

Academic Trends in Higher Education for Tolerance

University of Malta, Valetta Campus
9th and 10th of October 2019



Under the Patronage of



H.E. Dr. George Vella

President of Malta

In Collaboration with



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

Valetta Campus, Malta

Global Council for Tolerance and Peace



Organizes
1st Academic Symposium

Academic Trends in Higher Education for Tolerance



Global council for Tolerance and Peace

The Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP), an international platform dedicated for tolerance and spreading peace and noble human objectives, has been declared in November 2017 in Valetta, Malta, relies on democratic principles and takes from the International Law and Covenants its own work system. Its main mission is to work on spreading the culture of tolerance and peace in order to address the issues of contemporary world peace, through its different components such as the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP) and the General Assembly. GCTP believes that by joining forces, it can promote tolerance, dialogue, justice, human rights and peace, strengthen the human capacity in sustainable development, contribute to policy development, engage stakeholders in policies and educational system, empower women and youth, and support national and international research.

Opening Session



H.E. Dr. George Vella

President of Malta



H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Jarwan

President of GCTP



Prof. Alfred J. Vella

Rector of University of Malta

Welcome!!

First Academic Symposium on Tolerance

“ We are living today in multicultural world, surrounded by people from different backgrounds, cultures and religions. Establishing tolerance and peace has become very crucial and important. Without these qualities, Social Stability and communal harmony are threatened; and acceptance of each other remains elusive.

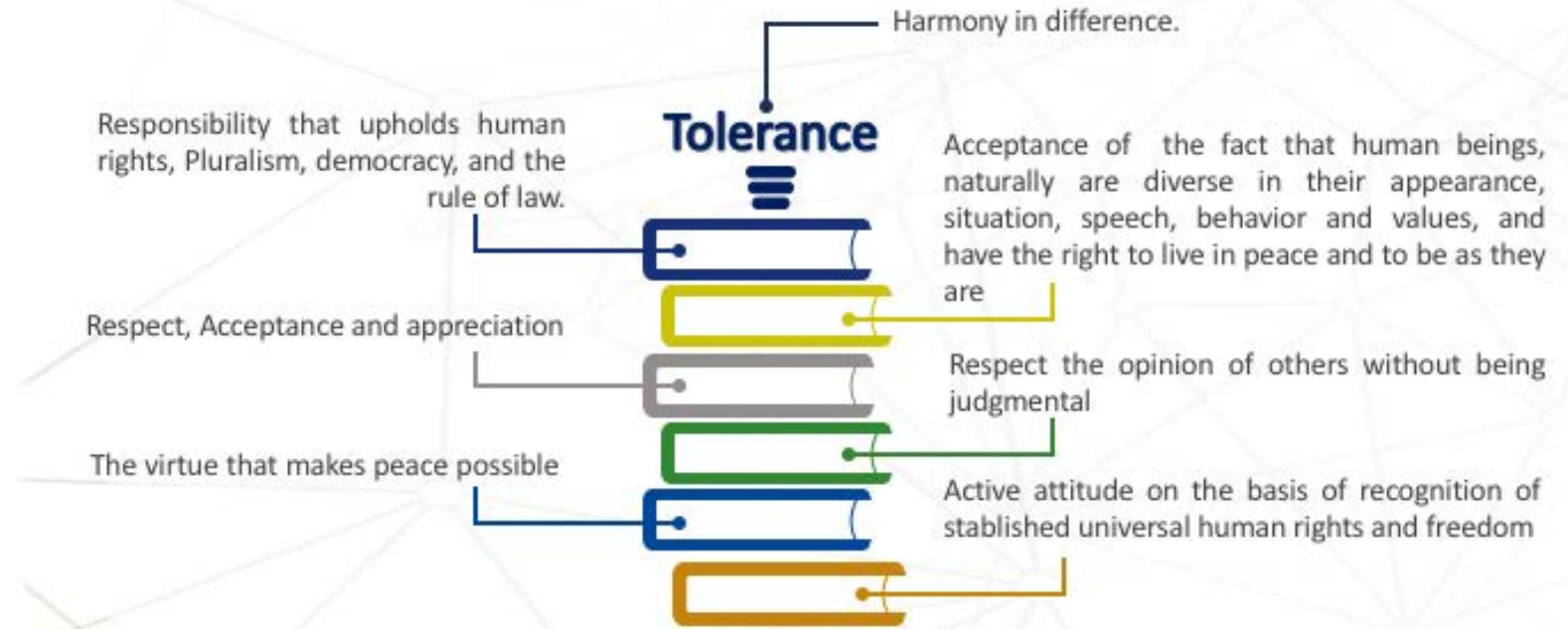
This Symposium will help universities to prepare changemakers, leaders, entrepreneurs, problem solvers, critical thinkers, and decision makers, ready to face and respond to the challenges of the multi-cultural present. Teaching Tolerance, as new discipline in higher education becomes vital to nurture and equip graduates with the needed knowledge and skills meeting the community requirements in order to live together

