

FAITH FOR RIGHTS

Beirut Declaration 2017

A MEDITATION A DAY

around 7 of the 18 rights

World Interfaith Harmony Week 2021





Monday 1 February 2021
#1 FREE CHOICE

« There shall be no compulsion in religion. »

Qu'ran 2:256

We, faith-based and civil society actors working in the field of human rights, 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 religion or beliefs.

Tweet:

**“We commit to stand up and act for everyone’s right to free choices,
particularly for everyone’s freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.”**

Tuesday 2 February 2021

#3 PROMOTE CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT

« I should sell my tongue and buy a thousand ears. »»

Rumi

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.

Tweet:

“We commit to promote constructive engagement on the understanding of religious texts through critical thinking and debate on religious matters.”



Wednesday 3 February 2021

#5 GENDER EQUALITY

« In the image of God he created him male and female. He created them. »

Genesis 1:27

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.

Tweet:

**“We commit to ensure non-discrimination and gender equality,
particularly regarding harmful stereotypes and practices or gender-based violence.”**

Thursday 4 February 2021
#7 HATRED THAT INCITES



**« Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care
for people will hear them and be influenced by them for good or ill. »**
Buddha

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.

Tweet:

“We commit to publicly denounce all instances of advocacy of hatred that incites to violence, discrimination or hostility in the name of religion or belief.”

A group of children are walking away from the camera on a paved surface. They are wearing various hats and carrying colorful backpacks. The backpacks have different patterns, including animals, stars, and geometric shapes. The children are dressed in casual summer clothing like t-shirts, shorts, and skirts. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Friday 5 February 2021
#13 CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**<< 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

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.

Tweet:

**“We commit to engage with children and youth against violence in the name of religion
and to promote their active participation in decision-making.”**

A lit candle in a glass holder on a wooden surface, surrounded by colorful, crumpled paper and a small, wrapped object.

Saturday 6 February 2021

**#16 SPIRITUAL AND MORAL WEIGHT
OF RELIGION**

**« 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

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.

Tweet:

“We commit 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.”



Sunday
7 February 2021
**#17 SUSTAINABLE
PARTNERSHIPS**

**<< How good and pleasant it is
that brothers and sisters dwell together as one. >>**
Psalm 133

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 vain, 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.

Tweet:

**“We commit to develop sustained partnerships with specialised academic institutions
to promote interdisciplinary research, programs and tools
for implementing the 18 commitments.”**

**"Dialogue is the art of conversation
across boundaries of difference."**

Sr Mary C. Boys, SNJM

