العالمية ذات الصلة، بما فيها المادة 18 من العهد الدولي الخاص بالحقوق المدنية والسياسية، التي لا تتحمّل تقديم حرية الفكر والضمير ولا تسمح بتعرض أي شخص لاتقان من شأنه أن يخلو بحرية في اعتقال أي دين أو اعتقاد يختاره. هذه الحرية، محببة دون ما يشترط أو يسمح بالممارسة الدينية، بما لا يكون الجريمة أو التمييز.

II. إننا، كمجتمعون، نحن نؤكد على ما عقدوا في مبادئ دولية وفقاً للمعايير الدولية كما لا يمكن المسائل بما يخالف التعاليم الدينية أيضاً.

III. إننا نكون متحمسين تجاه التسامح، تقديراً للمعاقبة الداخلية والعالمية، والتفاهم، والتماس، وتعزيز حقوق الإنسان واحترام الكرامة الإنسانية والحقوق المتساوية لجميع البشر، على نحو مماثل.

يتضمن النصوص الدينية والمعتقدات يبين أنها تعزز مستوى حمالة الكرامة الإنسانية بما يكون حتى أقوطه القوئين.

بما أن النصوص الدينية قابلة للفحص والتوصيفات البشرية المتعددة فإننا نتعهد بتشجيع الحوار الإيجابي حول التفسيرات.

I. إننا ننظر إلى هذا الآمال "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق" باعتباره ممكناً للحد الأدنى الممكن لكل المؤمنين أي كن شكل مساع合わせة التوحيد أو التوجهات الدينية أو غير ذلك. ونعتذر عن أي اعتقادات بأن تفسير النصوص الدينية والمعتقدات ينبغي أن تعزز مستوى حمالة الكرامة الإنسانية بما يكون حتى أقوطه القوئين.

II. إننا نظر إلى هذا الآمال "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق" باعتباره ممكناً للحد الأدنى الممكن لكل المؤمنين أي كن شكل مساع合わせة التوحيد أو التوجهات الدينية أو غير ذلك. ونعتذر عن أي اعتقادات بأن تفسير النصوص الدينية والمعتقدات ينبغي أن تعزز مستوى حمالة الكرامة الإنسانية بما يكون حتى أقوطه القوئين.

III. إننا نفكر في النصوص الدينية وعليه فإن تفسير النصوص الدينية ينبغي أن يتم فقط السماح أياً كان التفسير النفدي في المسائل الدينية، بل أن يجب التشريع على ذلك، كشرط للاستماع إلى تفسيرات الدينية مستفيرة خاصة أياً كان النصوص الدينية المعاصرة في ظل مجتمعات متعددة الثقافات والأديان تواجه تحديات متعددة.
تعهد بدعم ومساعدة كافة جهود تحقيق المساواة في المعاملة عبر كافة مجالات ومظاهر الدين والعقيدة، وأن ندين كل أشكال الممارسات التمييزية في هذا المجال. وتتعهد بالعمل على منع استخدام مفهوم "دين الدولة" للتمييز ضد أي شخص، وتعتبر أنه أي تفسير يعاقب ذلك إما ينهي وحدة الاستثناء والمساواة في الكرامة، وبالمثل، فإننا نتعهد ببماحة استخدام "ال المصدرية العلمانية" كوسيلة لتقديم مساحة التشريع الدينى والعقائدي في الواقع الممارس.

فإذا بطرف كاهن قالت: "بين لي في فداك أن الله ليفصل عن أحد" (سفر أعمال الرسل، 10:34).

تعهد بالضمان وغير المساسة بمعظم الممارسات الدينية التي تحقق من شاشة المرأة وتكريس التميز صدراً بل وتحقيق الهدف الفضي على التمييز على أساس الجنس. وتتعهد بالدفاع عن المساواة والمساواة في الحقوق، وتؤيد النوايا والطفل توجه خاص ضد أي ممارسات تمييزية وعنيفة، بما في ذلك تشهي الأعضاء التناسلية للنساء والأطفال، والزواج المبكر، التي تعرّض فيها مسمى "الشرفة".

على الرجل أن يتحلي رجوتٍ أكثر ممّا يتحلي نفسه، وأن يحبها كما يحب نفسه (المتعمد، يباموت 62، ب).

فاستدعي لهم زيهم: أنا لا أضيف عمل عامل ينتمي إلى ذكر أو أنثى ببعض من بعض (قرآن، آية 195).

فأبى أن نسأل إذاّ كلاً شفاه دعاء وجعلناه شفاعة وقابلنا ل.DriverManager (قراون، الحجرات، آية 13).

فخكل الله الإنسان على صورته على صورة الله خلق، ذكر، وأثنى خلقهم (سفر التكوين، 27:1).

خَرْزَكُمْ خُزَّيْنَ لِسَبَإِيْهِمْ (ديث).

إن المرأة هي الصديق الراجل في الحياة، وهي المرأة التي تحترم امتناية الحياة، فكيف يجوز لنا أن نخط من قدرها في المسرة، فالمرأة هي التي تدين ولا يوجد شيء دون المرأة (جورون جوان، صفحه 743).

إن العالم الإنساني أشبه بأشكاله له جناحي اجتهاد الرجل الآخر النساء، وما لم يكن البناحان قويان تؤيدما فإنا عامة فإن هذا الطير لا يمكن أن يطير نحو النساء. ويقضي هذا العصر ارتفاع النساء، فيفتن بطنكنهنما في مدين الحيا، ويكن مثل الرجال، وفي كل منا إلى درجة الرجال ونساوان في الحقوق معهنهم (بعدا عنهم).

"يعني على أي منهج شامل وفعال لبناء القدرات إشراك القوميات الممثلة مثل القادة التقليديين والدينين ...

(ال )(CEDAW/C/GC/18 في الفقرة رقم 70).

تتعهد بالدفاع عن جميع الأشخاص المعنين للأغصانات ضمن نطاق عمل كل من، وحرمه في الدين المعتقد، وهم في ممارسة تأثيرهم بشكل كامل، كما تؤكد على حقهم في المشارك المتساوية في الحياة الظاهرة، والدينية، الاجتماعية والاقتصادية وفقا لما ورد في القانون الدولي لحقوق الإنسان، وهو أن تعبره هذا أدنى من التضامن الواجب بين البشر.

تعهد بكل في مجال اختصاصه، بالإذاعة الإذاعية لكل حالات الدعوة إلى الكراهية والتحريض التي من شأنها أن تثير العرف والتصغير والعداء، لأننا نحكم مؤسسة مباشرة عندما يتم إطلاق مثل هذه الدعوات إلى الكراهية والتحريض تحت بعثة الأدبانية وعالية الأمائدة التي تكون بها.

"امل الآخر كما هو "عالمكم" (عصر الدولة المصرية الوسطى).

"تعويض الضرر بما يكافئ والمفهوم الإلهي بال hacking" (كوفن شوي).

لا تفعل ألغية ما تدركه نفسك (مثلاً، شبات، آية 31، أ).

"يُنْبِي علني توخي القدة في اختيار كلمات ورمي بيسبي الاسم ويتثورون بسبيلاً أو إيجابياً (بودا).

"عن طريق ضبط النفس وجعل دهارما (الحق في التصرف) تركزك الأساسي، عمل الآخر، كما تعامل نفسك (مشاهدات، ما)

لا تتحكَّم ولا تخض على أبناء شغب، بل تُريد أن تفي برسومك كِلْسَك (سفر اللاجئين، 19، 18).

فكلما تريدون أن تفعل الناس بكمّ أفعلوا هكذا أيضاً، فينها هو التأييد، وأنيب، فينها" (إنجيل متي 7:12).

"أسكر مُن تصب الذكر أن يروى، أو الحزن لأي قلب، حاول أن تدعاه في أن تلم جروح أي رجل، في كل مكان، سواء كنت تعرف أو غريب، عدد فضيل أم عبد (بديه الله).

كما تقود كل، في مجال اختصاصه، بوضع سياسات ومبادئات لأساس التفتيشات أو أرائه الدينية التي تخذل مساراً للانحراف ناجح القروي والعناصر العالمية لحقوق الإنسان، بعض النظرة إذا كانت متعلقة من..."
قبل مؤسسات رسمية أو أفراد قاموا بتصنيب أنفسهم أولياء على معتقدات الناس. ونحن عازمون على تحمّل هذه المسؤولية بطريقة منهجية ومستنيرة فقط في مجالات محددة كالöğretim والوقت والحكم.

لا تبتُونا لَنا تداولها. فالذي تنبأ به تبَيَّنَ تداوله؛ وبِالْأَنْعَاسِ الَّذِي بِهِ تَكِيلُونَ يَكَلَّفُ لَكُمْ (الجبل 2:7).

وأشعر قلبكُمُ الرحيئة والمهين واللمحتي لِله وَأنتُمَ فَتَرَى فَأُضْعِفُونَ مُلْكُكُم مُضْعُفًا صَارِبًا. تَعْتَمِدُونَ فِي أَهْلِكُمُ النَّاسِ وَلا تَكُونَنَّ عَلَيْهِمْ سَعْبًا صَارِبًا. 

تُدبِّرُونَ أَنْ تَشْطَبُوا لِلرُّسُولِ مِنْهَا لِيُقُومُ وَبِالْأَسْمَاعِ الْأَيَّةِ، الْأَمْرُ الْكَبِيرُ. ممّا يستوجب تشجيعا على التبول الكامل في الوعي. فَإِنَّهُمْ لَكُمْ عَرَفُوا فِي ذِلِّكَ الْكَيْلِ الَّذِي بِهِ تَرْضَى لِلرَّحْمَةِ لَكُمْ.

تنعّم بالانتماء عن وفاحة ودائنة كل حكّام يصدر من قبل أي جهة قوامه تكبر أي فرد أو جماعة أو الحكم على إيمانهم بطريقة من شأنها أن تجعله عرشًا للعفو تحت مسمى الدين، أو حركاتهم من حقوقهم الإنسانية.

تنعّم بعد إعطاء سمة الفضلى للأراء البشرية التي تدعو أنها تستند على خلافيات دينية، والتي من شأنها استغلال الدين أو المعتقد أو المؤمنين بها بشكل اقتصادي على الكراهية والعنف، على سبيل المثال لصالح الإخاذة أو إهداء سياسة.

كما نلتزم بعد قمع الأوراق والوجوه المربتة في مقدمة كلية نسبة معاينة، حتى لا تكون ملائمة في تقديرها أو بذل عدوانية. كما نحن الدول التي ما زالت قوانين مكافحة الأذى التي تباع إلى الإنزاح، حيث أن هذه القوانين تترك تأثيراً خاصاً على التتعلق بحرية الفكر الضرير، الدين، والمعتقد، وبالتالي تؤثر سلباً على فرص تحقيق حوار مطلوب ونقاش صحي في المسائل الدينية.

تنزلزم بالعمل على نقية المناهج والمواد التعليمية، والكتب المدرسية التي تلتزم بالعمل على نقية المناهج والمكتبات المدرسية التي تتزامن نفسية، وتعزز احترام التعددية، وتزيد في ذلك تعويض المغيب، وتعزز احترام التعددية، وتزيد في ذلك تعويض المغيب.

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فَإِنَّهُمْ لَكُمْ عَرَفُوا فِي ذِلِّكَ الْكَيْلِ الَّذِي بِهِ تَرْضَى لِلرَّحْمَةِ لَكُمْ.

إن السند الأخير أخلاقيات راسخة هو النسج المتبادل والاحترام. (أ.ج. أي) 

تنعّم باستخلاص الخبرات والدرس المستفادة في كيفية التعامل مع الأطفال والشباب، سواء كانوا ضحايا أو أنفسهم أولياء على معتقدات الناس.

وأرضية للتعزيز على أرجل صاغاء منهجية، والإبادة ابداعية لتكون المجتمع الدينى من ممارسة هذه الظاهرة، مع إحياء اهتمام نشر الأدب والأسرة الحاسم في الكشف والتعامل مع المظاهر المقابلة للأطفال والشباب للتعرف على نفسهم الدين.

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(تيتاسوس الأول، 4:12).

تنعّم كل في مجال اختصاصه بصورة ضارة ضمان احترام مبادئ مدونة السلوك الموحدة من جانب الدولة الدولية للصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر، والمنظمات غير الحكومية أثناء الإغاثة في حالات الكوارث لكل حالات الإغاثة الإنسانية، لا بما ضارة ضمان أن يتم دعم أي تعزيز أو مصلحة ديني بما في ذلك وجود تقدم المساعدات بمراقبة النزاع.

وتنبأ به تبَيَّنَ تداوله؛ وبِالْأَنْعَاسِ الَّذِي بِهِ تَكِيلُونَ يَكَلَّفُ لَكُمْ (الجبل 2:7).

وتنعّم بالانتماء عن وفاحة ودائنة كل حكّام يصدر من قبل أي جهة قوامه تكبر أي فرد أو جماعة أو الحكم على إيمانهم بطريقة من شأنها أن تجعله عرشًا للعفو تحت مسمى الدين، أو حركاتهم من حقوقهم الإنسانية.

تنعّم بعد إعطاء سمة الفضلى للأراء البشرية التي تدعو أنها تستند على خلافيات دينية، والتي من شأنها استغلال الدين أو المعتقد أو المؤمنين بها بشكل اقتصادي على الكراهية والعنف، على سبيل المثال لصالح الإخاذة أو إهداء سياسة.

