

Focuses for activity:

The Research and Training Centre for Interfaith and Peacebuilding is based in Rabat within the Rabita Mohammedia al-Ulema. It has a plural team of experts and implements its objectives through the following departments:

Strategy and advocacy: this department contributes to Morocco's interfaith diplomatic efforts, its national ambition and its endeavours in peacebuilding and diversity at the global level, in loyalty to its civilizational heritage.

Research: coordinates and develops research activities: academic and institutional partnerships and agreements, directing and mentoring theses and master degrees, writing scientific articles and drafting specialized syntheses.

Communication: organizes conferences, symposiums and international seminars, is involved in international interfaith networks and contributes to awareness raising amongst the diasporas.

Training: initiates awareness raising sessions, designs peacebuilding training and prevention of religious conflict tools.

Publication: publishes the Center journal and specialised studies, manages a web platform, produces an educational kit on prevention of religious conflicts.

Al-Shuhada, Square Bab Laalou, Rabat - Morocco

E-mail : interfaithmaroc@gmail.com

Web Site : www.interfaith.ma



Interfaith & Peacebuilding
Research and training Center

Definition:

The Research and Training Centre for Interfaith and Peacebuilding is a pluridisciplinary research and expertise laboratory, a structure for proposals, initiatives and communication on the issues of living together, otherness, religious and interfaith dialogue in Morocco. The Centre is affiliated to the Kingdom's Rabita Mohammedia al-Ulema, and constitutes a think tank the purpose of which is to produce studies, proposals and projects highlighting a moderate vision and practice of Islam, embracing the recognition of otherness.

The Centre develops a specific expertise on prevention of religious conflicts and radicalism; it offers methodological tools and innovative peacebuilding approaches. It also offers training and seminars on the prevention of religious conflicts. It thus actively contributes with all the other players of the Kingdom to position Morocco as a focal point for peacebuilding, a crossroads for brotherhood with a pioneering role in support for living together in harmony.

Mission:

The Centre sets its action within the context of the fundamental transformation which Morocco is experiencing under the High Directives of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Commander of the Faithful, may God assist and protect Him.

His messages, among which that delivered at the Marrakesh Conference on the rights of religious minorities in Muslim majority communities, give the gist of this vision and convey His determination:

“The belief which drives us comes from a true understanding of religion’s precepts. We also draw on our civilizational heritage and on the century-old history of our Kingdom, where Muslims have lived in mutual understanding with followers of the other religions... This means that for Islam, peace and security are the basis of the relationships with other religions.”

Located at the strategic crossroads between East and West, between Africa and Europe, Morocco is at the heart of the cultural interaction between the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean. As all countries on both sides, it is confronted with the crucial issues of secularization, minorities, migration and radicalism.

Morocco has a key asset to face these challenges: the civilizational heritage of the Kingdom, which was able to maintain a harmonious coexistence between the three revealed religions, through the promotion of a moderate and peaceful Islam. On the basis of this strength, Morocco is taking on an increasing role in the definition and dissemination of this line, highlighting an open Islam in keeping with the tradition of hospitality towards others and the recognition of otherness.

A double imperative for action:

I – The first imperative is to set interdisciplinary research topics for the elaboration of new educational, cultural and interfaith strategies, as a response to major societal challenges focusing on the issues of otherness and living together.

II – The second imperative is that of youth and of the diaspora. They are both assets for the country’s richness and future. They must be placed at the heart of a new understanding of how to live together peacefully. It is essential for them both to revisit and to take on their common Islamic heritage of fidelity and openness in order to invent tomorrow’s society.

Objectives:

1- To create a think tank but also a federating driving force on the Moroccan and international peacebuilding scenes, on the issues of otherness and living together.

2- To establish bridges between universities, religious institutions and civil society through interdisciplinary approaches and research, and between the social sciences, the theological field and organisations working on the ground.

3 - To expand the spiritual and religious frameworks to include our environmental responsibility in the face of climate change, as well as issues related to the digital changeover and the development of a knowledge society.

4 - To offer innovative methodologies, awareness-raising devices, interfaith management tools, prevention and deradicalization strategies, peacebuilding procedure manuals, educational booklets, games specifically designed for civil society players and youth organizations.

5 - To accompany and raise initiatives, platforms, and networks for national and international exchanges. To involve the Moroccan diasporas in order to promote this country’s originality and its approach of diversity, religious and civil plurality, in a pioneering spirit of openness and fidelity to its civilizational heritage.