

COUNCIL OF PARTIES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The logo for the Council of Islamic Ideology (CIID) is displayed in white on a blue rectangular background. The letters 'CIID' are stylized, with the 'I's being vertical bars and the 'C' and 'D' having rounded, blocky shapes.

KAICIID DIALOGUE

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Letter From the Secretary General



Esteemed Representatives of the Council of Parties,

I am pleased to share with you the latest Council of Parties & Board of Directors Newsletter, which highlights the Centre's progress in promoting dialogue and understanding among religions and cultures worldwide.

As Secretary General, I have had the opportunity to engage in significant meetings with key dignitaries, with each conversation paving the way for deeper collaboration and mutual understanding. With the support of my Executive Office, the Centre has furthered strategic partnerships and continued the vital work in building relationships and exploring collaborative opportunities.

During this first quarter, our Programmes Division launched initiatives such as the Regional Citizen's Dialogue Programme in Nigeria and the 6th Annual Interfaith Peace Conference in Kaduna, furthering our focus on collaboration between religious leaders and policymakers. Meanwhile, our Operations Division improved staff welfare through the use of advanced technology and by establishing a contract with a new health insurance provider. Our headquarters also saw improvements, such as the establishment of the KAICIID Library, to serve as an intellectual hub for our staff members.

The Centre also focused on the important task of incorporating measurable results into its work, reviewing some of its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in a Centre-wide effort, and making preparations to launch a comprehensive Results Framework to track our initiatives' effectiveness.

Lastly, our role as a knowledge partner at the Saudi Media Forum and other platforms underscored our commitment to peace and social cohesion around the world.

I hope you will enjoy learning about the substantial steps the Centre has taken in the first quarter to fulfill its mandate. Looking ahead to the KAICIID Global Dialogue Forum in May 2024, I thank the Council of Parties for its unwavering support.

Together, we aim for a more inclusive and peaceful world.

Sincerely,

Dr. Zuhair Alharthi
Secretary General



KAICIID's Council of Parties meeting in Lisbon, Portugal.



PaRD leadership meeting in Lisbon, Portugal.



KAICIID's participation at the Saudi Media Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



KAICIID's participation at the Saudi Media Forum in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Regional Citizens' Dialogue Program launch in Abuja, Nigeria.



KAICIID honours female staff during International Women's Day

Updates from the Executive Office of the Secretary General



The Executive Office of the Secretary General at KAICIID has been at the forefront of fostering enduring partnerships and engaging in diplomatic endeavours that highlight the organization's pivotal role in interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Our commitment to building bridges across diverse communities has never been more evident, as reflected in the assemblage of outreach activities and high-level meetings undertaken by our esteemed Secretary General, His Excellency Dr. Zuhair Alharthi.

In a remarkable demonstration of KAICIID's commitment to global harmony, the Secretary General held a series of significant meetings with key dignitaries, each conversation paving the way for deeper collaboration and mutual understanding. These engagements underscore the Centre's dedication to peace and the strengthening of ties with our esteemed partners worldwide.

Among the notable meetings, the Secretary General had the honour of engaging include:

Diplomatic Engagements and Bilateral Meetings

Strengthening Arab - European Ties:

On 23 January 2024, a pivotal meeting was held between the Secretary General and Ms. Aida Bouabdellah, Head of the Executive Body of the Arab-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. This meeting was a cornerstone for discussing the enhancement of dialogue and cooperation between Portugal, KAICIID's host country, and the Arab region, addressing regional challenges and seizing opportunities for collaborative endeavours.

Advancing Migration Dialogue:

On the same day, the Secretary General met with Mr. Vasco Malta, Head of the International Organization for Migration of the United Nations Mission in Portugal. This meeting reaffirmed KAICIID's commitment to organizing the International Migrants Day 2024 and explored avenues for further collaboration in Portugal through joint events and projects, emphasizing the Centre's shared dedication to the cause of migrants.



Dr. Alharthi's meeting with Ms. Aida Bouabdellah, Head of the Executive Body of the Arab-Portuguese Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Dr. Alharthi's meeting with Mr. Vasco Malta, Head of the International Organization for Migration of the United Nations Mission in Portugal.

Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue Initiatives:

On 13 February 2024, an in-depth dialogue took place between the Secretary General and Mr. Anthony Bailey, Honourary Consul-General of the Kingdom of Tonga. The focus was on the synergies between both parties' efforts in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue, a testament to our shared values and objectives.



Dr. Alharthi's meeting with Mr. Anthony Bailey; Honourary Consul-General of the Kingdom of Tonga.

KAICIID's Role in the Saudi Media Forum

Strategic Participation as Knowledge Partner:

From 19 to 21 February 2024, KAICIID was honoured to participate as a knowledge partner at the Saudi Media Forum (SMF) in Riyadh. KAICIID's involvement underscored the Centre's expertise in fostering social cohesion, promoting peace, and addressing the challenges posed by the proliferation of social media. The Secretary General's presence at the forum, including the official opening and the insightful panel on "Building Bridges and Strategic Partnerships for Peacebuilding and Diversity in Media," highlighted KAICIID's active role in shaping media narratives towards peace and inclusivity.



Dr. Alharthi among delegates after one of KAICIID's session at the SMF

High-Level Engagements:

On 20 February 2024, the Secretary General, H.E., Dr. Zuhair Alharthi engaged with key figures to discuss KAICIID's forthcoming initiatives, including the KAICIID Global Dialogue Forum scheduled for May 2024., Key figures included;

- His Beatitude Cardinal Louis Raphaël Sako, Patriarch of Babylon of the Chaldeans,
- His Excellency Sheikh Hatim ibn Arif al-Awni, former member of the Council of Saudi Arabia and Associate Professor at the College of Da'wah and Fundamentals of Religion at Umm al-Qura University,
- His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Al-Sammak, former Secretary General, Islamic Christian National Dialogue Committee in Lebanon,
- His Virtue Prof. Dr. Allahshukur Pashazade (Azerbaijan), Sheikh ul-Islam of the Caucasus and,
- MP. Hind Rashad, a member of the House of Representatives in Egypt and Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee on Media and Culture.



Dr. Alharthi having bilateral engagements at the Saudi Media Forum

Supporting Women in Media:

On 21 February 2024, the Secretary General Dr. Alharthi visited the KAICIID booth and participated in the closing ceremonies of the Future of Media Exhibition (FOMEX) and the Saudi Media Forum. Special recognition was given to the panel "Women Journalists Shaping Media Narratives and Storytelling for Peace and enhancing Inclusivity in media," with notable participants such as; Ms. Nawal Aljaber, Managing Editor of the Women's Section at Al Riyadh newspaper, Ms. Christiane Baissary, News Anchor and Programme Host of Al Arabiya Channel, and Ms. Eugenia Abu, veteran Broadcaster and Media Consultant from Nigeria. This engagement emphasised KAICIID's commitment to empowering women journalists in their crucial role and contribution to media.



