



Salam Institute
For Peace and Justice

Salam Institute for Peace and Justice

Salam Institute's training programs equip youth with conflict-resolution skills, dialogue competencies, and a values-based framework of peace. This is particularly vital in pluralistic societies, where misunderstandings of culture and religion can exacerbate division. By grounding its work in dialogue, civic education, and engagement, Salam fosters trust and solidarity within communities while promoting inclusive and responsible citizenship.

Since its establishment, Salam has played a key role in strengthening communities by empowering youth, supporting civil society, and building local capacities for dialogue. This work includes introducing civic education curricula, providing advanced training in peacebuilding and conflict-resolution methodologies, and facilitating both interfaith and intra-faith dialogue. Salam promotes skills needed by youth such as nonviolent engagement, critical thinking, and a pluralistic and inclusive worldview, enabling them to become constructive contributors to the stability and resilience of their communities.

Salam's work is structured around the following core pillars:

1. Research & Evaluation
2. Peacebuilding Intervention & Training
3. Inter- and Intra-Religious Dialogue
4. Resources & Publications

Salam Institute has worked in places as diverse as the United States, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Mindanao, the Philippines, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso, and the Balkans.

Inter and Intra Faith Projects: Samples

1. **Interfaith Workshops with Evangelical Christians:** Salam Institute, in collaboration with local partners, has facilitated a series of interfaith dialogue workshops bringing together American Muslims and Evangelical Christians. These sessions explored theological perspectives, justice, peacebuilding, and community collaboration, with the aim of dismantling stereotypes, fostering mutual understanding, and promoting collective action for social justice. Participants, particularly youth from diverse faith backgrounds, gained practical experience in respectful dialogue, conflict-resolution techniques, and the cultivation of shared civic values.
2. **Forgiveness and Peace Education in Schools:** Salam Institute's senior researchers conducted training programs in forgiveness education and socio-emotional learning in schools across the Washington, DC area. By equipping children and adults with tools for reconciliation, healing, and nonviolent conflict resolution, Salam contributed to strengthening long-term social harmony and resilience within local communities.
3. **Secondary Trauma Support for Religious Freedom Defenders:** Salam Institute implemented a project providing secondary trauma support to religious freedom defenders working directly with victims of



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religious persecution, including civil society organizations, religious leaders, and community leaders. The initiative was carried out in Pakistan and Iraq.

4. **Research and Capacity Building for Quranic Schools in Chad and Cameroon:** in partnership with the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy and supported by the USAID West Africa Office, Salam Institute implemented a two-year grant focused on research and capacity building for Quranic school teachers and students in Chad and Cameroon.
5. **Partnership with Arab Barometer and Northwestern University:** Salam Institute partnered with Arab Barometer and Northwestern University on a special project from 2016 to 2018 focused on research and educational programming to strengthen critical thinking in Lebanon, Jordan, and the West Bank.
6. **Project LIGHT – Capacity Building for Young Muslim Religious Leaders:** Salam Institute completed an intensive leadership and capacity-building initiative for young Muslim religious leaders in the United States through Project LIGHT. This specialized conflict resolution and mediation program was designed by Salam Institute and supported by the El-Hibri Foundation.
7. **Peace Education Curriculum Development:** with grant support from the El-Hibri Foundation, Salam Institute updated a peace education curriculum on conflict resolution from an Islamic perspective. The project also included pilot Training of Trainers workshops for youth, women, university students, and religious leaders.
8. **Young Muslim Fellowship:** Salam Institute launched the Young Muslim Fellowship to mentor emerging Muslim researchers in the United States interested in Islamic peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The Institute supported four fellows who successfully completed their research projects and produced thematic policy papers.
9. **Programs in Chad:** between 2008 and 2020, Salam Institute implemented multiple projects in Chad focused on capacity building for Muslim and non-Muslim religious leaders, particularly within Quranic schools and civil society settings. Training areas included peace education, interfaith dialogue, conflict resolution, and reconciliation.

Salam has produced research reports, guides, and manuals for all the above projects. Those focused on civic education and engagement, conflict resolution skills, and forgiveness and reconciliation.

Salam uses the Charter of Makkah¹ and the Religious Peacebuilding Action Guides² among other tools as key frameworks to design and implement its programs. These resources provide credible Islamic values and internationally recognized peacebuilding tools that support inclusion, mediation, reconciliation, and social cohesion.

They help Salam engage imams, educators, youth, and community leaders through trusted language that resonates with Muslim communities, they also transform principles such as coexistence, women's empowerment, civic responsibility, and rejection of extremism into practical training and community initiatives.

¹ <https://themwl.org/sites/default/files/TheCharterofMakkah.pdf>

² <https://salaminstitute.org/knowledge-centre/>