

**Many thanks to the Local and International Planning Committees,  
without whom the Forum would only have been a dream.**



### International Organizing Partners

Act Alliance  
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Finn Church Aid  
Islamic Relief Worldwide  
Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities  
Network of Religious and Traditional Leaders  
Muslim Aid  
Muslim Charities Forum  
Partnership for Faith and Development  
Religions for Peace  
Soka Gakkai International  
Tearfund  
World Council of Churches  
World Evangelical Alliance  
World Vision

### Local Organizing Partners

Co-Chairs:

- Reverend Ebenezer Joseph
- Venerable Banagala Upatissa Thero

### Local Members

- Faizer Khan, *Muslim Aid*
- Firzan Hashim, *Asia Pacific Alliance for Disasters*
- Mohammed Saleem, *Development Activist*

- Saabira Mohideen, *Logistics Consultant*
- Kavitha Vijayaraj, *Sarvodaya*
- Urmila Selvanayagam, *World Vision*
- Nagulan Nesiah, *Episcopal Relief & Development*

### Thank you Forum Funding Partners

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Soka Gakkai International  
Finn Church Aid  
Religions for Peace  
World Evangelical Alliance

### Partnership for Faith and Development

produced the Forum on behalf of the organizing partners with help from: Jean Duff, Aeysha Chaudry, Cassandra Lawrence, Sara Singha

Joint Learning Initiative Staff:  
Stacy Nam, Olivia Wilkinson

Local Coordinator: Saabira Mohideen



# LOCALIZING RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN NEED

*The Role of Religious and Faith-based Organizations*

Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
October 16-19, 2017

**Local Co-Chairs:**  
Venerable Banagala Upatissa Thero  
Reverend Ebenezer Joseph



Program draft: October 5, 2017 – not all speakers confirmed.

# Welcome to the Forum on Localizing Response to Humanitarian Need: The Role of Religious and Faith-based Organizations.

The Forum has been designed as a **peer-to-peer learning exchange**, rather than a traditional more academic meeting. Participants will contribute to six Thematic working groups. Over 50 panelists will briefly present diverse examples of mechanisms and methods of engagement and related key learnings, supported by a comprehensive on-line evidence base. Session Facilitators will lead think-tank style lively discussions drawing out the lessons learned for engagement of local religious and faith networks, followed by working sessions, where expert participants like you will learn from each others' experiences. Participants will work together to produce evidence-based recommendations for action to scale up local partnerships, which, along with a series of policy briefs and papers, will provide a basis for ongoing advocacy for increased engagement of local religious and faith-based networks in humanitarian response.

## Goals

Within the context of the localization of aid agenda the forum will:

- Provide a platform for diverse religious and faith-based organizations to come together with secular partners
- Showcase and critically reflect on their respective contributions to humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery, in order to
- Strengthen partnerships with local religious and FBO networks, improve delivery, and scale up interventions.

## Objectives

- Assemble an excellent data base of evidence on the contributions of local faith-based actors to humanitarian preparedness,

response and recovery for ongoing use by policy makers and practitioners

- Initiate an ongoing process that showcases mechanisms and methods of effective partnership between local religious and FBOs and public and private bodies, to improve delivery, and scale up interventions
- Stimulate new cross sector partnerships with local religious and FBO networks
- Catalyze advances in international policy and practice with regard to engagement of local faith networks in humanitarian response

## Social Media

Please share your conference experience on social media! Tweet or post interesting facts, inspiring comments, and more using #localizeaid #faithleadersinaid on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

## Photography Policy

Forum attendees are permitted to use cameras or smartphones to take photographs at the conference for personal (non-commercial) use, provided the photography is not disruptive to other attendees or to presenters. Video recordings are not permitted at any time. By attending the conference events, participants consent to having their images captured by official Forum photographers and videographers. The resulting materials, including still photographs, video, and audio recordings may be used by PFD, without restriction, in articles, promotional materials, on the PFD website.

## Online Information Platform

Contains additional resources and documentation supporting speakers' remarks and can be found at <https://lrf2017.org/> under the "Resources" tab.

## Day 1: Monday, October 16th

**9:00am - 1:00pm**

### **"It takes a World to End Violence against Children"**

Asia Pacific Regional Launch of World Vision Campaign.

