

Salam Institute for Peace and Justice

Newsletter | Peacebuilding, Forgiveness, Research, and Regional Engagement

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.



Call for Conference Abstracts	Pathways to Forgiveness	Regional Network
Salam Institute x University of Jordan	New educator resources now available	Six Voices of Faith 360 Dialogue Sessions and a New Knowledge Paper
Research & Publications	Global Engagement	Listen & Engage
New work on peacebuilding, reconciliation, and forgiveness	Wilton Park, Sudan, and international peacebuilding conversations	Podcast, resources, and ways to support Salam

BUILDING PEACE THROUGH DIALOGUE AND ACTION

As we reflect on this summer's work, we remain mindful of communities around the world experiencing conflict, displacement, and injustice. Their realities strengthen our commitment to fostering dialogue, advancing forgiveness and reconciliation, and supporting efforts that protect human dignity. We move forward with hope that research, education, and collective action can help build more peaceful, just, and compassionate communities.

A Message from the President and Founder

Our newsletter reflects our continuing commitment and long-term plans to support the development of knowledge and practice in the fields of forgiveness and reconciliation in the Arab region. We have made significant progress by completing a large-scale research project on the use of a forgiveness toolkit for personal growth. Our forgiveness guides and toolkits aim to help individuals and educators address conflicts in their personal and professional lives.

We are also delighted to share our new educator resources, six regional dialogue sessions, and a new knowledge paper on local reconciliation and forgiveness. These initiatives contribute to strengthening regional dialogue, advancing forgiveness education, and supporting locally grounded peacebuilding practices.

Looking ahead, Salam Institute, in collaboration with the University of Jordan, will convene an international conference in Amman from March 29–31, 2027. The conference will bring together scholars and practitioners from the Arab region and around the world to share their knowledge, research, and experiences concerning local practices of forgiveness in personal and social settings.

We also welcome our interns and thank them for their valuable contributions to Salam Institute's work. As wars continue to cause suffering, displacement, and loss, we hope for an end to violence and for a future rooted in justice, dignity, healing, forgiveness, and sustainable peace.

Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer

President and Founder

Salam Institute for Peace and Justice



Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer is a professor at American University's School of International Service and Director of its Peacebuilding and Development Institute. His work focuses on conflict resolution, faith-based peacebuilding, interfaith dialogue, social cohesion, and forgiveness education in Arab and Muslim societies. An award-winning scholar and author, his books include *Nonviolence and Peacebuilding in Islam* and *Dialogue, Conflict Resolution, and Change*.



CALL FOR CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Conference on Social and Interpersonal Forgiveness

Call for Conference Abstracts: Salam Institute and the University of Jordan

Salam Institute for Peace and Justice, in collaboration with the University of Jordan, will convene a conference on social and interpersonal forgiveness research and practice from March 29–31, 2027, at the University of Jordan in Amman.

Researchers, scholars, and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts describing completed studies and presenting their key findings. Submissions should be clearly written and aligned with one or more of the conference themes.

Conference Details

Dates: March 29–31, 2027

Location: University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan

Submission deadline: **October 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. ET**

Conference language: English/ Arabic

Abstract length: Maximum 500 words

Submission link: <https://forms.gle/L8373xb94cwLLBXG6>

Conference Themes

- Reconciliation and forgiveness practices in the Arab region
- Psychosocial aspects of forgiveness
- Education for forgiveness
- Forgiveness and wellbeing research
- Global forgiveness initiatives and research
- Interpersonal and social forgiveness workbooks
- Cultural and religious perspectives on forgiveness

Each abstract should briefly describe the study's conceptual or theoretical framework, objectives, methodology, key findings, and relevance to the conference. Submissions should also explain their potential contribution to research, policy, practice, or community impact.

