



## ICRD Monthly Update

April 29, 2019

Dear friends,

This year, ICRD is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Our work has taken us to some of the world's most complicated conflict contexts, including Yemen, Pakistan, Colombia, Kenya, and elsewhere. With programming around the globe, this year we have been reflecting on those divisions, religious and otherwise, present in our own backyard. Drawing on experiences in over fifteen countries promoting religious reconciliation and preventing extremism, the Center is committing itself to bringing those lessons learned back to the United States to help here at home.

There is a serious need in this country for voices that challenge religious prejudice, elevate interfaith harmony, and promote peacebuilding across identity divisions. Religious hate crimes are on the rise in this country and the political and media discourse is as divisive as ever. Religious freedom and the rights of religious minorities are under attack and threats of violence – as well as acts of violence – are increasingly common in our communities. As we reflect on ICRD's twenty-year history, there is much that we have learned in our global programming that can be applied to the United States.

ICRD is excited to announce a new program strategy intended to analyze and reduce cycles of religious prejudice in the United States. Our goal is to train local religious and community leaders from at-risk communities in the best practices for recognizing and mitigating cycles of religious prejudice, including opening the way for difficult conversations between communities that distrust one another. ICRD also intends to support highly localized community interventions designed to increase social cohesion and support positive interfaith engagement in places where prejudice has already caused harm.



Join us in launching this vision at this year's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Faith-in-Action Award Dinner on Thursday, May 16 at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, VA! The event will honor the life's work of Dr. William Vendley, Secretary General of *Religions for Peace International*, as

our Faith-in-Action Award recipient. Dr. Vendley has served in this role for 25 years and has been a pioneer in the field of religious peacebuilding. Further, the event will feature an amazing panel of speakers focused on “Reversing Cycles of Religious Prejudice” and the rise of religious hate crimes and violence in the domestic sphere.

ICRD 20th ANNIVERSARY  
**FAITH IN ACTION DINNER**  
Featuring **2019**

**Chris Buckley**  
Anti-Hate Activist and  
Former White Supremacist

**Amb. Rosemary Banks**  
New Zealand's Ambassador  
to the United States

**Imam Talib Shareef**  
President and Imam of Masjid  
Muhammad in Washington, DC

Seats are selling fast, but you can reserve yours today using the link below. Join ICRD as we launch forward into our next 20 years of peacebuilding. Together, we can make faith part of the solution! [www.icrd.org/2019-fia](http://www.icrd.org/2019-fia)

Warm regards,

James Patton