



The Directorate of Interreligious Affairs

Interreligious Educators and Interreligious Ambassadors Initiative

-- promoting and practicing intra-religious and interreligious harmony and cooperation for quality education, national unity and integration and sustainable development

Inspired by the exemplary works of several religious leaders and the current efforts of the United Nations, Global Educators for All Initiative has created the Directorate of Interreligious Affairs to initiate, develop, implement and coordinate activities to promote and practice intra-religious and interreligious harmony and cooperation, which we consider as very essential for advancing human well-being, global peace and unification as well as sustainable development at all levels of human existence. Led by an Executive Director and a team of Directors in several areas of the directorate programs and projects, the Directorate of Interreligious Affairs seeks to promote interreligious harmony and cooperation through the creation of culture, structure and infrastructure for cooperation among religious people.

Why the Directorate of Interreligious Affairs

Global Education for All Initiative was established to facilitate the realization of quality education for sustainable global development with a focus on:

- Promoting intra-religious and interreligious harmony and cooperation
- Advancing interregional and international integration and unification
- Interresources development and utilization

To achieve these, GEFAl acknowledges the corresponding needs for cultivating and advancing:

- Interreligious education
- Interregional and international education
- Interresources education

GEFAl acknowledges the foundational role of religions in human and material development especially in the strengthening of human relationships. We also recognize the unfortunate reality of division, conflict, crisis, violence and even wars along religious affiliations in several areas around the world leading to intra-religious and interreligious disharmony. Despite the huge wisdom and potentials in religious traditions around the world, the hostile relationships among and between religious people, institutions and organizations seem to have rendered this critical sector impotent. To cultivate the inherent potential in religion and in the spiritual development of human beings, there is the need for a new vision of religious education that can bring all religious people together to strengthen their unique traditions and contribute to the common well-being of all people. The Directorate of Interreligious Affairs is established to promote and share best practices in interreligious cooperation and harmony.

Vision:

The Vision of the Directorate of Interreligious Affairs is anchored on One Global Family Under a Common Creator. We envision the realization of a Global Family of the World's Religious People and Organization Under the Supreme Creator

Mission:

The mission of the Directorate of Interreligious Affairs is to inspire, empower, connect, utilize and celebrate religious people and organizations to commit to promoting interreligious harmony and cooperation.

Core Focus/Mandate of the Directorate of Interreligious Affairs

The core focus and mandate of the Directorate of Interreligious Affairs are:

- Building a Culture of Interreligious Harmony and Cooperation
- Creating a Community of interdependent Interreligious People, Organizations, Programs and Institutions
- Developing and utilizing Resources and Technologies for Interreligious Harmony and Cooperation

Strategic Approach of the work of the Directorate

The Directorate of Interreligious Affairs is devoted to the realization of its founding vision and mission by:

- **Mobilizing stakeholders** from various religious groups to support and become interreligious groups
- **Developing programs** and activities to promote interreligious harmony and cooperation
- **Establishing partnerships** among and between religious & faith focused groups for interreligious harmony
- **Raising funds** and other resources to support and promote interreligious initiatives
- **Creating visibility**, platforms for evaluations and periodic reporting of interreligious activities
- The approach addresses membership, partnership, programs, funding and visibility/evaluation

1. **Membership:** The Directorate programs are open to all religious people and organizations to become members with full rights and corresponding responsibilities. There shall be no discriminations on the basis of nationality, religious affiliations, mode of worship or beliefs, dress code and any other unique religious perspectives
2. **Partnership:** The Directorate promotes intra-religious and interreligious partnership between and among religious persons and groups as well as partnership with other agencies that support religious cooperation and secular organizations and international agencies
3. **Programs:** The Directorate initiates programs that inspire, empower, connect, utilize and celebrate religious people and organizations as well as services that make people appreciate religious ways of life
4. **Funds:** The Directorate develops innovative approaches to fundraising by religious people and organizations and ensures transparent utilization of public resources. The Directorate creates and inspires fundraising initiatives to support and promote interreligious activities as well as support religious programs by people challenged by resources. Models of partnership for revenue generation by states and religious organizations shall be encouraged and issues around corporate and institutional tithing shall be encouraged by the Directorate.
5. **Visibility:** The Directorate seeks to work with religious persons and organizations to create interreligious visibility in all places through interreligious messages, jingles and posters, handbills and other promotional materials that support interreligious harmony and cooperation. A special radio show, the **Voice of Religions** is being planned to be implemented.
6. **Reporting and Evaluation:** The Directorate shall encourage periodic reporting tradition by individuals, groups and organizations as well as documentation of evaluation of impacts of the works of religious organizations. The Directorate shall encourage interreligious peer review processes to promote effectiveness and efficiency and an ongoing assembly of interreligious leaders to report and share its programs and activities as well as accomplishments.