For additional information, please contact:

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Nibal Salloum, Program Manager: nibal@salaminstitute.org

Submit Your Abstract





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CALL FOR CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS

Conference on Social and
Interpersonal Forgiveness



March 29–31, 2027



University of Jordan • Amman, Jordan

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
October 30, 2026

Details and submission link in caption



Salam Institute
For Peace and Justice



دعوة لتقديم ملخصات المؤتمر

مؤتمر المسامحة
الاجتماعية والشخصية



٢٩-٣١ آذار ٢٠٢٧



الجامعة الأردنية • عمّان، الأردن

الموعد النهائي لتقديم الملخصات

٣٠ تشرين الأول ٢٠٢٦



Expanding Pathways to Forgiveness

Education and Curricular Development

Pathways to Forgiveness Educator Resources

Salam Institute is pleased to launch the new Pathways to Forgiveness Educator Resources, developed for teachers, trainers, facilitators, and organizations working with children and adolescents.

These evidence-informed resources combine storytelling, interactive activities, guided reflection, and discussion questions to help young learners develop empathy, emotional awareness, conflict-resolution skills, and a deeper understanding of forgiveness.

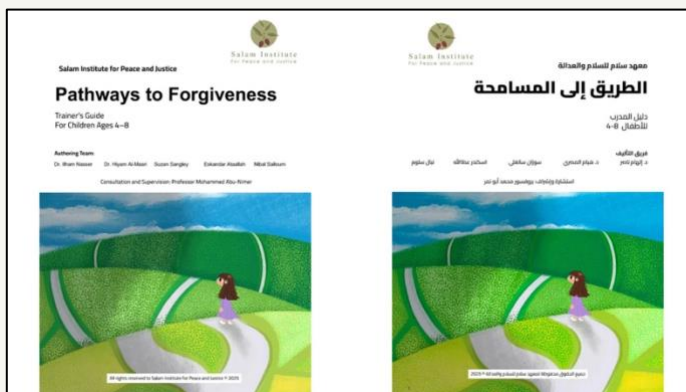
The resources are available in both English and Arabic for two age groups:

- Children ages 4–8
- Adolescents ages 12–16

Each guide provides practical, age-appropriate approaches for introducing forgiveness education in classrooms, youth programs, and community learning spaces. The activities encourage learners to recognize and express emotions, understand different perspectives, address conflict constructively, and explore forgiveness in ways that are relevant to their developmental stage.

Salam Institute also welcomes opportunities to support educators and organizations interested in adapting or implementing these resources.