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التعهدات الثمانية عشر حول "الإيمان من أجل الحقوق"
Options for civil society follow-up

Preliminary action plan drafted in Beirut
(work in progress)

I. PROMOTION / “OWNERSHIP”

Objective: Strong promotion at national level with all stakeholders

- It cannot be assumed that all religious leaders or faith-based organizations will be completely behind the 18 commitments. They need to formally endorse the 18 commitments. They need to own the document. How can it happen if they are not “there” yet? Provide responses, build their capacities
- Include women religious leaders
- Engage the youth
- Engage academics
- We also need to reach out ordinary people: Making the 18 commitments understandable, comprehensible by people; why it is important; why it affects our daily lives

Actions

- Translate and contextualize the document; contextualize the promotion
- Disseminate guides
- Establish multi-stakeholders network/coalition, including youth, religious leaders, academic, CSOs, FBOs, women’s organizations, trade unions, journalists and media, MPs, etc. – common grounds on the 18 commitments; there should be a broad coalition of stakeholders endorsing the F4R framework; Membership limited to those that believe in human rights and the F4R
- Approach and work with National Human Rights Institutions; get them involved where and when possible
- Many national coalitions may already be in place; approach them and explain why the purpose of a new coalition; what it can bring; what is its distinctive value and impact
- Launch the national coalition; ensure media coverage; highlight the approach, the vision (possibility of a rotating national agency)
- Reach out to a variety of stakeholders, including trade unions, women’s unions; ask for their endorsement
- The OHCHR national or regional offices or other UN offices should be brought in to support the initiative, both logistically, strategically, politically; offer some protection
- At regional level, involve the UN Training Center in Doha – it may support, propose activities, etc.
- Forum to celebrate Freedom of religion or belief and the 18 commitments
- Create attention; invite the Media
- Case studies: what does the implementation of each commitment look like practically?
- Produce a child-friendly version of the F4R framework
- Produce a simpler version of the F4R Framework, including the 18 commitments
- Ask someone influential in society, e.g. a footballer, a musician, to endorse the F4R framework and coalition
- Consider establish regional coalitions in all regions of the world – with an even approach to all regions.
II. ADDRESS THE ROLE OF STATES

Objective: States and religious communities both are needed for freedom of religion or belief. Make sure we have the buy-in from governments and official leaders; that they cooperate with religious leaders.

Actions

- If they are not open to the 18 commitments: develop appropriate and context-specific strategies
- Joint delegation, including state actors from other countries and religious actors – to address their fears, beliefs, etc. Counter these with influential people, who speak their languages. Address their fears that freedom of religion or belief may bring chaos.
- Create a political will at the political level to promote the 18 commitments; create a legislative framework, create awareness
- Where feasible, actively ask for official religious channel to support or endorse the process and outcome
- Build synergies with State Religions at the Rabat meeting (October 2017) currently planned as part of the F4R initiative; Inter-governmental process bringing the CSOs/FBOs voice and experience

III. RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISMS

Objective: Establish system to identify incitement to hatred; engage in reactive and pro-active work; public denunciation

Actions

- Collect faith–disaggregated data on hate crimes
- Call out the right-wing media; minority groups are not able to respond to misrepresentation or hatred through the Press Council;
- Religious leaders speak about the right of members of other communities; not just about your own communities
- Onus is on those who are safe and secure to take such actions
- CSOs is to offer guidance on what constitutes incitement

IV. EDUCATION

Objective: To change people’s values and behaviours, we need a long-term objective around education; new approaches to education; new curriculum

Actions:

- Assessment of curriculum (e.g. WCC assessments, recommendations, policy changes)
- Organize meeting of religious leaders to discuss and agree the changes to the curriculum
- The F4R framework can be an avenue for curriculum changes
- While curriculum review is on-going consider education of tolerance in schools

V. PROMOTE AND ACTIVE STEPS TO INTRA-FaITH DIALOGUE; ADDRESS INTRA-FaITH INTOLERANCE AND HOSTILITY
VI. SYNERGY LOCAL TO GLOBAL / GLOBAL TO GLOBAL

Objective: Tie local level actions to UN or international process, for example the Istanbul process or the Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism; encourage international and local NGOs to be more pro-active at the international level

Actions:
- Establish local/national coalitions, which work on a long-term vision, are driven from the grassroots and focus on the human rights perspective
- UN should formally endorse the F4R Coalition
- Commission of Churches on International Affairs should endorse the F4R
- MPs / from around the world
- International Coalition: There ought to be an international dimension / international coalition of F4R which can offer protection and a framework; it should protect and support; but most importantly it should reach out to those that would have difficulties with the human rights framework – the language of the 18 commitments is different so it opens the door to these individuals who may not endorse the human rights framework
- Promote F4R framework with existing international coalition and seek their endorsement
- Report incidents to the international human rights mechanisms (Special Procedures, Treaty Bodies and the Universal Periodic Review)
- Build synergy with 16/18 resolution and provide input to Istanbul process via national coalitions
- Regional workshops on racism and xenophobia, implementing HRC resolution on NHRI
- Build synergy with SDG Goals 1, 5, 10, 16 and other related Goals; learn from SDGs indicators as these may be helpful; input into States and others reporting on SDG implementation; participate to high-level meetings.
- Organize a Global Forum every two or more years
- Create an on-line presence for all global initiatives and activities; multi-lingual; video content with info-graphics; etc.

VI. IMMEDIATE FOLLOW–UP

Objective: Ensure immediate follow-up before the Rabat Meeting with State religious leaders

Actions:
- Establish a Committee at the international level that can advise and support the meeting in Rabat with State religious leaders
- Convene a preparatory meeting in August 2017

VII. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

Objective: National and regional coalitions to monitor their activities and implementation, possibly along with OHCHR

Actions:
- Determine what should be reported
- Regular self-reporting on activities
- Regular reporting to the UPR.
From 3 to 4 May 2017, OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa organized with the Senegalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice a symposium for religious leaders and civil society representatives on the rights of women and children from the perspective of Islam and in the context of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”.

Objectives of the Dakar symposium

The symposium in Dakar, which received important media attention, served as a first test of the 18 commitments. It gathered a number of preachers, lawyers, judges and parliamentarians from the Senegalese society and was enriched by high level panellists from Senegal, Egypt and Tunisia, including the former UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Senegalese member of the UN Committee on Migrant Workers and the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, as well as renowned Islam and human rights specialists.

The objective of the symposium was to place human rights and Islam in the more global context of the Beirut Declaration of 29 March 2017, and to see how the 18 commitments from religious leaders and civil society representatives could be adapted and turned into concrete projects in Senegal. OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa invited the participants to address in particular the rights of women and children (using as a basis CEDAW and CRC recommendations regarding Senegal in 2015 and 2016 respectively) with a purpose to deconstruct the misunderstandings on Islam that some religious leaders and believers in Senegal and others around the world continue to convey.

Outcomes in the Senegalese context

Participants who were divided into working groups during the second day of the symposium all agreed that only the following Commitments could raise tensions and lead to human rights violations in Senegal:
- Commitment 5 (non-discrimination and gender equality),
- Commitment 10 (not to give credence to exclusionary interpretations claiming religious grounds),
- Commitment 12 (refine the curriculums, teaching materials and textbooks),
- Commitment 13 (engaging with children and youth, who are either victims of or vulnerable to incitement to violence in the name of religion),
- Commitment 16 (leverage the spiritual and moral weight of religions and beliefs with the aim of strengthening the protection of universal human rights and developing preventative strategies that we adapt to our local contexts, benefitting from the potential support of relevant United Nations entities),
- Commitment 17 (implementation through exchange of practices) and
- Commitment 18 (use technological means more creatively and consistently in order to disseminate this declaration and subsequent Faith for Rights messages).
On the above commitments, participants considered that the Government of Senegal has the primary obligation in this regard. Concrete projects were then discussed in order to intensify governmental and civil society efforts.

The Dakar symposium resulted in:
- The validation after thorough discussions of the 18 commitments framework, while adapting it to the Senegalese context;
- The creation of a national F4R coalition in Senegal, open to new members from all religions; and
- A concrete project focusing on Commitment 13 on children’s rights, especially children who are exploited by certain “Marabouts” in the name of religion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project proposal for an alternative to child forced begging in the name of Islam (Commitment 13)</th>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Senegalese citizens, the majority of whom are Muslims, are very much attached to give alms, especially on Fridays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ This system is exploited by some religious leaders (“Marabouts”) who force very young children into begging while they pretend giving them religious education in so-called “daaras” (religious schools) that the State is currently unable to supervise and control.</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ The whole system is very lucrative and has so far not been addressed sufficiently and efficiently.</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ The plan is to create an alternative to forced begging by encouraging the Senegalese to give to a well-defined and identified entity in charge of redistributing the gains to religious schools identified by the State and renowned religious leaders.</td>
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<td>➢ The gains would also benefit any project aiming at getting kids out of the streets.</td>
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Next steps after the Dakar symposium

- Establishment of a follow-up task force (including representatives from OHCHR, Government, Parliament, UN Treaty Bodies and civil society organizations);
- Operationalization of the F4R coalition in Senegal;
- Implementation of Senegal projects agreed in the framework of the 18 commitments;
- Media campaign in partnership with relevant UN agencies and Government representatives; and
- Drafting of a commentary on the 18 commitments as applied to the Senegalese context.

In November 2019, the **UN Human Rights Committee** reviewed the report of Senegal and recommended urgent measures to end all forms of exploitation and abuse of children by marabout teachers in daaras. The Government replied that seven teachers in Koranic schools had been convicted of acts of violence against and abuse of children; more than 1,000 children had been taken off the streets and reintegrated in their communities and families. The Government was committed to reforming the Koranic schools and it believed that the law – soon to pass through Parliament – would not be weakened because it would contain many measures to prevent the exploitation of children. The Daara Project aimed to set up a collective of teachers in Koranic schools, which were regularly inspected by the inspectors of the Ministry of Education.
### Summary records of consideration of reports by States parties

**Costa Rica, CEDAW/C/SR.1508:**

20. Ms. Haidar said the fact that worship-related matters fell within the remit of Ministry of Foreign Affairs only served to underscore the centrality of faith in Costa Rican society. The State party should make use of the latest tools and resources to promote a better understanding of the relationship between faith and the realization of human rights, such as the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights, as a means of forestalling conflicts between the two.

**Niger, CEDAW/C/SR.1516:**

27. Ms. Jahan, noting that the draft document on the personal status code had not been adopted owing to the hostility of certain social groups, said that she wished to know whether the State party intended to adopt a new draft in consultation with civil society and with community and religious leaders, including those who might be expected to oppose such an initiative. In view of the fact that over 70 per cent of the population of Niger was under the age of 25, she asked what measures would be taken to involve young people in the process of reviewing the draft personal status code. Lastly, she asked whether the State party would consider seeking the advice of the Governments of other Muslim-majority countries that had taken steps to improve the status of women, promote the principle of gender equality in their personal status laws and reconsider religious interpretations that appeared to perpetuate gender inequality and harmful stereotypes.

28. In order to promote reflection on the relationship between faith and human rights, the State party might wish to consider organizing a symposium similar to the one held in Dakar in May 2017 on the rights of women and children from the perspective of Islam.

**Nigeria, CEDAW/C/SR.1518:**

14. Ms. Jummai Alhassan (Nigeria) said that the proposal to amend legislation to give equal rights

### Concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

**CEDAW/C/CR/CO/7:**

15. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Devise a comprehensive strategy with medium-term and long-term benchmarks aimed at eliminating discriminatory gender stereotypes and upholding women’s dignity and contribution in all areas of economic and social life, engaging in that regard with religious leaders and civil society organizations in a positive dialogue on women’s rights; [...]**

**CEDAW/C/NER/CO/3-4:**

21. The Committee, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5.3, on the elimination of all harmful practices, such as child marriage and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, recommends that the State party: [...] (d) Develop and allocate sufficient resources for the implementation of a national plan of action to combat harmful practices, providing for strategic media campaigns and educational programmes to raise awareness among traditional and religious leaders, health-care and social workers and the general public about the negative impact of the practices on women and girls. [...]**

35. The Committee recommends that the State party accord priority to the participation of women in its efforts to meet the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that it: [...] (d) Raise awareness among parliamentarians, traditional and religious leaders and the general public about the need to promote women’s economic empowerment as a poverty alleviation strategy. [...]**

43. The Committee [...] recommends that the State party: [...] (c) Prohibit, including under customary law, the harmful practices of child marriage, forced marriage and polygamy and repudiation and conduct awareness-raising campaigns targeting parliamentarians, traditional and religious leaders and the general public on the harmful effects of these practices on women and girls.

