Recognize, Preserve and Promote the Good Things, Spiritual and Moral Values as Well as the Socio-cultural Values Found in Religions.

Nostra Aetate (Cfr. Second Vatican Council, 1965)

PARTNERSHIPS

Umma University; St. Paul’s University; CPC Kenya; German Embassy Nairobi; Cultural Council of the Embassy of Iran, Kenya; Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers; FeniChurch Aid; International Institute of Islamic Studies, Qom, Iran; Harmony Institute Nairobi; Supreme Council of Kenyan Muslims (SUPKEM); National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC); Hekima University College, Nairobi; Coastal Interfaith Council of Clerics; Menbereka Exposure and Dialogue Programme, Germany; solidarity Africa, Kenya; General Conference of Muslim Deans, Kenya; Conference of Religious Figures of Africa (CARFA); The Kofi Annan Institute for Peace Transformation (Univ. of Liberia); Foundation for Religious Studies (John XXIII, Bologna); and Muslims for Human Rights, Kenya (Muhuri).

CONTACT INFORMATION

For inquiries, partnership requests or participation in one of our programmes please contact:

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EXISTING AND PLANNED ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

Existing:

• Certificate Programme in Islamic Studies

   This is a one-year intensive programme, aiming to prepare church members to be men and women of dialogue with Muslims in particular and other believers in general. It now also serves as the first year of the MA programme.

Planned programmes:

• BA in Islamic Studies and Christian – Muslim Relations

   The BA programme shares its first year with the Certificate Programme in Islamic Studies, while year 2 and 3 will focus on deepening the understanding of Islam, on examining the specific dimensions of Islam in Africa and on the relations and dialogue between Christians and Muslims worldwide. Students who go on to the MA in IRD programme will be exempted from courses on basic Islam and other overlaps to give room for further specialization through more electives.

• MA in Interereligious Dialogue and Human Dignity

   On the basis of the skills and knowledge obtained in the BA (Theology and Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations), this MA programme aims at deepening applicable knowledge and widening the horizon of future e.g. church professionals, researchers, civil society actors or government staff. This programme will be planned and conducted in partnership with FSCIRE, the European Union and the UNHCHR.

• PhD in Religious Studies

   The planned introduction of this overarching PhD programme, cutting across several schools of Tangaza, will enable MA students to further their studies and research. Since IRD is a topic of acknowledged international relevance, the proposed MA in IRD Studies would prepare students for relevant IRD research (and research projects) within this PhD programme and the institute. IRDIS can facilitate this specialization, as well as other departments add their respective expertise to this multidisciplinary, state-of-the-art PhD programme.

Existing:

• Certificate Programme in Islamic Studies

Existing:

• Certificate Programme in Islamic Studies

Existing:

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Existing:

• Certificate Programme in Islamic Studies
ABOUT IRDIS MISSION

- The partnership of Tangaza University College (TUC), Missionaries of Africa (MAfr) and Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe e.V (AGEH-CPS) wants to continue to build a hub for IRD academic, practical expertise and activities.
- The Institute for Interreligious Dialogue and Islamic Studies (IRDIS), under MAfr and within TUC, is founded to address the increased needs on the field of dialogue and cooperation between religious and the studying of Islam in an East African context.
- IRDIS realizes a longstanding dream, agreed upon by TUC and MAfr leadership since 2003.
- IRDIS is founded on three pillars: Academics, Networks and Services.

MISSION

IRDIS will expand the curriculum of the current Islamic studies programme to develop and host comprehensive degree programmes in IRD and Islamic Studies. A connection to the proposed PhD programme in Religious Studies, the establishment of state-of-art programmes (Bi to PhD) within the institute, and interdisciplinary approaches across TUC at the core of IRDIS’ academic structure. IRDIS will conduct independent research and connect researchers with necessary resources in relation to their IRD related proposals. A publication (online or print) will be established and serve as a forum for IRD debate in East Africa and beyond.

In partnership with Tangaza, the IRDIS team and its partners will serve as coordination office to reach out to national and international actors/partners on IRD matters, will organize meetings and conferences and establish networks of IRD actors.

Specific trainings, summer courses, advisory services and outreach programs will be advised and offered to reach a wider audience within Catholic structures and external faith-based organisations to change their attitudes towards other religions and enable them to use IRD tools for peace and social cohesion. All this will be done within TUC and in collaboration with a widened partner base, across Catholic, faith-based and civil society organisations.

IRDIS TEAM

Missionaries of Africa, Kenya

The Missionaries of Africa (also known as “The White Fathers”), are an international Missionary Society of priests and brothers, founded in 1860 by Cardinal Charles La Fargue, Archbishop of Algiers.

They have a long tradition of engaging in meaningful IRD, especially with Muslims in Africa, and insularisation at present there are over 125 Missionaries of Africa (MAfr) land over 500 aspirants. One of the tasks of MAfr in Kenya is to promote interreligious and interreligious dialogue studies at Tangaza.

Tangaza University College

Tangaza University College (TUC) is a centre of Catholic theological and ministerial education in the context of the Church in Africa. Students and lecturers come from over 40 countries and approximately 100 Religious / Missionary Congregations. It is a community of faith and holistic formation, based on gospel values through academic excellence in a multi-cultural and open context. Currently, TUC is attended by over 2,500 students of diverse backgrounds.

At TUC, MAfr are currently heading the Institute for Interreligious Dialogue and Islamic Studies, which deals with IRD. The programme is designed to prepare men and women capable of engaging in promoting Interreligious Dialogue. Tangaza respects and promotes cultural diversity and interreligious dialogue as part of the vision of Tangaza University College.

SELECTED ACTIVITIES SINCE 2018

- Current approaches, co-operations and challenges for IRD programmes. Public discussion with Msgr. Huber, President of Missio Munich.
- Annual Interfaith Youth Forum – Building Peace through Environmental Initiatives, with Franciscan Youth Initiative.
- Joint symposium by the Cultural Council of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tangaza University College: Role of women in faith-based peacebuilding.
- 2nd Annual Summer School on Islam and Christianity in Dialogue Africa.
- AGEH-CPS Strategy workshop on: Exchanging perspectives and experiences to inform the development of an IRD focus at AGEH-CPS.
- Umma-Tangaza in conjunction with the Government of Kajiado workshop on community capacity strengthening project inception.