

Bonner Querschnitte

Bonn Profiles – Press Reports

Phone: +49 4106 804806 · Fax: +49 4106 804807
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World Evangelical Alliance is satisfied with its Program of Dialogue with Islamic Leaders

The Associate Secretary General of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), Thomas Schirmmacher, has drawn a positive conclusion regarding its international program of dialog with leading Muslim clerics around the world.

Shortly after having been inducted as WEA Secretary General, Bishop Efraim Tendero (Manila) gave the *Office for Intrafaith and Interfaith Relations* (OIIR), headed by Thomas Schirmmacher together with Bishop Cesar Vicente P. Punzalan, III (Manila), the assignment of conducting annual dialogues with ten individuals from the top level of leadership of Islam in a particular country or from global Islamic movements. They are supported in their efforts by the expertise of the WEA's International Institute of Islamic Studies, which is under the Islamic studies specialist from Bonn, Christine Schirmmacher, as well as the WEA Global Ambassador, Brian Stiller.



Egypt – Grand Mufti Shawki Ibrahim Allam © BQ / Warnecke

The foundation set was the global Christian declaration, '*Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World*', which was adopted in 2011 by the Vatican, the World Council of Churches, and the WEA. Dialogue is integrated into the missionary mandate and is reflected in the document's beginning words: "Mission belongs to the very being of the church." At the same time, however, dialogue is indispensable: '*Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World*' also includes dialogue with people who are adherents of other religions and cultures (Acts 17:22-28). Christians should "build relationships of respect and trust with people of all religions, in particular at institutional levels between churches and other religious communities, engaging in on-going interreligious dialogue as part of their Christian commitment. In certain contexts, where years of tension and conflict have created deep suspicions and breaches of trust between and among communities, interreligious dialogue can provide new opportunities for

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Text & Technology:
Titus Vogt (ViSDP)
Vorderer Kamp 52a, D-25479 Ellerau
Phone: +49 4106 804806
Fax: +49 4106 804807
Email: Titus.Vogt@bucer.de



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Department of Theological Concerns of World Evangelical Alliance

www.worldevangelicals.org/pdf/TN-47-1-Jan-2018.pdf

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www.islaminstitute.net

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www.iirf.eu

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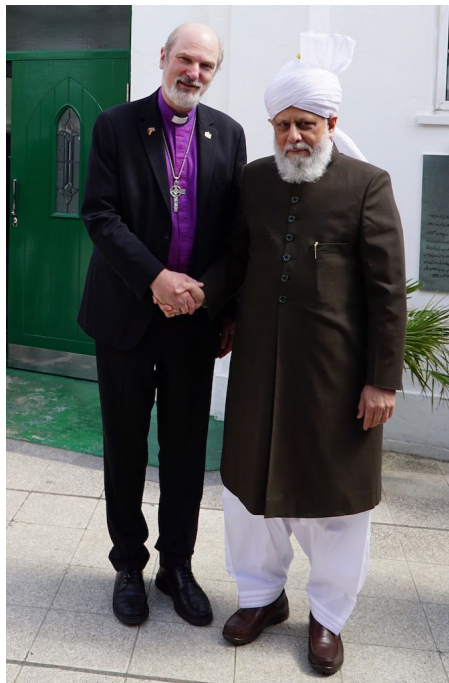


resolving conflicts, restoring justice, healing of memories, reconciliation and peace-building.”

Since that time, every month at some location on the globe, Thomas Schirmmacher, Christine Schirmmacher, Bishop Cesar Vicente P. Punzalan III, Brian Stiller, Rosalee Velosso Ewell as well as Thomas K. Johnson and others have conducted official dialogues with a grand mufti in a particular country or with leading Islamic theologians or heads of Islamic movements such as the Bektashi and Ahmadiyya movements.

According to Schirmmacher, it is not only the convictions of both sides which are presented and relationships which are developed in the process. Rather, it is often the situation facing persecuted religious minorities and other sensitive issues which are discussed. All in all, Schirmmacher is very satisfied that there is success in linking relationships based upon reconciliation and human rights to a clear witness of faith.

Schirmmacher added that this clearly has to do with the top level. At the same time, Evangelical leaders conducted innumerable meetings with Muslim leaders on local, national, and regional levels.



Ahmadiyya – Kalif Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad © BQ / Warnecke

Downloads and Links:

- Photos (if not other mentioned © BQ / Warnecke):
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 - [Photo 4](#): Alevita – Chair in Germany Hüseyin Mat (with Volker Beck, MP)
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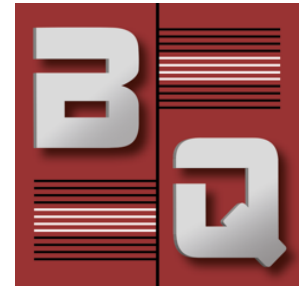
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- [Photo 16](#): Iran – Seyed Mohammad Ali Abtahi, President, Institute for Interreligious Dialogue, Teheran, Iran
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- [Photo 29](#): Tunisia – Abdelfattah Mourou, Ennahda, Vice-President of the Tunisian Parliament
- [Photo 30](#): Usbekistan – Mufti of Usbekistan
- Photo gallery with all photos: <https://www.thomasschirmacher.net/pictures/dialogue-with-islamic-leaders/>

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