



Salam Institute
For Peace and Justice

JUNE 2026

Salam Institute for Peace and Justice

Newsletter | Peacebuilding, Forgiveness, Research, and Activities

In this issue

This newsletter highlights Salam Institute initiatives on advancing forgiveness education and research, religious engagement in peacebuilding, regional reconciliation, and youth-centered scholarship across the Arab region and beyond.



Tunisia	REACH Study	Regional Network
Pathways to Forgiveness pilot and teacher implementation	Results, virtual dissemination, and final country reports	Syria dialogue and press release
Professor Mohammed Abu-Nimer	Research	Resources
Strategic Religious Engagement and Bridges of Virtue interview	New peer-reviewed article by Dr. Ilham Nasser and Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer	Salam Toolkit Action Guides

WITH PEACE IN OUR HEARTS

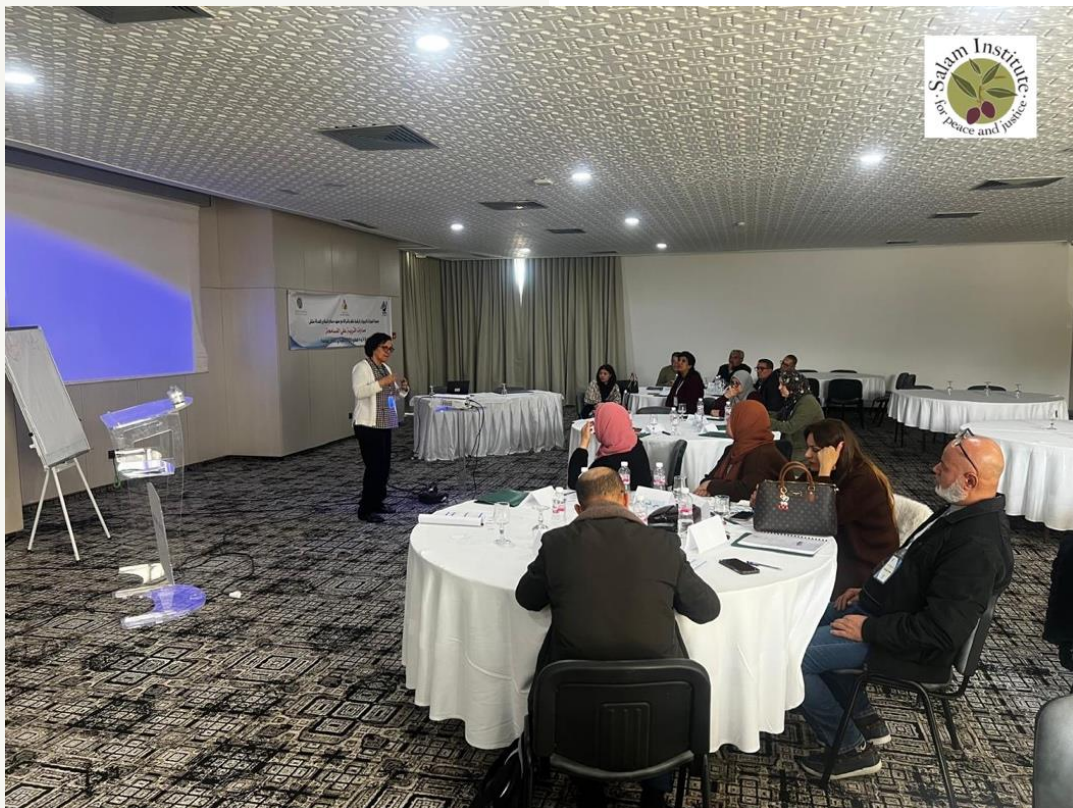
May peace, safety, and dignity reach every heart and home across our world, especially those enduring the pain of war, displacement, and injustice. We hold in our prayers all individuals, families, and communities living through conflict, with hope for healing, protection, and a future rooted in compassion and justice.



Implementing Pathways to Forgiveness Guides: Pilot Project in Tunisia

Between February and April 2026, Salam Institute implemented the Pathways to Forgiveness pilot project in Tunisia, equipping educators with practical tools, pedagogical frameworks, and psychosocial skills to introduce forgiveness education in schools. The pilot engaged teachers and school counselors in a three-day training focused on forgiveness stories, active learning, emotional intelligence, nonviolence, respect for diversity, conflict resolution, and inclusive classroom practices.

The workshop introduced guides for children ages 4-8 and adolescents ages 12-16. Participants practiced classroom activities through role-playing, storytelling, group discussions, and reflective exercises, then developed tailored action plans for implementing selected lessons in their schools.





