



INTERNATIONAL CENTER *for Religion & Diplomacy*

2019 Annual Report



2019 Annual Report

Executive Address

Dear friends,

2019 was a year of growth and learning for ICRD, a year in which we expanded our programming to a variety of new contexts—including Kenya, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. However, 2019 was also a year in which the continued rise of nationalism, xenophobia, citizen protests, and social fracturing along identity lines dominated the news cycle. We live in complicated times and the world is in desperate need of impactful and sustainable initiatives that remind us of our common humanity.

Despite deepening schisms in our own country, ICRD endeavors to hold itself above social divisions, like a lamp in the fog, attracting all to its light. When we elevate the best of faith and religion to address some of humanity's hardest problems, we stand for something that all people can support, regardless of political or social beliefs. Religion can and should be something that makes us better humans; it should be something that serves to heal broken communities. When religion is used to foster hatred and violence, all people can stand resolutely against its distortion.



Martine Miller meets with religious leaders working on identity conflict and violence prevention.



James Patton
President & CEO

We are admonished by faith to care for those who are different, apart from our close groups of family, friends, tribe, and nation. Those who are not within our 'home' are our proverbial neighbors. As we prepare to start a new year, perhaps we can reset our own thinking as well, and ask ourselves a simple question:

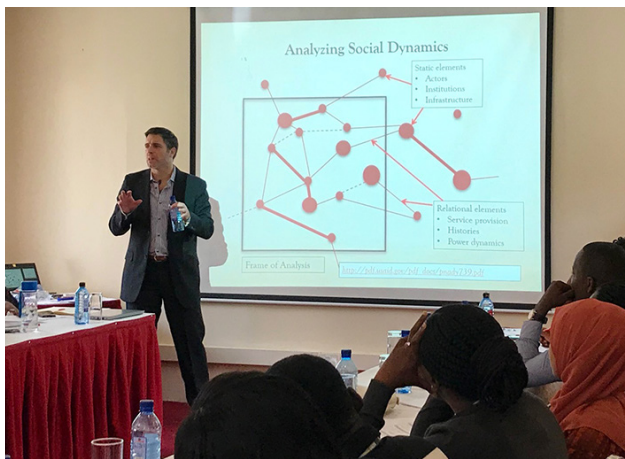
What is our responsibility to the neighbor?

The Quaker tradition calls us to "seek the light of the divine in the other." In a time when political and social tensions run high, and our own security and freedom seems threatened, caring for others is not an easy requirement. This is particularly the case if we are trying to find and elevate the divine nature of a perceived adversary, someone we dislike and distrust. In the Jewish tradition, Tikkun Olam is a call to heal the world. Can we hold those people whom we least love in

the light of the divine and work for their healing? Until we can accomplish that, the world will remain broken.

These are not just religious values; they are American values. As flawed as it has been on occasion, American diplomacy is grounded in promoting the equality of justice, the rule of law, and a democratic voice being given to all people. With intolerant rhetoric ringing out across the globe, seeking to undermine our basic human equality, the world needs American diplomacy more than ever. And this American diplomacy must come from all Americans, not just the government. Violence between communities starts with dehumanizing the 'other.' We must fight back, not against one another, but against the global trend toward division and dehumanization.

As an organization, ICRD has always understood its global responsibility to the neighbor to manifest as preventing the spread of violence and fostering the seeds of peace in the world's most complicated conflict contexts. We still believe that our common humanity and shared religious values provide a powerful and meaningful entry point for engaging people in peacebuilding. Whether they are government officials, community leaders, or every day citizens, sustainable peace requires a holistic approach that



James Patton leads a training on analyzing social dynamics in conflict-impacted areas



Martine Miller
Vice President

empowers people at all levels of the community.

As we move into 2020, we intend to continue to learn and expand. It is a new year, a time for renewal. We must also renew our moral obligation to one another to foster peace in this world.

Whatever is harming our neighbor and fomenting violence and conflict, harms us also. And, insofar as religious identity is part of the fabric of the community, faith should be a guide to bringing healing to the world. Together, with your continued support and insights—and your care for the neighbor—we can make faith part of the solution.