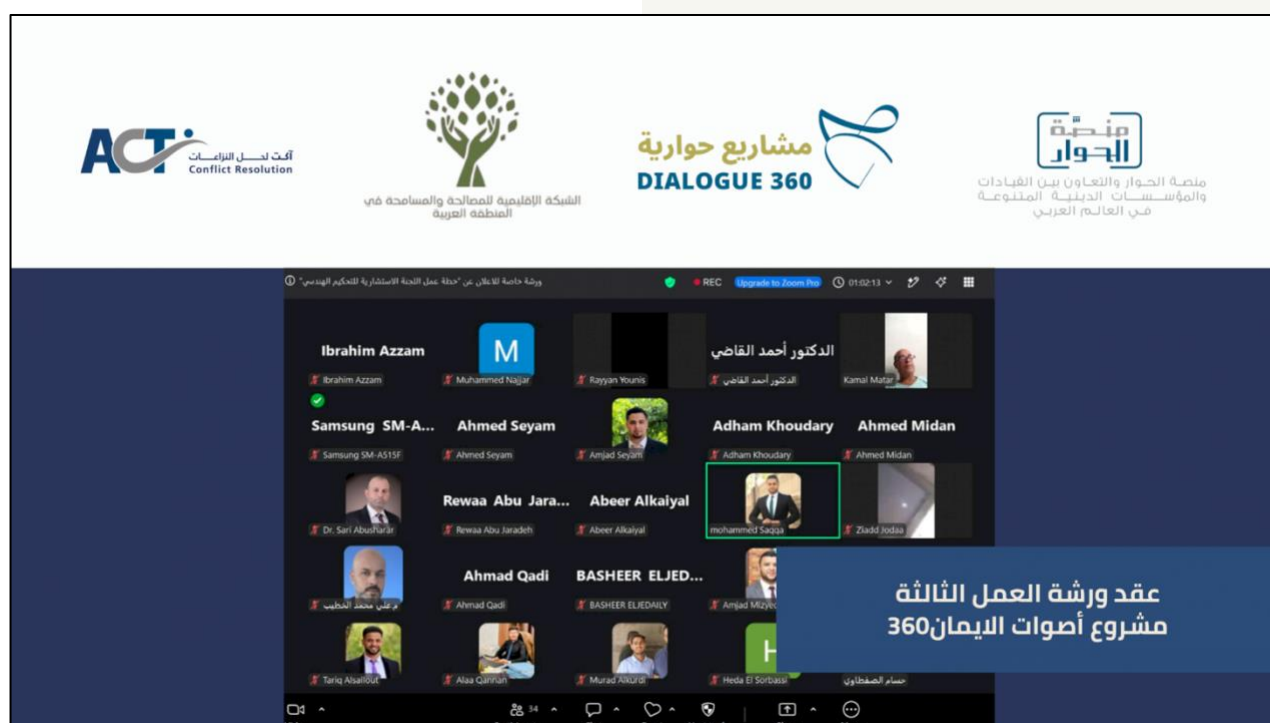
Explore the Educator Resources



The Regional Network for Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the Arab World

Regional Dialogue, Shared Learning, and Practical Action

Voices of Faith 360: Six Sessions, One Shared Journey



Implemented by ACT for Conflict Resolution in partnership with the Regional Network for Reconciliation and Forgiveness and founded by KAICIID, Voices of Faith 360 brought religious leaders, community actors, and local grassroots together to examine the role of religion in times of crisis and develop practical responses to harmful discourse.

1. Religion in Times of Crisis

The opening session created a safe space for participants to share personal experiences, build trust, and explore how faith can foster resilience, compassion, and social cohesion.

2. Religion and Polarization

Participants examined how religious narratives are formed during crises and how they can either deepen polarization or promote trust, tolerance, and human dignity.

3. When Does Religious Discourse Become Harmful?

The third session explored the boundaries between freedom of religious expression and discourse that legitimizes exclusion, hatred, or the denial of another person's dignity.

4. From Statement to Action

The dialogue moved toward practical responses, focusing on protecting religion from being misused to promote hatred and strengthening its role in advancing justice, compassion, and equal citizenship.

5. From Findings to Practical Steps

Drawing on survey findings and the previous discussions, participants considered a work plan, an advocacy strategy for the Ethical Statement, and an ethical code for religious leaders.

6. Toward an Ethical Statement for Action

The final session reviewed the draft Ethical Statement and its foundations, with an emphasis on transforming it into a practical tool for advocacy, awareness, and continued dialogue.

The next phase will focus on developing locally contextualized Codes of Conduct for Syria, Palestine, and Sudan. Building on these country-level Codes, the project will then develop a Regional Code of Conduct in collaboration with the Regional Network for Forgiveness and Reconciliation. The regional framework will establish shared principles and ethical standards to support the local efforts in the region on forgiveness, reconciliation, dialogue, and peacebuilding.





Local Reconciliation and Forgiveness Knowledge Paper

Building sustainable peace requires more than political agreements. It depends on the ability of communities to rebuild trust, restore relationships, and create meaningful pathways toward reconciliation following periods of conflict and division.

Across the Arab region, local actors—including community leaders, civil society organizations, tribal mediators, women, and youth—play a critical role in fostering dialogue and supporting reconciliation within their communities. Their knowledge of local realities, relationships, and cultural traditions enables them to respond to conflict in ways that are relevant, trusted, and grounded in the needs of affected communities.

The Regional Network for Forgiveness and Reconciliation in the Arab World has released a new knowledge paper examining the importance of these locally led processes. The paper brings regional experiences into focus and contributes to the exchange of knowledge, lessons learned, and practical approaches among peacebuilding practitioners and organizations.

By highlighting the role of community-based initiatives, the paper reinforces a central principle of sustainable peacebuilding: reconciliation cannot be imposed from outside. It must be nurtured through inclusive participation, local ownership, and sustained efforts to repair relationships and rebuild trust.

