

Yousif al-Khoei



Yousif al-Khoei is the Director of Public Affairs at the Al-Khoei Foundation in London, an international Islamic organisation involved in philanthropy, community outreach, academic research, and religious dialogue. Yousif has taken a leading role in empowering his community and in providing young and community activists with platforms to share and communicate their visions of social cohesion and intra and interfaith engagement as well as promoting efforts to dispel sectarianism and religious extremism. He works actively with other faith and non-faith communities and participates in numerous inter-faith conventions and intra faith projects, in the UK and abroad especially in his native homeland, Iraq. He has also worked with religious groups to raise standards in places of worship, one of the core standards being the recognition of faith and interfaith work. He is also a member of the Religious Education Council in the UK and the Chaplaincy Council at the Ministry of Justice, which ensures that the rights of all prisoners, religious and non, are safeguarded.

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Introduction to the Al-Khoei Foundation, offices in New York, Montreal etc.

The intolerance of other faiths is quite universal and is not confined to any one religion, both as perpetrators and victims. There are no magic solutions, it will have to be a combination of education, legislation, joint sustainable developmental programmes, breaking psychological barriers, better involvement of women groups, joint charity work and improving political and economic situations.

Promoting equal citizenship, promoting the role of the law. In sum, promoting pluralism and democracy as countries who promote these are able to flourish more. Dealing with sectarianism and islamophobia issues in the UK. The need to deal with hate speech in social media and satellite stations (some states actively promote that with impunity.) We also need to stand for each other.

In promoting better understanding between faith leaders and enhancing civil societies, the Al-Khoei Foundation interfaith work runs at 3 levels – local, national and international

At a local level, we engage with all faith communities in projects such as:

- Hosting the Big Iftar, an interfaith initiative where we invite our neighbours and other faiths to join us in breaking fast together.
- Our collaboration with the Jewish community involves working together on a Sukkah project
- Exchange visits with local places of worship
- Scripture reading with Abrahamic texts group
- Using other's premises.

At a national level, we link with other Muslim organisations in joint visits and meeting and programmes.

- Citizens UK, Lambeth Palace, Board of Deputies, 3FF, Faith Forum, Forward Thinking, humanists, football association,
- Intrafaith, MINAB, The interfaith Network for the UK, REC,
- Our work in Prisons
- Development work is no longer confined to just our groups, we have initiatives like the WhoIsHussain campaign, Lady Fatemah trust, the World Federation who are all actively engaged in promoting cohesion

International

- Collaboration with Vatican, Sant Egidio Community
- Collaboration with ISESCO
- Historic relationship with Al-Azhar
- The Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute and Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies (Prince Hassan)
- Relationship with Awqaf and Muftis of Egypt, Oman, Lebanon, Syria, Bahrain, Jordan etc
- Defending all religious minorities, Shabak, Mandayan, sufi, Christians and Shias at Human Rights Council
- Helping with the drafting of the Amman message
- Iraq : "The Iraqi Council for Interfaith Dialogue" was officially launched on the 14th of March 2013 in Baghdad by the Al-

Khoei Foundation, the Order of the Dominican Fathers in Iraq and the Massarat Foundation, to encompass all faiths in Iraq following the success of their “Initiative for Muslim-Christian dialogue” in 2010.

- The Al-Khoei institute in Najaf, promotes the concept of pluralism through the curriculum that teaches other faiths by adherents of that faith.