”

GCTP

October 2019

Defining Tolerance

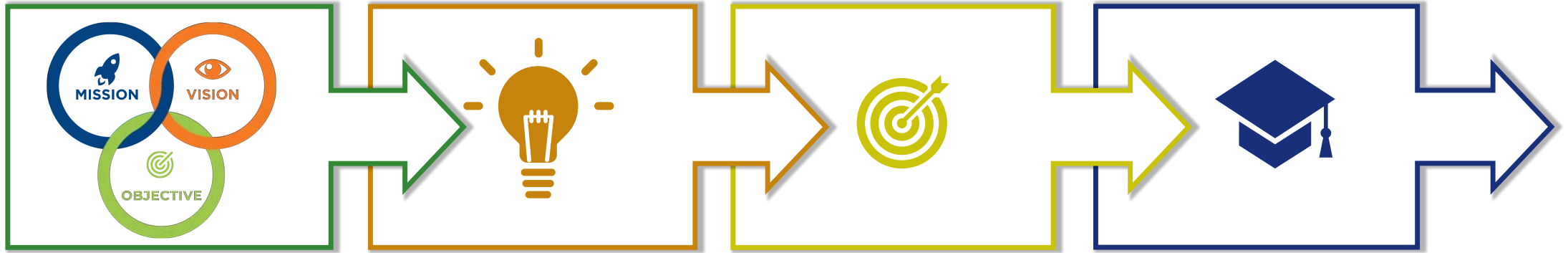


Ref: UNESCO Declaration of Tolerance 1995

Tolerance is fostered by :



New Program in Tolerance



1st

Vision, Mission, Objectives

3rd

Learning Outcomes

2nd

Knowledge Areas

4th

Career Opportunities



Session I

Vision, Mission and Objectives

Postgraduate Programs in Tolerance

Session I



The first session, the participants will discuss:

Master Program in Tolerance:

- Mission and vision of Master program in tolerance
- Objectives of Master Program in tolerance
- Requirements of Master Program in Tolerance

Doctoral Program in Tolerance:

- Mission and vision of Doctoral Program in Tolerance
- Objectives of Doctoral Program in Tolerance
- Requirements for Doctoral Program in Tolerance

Accreditation issues



Moderated by Tatsushi Arai
Professor

Kent State University

Higher Education meeting the society needs



Abdullah Dahlan
University of Business
and Technology

Higher education institutions are considered as significant economic engines and spaces for innovation and creativity. We prepare future leaders, entrepreneurs, change-makers; we educate and assist students to better serve their society.

Higher education institutions, as an engine of growth for the economy, and as an essential gateway to all important careers and leadership positions in our society ; should make a positive impact on the economy and the society, by enhancing their integrated and comprehensive programs, developing sustainability-oriented departments and centers, communicating with society through advertising, and developing new way of thinking and learning about integrated, systemic solutions to economic, social and environmental challenges.

University of Business and Technology (UBT) is a young, dynamic and progressive university, located in Jeddah Saudi Arabia, founded in 2000 with an aim to meet the market needs “Education for Job Opportunities”

Education, Research and Community service are the main principles which have guided the establishment of any university and specially UBT. Part of our task is to help students understand the problems of society and recognize the ethical issues they will face. knowledge is not enough, discoveries, and community engagement are very essential in our students learning journey.

