



Minhaj
University
Lahore

Conference Book (Schedule and Abstracts)

8th International Conference on (ICWR) World Religions

25th-26th October 2025

Main Theme

**Building Resilient Societies:
Preventing Extremism at its Roots**

**Organized by:
The School of Religion & Philosophy**

Sponsors &
Collaborators



SCHOOL OF PEACE &
COUNTER TERRORISM
STUDIES, MUL



Directorate of Interfaith Relations
Minhaj ul Quran International



CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

On 12th February 2025, the Federal Cabinet of Pakistan approved a policy statement on “Interfaith Harmony” and a strategy on “Religious Tolerance”. Both initiatives are very timely and much needed, considering the diversity of different religious communities, the need for their active participation in society and various incidents motivated by religious hatred and extremism that we have witnessed in the recent past. The Government of Pakistan's initiatives inspire us to make these documents the theme for this year's conference and to discuss and determine various implementation steps through thorough discussions with stakeholders and academics.

The introduction to the policy refers to the “root causes of growing extremism in society” (pg.3). This conference will focus on two aspects of the issue of religious extremism. Firstly, it will examine the root causes of religious extremism. Secondly, it will seek practical ways and means to implement this new policy statement on interfaith harmony by suggesting concrete ways to prevent religious extremism.

CONFERENCE CHAIR

Prof. Dr. Hussain Mohi ud Din Qadri

Deputy Chairman, BOG, Minhaj University Lahore

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

Prof. Dr. Sajid Mehmood Shahzad

Vice Chancellor, Minhaj University Lahore

Prof. Dr. Herman Roborgh

Head, School of Religion & Philosophy, Minhaj University Lahore

Prof. Dr. Shanthikumar Hettiarachchi

Professor, School of Religion & Philosophy, Minhaj University Lahore

CONFERENCE CONVENER

Prof. Dr. Khurram Shahzad

Registrar, Minhaj University Lahore

CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Mr. Umair Abbas

Minhaj University Lahore

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia | USA |
| • Mr. Amjad Mohamed Saleem | Sri Lanka |
| • Dr. Riham Abousennah | Australia |
| • Dr. Samuel Lumwe | Kenya |
| • Rev. Dr. Patrick McInerney | Australia |
| • Rev. Dr. John Dupuche | Australia |
| • Pr. Sungbae Gee | South Korea |
| • Dr. Hieromonk Grigory Daniil Matrusov | Russia |
| • Rev. Dr. Joseph Vergese | USA |
| • Ven. Bopeththe Somananda Thero | Sri Lanka |



Conference Schedule

8th ICWR 2025



Schedule-DAY 1

Saturday, 25th October 2025

Time & Venue	Activities
8:30 am Outside Main Marquee	REGISTRATION FOR CONFERENCE • Registration of Participants • Registration of Guests WELCOME TEA
10:00 am Main Marquee	OPENING SESSION • Recitation from the Holy Scriptures • National Anthem WELCOME ADDRESS Prof. Dr. Sajid Mehmood Shahzad Vice Chancellor, Minhaj University Lahore CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION Prof. Dr. Herman Roborgh Conference Chief Organizer/Co-Chair Head, School of Religion & Philosophy, Minhaj University Lahore MUL DOCUMENTARY
10:30 am Main Marquee	OPENING KEYNOTE SPEECH Prof. Dr. Hussain Mohi ud Din Qadri Deputy Chairman, BOG, Minhaj University Lahore
11:10 am Main Marquee	SECOND KEYNOTE SPEECH Dr. Shoaib Suddle Chairman of the One-Man Commission for Minorities' Rights
11:30 am Main Marquee	SPEECH BY GUEST OF HONOR Mr. Farhan Aziz Khawaja DG, Civil Services Academy, Lahore
11:40 am Main Marquee	LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
11:50 am to 12:50 pm Main Marquee	FIRST PANEL DISCUSSION THEME: An Imbalance in the Relationship Between Religion and Politics Could Lead to Religious Extremism MODERATOR Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia Associate Professor, Ohio State University, Columbus, USA PANELISTS Dr. Shoaib Suddle Chairman of the One-Man Commission for Minorities' Rights Bishop Robert Samuel Azariah Director, Christian Study Centre, Rawalpindi, Pakistan Dr. Syed Moazzam Ali Hashmi Adjunct Faculty, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad Mr. Amjad Mohamed Saleem Non Resident Fellow, Centre for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, Doha/Research Fellow, Universiti Malaya