Dr. Alharthi in a group photo with some of the women journalists after the session

Highlights from the Office of the Deputy Secretary General

Guided by the vision of H.E., Dr. Zuhair Alharthi, the outreach missions led by our Deputy Secretary General, Ambassador António De Almeida-Ribeiro, have woven the potential for partnerships across the globe. These missions, conducted in various strategic locations, have served not only as a platform for dialogue but also as a beacon of KAICIID's commitment to fostering peace and understanding among diverse communities.

During these missions, the Deputy Secretary General engaged with key stakeholders, including government officials, religious leaders, and civil society organizations, to explore avenues for collaboration and to reinforce the importance of dialogue in achieving sustainable peace. Each meeting was a step forward in our journey towards a more inclusive world.

Outreach Missions: A Journey of Collaborations and Peace

Strengthening Global Partnerships:

On 19 January 2024, the Deputy Secretary General had the privilege of meeting with Ambassador Ioannis Metaxas, Director of the European Public Law Organization (EPLO), and Ms. Maria Iliopoulou, Administrative and Financial Affairs Officer of EPLO's Regional Branch. This meeting served as a valuable platform to exchange institutional priorities and explore synergies between our organizations, thereby reinforcing KAICIID's commitment to fostering global partnerships.

Forging Ties with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC):

In a significant development on 15 February 2024, the Deputy Secretary General engaged in discussions with Counsellor Pedro Monteiro and Diplomat Jorge César das Neves, who was appointed by the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, regarding KAICIID's potential involvement in the UNAOC Global Forum scheduled to be held in Lisbon in the fourth quarter of 2024. KAICIID as a member of UNAOC Group of Friends since 2018, and in the framework of its current MoU is actively exploring this involvement. This interaction underscores KAICIID's readiness to contribute to global dialogues on interreligious and intercultural understanding.

Promoting Interreligious Dialogue in Portugal:

Demonstrating KAICIID's commitment to interreligious dialogue, the Deputy Secretary General attended the 100th Diocesan Synod of the Lusitanian Church on 17 February 2024. This gathering provided an invaluable opportunity to engage with prominent religious leaders, including the Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, and to discuss the landscape of interreligious dialogue in Portugal.

Advancing Peace and Security in West Africa:

From 26 to 29 February 2024, on behalf of H.E., Dr Alharthi, the Deputy Secretary General represented KAICIID on a mission to Nigeria, marking the official launch of the Regional Citizen's Dialogue Programme (RCDP) and the inauguration of the Steering Committee of the West African Platform on Unconstitutional Changes of Government.

Meetings with key officials, included:

- Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, Speaker of the House,
- Dr. Cyriaque Pawoumotom, Director of Peacekeeping and Regional Security - ECOWAS-CEDEAO,
- Council of Parties Representatives (Amb. Juan Sell - Spain; Amb. Thomas Schlesinger - Austria ; Host Country Amb. Paulo Santos - Portugal),
- Mr. Alexandre Borgis Gomes, Deputy Head of Mission of the EU Delegation in Nigeria.

These meetings were pivotal in garnering support for the RCDP and reinforcing KAICIID's dedication to peace and security in the region.

Advocating for Democracy and Civic Space in Europe:

On 11 to 12 March 2024, the Deputy Secretary General's participation in the side event "Protecting Democracy and Civic Space in Europe," organized in conjunction with the Fundamental Rights Forum 2024 (FRF24) by the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), was a testament to KAICIID's ongoing efforts to uphold human rights and democratic values in Europe. This engagement not only strengthened KAICIID's ties with the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC) but also with Council of Parties representatives in Austria, further solidifying KAICIID's position as a key player in promoting dialogue and cooperation.



Amb. Antonio's engagements during the RCDP launch.



Amb. Antonio actively engaging during KAICIID's FRF session.

Highlights from the Governing Bodies



Family photo after KAICIID's Council of Parties meeting in Lisbon, Portugal.

KAICIID Convenes Council of Parties in Lisbon, 30 January 2024

The year commenced with a significant milestone as KAICIID welcomed esteemed representatives from the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Spain, and the Holy See, alongside a special attendance by a representative of the Portuguese Republic as the "Guest of the Chair", to the inaugural Council of Parties session at the Centre's new headquarters in Lisbon, Portugal.

Chaired by the Kingdom of Spain, this session was a cornerstone event where the Programme and Budget for 2024 were endorsed. Discussions delved into the commendable achievements of KAICIID in 2023, the anticipatory KAICIID Global Dialogue Forum slated for May 2024, and the strategic outline for the Centre's Programme for the ongoing year. A highlight of the session was a compelling video showcase of KAICIID's triumphs in 2023, symbolizing the Centre's collective progress and the impact of KAICIID's initiatives.

Austrian Ministry's Visit and the Pathway to Intercultural Dialogue

Adding to the narrative of strategic engagements, on 21 February 2024, Dr. Alexander Rieger, the Deputy Head of the Department for Scientific Cooperation and Dialogue between Cultures and Religions at the Federal Ministry of the Republic of Austria, visited the Centre. This visit fostered an enriching dialogue with KAICIID's Chief Programme Officer, the Head of Regional Programmes and Oversight, and the Centre's Fellows Team. The discourse predominantly revolved around the enriching contributions of the KAICIID Fellows Programme to Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue.

This meeting not only explored the synergies between religious communities and Indigenous groups in the context of climate and environmental actions but also opened avenues for KAICIID's involvement in the "Freedom of Religious Belief Alliance Conference" in Vienna on 19 April 2024. Dr. Rieger's invitation to KAICIID to spotlight its Fellows Programme and associated initiatives during this conference underscores the value and recognition of our efforts in fostering dialogue and understanding. Furthermore, the endorsement of the Intercultural Achievement Award by KAICIID on its official X (formerly Twitter) page highlights our commitment to celebrating and promoting interreligious and intercultural accomplishments.

Board of Directors

The current Board of Directors' term ended on 30th September 2023. The KAICIID's Council of Parties is currently in the process of appointing a new Board of Directors for a renewable term of four years.

External Relations, Partnerships and Local Outreach

In the first quarter of 2024, the Executive Office of the Secretary General, through its strategic External Relations and Partnership Unit, continued to foster global dialogue and cooperation, underscoring KAICIID's commitment to enhancing interreligious and intercultural understanding and contributing to sustainable development.