By invitation: contact [Abid\\_Gulzar@wvi.org](mailto:Abid_Gulzar@wvi.org)

**2:00pm - 5:00pm**

### **Forum Registration**

**5:00pm - 8:00 pm**

### **Opening Reception**

**Moderator:** Mr. Amjad Saleem, *Forum Planning Committee, Switzerland*

#### **Welcome from Conference Organizers**

- Mr. Benjamin Laniado, *CADENA, Mexico (by video)*
- Dr. Rob Kilpatrick, *Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities, New Zealand*
- Ms. Jean Duff, *Partnership for Faith and Development, USA*
- Mr. Anwar Khan, *Islamic Relief, USA*

#### **Welcome from Sri Lankan Religious Leaders**

- The Ven. Banagala Upatissa Thero, *President, Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka*
- Rev. Ebenezer Joseph, *General Secretary, National Christian Council of Sri Lanka*

#### **High Level Speakers**

- Hon. Tilak Marapana, *Minister of Foreign Affairs (Invited)*
- Ms. Una McCauley, *U.N. Special Representative, Sri Lanka*
- H.E. Ayman Al Mufleh, *Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization, Jordan*
- Archbishop Masimango Katanda, *Anglican Church, Democratic Republic of Congo*
- Mr. Andrew Sisson, *Director, USAID Mission, Sri Lanka*

#### **Closing Remarks**

## Day 2: Tuesday, October 17th

8:45am – 10:00am

### Charges to the Conference from Leadership

**Moderator:** Ms. Saba Al Mabaslat, *Humanitarian Leadership Academy*, UK

#### Intergovernmental

- Mr. Prasad Kariyawasam, *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*, Sri Lanka (Invited)
- Ms. Menique Amarasinghe and Mr. Scott Pohl, *UNHCR*
- Dr. Henia Dakkak, *UNFPA*
- Ms. Sara Martinez Bergstrom, *Government of Sweden*

#### International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent

Voices of Survivors of Gender-based Violence in Humanitarian Situations: **“Our Priorities—Your Challenge”** from *Tearfund*, UK (by video)

#### Religious:

- Ms. Isabel Richardson, *World Council of Churches*, India
- Sheikh Musa Bamba, *Interreligious Council of Liberia*, Liberia

#### NGO

- Dr. Rinchen Chopel, *South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children*, Nepal
- Dr. Teresa Carino, *Amity Foundation*, China
- Mr. Halimo E. Weheliye, *NGO Consortium*, Somalia
- Mr. Anwar Khan, *Islamic Relief*, USA
- Rev. Lucas Koach, *Food for the Hungry*, USA

### Review of Goals for the Forum

### Introductions & Table Discussions

10:00am – 10:30am

### COFFEE BREAK

10:30am – 11:20am

### Perspectives of Sri Lankan Religious Leaders

**Moderator:** Firzan Hashim, *Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management*

- Ash Sheikh Arkam Nooramith, *Matara Jumma Masjid*
- Brahmasri Vytheeswara Kurukkal, *Sri Vishnu Kovil*
- Ven. Galkande Dhammananda Thero, *Walpola Rahula Institute for Buddhist Studies*
- Rev. Ebenezer Joseph, *National Christian Council*

**11:20am – 12:15pm**

## **Perspectives on the Roles of Religious and Faith Based Organizations in Response to Humanitarian Crises in Sri Lanka**

**Moderator:** Firzan Hashim, Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management

- Faizer Khan, *Muslim Aid*
- Binnu Selvarajah, *Church of Ceylon*
- Thoumiyan Soundaram, *National Christian Evangelical Alliance*
- Ven. Kotapitiye Rahula Anunayakethero, *Sri Lanka Council of Religions for Peace*
- Kavitha Vijayaraj, *Lanka Jathika Sarvodya Shramadana Sangamaya*
- Canisius Sovis, *Finn Church Aid*
- Mrs. NL Hom Jasinghe, *Walpola Rahula Institute*
- Rev. Mahendra Gunatilleke, *Caritas, SEDEC*

**12:15pm – 1:45pm**

## **LUNCH**

## **Local Faith Actors Engaging in Humanitarian Response – Exploring Ideas about What is Working? What is Not?**

### **Goal and Process for the Day:**

*Learning Exchange via Four Concurrent Working Groups, Followed by Intensive Small Group Work: How are Religious and FBOs Responding to Four Kinds of Humanitarian Challenges*

## **Working Group 1: Conflict & Peacemaking**

**Moderators:** Dr. Imrana Umar, *International Interfaith Peace Corps, USA*  
Dr. Laura Payne, *Coventry University, UK*