Schedule-DAY 1

Saturday, 25th October 2025

Time & Venue	Activities
12:50 pm to 1:45 pm Food Marquee & MUL Jamia Masjid	LUNCH & PRAYER BREAK SECOND PANEL DISCUSSION THEME: Social Resilience and Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) can Collaborate to Counter Religious Extremism MODERATOR Prof. Dr. Raja Adnan Razzaq Professor of Peace and Counter Terrorism Studies, Minhaj University Lahore PANELISTS Brig. (R) Akhtar Nawaz Janjua Senior Member, Evacuee Trust Property Board, Government of Pakistan Mr. Asif Aqeel Senior Faculty Member, Lahore School of Law Founding Director, Center for Law & Justice Dr. Akhtar Hussain Sandhu Historian & Columnist Mr. Ashok Kumar Khatri Assistant Professor, Institute of Language and Linguistics, Oriental College, University of the Punjab, Lahore
1:45 pm to 2:45 pm Main Marquee	
2:45 pm to 3:00 pm Outside Halls	AFTERNOON TEA PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS – DAY 1 SESSION – 1 Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Harmony MODERATOR Prof. Dr. Fouzia Ghani Department of Political Science, Government College University Lahore KEYNOTE SPEECH-1 Mr. Peter Jacob Executive Director, Centre for Social Justice, Lahore PRESENTATIONS 1. Spirituality as a Resource to Counter Religious Extremism: A Biblical and Qur’anic Perspective Dr. Samuel Lumwe (Global Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations, General Conference, Maryland, US)
3:00 pm to 4:45 pm Dr Farid-ud-Din Qadri Hall	



Schedule-DAY 1

Saturday, 25th October 2025

Time & Venue

Activities

3:00 pm to 4:45 pm
Syed Tahir Ala-ud-Din Hall

2. Community Engagement for Promoting Religious Tolerance: A Case Study of Pakistan's National Action Plan 2025

Haleema Ajmal (Riphah International University, Islamabad)

Neelum Javed (Riphah International University, Islamabad)

Faiza Maryam (Cadet College, Hassan Abdal)

3. The Role of Universities in Combating Inter-Religious Extremism: Insights from the Qur'an and Sunnah

Dr. Faizan Hassan Javed (Riphah International University, Faisalabad)

Ifra Javed (Riphah International University, Faisalabad)

KEYNOTE SPEECH-2

Rev. Dr. John Dupuche

Australian Catholic University, Melbourne

SESSION – 2

Combating Extremism and Radicalization

MODERATOR

Dr. Ahmad Raza ul Habib

Associate Professor, Department of Islamic Studies,

The University of Faisalabad, Pakistan

KEYNOTE SPEECH-1

Dr. Riham Abousennah

Director, Evolve Minds, Australia

PRESENTATIONS

1. Normalization of Violence in Public Discourses in Pakistan

Dr. Shakeel Ahmed (University of Peshawar, Pakistan)

2. Eco-Spiritual Anxiety and the Rise of Extremist Belief

Systems: A Multidisciplinary Exploration of Climate-Induced Radicalization

Dr. Syeda Tayyaba (International Islamic University Islamabad)

Dr. Ayesha Sarwat (International Islamic University Islamabad)

3. Manipulating Religious Sentiments for Political Agendas: A Sociological Analysis in the Context of Religious Extremism and Interfaith Policy in Pakistan

Dr. Zubaida Zafar (Virtual University of Pakistan)

4. Examining the Surge in Blasphemy Politics in Pakistan

Hammad Ahmad (National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad)

Anam Ahmed Mufti (National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad)

KEYNOTE SPEECH-2

Mr. Amjad Mohamed Saleem

Non Resident Fellow, Centre for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, Doha/Research Fellow, Universiti Malaya



Schedule-DAY 1

Saturday, 25th October 2025

Time & Venue

Activities

3:00 pm to 4:45 pm
Al-Farabi Auditorium

SESSION – 3

Hate Speech, Digital Literacy and the Media

MODERATOR

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmmad

Assistant Professor, Department of Digital Communication and Media Technology, Government College University Lahore

KEYNOTE SPEECH-1

Rev. Dr. Patrick McInerney

Director of the Columban Center for Christian-Muslim Relations in Strathfield, Sydney, Australia

