

## Holiday Impact: Looking Ahead to 2021

December 21, 2020

Dear friends,

2020 may well be remembered as one of the most challenging years in recent history. As it comes to a close, however, and we look forward with hope for recovery and restoration, it is important for me to take a moment to acknowledge that each of ICRD's supporters has been instrumental to our continued success. **Thank you for what you do.** We couldn't have achieved what we have this year without your help.

This year, ICRD made necessary pivots in our programming to adjust to the risks and safety concerns brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. While much of the world came to a halt, sadly, ***violent conflict did not.*** Despite closing our office and moving to a remote work format, we found creative ways to carry on our efforts to advance reconciliation, prevent extremism, and mitigate the drivers of violence – all while making faith part of the solution! We conducted online trainings to support community stability in war-torn Yemen. We supported local dialogues between adversaries, with masks and social distancing practices. We strategized on reducing religious intolerance with partners in Myanmar and Saudi Arabia over Zoom. And we worked with research partners in Ethiopia, Spain and Indonesia to explore multi-faith responses to conflict. As new challenges arose, ICRD rose to meet them. We even hosted our first Virtual Faith-in-Action Award Ceremony, honoring the exceptional work of Karenni Gore, the Director for the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, at the intersection of religion and environmental stewardship.

As we move into 2021, ICRD is poised to expand our peacebuilding work into important new programmatic spaces. Importantly, while we continue to expand our partnerships with communities around the world to help break cycles of violence, it has become very clear that there is a serious need to address the complicated and deepening identity divides that are threatening the social fabric of American communities. We are grateful to have received support for a new research initiative on the positive role that religious individuals, values, and communities can play in challenging narratives of division in the U.S. – providing an alternative to the fear that religion is increasingly being used to drive a wedge between us.

As we reflect on 2020, and plan for the coming year, your faith in ICRD has been critical to our success. Your assistance has been vital, not only to advancing our work building peace in conflict-impacted areas throughout the world, but also in supporting our day-to-day operations. You are an essential part of the ICRD family; we simply could not do what we do without you.

It is in this spirit of partnership that I ask you to consider ICRD as a worthy recipient of your annual charitable giving as we approach the holiday season. Please reflect on the additional good that might be done with cumulative, ongoing support from many sources, and think about signing up as a **monthly recurring donor** on our website. At \$10, \$25, and \$50 tiers, you can support ICRD each month at an amount that is comfortable for your budget, knowing that over the course of the year you have consistently contributed to making the world a safer place for those living in fear of violence.

### **MAKING FAITH PART OF THE SOLUTION**

The average cost of training a peacebuilder in Yemen is \$500, for example, but the ripple effects of that donation, in terms of the impact those peacebuilders will have in their communities and on the next generation, are far greater than can be measured by a simple monetary figure. The work you support changes minds and lives. As one young trainee in Yemen stated, *“after this training I no longer accept the militant groups and I want to be someone important in my community – I want to be a mediator of conflicts.”*

Join ICRD as we move – with hope – into 2021 and, together, we can continue to make faith a part of the solution! With profound gratitude and with warmest regards,

Warm regards,



James Patton

Consider becoming a monthly recurring donor through our [website](#)! At an amount determined by you, you can support ICRD each month! Join ICRD and, together, we can make faith part of the solution!

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