Engagement with the Multi-Faith Advisory Council

On 24 January 2024, KAICIID proudly participated in the inaugural hybrid meeting of the year for the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the Inter-Agency Taskforce on Religion and Development (IATF-MFAC). KAICIID's involvement as an institutional member of the Advisory Council since its establishment in 2018 underscores the Centre's dedication to collaborative efforts in the realm of religion and development. The meeting, hosted by the Baha'i International Community, witnessed the participation of 45 entities, both in-person and online, engaging in fruitful discussions on past achievements, challenges, and future directions. The meeting was moderated by representatives of the UN MFAC co-chairs including UNAOC, UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect (UNOSAPG), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the MFAC Faith-Based members, including Ms. Debra Boudreaux, CEO, Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation and Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi, Executive Director, The Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. The Convening focused on 2023 accomplishments, challenges, lessons learned and the way forward.



KAICIID participating in the Multi-Faith Advisory Council to the Inter-Agency Taskforce on Religion and Development (IATF-MFAC)

PaRD Leadership Meeting in Lisbon

Between 27 and 29 February 2024, Lisbon was the setting for the 2024 Spring Leadership Meeting of the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD), hosted by KAICIID. As one of the three co-chairs representing the multilateral organizations' constituency, KAICIID led discussions that epitomized the spirit of cooperation and shared vision among PaRD's 170 members. The meeting, primarily an internal governance gathering, was a vibrant consultation forum for the Steering Board members, co-leads of workstreams, and task forces to deliberate on PaRD's Operational Plan for 2024, budget and financial planning, and the identification of key engagements and initiatives in the coming year. KAICIID organised a reception in which the participants of the Leadership Meeting engaged with prominent Lisbon-based stakeholders, including diplomatic representatives of PaRD's Steering Board Governments and religious leaders. The reception provided a key forum for learning more about KAICIID's cooperation with external networks and platforms such as PaRD and engaging with local stakeholders interested in the Centre's work.



KAICIID hosts the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development (PaRD) leadership meeting.

Championing Gender Equality and Empowerment: International Women's Month Initiatives

In alignment with International Women's Day, on 6 March 2024, PaRD announced the forthcoming release of the "Faith-based Approaches to Gender Equality and Empowerment" booklet, featuring contributions from KAICIID. The booklet includes promising practices from around the globe, each offering valuable insights on faith-based approaches to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5): Gender Equality. This booklet was coordinated by the co-leads of the Workstream on Gender Equality and Empowerment that KAICIID is part of and highlighted an impactful story from our *SheforDialogue Fellowship* an initiative from KAICIID's Arab Region Programme. This initiative highlights our commitment to promoting gender equality through faith-based approaches.

Celebrating Women at KAICIID

On 8 March 2024, the KAICIID Secretariat embraced the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" by spotlighting its commitment to gender parity and women empowerment both within the organization and through its global initiatives. Echoing the UN's call to action, KAICIID's commitment to gender equality is not just aspirational but a lived reality. The Centre is a vibrant mosaic of diversity and equality with women constituting 50% of the permanent staff and representing 23 nationalities. The organization's efforts to elevate women into senior roles and decision-making positions is an ongoing priority to achieve balanced representation as a cornerstone of empowerment.

KAICIID underscores its dedication to nurturing an environment where women are not only burgeoning but also leading the way in fostering intercultural and interreligious dialogue. On International Women's Day (IWD), KAICIID organized a retreat that empowered its female colleagues through meditation practices, fostering a sense of community and mutual support.



Faith-based Approaches to Gender Equality and Empowerment" booklet, featuring contributions from KAICIID.



KAICIID female staff during the IWD retreat

Participation in the Religions for Peace High-Level Forum

In a special invitation by our MoU partner, Religions for Peace, KAICIID attended the Multi-Religious and Multi-Stakeholder High-Level Forum in New York, from 26 to 27 March. The event aimed to enable partners and stakeholders to reflect, consolidate, profile, share and learn from each other on various responses, possibilities and realities that can be, have been, or need to be shaped in response to the issues our world is facing today. This High-Level Forum celebrated and acknowledged Women of Excellence in Multireligious Action. Awardees included women that have actively contributed to KAICIID's work such as Dr. Kezevino Aram (former member of the Board) and Rev. Sr. Agatha O. Chikelue (KAICIID Fellow).



KAICIID participating in the Multi-Religious and Multi-Stakeholder High-Level Forum



Organizational Updates

Highlights from the Operations Division: Driving Excellence and Innovation

In the first quarter of 2024, the Operations Division of KAICIID has been at the forefront of driving excellence and innovation within our organization.

A New Chapter: Relocation Success

The start of the year marked the final stages of our headquarters' relocation, a milestone celebrated following the official opening of the new KAICIID office in December 2023. The Operations Division continued significant efforts throughout the holiday period to finalise the relocation process. This transition wasn't just a physical move but an upgrade to our work environment. Each workstation and conference room now boasts the latest IT equipment, ensuring flawless virtual collaboration through platforms like Zoom and Microsoft Teams. The team's dedication to minimising disruption paid off, ensuring continuous IT service throughout the move. These technical efforts were complemented by various administrative and operational finishing touches throughout the four floors of the Centre's premises, all of which aim to create a welcoming atmosphere for staff and visitors.

Enhancing Well-being: New Health Insurance Initiative

Effective 1 January 2024, KAICIID embarked on a partnership with Cigna International Health Services BV, as the Centre's new health insurance provider. This strategic move, aimed at offering more efficient and cost-effective healthcare solutions, is a result of a meticulous selection process following a thorough evaluation of offers submitted through a competitive bidding process in November 2023.

Cigna International Health Services was established in 1958 and has been designing and managing international insurance solutions for over 60 years. Implementing, administering, and ensuring global Group Insurance plans for international organizations has been at its core business since the beginning. Cigna's wide-ranging service provider network in Portugal means that health claims can be managed with minimal administrative overhead, while pre-negotiated agreements between Cigna and health providers will result in lower overall costs for the Centre. Cigna's extensive network and pre-negotiated health provider agreements promise a smoother, more affordable healthcare experience for our staff.

Striving for Excellence: Strengthening Monitoring & Evaluation Activities for 2024

Incorporating Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), that prioritise the delivery of measurable results, into the fabric of the Centre's work has been a major priority for the Secretary General. To this end, a Results Framework, that includes online KPI tracking has been developed and is expected to be launched during the second quarter of 2024.