**CEDAW/C/NGA/CO/7-8:**

7. The Committee notes that the State party’s efforts to implement its obligations under the Convention
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<td>to women married to foreigners was before the Legislative Assembly. Changes to the law on marriage could be made only by continuing to pursue campaigns to raise religious leaders’ awareness of the importance of amending the legislation in question. One such campaign was the HeForShe campaign, which had recently been launched in Nigeria. [...]</td>
<td>have been significantly affected by various conflicts in Nigeria, in particular the terrorist insurgency waged by Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’Awati Wal-Jihad (Boko Haram) since 2009. The Committee notes the efforts of the State party to rescue and rehabilitate women and girls who have been abducted and subjected to sexual slavery by Boko Haram. It considers that the full implementation of the Convention, so as to ensure respect for and enjoyment of women’s rights, is a prerequisite for the success of those efforts, including those aimed at securing education facilities, bringing about deradicalization and combating violent extremism. The Committee recommends, therefore, that the State party implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations as a matter of high priority, including by seeking international assistance and cooperation, if appropriate, for their implementation. In this regard, it also recommends that the State party adopt a national action plan on the implementation of the present recommendations, in consultation with civil society organizations and religious leaders, which should provide a road map for the enhanced implementation and monitoring of the concluding observations. [...]</td>
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<td>16. Ms. Haidar said that she understood the importance of advocacy in bringing about changes in mindsets and in legislation, as she, too, hailed from a religiously diverse country, namely Lebanon. She drew the State party’s attention to the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constituted incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence and the Beirut Declaration on “Faith for Rights” and its related 18 commitments, which could serve as useful tools in encouraging different faith communities to work together to promote human rights. [...]</td>
<td>12. The Committee recommends that the State party: [...] (c) Expedite the repeal or amendment of all discriminatory laws identified by the Nigerian Law Reform Commission following its comprehensive audit of discriminatory laws in the State party and include religious leaders in the process of addressing issues of faith and human rights, so as to build on several “faith for rights” initiatives and identify common ground among all religions in the State party, as acknowledged by the delegation. 22. Recalling joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014) on harmful practices, the Committee recommends that the State party: [...] (b) Expand public education programmes on the negative effect of such stereotypes on women’s enjoyment of their rights, in particular in rural areas, targeting men and boys, as well as the traditional and religious leaders who are the custodians of customary and religious values in the State party; [...]</td>
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<td>religious leaders, prominent male figures, teachers and members of the media. [...]</td>
<td>24. Recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/NGA/CO/6, para. 22), and in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5.3, to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, the Committee recommends that the State party: [...] (b) Raise awareness among religious and traditional leaders and the general public about the criminal nature of female genital mutilation, including so-called “female circumcision”, and its adverse effect on the human rights of women. [...]</td>
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<td>49. Ms. Rana said that she wondered whether there were plans to make the current ad hoc approach to cooperation with religious leaders and men more permanent so as to bring about a change in mindsets.</td>
<td>46. The Committee recommends that the State party: [...] (e) Eradicate polygamy through the use of awareness-raising campaigns and education, which should, among other things, focus on the harmful effects of this practice and fully involve religious, traditional and local government leaders.</td>
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**Fiji, CEDAW/C/SR.1578**

3. In preparation for the dialogue with the Committee, government agencies had worked closely with the private sector, civil society and religious organizations, not only gaining the strong sense of data so vital for national efforts to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, but also laying stronger foundations for tackling the barriers to women’s advancement, which included the fact that Fiji had one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the world. The Prime Minister had labelled domestic violence statistics as a national shame and had called on all stakeholders to unite in the battle to stamp out such violence. Various measures had already been taken, including the launch of the “Man Up” campaign, aimed at involving men in the national movement to combat violence; a national forum to promote cooperation with religious organizations; and a task force on eliminating violence against women, which had devised a service delivery protocol to ensure the seamless handling of cases of gender-based violence by all relevant stakeholders. Strong partnerships with cultural and religious leaders were now needed to bring about changes in people’s mentalities, break down gender stereotypes and challenge the concept of hypermasculinity. [...] 37. Ms. Rana asked what specific steps had been taken, or were planned, to combat deeply rooted patriarchal cultural and religious norms, which... 27. The Committee welcomes the State party’s efforts to eradicate gender-based violence against women, including the establishment of the National Domestic Violence Toll Free Helpline. However, it notes with concern the incidence of gender-based violence in the State party continue to be the highest in the region, as well as: (a) The underreporting of gender-based violence against women due to stigma, societal pressure to resort to traditional apology and reconciliation such as bulubulu, and distrust in the justice system; (b) The prevalence of hate speech against women in society and the media; (c) The cost of GBV which represents 7% of GDP; (d) The persistent perception among law enforcement officials that domestic violence is a private matter, as illustrated by the fact that women victims of gender based violence are referred to the Family Law Court; intimidation of victims by the police; reluctance to adhere to the “no-drop policy,” and/or to issue Domestic Violence Restraining...
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Summary records of consideration of reports by States parties</th>
<th>Concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women</th>
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<td>gave rise to gender stereotypes and led ultimately to discrimination against women, including, in particular, what measures had been adopted to ensure that traditional apologies such as <em>bulubulu</em> (reconciliation and forgiveness ceremony) were never accepted as mitigating circumstances in domestic violence cases. [...]</td>
<td>Orders (DVROs), and the encouragement of victims, despite the zero tolerance policy, to resort to traditional apology and reconciliation procedures, as well as several cases of intimidation of victims by police;</td>
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<td>53. Ms. Manalo said that the delegation had not provided any information on female genital mutilation — a harmful practice that was spreading throughout the Asia and Pacific region. It was essential to prevent the problem from taking root in Fiji.</td>
<td>(e) That perpetrators of gender-based violence against women frequently enjoy impunity or receive lenient sentences owing to gender stereotypes among the judiciary, such as the notion of the man as “sole breadwinner”, as well as factors such as the perpetrator’s first appearance in court resulting in sentence reduction;</td>
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<td>54. Although NGOs undoubtedly played a crucial role in combating gender-based violence, it was vital for the Government to ensure that cooperation with religious organizations did not lead to conflict with its obligations under the Convention. [...]</td>
<td>(f) Discriminatory attitudes of healthcare personnel and frequent inability to respond to the health needs of victims of gender-based violence and the particularly limited access to emergency contraception and post exposure prophylactics (PEP) for rape victims;</td>
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<td>62. Ms. Haidar said that a number of United Nations bodies and programmes, particularly the “Faith for Rights” initiative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), would be able to lend assistance in the dialogue with representatives of faith groups concerning human rights.</td>
<td>(g) The limited availability of support services, including adequate shelters, for women victims of gender-based violence;</td>
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<td><strong>Botswana, CEDAW/C/SR.1678</strong></td>
<td>(h) The increase of gender based violence in disasters and post-disasters situations. [...]</td>
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<td>13. Ms. Mokganya (Botswana) said that the Government recognized that more needed to be done to lower the maternal mortality rate. [...]</td>
<td>55. The Committee notes with concern that women belonging to ethnic and religious minority groups and indigenous women are exposed to significant rates of intersectional discrimination.</td>
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<td>15. Various media campaigns had been conducted to raise awareness of cervical cancer, and workshops had been held for chiefs and faith-based organizations. Some faith-based organizations had permitted health-care workers to address their congregations directly. In one case, a faith-based organization had made its premises available for cervical cancer screenings. [...]</td>
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<td>24. Ms. Haidar said that, with regard to cooperation with religious leaders, she wished to draw the State party’s attention to Faith for Rights, an initiative launched by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to explore the ways in which human rights issues could be framed from a religious perspective.</td>
<td>24. The Committee recommends that the State party: [...] (b) Continue its efforts to engage with relevant actors, including tribal chiefs, religious and community leaders, government officials and parliamentarians, on the negative impact of discriminatory stereotypes on women’s enjoyment of their rights; [...]</td>
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<td><strong>CEDAW/C/BWA/CO/4</strong></td>
<td>32. The Committee recommends that the State party: [...] (b) Conduct awareness-raising campaigns for politicians, community and religious leaders, the media and the general public on the importance of the participation of women in political life and decision-making positions;</td>
</tr>
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**Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”**

**Excerpts from United Nations reports (since 2017)**

**Reports by the Secretary-General**

**Secretary-General’s 2017 report on effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/72/219):**

“26. The role of religious leaders and faith-based actors in promoting human rights, including rights of persons belonging to minorities, is highlighted in the “Faith for Rights” initiative, launched by OHCHR with an expert workshop in Beirut in March 2017. This initiative provides space for cross-disciplinary reflection on the deep and mutually enriching connections between religions and human rights. The initiative has led to the adoption of the Beirut Declaration and its corresponding 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”, which include the pledge to stand up for the rights of all persons belonging to minorities and to defend their freedom of religion or belief as well as their right to participate equally and effectively in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life, as recognized by international human rights law.”

**Secretary-General’s 2017 report on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief (A/72/381):**

“94. States noted that Governments and political officials had spoken out against religious intolerance. This type of action at the highest level possible, including on the part of religious officials, is critical to countering negative stereotyping and stigmatization. Religious leaders are potentially very important human rights actors, as stressed by the High Commissioner. It is in this context that faith-based and civil society actors participating in an OHCHR workshop in March 2017 adopted the Beirut Declaration and its corresponding 18 commitments on the theme ‘Faith for rights’.”

**Secretary-General’s 2018 report on the work of the Organization (A/73/1):**

“93. […] We have also supported approaches that enhance inter-faith and inter-community understanding through the Faith for Rights initiative by means of which faith-based actors explore the deep connections between religion and human rights.”

**Secretary-General’s 2018 report on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief (A/73/153):**

“16. Religious leaders are potentially very important human rights actors, and OHCHR has launched an initiative to engage religious leaders in speaking out against intolerance. The Beirut Declaration of March 2017 and the associated “Faith for Rights” framework are addressed to faith-based actors, who are defined in a wide manner to include theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other believers. The “Faith for Rights” framework provides 18 operative commitments through which faith-based actors have articulated how “Faith” can stand up for “Rights” more effectively so that both can enhance each other. On 6 and 7 December 2017, OHCHR and the Government of Morocco co-organized the Rabat+5 symposium on the follow-up to the Rabat Plan of Action, providing a platform for the exchange practices and discussion of concrete “Faith for Rights” projects at the grass-roots level in various parts of the world. […]

22. The expert conclusions and recommendations of the Rabat Plan of Action are based on legislative patterns, judicial practices and policies. They provide some guidance to stakeholders, including the national legislatures and the judiciary, in implementing the international standards relating to the prohibition of incitement to racial, national and religious hatred. The Plan of Action outlines a six-part threshold test for expressions considered criminal offences: context; speaker; intent; content and form; extent of speech act; and likelihood, including imminence (see A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix, para. 29). […]

51. The Rabat+5 symposium, co-organized by OHCHR, offered an opportunity for various stakeholders to engage with experts who had contributed to the elaboration of the Rabat Plan of Action and the 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” (see para. 16 above) and to exchange experiences in the area of
combating violence in the name of religion. The broad and diverse participation in the symposium reflected an interest in guidance and the relevance of the emerging standards in the context of faith and human rights. As human rights are by definition a multi-stakeholder exercise, the “Faith for Rights” framework is a good example of States, State religious authorities, faith-based and civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and individuals working together in the collaborative networks called for by the action plan. [...] Moreover, in March 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted thematic and country-specific resolutions which recall Council resolution 16/18 and its follow-up resolutions (resolution 34/8, twenty-sixth preambular paragraph) or encourage increasing efforts to further promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence in all sectors of society in accordance with Council resolution 16/18 and the Rabat Plan of Action (resolution 34/22, para. 14).”

Secretary-General’s 2018 report on a global call for action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (A/73/371):
“64. [...] In Rabat, on 6 and 7 December 2017, the Rabat+5 Symposium on the follow-up to the Rabat Plan of Action offered an opportunity for various stakeholders to engage with experts on the elaboration of the Rabat Plan of Action and the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and its 18 commitments, and to exchange experiences in the area of combating violence in the name of religion.”

Secretary-General’s 2018 report on promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace (A/73/391):
“28. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to implement the follow-up to the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and its 18 commitments, a framework providing space for cross-disciplinary reflection and action on the mutually enriching connections between religions and human rights. In Rabat in December 2017, more than 100 States, national human rights institutions, regional organizations, religious authorities and faith-based civil society actors participated in an OHCHR symposium to discuss the implementation of the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. In May 2018, OHCHR engaged with and consulted young people in a regional workshop in Tunis on the role of youth faith actors in promoting human rights in the Middle East and North Africa.”

Letter dated 20 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/73/399, annex):
“64. Call upon religious leaders to implement the Faith for Rights Declaration and Plan of Action and the Rabat Plan of Action in regard to action against incitement to hatred.”

“27. On 28 September, the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), convened the third round table on human rights since 2013. OHCHR introduced the “Faith for Rights” initiative, launched in March 2017 with the adoption of the Beirut Declaration, in which faith-based civil society actors recognized “religious or belief convictions as a source for the protection of the whole spectrum of inalienable human entitlements”. Religious leaders and representatives from 16 religious groups and civil society organizations participated in the discussion in Cyprus, and the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments were translated into Greek and Turkish by the Religious Track.”
Secretary-General’s 2019 report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2019/37):

“29. The religious leaders of Cyprus sustained their engagement within the framework of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, under the auspices of the Embassy of Sweden. On 25 October, the religious leaders addressed a joint letter to the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders expressing hope for a fruitful continuation of the settlement negotiations. They also engaged in other joint initiatives, such as advocating for the preservation of religious artefacts and launching social media campaigns to promote tolerance and to combat violence against women and girls.”

Secretary-General’s 2019 report on effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (A/74/215):

“47. The role and responsibilities of religious leaders and faith-based actors in promoting human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minority groups, are highlighted in the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and the 18 commitments on Faith for Rights (A/HRC/40/58, annexes I and II). OHCHR uses the framework for training and advocacy purposes with religious minority groups, civil society organizations and United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on minority issues. In May and November 2018, OHCHR organized two regional workshops, in Tunis and in Marrakech, Morocco, focusing on the role of youth faith actors in promoting human rights, combating incitement to hatred and identifying future steps to protect religious minority groups in the Middle East and North Africa region. In thematic and mission reports, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief has called upon States to use the Faith for Rights framework of specific commitments and practical measures to address the related phenomena of incitement to religious hatred, discrimination and violence (A/HRC/40/58, para. 21).

