



The 3rd HWPL International Religious Peace Academy

Creating a Platform for Enhancing Comparative Scriptural Knowledge

- Concept Note -

1. Introduction

In an increasingly interconnected and diverse world, fostering understanding, cooperation, and peaceful coexistence among different religious communities has become a crucial concern. The need for interfaith communication as a foundation for peacebuilding is more urgent than ever. Interfaith dialogue involves exchanging ideas, beliefs, and values to bridge gaps between individuals and communities of different religious backgrounds, reduce tensions, and promote harmonious relationships.

Today, threats to religious freedom have emerged as significant challenges posed by both state and non-state actors, impacting democracy, human rights, and global peace. According to a 2022 Pew Research Center report, incidents of violence and hostility targeting specific religious groups occurred in 74 countries during 2020, a time when the COVID-19 pandemic was rampant worldwide. The international community increasingly recognizes the critical importance of cooperation among nations to prevent and resolve conflicts based on ethnicity and religion, as this cooperation is key to safeguarding peace.

Differences in religious beliefs, practices, and worldviews often lead to misunderstandings, distrust, and even violence. However, when approached with respect, open-mindedness, and a genuine desire for dialogue, interfaith communication has the potential to transcend these divides and pave the way for peaceful coexistence. This process enables religious communities to identify shared values, ethics, and aspirations while fostering an environment of mutual respect, empathy, and understanding.

This concept note introduces the HWPL International Religious Peace Academy (IRPA), a platform designed to explore the essence of religious teachings through lectures by esteemed religious leaders. It highlights the potential for different religious communities to come together harmoniously, transcend differences, and work towards a shared vision of peace and well-being.



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2. HWPL International Religious Peace Academy (IRPA)

The international peace organization HWPL has consistently emphasized multilateral cooperation among governments, international organizations, and civil society as essential for achieving global peace. Since 2014, HWPL has operated the HWPL World Alliance of Religions' Peace (WARP) Office globally, promoting interfaith understanding, preventing conflicts arising from religion, and exploring the role of religion in peace. Initiatives include:

- **Comparative Scriptural Discussions:** Forums for religious leaders to compare and discuss religious texts.
- **Religious Peace Youth Camps:** Programs fostering respect and understanding among youth from diverse religious backgrounds.
- **Solidarity of Religions' Peace Committee:** A committee for global religious leaders to gather and deliver messages of unity and peace.

To align with the principles outlined in UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/53/243, 1999) and Article 10 of HWPL's Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War (DPCW), which emphasizes spreading a culture of peace through education, HWPL launched IRPA. This initiative also supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 16, promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions.

HWPL's International Religious Peace Academy (IRPA) aims to deepen religious exchange and understanding beyond a basic comprehension of various religious scriptures. Through this initiative, HWPL invites prominent religious leaders from diverse faiths to deliver lectures at the IRPA. These lectures serve as a platform for comparative study, promoting a culture of peace and interfaith unity.

3. Target Audience and Objectives

The IRPA lecture series will invite over 1,500 religious leaders representing various faiths worldwide. By leveraging expertise in planning and conducting online and offline seminars, the lectures will reach diverse and international audiences.

Notably, the upcoming IRPA will also invite civic leaders of society and heads of organizations for interfaith peace. By bringing together religious and civic leaders, the aim is to enhance mutual understanding of diverse religions and design a sustainable culture of peace through the solidarity of these leaders.



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IRPA Objectives:

- 1. Facilitating Religious and Cultural Exchange:** Promote understanding of diverse religious and cultural perspectives through scriptural studies.
- 2. Providing Educational Opportunities:** Enable religious leaders to gain a deeper understanding of scriptures from other religions, expanding interfaith dialogue.
- 3. Addressing Misconceptions:** Overcome misunderstandings and groundless accusations that lead to religious violence and extremism by fostering efforts to understand essential teachings.

4. Schedule and Topics

The lecture series will consist of three sessions held on consecutive Saturdays in January 2025 (11th, 18th, and 25th). Each day will feature three sessions at 9:00 AM, 2:00 PM, and 9:00 PM (UTC).

Each lecture will last 15 minutes and will be pre-recorded to ensure high-quality content.

Dates	Topics	Note
11 January 2025	About the Beginning of Man	15 min-long lectures by representatives of 5 religions
18 January 2025	About Holy and Unholy Trees, and their Fruits in Scriptures	
25 January 2025	About Forgiveness of Sin	

The topics will address fundamental questions that have intrigued humanity for generations, such as the origin of humankind and the resolution of sin. These topics are not mere historical narratives but existential inquiries that resonate universally, transcending cultural boundaries. By exploring these profound subjects, IRPA aims to foster deeper understanding and exchange among religions.

5. Conclusion

The HWPL IRPA lecture series aims to promote peace and harmony among global religious communities through in-depth studies of diverse religious scriptures. The active participation of religious leaders worldwide will contribute significantly to the success of this peace initiative. As faith is grounded in the teachings of religious scriptures, these texts hold the answers to building a peaceful world and ensuring humanity's prosperity. IRPA will continue to explore the critical role of religious leaders in leading society toward global harmony based on deep, mutual understanding.