



The 4th International Religious Peace Academy (IRPA)

Today's international community faces new questions amid rapid global change. War and conflict are no longer confined to particular regions; they have become shared global challenges. In many cases, religious identities and values are closely intertwined with these tensions. The way religious leaders understand and interpret the world can significantly shape people's perceptions and attitudes—serving either to ease conflict or to intensify division. This reality shows that the education of religious leaders goes beyond theological learning; it can have a meaningful impact on international society and peace.

At the same time, hatred and extremism spreading both online and offline increasingly distort religious symbols and narratives, deepening social division. In an environment where emotional reactions and fragmented information prevail, the original values of religion are easily misunderstood. To address this challenge, it is essential to develop an accurate understanding of religious scriptures and to approach them with respect for their context and perspective. A deeper understanding of scripture provides an important foundation for preventing extremism and fostering a culture of mutual respect.

This awareness ultimately leads to one central question:

“How accurately do we understand one another's religions?”



When we come to understand each other more accurately, religion can function not as a source of conflict, but as a language of coexistence and cooperation. In such a context, trust between communities can naturally grow.

The International Religious Peace Academy (IRPA) was established as a practical response to this question. IRPA is not simply a platform for information exchange. It is designed as a program in which each religious tradition presents its own scriptures and shares its own interpretive perspective. Through direct engagement with scriptural teachings—rather than debate or comparison—participants gain a more balanced and respectful understanding of other faiths. This process contributes to building a foundation for coexistence in a pluralistic society.

The 4th International Religious Peace Academy (IRPA) 2026 has been organized in this spirit, focusing on themes that are both central within various religious traditions and meaningful to the broader public. The program will be held in three sessions on **February 28, March 21, and March 28, 2026.**

The first lecture will examine **War and Peace in Scripture**, exploring how different religious traditions have understood the reality of conflict and what visions of peace they have articulated within their sacred texts.

The second lecture will focus on **Fire**, considering how fire has been understood within various religious scriptures as carrying diverse theological and symbolic meanings, such as judgment, purification, wisdom, and life.



The third lecture will address **the Dwelling Place of God**, reflecting on how sacred space has been understood and expressed within the scriptures of different religious traditions.

Each lecture is structured not as a comparative debate, but as an opportunity for each tradition to articulate its understanding based on its own scriptures. Through this approach, participants are encouraged to view other religions with greater accuracy and respect, fostering trust within and between communities.

IRPA seeks to cultivate understanding through learning rather than persuasion. The experience of accurately engaging with religious traditions offers a meaningful way to prevent future conflict and to expand the possibilities of coexistence.

In an era in which people of diverse faiths must live together, IRPA serves as a space for building the foundations of peaceful coexistence. By sharing the wisdom found in scripture and deepening mutual understanding, it invites participants to explore pathways toward a more peaceful future.

That is the vision of the 4th International Religious Peace Academy (IRPA).