Implementing Pathways to Forgiveness Guides: Pilot Project in Tunisia

A follow-up session on March 25, 2026, brought together 20 participating teachers to review classroom implementation, exchange lessons learned, discuss challenges, and refine next steps. Educators also explored how modern technologies and AI can support engaging instruction on forgiveness.

As part of the pilot implementation, teachers conducted five sessions with children ages 4–8, each involving 15–20 students and lasting 30–45 minutes. These sessions focused on emotional expression, dialogue skills, and creating safe and inclusive classroom interactions. Teachers also facilitated seven sessions with students ages 12–16, strengthening participants' understanding and acceptance of forgiveness concepts through interactive learning activities and guided reflection.



The Pilot study



Story Bank

Use the icons to explore additional Salam Institute resources, including the Pilot and the Story Bank.



REACH Study Dissemination: Forgiveness in the Arab Region

On April 7, 2026, Salam Institute convened a virtual Zoom session presenting results from the REACH (Reaching Forgiveness) study in the Arab region. The session featured comparative findings from Egypt, Iraq, and Tunisia and explored key themes related to forgiveness, reconciliation, and the sustainability of locally driven interventions. The virtual event brought together approximately 65 participants, including partners, experts, and stakeholders from Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, the United States, Jordan, Syria, and other countries. Dr. Ilham Nasser and Dr. Jehanzeb Cheema presented the study findings, with discussion focused on the practical implications of forgiveness research for peacebuilding and local resilience.

The flyer features the Salam Institute logo and a colorful abstract graphic. It includes the following text:

We are pleased to invite you to participate in a virtual Zoom session presenting the results of the REACH (Reaching Forgiveness) study in the Arab Region

Dr. Jehanzeb Cheema
Dr. Ilham Nasser

The session will include a comparative discussion of findings from Egypt, Iraq, and Tunisia. The study explores key issues related to forgiveness, reconciliation, and the sustainability of locally driven interventions, and was conducted by research teams from the three countries under the guidance of specialists in peacebuilding, justice, and conflict resolution.

Date: April 7th, 2026
Time: from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.
Eastern Time (Washington DC time)

Those interested in attending are kindly invited to register through the link or by scanning the QR code below.

The Zoom link will be shared via email prior to the event.

We look forward to your presence and to your valuable participation.

