

**JOINT STATEMENT**  
**OF THE ABRAHAMIC PEACE WORKING GROUP 2024**  
**WEDNESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2024**  
**BANDUNG, INDONESIA**

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*We, the members of the Abrahamic Peace Working Group 2024, have gathered in unity and firm resolve to foster peace, mutual respect, solidarity, and collaboration for the common good of all humankind. This effort finds its ground in the commonality we see in our Sacred Texts that call us to understand that the love of God and neighbor as a shared manifestation of us as children of Abraham, represented here by the three monotheistic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.*

*We, the undersigned, members of Circles 1 through 7 of the 1000 Abrahamic Circles Project, along with several like-minded scholars and leaders of congregations of the children of Abraham—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, are deeply aware of the grievous challenges facing our communities. Amid the conflicts, tensions, and complexities of a fractious world, we have come together to foster practical steps toward a better world based on our shared moral convictions and ethical values.*

*In the face of profound challenges, we commit to a comprehensive approach to peace and justice founded on respect for human dignity, mutual understanding, and collaboration through prayer, dialogue, and action. Recognizing that freedom of religion must be intertwined with mutual respect among the children of Abraham, we envision a future in which communities of all children of Abraham stand up for one another in times of need—demonstrating an unwavering solidarity rooted in our shared humanity.*

**The Challenge**

Relations between Abrahamic communities have been severely tested in recent times. The fabric of these relationships has been strained, resulting in “broken hearts, broken dreams, and broken hopes.” We are not dealing with an abstract concern but a genuine human condition that inflicts anguish, fear, and pain on countless individuals worldwide.

This bleak situation has been brought about by the increase in violence, a rise in religious intolerance, the prevalence of stereotypes, and rampant misinformation in and weaponization of both mainstream media and social media. It is well known how conspiracy theories and outright prevarications with malicious intent have been rolled out and amplified in social and mainstream media in a way that has sullied the reputation of the children of Abraham. These have deepened

the divides set among our societies. The resulting distortion of the truth and the rampant spread of falsehood threaten the core of our humanity and our capacity for authentic relationships.

### **A Call to Action:**

#### **Building a Social Structure of Compassion, Education, and Shared Commitment**

In response to these critical challenges, we commit ourselves to a holistic approach to peace that espouses interfaith understanding and fosters respect for human dignity and collaboration for the common good. Guided by values rooted in our shared religious heritage, we propose the following:

##### **1. Strengthening Interfaith Education and Understanding**

- Education has been identified as the most potent tool for addressing global problems, including poverty, inequality, and all forms of violence triggered by hate and power. One of the highest forms of education is learning about other people and how they cope with the vicissitudes of life. Our communities must prioritize learning about one another, not only in the context of religion but also in ordinary, everyday living. We therefore encourage grassroots education initiatives, such as joint workshops and collaborative efforts among young people, to be of service to society.
  - Projects like the 1000 Abrahamic Circles and similar endeavors should be scaled up to maximize their potential for creating harmony and reducing bigotry.

##### **2. Supporting Abrahamic Solidarity, Standing Against Discrimination, Hatred, and Religious-Motivated Violence**

- Hatred has no place in our religions. When one community is threatened, others should stand in solidarity, exemplifying and demonstrating Abrahamic peace and support. Therefore, we unequivocally denounce all forms of xenophobia and discrimination. In particular, we denounce
  - Anti-semitism: Although anti-Zionism is not the same as anti-semitism it should not be used as an excuse for anti-semitic violence.
  - Discrimination against Christians.
  - Islamophobia, including when disingenuously disguised as patriotism.
- We deem it our duty to advocate for policies and practices that uphold the dignity and mutual respect for all communities of all religions.

- We also condemn any form of violence that is motivated by or in response to a particular way of interpreting religious texts or practices as that goes against our genuine religious conviction.