Warm Regards,

James Patton and Martine Miller
ICRD Executive Leadership



Our Approach

OUR MISSION

To bridge religious considerations with the practice of international politics in support of peacebuilding

OUR VISION

A world in which spiritual reconciliation advances peace and coexistence between adversaries

Beyond Traditional Diplomacy

Religious convictions are a principal source of values for nearly 85% of the global community. As such, these convictions can be a significant factor in promoting divisiveness and enmity—or in building the trust needed to overcome violent conflict. Because the influence of religious, ethnic, and tribal identities is frequently stronger than that of governments, the challenge of addressing conflict and violent religious extremism (VRE) often exceeds the reach of traditional diplomatic or military intervention. ICRD confronts this reality by employing a unique range of capabilities that effectively engage the belief systems and core values found at the heart of identity-based conflicts. In this effort, ICRD maximizes programmatic impact by integrating its community-based approach with other peacebuilding efforts, particularly those of governments.

Strategic Plan

Assisting religious and community leaders in becoming positive agents of change

While not a religious organization itself, ICRD recognizes the critical importance of religious faith in communities around the world. As such, we engage with religious leaders, institutions, and values in addressing violent conflict. These processes are integrated with political considerations in a manner that evokes their shared values.

By building relationships of trust, ICRD helps steer religious convictions away from fomenting conflict and toward strengthening communities in their ability to resolve current and future challenges to peace.



Program participants in Colombia display a shovel made from a weapon formerly used in conflict

ICRD holds official consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is a registered Private Volunteer Organization (PVO) with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

OBJECTIVES

ICRD achieves its mission by meeting four core objectives:

- Decreasing religion's role as a driver of conflict;
- Increasing the capacity and number of religious peacebuilders;
- Increasing the role of religious clergy and laity in peacebuilding;
- Increasing policymakers' awareness of and receptivity to the potential contributions of religious peacebuilders.

STRATEGIES

In turn, ICRD applies the following strategies to achieve these objectives:

- Promoting spiritual values that delegitimize violence and intolerance;
- Advancing the field of peacebuilding practice by integrating the contributions of religious actors;
- Facilitating resilient community networks for preventing and resolving conflicts;
- Expanding the capacity of civil society to support faith-based peacebuilding.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION & COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

We build the capacity of faith actors to resolve conflicts and mitigate violent extremism.

PUBLIC POLICY

We inform public policy about important issues of religion and conflict.

WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS

We strengthen the role of women of faith in peacebuilding.

TOLERANCE IN EDUCATION

We enhance themes of tolerance in religious education.

SOCIAL RECONCILIATION

We facilitate constructive dialogue and promote reconciliation between adversaries.

RESILIENT NETWORKS

We build resilient networks across religious traditions and civil society.



Our Programs

ICRD uses the following criteria to determine where its interventions will add the most value:

Opportunities exist for strategic engagement and meaningful impact in the areas most affected by the conflict;

ICRD can build on relationships of trust that are necessary to address the conditions that sustain conflict;

Religious actors are either contributing to the conflict or are insufficiently engaged in promoting its peaceful resolution;

The conflict area is underserved by governments or other NGOs.

ICRD develops the following program methodologies, orchestrates their application in the field, and analyzes their effectiveness:

Strengthening the roles of both male and female religious adherents, across generations and traditions, in conflict resolution and preventing/countering violent extremism;

Enhancing themes of tolerance in religious education curricula and pedagogy;

Identifying and leveraging shared spiritual values to support collaborative problem-solving and faith-based reconciliation;

Facilitating the cooperative development of counter-narratives to violent extremism;

Formulating faith-based conflict resolution frameworks in concert with local partners;

Training other prospective local trainers in applying faith-based methodologies.