Country Reports can be found here



Iraq Report



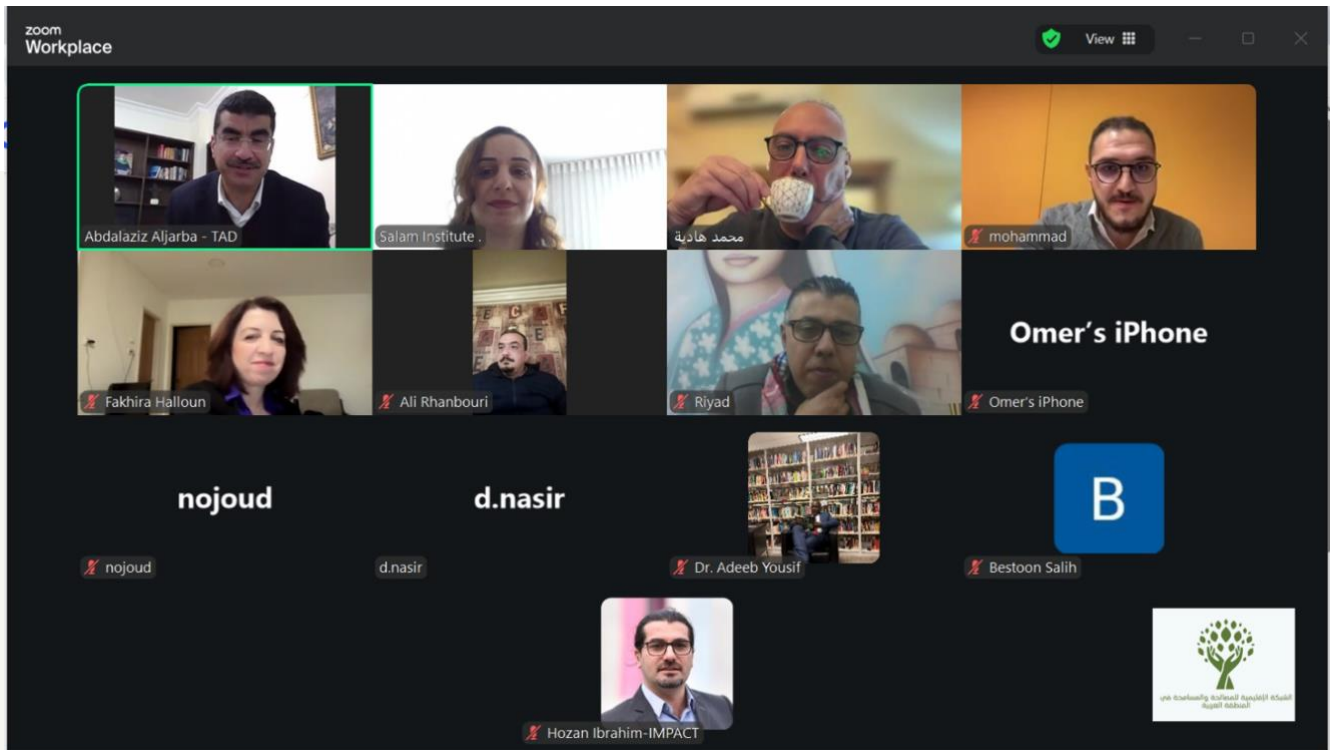
Tunisia Report



Egypt Report



The Regional Network for Forgiveness and Reconciliation in The Arab World



On February 5, 2026, the Regional Network for Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the Arab World held a dialogue session on recent developments in Syria. The discussion focused on civilian protection, confidence-building, de-escalation, and the role of Syrian civil society in strengthening social cohesion.

Facilitated by: Dr. Abdulaziz Al Jarba

Speakers: Hozan Ibraheem, Director of Impact; Dr. Nasser Elhaj, Director of the Syrian Center for Studies and Dialogue; and Nojud Khadra from the Noul Network (all network members).

Guest Speaker: Mohammad AlJassem, researcher and lead of the Baligh Initiative to Counter Hate Speech.



Speakers examined developments in northeast Syria, challenges facing marginalized groups, restrictions affecting local civil society initiatives, the rise of hate speech, and practical ways Syrian civil society can support trust-building and reduce violence. The session concluded with an interactive exchange on how the network can support Syrian civil society and apply lessons from Syria to other conflict-affected contexts across the region.

Press Release: Death Penalty Law and Palestinian Prisoners

The Regional Network also issued a public statement warning that legislation enabling the execution of Palestinian prisoners represents a dangerous escalation and a violation of international law. The statement affirmed the sanctity of the right to life, warned against reducing fair-trial protections, called for urgent international action, and stressed that genuine reconciliation cannot be built on retaliation but on justice that preserves human dignity.

The press release can be found here



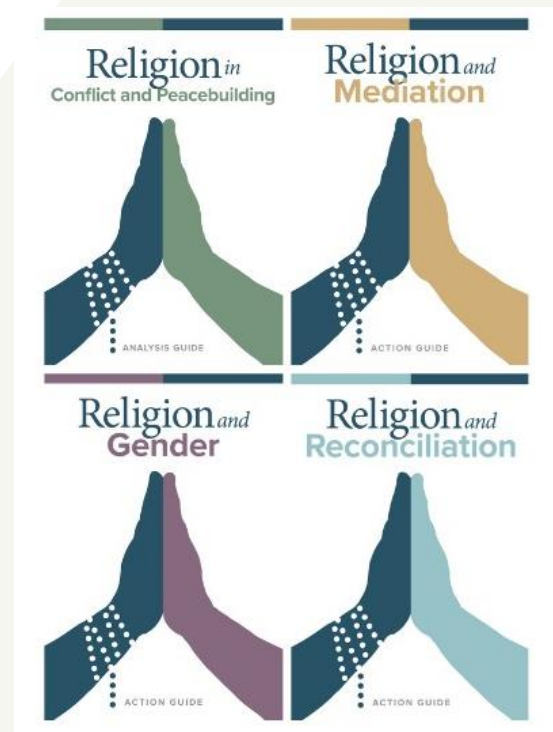
الشبكة الإقليمية للمطالبة والمساهمة في
المنطقة العربية



Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer: Strategic Religious Engagement and Public Dialogue

Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, President and founder of Salam Institute for Peace and Justice, participated in a panel discussion on Strategic Religious Engagement in Peacebuilding: Tools, Applications, and Insights, hosted by the Strategic Religious Engagement Hub at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs.

