



ICRD Monthly Update

August 5, 2019

Dear friends,

ICRD is increasingly being sought out to discuss how our global programs in peacebuilding and conflict resolution can be tapped to inform the broader field of practice. This past month, we had the opportunity to participate in two major international events: the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the U.S. State Department's Ministerial on International Religious Freedom. By participating in these events, ICRD continues to build new bridges, connections, and relationships with international actors that will help to elevate our peacebuilding work and provide the key support and partnerships that can take our work to the next level.

The United Nation's HLPF brought together a myriad of international actors to discuss the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to seek opportunities for constructive collaboration. The objective of SDG16 fits neatly with ICRD's mission and reads:

"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."

As part of the HLPF, ICRD participated in the UN Kofi Annan Faith Briefings, which celebrated the legacy of the late and former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan. Kofi Annan was the first to host a Millennium Peace Summit in 2000, at which the UN brought together 1,000 religious leaders. I presented on the impact that religious leaders, institutions, and values can have on peace processes if properly engaged, giving concrete examples from our work in the field.

While in New York City, ICRD also hosted a "friend-raising" event at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). We were joined by potential and current collaborators, funders, and partner organizations to think critically about the future of deepening the role of religious actors in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

From New York, we returned directly to Washington, DC for the State Department's Ministerial on International Religious Freedom. ICRD presented on our preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) work on a panel focused on "track II" peace processes and the importance of community engagement. Highlighting our programming in Saudi, Yemen, Colombia, Morocco, Tunisia, and Pakistan, I had the opportunity to discuss the findings and key takeaways from our work engaging religious actors in P/CVE.





In tandem, ICRD hosted a series of capacity trainings in collaboration with Empower Women Media, a visual media company based in Los Angeles. With support from the Alliance for Peacebuilding and the United States Institute of Peace, Shirin Taber of Empower Women Media trained peacebuilders and network partners on storytelling, social media, and documentary film making. ICRD also had the opportunity to cohost a roundtable discussion with USIP on the role of religious women in peace negotiations. The roundtable featured women peacebuilders from around the

world, highlighting their successes and those lessons learned on the front lines of violent conflict. ICRD is partnering with USIP to advance research, case studies, capacity building and a mechanism of support for women of faith actively engaged in negotiations at the local, national to regional levels worldwide.

We have learned valuable lessons in programming during our twenty-year history and have a lot of knowledge and expertise to share with other peacebuilders. Similarly, there is much we have to learn about improving our programming and building lasting and sustainable peace. By sharing our work and partnering with other experts in the field, ICRD hopes to maintain its place as a leader in the field of practice, helping to resolve conflicts around the globe.

Please see my recent article on some ways in which ICRD is helping:
www.bushcenter.org/catalyst/global-challenges/patton-people-of-faith-collaborating-to-end-hatred.html. With your support we will continue to make faith part of the solution!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Patton'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'J' and 'P'.

James Patton

ICRD is making great strides in its 20th Anniversary Giving Campaign! As we make the turn inward, ICRD has set a goal of raising \$100,000.00 by the end of the year. As we bring our time-tested methodologies back to the US and prevent the spread of conflict and violent extremism around the world, there is increased pressure for our organization to staff-up, grow our office, and bring aboard new expert practitioners to build lasting and effective peace in the world. I implore you to please give a gift today, using the “donate” button below, or sign up for our monthly recurring donor list. Together, we can help make faith part of the solution and reverse the cycles of prejudice that threaten the stability of our communities and country!

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