### **3. Engaging in Courageous Dialogue and Bridge-Building**

- We recognize that dialogue is vital to bridging divides. Dialogues must be conducted with compassion, honesty, and an unwavering commitment to acknowledging and making amends for past injustices. The courage to engage in difficult but necessary conversations is essential in healing old wounds and achieving reconciliation.

### **4. Highlighting the Power of Small Gestures and Acts of Humanity**

- Small but thoughtful acts of human caring have the power to transform relationships and foster goodwill. We call on all individuals and communities to engage in such gestures of friendship as a means of building trust, such as the sharing of a simple meal, which is a mark of hospitality complimented by the utterance of a few kind words, is how we bridge gaps and foster mutual/fraternal love and understanding.

### **5. Emphasizing Human Dignity and Compassionate Leadership**

- In building human relationships, we must go beyond tolerance to a robust respect for human dignity. We advocate for compassionate leadership that embraces the "other" and accepts them with all their imperfections as fellow human beings. We call on leaders to demonstrate empathy and understanding, strengthening human bonds and bridging the divides.

### **6. Advocating Peaceful Solutions to the Israel-Palestine Conflict**

- We maintain that religion should play a role in reconciliation and healing wounds and serve as a bridge rather than a barrier to achieving this peace, particularly in this longstanding and intractable conflict. The peaceful resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict plays a substantial role in Abrahamic peacebuilding efforts. We affirm our support for a peaceful coexistence where Israelis and Palestinians can live side-by-side in peace, friendship, dignity, and security.

## **7. Promoting Responsible Media and Narrative Shifts**

- Although the mass media, and now social media, are sometimes part of the problem, it is nevertheless true that the media is a potential and crucial ally in peacebuilding because they shape public perceptions. Therefore, we encourage holding training workshops for journalists and social media influencers, emphasizing balanced reporting and content creation on religious issues. By shifting narratives in both online and offline spaces, we aim to elevate messages of peace and collaboration.

## **8. Empowering Youth and Promoting Meaningful Contact**

- Our Abrahamic traditions are committed to passing down our faith and teachings to the next generation in a form conducive to peace and loving our neighbor. Recognizing that prejudice often stems from a lack of meaningful interaction, we will endeavor to create more opportunities for the youth to engage with the other Abrahamic faiths. We commit to initiatives that bring young people together to exchange experiences, fostering a culture of openness and mutual respect.

## **Conclusion: A Vision of Peace and Mutual Respect**

We issue this Statement as a call to action. We urge our communities, leaders, and policymakers to work collaboratively in a spirit of mutual respect, compassion, and shared humanity. As children of Abraham, we are duty-bound to seek peace, not only among ourselves but for all humankind.

Our shared objective to reach durable Abrahamic peace and harmony worldwide requires patience and persistent outreach among us Abrahamic religious leaders. In our effort, we must also seek both government and grassroots support and position ourselves as the connector between the two.

With faith, hope, and compassion, we pledge to move forward in harmony, embracing our differences and united in our commitment to building a better, more just, and peaceful world.

Let us build bridges of convergence and tear down walls of separation, ignorance, and hate. God created us for love and encounter.

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# Abrahamic Peace Working Group 2024

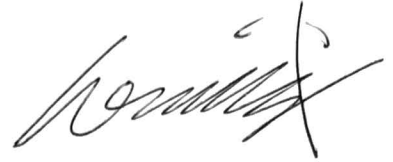
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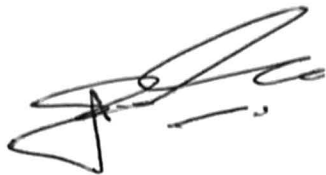
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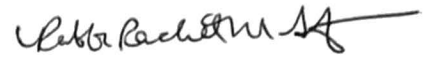
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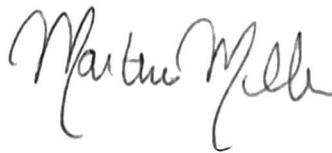
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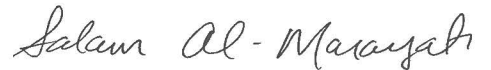
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