The Framework is an explicit articulation of the different levels of results expected from a particular intervention, programme, project, or any other kind of activity – in order to track progress and create a shared language and understanding of what success looks like and how it is measured using KPIs. The KPIs will be structured around two core concepts: Thematic KPIs which measure the extent to which the Centre's activities are achieving their intended objectives, as well as Management Efficiency KPIs which measure the effectiveness in which these activities are planned and executed. KAICIID's focus on incorporating Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) into its operations underscores our dedication to measurable results and continuous improvement. The upcoming Results Framework will introduce a clear, shared language for success, combining thematic and management efficiency KPIs to guide our activities and strategies.

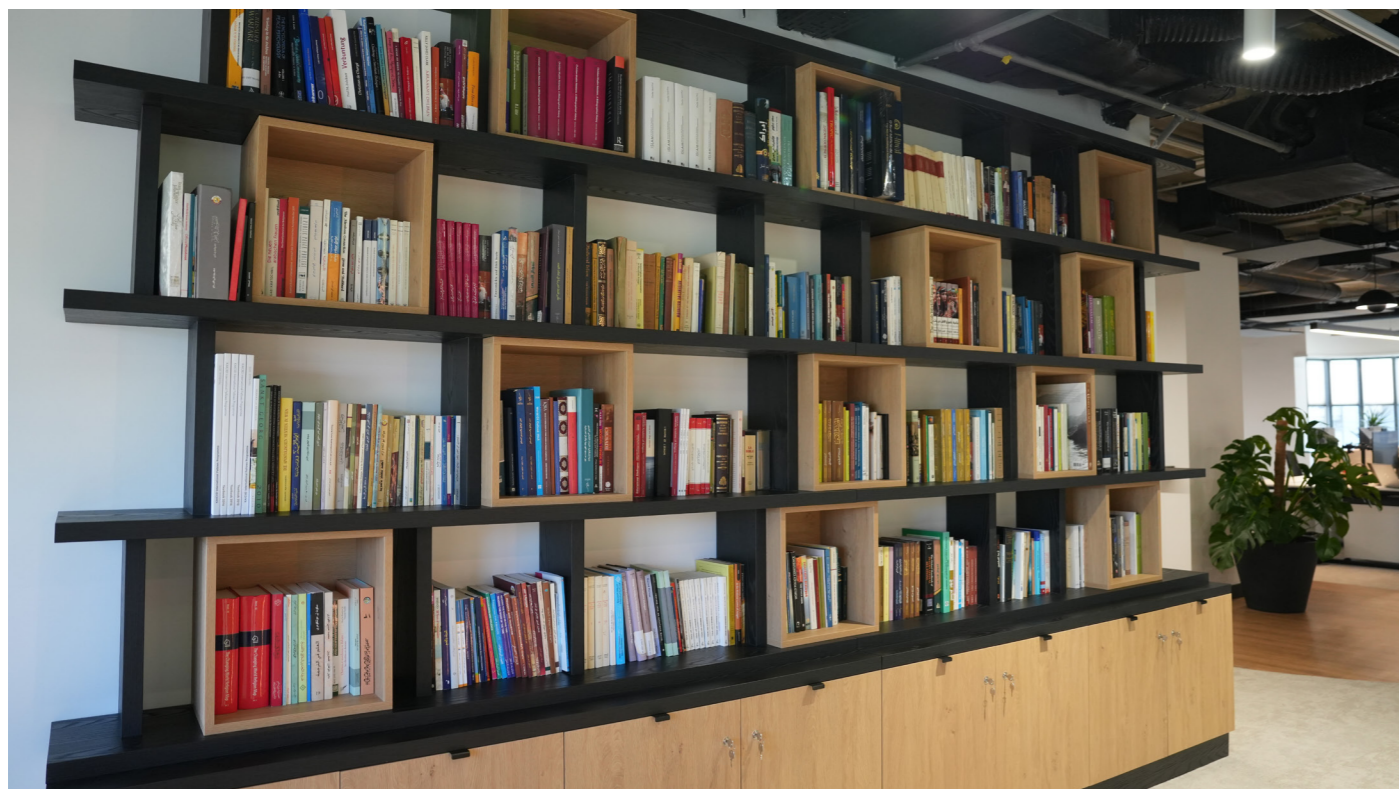
Policy Evolution: Towards Modern Management

The Operations Division has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Common Regulatory Management Framework which includes Staff Regulations and Rules, as well as policies and other management instruments. The review aims to, for the first time in the KAICIID's history, to comprehensively review the Centre's framework and streamline policies and processes, and ensure alignment with those of other International Organizations. This initiative reflects KAICIID's focus on policies on modern principles of management, and commitment to empowering its staff, promoting accountability, and ensuring the prudent use of the Centre's resources.



Cultivating Knowledge: The KAICIID Library

An important element of the relocation of the Centre's headquarters was the re-establishment of the Centre's book library. A cornerstone of our intellectual community, the KAICIID Library, has now found a new home within our offices. With a collection of approximately 500 books, our library serves as a vibrant hub for staff, offering a wealth of knowledge. Covering a diverse range of subjects, the collection gives insight into crucial themes such as religious dialogue, social inclusion, combating hate speech and freedom of religion and belief. Additionally, the library includes historical publications from KAICIID. This re-established resource stands testament to our commitment to fostering an environment of learning and exploration.



KAICIID Library mounted across all the four floors of the Centre in Lisbon

Highlights from Events Management Services. Engagement and Collaboration

The first quarter of 2024 has been a period of vibrant activity and meaningful engagement for the Events Management Services (EMS) Unit at KAICIID. The EMS team played a pivotal role in ensuring the successful execution of various key events, both in-person and online events, showcasing KAICIID's commitment to fostering dialogue, learning, and collaboration across a diverse range of topics and regions.

Below is a brief overview of the major events and the logistical highlights:

In-Person Events:

Fellows First Training – Latin America Cohort, San Jose, Costa Rica (29 Jan – 04 Feb):

The EMS team expertly managed guest relations, visa support, accommodations, transportation, meals, meeting venues, audiovisual requirements, interpretation services, and site visits to ensure a productive training session for the Latin American cohort of fellows.

Fellows First Training – International Cohort, San Jose, Costa Rica (02 – 04 Feb):

This session mirrored the logistics of the Latin America cohort training and provided a global set of fellows with the same high level of coordination and hospitality, highlighting our capacity to manage diverse international groups.

Media Policy Forum – Side Event (Saudi Media Forum), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (19 – 21 Feb):

Catering to a high-profile audience, the EMS unit handled guest management for four panelists, facilitated visa arrangements, provided accommodations for panelists and staff, and managed their transportation needs, ensuring a seamless experience during the event.

