THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on Ethnic and Religious Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

Co-Hosts
Mercy College School of Social & Behavioral Sciences and School of Liberal Arts, and Mercy College Center for Global Engagement

Date: Tuesday, October 29 – Thursday, October 31, 2019
Location: Mercy College - Bronx Campus, 1200 Waters Place, The Bronx, NY 10461
CONFEREECE
PROGRAM
Arrival of Participants
October 28, 2019

DAY ONE
Tuesday, October 29, 2019
1:00 PM Guided Tour at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City
Location: We will meet at 12:00 PM at the Visitor Check-in Office (801 1st Avenue at
45th Street, across the street from the UN Visitors Entrance)

DAY TWO
Wednesday, October 30, 2019
Location: Mercy College - Bronx Campus,
1200 Waters Place, The Bronx, NY 10461

8:30 AM Registration
Check in first at the Security Desk
Registration Location: Hallway Outside Rooms 1260 & 1270

8:30 AM Continental Breakfast
Location: Room 1260

9:30 AM - 12:45 PM Opening Session
Location: Auditorium

9:30 AM Opening Remarks
Laura Waldman, ICERM Certified Mediator and Civil Court Mediation Manager at
Community Mediation Services, Queens, New York
Lisa Mills-Campbell, Director of Community Programs & Events, Mercy College, New York
Dr. Stephen Slate, Executive Director of the Institute for Mediation and Conflict
Resolution (IMCR), Bronx, New York

9:40 AM Open Your Heart
Meditation and Relaxation with Reverend Nafisa Sharriff, Founder & CEO of Entering the
Holy of Holies, an Institute of Learning and Healing, Inc., New York
9:55 AM Exchange of Peace and Blessing

Royal Father
His Royal Majesty King Bubaraye Dakolo, Agada IV, Ibenanaowei of Ekpetiama Kingdom, Bayelsa State, Nigeria

Royal Mother
Her Royal Majesty Queen Timinipre Bubaraye Dakolo, Igirigi I of Ekpetiama Kingdom, Bayelsa State, Nigeria

10:00 AM Welcoming Remarks
William Latimer, Ph.D., Vice President of Mercy College Bronx and New Rochelle Campuses

10:10 AM Opening Speech
Basil Ugorji, President and CEO, International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation, New York; Ph.D. candidate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Department of Conflict Resolution Studies, Nova Southeastern University's College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

10:20 AM Insights from the United Nations
Global Economic Issues and Trends and their Implications for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: A Look at Countries in Conflict

Mr. Ramu Damodaran, Deputy Director for Partnership and Public Engagement in the United Nations Department of Public Information's Outreach Division; Editor-in-Chief of the United Nations Chronicle and Chief of United Nations Academic Impact—a network of 1200 academic and research institutions around the world committed to United Nations goals and ideals

11:00 AM Keynote Speech
Theme: Ethno-Religious Conflict And Economic Growth: Is There A Correlation?
Dr. Brian Grim, President, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation (RFBF), Annapolis, Maryland

Chair:
Arthur Lerman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Political Science, History, and Conflict Management, Mercy College, New York

11:30 AM Q&A Session with the Keynote Speaker

12:00 PM - 12:40 PM Distinguished Lecture and Discussion
Relationship between Ethno-Religious Conflict and Economic Growth:
Analysis of the Scholarly Literature
Frances Bernard Kominkiewicz, Ph.D., Professor & Chair, Department of Social Work and Gerontology and Director, Social Work Program, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana

Chair:
Dorothy Balancio, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology & Director, Sociology Program, Mercy College, New York

12:45 PM Group Photo

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM ICERM Luncheon
Location: Rooms 1260 and 1270 Combined

Distinguished Lecture
"Strangers, Neighbors, Friends: Muslim-Christian-Jewish Reflections on Compassion and Peace"
Kelly James Clark, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow at Kaufman Interfaith Institute, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan

2:30 PM – 6:30 PM Insights from the Experts and Panel Discussions

2:30 PM Concurrent Panel 1
Location: Room 1270

Is there a Correlation between Ethno-Religious Conflict and Economic Growth?
Masood Ahmed Mujahid, Ph.D., Professor, Faculty of Islamic Studies and Shria, Minhaj University Lahore, Pakistan
A Correlation between Social Conflicts and Museums In Kyrgyzstan
Cholpon Turdalieva, Ph.D., Professor of Historical Sciences, Anthropology Program, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Economic Consequences of Civil War in Sri Lanka

