



EIGHTH DOHA CONFERENCE ON INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

October 19-21, 2010

DOHA, QATAR

DECLARATION

Over 220 participants from 58 countries - Jews, Christians and Muslims - met for the Eighth Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue. They acknowledged the generous hospitality of HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani and of the State and people of Qatar, and paid tribute to the organizers of the conference, the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue (DICID), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Qatar University. The Minister of Justice, HE Mr. Hassan Bin Abdulla Al Ghanim, at the opening session of the conference welcomed the participants and spoke for the need to make and to follow up concrete recommendations on the theme of the conference **“Raising the New Generation with a Foundation of Values and Tradition: Religious Perspectives.”**

The Conference addressed three main themes: the role of the family, the role of schools and media, and the role of places of worship.

1. The Family: the Heart of Raising and Sustaining the Next Generation

Families have a special responsibility and opportunity for an education which will encourage tolerance and respect for neighbors and strangers. While the family can be a great blessing, concern was expressed about the vulnerability of many children who lack family support. There is a great need for children to look beyond their own needs and to replace selfish competition with compassion for others. Children are idealists by nature and are repelled by violence – whether domestic or political.

THE CONFERENCE CALLS UPON FAITH COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY AS A FUNDAMENTAL UNIT IN SOCIETY AND AS THE PLACE WHERE CHILDREN FIRST LEARN TO PRACTICE DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION.

2. The Role of Educational, Social and Media Institutions

Schools, social institutions and the media can play a vital role in preparing young people for local and global responsibilities. Any form of discrimination or prejudice must be challenged. All three faith communities, Jewish, Christian and Muslim, have experiences of being victimized or ridiculed, it is therefore very important that ignorance be overcome and that differences be respected. Educational and media institutions should allow young people to search for truth and to make their own choices. Together with the great technological advances in the field of media comes great opportunity for the dissemination of values, as well as the great danger of the misuse of media for the degradation of the lives of young people.

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