In my presentation, I will present the experience of UBT in developing programs meeting the society needs and graduating students valuing diversity, peace, tolerance and society needs.

Dr. Abdullah Dahlan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, University of Business & Technology (UBT) in Jeddah- KSA.

He has more than 50 years of experience in education and investment in education.

He was Board Member of the Al Shoura Consultative Council , Faculty member in the college of Economics& Administration in King Abdulaziz University and Board Member at the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He was also the President of the center of Human Rights at work- Geneva and Board Member of the International Labour Organization, Former Board member of Saudi Airlines. Dr. Dahlan served as the Chairman of the Saudi-Egyptian Business Council- Saudi Side and was active Board Member at King Fahad National Library.

He is the Vice Chairman of the Arab-Swiss Chamber and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al Bilad Press Foundation and Economist writer in OKAZ Newspaper.

TOLERANCE

Deep Dialogue: Learning to Flourish Together



Scherto Gill
GHFP Research
Institute

Our world is characterized by diversity and interdependence. These are the virtues of healthy societies and harmonious ecosystems through which our world has flourished for millennia. However, in our current times the presence of difference can often engender dynamics of tension and anxiety. When people have divergent needs and interests, together with varying degrees of access to resources, opportunities and power, such dynamics can easily divide people and communities. The divisiveness leads to antagonistic relationships, and ultimately dehumanization. Dehumanization has been at the root of much institutionalized discrimination, inequality and injustice, resulting in poverty, exploitation, war, and the violent displacement of communities. Struggles and discords can render our world hostile. How can we transcend these struggles and reach a state of beyond tolerance through acceptance and compassion? This requires a deep shift in human consciousness from fear and separation towards a rediscovery of the inherent harmony that is present within the wholeness of our own being, in our human relationships and also in the natural world. For such a shift of human consciousness to happen, education can play a most important part, especially through higher education and research. I propose that for education to contribute to the above, it must start with a vision that the mission of education is to enable humans to flourish together. Co-flourishing requires most fundamentally our capacities to (1) self-identify as human persons rather than identity labels which are necessarily antagonistic, (2) be open to and respect the multitude of differences in the other, and (3) understand well-being as a relational concept that is beyond self-serving. These capacities can only be cultivated through embrace deep dialogue in higher education. Programs in Tolerance must include dialogue theories and practices, and are themselves dialogic. Students learn to experience human relationships as both a condition and the fruit of dialogue. In learning dialogically, students learn to develop ethical relationships with each other, and within the communities, and in learning about dialogue and learning to dialogue, students can likewise promote tolerance to the wider societies.

Dr Scherto Gill is a Senior Fellow and Secretary General at the GHFP (Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace) Research Institute. She is an Associate Lecturer and Research Fellow at the Centre for International Education, University of Sussex. Dr Gill's research interests center on understanding peace, human well-being and flourishing as holistic and dynamic processes. The key concepts she is developing include human-centred education, positive peace, deep dialogue, holistic well-being, narrative pedagogy, dialogic approach to education as peace. Through her research and her work at the GHFP Research Institute, she has been actively exploring ways to apply such understanding in educational innovation, peacebuilding, global governance, and social transformation. Dr Gill supervises Master's and Doctoral theses at the University of Sussex. She also lectures on philosophy of social research, intercultural learning and dialogue, and theories and practices of ethical education. She is a prolific author and has published numerous books and articles on peace, dialogue and education.

TOLERANCE

Global Tolerance as Vision, Mutual Respect Towards Differences and Conscientization Towards Similarities in All As Mission, and Perpetual Learning To Be Man Through Universal Peace Education As Objectives for Programs in Tolerance



Surya Nath Prasad Bharat
Peace Education: An
International Journal

A very few exceptional persons in every society have been tolerant in all the times and at all the places. In the past, among them, Jesus Christ, Prophet Muhammad, Buddha and Saint Francis of Assisi were the highest type of exemplary tolerant personalities. They loved even their enemies. But the world needs all the people to be tolerant everywhere for human survival in the age of intolerance

Today there is utterly urgent demand of global tolerance because peoples extremely greater in need of tolerance. Ignorance about the similar common basic needs and common feelings in all the peoples of the world and their denial of fulfillment of these common human basic needs are the fundamental reasons for differences in them leading to intolerance not only towards others, but they are intolerant towards themselves also. However, tolerance education is a remedial education. No doubt, it will remove the symptom of intolerance, but cannot remove its cause that is ignorance about the self and its integral manifestation.