2:30 PM Concurrent Panel 2
Location: Room 1260

A Correlation between Conflicts and Economic Development: A Reflection on Ethno-Religious Conflicts and Nigeria's Development
Elizabeth Onyedinma Ezenweke, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Religion & Human Relations and Deputy Director, Certificate and Diploma Programs, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria
Ethnic - Religious Conflicts and the Challenge to Economic-Development: The Nigeria Experience
Mobolaji P. Ezekiel, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Benin, Edo State, Nigeria
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<th>Kalideen Mohamed Yaseen, Member of Local Government Authority of Sri Lanka</th>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Tzofnat Peleg-Baker, Adjunct Professor, Conflict &amp; Negotiation, MBA Program, School of Business, Rutgers University VUB, Belgium &amp; Taos Institute, U.S.A.</td>
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<td>Lilian Oghenenyoreme Itoje-Akpokiniovo, Department of Sociology, Coal City University, Enugu, Nigeria</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Basil Ugorji, President and CEO, International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation, New York; Ph.D. candidate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Department of Conflict Resolution Studies, Nova Southeastern University’s College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Fort Lauderdale, Florida</td>
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Impact of Economic Factors on Ethnic Separatism in Italy: Theoretical and Empirical Evidence

Dudaeva Marina Vladimirovna (Ms.), Research Assistant and Ph.D. Student, Scientific Department of the Russian Secretariat of the European Commission for Democracy through Law - Institute of Legislation and Comparative Law, Moscow, Russian Federation

Ethnic Conflict in Macedonia and its Impact on Trade Exchange between the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Macedonia

Karol Janas, Ph.D., Associate Professor

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The Life-Threatening Consequences that Await the Excluded

Michael D. Royster, D.Min., Assistant Professor, Division of Social Work, Behavioral and Political Sciences, at Prairie View A&M University, Texas

Divide and Profit: How the U.S.-Mexico Border Crisis can be Understood as a Profitable Ethnic Conflict

Laura Waldman, ICERM Certified Mediator and Civil Court Mediation Manager at Community Mediation Services, Queens, New York

Afro-Brazilian Religions in the
Crosshairs: Prosperity for Whom?

Guilherme Borges, Ph.D. Student at the Graduate Program in Sociology, University of São Paulo and Research Fellow at the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, Brazil

**Moderator:**

Arthur Lerman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Political Science, History, and Conflict Management, Mercy College, New York

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Bosnia and Herzegovina – Specific and Unique European Country with Frozen Conflict

Katarina Brockova, Ph.D., Associate Professor at the Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia

Rudolf Kucharcik, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava and Assistant Professor at Alexander Dubcek University, Trencin, Slovakia

**Moderator:**

Tzofnat Peleg-Baker, Adjunct Professor, Conflict & Negotiation, MBA Program, School of Business, Rutgers University VUB, Belgium & Taos Institute, U.S.A.

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**BREAK: 5:15 PM – 5:25 PM**

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**5:25 PM Panel 5**

Location: Room 1270

Ethno-Religious Conflict in Nigeria and Under-Development:

Law to the Rescue

Sylvia Chika Ifemeje, Ph.D., Professor of Laws at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

Organic Links between Ethno-Religious Conflicts and Under-Development in Africa

Rev. Prof. Joseph Matondo Mbiyeyi, Association Essonne in the Heart of
Africa, a Humanitarian Association based in France

**Moderator:**
Michiko Kuroda, Visiting Fellow for United Nations Affairs, Center for Global Engagement, Mercy College, New York

**6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**
Location: Room 1270

**Multi-Faith, Multi-Ethnic and Multi-Racial Dialogue**
Facilitator: Kelly James Clark, Ph.D., Senior Research Fellow at Kaufman Interfaith Institute, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Day Two Closing Remarks**
Basil Ugorji, President and CEO, International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation, New York; Ph.D. candidate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Department of Conflict Resolution Studies, Nova Southeastern University's College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

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**DAILY THREE**
**Thursday, October 31, 2019**
Location: Mercy College - Bronx Campus, 1200 Waters Place, The Bronx, NY 10461

**8:30 AM Registration**
*Check in first at the Security Desk*
Registration Location: Hallway Outside Rooms 1260 & 1270

**8:30 AM Continental Breakfast**
Location: Room 1260

**9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Opening Session**
Location: Auditorium

**9:30 AM Traditional Musical Performance**
Honoring the Natives with Cliff Matias, Founder and Director of the Redhawk Native American Arts Council, Brooklyn, New York

