

Action of Dialogue & Development for Life

FAITHS AND TRADITIONS REPRESENTED IN CC: Sunni, Shiaa, Druze, Christian, Monotheist

LOCATION OF CC: Lebanon Al-Saha Street, Alrayess Building 3rd Floor, Kamal Kheir Office

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS: Intercultural dialogue, Peace building, Awareness

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CONTACT INFORMATION:

PRIMARY CONTACT: Sultan Kheir, soul.kheir@hotmail.com, (961) 706 16013

SECONDARY CONTACT: Mohammad Hasani

APPROVAL DATE: JAN/2014

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the current religious/cultural/social context in the area where your CC is working?

We are working in a mixed religious area, especially between Christians and Muslims.

2. Why is interfaith/intercultural bridge building needed in the area where your CC works?

Bridge building is needed to demolish stereotypes that exist between members of different communities, in order to avoid any future controversy. Lebanon has long suffered from a sectarian war in the past.

3. Please briefly describe the main activities or programs your CC is carrying out this year?

This year we are carrying out three main activities: interfaith dialogue activities with youth and students, intercultural hiking, social & charity activities, and participating in local & international youth activities. We will develop our news and research website to reach more readers.

4. Between which specific religions or cultures are bridges being built?

We are building bridges between Sunni, Shiaa and Druze, and between Muslims & Christians.

5. Please explain the method or strategy that your CC uses to bring together people of different cultures and faiths that would otherwise not interact or cooperate with each other.

It was very hard for us, that is why we coordinated open social activities using humanity titles and goals. We drive the activity itself to be active dialogue along with interaction between people of different cultures and faiths. For example, we do hiking, charity, trips, or art activities.

6. Given the current context you described, what does your CC hope to achieve (goals)?

We would like to make a difference as a youth initiative while building peace in Lebanon and drive professional dialogue between youth and political parties. We like to be professional in interfaith/intercultural bridge building and dialogue in Lebanon and worldwide.

7. How do you see your CC's work improving cooperation among people of different traditions?

Humanity and charity work especially in the time of crises can promote humanity solidarity & cooperation among people of different traditions.

8. How is the work of your CC helping to prevent religiously inspired violence or transforming conflict? (NOTE: This question is relevant only in areas with violence/open conflict.)

N/A

9. What are some observations or signs you see that relations are improving between people of different faiths/cultures in the area where your CC works?

People of different faiths and cultures are participating in our projects in an increasing manner; and we also observe friendship between them.

10. Please share a specific short story about your CC's work that might teach a lesson about interfaith or inspire other CCs.

In interfaith dialogue, we always need to define dialogue that it is a way to exchange information and experiences: it's not a way to defeat others' opinions or faith and it does not aim to change others' opinions. This will be helpful and will enhance the project & satisfy and clarify it for the participants.

Because of cultural and religious diversity and previous religious conflicts in our country, people feel that they are always in a state of self-defense. Therefore, we need to reassure parties and open the way for proper dialogue, and help build friendships.

11. How is your CC's work helping to achieve the mission of URI?

We always define URI and its mission in all our projects and we clarify our relation with URI as a CC. Our CC works on projects of peace building, conflict resolution, and interfaith and intercultural dialogue. In this work, we help URI to achieve its mission and we are ready to volunteer in training, managing, and cooperating with URI CC projects worldwide.

12. Within your CC, you have members from several different faiths and cultural traditions. How would you describe cooperation among your CC's members? What are the challenges?

We have high cooperation among members from several different faiths and cultural traditions, but always we have ice brake & build bridges & friendships between new members to achieve better cooperation.

13. How is being part of URI helping your CC to achieve its goals?

Through URI stories and through participating with its yearly meeting in Amman, we meet many CCs and we exchange others experiences and ideas about projects. This is inspiring and useful in developing our CC awareness.

14. Aside from funding, what are some specific ways URI can better support your CC in reaching its goals?

We need professional practical training; we need URI to inspire CCs to do cooperative projects, we need to meet CCs from other continents like Europe, Africa, and Asia and exchange ideas. We need the chance to volunteer at URI headquarters and gain a new experience. We need URI to inspire us with ideas or work plan for projects. We need URI to focus more on media and in publishing our projects as this can drive sponsors in the future to fund.