Therefore there is a great need for introduction and implementation of perpetual life-long universal peace education everywhere in the courses of schools, colleges and universities - this is core of tolerance education – for integral manifestation of universally inherent five elements, viz. body, vitality, mind, intellect and spirit in every man and woman everywhere without any discrimination enabling them to be man (human) for sustainable mutual tolerance everywhere. Thus tolerance is the by-product like justice, peace, democracy and other similar values of universal peace education.

Prof. Surya Nath Prasad was born in 1942 in India. He is M.A. M.Ed., M. Phil (Non-Violence and Peace Studies) and Ph.D. in Education. He is recipient of Honorary Doctorate in Peace Education, Education, D.Sc. and D.Litt.in Peace Education. He is an Associate Professor Emeritus in Education and has taught in India for three decades. He is a Former Visiting Professor of Peace Studies in Kyung Hee University, Korea. He is Executive Vice President of IAEWP. He was a Consultant to the UNESCO Chair in Education for the Mauritius State Institute of Education. He is Founder and Editor, *Peace Education Journal*. He is a Member, Editorial Board of *Peace and Conflict Review*. His Education for Tolerance and Peace, Education for Environment and Peace, and Development of Peace Education in India are published by Lund University, Sweden; distributed by US Department of Education and available in National Library of Australia. He participated in more than 65 national and international peace conferences. He was Organizing Chairman of Second World Congress of IAEWP held in India in 1978.. He has been Guest Speaker in international peace conferences held in Republic of Korea, Croatia, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Nepal, Philippines, Malaysia and Kazakhstan. He is a Co-initiator of the Global Initiative for Supporting the Second Renaissance Movement through the Global Campaign for Restoring Morality and Humanity proposed by Nobel Laureate Dr. Herbert C. Brown and initiated by Prof. Young Seek Choue, Founder & Chancellor, Kyung Hee University System, Korea. He is a supporter and participant in the Campaign to promote an International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers initiated by 17 Nobel Peace Laureates under the leadership of Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias, President of Costa Rica. He is a recipient of peace awards for his service to the cause of peace and peace education

TOLERANCE

Teaching RESPECT – this is the most important thing to learn tolerance.



Urszula Cioleszyńska
Polish Network of Women
Entrepreneurship
Ambassadors

The aim of my speech is to emphasize the importance of introducing into the academic curricula the aspects of emotional intelligence, empathy and respect towards the other – other people, societies and nations; the importance of teaching not only disciplinary knowledge and skills, but also meta-knowledge and meta-skills aiming at developing such human qualities as feeling for the other, recognizing the other, accepting their otherness and tolerating it as part of the world of diverse natures. This move is indispensable if we are to enjoy peace and understanding in this global village we live in.

Lack of respect and tolerance is very dangerous for the entire humanity – always was and always will be. I came from Poland and as a person of Polish origin, I can recall many conflicts originating from lack of knowledge, fear and lack of tolerance that ended up in wars, fights and destruction. Unfortunately, contemporary people seem to have forgotten about it all and far-right movements rise up, not only in Poland. But it is not only the matter of remembering; it is most of all the matter of education.

Poland has made a great economic and social progress since the accession to the European Union, but we face other problems, as I believe other countries do, too. Without proper education focused on respect and tolerance, we may lose all our achievements, which will cost us a lot.

New wave of education supported by advanced technologies is a great chance for us all. And this is academic centers that are particularly responsible for the development and advancement in education; it is us – scholars, activists or entrepreneurs who must not escape that responsibility. Therefore, Social Movement RESPECT was established in my country.

Urszula is a staunch supporter of the idea that people should be truly open to the other and committed to providing a friendly, safe and welcoming environment, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity or religion. Her personal values are aligned with the goals of the movement, which is a grassroots effort aimed to partner with organisations who celebrate cultural diversity and promote a uniform code of respectful conduct towards everyone at work, at home, at play – simply, everywhere.