48. In April 2019, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights referred to the Faith for Rights framework in her press statement concerning the revised Penal Code of Brunei Darussalam, which includes provisions that may encourage violence and discrimination, inter alia, against religious minority groups, and she stressed that the Government, religious authorities and a wide range of civil society actors should work together to uphold human dignity and equality for all. At the Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security, the High Commissioner highlighted the importance of protecting religious minority groups, in particular where they have been targeted by incitement to hatred and violence on the basis of exclusionary interpretation, with religion or belief being used for political gain. Furthermore, she noted that the 18 commitments are intended to be used to reach out to people of different religions and beliefs in all regions of the world in order to promote a common, action-oriented platform (see A/HRC/40/58, annex II).”

Secretary-General’s 2019 report on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief (A/74/229):

“29. The Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” (A/HRC/40/58, annexes I and II) highlight the role and responsibilities of religious leaders and faith-based actors in promoting human rights. OHCHR continues to use this framework for training and advocacy purposes with faith-based actors, civil society organizations and United Nations human rights mechanisms. In 2018, OHCHR organized two regional workshops, in Tunis and in Marrakech, Morocco, focusing on the role of youth faith actors in promoting human rights, combating incitement to hatred and identifying future steps to protect religious minorities in the Middle East and North Africa region. […]

81. OHCHR has engaged on different related issues with various stakeholders, including religious leaders, field presences and United Nations country teams, national human rights commission, academic institutes, and the business and private sector. In addition to its work on the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” with religious and faith-based actors, it is working with information technology companies on a number of human rights issues, including multiple discrimination, artificial intelligence, hate speech and the incitement to racial, national and religious hatred. OHCHR has also been engaging with a number of national and international organizations working to combat anti-Semitism. It is a member of the working group on the United Nations strategy and plan of action on hate speech and will be very involved in
their implementation, given that a number of the substantive mandates and mechanisms of OHCHR cover a range of issues relating to hate speech and incitement to racial, national and religious hatred.

82. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has spoken out in various public forums, including the Human Rights Council. For example, in the July 2018 update on a country situation, the High Commissioner noted that Council resolution 16/18, the Rabat Plan of Action and the Beirut Declaration could be useful to address the advocacy of hatred that incites violence, discrimination or hostility based on religion or belief (A/HRC/38/CRP.2, para. 49). At the Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security, the High Commissioner highlighted the importance of protecting religious minorities, in particular when they have been targeted through incitement to hatred and violence.”

Secretary-General’s 2019 report on the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region (A/74/262):

“19. From 19 to 21 November 2018, for the first time since its establishment, the Centre organized activities in Djibouti in partnership with the Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions and the National Human Rights Commission of Djibouti. Activities included a workshop on the prevention of hate speech and the protection of human rights while countering terrorism. Around 30 participants, including 10 women, attended the workshop: government officials, members and staff of the Commission, civil society organizations, religious leaders and journalists. The workshop included discussions on the United Nations Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674), the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix), the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on Faith for Rights (A/HRC/40/58, annexes I and II), and the implementation of human rights norms by law enforcement and investigators concerning hate speech, violent extremism and the fight against terrorism. The workshop also included discussions on the situation regarding hate speech and violent extremism in Djibouti and efforts to prevent these phenomena as well as terrorism.

20. From 2 to 5 May 2018, in Tunis, the Centre organized a regional workshop on the role of youth faith actors in promoting human rights in the Middle East and North Africa region to consult young human rights activists and religious leaders on the best way to implement the Faith for Rights framework in the region and to address the vulnerabilities of young people to incitement to hatred and violence in the name of religion. Twenty-five participants, including 10 women, attended the workshop, which involved government officials, experts, human rights educators and United Nations staff. Participants examined the general context, analysed the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and its 18 commitments on Faith for Rights, and discussed their potential integration into capacity-building and education programmes to address religious radicalization of youth. The workshop identified ideas on the best ways to continue working together on promoting human rights.”

Secretary-General’s 2019 report on the promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace (A/74/476):

“23. United Nations entities continued to broaden their engagement in global frameworks with faith-based actors as key players in conflict-resolution and peacebuilding. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights continued the implementation of the “Faith for rights” framework, aimed at reaching out to persons belonging to religions and holding beliefs in all regions of the world, with a view to enhancing cohesive, peaceful and respectful societies.”

Secretary-General’s 2020 report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2020/23):

“35. The religious leaders of Cyprus sustained their commitment to peacebuilding and reconciliation within the framework of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, under the auspices of the Embassy of Sweden. The religious leaders, who have been meeting regularly since March 2011, cooperated with OHCHR and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to uphold the right to freedom of religion. They organized language classes (Turkish and Greek) and thematic seminars on human rights, religious awareness and gender issues and successfully supported pilgrimages on both sides of the divide.”
Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on Reports by the High Commissioner for Human Rights

High Commissioner’s 2017 report on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief (A/HRC/34/35):

“91. In that context and pursuant to the Rabat Plan of Action, OHCHR is reaching out within a “Faith for rights” initiative to stakeholders in the field of religion or belief. The overall objective of the initiative is to promote a collaborative definition of the role and responsibilities of leaders in promoting human rights, based on good practices and lessons learned.”


“69. Through the Faith for Rights initiative, OHCHR has been engaging with faith-based actors to reflect on the deep connections between religions and human rights. In March 2017, theistic, non-theistic and atheistic participants in an OHCHR expert workshop adopted the Beirut Declaration and 18 commitments, which articulate how “faith” can stand up for “rights.” The Declaration addresses incitement to religious hatred and the human rights responsibilities of religious leaders. In Tunisia, with technical support from OHCHR, the independent high authority for audio-visual communication developed a national barometer to monitor incitement to hatred, based on the Rabat Plan of Action (see A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix). This model is being replicated in Côte d’Ivoire and Morocco.”


“38. […] On 28 September 2017, the Office of the Religious Track convened its third round table for human rights, bringing together faith-based actors and civil society organizations to introduce the OHCHR Faith for Rights initiative and promote interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation on religion and human rights. The Office of the Religious Track translated the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments into Greek and Turkish, in order to make it available for concrete projects for and with women, men and children in the whole island.”

High Commissioner’s 2018 report on rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (A/HRC/37/26):

“27. […] Over the past year, OHCHR has organized a series of meetings among faith-based and civil society actors, seeking to help them establish a respectful common ground on the essential principles of human dignity, equality and justice. In March 2017, they adopted the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for rights”. It aims to foster peaceful societies, which uphold diversity of belief, behaviour and thought as an intrinsic and inalienable right of all their people.

28. In May 2017, OHCHR organized a symposium for religious leaders and civil society representatives on the rights of women and children from the perspective of Islam in Dakar, which led to the creation of a national “Faith for rights” coalition in Senegal. In December 2017, together with Morocco, OHCHR organized a meeting for States, national human rights institutions, religious authorities and faith-based civil society actors in order to outline good practices and define modalities of support for existing and new “Faith for rights” projects. The Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments illustrate how faith can stand up for rights more effectively so that both enhance each other. The commitments also include a pledge to stand up for the rights of all persons belonging to minorities and to defend their freedom of religion or belief and their right to participate equally and effectively in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life, as recognized by international human rights law.

29. UN treaty bodies have also raised issues related to religious diversity in their dialogues with States. For example, in its concluding observations of July 2017, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Nigeria “expedite the repeal or amendment of all discriminatory laws identified by the National Law Reform Commission following its comprehensive audit of discriminatory laws in the State party and include religious leaders in the process of addressing issues of faith and human rights, so as to build on several ‘faith for rights’ initiatives and identify common ground among all religions in the State party”.”
High Commissioner’s 2018 report on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief (A/HRC/37/44):

“28. […] Religious leaders are potentially very important human rights actors, and OHCHR has been undertaking an important activity which engages religious leadership. The Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”, launched in March 2017, are aimed at faith-based actors, who are defined in a broad manner to include theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other believers. The Declaration provides 18 corresponding operative commitments through which faith-based actors can articulate how “Faith” can more effectively stand up for “Rights” in order to enhance each other. In December 2017, OHCHR and the Government of Morocco co-organized the “Rabat+5 symposium”, offering a platform to exchange practices and discuss concrete “Faith for Rights” projects at the grass-roots level in various parts of the world. […]”

80. On 6 and 7 December 2017, the Rabat+5 symposium offered an opportunity for various stakeholders to engage with experts who had contributed to the elaboration of the Rabat Plan of Action and the 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” and to exchange experiences in the area of combating violence in the name of religion. The broad and diverse participation in the symposium reflected an interest in guidance and the relevance of the emerging standards in the context of faith and human rights. As human rights are by definition a multi-stakeholder exercise, the “Faith for Rights” framework is a good example of States, State religious authorities, faith-based and civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and individuals working together in the collaborative networks called for by the action plan.”


“49. Moreover, the Government should take further action to publicly condemn and speak out against any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. It should also increase efforts further to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence in all sectors of society in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 and the Rabat Plan of Action. In addition, the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on ‘Faith for Rights’ can be useful to address advocacy of hatred that incites to violence, discrimination or hostility, particularly when it is conducted in the name of religion or belief.”

Summary of the 2018 expert workshop on the role and contribution of civil society organizations, academia, NHRIs and other relevant stakeholders in the prevention of human rights abuses (A/HRC/39/24):

“30. Ms. Anwar focused her presentation on the work of women’s rights groups in countries where private actors and State authorities used religion to justify human rights violations and abuses. She noted that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was the human rights treaty that had attracted the most reservations, with some 60 per cent based on religion, notably on its article 16 regarding marriage and family relations. Therefore women’s demands were thwarted in many States, and she noted that the work of women’s rights groups was demonized as being against Islam or morality. There was limited space for debate and change, with little reflection of women’s rights in decision-making processes. She noted that if it was only religious leaders who were seen to have the right to talk about Islam, then women would fear speaking out; many secular human rights activists had also disengaged with religious issues. However, non-governmental organizations such as Sisters in Islam (at the national level) and Musawah (at the international level) were working to build knowledge and courage to deal with a misogynistic reading of religion. Civil society efforts, for example writing letters to newspapers, submitting memorandums for law reform, and challenging in court a book ban and fatwa against Sisters in Islam, aimed to build a rights-based democratic culture.

31. She asserted that religion could be a source of empowerment and liberation if ideological non-State actors ceased silencing any demands for equality. Musawah had undertaken capacity-building and engaged in international advocacy, including by submitting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women thematic reports and country-specific statements on reservations that justified the repression of women. Furthermore, she noted that the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith
for Rights” was important in order to turn the principles into action on the ground, for example by refining curriculums, teaching materials and textbooks wherever some religious interpretations, or the way they were presented, may give rise to the perception of condoning violence or discrimination (twelfth commitment). She stressed the importance of devising a human rights-based counter-narrative in order to build knowledge and prevent violent extremism.”

“77. OHCHR engages with and consults youth in the context of its Faith for Rights initiative, which follows up on the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and its 18 commitments. A first regional workshop was held in Tunis in May 2018, focusing on the role of youth faith actors in the promotion of human rights in the Middle East and North Africa region. OHCHR plans to organize more workshops in order to provide space for cross-disciplinary reflection and action on the deep and mutually enriching connections between religions and human rights.”

“88. In Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, OHCHR conducted workshops on the role of religious leaders, women and youth in the promotion of human rights in the Middle East and North Africa, in line with the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence and the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on ‘Faith for Rights’.”

“41. On 6 December 2017, the Office of the Religious Track participated in the Rabat+5 symposium on the follow-up to the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, highlighting the experiences of faith-based actors in promoting human rights in Cyprus. Having translated the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and its 18 commitments into Greek and Turkish, the Office of the Religious Track highlighted its projects to promote the Faith for Rights initiative through awareness-raising campaigns on social media, collaboration with educators and journalists and cross-disciplinary dialogue on human rights between religious and non-religious actors from across the island.”

High Commissioner’s 2019 report on rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (A/HRC/40/30):
“45. OHCHR has been relying on the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, and the framework contained in the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights, for training and advocacy purposes with different stakeholders, including religious minorities, members of civil society and United Nations human rights mechanisms. The Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” notably include the pledge to stand up for the rights of all persons belonging to minorities and to defend their freedom of religion or belief, as well as their right to participate equally and effectively in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life, as recognized by international human rights law and as a minimum standard of solidarity among all believers.

46. In the same context, OHCHR organized the first regional workshop in Tunis in May 2018, focusing on the role of young people of different faiths in the promotion of human rights in the Middle East and North Africa. Several ongoing initiatives were presented through interactive panel discussions, including initiatives on promoting minority rights through advocacy with United Nations human rights mechanisms and on youth entrepreneurship to prevent violent extremism.

47. In November 2018, OHCHR organized a conference in Morocco, with the participation of young people from the Middle East and North Africa and international experts, including the Special Rapporteur on minority issues. The conference focused on engaging members of civil society, in particular young people, to share their experience of promoting the rights of minorities, combating incitement to hatred and identifying future steps to protect religious minorities. It also aimed to encourage young people to engage in promoting respect and understanding, combating incitement to hatred and promoting the rights of religious minorities.
83. Respect for religious diversity and dialogue, and for the participation of minorities in various spheres of life, is essential for the development of a truly inclusive society. OHCHR used the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, and the framework in the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights, for training and advocacy purposes with religious minorities, members of civil society and United Nations human rights mechanisms."

