



Comité pour le dialogue interreligieux & interconvictionnel *Committee for Interreligious & interconvictional dialogue*

Report à la Conférence des OING, 6 Avril 2022
Report to the conference of INGO, 6th April 2022



Introduction



- Based on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Assembly (*REC 2080*) of 2015 entitled "*Freedom of Religion and living together in a democratic society*" our Committee aims to establish a *genuine permanent platform for dialogue between representatives of religions and non-denominational organisations* in the Council of Europe.
- So far, this request included in the recommendation has still not passed the Committee of Ministers.
- In today's world, genuine, inclusive, interconvictional dialogue is on the decline with far-reaching consequences.
- We therefore want to put the urgently needed dialogue into practice, already live it through our committee, as well as collect, study and pass on its most successful forms to others.



Interconvictional Dialogue without borders across all levels



- Credible dialogue should not be limited to the level of spiritual leadership, but should involve all parts of society and especially the "grassroots level".
- It needs to be interreligious, interconvictional and intercultural to make a real difference.
- Our committee is guided by the principle of *Unity in Diversity*, which we see as a strength and reconciling force based on the three pillars of the Council of Europe: human rights, democracy and the rule of law,
- as well as the White Paper " *Living Together in Dignity as Equals in Dignity*" published in 2008

+ People follow learned values...



...a religion or a worldview and carry their orientations with them in all walks of life and at all levels of society. Their daily actions are based on and influenced by their own values. With them, people consciously or unconsciously get involved in civil society; actively shape the world in which they live in order to

- better understand one's own environment with differently minded people and living conditions and to learn how to appreciate them as an enrichment.
- Remedy injustices, shortcomings, violence etc. through joint and determined solidarity actions
- Make living together more peaceful, equal, just and sustainable
- And to participate in ethical and political decision-making processes necessary for this



The interreligious and interconvictional Dialogue committee



- *builds upon the three pillars of the CoE: human rights, democracy and the rule of law*
- *Highlights the need for a culture of inclusive dialogue at all and with all levels*
- *Wants to contribute to the shaping of a peaceful, just and sustainable coexistence in Europe*
- Genuine dialogue is based on the recognition of another person, his or her dignity and specialness. Essential factors of a dialogue are not only the acquisition of knowledge about the respective other belief, but also a better self-perception and the ability to develop e.g. empathy and other qualities.



Education plays an essential role in a much broader sense



- In the curricula of state or state-recognised educational institutions, religions and other Worldviews usually find only a limited, if any, place.
- Minority religions or worldviews are in particular limited to non-formal education and catechesis to communicate or teach their own traditions and beliefs. Which is not in line with Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights.
- Many such *educational programmes* aim at dialogue and tolerance towards those who believe and think differently.



Actions already carried out and planned



- Presentation of the joint three-year SASCE-Project “Safer and Stronger Communities in Europe”; a multi-layered project to increase security in and around places of worship, as well as within and between Christian, Buddhist, Muslim and Jewish communities.
- Presentation of our Committee and its projects to the *European Parliaments’ Interreligious Dialogue Unit of the EPP Group*. Exchanges with this Unit will be continued.
- Organisation of our first webinar on 1 April "*From knowledge to mutual recognition. Identity Formation*" with research fellows and professors from the Academy of World Religions in Hamburg.
- Webinar "Presentation of non-formal educational programmes" (June and November 2022)



Our next steps and method



We aim to search for and classify educational and training programmes according to the capacity to

- **Understanding one's own universal responsibility**
- **Relate one's own beliefs and to understand others**
- **Developing self-confidence for a life without fear**
- **Become a mediator in one's own community and beyond**



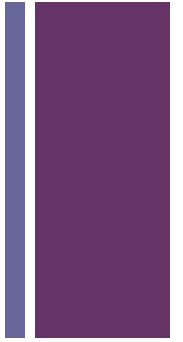
Implementation



- Contribute to the exchange and dissemination of good practices in the field of tolerance and anti-discrimination in our society and within religious communities and other religious, philosophical, or humanist organisations.
- This work can also contribute to a better coordination between formal and non-formal education (a coalition of good-willed for living together peacefully in plurality)
- This inter-religious project within the framework of the Council of Europe could itself become an example of inter-religious and inter-confessional cooperation



The Aim



... of interreligious and inter-convictional dialogue is the shaping of dialogical persons and societies. Dialogue works with „**trans-difference**“ that brings together diversity (differences) & unity (communication and bridging)