Appointed by the European Commission in 2009 as the Ambassador of the European Network of Women Entrepreneurship, Urszula was inspired to continue this project in Poland by founding and organizing the Polish Network of Women Entrepreneurship Ambassadors to promote and support women entrepreneurs from across the world.

She is an alumnus of U.S. Department of State International Visitor Leadership Program, and an Ambassador of Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization (WED) in Poland.

Urszula graduated from Wroclaw University of Economics in Poland. She enjoyed a successful career in public administration and international corporations prior to starting her own business. Her Economic Promotion Agency specializes in providing advisory services to new and existing businesses in Poland by assisting them in acquiring funding through the European Union. As an entrepreneur, she saw firsthand the need for women to participate fully in order to gain recognition and establish a place for themselves. She is very passionate about helping women with networking, both through their business and personal endeavors and believes membership plays a critical role in the future of an individual as well as a business. To that end, she is a mentor to many. She has a background in consulting, fundraising, sales, business start-ups, and non-profit organizations. She has been a speaker at several international conferences, a trainer, a moderator, and conducted numerous workshops.

TOLERANCE

Promotion of Tolerance in Higher Education



Hassan Diab

American University of
Beirut

Education goes beyond career development to that of students' mental capacities, including their ability to distinguish facts from opinions, be creative and critical, appreciate diversity, believe in equality, and embrace others. Educational curricula play a pivotal role in forming students' intellectual, human and moral dimensions, as well as prevent the danger resulting from rejecting people belonging to a different religion, race, color, or social status.

During my term (2011-2014) as Minister of Education and Higher Education, I had several contributions to promote tolerance in educational curricula. This spanned from a decree, for the first time in Lebanese history, which required compulsory "social service" from all high school students in the public and private sectors. It also raised student awareness on the importance of relations among Lebanese; building student personalities that reflect socially-responsible behavior; equipping them with methods to contemplate humanitarian problems and find suitable solutions; developing positive attitude towards work; respecting people's rights; and encouraging students to volunteer in social service in light of its benefits on their identity as citizens and human beings. I also supported partnerships with several organizations to work in sync with public schools on developing the three dimensions of citizenship: national belonging, civic participation and human partnership, and "citizenship education for religious diversity". This led to the launching of the "National Charter on Religious Diversity and Inclusive Citizenship Education" which established a framework for approaching citizenship in its different dimensions. Furthermore, upon returning to my position as VP for Regional External Programs at AUB, I launched a Cultural Diplomacy professional certificate to provide practitioners with an in-depth understanding of the theory and practice of international relations within the contemporary interdependent world.

Hassan B. Diab received his B.Sc. (with Honors) in Communications Engineering, M.Sc. (with Distinction) in Systems Engineering, and Ph.D. in Computer Engineering. He joined the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 1985. He is a registered Chartered Engineer in the Engineering Council, UK, and a registered Chartered Professional Engineer in the National Professional Engineers Register, Australia. He is a Professor of Computer Engineering at the Maroun Semaan Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, AUB, with over 34 years of professional experience including 15 years of executive administration with almost three years as Minister of Education & Higher Education. With over 150 publications in internationally refereed journals and conferences, he supervised/co-supervised around 80 research projects and led close to 30 research projects sponsored through local and international grants. His research interests include cryptography on high performance computer systems, reconfigurable computing, embedded systems, modeling and simulation of parallel processing systems, as well as system simulation using fuzzy logic control, and more recently, higher education in the MENA region and global issues in education. He chaired several conferences, and served as member on over 50 organizing committees of international conferences. Moreover, he served as Associate Editor or member of Advisory/Editorial Board on five international journals. He received over 20 international and regional awards and scholarships.

TOLERANCE

Teaching Tolerance and Dialogue in Higher Education as a Need for a More Secure and Peaceful World: Case of Albania



Ferdinand Gjana
Beder university

Although the world history has been full of conflicts, there have been periods that the situation has been much worse than other times. The last two decades can be considered for sure not to be a good time for the world peace and humanity. According to many analyses the main reason of this trouble situation seems to have roots to religious radicalism and violent extremism.

