

Tolerance

— In the United Arab Emirates



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
BAKU



سفارة
الإمارات العربية المتحدة
بأكو

What is Tolerance?

Tolerance is harmony in difference. It is not only a moral duty, it is also a political and legal obligation.

Tolerance is the virtue that makes peace possible and contributes to the replacement of the culture of war by a culture of peace.

Tolerance is not concession, condescension or indulgence. Tolerance is, above all, recognizing the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others.

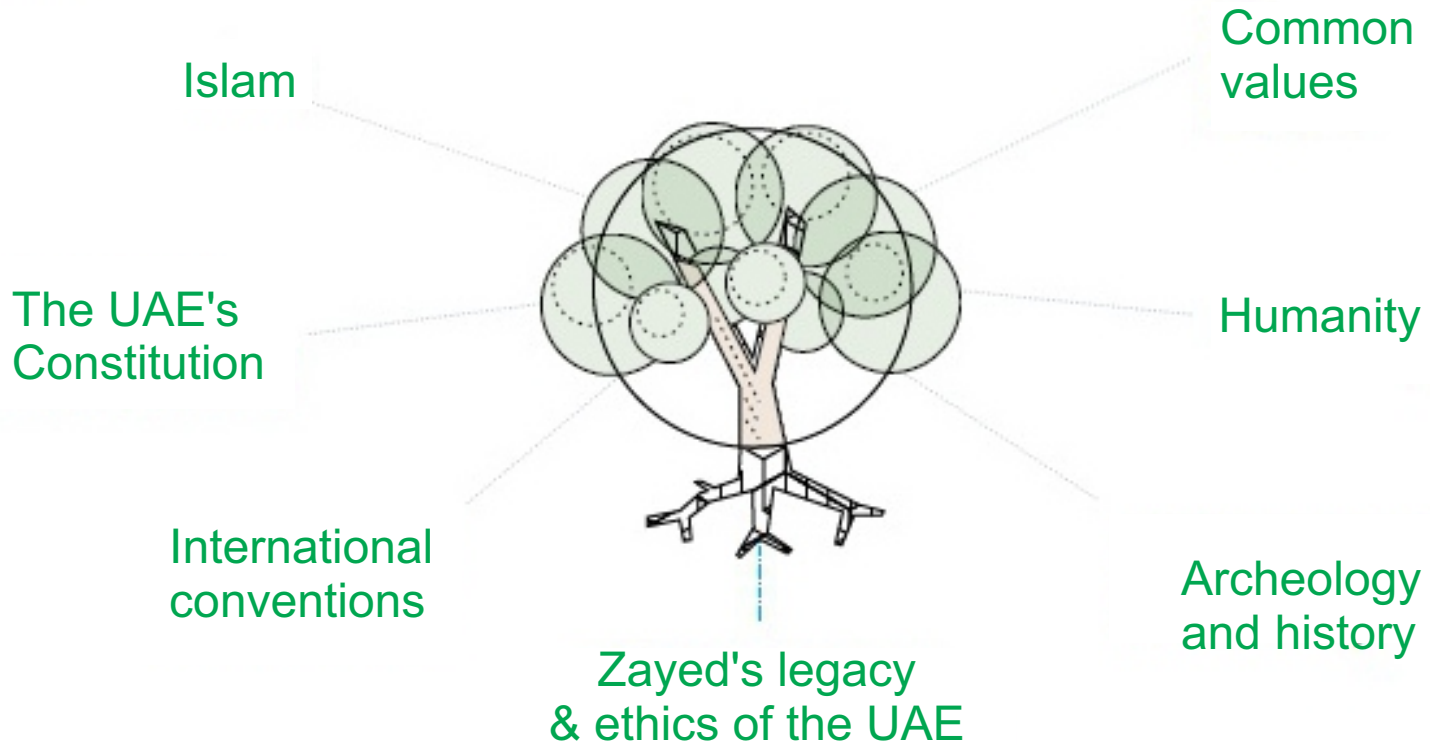
The practice of tolerance does not mean abandonment or weakening of one's convictions. It means that one is free to adhere to one's own convictions and accept that others adhere to theirs.



عام التسامح
YEAR OF TOLERANCE

Seven Pillars of the National Tolerance Program

Introduced in 2016



Cultural Cornerstone

Enshrined in the legacy of the nation's Founding Father Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan the UAE embraces the concept of "The Middle Way" (Moderation) in Islam, inspired by genuine Arabian traditions and cultural heritage. Tolerance is understood as a bedrock of both the nation's history, and contemporary social fabric.