PARDs Spring Leadership Meeting Lisbon, Portugal (27 – 29 Feb)

The leadership meeting was complemented by our meticulous planning of the meeting venue, audiovisual setup, meal coordination, and an evening reception, all of which were executed to provide an optimal meeting environment for the participants.

Online Events:

Fellows Launch – Online – Latina America (11 Jan):

For this virtual event, EMS involvement was crucial in providing seamless Spanish/English interpretation services, facilitating an inclusive and accessible online learning experience for the Latin American cohort.

Dialogue 360 Kick-off Meeting (20 March):

The kick-off meeting for Dialogue 360 was enhanced with Arabic/English interpretation services, showcasing EMS capability to support multilingual online events effectively.



A representation of KAICIID conferences and events across the globe

Programme Updates

Major Conferences and Events



Impactful Initiatives and Collaborations in Africa: Transforming Dialogue and Peacebuilding

Launch of the Regional Citizen's Dialogue Programme in Nigeria:

The Regional Citizen's Dialogue Programme (RCDP) launched in Abuja, Nigeria on 28 February 2024, marks a pivotal move against unconstitutional changes in government (UCG) in West Africa. Aligning with the objectives of the AU Accra Declaration (March 2022) and the Malabo Declaration (May 2022), the initiative benefits from the partnership of KAICIID and aims to harness the collective efforts of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs).

High-profile attendees included the Nigerian Minister of Foreign Affairs' representatives, who inaugurated the program, alongside dignitaries from the ECOWAS Commission, the AU ECOSOCC, the West African Democracy Solidarity Network, and other regional and international figures.

The presence of ambassadors from Austria, Portugal, Spain, and the EU delegation underscores the initiative's international support and the strength of collaborative action in addressing political instability.

This initiative, with KAICIID as a key partner, emphasizes the power of collective action among civil society, faith-based organizations, and international bodies



The Regional Citizen's Dialogue Programme (RCDP) launch with KAICIID as a core partner



KAICIID's spokesperson Mr. Agustin Nunez participating in the joint press conference after the RCDP launch

6th Annual Interfaith Peace Conference in Kaduna:

From 4 to 7 March, the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDFP) hosted its 6th Annual Interfaith Peace Conference in Kaduna, supported by KAICIID and the Executive Governor of the State, Senator Uba Sani. This was a milestone for the IDFP and underscored the vital role of interfaith collaboration between religious leaders and policymakers in promoting peace and religious harmony, particularly in Kaduna, a key Nigerian state. The conference served as a blueprint for future IDFP peace conferences and contributed to the Forum's long-term goals. The abduction of over 280 school pupils in Kuriga, Kaduna, on the conference's final day, tragically emphasized the urgency and necessity of such peace-promoting initiatives.



6th Annual Interfaith Peace Conference in Kaduna, supported by KAICIID

Educational Empowerment in the Central African Republic:

KAICIID is actively fostering peace and coexistence through educational programs at the University of Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR), focusing on enhancing skills in conflict prevention and management. In 2023, KAICIID aided the University of Bangui in creating coursework on Interreligious Dialogue (IRD) for its Master's degree curriculum in Conflict Management and Resolution. This academic year has seen the enrollment of over 50 Master's students, some of whom will join a francophone research and practice center on IRD, co-run by the University, KAICIID, and local stakeholders. This initiative is set to build a cadre of well-informed peacebuilders, equipped with the knowledge and practice of IRD to generate research and provide tangible evidence of its effectiveness in conflict resolution, thereby nurturing interfaith harmony in the region.



KAICIID at Bangui University during one of the initial missions

Building Bridges in the Arab Region

Saudi Media Forum Partnership:

KAICIID's strategic goal of enhancing partnerships with media as an essential contributor to peacebuilding was reflected through its partnership with the Saudi Media Forum (SMF) as a knowledge partner.

In a collaborative effort with the SMF team, KAICIID's Arab Region Programme organized a captivating series of side events in Riyadh from 19 to 21 February 2024.

For the first time, the Forum's agenda incorporated activities addressing the role of media in countering hate speech and promoting dialogue and peacebuilding. The inclusivity highlighted in the side activities and discussions underscores KAICIID's commitment to contributing to peacebuilding through media engagement. These activities featured high-profile discussions and interactive sessions. KAICIID's opening panel focused on building bridges and strategic partnerships for peacebuilding and promoting diversity in media and included high-level speakers from diverse religious and professional backgrounds.

Another notable panel highlighted the contributions of women journalists in shaping media narratives and advancing diversity. Through their personal accounts, speakers underscored the indispensable role of women in the media landscape.

Concurrent interactive sessions on countering hate speech in media and brief talks showcased youth-led initiatives aimed at promoting dialogue. Additionally, KAICIID established a dedicated booth at the Future of Media (FOMEX), serving as a platform to showcase its activities and publications.

KAICIID's collaboration with the Saudi Media Forum as a knowledge partner highlights the critical role of media in peacebuilding. Through engaging panels and interactive sessions, the event spotlighted the importance of inclusive narratives, women's contributions to media, and youth initiatives against hate speech, reinforcing the media's role in fostering dialogue and understanding.



KAICIID's participation at the Saudi Media Forum (SMF) as a knowledge partner.

Dialogue 360 Online Launch Event:

The Dialogue 360 project is a partnership and funding scheme implemented by the Arab Region Programme team, which was first launched in 2020 to introduce and reinforce IRD in the partners' mandate of work, strengthen institutional capacities, empower youth and women, and increase resilience. The launch event on March 20 2024 served as the official opening event of the Dialogue 360 initiatives of 2024, where KAICIID provided the representatives of the 25 newly funded initiatives in 12 countries and the 2023 grantees with the opportunity to become better familiarized with KAICIID's mandate and approaches globally and in the Arab region, share experiences and best practices from the region about preventing hate speech, strengthening social cohesion and common citizenship, and responding to crises, and to transfer knowledge and experience from the 2023 grantees to the 2024 grantees.

The Dialogue 360 initiative stands as a beacon of hope for amplifying interreligious dialogue, resilience, and social cohesion across the Arab region. This platform connects and empowers a diverse network of partners, fostering a shared commitment to countering hate speech and building a more inclusive society.

Advancing Dialogue in Europe through Interfaith Gatherings & Policy Advocacy

From interfaith events in Porto and London to policy briefs addressing key societal challenges, KAICIID's initiatives are paving the way for more inclusive European cities. These efforts emphasize the power of dialogue, youth engagement, and leadership in cultivating communities where everyone belongs.