PRESENTATIONS

1. Legislating Harmony: Curbing Religious Hate Speech through Legal and Policy Reforms in Pakistan's Digital Era
Muhammad Imran Ali (Quaid-e-Azam Law College, Kasur)
Amira Taj (Quaid-e-Azam Law College, Kasur)

2. Impact of Digital Literacy on Religious Tolerance in Marginalized Communities of Pakistan: Opportunities and Challenges
Dr. Adeel Irfan (University of Sargodha)
Prof. Dr. Shabnam Gul (Lahore College for Women University, Lahore)

3. Televised Othering: A Content and Discourse Analysis of PTV Dramas (1980–2000) and their Role in Shaping Religious Intolerance in Pakistan
Muhammad Bin Umer Hameed (KMA Institute of Creative Sciences, Pakistan)
Saima Umer (University of the Punjab, Lahore)
Dr. Umer Hameed (National Textile University, Faisalabad)

END OF DAY-1



Schedule-DAY 2

Sunday, 26th October 2025

Time & Venue

Activities

PARALLEL TECHNICAL SESSIONS – DAY 2

SESSION – 4

امین، ہم آہنگی، اور اسلامی تعلیمات

MODERATOR

Dr. Ali Raza Tahir

Associate Professor, School of Religion & Philosophy, Minhaj University Lahore

KEYNOTE SPEECH-1

Bishop Nadeem Kamran

Bishop of Lahore, Anglican Cathedral Church of Pakistan

PRESENTATIONS

9:45 am to 11:30 am
Dr Farid-ud-Din Qadri Hall

1. اسلام اور اعتدال: مذہبی بیانیے کے ذریعے انتہا پسندی کا خاتمہ
Irum Gul Soomro (University of Sindh, Jamshoro)
Anas Mehmood (Govt. College of Education, Sukkur)
2. میثاقِ مدینہ کی آئینی تفہیم: قیامِ امن، ریاستی استحکام اور انتہا پسندی کے تدارک کا مؤثر اور آئینی لائحہ عمل
Umm e Habiba (Minhaj University Lahore)
3. مذہبی کثرت پسندی اور رواداری کو فروغ دینا: معاشرتی بہتری کے لیے سیرتِ نبوی صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے نظائر
Riffat Faheem (Govt. College Women University, Sialkot)
4. مذہبی و فکری انتہا پسندی اور ابن رشد کا فلسفہ تطبیق (فلسفہ اور مذہب میں مطابقت و ہم آہنگی)
Abdal Maqsoom (Minhaj University Lahore)
5. خواتین، خاندان اور انتہا پسندی کی روک تھام: اسلامی تعلیمات کی روشنی میں
Zakia Fatima (Riphah International University, Faisalabad)

SESSION – 5

Religious Extremism: Minority and Gender Perspectives

MODERATOR

Prof. Dr. Rehana Saeed Hashmi

Professor, Department of Political Science, University of the Punjab

KEYNOTE SPEECH-1

Pr. Sungbae Gee

President, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pakistan

PRESENTATIONS

9:45 am to 11:30 am
Syed Tahir Ala-ud-Din Hall

1. Gender and Faith: A Comparative Study of Religious Pluralism and Women's Empowerment in Pakistan and Indonesia in Pursuit of SDG-5
Dr. Tatheer Zahra Sherazi (National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad)
2. Women's Leadership Role in Urban Punjab: Community Conflict Resolution to Prevent Extremism
Tilawat Hussain (Punjab Commission on the Status of Women, Punjab)
Kinza Iman (Minhaj University Lahore)
Abbas Hussain (Air University, Multan)



Schedule-DAY 2

Sunday, 26th October 2025

Time & Venue

Activities

9:45 am to 11:30 am
Al-Farabi Auditorium

3. The Bheil Community in Pakistan: Status and Problems
Shahnaz Bibi (Govt. Associate College for Women Fatehpur, Layyah)

Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid (Allama Iqbal Open University Islamabad)

4. Lived Experiences of Minority Teachers and Students in State and Private (Christian) Schools: A Case Study from Pakistan
Ashar Johnson Khokhar (Forman Christian College University)

