

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK, KADUNA NIGERIA LIST OF REFERENCES FOR INTERFAITH MEDIATION CENTRE,

Joseph Yakubu Phd.

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He is involve in development and peace work for two decades, taking on various project and managerial responsibilities, including as the pioneer Executive Director of the Centre for Peace Advancement in Nigeria (CEPAN); Peace Programme Advisor for Justice Development and Peace Commission/Caritas Jos, Nigeria; Country Coordinator for Open Society Initiative for West Africa, Nigeria; National Coordinator for Earth Charter Network in Nigeria; and Regional Programme Mentor for a European Union funded program, Increasing Non-State Actors' Implementation and Development Expertise (EU-INSIDE).

Azhar Hussain

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Vice President for Preventive Diplomacy at the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy (ICRD), Azhar (known as Azi to his friends) heads the Madrasa Enhancement Program in Pakistan. In keeping with ICRD's mission to address identity-based conflicts that exceed the reach of traditional diplomacy, Azi works tirelessly to engage the Pakistani madrasa leaders and help them develop skills to be agents of peacebuilding, reduce violence, and provide improved opportunities for Pakistani youth. In contrast to attempts by other parties to impose reforms on madrasas which are met with suspicion and hostility, Azi has found success by engaging madrasa leaders directly. Rather than criticizing the shortcomings of madrasa education and attempting to impose foreign values, Azi encourages madrasa leaders to reflect on their own values and goals. They explore ways they can work together to live up to the principles of Islam and provide improved moral guidance for their students and communities.

Elder Elisha Buba Yero

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An elder statesman, experienced peace builder and community developer, Honorable Elder Elisha buba Yero is the Wakilin Kpope (Ambassador to the Chief and traditional ruler of his community) in Kaduna State of Nigeria. He works as Board Director with the Interfaith Meditation Center and previously served as Special Advisor on Religious Affairs to the Executive Governor of Kaduna State. He also served as Permanent Secretary in the Kaduna State Ministry of Religious Affairs, and has initiated and directed several interfaith peace building initiatives. Currently, he serves as Global Council Trustee African Region for United Religions Initiative.

Charles Aquilina

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A trustee of Initiatives of Change, Washington DC, he is a native of Malta, he has a particular interest in the Middle East, which he has visited several times, and the Mediterranean region. He has also worked with Initiative of Change in India. More recently he has helped launch our 2 documentary films, The Imam and the Pastor and An African Answer, in the United States.

Simon Cohen

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Founder and managing director of global tolerance, the world's leading communications organization in the faith arena. Simon has worked directly with HH Dalai Lama, Gandhi's grandson, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Chief Rabbi, the Board of World Religious Leaders and scores of faith and interfaith groups in the UK and around the world.