KAICIID's session at the Fundamental Rights Forum

Fundamental Rights Forum Participation:

At the heart of Europe's human rights conversation, KAICIID facilitated a dialogue with young leaders from the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council on 11 March 2024 in Vienna under the steering role of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union. The Fundamental Rights Forum - one of the most relevant spaces to explore today's pressing human rights challenges in Europe with hundreds of participants - hosted a KAICIID-run event featuring a dialogical conversation with two Ambassadors of the Muslim Jewish Leadership Council (MJLC), Ms. Vitalina Paskarenko, a young Ukrainian Jewish community leader living in Poland and Ms. Rabab Nassabaih, working for the Central Council of Muslims in Berlin. In a time when religion appears to be at the heart of fragmentation, suspicion, and conflict, KAICIID promotes the ability of young people to renew paths and spaces of friendship, compassion and mutual understanding across faiths, identities, cultures and social backgrounds.

This interaction highlighted the potential of youth to bridge divides and promote mutual respect across different communities.



KAICIID's participation at the Fundamental Rights Forum

EuLeMa outreach in Brussels:

Following the European Muslim Leaders Majlis' (EuLeMa) successful receipt of the Royal Decree in Belgium allowing them to set up as an independent INGO, the KAICIID-supported EuLeMa conducted an outreach mission in Brussels, Belgium, on 17 to 19 January. Imam Yahya Pallavicini, the EuLeMa President, along with Rabbi Albert Guigui from the MJLC, were invited to take part in a closed, high-level European Commission consultation of religious leaders convened by Vice President Margaritis Schinas on 'The European way of life in times of instability' on 18 January. This meeting reviewed the impact of recent crises (COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, the war in Gaza) and their impact on social cohesion in Europe and discussed future perspectives on the role of religion in addressing conflict in Europe at a critical time. Whilst in Brussels, Imam Pallavicini also met with other faith-based organizations and policymakers, including the COMECE Secretary General, Fr. Manuel Barrios Prieto, and the President of the Muslim Council of Belgium, Esma Uçan.

International Day of Human Fraternity:

On the International Day of Human Fraternity, 4 February, KAICIID-supported Network for Dialogue (N4D) members MEERU from Porto and Blanquerna Observatory from Barcelona, hosted an interfaith gathering with 150 participants in Porto titled *"Bridges of Faith"*. The event was part of the N4D microgrant scheme, which aims to strengthen interreligious and intercultural dialogue at the grassroots level, engaging local refugee and migrant populations. Three religious leaders from the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities shared their views on pressing issues of today, from conflicts across the globe to hopes for the future. The event showed the power of dialogue among different cultures and religions, as well as the key role of religious leaders in building bridges of dialogue.



KAICIID-supported Network for Dialogue initiative hosts an interfaith gathering for the N4D members MEERU from Porto and Blanquerna Observatory from Barcelona in Portugal.

Launch of the EPDF Policy Briefs (Online)

The three EPDF policy briefs resulting from the 5th EPDF in Rotterdam in November 2023 are soon to be published, focusing on young people's role in preventing hate speech, cities fostering belonging for young refugees and migrants as well as leadership for cohesive communities. These policy briefs advocate for dialogue and youth engagement in European cities. The way forward involves a call for engaging stakeholders in City for Inclusion workshops (C4I), Catalysts for Cohesion (C4C) and KAICIID University Talks, three mechanisms where these policy briefs will be further discussed to adapt and implement the recommendations, aiming to apply these insights in fostering inclusive and understanding environments across Europe. The launch event is foreseen to take place at the end of March.

KAICIID Fellows Trainings and Alumni Engagements

2024 KAICIID Fellows Training Programme:

This year's first training cycle, held from 29 January to 4 February for the Latin America Cohort, and from 2 to 8 February for the International Cohort, marked a significant milestone in the programme's history, showcasing a unique strategic partnership with the University for Peace, the only institution within the United Nations system dedicated exclusively to peace education.

The training sessions held at the University for Peace aimed to enhance dialogue skills, foster partnerships, and empower communities for peace. It involved diverse stakeholders and collaboration with the Religions for Peace - Latin America and the Caribbean for the Latin American Cohort. The training sessions unfolded in a vibrant exchange of ideas and practices, focusing on interreligious dialogue's pivotal role in conflict resolution. Participants delved into the intricacies of *"Principles for Interreligious Dialogue," "Dialogue Zones," "Role of Religious Leaders in Peacebuilding," "Identity and Culture,"* and the art of *"Compassionate Listening,"* among other critical topics.

This curriculum was not just about theory; it was a hands-on approach to fostering social cohesion and resilience in the face of contemporary challenges by visiting religious and cultural landmarks in San Jose, Costa Rica, such as the Orthodox Jewish Cultural Centre of San Jose, Omar Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre, a Methodist church and the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Jose. This was a great opportunity for the Fellows to learn about the diversity within and the history of Costa Rica.



KAICIID Fellows training session at the University of Peace



KAICIID Fellows: 2024 International Cohort



KAICIID Fellows: 2024 Latin America Cohort

Fellows Network Engagement- Institutional Network (KFIN) and Fellows Alumni Engagement:

KAICIID Fellows Institutional Network (KFIN) has initiated a network convening 40 official religious educational institutions globally to stimulate exchange and collaboration. In February 2024, KFIN members in Africa presented an IRD curriculum outline to be integrated into their institutions. The first quarter also showcased impactful activities in the Fellows Alumni Network, including monthly online sessions promoting continuous learning and networking. January spotlighted Fellow Alumna Sister Zeph in *"Global Teacher Prize Laureate Spotlight,"* while February focused on *"Designing with Purpose: IRD Projects Focused on Human Needs."* In March, *"Site Visits and Scriptural Reasoning"* delved into practical interreligious dialogue challenges. Through these diverse programs and initiatives, KAICIID is not just participating in dialogue and peacebuilding; it's leading the way in creating tangible impacts, fostering collaborations, and empowering communities across the globe.

Empowering Global Leaders through E-Learning & Fellowships

Strategic Partnerships for Impactful Learning:

KAICIID's collaboration with global institutions like Religions for Peace and the United Nation's University for Peace exemplifies the fusion of interreligious dialogue with peace and reconciliation efforts, enhancing the capacity of leaders worldwide.

