Faith-Inspired Women in the Middle East Launch a Multi-religious Platform for the Common Good

Muslim, Jewish and Christian women of faith leaders in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) led a multi-religious mission to Jordan in 2019 to forge a new historic partnership for peace in the region. With religious identity becoming a de facto fault line for both intra-national and cross-border hostilities, this new coalition brings together faith-inspired women from Sunni, Shia, Christian, Jewish and other traditions to serve as a high-level multi-religious mechanism for advocacy and action.

The multi-religious partnership among MENA women was created in the lead up to the Religions for Peace’s (RfP) 10th World Assembly in Lindau, Germany, in August 2019.¹ The partnership was highlighted during this Assembly before an audience of 1,000 religious actors from 125 countries in a Special Session entitled, “MENA Women as Peacemakers.” The session was broadly lauded as one of the most inspirational moments from the entire week-long assembly.

RfP Co-President, Honourable Meherzia Labidi Maïza, was a member of the delegation to Jordan and a conversationalist during the Special Session. “Women in religions are not just followers or transmitters, but they are also actors of their destiny. They are agents of peace. They are mediators. They can interpret and explain the texts of their religions,” she said, drawing cheers from the audience.

2019 also witnessed RfP’s election of its first woman and first Muslim Secretary General, Prof. Dr. Azza Karam and the election of the largest number of women to serve on its World Council, the highest decision-making body in the organization.

Learn More:
- “The Female Peacemakers – 50 Years of Religions for Peace” from DW: Faith Matters
- RfP’s Global Women of Faith Network
- DW News: Religions for Peace participant emphasizes role of women

¹ RfP is the most representative multi-religious peacebuilding coalition internationally, with interreligious platforms in 6 regions and 90 countries.