“63. To implement the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix) and the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights (A/HRC/40/58, annex I), OHCHR undertook research to identify the causes of discrimination faced by ethnic and religious groups in the Middle East and North Africa. […] 105. In Tunisia, OHCHR signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Religious Affairs on developing a human rights education programme and a legal framework on the rights of imams.”

“54. In partnership with United Nations entities and other regional and national institutions, OHCHR continued to contribute to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (see A/CONF.189/12), the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (see A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, annex) and the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights (see A/HRC/40/58, annexes I and II), and the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. […] 63. In August 2019, the High Commissioner addressed the Security Council in an Arria-formula meeting on advancing the safety and security of religious minorities in armed conflict. […] 117. Nationalism, hatred, and discrimination are interlinked and can severely impact the future of our world. Nationalism is on the rise in many countries, accompanied by outspoken racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and other forms of discrimination, including attacks on women’s rights, and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Pushbacks against the rights of racial and religious minorities in some countries are also a source of concern. […]”

High Commissioner’s 2020 report on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslim minority and other minorities in Myanmar (A/HRC/43/18):
“35. Myanmar has a historic opportunity to develop a strong minority rights and non-discrimination regime that recognizes, protects and fulfils the rights of all. Putting in place legal and institutional guarantees for equality for all requires dismantling the current system of discriminatory laws, policies and practice, and adopting positive measures to effectively promote and protect equality for all and minority rights. Key international standards, including those set out in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the Rabat Plan of Action on prohibition of national, racial or religious hatred, provide guidance for the elaboration of national strategies, policies, programmes and legal frameworks that promote tolerance, encourage positive inter-religious and inter-communal communication, and serve to counter advocacy of hatred that incites violence, hostility, intolerance and discrimination. […] 39. The role of political and religious leaders in speaking out firmly and promptly against intolerance, discriminatory stereotyping and instances of hate speech is critical. [A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix, para. 36 and A/HRC/40/58, annex II.] The Beirut Declaration and its 18 Commitments on “Faith for Rights”, along with positive examples from other countries, can provide a roadmap in this regard. [A/HRC/40/58, annexes I and II. These are guidance developed in collaboration with the United Nations, international human rights mechanisms and faith actors, designed to empower the latter to optimize their impact as human rights defenders and to address incitement to hatred. The #Faith4Rights toolkit, which translates this vision into 18 practical modules of peer-to-peer learning for faith actors, academic institutions and training experts, is a useful resource.] […]"
46. The below recommendations relate specifically to the promotion and protection of the rights of Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar. OHCHR remains ready to provide technical assistance to the implementation of these recommendations, as required, including through the establishment of a country presence. [...] OHCHR recommends religious leaders and religious communities to:
(a) Systematically, promptly and firmly condemn any incident of incitement to religious hatred against Rohingya, other Muslims and other religious minorities by speaking out against intolerance, discriminatory stereotyping and instances of hate speech; and refrain from incitement to violence, hostility or discrimination;
(b) Stand up for equality for all people in Myanmar, in all circumstances, and for the rights of persons belonging to minorities, by defending their rights to participate equally and effectively in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life and to freedom of religion or belief. [A/HRC/40/58, annex I, para. 17 and annex II, commitment VI]

“47. The religious leaders of Cyprus sustained their commitment to peacebuilding and religious freedom within the framework of the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, under the auspices of the Embassy of Sweden. They have worked to build trust and confidence among their respective faith communities, who are divided because of the conflict, and they have conducted several activities and projects under the Faith for Rights framework. These included two seminars in December 2018 and October 2019, organized in cooperation with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), for religious leaders and representatives of faith communities on international standards of freedom of religion or belief, including the relationship with freedom of expression. The seminar in October 2019 featured a special session on women’s rights and freedom of religion or belief, as well as a training seminar for 20 youth and students from the five main faith communities of Cyprus. In October 2019, the Religious Track also organized a Faith for Rights seminar on the role that faith communities can play in combating human trafficking and supporting victims, in follow-up to the 2017 statement by the religious leaders condemning all forms of violence against women and girls.
48. The religious leaders also publicly denounced the terrorist attacks in New Zealand and Sri Lanka, and issued statements condemning instances of any advocacy of hatred that incites violence, discrimination or hostility in the name of religion or belief. The Religious Track has been using social media as a tool to increase the outreach in promoting respect for all faith traditions in Cyprus, in line with the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on Faith for Rights (A/HRC/40/58, annexes I–II). As an additional way to advocate jointly for the right to access and worship across the island, the religious leaders advised and were consulted by an academic researcher in a project mapping Christian and Muslim sites of religious heritage in Cyprus. [...]
35. [...] In August, addressing the Security Council in an Arria-formula meeting on advancing the safety and security of persons belonging to religious minorities in armed conflicts, the High Commissioner noted that protecting minorities must begin before conflicts erupted. Disaggregated data by religion and ethnicity were also required. She also reiterated that the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence emphasized the role of politicians and religious leaders in preventing and speaking out against intolerance, discriminatory stereotyping and instances of hate speech. [A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix, para. 36]

37. At the Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security in April, the High Commissioner highlighted the importance of protecting religious minority groups, in particular in situations in which they had been targeted by incitement to hatred and violence on the basis of exclusionary interpretations that instrumentalized religions, beliefs or their followers for electoral purposes or political gains.

38. In April, the High Commissioner referred to the Faith for Rights framework in her press statement concerning the revised Penal Code of Brunei Darussalam, which included provisions that could encourage violence and discrimination against, inter alia, religious minority groups, and she stressed that the Government, religious authorities and a wide range of civil society actors should work together to uphold human dignity and equality for all.

39. At the end of her visit to Malaysia in October, the High Commissioner highlighted the Rabat Plan of Action as useful guidance in distinguishing between permissible speech and speech that could amount to incitement, and she offered the assistance of OHCHR and other United Nations human rights mechanisms to further explore that. [...] 

42. On the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, several special procedure mandate holders called on States to do more to stop hate crimes and to promote interfaith initiatives. In thematic and mission reports, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief called upon States to use the Rabat Plan of Action and the Faith for Rights framework as a chart of specific commitments and practical measures to address the related phenomena of incitement to religious hatred, discrimination and violence. [A/73/362, para. 79; A/HRC/40/58/Add.1, para. 91.] In his report on combating antisemitism, the Special Rapporteur also referred to them as soft law instruments that could provide essential guidance for strategies to combat antisemitism and other forms of intolerance. [A/74/358, para. 73] 

47. The High Commissioner noted with alarm a dangerous rise in intolerance, racism and religious hatred. She emphasized that interreligious dialogue was an important tool to unlock action and move towards creating change on the ground, based on concrete projects that gave priority to education and capacity-building of faith actors within a shared vision and framework across different religious communities. In April, the High Commissioner urged the Government of Brunei to halt the entry into force of the revised Penal Code, the provisions of which could encourage violence and discrimination against, among others, religious minorities in the country. In May, the High Commissioner condemned the rise in antisemitic incidents taking place in a number of European countries and the United States of America. The rise in attacks targeting Jews, along with other groups targeted because of their race or religion, was a matter of grave concern, and she urged all Governments to redouble their efforts to combat racism and related intolerance in all its forms. [...] 

49. The role and responsibilities of religious leaders and faith-based actors in promoting human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, are highlighted in the Beirut Declaration and its 18 Commitments on Faith for Rights. The Faith for Rights framework continues to be quoted and used by faith-based actors and civil society organizations. For example, the Group of 20 Interfaith Forums in Argentina and Japan recommended reducing incitement to hatred by supporting religious leaders and faith-based actors in fulfilling their human rights responsibilities as summarized in the Beirut Declaration and its 18 Commitments. Also referring to the Beirut Declaration, the Global Partners Forum on Faith Action for Children on the Move called, in its action plan, for the design and implementation of projects and initiatives aimed at promoting respect for and an understanding of minority groups, including those with different beliefs, faiths and religions, to reduce violence and xenophobic narratives and nurture peaceful societies.
At the regional level, OHCHR focused on the protection of religious minorities by organizing an activity in Tunis in October on enhancing civic space and addressing hate speech in social media in the Middle East and North Africa. OHCHR is also undertaking a comprehensive study of the standards and practices across the Middle East and North Africa region in order to identify the root causes of discrimination and inequalities faced by the various ethnic and religious groups, including ways to address gaps in their protection, participation and access to rights. The study was initiated in September 2019 and is expected to be finalized in 2020. It involves legal and sociocultural mapping and analysis of the current situation of ethnic and religious groups in the Middle East and North Africa Region. The study specifically incorporates a gender lens to identify forms of intersectional discrimination and inequalities faced by women and girls belonging to ethnic and religious groups.

High Commissioner’s 2020 report on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief (A/HRC/43/72):

34. Legislation prohibiting incitement to racial, national and religious hatred should be specific, should not be overly broad in either its scope or its application and should be consistent with the international standards on freedom of religion or belief and freedom of opinion and expression. States should ensure that there is no impunity in the judicial system and that prosecutions and adjudications are undertaken in accordance with the law.

35. Some useful guidance in this regard is provided by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee. The Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence and its six-part threshold test, as well as continuing developments on what the threshold entails and what is considered to be advocacy of religious hatred constituting incitement may provide some guidance to those implementing the international standards relating to the prohibition of incitement to racial, national and religious hatred. […]

75. In 2019 OHCHR organized regional workshops in Marrakech, Djibouti and Tunis on implementing the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights, enhancing the civic space and addressing hate speech in social media. Furthermore, it finalized a training manual for judicial training institutions in the Middle East and North Africa on the protection of freedom of opinion and expression and the prohibition of hate speech. […]

77. OHCHR has engaged with national and international organizations working to combat antisemitism. As a member of the working group on the United Nations strategy and plan of action on hate speech, OHCHR is currently drafting its own strategy on hate speech.

78. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has spoken out on issues of freedom of religion and belief relevant to the many topics contained in the action plan, in various public forums, including at the Second Global Summit on Religion, Peace and Security, held in Geneva from 29 April to 1 May 2019. On that occasion, the High Commissioner highlighted the importance of protecting religious minorities, particularly those targeted through incitement to hatred and violence.

79. In August 2019, the High Commissioner addressed the Security Council, in an Arria formula meeting, on advancing the safety and security of persons belonging to religious minorities in armed conflicts, stressing that efforts to protect minorities must begin before conflicts erupt and that it is important to collect data disaggregated by religion and ethnicity. Referring to the Rabat Plan of Action, she emphasized the role of politicians and religious leaders in preventing and speaking out against intolerance, discriminatory stereotyping and hate speech.”
Reports by Treaty Bodies

“13. The Committee [on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women] also recommended that Nigeria ensure that the ongoing constitutional review process addressed the applicability of statutory, customary and Islamic personal laws, which afforded varying degrees of protection for women and girls. It further recommended expediting the repeal or amendment of all discriminatory laws identified by the Nigerian Law Reform Commission and including religious leaders in the process of addressing issues of faith and human rights, so as to build on several “faith for rights” initiatives and identify common ground among all religions in Nigeria.”[CEDAW/C/NGA/CO/7-8, para. 12 (b) and (c).]

Human Rights Committee, summary record of the 3646th meeting on 26 July 2019 (CCPR/C/SR.3646):
“Draft general comment No. 37 on article 21 of the Covenant (Right of peaceful assembly) […]

2. Mr. Heyns (Rapporteur for the general comment) said that Committee members’ inputs had proved extremely valuable, for instance when it came to identifying outstanding issues. […]

30. Mr. Heyns said that paragraph 23 corresponded to paragraph 24 of the previous version, and referred to article 20 of the Covenant. He proposed addressing the provision of article 20 concerning incitement to violence in the section on the scope of the right of peaceful assembly. The other provisions could be addressed in the section concerning restrictions. He suggested deleting the following phrase in the second sentence: “because the different rights limit one another (art. 5 (1))”. He also suggested amending the third sentence to read: “Participation in an assembly which is aimed at destroying the rights of others should be prohibited (art. 5).” Lastly, he suggested refering in a footnote to the 2012 Rabat Plan of Action and the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights, which contained widely accepted observations on how article 20 should be interpreted.”

Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 37, revised draft (after first reading, 2019) prepared by the Rapporteur, Mr. Christof Heyns (www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CCPR/GC37/ENGLISH_GC37.docx):
“57. In accordance with article 20 of the Covenant, peaceful assemblies may not be used for any propaganda for war (paragraph 1), or for any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (paragraph 2). Assemblies which [in their entirety] fall within the scope of article 20 must be prohibited. As far as possible, action should be taken in such cases against the individual perpetrators, rather than against the assembly as a whole.”

Footnote 62: “Any restrictions pursuant to article 20 (2) should be justified in terms of the requirements posed for restrictions by article 19 or 21. See General comment No. 34, paras. 50–52; article 4, Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; and Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, General recommendation No. No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech. See also the threshold test for incitement to hatred in the Rabat Plan of Action (2012), A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix, para. 29 as well as the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” (A/HRC/40/58, annexes I and II).”

CEDAW Committee, summary record of the 1747th meeting on 10 February 2020 (CEDAW/C/SR.1747):
“14. Ms. Haidaar said that, since the previous session, she had participated alongside civil society organizations in activities to promote the Committee’s general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change. […] In December 2019, she had also taken part in an OHCHR workshop that had culminated in the completion of the first draft of a manual on the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and its 18 related commitments. The manual was still a work in progress, but she urged the Committee members to reflect on how it could be used to support the training of trainers in each of their countries and, ultimately, to provide guidance for women who were being forced to choose between their faith and their rights.”

“Faith for Rights”
General Assembly 2017 report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (A/72/365):

“60. The Special Rapporteur notes that the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”, launched in March 2017, and the Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes (Fez Plan of Action), launched in July 2017, are also important opportunities for advancing respect for freedom of religion and societal tolerance. It is imperative, therefore, that States redouble their focus and efforts towards putting those tools to use in the face of the growing threat of religious intolerance. [...]"

78. The Special Rapporteur, therefore, encourages all stakeholders, including States, faith leaders and civil society, to fully utilize the recommendations outlined in resolution 16/18, the Rabat Plan of Action, the Fez Plan of Action and the Beirut Declaration. Religious literacy and interfaith dialogue can play a vital role in identifying the common good and promoting respect for pluralism. As stressed in the Beirut Declaration, all believers — whether theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other — should join hands and hearts in articulating ways in which “faith” can stand up for “rights” more effectively, so that each enhances the other. Rejecting expressions of hatred within one’s own community and extending solidarity and support across faith or belief boundaries are honourable and meaningful actions. [...]"

83. Member States should also consider taking steps to strengthen information-sharing and improve the transparency of the various United Nations processes and activities aimed at combating acts of hostility, discrimination and violence for all stakeholders. This could include establishing an “Internet portal” designed to serve as a platform for all stakeholders (i.e. faith-based actors, human rights experts, government officials, national human rights institutions and other practitioners) to access legal, judicial and policy guidance, allow for the sharing of success stories and challenges and enhance the visibility of the work of the United Nations in combating the advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred constituting incitement to hostility, discrimination or violence for broader constituencies. Such a platform could bring together sources of information produced by activities organized in support of the implementation of resolution 16/18 and the Rabat Plan of Action. Information produced by complementary processes, such as those carried out under the Beirut Declaration and the Fez Plan of Action, could also be linked to such a website.”


“C. International legal standards

1. Hard and soft law

28. International human rights treaties are reticent on the sort of relationship a State should have with religion or belief. They do, however, impose a duty upon States to be impartial guarantors of the enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief, including the right to freedom from religion, for all individuals and groups within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction. The Human Rights Committee, in paragraph 9 of its general comment No. 22 (1993) on the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, states clearly that the fact that a religion is recognized as a State religion or that its followers comprise the majority of the population should not effectively impair the enjoyment of their rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including articles 18 and 27, or result in discrimination against non-believers or adherents to minority religions.

29. The Human Rights Committee notes that this duty involves both negative obligations, like refraining from perpetuating discriminatory acts, and positive duties, such as the obligation to protect against third-party infringements, including incitement to religious hatred. States are also obliged to ensure that individuals belonging to minorities are able to practise their religions or beliefs or receive public support in the same manner as adherents to a State religion. Other positive duties include satisfying all obligations stipulated by article 27 of the Covenant and by the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, which require States to “take measures to create favourable conditions” that enable persons belonging to religious, ethnic and linguistic minority communities, to “express their characteristics”. 
Furthermore, the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” explicitly refer to preventing the use of the notion of “State religion” or “doctrinal secularism” to discriminate against individuals or groups, and to “reducing the space for religious or belief pluralism in practice”. [...] 89. Finally, the Special Rapporteur would like to reiterate commitment IV of the “Faith for Rights” framework, which warns against the use of the notion of “State religion” to discriminate against any individual or group as well as against the use of “doctrinal secularism”, which risks reducing the space for religious or belief pluralism in practice. He stresses that States must satisfy a range of obligations, including to adopt measures that guarantee structural equality and to fully realize freedom of religion or belief. [...]”

General Assembly 2018 report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief (A/73/362):

“62. Another related and important soft law standard is the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (see A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix), which was adopted by experts at a meeting in Rabat in October 2012. The Special Rapporteur and his predecessor have outlined the importance of the Rabat Plan of Action in addressing advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to violence, discrimination and hostility (see A/HRC/25/58, A/HRC/28/66, A/HRC/31/18, A/HRC/34/50 and A/72/365). It provides practical guidance through a six-part test that takes into account the context of the statement, the speaker’s position and intent, the content and extent of the speech and the likelihood that the speech would incite action against the target group (see A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix, para. 29). This test is being used by the national authorities for audiovisual communication in Côte d’Ivoire, Morocco and Tunisia (see A/HRC/37/3, para. 69), and the European Court of Human Rights also referred to the Rabat Plan of Action in a recent judgment. [European Court of Human Rights, Case of Mariya Alekhina and Others v. Russia, paras. 110, 187, 190–191 and 223. See also the separate opinion of Judge Elósegui, para. 14.]

63. In a thematic resolution, the Human Rights Council called for the international community’s effective implementation of resolution 16/18, the Istanbul Process and the Rabat Plan of Action “in order to contribute to a more conducive environment to countering hate speech and violence” (see Human Rights Council resolution 34/8). Similarly, in a country-specific resolution, the Human Rights Council encouraged the Government of Myanmar to increase further efforts to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence in all sectors of society in accordance with Council resolution 16/18 and the Rabat Plan of Action (see resolution 34/22). In his July 2018 update on the situation of human rights of Rohingya people, the High Commissioner for Human Rights referred to resolution 16/18 and the Rabat Plan of Action, as well as to the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and its 18 commitments (see below), in order to address advocacy of hatred that incites violence, discrimination or hostility, particularly when it is conducted in the name of religion or belief. This illustrates the complementarity and practical usefulness of these soft law standards. [...]”

67. The “Faith for Rights” framework, which was launched in March 2017 through the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and its 18 commitments, highlights that religious leaders are potentially very important human rights actors in view of their considerable influence on the hearts and minds of hundreds of millions of believers. The underlying rationale is expressed in the commitment to “leverage the spiritual and moral weight of religions and beliefs with the aim of strengthening the protection of universal human rights and developing preventative strategies”. [OHCHR, “18 commitments on ‘Faith for Rights’”, commitment XVI.]

68. The undertaking expressed in the Beirut Declaration to enhance cohesive, peaceful and respectful societies by mobilizing faith-based actors behind the human rights framework is particularly well illustrated by the commitments to: support and promote equal treatment in all areas and manifestations of religion or belief; ensure non-discrimination and gender equality; stand up for the rights of all persons, including those belonging to minorities; publicly denounce all instances of advocacy of hatred that incite violence; refrain from oppressing critical voices or giving credence to exclusionary interpretations on the basis of religious grounds; and condemn judgmental public determinations by any actor who in the name of religion aims to disqualify the religion or belief of another individual. The holistic human rights approach of the “Faith for Rights” framework is further expressed in the commitment to defend the freedom of expression, including
academic freedom and the promotion of tolerance through formal education channels. It also emphasizes the important role of parents and families in detecting and addressing early signs of vulnerability of children and youth to violence in the name of religion. [...] 

79. The Special Rapporteur specifically calls upon States to: [...] (c) Operationalize the call in the Secretary General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism to promote engagement with religious leaders and faith-based actors and, in this context, invest in the dissemination and implementation of the Rabat Plan of Action, the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and the Fez Plan of Action, which provide a chart of specific commitments as well as a number of practical measures to address the related phenomena of incitement to religious hatred, discrimination and violence; [...] 

80. The Special Rapporteur also calls upon the respective United Nations mechanisms to facilitate transparency in the implementation by States of Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 and of the steps taken by key stakeholders to operationalize the Rabat Plan of Action, the Fez Plan of Action and the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments, and to support the convening of the seventh meeting of the Istanbul Process.”

**Human Rights Council 2019 report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief (A/HRC/40/58):**

“21. The “Faith for Rights” framework, launched in March 2017 under the auspices of OHCHR with the engagement of faith actors and international human rights experts, draws from insights gleaned under the Rabat Plan of Action into the positive role that faith actors can play in responding to incitement to violence. The aim of the Faith for Rights framework is to mobilize faith-based resources to promote the human rights framework, in particular by recognizing the interdependence of the freedom of expression and the freedom of religion or belief. The Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights and its 18 commitments promote the resolve not to oppress critical voices and views on matters of religion or belief, however wrong or offensive they may be perceived, in the name of the “sanctity” of the subject matter (see annexes I and II). Echoing the Rabat Plan of Action, the 18 commitments also contain a call upon States that still have anti-blasphemy or anti-apostasy laws in force to repeal them, stressing that such laws stifle the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief, as well as a healthy dialogue and debate about religious issues. [...] 

66. In this context, the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights provides important guidance and inspiration for action: ‘Speech is fundamental to individual and communal flourishing. It constitutes one of the most crucial mediums for good and evil sides of humanity. War starts in the minds and is cultivated by a reasoning fuelled by often hidden advocacy of hatred. Positive speech is also the healing tool of reconciliation and peacebuilding in the hearts and minds. Speech is one of the most strategic areas of the responsibilities we commit to assume, and we support each other for their implementation through this Faith for Rights declaration on the basis of the thresholds articulated by the Rabat Plan of Action.’”

**Tunisia mission 2019 report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief (A/HRC/40/58/Add.1):**

“91. During its third Universal Periodic Review in 2017, Tunisia also accepted the recommendation to establish an interreligious council to facilitate interreligious dialogue and harmony. In this context, the Special Rapporteur calls upon the Government to invest in the dissemination and implementation of the Rabat Plan of Action, the Beirut Declaration on “Faith for Rights” and the Fez Plan of Action which provide a chart of specific commitments of faith-based actors as well as a number of practical measures to address the related phenomena of incitement to religious hatred, discrimination and violence.”

**General Assembly 2019 report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion and belief (A/74/358):**

“55. The Special Rapporteur recalls that, as discussed below, international human rights instruments also stress the responsibility of public officials to refrain from expressing religious, racial and other forms of intolerance, as well as a duty to condemn expression that, even if protected by law, nevertheless reflects anti-Semitic attitudes. As set out in the Rabat Plan of Action, “political and religious leaders should refrain from using messages of intolerance or expressions which may incite violence, hostility or discrimination; but they also have a crucial role to play in speaking out firmly and promptly against intolerance, discriminatory stereotyping and instances of hate speech” (A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix, para. 36). [...]”
73. The Special Rapporteur also commends the recognition by the Secretary-General that the threat of antisemitism requires the urgent and committed attention not just of all Member States, but of the United Nations itself. In this regard, the Special Rapporteur notes the recent launch of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. Soft law instruments and guidance documents developed under the auspices of the United Nations [See e.g. A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix; A/HRC/40/58, annexes I and II; and Human Rights Council resolution 16/18.] can provide essential guidance for strategies to combat antisemitism and other forms of intolerance.

**Human Rights Council 2020 report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues (A/HRC/43/47):**

“30. On 18 and 19 December 2019, the Special Rapporteur participated in an expert workshop on a human rights training toolkit for faith actors, held in Collonges-sous-Salève, France. The workshop was organized by OHCHR to strengthen the implementation of minority rights and the freedom of religion or belief and to prevent violent extremism by designing a human rights training toolkit for faith actors.”

**Human Rights Council 2020 report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (A/HRC/43/48):**


58. The Special Rapporteur also draws attention to recent initiatives at the United Nations that engage religious or belief actors in the promotion of gender equality. The “Faith for Rights” Initiative, led by the OHCHR, has launched in January 2020 a peer-to-peer learning toolkit for faith actors to assist in revisiting religious interpretations that perpetuate gender inequality and harmful stereotypes or condone gender-based violence. [https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/FaithForRights.aspx] [...]”

77. The Special Rapporteur recommends that: a) States [...] xi) Develop human rights education and training for religious leaders; in this connection, the Special Rapporteur welcomes the #Faith4Rights toolkit recently launched by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;”

**Sri Lanka mission 2020 report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (A/HRC/43/48/Add.2):**

“58. One of the challenges the country faces is the lack of equality amongst religious communities especially when Article 9 of the Constitution explicitly guarantees Buddhism the foremost place and mandates the State with the duty to protect and foster the Buddha Sasana. The provision is almost equivalent to Buddhism being made the official religion of the State. The Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” [www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/FaithForRights.aspx] explicitly refer to preventing the use of the notion of “State religion” to discriminate against individuals or groups, and to “reducing the space for religious or belief pluralism in practice” [A/HRC/40/58, annex II, Commitment IV; https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/faith4rights-toolkit.pdf]. The Rapporteur reiterates that the extent to which the State supports a religion and the degree to which they enforce that religion could have far-reaching implications on how the State protects freedom of religion or belief for everyone. [...]”

92. Against this background, the Special Rapporteur recommends the Government of Sri Lanka to: a) Take concrete steps to address all the identified root causes of religious intolerance and tensions and to promote trust among different ethnic and religious communities in Sri Lanka. He recommends drawing on the action plan in Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18, and Beirut Declaration and its 18 Commitments on “Faith for Rights”, in activities designed to promote inter-religious dialogue and foster pluralism; [...] d) Develop monitoring mechanisms to establish early warning systems and respond to hate speech and incitement to violence in conformity with international human rights standards using existing tools such as the Rabat Plan of Action and the Fez Plan of Action;”
Rabat+5 symposium (Rabat, December 2017)

On 6-7 December 2017, more than 100 States, national human rights institutions, regional organizations, religious authorities and faith-based civil society actors participated in the Rabat+5 symposium, which was held on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Rabat Plan of Action.