In January KAICIID fostered impactful collaborations through its Fellows and E-Learning Programmes notably partnering with Religions for Peace Latin America, the UN's University for Peace (UPeace), and Costa Rica's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to implement the Latin America regional cohort, and an international cohort of 16 leaders in collaboration with the UPeace. E-learning provided training support for both cohorts on *'Using IRD to Strengthen Peace, Reconciliation, and Social Cohesion'* and collaborated on 12 March, on the UPEACE Master Programme *'Religion, Culture and Peace Studies'* The Fellows registered online and joined the self-paced e-learning course *'Countering Hate Speech through the Promotion of IRD and Cooperation for Peace'*. These strategic alliances not only heightened KAICIID's visibility in the region but also strengthened relations with these influential entities, contributing to the organization's broader mission of promoting interreligious dialogue and fostering sustainable peace.

Amplifying Women's Voices and Environmental Stewardship

Women's Voices Webinar Series:

In alignment with international observances, KAICIID's webinar series celebrated the transformative power of women in leveraging interreligious dialogue for social change, offering a platform to share success stories and best practices.

Contributing to the 2024 United Nations Observance of International Women's Day *"Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress"* and the 68th session of the Commission on Status of Women, the first webinar of KAICIID's *"Women's Voices"* series was held on 22 March *"Turning the Tide on Women's Inequality"*. The webinar explored innovative grassroots case studies and success stories that demonstrated how challenges impacting women can be transformed into opportunities for collaborative action using interreligious and intercultural dialogue. The webinar investigated the intersectionality of several issues such as climate financing, gender funding, youth empowerment, and hunger alleviation within the broader context of faith-based initiatives and sustainable development. The findings will be included in a follow-up high-level online meeting format presenting these best practice examples before global-level decision-makers.

Environmental Initiatives Highlighted:

The *'Beacons of Hope'* online session showcases faith-based contributions to environmental and climate action, highlighting the intersection of faith, sustainability, and global stewardship.

Engaging Faith Actors to Support the Implementation Process of the Sustainable Development Goals

In January 2024, the KAICIID E-Learning Unit set an important milestone by training 150 primary school teachers from Kenya through the moderated E-Learning course *'Engaging Faith Actors to Support the Implementation Process of the Sustainable Development Goals'*. Their training will be completed by mid-April and will be celebrated with a virtual graduation.

In a live session on 20 March, the 150 teachers from Kenya were invited to celebrate the International Day of Forests.

The training of 150 Kenyan teachers on the role of faith actors in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals marks a significant milestone in KAICIID's e-learning endeavours, demonstrating the potential of education to foster global progress.

Communications Updates

Global Outreach and Impact

The first quarter of 2024 has seen dynamic and impactful media and digital engagements for KAICIID, driven by the diligent efforts of the Communications Division. This period has been marked by a strategic outreach, fostering a robust presence across various media and digital platforms globally. The focus has been on amplifying awareness of KAICIID's initiatives, reinforcing its mission, and engaging with a broad audience to drive support for its activities.

The Media Unit has played a pivotal role in amplifying KAICIID's messages and initiatives through strategic media engagements. The Unit's efforts have not only enhanced visibility but also fostered a positive narrative around KAICIID's mission and activities. The division's proactive approach to media relations and content dissemination has been instrumental in achieving this level of engagement and impact.

KAICIID Media Engagements:

Media Mentions:

Globally, KAICIID's media presence has been significantly bolstered with a total of 277 media mentions across various online news outlets. This marks a 10% increase compared to the previous period, showcasing the effective strategies employed by the Communications Division and also signifies a robust engagement strategy and KAICIID's growing relevance in the intercultural and interreligious dialogue space.

Top Locations:

The geographical spread of media engagements spans globally, with notable concentrations in 10 prominent locations. These regions have emerged as strategic focal points, aligning with KAICIID's initiatives and target outreach areas.

These include the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and North America, with specific emphasis on cities like Vienna, New York, Riyadh, Abuja, and Beirut. This geographical spread underscores the global footprint of KAICIID's initiatives and the widespread interest in our work.

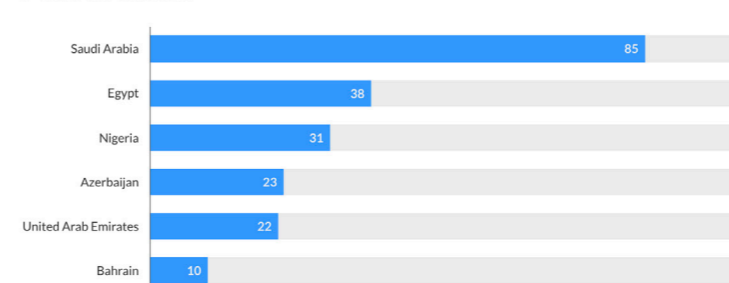
Media Mentions Trends:

An analysis of the mentions trend reveals a significant spike in media coverage during key events attended by KAICIID, such as the Saudi Media Forum in Riyadh, the Regional Citizens Dialogue Programme in Abuja, the Interfaith Dialogue Forum in Vienna, and the Peacebuilding Workshop in New York. These events garnered extensive media attention, highlighting the relevance of KAICIID's work in promoting peace and dialogue.

Our communications outreach specifically in the Arab region has seen expansive growth. Out of the overall 277 news articles published globally, 131 were from the Arabic region and have been published across more than 10 countries in the Middle East and North Africa regions, including key states such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Jordan, and Lebanon. This extensive distribution was mainly attributed to KAICIID's participation in the Saudi Media Forum, which accorded the Centre a 42 million potential total reach across the Arab region.

These figures are a testament to the relevance and resonance of KAICIID's work in the region, reflecting our growing influence and the successful distribution of our key messages into multiple Arabic-speaking countries. Through these articles, we have been able to share insights, stories, and developments from KAICIID, thereby greatly enhancing our visibility and understanding of our mission within the Arab world.

Main Countries



Dec 31, 2023 - Apr 1, 2024

The Top Locations widget provides insight into how coverage is broken down by country.

KAICIID media mentions: Top Countries



KAICIID in the Media

Highlights from the Communications Division

The Communications Division has played a pivotal role in steering KAICIID's Communications strategy, resulting in heightened visibility and engagement.

Key initiatives include:

Publications:

In the first quarter of the year, our Publications Unit achieved significant milestones. The team successfully completed technical support tasks in the editing and design of the pivotal 2023 Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) Citizen's Forum on Democracy and Digital Governance outcome document, ensuring its alignment with KAICIID's commitment to these critical themes.

Our team diligently advanced the development of the 2023 Annual Report, setting the stage for its release in the early second quarter. Parallel to these efforts, the team extended its expertise to support the Programme's Division. Together, we crafted an illustrative booklet encapsulating KAICIID's innovative approach. This booklet serves not only as a testament to our transformative vision but also as a practical guide, thoughtfully integrating the collective knowledge and thematic proficiency of our Programme Division colleagues.

