

## What People Are Saying

“CARAVAN illustrates in an emblematic way the link between intercultural dialogue and creativity which is precisely at the heart of UNESCO's work. . . and reminds us of our founding values and our raison d’être: 'since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed'.. . I would like to commend CARAVAN for its initiative that made it possible for us to witness this dialogue. . .”

**Eric Falt**, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information, UNESCO

“CARAVAN...perfectly embodies the sentiment of a recent UN General Assembly resolution (A/65/5) entitled ‘World Interfaith Harmony Week,’ which aims to spread ‘the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world’s churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship... based on love of God and love of one’s neighbour, or on love of the good and love of one’s neighbour, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions.’

CARAVAN is about a journey away from sectarian tension. It’s about breaking down the confining walls that breed suspicion and hatred. It’s about moving towards an understanding and respect for the other, whether he or she is a Muslim or Christian.....”

**The Honorable James W. Rawley**, UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities in the occupied Palestinian territory-UNSCO and former United Nations Resident Coordinator in Egypt

“This remarkable and timely CARAVAN exhibition transcends boundaries to foster an important intercultural and inter-religious dialogue.”

**The Honorable Mohamed Tawfik**, Egyptian Ambassador to the United States

“This CARAVAN exhibition is exactly what is needed today”

**The Very Reverend Jim Kowalski**, Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City

“It is clear that the arts are one of the most powerful languages of peacemaking among peoples of different religions. This CARAVAN exhibition speaks this language eloquently.”

**Ambassador Ahmed Farouk**, Egyptian Consul General in New York

“The CARAVAN exhibit is an exciting opportunity for Washington National Cathedral in so many ways. It allows us to continue exploring the Cathedral’s nave as a space for artistic exhibition and expression. It has brought us into a partnership with both CARAVAN and the Embassy of Egypt. It continues our great tradition of interfaith ministry and collaboration. A wide range of artists from varied cultural and religious backgrounds—Muslim, Christian, and Jewish artists; Egyptians as well as Westerners—are bringing their own unique gifts and perspectives to the decoration of these praying figures. I hope many will come and experience the pieces themselves, and the Cathedral, in a new way.”

**The Very Reverend Gary Hall**, Dean of Washington National Cathedral

“Both religion and art elevate the sense of humanity. Thus, in this CARAVAN initiative, we aspire for art to be used as a tool to enhance our religiosity and our humanity.”

**Sheikh Dr. Ali Gomaa**, former Grand Mufti of Egypt

“I am delighted to be associated with this CARAVAN interfaith arts initiative. Through the arts, doors can be opened to a harmonious symphony in which religions can give of their best to one another and transcend the present situation in which so many people of faith live parallel lives.”

**The Rt Rev & Rt Hon Richard Chartres**, Bishop of London

“This objective of CARAVAN echoes my life in film: bridging the East and the West. I believe the arts more than anything else can address issues of religious extremism, intolerance and sectarian violence, and emphasize the possibility of friendship and love between all peoples and religions.”

**Omar Sharif**, legendary Egyptian actor

“CARAVAN’s work is most inspiring and it is a pleasure to be associated with what they are attempting to accomplish through the arts. The work they are doing, in bringing together the East and West through the visual arts, is critically needed in our world with all its stereotypes and prejudices.”

**Roxane Zand**, Deputy Chairman, Middle East and Gulf Region, SOTHEBY’S

“I am impressed with the richness, depth and variety of interpretation in the artists’ work in this CARAVAN program. Our President, Barack Obama, is very much in sync with the inspiration of CARAVAN. He has said, ‘Regardless of your faith – and America is a country of Jews, Christians, Muslims and even non-believers -- people still have common hopes and common desires.’ Such hopes and shared dreams are quite evident in the work of CARAVAN.”

**The Honorable Margaret Scobey**, U.S. Ambassador to Egypt (2008-2011)

“As a champion of ‘the East-West Bridge’, and as someone from both the East and the West, I believe passionately in this CARAVAN initiative that show the East to the West, and the West to the East. CARAVAN highlights the common cultural heritage of the two, and helps us work towards a common goal.”

**Tahir Shah**, New York Times best-selling Anglo-Afghan author of *The Caliph's House*

“I don't believe we are really so different, with separate identities, which we call East and West. Instead I think history shows us that we are all intricately interwoven. This CARAVAN arts program helps us toward reaching that understanding.”

**Khaled Al Khamissi**, best-selling Egyptian novelist, author of *Taxi*

“The CARAVAN initiative is about everything I have been doing in my writing and life...bridging East and West.”

**Ahdaf Soueif**, the best-selling Anglo-Egyptian author, whose novel *The Map of Love* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for Fiction.

“CARAVAN is exactly what we need because the Arts unite us as a language of love and peace.”

**Yousra**, celebrated Egyptian actress, former UNDP Goodwill Ambassador

“This CARAVAN program brings us together, Muslim and Christian, because it satisfies our souls for their common need of beauty.”

**Sheikh Mohammed Gemeah**, Al Azhar, member of the Al Azhar-Anglican Communion Dialogue

“This CARAVAN enterprise shows us that religion is an inspiration to artists, from the Middle East and the West, both Muslim and Christian. Christianity is the religion of love, Islam is the religion of mercy, and we are in dire need of both.”

**Dr. Mahmoud Azab**, Consultant for Interfaith Dialogue for the Grand Imam of Al Azhar

“The purpose of this CARAVAN arts program is what I have been trying to do with my acting: to bring justice, freedom and peace to all peoples whatever their background, religion or nationality.”

**Amr Waked**, noted Egyptian actor (starred in films such as *Syriana*, *Contagion* and *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*)

“This CARAVAN initiative is just what we need...bringing peace and showing love to all peoples regardless of their faith or background. I think this is one of the main purposes of the Arts. I am honored to be associated with CARAVAN.”

**Dr. Alaa Al Aswany**, best-selling Egyptian novelist and writer (*The Yacoubian Building*)

"I am particularly delighted to be directly associated with this wonderful CARAVAN arts initiative. CARAVAN is furthering dialogue and the mutual knowledge about our religious traditions and convictions by uniting us through the Arts, a language of love and peace."

**The Honorable Dominik Furgler**, Ambassador of Switzerland to the United Kingdom (formerly Swiss Ambassador to Egypt)

“CARAVAN is exactly what we need throughout the world. God’s gift of creativity is meant to unite us, and remind us that we are all God’s children.”

**Fr. Bishoy Helmy**, Secretary General of the Egypt Council of Churches

“I am overwhelmed by the beauty and spirit of this CARAVAN arts program. I am reminded that we are all one, and that God loves beauty, which means He loves us all the same.”

**Sheikh Mohamed El Hawarey** of Al Azhar