The concepts of tolerance and dialogue are very old, probably have started with the human history on the world, but their importance is better understood in situation of social and political crisis.

As the world society is experiencing a difficult era, the tolerance and teaching of tolerance is for sure of a high importance. Positive actions in many time are considered a very effective precaution of a conflict or and big crisis.

Teaching of tolerance at every age is a very important process to attain the social peace and one of the critical environment to teach theoretically and practically the tolerance in the university environment.

In this presentation I will share the experience of Institutions of Higher Education of theological studies in the teaching of tolerance and dialogue among the different religious communities.

Prof. Ferdinand Gjana holds the position of the Rector of University College Bedër in Tirana, Albania.

Prof. Gjana has accomplished his undergraduate studies in Political Sciences and International Relations in Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey.

He completed the Doctorate studies in International Relations and Diplomacy in Center for Strategic & Diplomatic Studies (CEDS) in Paris, France and since 2015 he holds the title of “Professor”.

He has participated in many international programs such as in Harvard University, Iowa University, Zhejiang Normal University, Temple University, Council of Europe, European Commission and UN.

In 2017, Dr. Gjana participated the SUSI program on Religious Pluralism and Democracy in U.S., a program supported by U.S. State Department and organized by Temple University.

He has initiated several programs and academic activities in the field of interfaith dialogue, religious freedom and democracy.

Prof. Gjana has done scientific studies in fields of international relations, international security, higher education, religion and democracy.

TOLERANCE

Vision, mission and objectives of postgraduate programs in Tolerance



Tony Culley Foster
CFCO International

Respect for individuals is a fundamental characteristic of conflict & Resolution & Peace building; and also an essential character trait for higher education students & teachers who aspire to learn and teach Tolerance as new academic subject at the university level.

Maslow's 'Hierarchy of Needs' provides a simple, practical & powerful foundation for educators, social workers & teachers to understand & address the common basic needs of diverse peoples within their family, community, cultural, socio-economic & governmental life parameters.

I advocates that the first action steps toward the goal of introducing a new specialist higher education curriculum on Tolerance should focus on research , and development from different perspectives.

So the major question of our conference attendees is how higher education community can advance a new academic curriculum for the Teaching of Tolerance and implement it as a relevant educational priority in 2020.

Knowledge is not power, the use of knowledge is power ! And most people in our 2019 world in democratic nations unparalleled instant access to global information.

So, the immediate challenge for our conference participants is to focus on the development of a pragmatic, innovative & researched based forward strategy on HOW TO establish the first university baaed curriculum for students to earn a post graduate in Tolerance.

Tony founded CFCO International in 1985, as the Leading Representative of UK Companies in Washington DC. CFCO's clients include British, Irish, French and Chinese multinational firms, The World Bank Group and Republic of Chad. They receive best practice strategic communications, government relations, thought leadership, cause marketing and social responsibility professional support services to help advance their domestic and global priorities.

Tony is an internationally recognized business, political and educational consultant, with extensive top level American and global networks. His experience in the US includes positions as a Director with Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago, Personal Assistant to W. Clement Stone Founding Chairman – AON Corporation – Chicago, Founding Director and CEO of The Congressional Award, and President and CEO of The World Affairs Council – Washington DC.

He is profiled for 20+ years in 'Who's Who in the World' and the recipient of numerous American & international commendations for his contributions to peace, economic development and education in Ireland, voluntary service and athletics.

TOLERANCE

Short reflection of the importance of the tolerance and the role of higher education institutions in promoting it



Skender Topi

University of Elbasan
"Aleksandër Xhuvani"

Religious tolerance in Albania is considered a fundamental value, deeply rooted in morality, social tradition and values rather than just a practice, belief, or social policy that relies on the recognition of different religions and the acceptance of religious diversity. This value has not only become a symbol of the representation of Albania in various events with a focus on tolerance and acceptance, but it has also been the cause of undertaking various initiatives to spread this example around the world. The question that arises today is whether Albania will continue to thrive in a globalized world characterized by increased exchanges and interactions between religions, increased cultural diversity, and new challenges created by religious fundamentalism and terrorism?