Key Message

Lasting peace is built not only through formal agreements, but also through the everyday work of communities seeking to restore trust, dignity, and peaceful relationships.

أشكال التدخلات المحلية للمصالحة والمسامحة في المنطقة العربية ومدى استدامتها

دراسة مقارنة

ليبيا - تونس - اليمن - سوريا



Read the knowledge paper

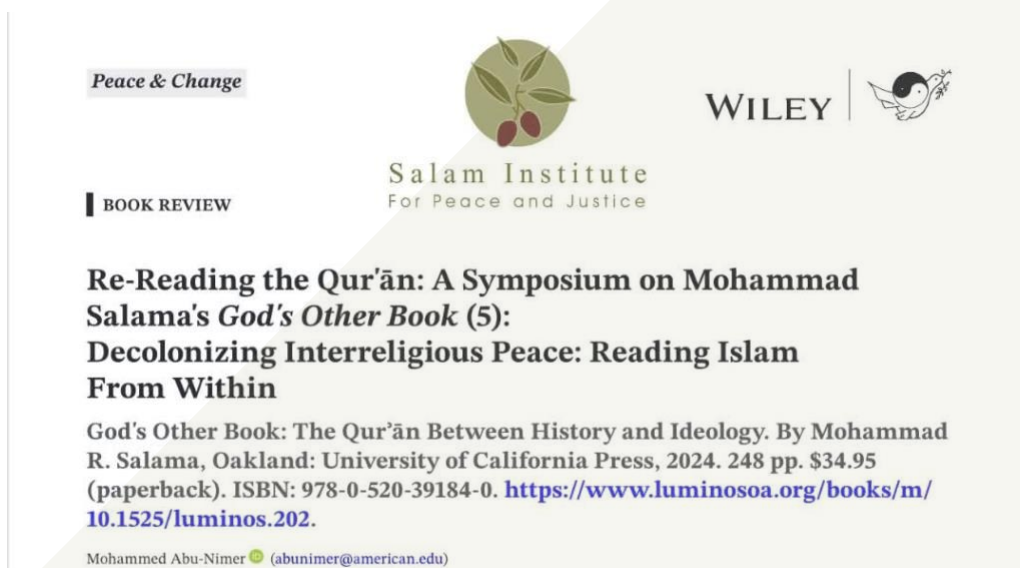




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NEW PUBLICATION

Decolonizing Interreligious Peace: READING ISLAM FROM WITHIN



How can interreligious peacebuilding move beyond Western-centered frameworks?

In a new book review published in *Peace & Change*, Salam Institute founder and President Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer argues that meaningful interreligious dialogue begins by engaging Islam through its own historical, intellectual, linguistic, and cultural traditions rather than relying primarily on inherited colonial frameworks.

The review examines how reading Islam from within its own traditions can challenge misconceptions and contribute to more equitable and effective approaches to peacebuilding across religious communities.

The publication appears as part of a symposium on Mohammad R. Salama's book, *God's Other Book: The Qur'an Between History and Ideology*.

Full review title: "Re-Reading the Qur'an: A Symposium on Mohammad Salama's *God's Other Book (5): Decolonizing Interreligious Peace: Reading Islam From Within*"

Read the full review here



WILTON PARK DIALOGUE

Global Peacebuilding Dialogue

Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer Participates in the Wilton Park Dialogue



In June 2026, Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, President and founder of the Salam Institute for Peace and Justice, participated in the Wilton Park dialogue, “[*A Multistakeholder Alliance for Peace: Joint Action in Turbulent Times.*](#)”

The consultation brought together civil society representatives, parliamentarians, religious leaders, and other stakeholders to explore how new forms of collaboration can strengthen peacebuilding in an increasingly polarized and conflict-affected world.

Discussions emphasized the importance of inclusive approaches that uphold human dignity, foster coexistence, and support collective action for peace.

During the dialogue, Dr. Abu-Nimer contributed reflections on “Building Peace Differently.” He emphasized the importance of moral courage, human dignity, accountability, and innovative peacebuilding approaches in contexts of protracted conflict.