- Rose Wright, *Anglican Church Mothers Union, South Sudan*  
- *Women's Peace Network*
- Mr. Thoumiyan Soundaram, *National Christian Evangelical Alliance, Sri Lanka*  
- *Give Peace a Chance Campaign*
- Prof. Anne Kubai, *Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Finland*  
- *Psychosocial Support by Religious Leaders*
- Edouardo Ndong, *World Vision, Central African Republic*  
- *Interfaith Peacebuilding Central African Republic*
- Sheikh Muhammed Abou-Zeid, *Adyan Foundation, Syria*  
- *New Religious Discourse for Prevention of Religious Extremism*
- Arne Næss-Holm, *ACT Alliance, Norway*  
- *Local Leadership for Emergency Response Tanzania, Iraq Philippines*



## Working Group 2: Disaster Response

**Moderators:** Mihir Bhatt, *All India Disaster Mitigation Institute*, India  
Dr David Boan, *World Evangelical Alliance*, USA

- Nobuyuki Asai, *Soka Gakkai*, Japan  
- *Earthquakes*
- Erika Glanz, *Cadena*, Mexico  
- *Earthquakes*
- Hiruy Teka, *Samaritans Purse*, UK  
- *Flooding in the Balkans*
- Mark Scheffer, *Baha'i International Community*, USA,  
- *Vanuatu*
- Alice Banfield, *Deakin University*, Australia  
- *Cyclone in Vanuatu*
- Mr Raghu Balachandran, *Alliance Development Trust*, Sri Lanka  
- *Tsunami Initial Emergency Relief Effort*
- Rosa Carmargo De Bravo, *Tearfund*, Colombia  
- *Earthquake in Ecuador*
- Thir Bahadur Koirala, *Micah*, Nepal

## Working Group 3: Refugees and Forced Migration

**Moderators:** H.E. Ayman Al Mufleh, *Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization*, Jordan  
Scott Pohl, *UNHCR*, Switzerland (INV)

- Dr. Olivia Wilkinson, *Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities*, USA  
- *Launch of Scoping Study from Refugee and Forced Migration Learning Hub*
- Usman Bola, *Future Prowess Islamic Network*, Nigeria  
- *Internally Displaced Persons*
- Mr. Menya Balonde Muhamad, *Muslim Supreme Council*, Uganda
- Mr. Caleb Stephens, *MERFAT-Middle East Revive and Thrive*, Lebanon & Syria  
- *Child Protection*
- Ms. Johanna Fadipe, *Mothers Union*, Burundi  
- *The Needs of Rural and Disabled Women*
- Dr. Estella Carpi, *University College London*, UK  
- *How Do Religious Aid Providers Relate to Secular Actors?*
- Rev. Mark Obi *Evangelical World Mission*, the Gambia  
- *Aid to IDPs in Political Conflict*
- Mr. Faizer Khan, *Muslim Aid*, Sri Lanka  
- *North East Interfaith Forum for Reconciliation*

## Working Group 4: Disaster Risk Reduction & Resilience

**Moderators:** Nagulan Nesiah, *Episcopal Relief and Development*  
Atallah Fitzgibbon, *Islamic Relief Worldwide*, UK

- Archbishop Katanda, *ACT*, Democratic Republic of Congo  
- *Activities in W. Africa, Sudan, Japan, Vanuatu, S.E. Asia*
- Catriona Dejean, *International Care Ministries*, Philippines  
- *Pastors in Disasters*
- Dr. Douwe Dijkstra, *Tearfund*, Nepal  
- *DRR Activities with Faith Communities*
- Mr. Umair Hasan, *Islamic Relief*, Indonesia  
- *Role of Religious Places in Disasters*
- Mr. Andrew Smith, *The Feast*, UK  
- *Youth Encounter Programs*
- Mr. Bob Mitchell *Caritas, Churches Agency Network*, Australia  
- *CAN DO Network in the Pacific*
- Mr. Roshan Mendis, *LEADS*  
- *DRR and Child Protection*

**3:00pm - 3:30pm**

### COFFEE BREAK

**3:30pm - 5:30pm**

### Peer to Peer Learning Exchanges:

Participants return to their Working Group room for peer to peer Learning Exchange in small groups

Conflict & Peacemaking

Natural Disasters

Refugees & Forced Migration

DRR & Resilience

**5:30pm - 6:30pm**

### BREAK

**6:30pm - 8:30 pm**

### DINNER

*Working Group Moderators dine together to integrate today's results into tomorrow's program*



## Day 3: Wednesday, October 18th

### 8.30am - 8.50am

Participants proceed to pre-selected Working Groups

### Learning From Yesterday

#### Goals and process for the day:

- Two Working Groups on cross cutting issues
- Panel Discussion of what is needed to scale up--experts present methods and mechanisms
- Moving from joint learning to actionable recommendations

