



**TOLERANCE
UNDERSTANDING
COEXISTENCE**
OMAN'S MESSAGE OF ISLAM

**BARAZA & MARA DELEGATION
CONFERENCE and WORKSHOP – OMAN November 14 and 15, 2022**

DEEPENING DIALOGUE

Sunday November 13, 2022

No official programme

Arrival of guests throughout the day at Muscat Airport; Pick up at airport and transfer to hotel - Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah Resort, Al Bandar, Muscat, Oman.

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch at Al Tanoor Restaurant based at the Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah Resort.

18:30 - 22:30 Dinner at Al Tanoor Restaurant (together with members of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and regular hotel guests).

Monday November 14, 2022

“Deepening Dialogue” Conference

Further arrivals of guests at Muscat Airport; Pick up at airport and transfer to hotel

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch at Ballroom Terrace (together with members of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers)

14:00 - 17:00 “Majlis”, located at the Ground Level of Al Bandar Wing, Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah (direct access to/from the Ballroom terrace)

Welcome words, setting the scene and event expectations by
H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Mamari – Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs

Tolerance, Understanding & Coexistence – Oman’s Message of Islam
Overview of phase 1 (2010-2020): Global touring exhibition; purpose; impact
Ambitions for Phase 2 (2022 to 2032): aim of phase 2 is to ‘Deepen Dialogue’ within
Omani society and outside of Oman through engaging activities
(e.g. tolerance centres, education, pedagogical materials, personal encounters)

Introduction to Baraza and the Baraza team by Georg Popp

Delegate introductions - Participants to provide a strict maximum 10 minute oral
presentation about their work - option of distributing handouts/brochures
(no powerpoint or similar presentations)

17:00 – 18:30 Free time

18:30 - 22:30 Dinner at Al Tanoor Restaurant (together with members of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and regular hotel guests).

Tuesday November 15, 2022

“Deepening Dialogue” Workshop

- 09:00 – 09:30** Reflections on previous day and phase 2
- 09:30 – 12:00** Workshops - Four groups (use of flipcharts and pens). Each to identify:
 i) Actions/concepts required
 ii) SWOT analysis of their respective areas and to prepare to present in the afternoon.
 Groups to identify ideas/actions and then illustrate with the following – Strengths; Weaknesses; Opportunities; Threats.
- Workshop 1: Tolerance, Understanding & Coexistence – Personal encounters.**
 How can we dismantle prejudice, foster personal dialogue and embrace hospitality? What examples are we aware of through our own work, anecdotes or research which showcase cooperation and hospitality by people of one background for people of another? How can we project such examples? What new ideas or schemes are needed? Who are the key audiences for this? What about minorities and women? What are the delivery mechanisms for this?
 (Karimah Stauch, Revd Justin Meyers/Al Amana Centre, Ahmad bin Majid Private School, Riaz Ravat, Tolerance project colleagues)
- Workshop 2: Tolerance, Understanding & Coexistence – Investing in the future.**
 Focus on children and young people by developing programmes and materials for children and young people (e.g. UNITY, colouring book, card games).
 What else is needed? How can we reach such audiences? How can we assist schools/colleges? What are the delivery mechanisms for this?
 (Ministry of Education Sultanate of Oman, Dr Brahim Laytouss, Dr John Maiden, Dr Benjamin Idriz, Juma Al Maskari, Florian Schroeder/Sabel School Munich)
- Workshop 3: Tolerance, Understanding & Coexistence – Communication.**
 Establishing creative activities, high quality social media, arts and music for the general public
 (Omani activists, Omani artists, Dr. Renaih Hatter, Michael Dickinson & Georg Popp)
- Workshop 4: Tolerance, Understanding & Coexistence – International impact and cooperation.**
 Identifying suitable global partners for networking, delivery & funding opportunities. What sort of partnerships are required? How can these networks be sustained?
 (Dr Bernd Wiemann, Omani companies, Tolerance project colleagues, Catherine Thiounn & Alex Moll, Cesar Cordioli)
- 12:00 – 14:00** Lunch at Ballroom Terrace (together with members of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers)
- 14:00- 16:00** Presentations by each group
 *Notes taken by Michael Dickinson
- 16:00 - 16:30** Networking coffee break
- 16:30 – 17:30** Plenary reflections and discussions of ideas; next steps
- 17:30 – 18:30** Free time
- 18:30 - 19:30** Presentation of the Project UNITY by Sharen Ravat and Florian Schröder
- 19:30 - 22:30** Dinner at Al Tanoor Restaurant (together with members of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and regular hotel guests).



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BARAZA & MARA DELEGATION

EXPLORING MUSCAT AND ENVIRONS

Thursday November 17, 2022

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| 08:30 | Depart from hotel to historical Muscat |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Photo stop at historical Muscat Palace |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Travel |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Visit Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque |
| 11:00 – 11:45 | Travel to Nakhal Fort |
| 11:45 – 14:00 | Photo stop at Nakhal Fort (fort closed for renovation), walk to hot springs Ain Thowarah.
Lunch at Bait al Ghasham Museum – includes guided tour of Bait Al Ghasham Museum.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_3Bu9iAJ1I |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | Travel to Muscat (Ruwi) |
| 15:00 – 16:30 | Visit churches compound. Meeting with religious leaders |
| 16:30 – 16:45 | Travel to Muttrah |
| 16:45 – 18:00 | Tour of Muttrah Souk and Muttrah Fort - free time for shopping |
| 18:00 – 20:00 | Walk to Al Amana Centre for presentation and dinner |
| 20:00 | Bus Transfer from Al Amana Centre and return to hotel to retire |

Friday November 18, 2022

Oman National Day

Departure of the Delegates



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Background

Baraza means 'council' in Swahili. It refers to a place of encounter and dialogue. Baraza was officially registered in Munich, Germany in 2017 to promote an international mindset based on human values in areas such as culture, religion and understanding among nations. Baraza believes in ideals of acceptance, understanding and coexistence. Supported by its network of experienced and knowledgeable experts, it invests in education, creates real-world encounters and builds thriving partnerships.

Delegates

This Baraza & MARA conference and workshop will be invitees only and bring together representatives including UNESCO, NGOs, academics and experts. The attendees are part of Baraza's global network including the Executive, Advisors, Associates, selected members and potential partners.

Context

In August 2020, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres spoke about how the pandemic had resulted in "a surge in stigma and racist discourse vilifying communities, spreading vile stereotypes and assigning blame." Mr. Guterres highlighted "disturbing examples of discrimination against religious minorities, such as attacks on people and religious sites, and hate crimes and atrocity crimes targeting populations because of their religion or belief." Part of the solution to this was a call "for more action to address the root causes of intolerance and discrimination by promoting inclusion and respect for diversity..."

In March 2022, Mr. Guterres returned to the same theme to stress that "no country is immune from intolerance, nor free of hate....[and that] "a rights-based social contract [was needed] to....invest in education and rebuild trust and social cohesion."

In addition to the above, the conference will also relate to the following UN/ UNESCO resolution:

A/RES/75/26 (2020) - Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, bears in mind "the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind, ... that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds ..." welcomes "the leading role of UNESCO in promoting intercultural dialogue..." and underlines "the importance of education, including education on culture, peace, tolerance, mutual understanding and human rights, in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue, respect for diversity, and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief ..."