His intervention highlighted the need to move beyond conventional frameworks, strengthen partnerships across sectors, and address the root causes of violence while supporting justice, healing, and reconciliation.

At a time when conflict and polarization continue to challenge communities worldwide, effective alliances among civil society, political institutions, religious actors, and local peacebuilders remain essential for creating sustainable pathways toward peace.

SUDAN WEBINAR

Sudan's War: Humanitarian Cost, Prospects for Peace, and Potential Ways Forward

On August 6, 2026, Arab Center Washington DC, in partnership with the Abdulaziz Said Chair for Peace and Conflict Resolution, at American University's School of International Service, convened a webinar examining the latest developments in Sudan's war and the direction the conflict may take.

Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer joined Tamara Kharroub to moderate a panel featuring Mai Hassan, Kholood Khair, Khaldah Salih, and Adeeb Yousif.

The discussion examined the mounting humanitarian cost of the conflict, barriers to protecting civilians and delivering humanitarian assistance, and the increasing use of drone warfare against military targets and civilian infrastructure.

Panelists also considered the influence of external actors, prospects for mediation, and the risk that Sudan's military and political divisions could become increasingly entrenched.

The conversation emphasized the urgent need to center civilian protection, humanitarian access, and the experiences of Sudanese communities while pursuing credible and inclusive pathways toward peace.

Sudan's War: Humanitarian Cost, Prospects for Peace, and Potential Ways Forward



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Watch the full webinar here





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PODCAST SPOTLIGHT

Peacemakers in Action

More on Jacky and Indonesia with Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer and Lailatul Fitriyah

Tanenbaum's Peacemakers in Action podcast presents the stories of individuals transforming violent conflicts around the world. Each episode offers practical insights into the experiences, challenges, and skills of grassroots peacebuilders.

In the episode "More on Jacky and Indonesia," conflict-resolution expert Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer discusses the roots of violence in Indonesia's Maluku Islands. Indonesian theologian Lailatul Fitriyah also offers insights into the peacebuilding work of Rev. Jacky Manuputty.

The conversation places grassroots religious peacebuilding within its historical and social context and explores how religious leaders and community actors can move from participation in conflict toward dialogue, transformation, and reconciliation.

The episode is part of a wider series highlighting practical lessons from members of the Tanenbaum Peacemakers in Action Network.



EPISODE 5:
MORE ON
JACKY MANUPUTTY
AND INDONESIA

Conflict resolution expert Dr. Mohamad Abu-Nimer discusses the roots of the violence in Maluku, and Indonesian theologian Lailatul Fitriyah offers insights into Jacky Manuputty's peacebuilding efforts.

Listen on
Apple Podcasts

LISTEN ON **Spotify**

Listen to Peacemakers in Action



AI, Digital Tools, and Forgiveness

Exploring AI's Potential in Reconciliation and Peacebuilding

As artificial intelligence increasingly shapes communication and conflict resolution, a new Salam Institute briefing asks: What happens to forgiveness when AI enters the process?

AI may support forgiveness and peacebuilding through translation, conflict analysis, documentation, dialogue preparation, and the adaptation of educational resources across languages and cultural contexts. However, these tools also raise concerns about privacy, bias, emotional dependence, and digital apologies that appear sincere without meaningful accountability.



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The briefing emphasizes that AI should support—not replace—human judgment and relationships. Forgiveness remains a voluntary human process grounded in accountability, consent, trust, and meaningful interaction.

Promising Uses:

Translation • Documentation • Dialogue Support • Conflict Analysis

Key Message:

AI can help prepare the ground for reconciliation, but forgiveness itself continues to depend on human relationships, accountability, and guidance.

Read the Full Briefing





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Looking ahead

This summer's work reflects Salam Institute's commitment to connecting research, education, dialogue, and practical action. As we move forward, Salam will continue expanding forgiveness education, supporting locally led reconciliation, strengthening regional collaboration, producing new knowledge, and creating spaces where research and lived experience contribute to justice, dignity, healing, and sustainable peace.

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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.

