

Annex: Speaker biographies

Please note that this is not the full line-up of speakers. The complete line-up will be made available at the ICCS website at a later date.

Name	Bio
Azza Karam	Dr Azza Karam is a Senior Advisor on social and cultural development at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), where she coordinates UNFPA-wide outreach with faith-based partners. She also chairs the UN Interagency Taskforce on Religion. Prior to UNFPA, she was the senior policy research advisor at the United Nations Development Program in the Regional Bureau for Arab States. With the support of Ford Foundation, she founded the first Global Women of Faith Network during her tenure at Religions for Peace, while advising on interfaith development work in Muslim-majority countries. During this time, she also served as President of the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations. Dr Karam has taught at a number of universities and has spoken and published widely on international political dynamics including religion and development.
Chaiwat Satha-Anand	Chaiwat Satha-Anand is a Professor of Political Science at Thammasat University, and Founder and Director of the Thai Peace Information Centre. He is also Chairperson of the Strategic Nonviolence Commission, Thailand Research Fund. Professor Chaiwat Satha-Anand has written, edited, and co-edited 40 books published in Thailand and abroad. In 2006, he was named "Thailand's Best Researcher in Political Science and Public Administration" by the National Research Council as well as Thammasat University's Kiratiyajaraya Distinguished Professor. He received the National Sri Burapha Distinguished Writer Award in Bangkok, and the International El-Hibri Peace Education Prize in Washington D.C. in 2012.
Christian Picciolini	Christian Picciolini is an award-winning television producer, a public speaker, author, peace advocate, and a former violent extremist. After leaving the hate movement he helped create during his youth in the 1980s and 90s, he began the process of making amends, rebuilding his life, and helping others overcome hate. Christian launched Goldmill Group, a counter-extremism consulting and digital media firm, and won an Emmy Award in 2016 for producing an anti-hate advertising campaign aimed at helping people disengage from extremism. He has spoken extensively, including at TEDx talks, and now leads the Free Radicals Project, a global extremism prevention and disengagement network. Christian's involvement in, and exit from, the early American white-supremacist skinhead movement is chronicled in his memoir <i>WHITE AMERICAN YOUTH</i> . His disengagement work is spotlighted in his MSNBC documentary series <i>Breaking Hate</i> .

<p>Dicky Sofjan</p>	<p>Dr Dicky Sofjan is a Core Doctoral Faculty at the Indonesian Consortium for Interreligious Studies (ICRS), where he teaches courses on Religion and Contemporary Issues at the Ph.D level. Dr Sofjan served as the Principal Investigator for a three-year research project on “Religion, Public Policy and Social Transformation in Southeast Asia”. He is a Co-Convener and Original Signatory to the Declaration on Human Dignity, and has been a member of the Educational Exchange Committee for the American-Indonesian Exchange Foundation, which manages the Fulbright program in Indonesia. He was the Regional Project Manager for The Nippon Foundation’s Asian Public Intellectuals (API) Program from 2008 to 2013, and previously participated in the European Union Visitors’ Program, Erasmus+, and the Carnegie Council’s on Ethics in Global Affairs.</p>
<p>Jasvir Singh</p>	<p>Jasvir Singh is a prolific interfaith activist and a leading figure within the British Sikh community. He is the founding Chair of City Sikhs, which provides a voice for progressive Sikhs, and chairs the annual British Sikh Report. He is Co-Chair of the Faiths Forum for London, working with the nine main faith communities to encourage and promote interfaith social projects. He also leads the Grand Trunk Project, which brings Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh communities of British Asian heritage, along with smaller communities from the Subcontinent, together in dialogue and understanding. He is the youngest Sikh to currently hold an OBE. Jasvir is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4’s Thought for the Day, and is an established family law barrister.</p>
<p>Lord John Thomas Alderdice</p>	<p>As Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland, Lord Alderdice played a significant role in the negotiation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. He was then the first Speaker of the new Northern Ireland Assembly until 2004 when he was appointed to the Independent Monitoring Commission tasked by the British and Irish Governments with security normalisation and closing down terrorist activity in Northern Ireland. He was President of Liberal International, the global federation of more than 100 liberal political parties (now Presidente D’Honneur), and Chairman of the Liberal Democrat Party in the House of Lords. He has lectured and consulted on fundamentalism, radicalisation and terrorism in many of parts of the world and is currently Director of the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict at Harris Manchester College at the University of Oxford, Chairman of the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building in Belfast, and a Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland.</p>
<p>Karen Armstrong OBE; FRSL</p>	<p>Karen Armstrong is the author of numerous books on religion, and founder of the <i>Charter for Compassion</i>. Her work has been translated into 43 languages, and include <i>A History of God</i>, an international bestseller; <i>The Battle for God</i>, <i>A History of Fundamentalism</i>; <i>Islam</i>; <i>Buddha</i>; and <i>The Great Transformation</i>. She has addressed members of the US Congress and US State Department, and was invited by Kofi Annan to join the High-Level Group of the new UN Alliance of Civilisations in 2006. Karen Armstrong has received multiple awards for her work, including the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Medal, the TED Prize, the British Academy Al-Rodhan Prize for Improving Intercultural Relations, and the Princess of Asturias Award for Social Sciences.</p>