**10:00 AM World Elders Forum**
Discussion with Traditional and Indigenous Leaders
Distinguished Panelists:
His Royal Majesty King Bubaraye Dakolo, Agada IV, Ibenanaowei of Ekpetiama
Kingdom, Bayelsa State, Nigeria

His Royal Majesty King Abdireshid Omer Esmael, Boqor of Ismail Ali Clan,
Puntland Somalia

Chair:
Basil Ugorji, President and CEO, International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation,
New York; Ph.D. candidate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Department of
Conflict Resolution Studies, Nova Southeastern University's College of Arts,
Humanities, and Social Sciences, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM Insights from the Experts and Panel Discussions

11:00 AM Panel 6:
Location: Room 1270

Challenges to PEACE Dialogue between Afghans and Taliban

Najibullah Loodin, Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Department,
University for Peace, San Jose, Costa Rica

Lord's Resistance Army Conflict and Subsequent Economic Activities of the
Region: A Case Study of the Achole Sub-Region

Nkwasiibwe Kamena Darious, Kampala International University, Tanzania

Slovak University Students’ Take on Ethnic and Religious Diversity

Katarina Brockova, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Faculty of International
Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia

Rudolf Kucharcik, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of International Relations,
University of Economics in Bratislava and Assistant Professor, Alexander
Dubcek University, Trencin, Slovakia

Moderator:
Alan G. Hartman, Ph.D., Program Director of Modern Foreign Languages,
Mercy College, New York

12:15 PM Group Photo

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch
Location: Room 1260
1:30 PM Panel 7
Location: Room 1270

Boko Haram Insurgency and Socio-Economic Crisis in Borno State, Nigeria
Adimula Ruth Abiola, Ph.D., Lecturer, Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria
Abulfathi Ahmad Arabi, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria

The Economic Effect of Crop Farmers - Herdsmen Conflicts in South West Nigeria
Olukemi Titilola Ayoola, Ph.D., Research Professor, Institute of Agricultural Research and Training, Obafemi Awolowo University, Moor Plantation, Ibadan, Nigeria

Examining the Relationship between Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Death Toll Resulting from Ethno-Religious Conflict in Nigeria
Yusuf Adam Marafa, Doctoral Student, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Peace Ambassador & Educational Activist

Moderator:
Jude Aguwa, Ph.D., Professor of Religion, School of Liberal Arts, Mercy College, New York

BREAK: 2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

3:00 PM Panel 8
Location: Room 1270

Economic Justice Advocacy as Spiritual Activism
Rev. Daniel Medina-Hernandez, D.Min. and Doctoral Student, Conflict Analysis & Resolution, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Identity, Conflict and Economic Development in Pakistan
Rizwan Ali Shinwari, Ph.D. Program in Peace and Conflict Studies at the Center for International Peace and Stability, National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST), Islamabad, Pakistan; Visiting Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Interreligious Dialogue, Interfaith Actions and Conflict Prevention for Development in Uganda
Kawalya Isa, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Islamic University in Uganda, Mbale, Uganda
Badru Hasan Segujja, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, International Relations and Diplomacy, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Kampala International University, Kampala, Uganda
Kawalya Isa, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Islamic University in Uganda, Mbale, Uganda
Badru Hasan Segujja, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, International Relations and Diplomacy, Peace and Conflict Resolution, Kampala International University, Kampala, Uganda

**Moderator:**
Jude Aguwa, Ph.D., Professor of Religion, School of Liberal Arts, Mercy College, New York

**4:15 PM Panel 9**
Location: Room 1270

Ethnic Politics and Peace Sustainability in East Africa: A Case Study of Uganda
Bogere Hamza, Lecturer, History and Luganda Languages, Bilal Islamic Institute, Wakiso, Uganda

Ethnic-Religious Election Violence and East Africa's Economic Underdevelopment
Hajj Edrisa Kasule, Founder and Director of Unique Learning School in Zanzibar, Tanzania

**Moderator:**
Basil Ugorji, President and CEO, International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation, New York; Ph.D. candidate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Department of Conflict Resolution Studies, Nova Southeastern University's College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**4:55 PM Closing Remarks**

**Summing Up the Conference**
Dorothy Balancio, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology & Director, Sociology Program, Mercy College, New York

Arthur Lerman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Political Science, History, and Conflict Management, Mercy College, New York

**Vote of Thanks**
Basil Ugorji, President and CEO, International Center for Ethno-Religious Mediation, New York; Ph.D. candidate in Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Department of Conflict Resolution Studies, Nova Southeastern University's College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
GLIMPSES OF 5TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE