



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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UNIVERSITY
of York

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Engaging Religious Leaders to Generate Respect for Humanitarian Norms in Armed Conflict

*Public conference co-organised by
the Delegation of the European Union to the UN and other
international organisations in Geneva,
the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN and other
international organisations in Geneva and
the University of York*



16 January 2023, 15:00 - 17:00 (CET)



**Auditorium A1B, The Geneva Graduate Institute
Live-streamed online**

RSVP for in person or online attendance



The
Generating Respect
Project

Lead organisations:



Project funder:



Partner & supporting organisations:





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This conference seeks to engage academic, humanitarian, diplomatic and religious circles in a conversation about why and when engagement with religious leaders can be beneficial to humanitarian norm-compliance and how it can be pursued effectively.

The event will present the findings of the applied research *Generating Respect for Humanitarian Norms: The Influence of Religious Leaders on Parties to Armed Conflict - The [Generating Respect Project](#)*, developed by the University of York's Centre for Applied Human Rights and York Law School, in close partnership with Geneva Call and the Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Centre, and funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (UK).

The Generating Respect Project aimed

1. To provide empirical evidence for the influence of religious leaders on state and non-state parties to armed conflict;
2. To conceptualise why and how religious leaders exert influence on armed actors, how they interact with humanitarian norms anchored in international humanitarian law and human rights law, and how their influence can be leveraged for norm-compliance generation;
3. To operationalise the findings in the form of guidelines to enable effective engagement between humanitarians and religious leaders.

The research is based on extensive desk analysis and empirical data collected through online and in-country interviews with religious leaders, armed actors, humanitarians, scholars, and other key stakeholders from Colombia, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Syria, and Yemen.

Conference Programme

Welcome Addresses

Ambassador **Thomas Wagner**, Deputy Permanent Observer, Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Ambassador **Félix Baumann**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva

Conceptual and empirical findings from the Generating Respect Project: *Why and how to engage with religious leaders in armed conflict?*

Dr Ezequiel Heffes, Senior Policy and Legal Advisor, Geneva Call –
Overview of the Generating Respect Project's findings & outputs

Dr Ioana Cismas, Co-Director, Centre for Applied Human Rights & Reader, York Law School, University of York –
Guidelines for the Effective Humanitarian Engagement with Religious Leaders

Questions & Answers

Interactive panel discussion *Engaging religious leaders for norm-compliance: Reflections from religious, humanitarian and academic circles*

Moderator: **Ms Reka Dobri**, Team Leader for Sectoral Polices and Mainstreaming, Humanitarian Aid Thematic Policies Unit, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

Panellists

Sheikh Maytham Al Salman, Muslim Cleric & Researcher, University of York

Ms Nathalie Weizmann, Senior Legal Advisor, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Dr Kathrine Fortin, Associate Professor, University of Utrecht

Questions and Answers

A cocktail will be served after the event.