Middle East & North Africa

Enhancing the Role of Citizens and Religious Leaders in Yemen's Political Transition

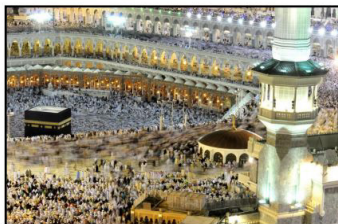
ICRD is working to close the gap between grassroots communities and higher level decision makers in Yemen, building relationships across divides and opening channels for vulnerable and marginalized populations to voice their needs and concerns. This bridges longstanding divides between civil society and religious actors working for peace. Often times, religious actors and civil society actors work along parallel lines, heading in the same direction but never collaborating. In response, ICRD works with these leaders to collaboratively facilitate dialogues and community-led projects to address key issues of local concern. Conducting companion programs in the north and south, ICRD is taking a whole-society approach to a nationwide phenomenon.



Participants design localized interventions to strengthen community problem-solving

Enhancing Citizen Participation in Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) in Yemen

To curb the growth of extremist groups, ICRD is leveraging its existing networks in Yemen to strengthen citizen populations against violent extremism. Taking a whole-society approach, ICRD is working to build the capacity of local religious leaders, educators, and civil society leaders in countering violent extremism—focusing on areas at direct risk of incursion by violent extremist groups. Through a series of trainings and follow-on community projects, ICRD and local implementers are equipping citizen leaders with skills in P/CVE, conflict resolution, and the transfer of those skills to other community organizers—while facilitating locally-led initiatives to put these skills into practice in addressing drivers of violent extremism. This project is laying the groundwork for the organic growth and sustainability of such locally-implemented P/CVE initiatives throughout the country.



THE STATE OF CURRICULAR REFORM IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

JUNE 2012

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RELIGION & DIPLOMACY

Religious Tolerance in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

On behalf of the U.S. State Department, ICRD began a program in 2011 to monitor and support the efforts being made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to identify and remove inflammatory content from its educational curricula. Based on the results of this inquiry, ICRD was contracted to conduct follow-on studies to contribute real-time input into reforms and further evaluate ongoing progress.

A second, thorough review was completed in 2018-2019, and recognized the meaningful efforts being taken toward reform. This report also outlines much that remains to be done to fully complete the task.

ICRD's 2012 Report Cover

Strengthening Education in Saudi Arabia

In collaboration with the Saudi Ministry of Education, ICRD is building the capacities of Saudi school teachers to prepare their students for responsible global citizenship in support of the Kingdom's Vision 2030. The curriculum has been designed to advance pedagogical skills in human rights, religious literacy, tolerance, and critical thinking, and to understand and combat extremist ideologies. ICRD seeks to embed this curriculum into the Saudi institutions that prepare teachers who will train an emerging generation of Saudi leaders to operate in a pluralist global setting.



ICRD's research team sits down with local actors in Ethiopia

Global Impact of Saudi Textbooks

In 2012, ICRD conducted an assessment of the extent to which Saudi Arabian textbooks and educational materials have been disseminated to various countries around the world. The findings of this study were presented to U.S. and Saudi stakeholders with the hope of informing cooperation on education reform. ICRD is currently conducting an analysis of the impact of Saudi education materials that have been distributed in various regions of the world—including on the ground research in Spain and Ethiopia.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Strengthening Civil Society Capacities in P/CVE in Kenya

In 2018, ICRD received an initial contract to build the capacities of local peacebuilding organizations in Kenya on preventing violent extremism. Based on earlier work in Yemen, Morocco, and Pakistan, ICRD developed a transferable toolkit and P/CVE manual that has since been successfully implemented in a number of conflict spaces. The elicitive training focused on adapting the mechanisms to address Kenya's most pressing concerns regarding the spread of violent extremism.



ICRD staff workshops P/CVE skills with local participants in Kenya

Integrating Conservative Religious Actors in P/CVE in Ethiopia

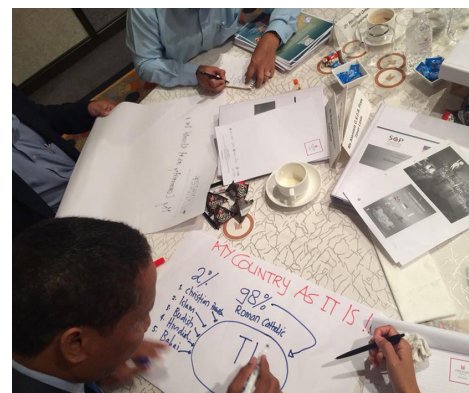
In light of trends in violent religious extremism in sub-Saharan Africa, ICRD has been exploring innovative strategies to counter the appeal of Jihadi-Salafi groups like Al-Shabaab. Specifically, ICRD aims to critically examine the constructive role that might be played by conservative religious actors, of a variety of religious affiliations, who possess unique influence with and access to those at-risk of radicalization.

