



## ICRD Monthly Update

November 2, 2018

Dear friends,

Even as Yemeni society is being torn apart by civil war, violent extremism, mass displacement, and the world's worst humanitarian crisis, ICRD is training local faith and community leaders to overcome new and enduring obstacles to peace and stability. ICRD remains committed, through our partners and programs, to help peaceful communities preserve traditions of conflict resolution and dialogue and learn new skills to prevent radicalization to violent extremism.

Although the government is fractured and largely absent, there are many local and regional actors who are making remarkable strides toward peace. As discussed in ICRD's recent panel, [\*Yemen's Silent Crisis: Elevating Local Perspectives\*](#), community and religious leaders are actively resolving conflicts throughout the country and many areas have well-functioning, albeit overwhelmed, local councils in place. Sadly, the demand for conflict resolution and inclusive dialogue evolves with each new horror that Yemen experiences.

ICRD works to strengthen civil society capacity to grapple with local challenges, connecting vulnerable and marginalized populations and local councils across the country. This past month, in collaboration with PartnersGlobal and their local affiliate, Partners Yemen, ICRD held a workshop in the port city of Aden to train 24 community leaders, including faith actors, women, and youth from four southern governorates to facilitate community dialogue, advocate for the marginalized, and resolve local conflicts.

The next step in this program will be to hold a companion workshop in the northern capital city of Sana'a, which is currently occupied by the Houthi alliance. Trainees from both workshops will return to their governorates to lead dialogues to better understand community needs and develop sustainable local peacebuilding projects. By giving voice to local communities, ICRD is strengthening a Yemeni resilience to conflict and violent extremism grounded in their own cultural traditions. The Yemeni people, with support from the international community, are leading the way to stability and peace.

The training manual and curriculum developed for this community dialogue and advocacy program is meant to be transferrable to other contexts. It is our hope that this process will be replicated throughout Yemen to empower local leaders to identify local needs and advocate to regional and national-level government officials on behalf of their constituents.

This is only one of the many programs that ICRD is leading in Yemen and other conflict-affected countries throughout the world. For more information on our programs in Yemen, please check out our [website](#) and read our report on [Jihadi-Salafism in Yemen](#).

I encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and to consider donating or fundraising on behalf of ICRD. Few other organizations and peacebuilding efforts recognize and integrate the importance of religious values into their conflict resolution strategies. With your help,

we can continue to support religiously and locally-informed peacebuilding efforts. **Make your holiday shopping count by registering Center for Religion & Diplomacy, Inc. as your charity to receive FREE donations from [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) with every Amazon purchase.**

Warm regards and thank you,



James Patton

If our work compels you and you are interested in supporting ICRD, November provides a great opportunity to have your financial contributions matched through #GivingTuesday. November 27th is a global day of giving, which is amplified by social media. Last year, on #GivingTuesday, an estimated \$274 million dollars was donated to non-profits worldwide. With Facebook and PayPal agreeing to match up to \$7 million dollars in donations made to registered non-profits on Facebook, #GivingTuesday is a rare opportunity for you to double your donation.

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