



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



## Themes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Doha Interfaith Dialogue Conference

### Religions and Hate Speech... Scriptures and Practice

#### Preface

Two dangers are facing our world today: the first is the obvious threat of terrorism; which all people have agreed on to confront, and the second, which is no less serious; that is the risk of the escalating hatred discourse, based on the exclusion and discrimination behaviors, that classifies people according to their religion, gender or color.

We need to admit that the Religious Fanaticism is the main cause of the conflicts facing our world today, among other factors, to erroneous understanding of the religious purposes and God's supreme objectives of creation, and use this mis-conceptualization to support an authoritarian outlook supported by nationalism and religious hatred practices, which have generated those extremist models that fuel hatred speech and reject the dialogue's culture and peaceful coexistence.

The Doha international Center for Interfaith Dialogue has so often called on for, through its conferences, to adopt an effective strategy to counter this phenomenon through religious and moral values and legal means, as the desired stability depends on the extent efforts at the individual and institutional level to consolidate the beliefs of peace and tolerance.

We believe that the only way to combat the hatred discourse is by eradicating its roots, and adopting the intellectual debate to detect the inherent mistake of the appeals for sectarianism and racism and the rejection of the others.

Hence, the 14<sup>th</sup> Doha International Conference for Interfaith Dialogue will discuss the theme "**Religions and Hate Speech... Scriptures and Practice**".

▪ **Causes:**

**Theme 1: Hate Speech: Causes, Drivers, and Risks**

**1. Radical Religious Discourse and the Spreading of Hate-Speech**

- The concept of hate speech.
- Misunderstandings of religion and the promotion of hate speech.
- Impact of the rise and proliferation of hate speech on achieving world peace.
- Extremist discourse of some clerics and political leaders.

**2. Controls and Abuse of Freedom of Expression**

- Abusing minorities and contempt for religions and religious figures.
- Misuse of freedom of expression.
- Freedom of expression in the light of repression and irresponsibility.

**3. Targeted Media and Promoting Hate Speech and Inciting Violence**

- Increasing media campaigns targeting a religion, a sect or a group.
- The danger of employing media for political and ideological causes.
- Media mechanisms for monitoring and controlling hate speech.
- The double standards in media discourse both internally and externally.

▪ **Practices:**

**Theme 2: Types and Forms of Hate Speech**

**1. Dangers of spreading hate speech images**

- Hate speech on inciting violence and terrorism.
- Political exploitation of hate speech.
- The implications of the proliferation of hate speech on peaceful coexistence.

**2. Hate Speech Practices and Effects**

- Growing racism due to hate speech.
- The rise of hate speech against refugees and religious minorities.
- Hate speech against women.



### 3. Effect of Social Media on Hate Speech

- Lack of controls and monitoring on social media.
- The contribution of social media to the rapid spread and circulation of extremism.
- Role of Social media in igniting religious and sectarian strife.

## ▪ Ways of Addressing and Confronting the Issue

### Theme 3: Desired Actions for Combating Hate Speech

#### 1. Combating hate speech through religious, and media leaders, and institutions

- The responsibility of religious scholars in raising awareness among the public for respecting the others.
- The impact of media in reducing hate speech.
- Religious and moral values against hate speech.
- Create a culture of peace, coexistence and respect for cultural and religious diversity.

#### 2. Constitute International Laws and Conventions to Criminalize Hate Speech

- Exercising freedom of expression under international humanitarian law.
- International conventions to confront hate speech.
- Legislative frameworks (religious and legal) against hate speech.

#### 3. Educational Institutions in facing Hate Speech

- Empowering future generations through education to encounter hate speech.
- Confronting hate speech through culture and arts.
- Respecting diversity, accepting pluralism, and understanding of the others.