The event highlighted the Salam Toolkit, developed in partnership with the United States Institute of Peace and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. The toolkit includes four practical guides: Religion in Conflict and Peacebuilding, Religion and Mediation, Religion and Reconciliation, and Religion and Gender. These guides support practitioners, diplomats, scholars, and community leaders working in contexts where religion, tradition, identity, and diverse worldviews shape conflict and peace processes.



Links to the Action Guides can be found here





Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer: Strategic Religious Engagement and Public Dialogue

Bridges of Virtue Interview

Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, President and founder of Salam Institute for Peace and Justice, participated in an interview hosted by Bridges of Virtue, exploring the meaning of love through the lenses of Islam, the Abrahamic faiths, and philosophy.

In this thought-provoking conversation, Dr. Abu-Nimer reflects on compassion, coexistence, spirituality, and the transformative power of love across religious and philosophical traditions. The discussion highlights how shared ethical values can foster deeper understanding, strengthen human connections, and contribute to cultures of peace.

Hosted by Bridges of Virtue, the interview examines the role of faith and philosophy in addressing contemporary challenges and building more compassionate and inclusive communities. It offers valuable insights for those interested in interfaith dialogue, peacebuilding, and the universal values that connect people across diverse backgrounds.



[Watch the full interview here](#)





New Research Publication: Youth, Empathy, and Problem-Solving

Psychosocial Correlates of Social Problem-Solving and Empathy Among Youth in Fifteen Muslim Societies

Salam Institute shared a new peer-reviewed article authored by Dr. Ilham Nasser and Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, “Psychosocial Correlates of Social Problem-Solving and Empathy Among Youth in Fifteen Muslim Societies,” published in *Societies* on February 13, 2026.

The study draws on survey data from 15,790 youth in secondary and higher education across 15 Muslim-majority societies. It examines attitudes toward psychosocial skills, including self-regulation, forgiveness, religiosity/spirituality, collective orientation, social problem-solving, and empathy. The findings highlight the roles of self-regulation, community values, and religiosity in strengthening empathy, resilience, dialogue, and peaceful conflict resolution among youth.

Article

Psychosocial Correlates of Social Problem-Solving and Empathy Among Youth in Fifteen Muslim Societies

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Abstract

This article is based on a study that surveyed youth in Muslim-majority societies to investigate the competencies that support youths’ problem-solving skills and empathy. More specifically, it aims to examine attitudes towards psychosocial skills, including self-regulation, forgiveness, religiosity/spirituality, collective orientation, social problem solving, and empathy. The survey focused on youth (N = 15,790) in secondary and higher education (ages 18 and under and 18–24) from 15 Muslim-majority societies. The 2020–2021 survey findings reveal that age, gender, and group differences significantly affect collectivistic orientation, self-regulation, and problem-solving. Additionally, the results support the hypothesis that all variables except forgiveness predict empathy and problem-solving among Muslim youth. By including skills essential to modern life, such as empathy and problem-solving, and by exploring their roles in youth development and social interactions, the study highlights social and cultural attitudes toward these psychosocial, personal, and interpersonal skills, especially among youth in Muslim societies.

Read
the full
article
here.





Announcements

Coming soon- A Conference on Interpersonal/ Social Forgiveness

Salam will hold its conference on the themes of Social and Interpersonal Forgiveness Research and Education in the spring of 2027 in Amman, Jordan. The conference is in collaboration with a Jordanian university. Stay tuned for our call for proposals and further information on the criteria for submissions and reviews. Follow us on Salam's social media platforms.



Welcoming New Interns to the Salam Team

We are pleased to welcome two new interns to the Salam Institute team: Syed Raed Qadri and Eugene Andanje.

As part of their internship experience, Syed Raed and Eugene will contribute to Salam Institute's programs and initiatives that advance peacebuilding, dialogue, reconciliation, and social justice. Their diverse perspectives, enthusiasm, and commitment to meaningful social impact will enrich our work and support our growing efforts across communities and networks.

We are excited to have them join us and look forward to their contributions in the months ahead.





Looking ahead

Across these initiatives, Salam Institute continues to connect research, education, dialogue, and practitioner tools to strengthen cultures of peace and reconciliation. From classrooms in Tunisia to regional civil society networks and global conversations on religious engagement, these efforts reflect a shared commitment to justice, dignity, forgiveness, and sustainable peace.

Stay Connected



Visit salaminstitute.org to explore our publications, toolkits, research, and upcoming events.



Follow Salam Institute on social media and join the conversation on peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Support Our Mission

Your support helps Salam Institute advance peacebuilding, forgiveness education, dialogue, and reconciliation initiatives around the world. Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn how you can contribute to building more peaceful and just communities.