In his opening statement, the High Commissioner urged the various stakeholders to implement and support concrete “Faith for Rights” projects, notably at the grassroots level. During the Rabat+5 symposium, sixteen civil society organizations and OHCHR’s Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa presented their projects and areas of future cooperation on combatting discrimination on the basis of religion and enhancing the role of faith-based actors in the defence of human dignity.

Furthermore, an academic initiative presented the “Faith for Rights” online platform, which will serve as an inventory of relevant actors and projects in order to disseminate the 18 commitments, collect capacity building approaches and facilitate networking. This should also lead to strengthening the capacities of the existing UN human rights mechanisms by providing them with accurate and up-to-date analysis on environments, dynamics and early warning signs of incidents leading to sectarian conflicts and violence committed in the name of religion.

The Rabat+5 symposium offered an opportunity for the various stakeholders to engage with several experts who had contributed to the elaboration of the Rabat Plan of Action and the 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” and to hear experiences in the area of combatting violence in the name of religion, both by State representatives, national human rights institutions and civil society actors.

In his final statement, the Chairman welcomed that the Rabat+5 Symposium offered a platform to exchange practices and ideas and particularly the emergence of creative action points to inspire policies and synergies of the various stakeholders.
High Commissioner’s opening statement to the Rabat+5 symposium
(as delivered in Rabat by Ibrahim Salama on 6 December 2017)

I warmly welcome you to this important and timely symposium concerning the follow-up to the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of incitement to hatred, and I wish to thank the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting this symposium.

When it was adopted five years ago, the Rabat Plan of Action was an audacious start in articulating the human rights responsibilities of a number of actors, but with a specific focus on religious leaders. This was a first shift that I would qualify as a move from general interfaith dialogues to a specific articulation of three core responsibilities: Religious leaders should refrain from using messages which may incite violence, they should speak out firmly and promptly against hate speech and they should be clear that violence cannot be justified by prior provocation.

When human rights are seen as opposed to religion and merely portrayed as a Western imposition, then terrorists and violent extremists cannot dream of a better environment to prosper. Inciting to violence in the name of religion is a sophisticated intellectual effort which involves distorting religious messages and recruiting, deceiving and exploiting people. This manipulative approach of violent extremists requires a thoughtful response, to which human rights provides essential grounds and tools.

The second shift in this direction started in March 2017, when the faith-based and civil society actors participating at our expert workshop in Beirut expanded the above-mentioned “Rabat responsibilities” to the full spectrum of human rights. The visionary Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” of March 2017 are entirely dedicated to faith-based actors, who are defined in a wide manner to include theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other believers.

The Beirut Declaration is not “yet another declaration” but rather a profound analysis of the conceptual premises of a new relationship between faith and rights. It is also not merely a theoretical clarification but is followed by the corresponding operative 18 commitments through which faith-based actors have articulated how “Faith” can stand up for “Rights” more effectively so that both enhance each other.

In my opening statement to the Beirut workshop I stressed that religious leaders, with their considerable influence on the hearts and minds of millions of people, are potentially very important human rights actors. This is also reflected in the following quote from the Beirut Declaration: “Our duty is to practice what we preach, to fully engage, to speak up and act on the ground in the defence of human dignity long before it is actually threatened.”

Thus these two shifts have led to conceptual clarification through the soft law standards emerging from Rabat and Beirut. The imprint of these two documents is quite impressive. Within the last five years, the Rabat Plan of Action has been referred to in more than 120 UN documents by States, civil society organizations and human rights mechanisms; this means that every second week a UN document was published with a reference to the Rabat Plan of Action.

In the past eight months, the Beirut Declaration has also been used in several reports by the Secretary-General, Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies. For example, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women raised the “Faith for Rights” framework in their dialogues with three State parties in July, and a related recommendation was positively acknowledged by the concerned delegation in the concluding observations. All this illustrates the pressing demand for guidance and action in the context of faith and human rights.

“Faith for Rights”
Let me also highlight the fifth Commitment on non-discrimination and gender equality, with a concrete pledge to revisit those religious understandings and interpretations that appear to perpetuate gender inequality and harmful stereotypes or even condone gender-based violence. This human rights commitment is illustrated with pertinent quotes from the Talmud, Bible, Qu’ran, Hadith, Guru Granth Sahib, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and the recently adopted joint UN general recommendation/comment on harmful practices. This approach in itself is more than symbolic, since it constitutes a referential bridge – instead of an ocean of divide – between faith and rights.

The next important shift is envisaged through this Rabat+5 symposium: After the successful shift from dialogue to standards we now hope to move to implementing and supporting concrete “Faith for Rights” projects by various stakeholders, notably at the grassroots level. Since human rights are by definition a multi-stakeholder exercise, the “Faith for Rights” framework is a good example of States, State religious authorities, faith-based and civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and individuals joining forces.

The Beirut Declaration encapsulates this message poignantly with its call to stand up for our shared humanity and equal dignity of each human being in all circumstances within our own spheres.

States continue to bear the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting all rights for all, individually and collectively to enjoy a dignified life free from fear and free from want and enjoy the freedom of choice in all aspects of life.

National human rights institutions are uniquely placed to be bridges that link the various stakeholders, including religious authorities and faith-based civil society organizations.

State religious authorities, some of which have centuries of history in the State, enjoy quite different privileges and legal status in the various countries. In this context, the 18 commitments pledge preventing the use of the notion of “State religion” to discriminate against any individual or group as well as preventing the use of “doctrinal secularism” from reducing the space for religious or belief pluralism in practice.

Faith-based actors and individual believers should also realize the importance of standing up for each other and acting on the basis of a shared vision. The vision has already been articulated in the “Faith for Rights” framework; concrete projects now need to give it life and impact on the ground, with full political, financial and substantive support.

Furthermore, research and academic centres have an important role in consolidating the recently emerging conceptual clarity and they should also continue comparative research on faith and rights.

No religious precept, however long established and proclaimed under whatever banner, should be shielded from scrutiny when human dignity is at stake. Education, academic freedom and freedom of expression are key ingredients for confronting new challenges as well as for facilitating free and creative thinking.

The various stakeholders should never accept the false dichotomy of “faith versus rights”. Human rights are neither opposed to faith, nor vice versa. State religious authorities, faith-based and civil society actors should work jointly for the constructive approach of “Faith for Rights”, which upholds human dignity and equality for all.

While religions have been manipulated across human history to divide people, faith may unite all believers in line with the Beirut Declaration’s message of “unity in diversity”.

Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on
Presentation of “Faith for Rights” projects by various stakeholders

During the Rabat+ symposium, sixteen civil society representatives outlined their projects and areas of future cooperation on combatting discrimination on the basis of religion and enhancing the role of faith-based actors in the defence of human rights. Please see below the list of presentations by civil society organizations (including hyperlinks to their concept notes, where available):

- Mr. Melhem Khalaf, Lebanon
- Ms. Katherine Cash, Sweden
- Mr. Masimba Kuchera, Zimbabwe
- Ms. Elizabeth O’Casey, Belgium
- Ms. Ani Zonneveld, United States of America
- Mr. Andrew Smith, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Ms. Tahmina Rahman, Bangladesh
- Ms. Salpy Eskidjian, Cyprus
- Mr. Yehuda Stolov, Israel
- Mr. Thomas Schirrmacher, Germany
- Ms. Zainah Anwar, Malaysia
- Ms. Diane Alai, Switzerland
- Mr. Abdelwahab Hani, Tunisia
- Mr. John Graz, France
- Mr. W. Cole Durham Jr., United States of America
- Mr. Said Hammamoun, Canada
- Mr. Ismail Zien, OHCHR Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa
Chairman’s final statement of the Rabat+5 symposium

At this commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of incitement to hatred, the participants to the Rabat+5 symposium discussed the state of use by various stakeholders of the standards and policy recommendations articulated in Rabat in 2012. I welcome the translation of these standards into several languages, including by civil society actors who have found them useful for their grassroots work. I would also like to recall the consensual Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 (“Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief”), which enjoys broad support from various stakeholders.

I also note with satisfaction that the Rabat Plan of Action has been referred to in more than 120 UN documents within the past five years. However, a larger diffusion of these standards and deeper analysis of their content would be beneficial to their implementation. New relevant stakeholders, particularly in the field of religious institutions, faith-based organisations, education, parliamentary and judicial authorities as well as the media, would contribute to optimising the beneficial impact of the Rabat Plan of Action.

I also welcome the expansion of these Rabat standards from merely the prohibition of incitement to hatred to the larger horizons of human rights responsibilities of faith-based actors. The Beirut Declaration and its corresponding 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”, adopted in March 2017, are hence an important addition that complements the Rabat Plan of Action. The various faith-based civil society actors assembled in Beirut have thus articulated common grounds and have made concrete commitments of how “faith” can stand for “rights” more effectively so that both enhance each other. One highly symbolic activity, which is also mentioned in the Beirut Declaration, is the annual walk of “Faith for Rights” each 10 December in all parts of the world.

The Rabat+5 Symposium offered an opportunity for the various stakeholders to engage with several experts who contributed to the elaboration of the Rabat Plan of Action and the 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” and to hear experiences in the area of combatting violence in the name of religion, both by State representatives, national human rights institutions and civil society actors. The participation of a number of mandate holders of international human rights mechanisms also enriched the discussions at the symposium from a human rights perspective.

Finally, the symposium focused on concrete “Faith for Rights” projects at the grassroots level in various parts of the world. Going beyond the general narrative of coexistence among people of different origins, cultures and religions, I believe it is now vital to use the Rabat and Beirut standards in practice and conceive projects that contribute to their full implementation. I welcome that the Rabat+5 Symposium offered a platform to exchange practices and ideas and particularly the emergence of creative action points to inspire policies and synergies of the various stakeholders.
Geneva seminar (February 2018)

On 16 February 2018, the UN Interagency Task Force on Religion and Development, Musawah and OHCHR organized a seminar on “Religion & Rights: Strengthening Common Ground”. The seminar introduced international initiatives that promote a rights-based understanding of religion to build common ground between faith and rights. It also explored ways to enhance collaboration and more effective engagement with the international system to promote human rights for all. Furthermore, it highlighted good practices and possible approaches towards reform of discriminatory laws and practices in the name of religion to strengthen government compliance with international commitments and treaty obligations.

Session 1: Perspectives and Challenges (moderated by Christine Loew, UN Women Liaison Office, Geneva)
- Bridging Rights and Faith for the SDGs: Dr Azza Karam, Coordinator, UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development
- Reconciling Religion and Rights to Promote Compliance with Treaty Obligations: Ibrahim Salama, Chief, Human Rights Treaties Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Civil Society Interventions to Reconcile Religion and Rights: Musawah Ways of Working: Zainah Anwar, Executive Director, Musawah

Session 2: Initiatives by Intergovernmental Platforms (moderated by Ambassador Hans Brattskar, Norway)
- “Faith for Rights”: Michael Wiener, Rule of Law and Democracy Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that could Lead to Atrocity Crimes: Simona Cruciani, Office of the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide
- Reconciling Religion and Rights through the CEDAW Process: Nahla Haidar, member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Session 3: Civil Society Initiatives (moderated by Ani Zonneveld, Muslims for Progressive Values)
- Countering Misuse of Religion, Culture, and Tradition to Undermine the Universality of Human Rights: Isabel Marler, Communications Coordinator, Challenging Religious Fundamentalisms, AWID
- Engaging the UN System to Reconcile Religion and Rights: Bani Dugal, Faith and Feminism Working Group at the United Nations
- Faith-based engagement: Building partnerships with governmental, intergovernmental, and civil society sectors: Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, General Secretary, ACTAlliance
- Forging an Overlapping Consensus between Muslim Legal Tradition and International Human Rights: Dr Ziba Mir-Hosseini, Legal Anthropologist and Musawah Board Member

Session 4: Government Initiatives (moderated by Ambassador Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin, Denmark)
- Strengthening human rights compliance within the UN system through a feminist foreign policy: Ambassador Dr Joachim Bergström, Swedish Representative to the OIC
- Implementing the Rabat Plan of Action and Beirut Declaration: Dr Faouzi Skali, Advisor, High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA), Morocco
- The ‘added value’ of religion: Possibilities and pitfalls in government cooperation with religious actors: Dr Marie Juul Petersen, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for Human Rights
Youth workshop in Tunis (May 2018)

From 2 to 5 May 2018, OHCHR organized a regional workshop in Tunis on the role of youth faith actors in promoting human rights in the Middle East and North Africa region.

25 participants from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Qatar and Yemen attended the workshop, including young human rights activists, religious actors, women human rights defenders, human rights educators and government officials. They presented several youth-led initiatives from across the region, for example to promote tolerance in schools; social media initiatives; promoting minority rights through advocacy with United Nations mechanisms; youth entrepreneurship to combat radicalisation; and reintegration of former youth who had joined violent extremist groups. Three experts also shared their experiences, challenges and lessons learned in drafting and implementing the Rabat Plan of Action as well as the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”.