Programs Focus:

The Directorate of Interreligious Affairs designs, develops and implements programs that create several categories of interreligious people and who serve as interreligious members of Global Educators for All Initiative:

- **Inspire** religious people with a new vision of interreligious initiatives (Inspired Interreligious Member)
- **Empower** religious people with interreligious professional development program that will enable the people to serve as interreligious educators and leaders (Empowered Interreligious Member)
- **Connect** religious people to interreligious information, to each other and to interreligious resources to enable the people to bridge the intra-religious and interreligious divide (Connected Interreligious Member)
- **Utilize** religious people, institutions and resources to promote interreligious harmony and cooperation (Utilized Interreligious Member)

- **Celebrate** religious people and organizations that have made determination, commitment and accomplishments in promoting interreligious harmony and cooperation (Celebrated Interreligious Member)

Directorate of Interreligious Affairs' Interreligious Initiatives

1. Establish National Interreligious Culture and National Policy on Interreligious Harmony
 - a. Interreligious Code of Conduct for individuals in families, schools and communities
 - i. Conduct of children; Conduct of siblings; Conduct of couples; Conduct of parents
 - ii. Code of conduct in the schools
 - iii. Code of conduct in the community/worship places/workplaces
 - b. Interreligious Curriculum of Education in families, schools and communities
 - i. Family interreligious curriculum
 - ii. Interreligious education in primary schools
 - iii. Interreligious education in secondary schools
 - iv. Interreligious education in tertiary schools
 - v. Interreligious education in non-formal/in-formal centers
 - c. Interreligious Constitution/Commandments of associations and organizations in the family, school and community = article of association for organizations
 - i. Interreligious commandments
 - ii. Interreligious policies
 - iii. Interreligious constitutions
 - d. Some cultural issues
 - i. Interreligious festivals
 - ii. Interreligious holy days and holidays
 - iii. Interreligious prayers and anthem
 - iv. Interreligious fellowship
 - v. Interreligious pilgrimage and visit to holy places of worship
 - vi. Interfaith voices and songs
 - vii. Interreligious education curriculum
 - viii. Interreligious Day celebration
2. Build Interreligious Community/Associations/Institutions/Programs
 - a. Interreligious families
 - i. Promote interreligious marriage, wedding ceremonies and vows
 - ii. Create interreligious family networks
 - iii. Develop interreligious education for families
 - iv. Create 3 generations interreligious family
 - b. Interreligious schools and seminaries
 - i. Promote establishment of interreligious schools and build an interreligious school
 - ii. Offer interreligious studies in schools
 - iii. Establish interreligious clubs in schools
 - iv. Promote Interreligious educators (parents, teachers and leaders) network
 - v. Establish interreligious theological seminaries/academy/institutes
 - vi. Build interreligious primary/secondary/colleges of education/polytechnics/universities
 - c. Interreligious Communities
 - i. Appoint Interreligious Ambassadors
 - ii. Create interreligious committees/councils in communities
 - iii. Build interreligious community church/mosque/temples
 - iv. Interreligious education centers and Interreligious worship centers
 - v. Organize Interreligious sports tournament
 - vi. Interreligious education programs at tertiary institutions and provide scholarship to prospective learners

viii. Interfaith security corps and Interreligious youth service

3. Develop and Utilize Interreligious Resources and Technologies

- a. Utilizing technology for interreligious activities in the families, schools and communities
- b. Creating interreligious fund for families, schools and communities
 - i. Interreligious Family Fund: Family Tithing/Offerings
 - ii. Interreligious School Fund: 10% of school income devoted to interreligious education
 - iii. Interreligious community Fund: 10% of church/mosque/centers/business/nation budget to the Interreligious Fund
- c. Utilizing religious groups to collect funds/taxes for states and government and encouraging states to devote 10% back to religious groups
- d. Establishment of Interreligious Technology Center/Institute
- e. Developing Interreligious Banking and Interreligious Businesses Policy
- f. Interreligious Security System for Interreligious Organizations
- g. Spiritual Environmental Sanitation Exercise

4. Advocacy Areas:

- a. National Policy on Interreligious Harmony and Cooperation
- b. Creation of National Assembly Committee on Interreligious Affairs
- c. Establishment of Federal and State Ministries of Interreligious Affairs
- d. Promote the introduction of Interreligious Judicial Commission
- e. Creation of Interreligious Education Department in the Ministry of Education
- f. Introduction of Interreligious Education in all Educational Institutions and agencies
- g. Launch of Interreligious Community Youth Service Corps
- h. Strengthening of National Interreligious Council to become National Interreligious Parliament
- i. Building of National Interreligious Center
- j. Designation of National Interreligious Harmony Day
- k. Introduction of Interreligious Pilgrimage and Mandatory Participation of Pilgrims in Interreligious Education Orientation Course
- l. Recognition of Interreligious Ambassadors
- m. Establishment of Interreligious Universities, Colleges and Seminaries
- n. Hosting of Periodic Interreligious Dialogue
- o. Establishment of Interreligious Media stations (Radio, TV, etc) and interreligious programs on all media stations
- p. Interreligious Universities Commission
 - i. Interreligious Institutions Admissions Council
 - ii. Interreligious Institutions Curriculum
 - iii. Interreligious Institutions Graduation Board
 - iv. Interreligious Institutions Calendar
- q. Creation of Interreligious Councils at ECOWAS, AU, UN, etc
- r. Representation of Interreligious Ambassadors to the United Nations, ECOWAS, AU, etc
- s. Representation of Interreligious Parliamentarians to the National Assembly
- t. Creation of Interreligious Fund and Financial Services Commission