Karine Martin	Karine Martin is the Chairman of the French Daoist Association. She is an ordained master and has extensive experience with Daoism. Prior to her current role, she worked with the Daoist Culture Centre at FungYing Seen Koon Temple in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Daoist Culture Research Centre of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Religious and Cultural Studies department of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She has a Ph.D in Cultural and Religious Studies from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and a University Diploma in Chinese Medicine at the Paris University (VII) of La Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital (DUMETRAC). She has spoken extensively at Conferences on Daoism, including at the UNESCO International Conference on Peace, and has presented on CCTV among other television broadcast channels.
Katherine Marshall	Katherine Marshall is a Senior Fellow at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs and Professor of the Practice of Development, Religion, and Conflict in the School of Foreign Service. She is also the Executive Director of the World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD). Prior to this, she worked with the World Bank from 1971 to 2006, covering a wide range of leadership assignments, many focused on Africa. She has worked for over four decades on international development, focusing on the world's poorest countries. Her work focuses on bridging gulfs separating the worlds of development and religion. Katherine Marshall serves or has served on the Boards of several NGOs and advisory groups, including AVINA Americas, The International Shinto Foundation, the Niwano Peace Prize International Selection Committee, and the Opus Prize Foundation.
Lai Pan Chiu	Professor Lai Pan-Chiu is Interim Dean and Professor of Religious Studies, Faculty of Arts, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. His research interests include Inter-religious dialogue, Christianity and Chinese culture, as well as modern Christian thought, including Chinese Christian theology. He has published extensively on these topics, and is the author and co-author of twelve books. Professor Lai was a speaker at the 2002 Heidelberger Ecumenical Forum organised by Heidelberg University, and he also delivered the Edward Cadbury Lectures at the University of Birmingham in 2006.
Bishop Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot	Bishop Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot is the President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Prior to his appointment by Pope Francis in 2019, he was Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue from 2012 to 2019. Bishop Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot was ordained a priest in 1980, and served as a missionary in Egypt and Sudan from 1982 to 2002. He obtained a licentiate in Arabic and Islamic Studies from the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI) in 1982, and was Director at PISAI from 2005 to 2012. He has taught Islamology and Interreligious Dialogue in Khartoum, Cairo, and Rome, and is fluent in Arabic, English, French, and Italian.