- Instilling values of tolerance carries on Sheikh Zayed's legacy and teachings. It is one of the most important attributes that we can impact on our people and the global community to ensure the safety, stability and happiness of peoples across the world.

H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan



Lived Experience

**- The UAE is a nation of tolerance,
peace, cultural diversity, and
coexistence.**

H.H. Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

A true cosmopolitan center, the UAE is in a unique position to define lived tolerance both in the region and beyond with over 200 nationalities living peacefully and prosperously side by side.



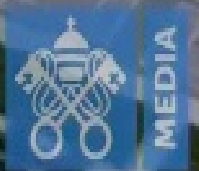
Abrahamic Accords Peace Agreement: Treaty of Peace, Diplomatic Relations and Full Normalization between the United Arab Emirates and Israel



The Israel-United Arab Emirates normalization agreement was agreed to by Israel, the UAE and Bahrain on August 13th, 2020. The UAE became the third Arab country, after Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994) to formally normalize its relationship with Israel.

The visit of Pope Francis

The key event of the Year of Tolerance, the unprecedented Papal visit embodied the UAE's steadfast belief in the value of interfaith dialogue as a means to peace, prosperity and mutual understanding.



A photograph of Pope Francis, wearing his white papal cassock and zucchetto, shaking hands with a man in traditional white Arab attire (thobe and ghutra). A third man in clerical clothing stands in the background. The scene is set indoors with wooden paneling.

The visit of
Pope Francis

— This Visit to the United Arab Emirates belongs to the "surprises" of God. So let us praise Him and His providence, and pray that the seeds sown may bring forth fruits of peace.

Pope Francis

The Human Fraternity Document

On Feb. 4th in a show of unity, tolerance and peaceful co-existence Pope Francis, head of the Catholic Church, and Sheikh Ahmed Al Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al Azhar signed the Human Fraternity Document at the Founder's Memorial in Abu Dhabi. The event took place in the presence of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and called on people across the globe to unite to bring about inter-faith harmony and spread a vital message of peace. Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al Azhar pledged to convey this document to their authorities, influential leaders and persons of religion all over the world.

[At the World Government Summit H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan announced that the Human Fraternity Document will be a part of the educational curriculum in schools and universities in the UAE in 2020.](#)



The Human Fraternity Document

The Human Fraternity
document pledges to
uphold the following
principles:

1/2

- The firm conviction that authentic teachings of religions invite us to remain rooted in the values of peace; to defend the values of mutual understanding, human fraternity and harmonious coexistence.
- Freedom is a right of every person: each individual enjoys the freedom of belief, thought, expression and action.
- Justice based on mercy is the path to follow in order to achieve a dignified life to which every human being has a right.
- Dialogue, understanding and the widespread promotion of a culture of tolerance, acceptance of others and of living together peacefully would contribute significantly to reducing many economic, social, political and environmental problems.
- Dialogue among believers means coming together in the vast space of spiritual, human and shared social values and, from here, transmitting the highest moral virtues that religions aim for.
- The protection of places of worship – synagogues, churches and mosques – is a duty guaranteed by religions, human values, laws and international agreements.
- Terrorism is deplorable and threatens the security of people, be they in the East or the West, the North or the South, and disseminates panic, terror and pessimism, but this is not due to religion, even when terrorists instrumentalize it. It is due, rather, to an accumulation of incorrect interpretations of religious texts and to policies linked to hunger, poverty, injustice, oppression and pride.

The Human Fraternity Document

The Human Fraternity
document pledges to
uphold the following
principles:

2/2

- The concept of citizenship is based on the equality of rights and duties, under which all enjoy justice. It is therefore crucial to establish in our societies the concept of full citizenship and reject the discriminatory use of the term minorities which engenders feelings of isolation and inferiority.
- Good relations between East and West are indisputably necessary for both. They must not be neglected, so that each can be enriched by the other's culture through fruitful exchange and dialogue.
- It is an essential requirement to recognize the right of women to education and employment, and to recognize their freedom to exercise their own political rights. Moreover, efforts must be made to free women from historical and social conditioning that runs contrary to the principles of their faith and dignity.
- The protection of the fundamental rights of children to grow up in a family environment, to receive nutrition, education and support, are duties of the family and society. Such duties must be guaranteed and protected so that they are not overlooked or denied to any child in any part of the world.
- The protection of the rights of the elderly, the weak, the disabled, and the oppressed is a religious and social obligation that must be guaranteed and defended through strict legislation and the implementation of the relevant international agreements.



— We have to stand by these principles and this historical declaration is a goal for brotherhood, peace and fraternity among all believers and non-believers, between all those who have goodwill. Peace is not a condition for believers only, it is for all people.

