
**Weekly Report of
Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme**

Religious Conflict

1. France's burkini bans reinforces stereotype of Muslim women

France's burkini ban had been garnering significant media attention. Most recently, photographs have emerged of armed French policemen confronting a woman at the beach and asking her to remove the burkini. The media's language on this issue also reinforced the stereotype that Muslim women were oppressed and needed to be saved. Critics argued that this viewpoint was not productive in acknowledging the diversity of female agency.

Keywords: France, Burkini ban, Islam, Religious Freedom, Secularism

Religious Controversies

2. 'No Mosque' campaign wants to block construction of mosque near key tourist icon

A campaign to block construction of a new mosque near the Leaning Tower of Pisa was started after the Pisa city council approved its site. Opponents argued that it was too close to the tower, which was one of Italy's top tourist attractions, and voiced concerns that the new mosque might be a breeding ground for radical ideas. More than 2,000 people signed for a referendum to overturn the city council's decision but proponents of the construction of the mosque pointed out that any referendum would be unconstitutional and threatened Muslims' religious freedom.

Keywords: Italy, Islam, Secularism, Religious Freedom

Peace, Reconciliation and Interfaith Dialogue

1. Interfaith project for students in Indian state Kerala

The King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz International Centre for Interreligious and Cultural Dialogue (KAICIID), an intergovernmental organisation jointly established by Austria, Saudi Arabia and Spain, will help train 100 students to promote inter-religious dialogue in Kerala, India. This pilot project aims to develop curriculum and academic materials, alongside

increasing awareness among students, so that they may be equipped with an interreligious understanding of the relation and history between the different religious communities in the state.

Keywords: Interfaith dialogue, Education, Peace, India

2. Two Indonesian universities sign partnership to deepen interreligious understanding

Two universities in Indonesia – the Ateneo de Davao University and the Bandung Islamic University – signed a Memorandum of Understanding to expand collaboration on education and research. Among the partnership's intended aims is the promotion of greater interreligious dialogue between the two Catholic and Islamic universities.

Keywords: Interfaith dialogue, Catholicism, Islam, Education, Indonesia

3. New interfaith centre opens in Nigeria

A historic interfaith peace centre was recently opened in the Kaduna state of Nigeria, where more than 20,000 people have been killed in religious conflicts in the past three decades. The International Centre for Interfaith Peace and Harmony will document interfaith relations for policy-making purposes and will strive to deter violence.

Keywords: Interfaith, Peace, Nigeria, Christianity, Islam