In Ethiopia, ICRD is currently in the process of gathering data from a range of religious actors (including Salafis, Islamists, and Christians) from across the country, in partnership with a team of local researchers. Based on this research, ICRD has been developing recommendations for national and international policymakers and practitioners on how to more effectively integrate a range of religious actors and institutions into future initiatives. The findings of this study are forthcoming.

Asia

Supporting Religious Freedom and Peace in Asia

ICRD coordinates an Asia Working Group composed of 20 influential national and regional organizations actively engaged in work on Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB), social cohesion, and peacebuilding across the South and Southeast Asia region. With generous support from Norway, ICRD is working with influential religious actors to understand and mitigate the regional impact of persecution of religious minorities. This work is being conducted in partnership with governments, academic institutions, national human rights commissions, the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and the United Nations.



Program participants discuss the religious demographics of their countries

Engaging Conservative Religious Groups in P/CVE in Indonesia

In Indonesia, ICRD is examining the positive role that can be played by conservative religious actors in reducing the spread and influence of violent extremism among vulnerable populations. Through a series of targeted interviews, focus groups, and exploratory studies, ICRD is gathering data to distill best practices for incorporating conservative religious actors into Indonesia's existing P/CVE paradigms. By putting this data in conversation with the country's current approach to extremist violence, ICRD aims to inform and guide policy-makers and government officials of the underutilized potential of the religious sector.



Community actors in the Philippines explore skills and tools in P/CVE

Enhancing P/CVE Capacities in the Philippines

In light of trends and patterns of extremist activity in the Philippines, ICRD is working with local actors in the country to enhance and develop their capacities in preventing and countering violent extremism. Through a series of workshops and local trainings, ICRD's elicitive methodology calls upon local community leaders, from areas impacted or threatened by violent extremism, to share their experiences with violent extremism and collaboratively explore opportunities for impactful programming. These trainings cover a variety of skills and tools, including early warning and response, planning interventions, and monitoring and evaluation.

Europe and the Americas

Reversing Cycles of Religious Prejudice in the United States

To address a rising trend of religious intolerance in the US, ICRD is building on the work of the Interfaith Leadership Network (ILN). Established by ICRD in 2014, the ILN is a group of religious leaders from the US and Pakistan who are working to identify and combat drivers of religious prejudice and violence in their respective countries. ICRD is currently working on a gap analysis to identify and engage with regional actors already working to combat religious prejudice. Further, ICRD hopes to explore opportunities to lend our expertise in international conflict mitigation to the field of practice.

Enhancing Engagement with Conservative Religious Actors in Spain

In Spain, ICRD is working to enhance interfaith understanding and the prevention of radicalization by exploring how best to integrate the country's conservative religious groups. With on the ground visits and key research support, ICRD has studied the successful efforts of conservative religious leaders to build social cohesion, strengthen engagement across religious identity, and increase public visibility of Spain's religious diversity. A forthcoming report will distill best practices to inform policymakers and local stakeholders of our findings and enhance constructive engagement with the religious sector.



ICRD Program Officer, Annas Shaker, sits down with religious actors in Spain



Anti-hate activist, Chris Buckley, speaks on white supremacy and prejudice in the US

Investigating Trends in Extremist Violence in the US Domestic Context

ICRD is working to identify and collaborate with key actors throughout the United States to study domestic trends in extremist violence and recruitment. ICRD is taking a holistic approach to the definition and problem of extremist activity in the United States. With identity conflict on the rise, ICRD recognizes the need for enhanced engagement with US-based organizations and individuals who are working to study and combat white supremacy and nationalism, jihadism, anti-semitism, Islamophobia, and gender-based violence in the US.