Moreover, the team played a crucial role in the editing and facilitating artistic design of three essential European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF) policy documents. These documents are primed for distribution across a series of pertinent upcoming events, ensuring that our foundational policies are accessible and visually engaging. Anticipating the KAICIID Global Dialogue Forum, the team is on schedule to publish the 2023 Annual Report and the informative booklet. Their timely release is designed to facilitate meaningful dialogue and knowledge sharing among all participants.

Content Initiatives:

During the first quarter, the Communications Division has been instrumental in amplifying KAICIID's influence and reach. Our strategic creation and dissemination of compelling content have markedly heightened our visibility in the media landscape.

The team successfully published two incisive press releases and eight feature articles on the KAICIID website that not only showcased our thought leadership and initiatives globally but also resonated with a broader audience. These pieces were not mere media content but conversation starters that were widely recognized and picked up by online news outlets, thereby extending KAICIID's impact beyond its immediate network.

In addition to the team's written efforts, the deployment of engaging multimedia content has further solidified KAICIID's presence across various platforms, resulting in substantial media mentions and robust audience engagement. This multi-channel content approach underscores KAICIID's commitment to effective communication and reaffirms KAICIID's role as a pivotal voice in interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

Multimedia Outputs:

During the initial quarter of 2024, our Multimedia Unit excelled in portraying KAICIID's story with greater transparency and narrative depth. The team produced a diverse array of visual content, ranging from social media snapshots to expertly produced videos, all the while meticulously archiving our outputs.

The team's photographic missions documented four significant meetings involving the Secretary General, visually chronicling his critical diplomatic and strategic outreach interactions and initiatives. The Council of Parties session was also captured, adding to our visual repository. To vividly record the enriching experiences at our Fellows' training sessions in Costa Rica, involving both the Latin America and International cohorts, we employed professional photography and videography services within the region.

The Multimedia Unit commemorated the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development - PaRD's Leadership Meeting and KAICIID's International Women's Day Workshop through photography, capturing moments of collective action and empowerment. Furthermore, we archived photographic evidence of KAICIID's engagement at the Fundamental Rights Forum.

Video production was robust, with 34 videos created for platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube, tailored to maximize engagement. Coverage of KAICIID at the Fundamental Rights Forum was detailed in six videos.

During International Women's Day & Women's History Month, our videos amplified the voices of KAICIID's women, spotlighting our organization's role in fostering women's empowerment.

In celebration of the Network for Dialogue's fifth anniversary, seven videos were produced, alongside five overview videos of KAICIID's 2023 activities, designed to share impactful stories and insights. Additionally, three videos were crafted specifically to address Freedom of Religion and Belief for English-speaking audiences on social media.

Our team also highlighted KAICIID's contributions at the Saudi Media Forum, produced a video featuring the KAICIID's spokesperson at the Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace event in Kaduna, and captured Jennifer Eloundou's EPDF Closing Speech at the launch of the Catalysts for Cohesion grants scheme.

Three videos showcased the 2023 KAICIID Fellows' journey, adding personal narratives to our visual collections. Looking ahead, the team is committed to further developing KAICIID's visual narrative, creating imagery and videos that not only convey the organization's impact but also engage our stakeholders and foster meaningful dialogue.

KAICIID Digital Presence:

A concerted effort to reinforce KAICIID's digital footprint has led to increased visibility on social media platforms, further amplifying media engagement. For the first quarter of the year, the Social Media Unit has achieved noteworthy engagement and growth. In February, the team actively participated in the 3rd edition of the Saudi Media Forum, successfully spotlighting KAICIID's initiatives and milestones within the Arab region to the public and media experts.

On social media, KAICIID welcomed an increase of 1,300 new followers, expanding our English-speaking audience to 170,000 across our four main channels. In the first three months of the year, the team published 756 posts on our English social media channels, which marked a 53% increase from the same period last year, scoring an impressive 352,000 views from KAICIID's audience and a total reach of approximately 11 million viewers.

KAICIID's Arabic channels maintained a solid base of 80,000 followers, while our Arabic posts achieved a combined total of 119 thousand views. On Twitter, the first quarter proved to be quite impactful. KAICIID's Arabic handle, @kaiciidar, garnered significant attention with a total of 608 mentions, retweets, and online news features. This robust digital engagement has resulted in an impressive total reach of approximately 11.9 million viewers.

These metrics reflect a robust and growing interest in KAICIID's work, and the consistent performance of our social media channels. Through strategic communication and engagement, we are not only amplifying KAICIID's messages but also fostering greater awareness and understanding of our initiatives among a broader audience. Looking forward, the team aims to continue leveraging social media to amplify KAICIID's reach, engage with our audiences, and share KAICIID's impactful work on a global scale.

KAICIID to Feature on Renowned Spanish TV Programme 'Medina en TVE'

We are thrilled to announce an upcoming collaboration that marks a significant milestone for KAICIID's visibility and outreach efforts. In April 2024, our esteemed organization will take center stage on the Spanish National Television Program "Medina en TVE", a revered platform within the Islamic community in Spain and beyond. This unique opportunity will enable us to share our mission, values, and the impactful work we undertake globally in fostering interreligious dialogue.

"Medina en TVE" enjoys a wide viewership, with an audience of 1.5 million spanning Spain, Latin America, the Arab region, and the Philippines. This diverse audience offers an unparalleled opportunity to shed light on the vital role KAICIID plays in promoting peace and understanding across different faiths and cultures.

The program will be hosted by the distinguished Dr. Bouziane Ahmed Khodja, a respected figure in the fields of Sociolinguistics, Journalism, and Political Sciences. Dr. Khodja, who has been recognized with the "Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters" award by France, brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep understanding of the complexities surrounding interfaith relations.

KAICIID spokesperson Mr. Agustin Nunez will be interviewed directly by Dr. Khodja in the TVE Madrid studio, where pre-agreed questions will pave the way for a rich and engaging discussion. This interview aims to highlight KAICIID's positive contributions to improving interfaith relations worldwide, ensuring our message resonates with a broad audience.

The production will not only feature this insightful interview but will also present images and videos showcasing the diverse activities and programs KAICIID has initiated or been a part of. This multimedia approach will provide a tangible sense of the work we do and the impact it has on communities around the globe.

This collaboration with "Medina en TVE" represents a significant step forward in strengthening KAICIID's global visibility and recognition as a key actor in the field of interreligious dialogue. We are confident that this feature will not only enlighten viewers about our efforts but also inspire more individuals and organizations to join us in our mission to foster peace and understanding among different faith communities.

Stay tuned for more updates, and make sure to catch the special episode of "Medina en TVE" featuring KAICIID this April.



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