KEYNOTE SPEECH-2

Dr. Hieromonk Grigory Daniil Matrusov

Chairman of the Expert Council on Muslim Relations,
Moscow, Russia

SESSION – 6

New Narratives for Religious Harmony

MODERATOR

Prof. Dr. Shabnam Gul

Chairperson, Department of International Relations, Lahore
College for Women University

KEYNOTE SPEECH-1

Rev. Dr. Joseph Vergese

Executive Director, Institute for Religious Freedom and
Tolerance (IRFT), New York

PRESENTATIONS

1. Reimagining Coexistence: Combating Religious Extremism through Peace Narratives in Pandemic Literature

Dr. Samia Shakeel (National University of Modern Languages,
Peshawar Campus)

2. The Role of Education Institutions in Reducing Extremism and Promoting Religious Tolerance in Pakistan

Neelum Javed (Riphah International University, Islamabad)

Faiza Maryam (Cadet College, Hassan Abdal)

Haleema Ajmal (Riphah International University, Islamabad)

Dr. Khubaib-Ur-Rehman (The University of Lahore)

3. Balancing Human Rights and National Security: Ethical Dimensions of Law Enforcement in Extremism Control in Pakistan

Faiza Maryam (Cadet College, Hassan Abdal)

Haleema Ajmal (Riphah International University, Islamabad)

Neelum Javed (Riphah International University, Islamabad)

4. Sufi Shrines in the Punjab: Promoting Religious Pluralism, Spirituality and Countering Extremism

Kinza Iman (Minhaj University Lahore)

Tilawat Hussain (Punjab Commission of the Status of Women)

Abbas Hussain (Air University, Multan)



Schedule-DAY 2

Sunday, 26th October 2025

Time & Venue	Activities
11:30 am to 11:45 am Main Marquee	KEYNOTE SPEECH-2 Ven. Bopeththe Somananda Thero Lecturer, Department of Library and Information Science, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
	MORNING TEA
	THIRD PANEL DISCUSSION
	THEME: New Paths for Interfaith Dialogue MODERATOR Prof. Dr. Shanthikumar Hettiarachchi Professor, School of Religion & Philosophy, Minhaj University Lahore PANELISTS Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia Associate Professor, Ohio State University, Columbus, USA Mr. Ejaz Alam Augustine Ex-Minister for Human Rights & Minorities' Affairs, Punjab Mr. Samson Salamat Executive Director, Centre for Human Rights Education, Pakistan Chairman, Rwadari Tehreek Prof. Dr. Fariba Kahromi Administrator, Yousaf School System, Lahore Dr. Sara Rizvi Jafree Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Forman Christian College University, Lahore
11:45 am to 12:45 pm Main Marquee	
12:45 pm to 1:45 pm Food Marquee & MUL Jamia Masjid	LUNCH & PRAYER BREAK
	FOURTH PANEL DISCUSSION
	THEME: Lessons Learnt from Social Resilience for Peacebuilding MODERATOR Dr. Syed Moazzam Ali Hashmi Adjunct Faculty, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad PANELISTS Bishop Humphry Sarfraz Peters Bishop of Peshawar Prof. Dr. Hafiz Abdul Ghani Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Forman Christian College University, Lahore Dr. Kalyan Singh Kalyan Assistant Professor, Department of Punjabi, Government College University Lahore
1:45 pm to 2:45 pm Main Marquee	



Schedule-DAY 2

Sunday, 26th October 2025

Time & Venue

Activities

	Ayaz Mahmood Lashari Zonal Administrator (Regional Head) Auqaf and Religious Affairs Department, Government of Punjab Adv. Ahmad Ali Kelashi Chairman, Kalash Valleys Development Authority (KVDA) Dr. Sabir Naz Sarva Bhuma Adjunct Faculty Member, School of Religion and Philosophy, Minhaj University Lahore
	CLOSING SESSION
2:45 pm to 3:00 pm Main Marquee	THIRD KEYNOTE SPEECH
3:00 pm to 3:15 pm Main Marquee	FOURTH KEYNOTE SPEECH
3:15 pm to 3:30 pm Main Marquee	SPEECH OF THE CHIEF GUEST
	CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS & VOTE OF THANKS
3:30 pm to 3:45 pm Main Marquee	Prof. Dr. Khurram Shahzad Conference Convener Registrar, Minhaj University Lahore
3:45 pm to 3:55 pm Main Marquee	AWARD DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY
3:55 pm Food Marquee	FAREWELL TEA
	END OF SESSION