Global Programming

Women Negotiators at the Front Lines of Violent Conflict

In collaboration with United States Institute of Peace (USIP), ICRD is enhancing efforts to compile case studies that highlight the impactful role of women negotiators. This will include the design of a research-informed curriculum that supports and builds the capacities of women peacebuilders around the world. Exploring real conflict scenarios in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Libya, and elsewhere, the curriculum will examine successful negotiations facilitated by women in areas threatened by violent extremism and communal conflict. Furthermore, this endeavor will link practitioners around the globe and foster a network of support comprised of women peacebuilders.

The Role of Religious Actors in Track One Peace Processes

ICRD has been working with USIP and the Inclusive Peace & Transition Initiative (IPTI), to study, enhance, and support the role of religious actors in Track One peace processes. Track One refers to formal peace negotiations, typically advanced by diplomats and government officials. While many of ICRD's programmatic engagements focus on community actors, this initiative focuses on the unique value of religious actors in Track One.



Experts discuss the relationship between religion and national peace processes

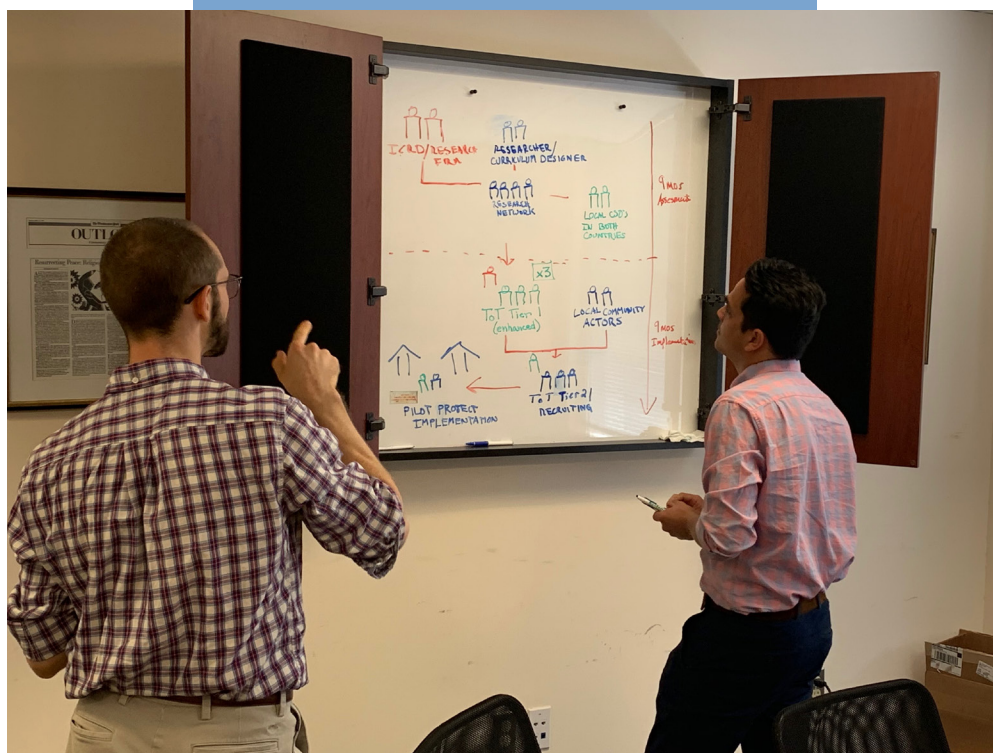


Inside the Center

The day-to-day operations of the Center are carried out by a small but highly talented and committed staff. With the support of our Board, our first order of accountability is to the many local partners at home and abroad whom we serve — pioneering the development and implementation of state-of-the-field programs that support positive transformation within their communities.

In so doing, we strive to be excellent stewards of every cent of support that we receive from government and private funders and, especially, our individual donors.

We invite you to get to know us — as an organization, and as the dedicated individuals who comprise our team.