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan

H. H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Government Summit

— This peace will fulfill responsibilities of religious leaders and politicians, therefore all of us should be gracious enough to assume our responsibilities to put an end to conflict and wars - we must try hard to do this.

H. H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan said Pope Francis's meeting with Dr Ahmed Al Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Islam's most prestigious seat of learning, has opened a new page in the history of religious dialogue.

"We may not succeed, but we will most definitely try with goodwill to learn from the mistakes of history."

"Peace is difficult to achieve, but it is not impossible."

"When we read in history, those who have made war are either politicians or religious leaders."

"This is why we wanted to achieve this peace."



Abrahamic House Inter-faith Museum

— Prophet Abraham is not only revered in Islam but he is also prayed by masses in Judaism and Christianity. The decision of constructing an Abrahamic House in Abu Dhabi sends a strong message to the world about the UAE's tolerant culture, coexistence and religious freedom for all faiths who reside in the UAE.

Sheikh Ahmad Al Qubaisi, prominent religious scholar in Dubai



Inspired by the Declaration of Human Fraternity the Abrahamic Family House will be an inter faith complex of worship inclusive of a Mosque, Church and Synagogue.

Abrahamic House Inter-faith Museum





The Global Conference on Human Fraternity

— You leaders have assembled here as an extraordinary diverse international group of brothers and sisters. You represent the difference and diversity that exemplifies humanity.

H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan

The two-day event held Feb. 3rd-4th 2019 in Abu Dhabi at the Emirates Palace was attended by more than 700 spiritual leaders representing all religions of the world with an aim to foster tolerance and inter-faith dialogue.

The Special Olympics World Summer Games

This internationally acclaimed multi-sport event for athletes of determination will be held in Abu Dhabi, March 14th–21st.



International
Day of Tolerance

Tolerance is an act of humanity, which we must nurture and enact each in our own lives every day, to rejoice in the diversity that makes us strong and the values that bring us together.

— UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay

In 1996 the UN General Assembly invited UN Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on November 16th. This year the UAE along with all other UN Member States will celebrate the 24th International Day of Tolerance.

Past Tolerance Initiatives launched in the UAE

Year			
2018	2018	2018	2017
Launch of the first Hindu Temple in the UAE	Visa Amnesty for non-nationals and special visa amnesty for individuals from war-torn countries	Mosul Restoration Project	Corporate Social Responsibility Index
2017	2017	2017	2016
Tolerance bridge	Humanitarian and Development Assistance Leadership	International Institute for Tolerance and the annual Tolerance Awards	Minister of Tolerance
2016	2015	2015	2010
National Tolerance Program	Anti-discrimination / Anti-hatred law	Centers for countering extremism	Sir Bani Yas Christian Monastery Archeological Site



Humanitarian and Development Assistance Leadership

In 2017 UAE's humanitarian and development assistance assisted 147 countries and was named the world's largest donor of development assistance in proportion to gross national income for the 5th year in a row.



Francophonie in the UAE

In October 2018 the UAE was admitted as an associate member to La Francophonie, an international organization representing 88 countries. The organization is concerned with cultural diversity, tolerance, universal human rights, international relations and the promotion of francophone culture.

A French curriculum will be introduced into the public education system by 2019 with 70 teaching contracts currently in place. The program will complement the already robust French cultural influence in the UAE of institutions such as the Louvre International Museum Abu Dhabi, the Sorbonne University in Abu Dhabi and the Alliance Francais.



Al Nuri Mosque

Mosul Restoration Project

The UAE has pledged to finance a \$ 50.4 million (Dh185 million) restoration project to rebuild Mosul's historic 800-year-old Al Nuri Great Mosque and Al Hadba minaret. The mosque and minaret were destroyed by ISIS in 2017. The UAE plans to create 1,000 jobs for young Iraqi graduates from Mosul and Baghdad during the five-year reconstruction project, ensuring they become a key fixture in the rebuilding of their city.



Mosul Churches Restoration Project

Her Excellency Noura Al Kaabi the Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development announced that the UAE was helping restore two churches in Mosul, Iraq that were destroyed by ISIS.

Rebuilding these churches represents a profound act of solidarity on the part of the UAE with Iraq's beleaguered Christian community, and a demonstration of the triumph of peace over the terror that ravaged Iraq just a few years ago.



Sir Bani Yas Christian Monastery

The remains of a 1400-year-old Christian monastery, church and pilgrims compound - the only known pre-Islamic Christian site in the country - were discovered and excavated in 1992 under the patronage of Sheikh Zayed, on Sir Bani Yas Island in Abu Dhabi. In accordance with the UAE's long standing embrace of religious tolerance and respect for heritage and culture the archeological site was opened to the public by Tourism Development and Investment Company (TDIC) in 2010.

