

Beat: Miscellaneous

Training Religious Leaders to Promote Dialogue and Coexistence on Social Media

KAICIID Training Series

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USPA NEWS - 300 young religious leaders, and civil society representatives working with interreligious dialogue across the Middle East will be trained on the use of social media to promote respectful dialogue among followers of different religions...

300 young religious leaders, and civil society representatives working with interreligious dialogue across the Middle East will be trained on the use of social media to promote respectful dialogue among followers of different religions. The first of the series of five trainings in a regional training program, organized by the Vienna-based International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID), are held in Amman, Jordan, from 3 to 5 April 2016. The trainees at this workshop come from Lebanon, Palestine and Syria, as well as Jordan.

Subsequent trainings will also be held over the course of this year in Cairo (Egypt), Erbil (Iraq), Tunis (Tunisia) and Dubai (United Arab Emirates).

Social media is often used as a platform for misinformation, stereotyping and even recruitment by violent extremists. But at the same time, it can also be a way to reach millions of young people, and for them to dialogue amongst themselves on the role of coexistence in their lives and communities. One of the challenges to this process is the fact that champions of coexistence and moderate religious leaders are often unable to use social media effectively to promote their values.

KAICIID is therefore launching a programme to train young religious leaders and dialogue experts in using social media as a space for dialogue. The participants in each workshop are encouraged to implement social media initiatives and campaigns in their own communities and institutions. Interested and promising trainees will be encouraged to become trainers, so that they can have a broader impact in their communities.

The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) is an intergovernmental organization that promotes dialogue to build peace in conflict areas. It does this by enhancing understanding and cooperation between people of different cultures and followers of different religions. The Centre was founded by Austria, Saudi Arabia and Spain. The Holy See is the Founding Observer. Its Board of Directors comprises prominent representatives from five major world religions.

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