Through an interactive role play exercise, each participant briefly presented the impact they want to achieve through a project idea. Subsequently, similar project ideas were discussed in four groups with a view to developing the main components in the following areas: (a) providing capacity-building for faith actors; (b) founding a regional coalition to counter religious violent extremism and radicalisation; (c) developing an electronic platform to collect and share resources, best practices and lessons learned; and (d) capacity-building for staff in the administration of justice who interact with violent extremists. Furthermore, some standalone project ideas were discussed, such as a mobile phone application to educate children and adolescents on “Faith for Rights” through artistic and creative activities or to advocate for the creation of a new mandate of a Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Youth.

The participants of the youth workshop in Tunis made the following main recommendations for follow-up:

- Youth in the Middle East and North Africa region should be considered as a key partner in promoting tolerance and combatting radicalisation.
- OHCHR should strengthen its technical and financial support to youth-led projects.
- OHCHR should also lead the development of capacity-building and training tools, especially for faith-based actors.
Regional workshop in Marrakech (November 2018)

From 5 to 8 November 2018, OHCHR organized a regional workshop in Marrakech, in partnership with the Moroccan National Council for Human Rights and as part of the Norwegian-funded project on religious minorities in the Middle East and North Africa. The workshop on “The Role of Youth in Building a Tolerant Society” had 40 participants from 14 MENA countries (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen), was fully gender-balanced and also included three persons with disabilities.

The experts, including the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues and OHCHR staff members from Beirut, Doha and Geneva, trained the participants on international human rights treaties and engaging with UN mechanisms; how to protect and promote the rights of religious minorities; and ways to combat hate speech, notably through the Rabat Plan of Action as well as Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”. Furthermore, the workshop included a specific gender perspective with panel discussions on the integration of women and girls in decision-making and enhancing women’s participation in public affairs through CEDAW and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The programme was interactive, with each participant presenting their national experiences, good practices and innovative ideas to take forward. The workshop included many practical exercises, e.g. to summarize each of the 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” into a tweet of less than 140 characters, which some participants spontaneously sent to their networks from their own Twitter accounts.

The participants of the Marrakech workshop made the following main recommendations:

- Review educational programmes and curriculum in order to mainstream human rights and enhance inclusivity and diversity of societies, including in schools and universities;
- Ensure a strengthened focus on challenges faced by youth and their communities;
- Develop an advocacy plan to enhance the rights of minorities who are exposed to discrimination and better protect their human rights in the MENA region through laws, policies and practices;
- Support civil society actors who are working on human rights of young people and youth unions to engage more in national and international human rights mechanisms;
- Establish a regional youth platform to unify and empower them to better meet their needs; and
- Establish a special human rights protection mechanism on digital space to support communication strategies and multimedia campaigns for combating hate speech and enhancing equality.
Social media workshop in Tunis (October 2019)

On 21-22 October 2019, OHCHR organized the first-ever regional workshop on enhancing civic space and addressing hate speech in social media in the Middle East and North Africa region. The workshop in Tunis was attended by 36 media workers, human rights defenders, social influencers and members of religious minorities. It included 21 women and 15 men from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Digital technology has transformed the means through which human rights are both exercised and unduly constrained. The ability to access and use the Internet and social media platforms have been critical in the evolution of the ‘Arab Spring’ and beyond. They have become an indispensable tool for the realization of a range of human rights and for boosting economic and social development. New technologies and interconnectedness have helped civil society networks to grow, including across borders.

Yet, the new opportunities were followed by emerging threats to civic space. For historically marginalized groups and communities, space that was already limited is shrinking further. Referring to the global rise in anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim hatred and persecution of Christians, the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech (launched by the Secretary-General in June 2019) stresses that “social media and other forms of communication are being exploited as platforms for bigotry”. As already highlighted by the Rabat Plan of Action, it is of concern that incidents which indeed reach the threshold of incitement to hatred are not addressed, whereas members of minorities are de facto persecuted – with a chilling effect on others – through the abuse of vague domestic legislation, jurisprudence and policies.

The workshop in Tunis explored how social media may be either an important tool for enhancing civic space or for spreading hatred online, which can lead to violence offline against religious minorities. Many social media platforms have therefore included in their terms and conditions specific prohibitions on ‘hate speech’. Some platforms recently updated their rules against hateful conduct to include language that dehumanizes others on the basis of religion, while others have defined hate speech as a “direct attack on people based on what we call protected characteristics — race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, caste, sex, gender, gender identity, and serious disease or disability”. As highlighted by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief: “war starts in the minds and is cultivated by a reasoning fuelled by often hidden advocacy of hatred. Positive speech is also the healing tool of reconciliation and peace-building in the hearts and minds”.

The participants studied the normative framework on hate speech, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of incitement to hatred, the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”, the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, and the Christchurch Call to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist online content. Participants discussed in working groups several case studies concerning hate speech online, including from the 2019 reports of the Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen and of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar (notably in its detailed findings and the compilation of its recommendations).

The regional workshop also included an interactive dialogue with representatives of social media companies to address specific queries and suggestions from the participants on ways to address challenges facing civil society in the digital space in the MENA region. The participants explored ways to broaden civic space and address hate speech on those platforms. They also considered potential activities to counter shrinking digital civic space through awareness-raising, strategic advocacy and digital partnerships, and to develop a compilation of good practices on how to address hate speech in social media.
The “Faith for Rights” framework facilitates exploring the relationship between religions, beliefs and human rights.

As stressed in the Rabat Plan of Action of 2012, religious leaders have a crucial role to play in speaking out firmly and promptly against hate speech. In 2017, the Beirut Declaration on “Faith for Rights” added that individual and communal expression of religions or beliefs flourish in environments where human rights, based on the equal worth of all individuals, are protected. Similarly, human rights can benefit from deeply rooted ethical and spiritual foundations provided by religions and beliefs. The Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments reach out to theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other believers in all regions of the world to enhance cohesive, peaceful and respectful societies on the basis of a common action-oriented platform.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, has emphasized the importance of focussing attention on practical outreach tools, capacity-building programmes and interdisciplinary research on questions related to faith and rights. In this context, her office organized in 2018 and 2019 two workshops in Collonges-sous-Salève with faith-based and civil society actors, Special Rapporteurs and members of United Nations human rights treaty bodies.

The “Collaboration of Collonges” is the follow-up to the normative trajectory of the soft law standards emerging from the Rabat Plan of Action and the Beirut Declaration on “Faith for Rights”. It also contributes to implementing related intergovernmental resolutions and action plans, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council’s resolution 16/18 on combating intolerance (2011), the Sustainable Development Goals (2015), the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2016), the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech (2019) and the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites (2019).

The expert workshops in Collonges build upon the experience gained from capacity-building and collaborative events organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), including in Dakar, Rabat, Geneva, Tunis, Marrakesh and Djibouti. They aim at filling the identified triple gap of education, research and training on faith and human rights, through the #Faith4Rights toolkit that is attached to this Collonges Declaration.

The participants at the workshop on the campus of Salève on 18-19 December 2019, including the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues as well as several members of UN treaty bodies, have refined this #Faith4Rights toolkit. It is a prototype suggested for faith actors, academic institutions and training experts, to be further enriched and adapted to the various inter-faith engagement contexts. This methodology of engagement on faith and rights is designed to be appropriated by faith actors. The toolkit may also be implemented through information technology and social media, with a particular focus on the needs of youth. It is freely available online at www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/FaithForRights.aspx

This #Faith4Rights toolkit contains 18 modules, mirroring each of the commitments on “Faith for Rights”. These modules offer concrete ideas for peer-to-peer learning exercises, for example how to unpack the 18 commitments, share personal stories, search for additional faith-based quotes or provide for inspiring examples of artistic expressions. The annex proposes several cases to debate, which expand the thematic scope, illustrate the intersectionality of the 18 commitments and enhance the skills of faith actors to manage real life situations towards the shared aims of “Faith for Rights”.

The whole concept is interactive, result-oriented and conducive to critical thinking. It is open for adaptation by facilitators in order to tailor the modules to the specific context of the participants. This is the first edition of the #Faith4Rights toolkit, which will be regularly updated.
The United Nations Human Rights have joined forces with faith-based groups to create a toolkit to help combat growing hate speech and intolerance.

The “#Faith4Rights toolkit” brings together case studies, resources and artistic expression to provide concrete ideas for discussing the relationship between religions, beliefs and human rights.

The peer-to-peer learning toolkit is based on the 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights” which aim at fostering peaceful pluralistic societies. The High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet had called for translating the ‘Faith for Rights’ framework “into practical outreach tools and capacity-building programmes.”

In a presentation to the UN Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief Ahmed Shaheed called the 18 commitments important guidance and inspiration for action. “It is vital to enhance the positive role of faith actors in defending freedom of religion or belief and promoting human rights at large”, he stressed.

This can also help pushing back against the growing signs of incitement to hatred and violence, said UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Fernand de Varennes.

“The causes for the rise of intolerance and hate speech are many, and so must be the approaches to tackling this scourge, including with a focus on faith-based organizations, leaders and community members, who can provide a narrative premised on hope, justice, inclusion and fairness: in other words a human rights approach,” he said.

At the validation workshop recently held in Collonges-sous-Salève, France, he also announced the plan to use the #Faith4Rights toolkit in a series of regional forums on hate speech, social media and minorities, in the lead up to the global Forum on Minority Issues in November this year.

The toolkit is a living document that taps into social media, with a particular focus on the needs of youth and minorities. The toolkit is open for adaptation by facilitators in order to tailor the modules to the specific context of the participants.

It also includes several cases to debate, which enhance the skills of faith actors to manage religious diversity in real-life situations towards the aims of “Faith for Rights”.

In 2020, moot court competitions will simulate four cases involving tensions between faith and human rights. These moot court competitions will be organized by the Universities of Pretoria and Oxford, the European Academy of Religion and the Brazilian Center of Studies in Law and Religion. They all contain elements of the 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”, with competition rounds in Beijing, Beirut, Budapest, Geneva, Johannesburg, Kyiv, New Delhi, New York, Oxford, Paris, Rome and Uberlândia.

This reflects the reality that related debates are not limited to one region or one religion; both States and non-State actors have a lot to gain from exchanging on their perspectives and lessons.

*Download the #Faith4Rights toolkit (PDF) or browse through the online version.*
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<th>... to stand up and act for everyone’s right to free choices, particularly for everyone’s freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief</th>
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<td>... to use the declaration on “Faith for Rights” as a common minimum standard of interaction between theistic, non-theistic, atheistic or other believers</td>
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<td>... to promote constructive engagement on the understanding of religious texts through critical thinking and debate on religious matters</td>
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<td>... to prevent the notions of “State religion” and “doctrinal secularism” from being used to discriminate or reduce the space for diversity of religions and beliefs</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>... to ensure non-discrimination and gender equality, particularly regarding harmful stereotypes and practices or gender-based violence</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>... to stand up for the rights of all persons belonging to minorities and to defend their freedom of religion or belief, particularly in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>... to publicly denounce all instances of advocacy of hatred that incites to violence, discrimination or hostility in the name of religion or belief</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>... to monitor interpretations, determinations or other religious views that manifestly conflict with universal human rights norms and standards</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>... to condemn any judgemental determination that disqualifies the religion or belief of another individual or community, exposing them to violence in the name of religion</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>... not to tolerate exclusionary interpretations on religious grounds which instrumentalize religions, beliefs or their followers for electoral purposes or political gains</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>... not to oppress critical voices on religious matters in the name of “sanctity”, and to advocate for repealing any anti-blasphemy and anti-apostasy laws</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>... to review the curriculums and teaching materials wherever some religious interpretations seem to encourage or tolerate violence or discrimination</td>
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<td>... to engage with children and youth against violence in the name of religion and to promote their active participation in decision-making</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>... to ensure that humanitarian aid is given regardless of the recipients’ creed and that aid will not be used to further a particular religious standpoint</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>... not to coerce people in vulnerable situations into converting from their religion or belief, while fully respecting everyone’s freedom to have, adopt or change a religion or belief</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>... to leverage the spiritual and moral weight of religions and beliefs in order to strengthen the protection of universal human rights and develop preventative strategies</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>... to develop sustained partnerships with specialised academic institutions to promote interdisciplinary research, programs and tools for implementing the 18 commitments</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>... to use technological means more creatively and consistently in order to produce capacity-building and outreach tools and make them available for use at the local level</td>
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We commit...

**Faith for Rights**
Open list of supporters of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments

In case you wish to add your name as a supporter of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments, please send an email to: faith4rights@ohchr.org

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The “Faith for Rights” framework provides space for a cross-disciplinary reflection on the deep, and mutually enriching, connections between religions and human rights. The objective is to foster the development of peaceful societies, which uphold human dignity and equality for all and where diversity is not just tolerated but fully respected and celebrated.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has stressed that religious leaders are potentially very important human rights actors in view of their considerable influence on the hearts and minds of millions of people. The 2012 Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of incitement to hatred already laid out some of religious leaders’ core responsibilities against incitement to hatred. Expanding those responsibilities to the full spectrum of human rights, the faith-based and civil society actors participating at the OHCHR workshop in March 2017 adopted the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments on “Faith for Rights”.

The Beirut Declaration has been supported by and reaches out to various actors belonging to religions and beliefs in all regions of the world, with a view to enhancing cohesive, peaceful and respectful societies on the basis of a common action-oriented platform which is open to all who share its objectives.

Should you have any questions or wish to add your name as a supporter of the Beirut Declaration and its 18 commitments, please send an email to: faith4rights@ohchr.org