### 8:50am - 10:30am

### Working Group 5: Gender Based Violence

#### Moderators:

Veena O'Sullivan, *Tearfund*, UK  
Kavitha Vijayaraj, *Sarvodya*, Sri Lanka

- Dr. Jennifer Desrosiers, *University of Otago*, New Zealand  
- *Systematic Review of Methods and Mechanisms of Partnerships*
- Ms. Desiree Majambere, Burundi  
- *Early Warning Response Systems*
- Dr. Rangeen Shokpi, Kurdistan Region of Iraq  
- *Attitudes of Victims Towards Religious Leaders and Other Authorities*
- Dr. Dean Pallant, *Salvation Army*, USA  
- *Working Around the World with Women Experiencing GBV*
- Rev. Betty Kazadi Musau, *United Methodist Church*, Democratic Republic of Congo  
- *Discrimination Against Pygmy Women in Tanganyika*
- Mr. Prabu Deepan, *Tearfund*, Sri Lanka  
- *Transforming Masculinities in DRC & Myanmar*
- Mrs. Chitra Kualiti, *Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network*, Thailand

#### Q &A and discussion of recommendations

### Working Group 6: Children and Health

#### Moderators:

Urmila Selvanayagam, *World Vision*, Sri Lanka  
Dr. Rinchen Chopel, *South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children*, Nepal

- Allieu S. Bangura, *Mission4Salone Ministries*, Sierra Leone  
- *Interreligious Councils*

- Jo Sadgrove, *United Society Partners in the Gospel*, UK  
- *Psychosocial Support in Lesotho*
- Ven. Prof. Kotapitiye Rahula Anunayakethero, *Sri Lanka Council of Religions for Peace*  
- *Advancing Child Protection through Multi-religious Cooperation*
- Janice Proud, *Anglican Alliance*, UK  
- *Network, a Coalition of Disability-Related Organizations, Caring for Children in Refugee Camps in Jordan*
- Rev. William Zulu, *Reformed Church in Zambia*
- Oenone Chadburn, *Tearfund*  
- *The Role of Local Faith Actors in Ebola Response in Sierra Leone & Liberia*
- Ms. Hanna Elbanna, *Global One*  
- *WASH Program in Refugee Camps in Haiti*

### Q&A and discussion of recommendations

### COFFEE BREAK

### 10:30am - 12:00pm

Participants return to main hall

### Plenary Session

- Report out from all **Working Groups** – key learnings and recommendations for action
- Reports from **Advocate for Children**, Christo Greyling, and **Advocate for Women**, Veena O’Sullivan,
- Presentation and discussion of **Draft Communiqué**
- Discussion of **Implications for Action**

### 12:00pm - 1:00pm

### LUNCH

### 1:00pm - 2:15pm

### What is Needed? What Resources are Available? What is Next?

**Moderators:** Canon Sarah Snyder, *Church of England*, UK  
Sheikh Musa Bamba, *Liberian InterReligious Council*, Liberia

- Ms. Saba Al Mubaslat, *Humanitarian Leadership Academy*  
- *Helping People Prepare and Respond to Crises in their Own Countries*
- Dr. Kathryn Kraft, *World Vision*, UK  
- *Approaches to Interfaith Collaboration: Coordinating Mechanisms*
- Ms. May Jarrar, *East Jerusalem YMCA*, Palestine  
- *Local2Global Initiative*

- Mr. Akash Asthana, *Catholic Relief Services*, India  
- *Professionalizing Skills of Local Emergency Responders*
- Ms. Tara Gingerich, *Oxfam*, USA  
- *Local Humanitarian Leadership and Religious Literacy*
- Bikkhu Mandala, *Lankara*, Myanmar
- Mr. Jehan Perera, *National Peace Council*, Sri Lanka  
- *Religions to Reconcile*

## Q&A

## Looking Ahead: What is Needed to Fully Engage Local Faith Actors?

- Finalize Draft Communique
- Recommendations for Policy & Practice: Statement from the Working Meeting
- Perspectives from Policy Makers

**4:00pm – 5:00pm**

## Concluding Reflections

### Intergovernmental

- Sri Lanka Government
- UN agencies
- USAID
- Other Governments

### Religious

- Rev. Ebenezer Joseph
- Ven. Banagala Upatissa Thero

### NGO

### Remarks from Conference Participants

## Closing Remarks:

- Amjad Saleem
- Jean Duff

## Dinner on your own

**Day 4: Thursday, October 19th**

**Optional Excursions** to visit local faith & community networks in Sri Lanka