Our Staff

James Patton

PRESIDENT & CEO



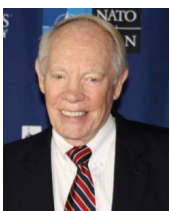
James has conducted international development, conflict transformation, and social reconciliation for over two decades in more than a dozen countries, building collaborative networks and programs with the entire range of social and political actors in complex conflict environments. In his role as ICRD's President, James has served as a member of a number of collaborative efforts to advance the field of peacemaking, including: the U.S. Department of State's Working Group on Religion and Foreign Policy; the Council on Foreign Relations' Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group, and the public-private partnership advancing national dialogue on reconciliation in Colombia, Reconciliación Colombia.

Prior to 2011, when he joined ICRD as Executive Vice President, he had worked in the governmental and non-governmental sectors. His non-governmental experience included assessing the impact of drug policies and military responses in Bolivia, facilitating the role of Cambodian Buddhists in post-conflict stability, and coordinating citizen security and conflict transformation efforts in the Andean region. His governmental work included working with the Special Envoy for Sudan, leading stability operations assessments for the US State Department in South Sudan, and enhancing the Latin America and Religion and Conflict portfolios for USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation.

James holds a Master of Law and Diplomacy degree from The Fletcher School at Tufts University and a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School.

Douglas Johnston

PRESIDENT EMERITUS



Dr. Douglas M. Johnston is President Emeritus and founder of the International Center for Religion & Diplomacy. Prior to founding ICRD, Dr. Johnston served as Executive Vice President and COO of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, where he also chaired the Preventive Diplomacy Program and the Maritime Studies program.

A distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Dr. Johnston holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and PhD. in Political Science from Harvard University. He was the founding director of Harvard University's Executive Program in National and International Security.

Dr. Johnston's experience has guided ICRD's efforts to bridge religion and politics in support of peacemaking in Sudan, Kashmir, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Colombia and Saudi Arabia. In 2008, he was identified in a leading Christian journal as "The Father of Faith-based Diplomacy."

Martine Miller

VICE PRESIDENT



Martine is a mediator and conflict transformation specialist with over 20 years of engaged experience with communities, governments, regional bodies, academic institutions, a range of inter/national non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies. Her work has engaged her directly in fluid war to post-war reconstruction and development contexts across 70 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, West to East Europe and North and South America.

Ms. Miller derives her formal education linking practical mediation and conflict transformation knowledge and skills from a Masters in International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, a Masters in Politics Post-war Reconstruction and Development, a dual Bachelors in Political Science and International Development, coupled with specialized Certifications in Asian and African Studies, Mediation/ Negotiation in War Contexts, Religion and Mediation, Conflict Transformation, etc., as well as engagement in Harvard University's Program on Negotiation and the International Committee for the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC).

She is a guest lecturer at Georgetown and American University as well as a lecturer and program advisor to the Peace and Conflict Studies Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Karen Roberts

TREASURER & CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



Karen B. Roberts has over 30 years of experience in financial accounting and auditing. Ms. Roberts began her career with Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co. in Dallas, Texas in 1974 where she advanced to senior in the auditing department. She later joined another national public accounting firm where she was an audit manager. In 1985 she started her own accounting firm in Houston, Texas which she sold in 1989.



Amira Abouhussein
PROGRAM MANAGER



Nick Acosta
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT



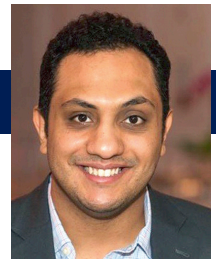
Duke Burbridge
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Carrie Ertel
*EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
TO THE PRESIDENT*



Mohammed al-Samawi
FELLOW



Annas Shaker
PROGRAM OFFICER



Eduardo Vargas
SENIOR ASSOCIATE

At ICRD, we are privileged to bear witness to the profound selflessness and determined spirit of those who—despite great personal risk—rise above hatred, fear, and bigotry to put their highest faith ideals into action.

The need for spiritual reconciliation among divided people throughout the world has never been greater. ICRD and its partners make faith part of the solution. Consider being included among the Center's most distinguished supporters who make the Center's work possible. ICRD is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization. All donations to the Center are tax-deductible.



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