<p>Patrice Brodeur</p>	<p>Patrice Brodeur is an Associate Professor at the Institut d'études religieuses at the Université de Montréal, and Senior Advisor at the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) in Vienna, Austria. He was the Canada Research Chair on Islam, Pluralism and Globalisation from 2005 to 2015. His expertise includes contemporary Islamic thought and interreligious dialogue. He has published more than 50 articles, chapters and books, lectured academically to a variety of audiences, and conducted trainings on dialogue in over 50 countries around the world.</p>
<p>Veena Howard</p>	<p>Dr Veena R. Howard is an Associate Professor of Asian Religious Traditions in the Department of Philosophy at California State University, Fresno. She is also the coordinator of Peace and Conflict Studies Program. She teaches and researches Asian religious traditions, Gandhi's philosophy, animal ethics, and gender issues in Indian philosophy, and has published and spoken extensively on these topics. She has also received awards and accolades including a Provost's faculty award and faculty membership to Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society. Dr Howard currently serves on the President's Commission for Human Relations and Equity at CSU, Fresno, and she has also served on the Board of Trustees of the Parliament of the World's Religions. She is currently helping the SDG Academy develop the Ethics in Action-Massive Open Online Course on Hindu ethics and gender.</p>
<p>Nazirudin Mohd Nasir</p>	<p>Dr Nazirudin Mohd Nasir is the Deputy Mufti at the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS), a statutory board overseeing the administration of religious affairs of the Singapore Muslim community. He sits in the Fatwa Committee and is also a member of the Singapore Bioethics Advisory Committee. Dr Nazirudin is trained in Islamic and comparative law and the study of religion. He completed his Doctor of Philosophy at St Cross College, University of Oxford, in the comparative study of the Abrahamic religions. Dr Nazirudin has presented numerous papers and participated in several conferences in Singapore and abroad.</p>
<p>Paul Hedges</p>	<p>Paul Hedges is Associate Professor in Interreligious Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU. Prior to this, he was Reader in Interreligious Studies at the University of Winchester, UK, and previously worked for other British, Canadian, and Chinese universities. He has worked with a range of stakeholder groups outside academia, including the Anglican Communion Network for Interfaith Concerns (NIFCON), the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, the Babaji Yogi Sangam, the Dialogue Society, the World Congress of Faiths, and the BBC. He is on the Editorial Board of both the <i>Journal of Religious History</i> and <i>Studies in Interreligious Dialogue</i>, and publishes widely in interreligious studies, religious studies, and theology. His current research projects include interreligious relations in Singapore and the East and South-East Asian region, as well as interreligious and intercultural hermeneutics.</p>

<p>Shashi Jayakumar</p>	<p>Dr Shashi Jayakumar is the Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), and Executive Coordinator of Future Issues and Technology at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU. Dr Jayakumar received his Ph.D in History from the University of Oxford and has published in various peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes on topics relating to medieval history. He was a member of the Singapore Administrative Service from 2002 to 2017, and held posts at the Ministries of Defence, Manpower, Information and the Arts, and Community Development, Youth and Sports. Dr Jayakumar was a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy from 2011 to 2014. His research interests include extremism, social resilience, cyber, and homeland defence.</p>
<p>Kumar Ramakrishna</p>	<p>Kumar Ramakrishna is an Associate Professor and Head Policy Studies and Head of the National Security Studies Programme at S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU. He was appointed in 2016 as an honorary Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for the Resolution of Intractable Conflict at the University of Oxford, and served as a member of the External Reference Group for the United Nations Secretary-General's draft Plan of Action for Preventing Violent Extremism in 2015. In 2008, he was appointed as a Senior Advisor to the Trusted Information Network on Extremism and Transnational Crime in Southeast Asia and Australia, a joint project between The Center for Strategic and International Studies and The Lowy Institute for International Policy. Ramakrishna is a counter-terrorism expert and has spoken and published extensively on the topic. His book, <i>Radical Pathways: Understanding Muslim Radicalization in Indonesia</i> was identified by <i>Perspectives on Terrorism</i> as one of the top 150 books on terrorism and counter-terrorism.</p>
<p>Noor Huda Ismail</p>	<p>Dr Noor Huda Ismail is a counter-terrorism expert and Visiting Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU. He is the Founder of the Institute for International Peace Building in Jakarta, a non-governmental organisation established in 2008 in response to the threat of terrorism. The organisation works with former terrorists to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society. He has produced documentaries on radicalisation and speaks extensively on counter-terrorism, deradicalisation, and rehabilitation around the world including at TEDx talks. Dr Noor Huda Ismail received his Ph.D in Politics and International Relations from Monash University,</p>
<p>Mohamed bin Ali</p>	<p>Dr Mohamed Bin Ali is Assistant Professor at Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU. His research interests include Islamic Jurisprudence, Islamist ideology, religious extremism, interreligious relations and rehabilitation of Muslim extremists. Dr Mohamed has a Ph.D in Arab and Islamic Studies from the University of Exeter, and a Specialist Diploma in Counseling Psychology from the Academy of Certified Counselors. He has been involved in the rehabilitation programme of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) detainees in Singapore since 2003. He is the Vice-Chairman and counsellor of the Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG), a group of voluntary Muslim clerics who provide religious counselling to detainees arrested for terrorism-related activities. Dr Mohamed has spoken and published extensively on issues related to Islam, religious extremism, and terrorist rehabilitation.</p>