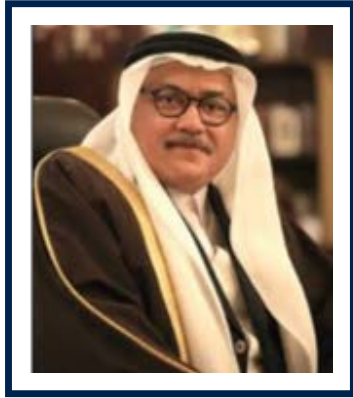
This paper provides a reflection of the need for continuing education of religious tolerance in Albania, as a valuable asset to the country and the necessity of its study during initial and continuing education in pre-university education.

Prof. Skender Topi, is the Rector of University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani", one of the oldest higher education institutions in Albania. He was graduated in medicine with honors from University "Aldo Moro", Bari, Italy. From the same institution he took the title PhD on Biotechnology and Integrated Therapy on Oncology. Moreover he is specialized in surgery, Endoscopist Specialist on the Digestive Apparatus Surgery and Digestive Surgical Endoscopy,- Laparoscopy-miniinvasive.

Prof. Skender Topi, besides having a very successful career as a surgeon, has a long and successful academic career. In 2002 he founded the Faculty of Technical Medical Sciences at the University of Elbasan "Alexandër Xhuvani". Also, in 2006 he established, at the same Faculty, the Telemedicine Center as a modern and multifunctional center serving students, academic staff, physicians and nurses of the city of Elbasan. In 2016 she was awarded by the Telemedicine Center of Albania as well as the International Virtual e-hospital Foundation, the Telemedicine Champion, with the motivation "for the recognizing of individual leadership for innovation in the development and implementation of students in TELE nursing services and support. state-of-the-art integrated telemedicine and e-health program at the University of Elbasan".

TOLERANCE

Panel- Session I : Vision, Mission and Objectives



Prof. Abdullah Dahlan



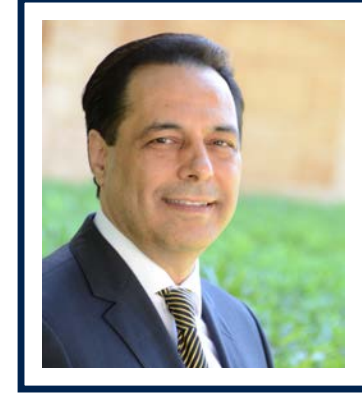
Prof. Scherto Gill



Prof. Surya Parsad



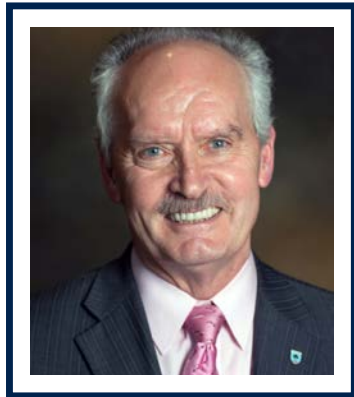
Prof. Urzula Ciolezynka



Prof. Hassan Diab



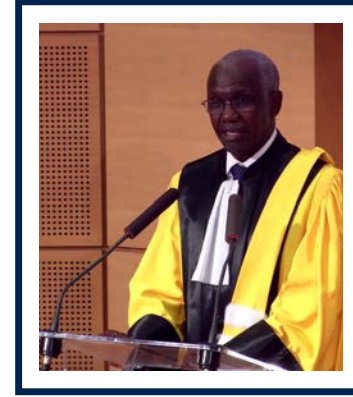
Prof. Ferdinand Gjani



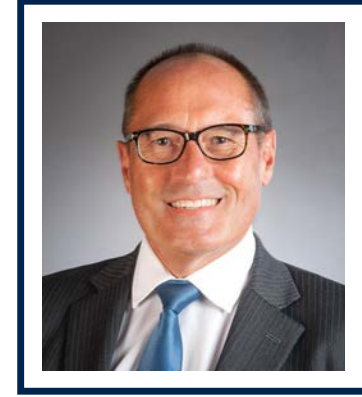
Prof. Tony Foster



Prof. Skender Topi



Prof. Ibrahima Thioub



Prof. Blair McRae

TOLERANCE

Participants