"Relics unearthed on Sir Bani Yas Island in Abu Dhabi prove that the UAE has been an incubator of civilizations. "

Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi



Tolerance Bridge

In November 2017, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid named the pedestrian bridge over the Dubai Canal as the Tolerance Bridge. The announcement was made on the 22nd International Day of Tolerance.



Minister of Tolerance



The post of the Minister of State for Tolerance was first introduced in 2016 when Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, announced structural changes to the 12th Cabinet, reinforcing the UAE's commitment to eradicate ideological, cultural and religious bigotry in our society. H.E. Sheikha Lubna Khalid Al Qasimi was the first the Minister of State for Tolerance.

In 2017 H.E. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan was appointed as Cabinet member and Minister of Tolerance.

- Leaders lead best when they empower their people, when they raise everyone up. It's not about taking charge of others. It's about taking responsibility for one another. That's how Bedouins survived, that's how communities grow. That's what we teach our children today.

H.H. Sheikha Maryam bint Mohamed bin Zayed

Anti-discrimination / Anti-hatred Federal law

In July 2015, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan issued Federal Decree Law No.2 of 2015 on Combating Discrimination and Hatred, which aims to protect everyone in the UAE and thus bring the concept of social security to a new level.

The law is intended to provide a solid legislative ground for the environment of tolerance, co-existence and acceptance. It aims to fight discrimination against individuals or groups based on religion, caste, doctrine, race, color or ethnic origin.



Centers for Countering extremism



International Institute for Tolerance 2017

Aiming to promote the culture of tolerance regionally and globally, the UAE Government of Dubai has launched the International Institute for Tolerance. The step seeks to provide solutions to the challenges of extremism and promote the UAE as a role model for tolerance.



Sawab Center 2015

In July 2015, the UAE and the United States of America co-founded Sawab. (Sawab means the right path in Arabic.) It is an online engagement initiative, in support of the global coalition against extremism. Sawab seeks to give a voice to the millions of Muslims and others around the world who stand united against terrorism and the religious misinterpretations that are being propagated by them.



Hedayah 2012

In December 2012, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, launched Hedayah (Arabic for guidance) the new name of the International Center for Excellence in countering violent extremism, in Abu Dhabi.

— Terrorism is a global phenomenon that transcends borders, cultures and religions. Its violence is complex and interconnected, and requires international collaboration to confront it - beyond military operations. We must address the roots and causes of extremism, prevent the recruitment of misled youth and counter extremist ideology. This is instrumental in creating a secure and stable international community that allows tolerance, dialogue and coexistence to prosper.

H.H. Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan





Kalima Project for Translation & The Catholic University of Milan



In 2017 Kalima Project for Translation, an initiative of Abu Dhabi Culture and Tourism, participated in the 3rd International Festival on Arabic Language and Culture held at the Catholic University of Milan around the theme of, "Arabs and Europe: Interwoven Languages and Cultures." At the festival Kalima donated 1,000 ancient and modern history, economics, philosophy, politics, geography, arts and literature, modern science and children's books translated into Arabic from 13 different languages.

In 2018 around this contribution now known as the "Kalima books", the Catholic University of Milan dedicated a part of its library to Arabic language titles. This special section of the library was announced at a seminar titled "The Role of the Arab Cultural Institution and its Scholars" which was attended by the Consul General of the United Arab Emirates, H.E. Abdullah Hassan Al Shamsi, and Mario Gatti, Director of the Catholic University of Milan, in addition to 700 students.

Zayed International Fund for Co-existence

Formed by order of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and launched on Feb. 6th by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum the Zayed International Fund for Co-existence will financially support initiatives which aim to implement aspects of the Human Fraternity Document.

- The development of school syllabuses that aim to instill values of human fraternity among pupils.
- Postgraduate scholarships for students who plan to conduct further research on the principles of in the Human Fraternity Document.
- Teacher training courses to promote tolerance, mutual understanding and acceptance in schools.
- Annual reports and books about the the principles of in the Human Fraternity Document.



— Tolerance is no catchphrase, but a quality we must cherish and practice. It must be woven into the fabric of our society to safeguard our future and maintain the progress we have made. There can be no bright future for the Middle East without an intellectual reconstruction that re-establishes the values of ideological openness, diversity, and acceptance of others' viewpoints, whether intellectual, cultural, or religious.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum



The UAE Embassy in Baku in cooperation with Emirati and Azerbaijani organizations continuously contributes to tolerance



more at

<http://www.tolerance.gov.ae/>

